

EXCLUSIVE

'DIRTY BOMB' TERROR ARREST

By MICHAEL HAMILTON

COUNTER-terror police were last night quizzing a suspect over the discovery of "dirty bomb" explosive chemicals and radioactive material in a garden shed. A suspected right-wing extremist in his 30s is under arrest following the seizure at a semi-detached house in a sleepy village in Bedfordshire.

Full Story — Page 11



TELLY SPECIAL

Ant's ex flees Britain after his baby joy

SEE PAGES 14 & 15

EXCLUSIVE: PREM STAR ANTONIO ON HIS MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLE

I started to

dislike

football... now

I'm in therapy

By MIKE RIDLEY & ROSS KANIUK

PREMIER League star Michail Antonio has revealed he is in therapy after starting to hate football.

The £85,000-a-week West Ham and Jamaica striker, 34, told how he even prayed he would get injured so he did not have to play.

Antonio, who reveals how personal traumas caused his mental anguish, said: "I just started disliking the game. I began therapy because I was really struggling."

Full Story — Pages Four and Five

Opening up . . . West Ham star striker Antonio



GRILLED TO see you

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FORECOURT WAR

30 minutes to cut price of fuel..or get fined

GOVT FIGHTS PROFITEERS

EXCLUSIVE by HARRY COLE
Political Editor

PETROL station officials will be given 30 minutes to change rip-off pump prices or be fined, The Sun can reveal.

The final plans for a new Pumpwatch regulator will be unveiled in the next fortnight amid continued profiteering.

The body will monitor petrol and diesel prices in real time between competing forecourts to ensure millions of motorists get the fairest price.

Those that do not comply or continue to charge rip-off rates will face fines, although the exact levels are still to be decided.

In a boost for our Keep It Down campaign, Energy Secretary Claire Coutinho unveiled a voluntary Pumpwatch in January.

Last night she faced Sun readers' questions and was grilled by Political Editor Harry Cole and cabbie Grant Davies - transport secretary in The Sun's Cabinet - on our Never Mind the Ballots show.

An energy department source said: "Drivers should get the cheapest pump price. We



Chat... our Harry, Ms Coutinho & Grant

are cracking down on petrol station bosses who are not passing on savings, with retailers being forced to share real-time prices every 30 minutes, or face fines."

The RAC said the average retailer margin - the difference between what firms pay for fuel and the pump price - has been above 18p per litre for diesel since May 7 and is nearly 12p per litre for petrol.

Howard Cox, from FairFuelUK, wants "tough financial penalties for profiteering by wholesalers and oil firms at the expense of motorists, hauliers and the economy."

The Sun Says - Page Ten



INSURANCE RIP-OFF

DRIVERS are paying £157 more on insurance this year, figures show.

The average cost for comprehensive cover was about 33 per cent higher in the first three months of 2024 compared to 2023.

Analysis from Labour shows one in five drivers auto-renew their policy without comparing offers.

Many are also being hit by a rise in hidden charges, such as set-up

EXCLUSIVE by NOA HOFFMAN

fees. The Financial Conduct Authority has warned many firms are failing to provide good value but it is yet to launch an investigation.

In the Commons today, Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary Louise Haigh will demand ministers block rip-off costs which "are quickly becoming a national scandal".



Drive... Mr Philip

'Use stop & search to tackle knife hell'

By MARTINA BET

COPS must ramp up the use of stop and search to stamp out knife crime, the policing minister declared yesterday.

Chris Philip said officers should not be afraid of using the powers available to them.

He said: "I want to see (the police) take a robust approach and this starts with increasing the use of stop and search."

"It is a vital tool in taking knives off our streets, yet it's not used nearly often enough."

Knife crime in England and Wales rose seven per cent last year, official figures show.

And 82 per cent of teen victims of homicide were killed by knives in the year to March 2023 - up from 73 per cent.

The Home Office has announced £3.5million extra funds for research on knife-detection tech.

More for Rwanda

FAILED asylum seekers now also face being removed to Rwanda, the Home Secretary has said.

Until now only illegal migrants could face forced deportation.

But Rwanda has agreed to rehome people rejected by the asylum process, as they rack up huge bills at the taxpayers' expense.

Failed asylum seekers can already choose to go to Rwanda voluntarily with a £3,000 incentive, which The Sun revealed had been taken up by one migrant last month.

James Cleverly said: "We have a safe third country ready and waiting to accept people."

Lab eco warning

LABOUR'S rush to go green would turn Britain into a "made in China" economy, the Energy Secretary has warned.

Claire Coutinho said the next general election will be a referendum on Net Zero - with the opposition's eco policy set to make Britain reliant on China for imports.

She warned that ministers are considering "very carefully" whether to follow the US and slap China's electric cars with 100 per cent import tax.

She told The Sun's Never Mind The Ballots YouTube show: "It's also really important that you protect British industry."

CASH AND GRAB

Three quarters of people dip into pension pots before they retire, taking £47,000 on average, says Scottish Widows.

NEVER MIND THE BALLOTS: PAGES 26 & 27



GARRN TO THE BEACH

By JACK HARDWICK

MODEL Toni Garrn is tying herself in knots — or at least her shirt — over this fashion shoot beside the ocean. The 31-year-old wore a white bikini and blue stripe blouse while posing for online retailer Lascana. Toni is married to Brit Alex Pettyfer, right, star of 2006 spy movie Stormbreaker. But she's far from undercover.



EXCLUSIVE

1D ZAYN BOOTED OFF TINDER FOR CATFISHING..AFTER HE USED OWN PIC

What fakes you beautiful



ZAYN Malik has been thrown off Tinder because women thought he was a chancer using the singer's pictures.

The heart-throb, 31, said he was suspended after potential dates refused to believe it was genuinely him on the match-making app.

Zayn, whose hits with One Direction included What Makes You Beautiful, explained: "It's not been too successful for me, I'll be honest. Everyone accused me of catfishing.

"They're like, 'What are you using Zayn Malik's pictures for?' I've been kicked off once or twice."

Fellow singer Lewis Capaldi, 27, previously revealed he suffered a similar fate on Tinder. Zayn went on: "I'm

By HOWELL DAVIES

really content and happy with being single for the first time in my life."

He recalled how young he was when planning to marry Little Mix's Perrie Edwards before having a relationship with model Gigi Hadid — mum to his three-year-old daughter Khai.

Zayn, whose album Room Under The Stairs is out tomorrow, told Nylon magazine: "From 17 to 21, I was in a relationship. I was engaged and [planned to get] married and I didn't know anything about anything at that point.

"I thought I did, because I was 21. I was legally allowed to do everything, but I didn't know s***.

"From 21 to 27, I was with Gi, and we had a kid, and I didn't really take much time to get to know myself."

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Picture: LASCANA

ROBBIE QUILTS THE STATES



bizarre

PAGES 20 & 21

EXCLUSIVE: PREM ACE

By MIKE RIDLEY & ROSS KANIUK

WEST Ham star Michail Antonio says his mental health battles left him unable to celebrate the club's epic European win last year with team-mates — and he slept instead.

The popular striker, 34, has bravely opened up about how he started having therapy after beginning to hate football.

In a brutally honest interview, the £85,000-a-week star says he even hoped for an injury to prevent him from playing.

He believes his problems partly stem from being betrayed by school friends and splitting from his wife.

Antonio — who was called up for England before he chose to play for Jamaica instead — says he expects to still be seeing his therapist for another two years because it has changed his life.

The London-born star — known for his happy public persona — revealed his mental turmoil in a searingly frank interview with telly presenter Jake Humphrey and author Damian Hughes.

He told how everyone associated with West Ham was enjoying wild celebrations last June after they won the Europa Conference League final — their first major trophy in more than 40 years.

But Antonio — the club's all-time leading Prem goalscorer — was so drained by off-field events he fell asleep on the coach back from the stadium in Prague then went to bed in his hotel room.

He recalled: "I was going through my divorce and stuff, and I honestly couldn't get my head around it. After we won, the whole team went out, the gaffer went out, got steaming, a couple of boys didn't sleep for two days, just got drunk for two days — I was asleep on the coach and went back to the hotel."

"I was just mentally drained because of everything that was going on outside of my football and then I went back to the hotel and went to sleep while everyone was out partying."

It was six months before he began to appreciate the enormity of the Hammers' brilliant 2-1 win over Fiorentina. He said: "It wasn't until probably December where I was in a better place where I was like 'Oh my God, I've won a European championship'."

In an interview available to hear on today's High Performance podcast, Antonio said it dawned on him he had lost interest in football during a match in December 2022, as his form began to nosedive. He said: "I even won the game, but I have the best of games."

"And I was just like to myself, 'I'm not enjoying football'. During the game, I was like, 'I'm really not enjoying this'."

"I just felt quite negative. I'm a very positive person myself."

"I didn't score from December until I think it was March, April time. And I just felt, like, run-down. And then I went away with Jamaica because I was enjoying football with Jamaica for some strange reason. But I actually prayed for an injury."

"I was like, 'I just want to get injured, I want some time off'."

"And then I went away with Jamaica and I did my medial [knee ligament, in November 2023]."

"I was thinking to myself, 'I'm 33, I can't afford to be performing this way, otherwise I'm not going to get another contract'."

"So, it's all those things that spiral through your mind. You're thinking, 'Is this the end for me? Is this my football career over?'"

He said his football problem was primarily down to getting such short breaks from the game he has

I was going through my divorce and I couldn't get my head around it

It doesn't matter how much you love the game, it becomes a job for you

Battling back... Antonio during Europa League match last month



been involved in for 16 years — and the constant scrutiny. And his troubles were worsened by separating from his wife Debbie Whittle, 34, who he married in 2017.

He said: "I just started disliking the game. But because football's just constant, you're constantly just in it. As soon as your life depends on it, as soon as you have people constantly berating you and criticising you, it becomes a job."

"So, it doesn't matter how good it is, it doesn't matter how much you love the game, it becomes an actual

job for you." Antonio said he sought help around Christmas 2022 — seeing a few therapists before he found one he liked.

He had spoken to club doctors and physios, and West Ham and the PFA also had specialist counsellors available. But he wanted someone independent and so he started paying for his own.

The father of four said: "I started therapy because I was really struggling. And how I grew up, it was never a thing. I thought therapy was for crazy people. But therapy

changed my life. At first it was awkward, I'm not going to lie. You're sat in the room, someone was there and goes, 'How are you?'"

"And your natural response is 'Fine'. So, he's like, 'So why are you here?' I was like, 'To be honest, like, football, I'm struggling with football, I split up with my missus.'"

Antonio, who joined West Ham for £7million from Nottingham Forest in 2015, went on: "My football was always my getaway from anything that happened in my life. My dad died and stuff like that, I went to

football, and I could black it out for the two hours that I was there or the four hours that I was there."

"But then my life was a bit turned upside-down because obviously I'm splitting up with my missus, my wife, and also, I'm not performing on the pitch and things are just not going well for me."

"And then I'm a person where I'd never cry. And as I was talking to him, I just burst into tears. It was uncontrollable. That gave me some type of relief. And then like my chest felt like clear." He began

OPENS HIS HEART



Delirious scenes . . . West Ham's then-skipper Declan Rice lifts trophy last June. Right, Antonio after the game in Prague



**When we won cup,
everyone partied..
I just went to bed**

SAYS MICHAEL ANTONIO

weekly sessions, which he can see continuing for another two years. But his therapist wants him to eventually cope without them.

Antonio said: "What is crazy is I was always portrayed to be a very confident person, then what they've taught me was that I was a person that's basically always set myself targets, always looking for missions because I always need something to be done. I can't relax within myself.

"Because growing up there was a lot of traumas that I dealt with. So, I avoid sitting within myself. And

that's one thing that I learned via therapy because it was true."

He told how he "never could just sit at home", which "said something about my self-esteem". He went on: "I'm searching for something. And just to hear that, that set me off. I was in tears again."

Interviewer Jake said: "It's a hard thing to hear though, isn't it?"

Antonio replied: "Massive. Like, I always believed I was the happiest person there is."

Through therapy he has learned that his tough upbringing in South

London left him mentally scarred. He said: "There were certain things that happened in my childhood.

"Let's just say I struggled to make friendships when I was in primary school. There was no one that was, I would say, my best friend until I was like 12 and then that person kind of left.

"When I was 14, I thought these people were my friends, these guys end up stealing a bike. The people got caught with the bikes.

"They grouped up and said 'Michail did it'. I've been friends

with them for three years, going to school every day with them, so it just made me mistrust people."

Antonio told Jake and Damian he would never have been able to open up to them before his therapy.

With his mind in a much better place, he said he feels he has three more years left playing and is happy at West Ham, who will soon have a new manager.

● **LISTEN** to the full interview on the High Performance podcast on all major platforms from today. mike.ridley@the-sun.co.uk

GET MENTAL HEALTH HELP

IF you, or anyone you know, needs help dealing with mental health problems, you can call the Samaritans at any time on 116 123, or email jo@samaritans.org

KIDS' SEX ED BAN

Huge clampdown and end of 'wrong gender' chat



TEACHERS are to be banned from telling children they could be identifying as the wrong gender, Gillian Keegan vows today.

Under-nines will also not receive sex education classes in future, the Education Secretary says.

Keep to facts... Keegan

EXCLUSIVE by JACK ELSOM

says, amid fears children are being taught inappropriate content.

Older pupils will be taught about legally protected characteristics such as sexual orientation and gender reassignment in the major clampdown.

They will not get lessons in the "contested" subject of gender identity and parents will have the right to see what kids are taught.

Writing in The Sun today, Ms

Keegan says: "Teachers are there to teach children facts, not push the agendas of campaign groups. "Never again will young girls be taught they might be that little bit happier if they were a boy."

PM Rishi Sunak said: "Parents rightly trust that when they send their children to school, they are kept safe and won't be exposed to disturbing content that is inappropriate for their age."

Our exclusive leak of the plans yesterday sparked fury from the

National Education Union, which called it "yet more culture war noise from an ill-informed and out-of-touch Government".

The NAHT union said limits on what can be discussed and when may not be in children's best interest and it may drive them to seek information from "less reliable sources".

A Labour spokesman said: "Sex education in schools should be age-appropriate."

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Gillian Keegan and The Sun Says — P10



At court... Davies

Race troll faces jail for Suella hit threat

By JOE MORGAN

A TROLL'S racist tweet threatening to beat Suella Braverman with a baseball bat was merely banter with friends, a court heard.

Mark Davies, 52, copied in four people, including the then-Home Secretary, on his vile post in May last year.

Chloe Lennon, defending, said Davies admitted his language was "poor" and was "remorseful".

But she added: "That is how him and his mates communicate in a banterous way on Twitter."

Davies, of Brighton, admitted sending a grossly offensive message at Westminster magistrates' court yesterday.

District Judge Michael Snow warned him to expect a jail term as the message was sent to a politician. He will be sentenced next month.

Cops 'in crash fail'

TWO cops are accused of failing to stop to check on a woman and child killed by a stolen car.

PC Edward Welch and former PC Jack Keher are said to have ignored Makayah McDermott, ten, and Rozanne Cooper, 34, to chase the driver.

A disciplinary panel heard: "There is a failure to check, even briefly, if somebody had been hurt."

Welch was cleared of causing death by dangerous driving in Penge, South East London.

The driver was jailed for manslaughter in 2017.

Welch and Keher deny gross misconduct. The Met Police panel continues.

Uni goes all vegan

A UNIVERSITY has become one of the first in the world to pledge to be 100 per cent vegan.

Academics and the students' union at Lancaster University voted overwhelmingly for a full shift to plant-based food.

It hopes to be 50 per cent vegan next year, and 100 per cent by 2027.

Campaigners Plant-Based Universities say menus will be sustainable, affordable, delicious and inclusive to all diners.

Rebecca Willis, professor in energy and climate governance at Lancaster, said: "This is a crucial step in meeting our climate and health targets."

RAN OF STEEL

Thomas Young ran 46 half-marathons dressed as Superman for charity after son Jaxon died at six weeks last year in Bristol.

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TALK TV WEATHER With NAZANEEN GHAFFAR

TODAY: Cloud and rain will push across southern and central England and Wales, heavy at times. Showers for Northern Ireland but sunny elsewhere.

TONIGHT: Rain across England and Wales will gradually clear westwards overnight. Drier elsewhere with clear intervals and patchy cloud cover.

OUTLOOK: Sunny spells tomorrow but there will also be a scattering of showers, which may merge into longer spells of rain. A threat of showers on Saturday.

FRI 20° SAT 20° SUN 20° MON 19°

SUJIKO

PLACE the numbers 1-9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces. Solution on Puzzles page.

19	30
	7
14	21

PUZZLES: PAGE 40

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

SINGER JANET JACKSON 58, left, former James Bond PIERCE BROSNAN, 71, right. Transformers star MEGAN FOX 38, and TV presenter JUDY FINNIGAN, 76.

●LAST night's National Lotto numbers: 11, 17, 25, 47, 52, 53. Bonus ball: 37. Health Lottery: 6, 24, 31, 46, 50. Bonus ball: 47.

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ACE GOING THROUGH ROUGH PATCH

Glum golfer ditches his wedding ring after split



Together . . . couple with rings in 2018. Right, story



Teed off . . . glum McIlroy without his ring during practice yesterday

EXCLUSIVE
by MICHAEL HAMILTON
SUPERSTAR golfer Rory McIlroy is seen without his wedding ring as he hits the course for the first time since news of his divorce was revealed.

Rory, 35, looked glum as he practised for today's US PGA Championship at Valhalla in Kentucky.

The world No2 filed for divorce from 36-year-old Erica Stoll – his wife of seven years and mother of his three-year-old daughter Poppy – on Monday.

But the news came as a "complete bombshell" to his pals – especially as McIlroy, worth around £200million, had bought a plot of land in Wentworth, Surrey.

He is already believed to have a home in the London area and one in Holywood, Northern Ireland, close to where he grew up.

Yesterday, a source said: "Rory could easily have seen the family's future at Wentworth and in London – at least up until recently."

"He had spent between £10million and £14million on plans for the home at Wentworth, which he was having built to their specifications."

"Friends of his like the golfers Justin Rose and Ernie Els are based there and it is the home of European golf."

"That's partly why the news of his divorce was a complete bombshell to people who know Rory."

"Anyone who saw him with Erica at the Players Championship in March would have thought everything was hunky dory – but clearly that was not the case."

"That is why people have been so blindsided by this."

Rory filed papers with Palm Beach County Court in Florida. The three-page divorce petition did not reveal a reason for the split, but said the marriage was "irretrievably broken".

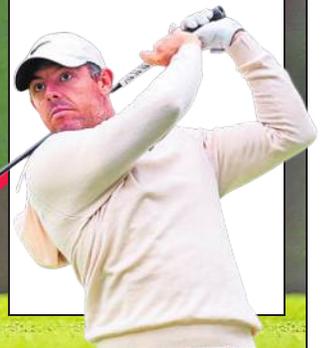
Documents filed in the US showed that the four-time major champion and Erica signed a pre-nuptial agreement in March 2017 before they wed in April that year.

They also revealed the couple had agreed to "shared parental responsibility" for Poppy. She was born in Florida – so is likely to be raised in the US.

Rory refused to take any questions about his divorce yesterday but said: "I'm ready to play this week."

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RORY'S OUT OF BANDS



FREE MEAL MISERY

CHILDREN on free school meals are having to eat unhealthy food because budgets are only enough to buy junk, a study found.

Researchers looking at how pupils spent a £2.53 lunch allowance found they end up buying meal deals with fatty snacks and sugary drinks. Study

author Dr Sundus Mahdi of the University of York told the European Congress on Obesity in Venice: "The free school meal allowance may be insufficient for pupils to buy healthy meals."

The Department for Education said: "Schools must provide healthy options. Free meals are key to this."

Sun

A 16mm by 15mm fish finger sarnie was made out of modelling clay over 100 hours by artist Nadia Michaux to launch Birds Eye's Mini Fish Fingers.

SPOT

FUNFAIR HELL RAPS

A FAIRGROUND inspection firm was fined £51,000 after a mum of eight suffered "life-changing" injuries when she was catapulted from a ride.

The Health and Safety Executive found its seat restraint system had electrical and mechanical failings, and it was not properly maintained. Khadra

Ali, 51, spent months in hospital after the accident at the Funderpark in Hillingdon, West London, in 2018.

Bossey Perrin Stevens, Derek Hackett and David Geary admitted breaching health and safety regulations and got suspended sentences at Westminster magistrates court.

CREW STUCK ON BRIDGE HELL SHIP

ALL 21 crew members of the ship that hit a Baltimore bridge are still stuck on board seven weeks on. The 20 men from India and one Sri Lankan also had their phones confiscated by the FBI. The 300-metre long Dali crashed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge on March 26 after blackouts caused the crew to lose steering control. Seven construction workers fell into the Patapsco River, and only

one survived. Officials demolished parts of the collapsed steel structure on Monday, and used explosives to free the trapped cargo ship, operated by a company based in Singapore. Gwee Guo Dua, of the Singapore Maritime Officers Union, said several visas have since expired and it is not clear when the crew will be able to leave. The union is requesting the men be granted shore leave and the FBI return their phones as they are suffering from declining morale. National Transportation Safety Board chair Jennifer Homendy conceded the amount of time spent on board is "unprecedented".

By **JOE MORGAN**
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*Joseph.Morgan
 @the-sun.co.uk*



Blasts ... ship this week

PUTIN ALLY



Target ... attacker, with gun circled, fires from crowd at nation's PM

By **NICK PARKER**, Foreign Editor

SLOVAKIA'S Prime Minister Robert Fico was fighting for his life in hospital last night after being shot at least three times in an assassination attempt.

Controversial Fico – an ally of Russia's Vladimir Putin – had emergency surgery after being hit in the abdomen, arm and leg by a gunman, last named by local sources as 71-year-old poet Juraj Cintula, who was arrested at the scene.

At least four shots rang out as 59-year-old Fico went to greet supporters after a meeting in Handlova, 120 miles north-east of capital Bratislava.

Video footage showed the badly wounded father-of-one being carried to a black Audi limousine by his dark-suited bodyguards.

He was transferred to a helicopter and flown for treatment to the city of Banska Bystrica where he was wheeled away on a stretcher by paramedics and taken to hospital. He was said to be conscious on arrival and was stabilised by doctors before surgery.

Fico's own Facebook account confirmed he had been shot "multiple times" and was in a "life-threatening condition".

It also said the PM had not been flown to Bratislava for treatment as it would "take too long... due to the necessity of an acute procedure".

Gunman Cintula who was described as the founder member of a literary club and a former security guard, was wrestled to the ground beside a crowd control barrier by Fico's security team.

He is claimed to have stepped from a crowd of Fico supporters, addressing him as "Robo" – short for Robert – before firing with a legally owned weapon.

Cintula, reportedly from the western Slovakian town of Levice, was arrested and, with his head bleeding, taken for questioning.

His motives remain unclear. His son was quoted as telling local media: "I have no idea what father intended, what he planned, why it happened. Maybe there was some short-circuit."

But there was speculation that the assassination attempt could be a reaction to the pro-Russia direction in which Fico was taking the landlocked East European nation.

Slovakia's defence minister claimed it was "politically motivated".

Russian tyrant Putin described the shooting as a "heinous crime".

He said last night: "I know Robert Fico to be a courageous and strong-spirited man. I very much hope that these qualities will help him to withstand this difficult situation."

During his election campaign last year, Fico – who has already served two terms as PM –

ran on a campaign to cease military support to Ukraine. His government has refused to join a Czech-led coalition in procuring military aid for the battling nation.

His government is also planning Russian-style "foreign agent" laws to crack down on Press freedom. He branded Slovakian journalists "a corrupt gang of swines for whom water is



already boiling". This week, similar anti-Press laws have seen pro-western demonstrators riot in the former Soviet satellite state of Georgia amid fears of a Putin power grab.

Confrontational Fico has sparked further fury by refusing to take a share of migrants into Slovakia, an EU nation, alongside his outspoken attacks on Islam.

There have also been protests at Fico's criminal justice reforms, including the abolition of the prosecutor's office combating corruption and organised crime.

The shooting, which for many recalled the 1963 assassination of US President John F. Kennedy, comes three weeks before EU Parliament elections, in which populist and hard-Right parties in the 27-nation bloc are expected to do well.

Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky condemned the attack last night. UK PM Rishi Sunak posted on X/Twitter: "Shocked to hear this awful news. All our thoughts are with Prime Minister Fico and his family."

Slovak president-elect Peter Pellegrini said: "I'm horrified by where the hatred towards another political opinion can lead. An assassination attempt on one of the highest constitutional officials is an unprecedented threat to Slovak democracy."

Shot ... Fico hit in the leg, arm and abdomen



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89p
 Satsumas
 600g



Selected stores & Lines. Subject to availability. ASDA Radish, was 59p, now 39p (240g). ASDA Pineapple was 99p, now 69p (each). ASDA Satsuma was £1.35 now 89p (600g). ASDA Beans was £1.00, now 69p (200g). ASDA jumbo Mushrooms was 99p, now 69p (250g). Delivery, collection and minimum basket charges may apply. Carrier bag charges may apply. Delivery/collection slots subject to availability. May exclude Asda Express stores and small stores - see ASDA.com/smallstores

GUNNED DOWN IN SLOVAKIA



Helped to car . . . Fico shooting echoed murder of Kennedy, left



PM fights for life after 'assassin, 71' shoots him 3 times



Floored . . . security, above and right, with gunman



Wheeled away . . . Fico on stretcher after 'copter trip

THE Sun

SAYS

Braking point

A MUSCULAR Pumpwatch scheme which drives down fuel prices by fining rip-off forecourts will be fantastic for motorists and a big achievement by the Tories.

And when Energy Secretary Claire Coutinho promises to hammer profiteers within just half an hour if they fail to cut unfair tariffs she is talking exactly our language.

We hope she's serious about that rapid action. Because this scheme has been a very long time coming. The Sun first backed it eight years ago.

The Government must get on with it now. Making it voluntary has not worked . . . look at the disgusting 18p-a-litre margins still charged on diesel and 12p on unleaded.

Once they have sorted fuel, the Tories must probe the soaring insurance bills punishing blameless drivers of all ages.

Comprehensive cover is up a third in a year on top of huge rises the year before.

Teenagers being quoted £3,000-plus is absurd and unsustainable. A generation priced out of the housing market will soon be priced off the road too.

Labour has rightly flagged this issue but, as ever, offers no answers.

Its many causes include rampant inflation on parts and labour, the huge cost of repairing modern motors – especially electric ones – and the police all but giving up on car theft. And there are sneaky industry rip-offs too.

Insurance is mandatory in law, so it is monstrously unjust to leave drivers at the mercy of four-figure bills for it. Every bit as unfair as fuel price gouging.

Let's put a brake on both.

Wrong Edded

VOTERS decided nine years ago that Ed Miliband was a dud.

But if the polls are right this obsessive ideologue is months away from ruling over us anyway . . . trusted by Keir Starmer to run our energy needs.

Expect power cuts, then. And massive new Net Zero bills, as Tory energy chief Claire Coutinho warns. It was Miliband, during Labour's last stint in power, who first clobbered us with green levies – a mere taste of what is likely to come.

Utility bills don't trouble a millionaire MP whose London mansion is famous for having two kitchens.

If elected, though, his bills WOULD trouble you.

Sex lessons

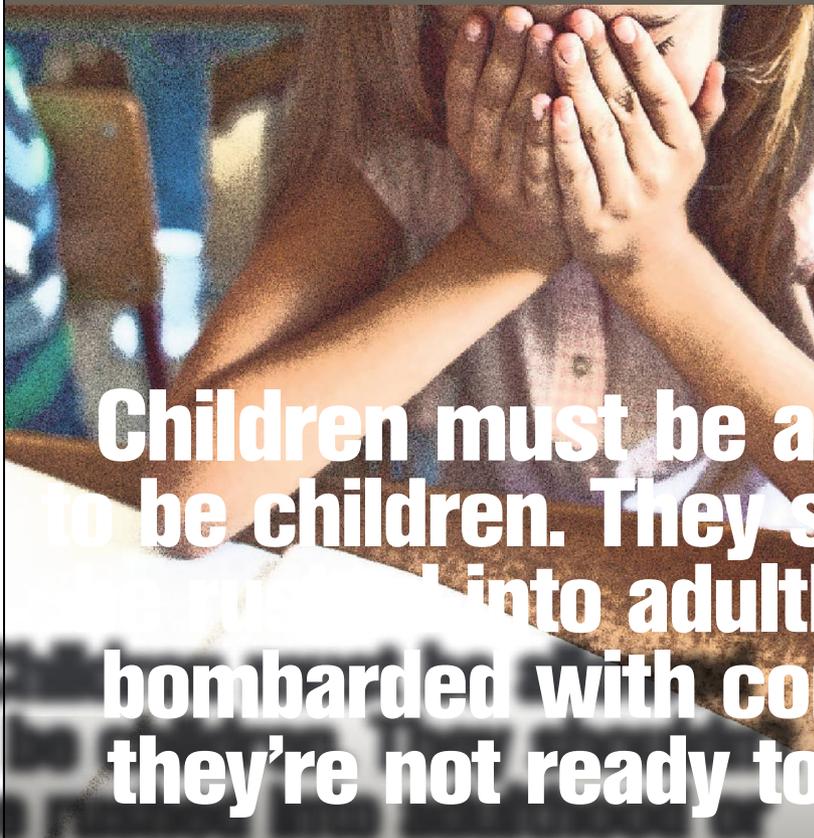
YOUNG kids do not need to be taught about oral sex, or woke fantasies about multiple gender identities. Those who believe they do are warped.

So ordering teachers to stick to the birds and bees from nine to 13 is common sense.

The problem, though, is social media and the explicit material it pumps out.

How should teachers handle questions from confused children about that?

SEX EDUCATION SHAKE-UP



CLASSROOM CHALLENGE
... some pupils are upset by inappropriate sex education
POSED BY MODEL

Children must be allowed to be children. They shouldn't be thrust into adulthood or bombarded with concepts they're not ready to grasp

If you grew up at a similar time to me, it's possible you found sex education more terrifying than informative. That's if you had those sort of lessons at all.

Things have changed a lot since then. Many lessons have become so much more engaging and relevant to children's lives, rather than a fleeting but somehow still too-close-for-comfort encounter with a 1980s anatomy textbook.

I've seen how good Relationships, Sex and Health Education lessons now set young people up to have healthy, happy lives.

But poor lessons could do the opposite, and there have been a number of concerning reports about inappropriate content being taught in some schools.

Dangerous influencers

Children must be allowed to be children. They do need to be prepared for the issues that they will face in the future, but that doesn't mean they should be rushed into being adults or bombarded with concepts that they are not ready to grasp.

Headteachers and teachers have also been asking us for greater clarity.

So that is why the Prime Minister and I have taken action by reviewing what our children are taught in RSHE classes.

Our plans to amend the guidance on what is taught will be published today, and I truly believe the changes are the right ones for children and families.

We have learnt a lot in the three-and-a-half years since RSHE was made compulsory.

We have seen how vocal groups have used it to push inappropriate and inaccurate teaching.

And we have ourselves had to understand and support schools with issues



By
GILLIAN KEEGAN
Education Secretary

like the growing number of children questioning their gender, and have taken action by publishing guidance on how to handle the challenges we know teachers have faced as a result.

The Cass Review hammered home that progressive ideology must never be allowed to take precedence over the need to protect children from things that they are too young to understand.

That is why the guidance we are publishing today will leave no room for doubt, making totally clear that teachers should not teach about the contested issue of gender identity.

Teachers are there to teach children facts, not to push the agendas of campaign groups.

Never again will young girls be led to believe they might be happier if they were a boy, or children to think that there are 72 genders.

The updated guidance will also contain age limits for the first time, making sure topics that are sensible to teach 15-year-olds, like preventing sexually transmitted infections, are not raised with ten-year-olds.

Sex education will not be taught before Year 5, and at that point from a purely scientific standpoint.

In secondary school, issues regarding sexual harassment should not be taught before Year 7, direct references to suicide should not be made before Year 8, and any explicit discussion of sexual activity

won't be before Year 9. The guidance will help teachers set children up to better navigate the huge complexities of social media and foster positive relationships between boys and girls.

This will help to counteract issues such as harmful misogyny and gender stereotypes, with more advice about how to protect children from dangerous online influencers like Andrew Tate.

And we are making sure young people understand the benefits of rationing time spent online and the impact on their wellbeing, and the serious risks of viewing content that promotes self-harm and suicide.

This could not be more important. I've met many bereaved parents and heard their stories, and I know the additional content on suicide prevention will mean a lot to them.

Worried parents

One of the other big priorities for me with this guidance is openness with parents.

Parents are their children's primary educators.

They have a right to know what their children are being taught, and the guidance is categorical that nothing should stand in parents' way on this.

There had been confusion about whether or not schools could share copy-righted materials with parents. They of course can.

Parents are not able to veto curriculum content, but they should be able to see what their children are being taught, which gives them the opportunity to raise issues or concerns through the school's own processes if they want to.

I hope today's publication provides much-needed comfort to worried parents and I look forward to reading parents' responses to this consultation.



Coffin... draped in flag

Crowds in salute to tragic aid hero

By **NICK PARKER**

CROWDS lined streets to pay tribute to British aid worker James Kirby at his funeral yesterday. The 47-year-old, who had fought in Bosnia and Afghanistan, was one of three Brits killed by an Israeli air strike in Gaza. Four other workers from World Central Kitchen also died in the tragedy last month. His coffin, draped with the Union Flag, was carried by close friends into



James... air strike

St Mary Redcliffe Church, Bristol, followed by family and representatives of the Armed Forces. Pal Veiner Gaston, 36, recalled: "James said, 'I'm off to Gaza.' He looked at it as a challenge to help someone." James's mum Jacqui Kirby said in a statement: "I cannot express more deeply my gratitude for the outpouring of love I have seen over the weeks since his tragic death in Gaza. "James was a remarkable man, a true friend to so many people – and above all, he was my son."

ANYA'S A JOY TO BEHOLD

By **JACK HARDWICK**

ACTRESS Anya Taylor-Joy delivers a shorts sharp shock in a pair of tiny black hotpants. Anya, 28 — who became a household name thanks to her leading role in Netflix series *The Queen's Gambit* — completed her look with a silver cardigan and a pair of black strappy heels. She was in France for a screening of her new movie, *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*, at the Cannes Film Festival. The film, the fifth in the *Mad Max* franchise, also stars *Avengers* actor Chris Hemsworth. It has its UK premiere in London's South Bank tomorrow.



EXCLUSIVE

'DIRTY BOMB' PARTS IN SHED



At the scene... police outside the semi-detached village property

Anti-terror cops swoop

TERROR cops in hazmat suits with Geiger counters have seized "dirty bomb" chemical explosives and radioactive material from a garden shed.

A suspected right-wing extremist in his 30s was also arrested in a swoop on the semi-detached village property. Incendiary explosive devices and radioactive material are said to have been found along with Nazi memorabilia and other extremist material. However, investigators stressed they had not found plans for a bomb attack or a target. Local police initially raided the Bedfordshire house where the suspect lives with his parents on Bank Holiday Monday. The immediate area was evacuated, a bomb disposal unit attended and a controlled explosion was later carried out in a nearby field.

By **MICHAEL HAMILTON, MIKE SULLIVAN & THOMAS GODFREY**

The man — described as a loner with Asperger's Syndrome — was arrested on suspicion of possession of an item of use to a terrorist. He was released on bail while police in hazmat suits continued to carry out searches of the property. The suspect was re-arrested on Tuesday "following the discovery of further suspicious substances".

Bedfordshire Police said: "We can confirm we are working with SO15, the Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism Command, which has taken over the investigation." The suspect has been taken for questioning in London. Police officers also took away computer devices and are investigating his background. His mother told villagers he had collected chemicals as a hobby. One said: "They are a nice family and his mother put something on the village Facebook page about him collecting chemicals. "Apparently the son kept everything in the garden shed and she knew nothing about any of it. She

was adamant it was nothing to do with terrorism and stressed the police were just being cautious. "The woman is very worried about her son and hoping he comes home soon."

Neighbours of the man said he was a loner who would rarely go outside and often wore a grey hoodie to cover his face. One told The Sun: "He kept himself to himself. He was very quiet and spent a lot of time at home."

Yesterday, ambulances and police cars were still at the scene. Specialist contractors were also spotted removing items.

Cops held a community meeting and revealed their enquiries at the address were chemical-related.

But one villager said: "People are worried. There's a lot of elderly people and very little in the way of crime. Nothing like it has ever happened here before."

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Accused... Joynes

'Tears of sex miss a ploy for jury pity'

By SARAH RIDLEY

A TEACHER accused of having sex with two boy pupils is looking for "sympathy" as she is a woman, a court heard.

Rebecca Joynes, 30, allegedly groomed a lad of 15 then slept with his classmate while on bail, going on to have his baby.

Joe Allman, prosecuting, told the jury her tears and the baby bonnet she wore daily in court were "a pretty naked attempt to garner your sympathy".

He suggested that she "hopes you will treat her differently because she is a woman and not a man in the same situation".

Defending, Michael O'Brien said Joynes, sacked in 2022, got things "spectacularly wrong".

But he said she did not have sex with Boy A as alleged and only slept with Boy B after he was 16 and left their Greater Manchester school.

The jury is expected to deliberate at Manchester crown court today.



Sprung... Amra

500 cops hunting escaped drug lord

From ROBIN PERRIE in Paris

AROUND 500 cops were hunting an escaped drug lord yesterday after two guards in his jail escort were "slaughtered like dogs" by a gang.

Mohammed Amra, 30, nicknamed The Fly, was still at large after he was sprung from the prison convoy by the gunmen.

It happened at a toll booth on a motorway in Normandy, France, as he was returning to jail after a court appearance.

Guards Fabrice Moello, 52, and Arnaud Garcia, 35, died in a hail of machine gun bullets.

Justice minister Eric Dupond-Moretti said they were "slaughtered like dogs by men for whom life means nothing".

He went on: "Everything will be done to find the perpetrators of this despicable crime."

Three guards injured in the ambush remained in intensive care yesterday.

AFTER ANT & ANNE-MARIE'S NEW



EXCLUSIVE by CLEMMIE MOODIE Assistant Editor, Showbiz

EX-WIFE ... Ant and Lisa in 2015

AMID the joy surrounding the birth of Ant McPartlin's new baby, it is impossible not to spare a thought for one woman - his ex-wife Lisa Armstrong.

How tough it must have been to see the couple's past - and, tellingly, their beloved dog, Hurley - inked out of history following the announcement of baby Wilder on Instagram two days ago.

The post, which featured an arty shot of the BGT host holding his newborn, revealed on his shoulder a huge family tree tattoo - something until now he had kept, quite literally, up his sleeve.

On it were five prominent names: Amzie (his nickname for Anne-Marie, his new wife and Lisa's former best friend), his teenage step-daughters, Daisy and Poppy, and the couple's two pooches, Milo and Bumble.

While you might not expect to see "Lisa" emblazoned on his left shoulder, the absence of Hurley, their ten-year-old chocolate labrador, was a glaring omission.

After all, this was the dog who proved the ultimate sticking point in the erstwhile couple's acrimonious divorce in 2018, and of whom Ant, 48, still has joint custody.

To add insult to injury, Ant and Lisa battled for years to have a baby of their own.

"These past 48 hours must have been a real kick in the teeth for Lisa," says a pal.

"This isn't about the birth of a baby - which, of course, is wonderful news - it's about it being played out across the country, and all the haunting memories of their latter, troubled years being dug-up again."

"For their beloved Hurley, who turns 11 next month, to be conspicuous by his absence in that tattoo seems baffling."

'Chuffed for him'

"This isn't a case of 'poor Lisa' though. She has moved on with her life and, frankly, couldn't give a toss about what her ex-husband does in his personal life."

"But having him plastered across the papers brings it all flooding back. Lisa has never spoken a word against Ant despite having every opportunity - interestingly, she never signed an NDA, contrary to reports."

"Seeing him portrayed as a national treasure, when she knows the reality, at times, behind closed doors, must be galling."

"Of course she's thrilled for him that he has a longed-for child. She isn't a monster, but on a human level, seeing it all being discussed by friends, family and the general public would be tough for any woman."

Within 24 hours of the star's post, Lisa, 47, had jetted off to Portugal for a mini-break.

Friends suggested she had always planned to go abroad, but was "glad to be escaping the media circus" around her yesterday.

A revered and hugely successful make-up artist - she is contracted to the BBC for Strictly Come Dancing - Lisa continues to spoil her cherished Hurley, whom she regards as a son.

Intriguingly, while Instagram was flooded by messages of support from

several of Ant's celebrity pals, including Amanda Holden,

Joel Dommett, Alisha Dixon, Davina McCall and Holly Willoughby, the cast and crew of Strictly remained quiet yesterday.

Perhaps they sent their best wishes privately. Certainly both Lisa and Ant were overwhelmed with WhatsApp messages of support on Tuesday, albeit for very different reasons.

A source added: "Ant is one of the most liked and respected



'It must have been a kick in the teeth for Lisa...all the memories of their troubled years. And for their beloved Hurley to not be in that tattoo seems baffling'



FAMILY... Lisa and Hurley

Just spare



SCANDAL... 2017 Ant story

men in showbiz, and everyone is chuffed for him.

"He's been bombarded with lovely messages and gifts, but all he is really focused on now is spending time with baby Wilder."

"It's impossible to please all the people, all of the time, and never in a million years would Ant want to cause Lisa any more pain."

"But they have both moved on, and his post was purely about celebrating the here and now - and sharing the news with his loyal fans who have stuck

with him through thick and thin." During his time with Lisa, Ant was open about their troubles to conceive; it was part of the reason they adopted Hurley in 2013.

He told Radio Times that year: "Lisa and I would love to have kids. We're trying. It's tougher than you think when you get a bit older."

Today, Lisa and Ant share the care, and cost, of Hurley despite not being on the friendliest of terms, a situation thousands of divorced couples up and down the country can relate to.

While Ant, who alongside his partner in crime Declan Donnelly has won more National Television Awards than any other star in British history, is a multi-millionaire, he did not give Lisa the reported £31million in their divorce, I'm told.

"Of course it was generous, but it

was nowhere near half his fortune as people have suggested," says a pal.

"Lisa loves her career, is bloody good at it, but she works hard. She also recently put the couple's former £4million marital home in West London on the market."

"She was forced to slash the asking price by £1million after a fire broke out in it, and had previously been renting the property out for around £10,000 a month."

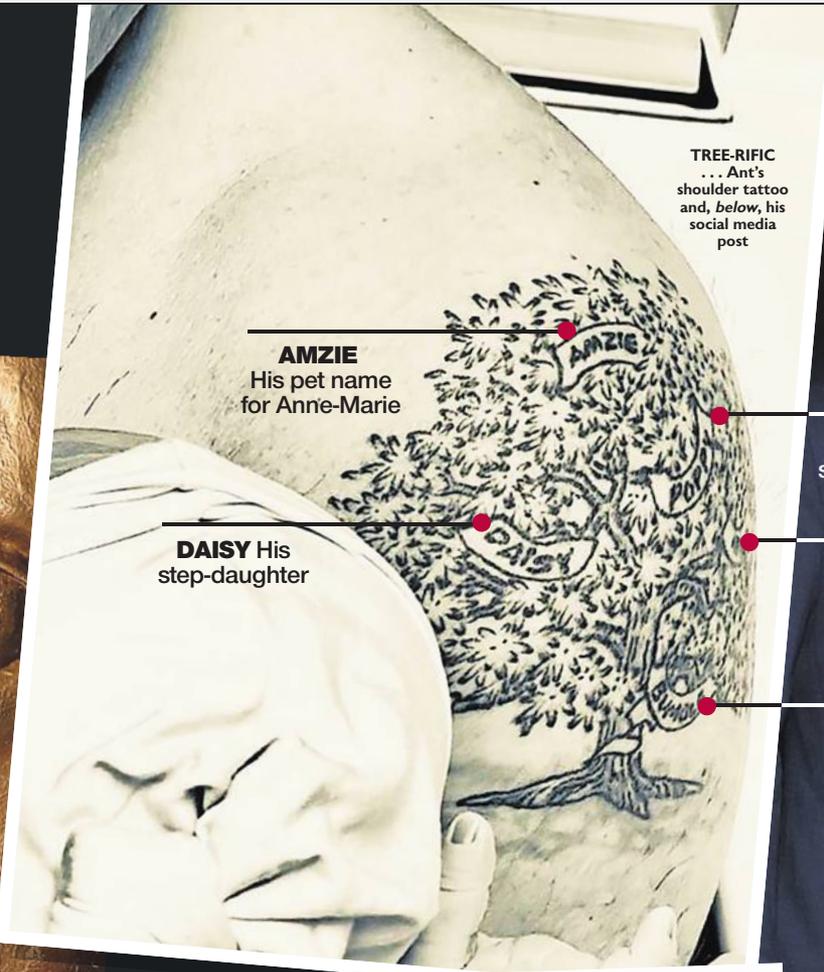
"Lisa is hugely pragmatic, and there was no reason to keep hold of the place. It held no sentimental value for her any more."

Shortly before Ant's post, Lisa, who loves a philosophical Instagram meme, shared a cryptic story about "silent battles".

The enigmatic quote read: "Be proud of how you have been

BABY JOY...THE EX-WIFE LEFT BEHIND

EXPECTING
... with pregnant Anne-Marie last month



TREE-RIFIC
... Ant's shoulder tattoo and, below, his social media post

AMZIE
His pet name for Anne-Marie

DAISY His step-daughter

POPPY His step-daughter

MILO Their dog

BUMBLE Their dog



'It's not a case of 'poor Lisa' ...she's moved on and she's thrilled for Ant that he has a longed-for child. But this would be tough for any woman'



DOGGY DAY
... Anne-Marie with her pets and Hurley

antanddec 🌟 Welcome to the family Wilder Patrick Mcpartlin. Born, 14/05/24 at 8.54am Baby is beautiful, Mummy's a legend, Sisters are over the moon. Dad's a mess! ❤️

a thought for Lisa...

handling these past few months. The silent battles you've fought, the moments you've had to humble yourself, the times you've wiped your own tears. Celebrate your strength."

Dignified silence

Those close to Lisa insist it was nothing to do with Ant. "Rarely anything she posts is, yet people are so quick to put two and two together and make five," adds a pal.

But certainly since their separation after two decades together, fun-loving Lisa has maintained a dignified silence.

This in the wake of much provocation, it is fair to suggest. After all, having stood by Ant as he battled his booze and

prescription drug problems — which also included a stint in rehab — he left her shortly after for her best friend and PA, Anne-Marie, 46.

She must have seen Ant at his worst during these times — even Dec said in an interview that he wanted to "punch" his best pal at times.

A drink-drive conviction in 2018 prompted Ant to get sober.

It was the same year he and Lisa split, and the couple's former friends effectively had to choose between Team Ant and Team Lisa.

Dancing On Ice host Stephen Mulhern, one of Lisa's best mates, and Piers Morgan are two of the rare beasts who managed to maintain friendships with both.

To be clear, Lisa is not bitter by how her ex's life has progressed. She, too, has found happiness in her personal and professional life.

Indeed, she recently gave Ant a public show of support, "liking" an Instagram post ahead of Ant and Dec's final Saturday Night Takeaway show, one which hailed the hugely likeable duo as "simply the best."

Ant, who rarely gives interviews these days — preferring a quieter life away from the limelight — decided to announce the birth on social media though to avoid weeks of frenzied speculation about Anne-Marie's due date.

Sharing the black and white photo of him holding Wilder, he wrote: "Welcome to the family, Wilder Patrick McPartlin. Born,

14/05/24 at 8.54am. Baby is beautiful, Mummy's a legend, Sisters are over the moon. Dad's a mess."

In reality, nothing could be further from the truth with regards to this last clause.

Sober for six years, he exercises regularly and looks younger than his 48 years.

A friend adds: "Ant and Amzie are in a magical place right now, in their own little loved-up bubble."

"He's not even thinking about TV work at the moment, he's just loving life — and it's so great to see."

(AND LOYAL HOUND HURLEY TOO)

SIR KEIR BID TO TIPTOE TO No10 'First Steps' card

By RYAN SABEY
Deputy Political Editor

LABOUR'S Sir Keir Starmer will seek to tiptoe into No10 today — by unveiling his My First Steps pledges.

The party leader is launching a Tony Blair-style promise card as he steps up campaigning ahead of the next election.

Blair's own 1997 pledge card helped Labour win a thumping 179-seat majority.

But Tory deputy party chairwoman Angela Richardson said Sir Keir's version was more like the notorious "EdStone", on which failed ex-leader Ed Miliband carved his promises.

She said: "Labour's latest attempt is fooling no one."

Sir Keir's vow to launch a Border Security Command to control illegal immigration has already been attacked by Home Secretary James

Cleverly as a "pale imitation".

And Tories last night said Labour — who vow to deliver economic stability — are offering "fantasy spending promises, without substance".

Critics also compared Labour's pledge to recruit

6,500 new teachers to ex-PM Boris Johnson's offer to hire 20,000 new cops.

Sir Keir — pictured on the card with rolled-up sleeves — is putting himself front and centre to take on PM Rishi Sunak in a personality duel.

And he will venture into traditional Tory heartlands to reveal his offer to voters.

He said: "What is crucial about these commitments is that they are part of a long-term plan to get Britain back on its feet."

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By HOWELL DAVIES

ACTRESS Renée Zellweger goes for a scroll in the park during a break from filming on the latest Bridget Jones movie.

The US star, 55, sat on a bench in the sun with phone in hand on London's Hampstead Heath.

She is filming the fourth instalment — *Mad About The Boy* — which sees her paired up with Brit Leo Woodall, 27.

She'll be hoping it gets a good reception, too.

Picture: THE NEW DOVE



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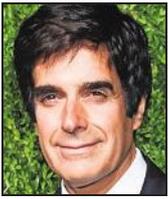
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Everyday Prices
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Everyday Amazing.

†Based on a comparison of Aldi products against products shown only. Sainsbury's may sell own brand/other products at different prices. Excluding promotional prices. Lowest Sainsbury's price pro rata, considering size and offers, used and checked on 15/05/24. Aldi prices and packaging correct as of 15/05/24. Subject to availability. Product packaging may differ in each region. Products and prices may vary in store, Scotland, Wales, Aldi Local and online. For more information visit [aldi.co.uk/swap](https://www.aldi.co.uk/swap) Which? endorsement based on approximately 40 branded and non-branded items compared monthly in 2023.

KING & QUEEN MEET STARS



Denial... Copperfield

Magician Dave: I'm not a sex attacker

By **JOE MORGAN**

MAGICIAN Dave Copperfield says claims of sexual misconduct against him from 16 women – including some allegedly under 18 – are false.

Three of the accusers say the 67-year-old illusionist drugged and had sex with them, The Guardian reported.

The allegations go back as far as the 1980s, with the most recent allegedly occurring in 2014.

His lawyers denied the allegations to the publication and stated drugs are “not a part of his world”.

Four other cases involve women claiming he groped them or made them touch him in a sexual way while they were on stage with him during live performances.

His representative said most of the allegations had been made before.

They said no evidence had been provided and police, whenever they investigated, said there was no case to answer.



Comeback... Schofield

TV Phil's dog post on return to socials

By **CALLUM WELLS**

TELLY presenter Phillip Schofield is back on social media for the first time in over a year.

The ex-This Morning host, 62, posted a photo on Instagram of his dog watching Formula 1.

In the caption, he wrote: “Thankfully, Alfie is a big @fl fan.”

Coronation Street star Adam Woodyatt, former Emmerdale actor Kelvin Fletcher and Blackpool footballer Jake Daniels all “liked” the post.

He was last seen on the platform in a video of himself in Paris on May 7, 2023 – 11 days before he presented his final This Morning show.

Schofield stepped down from his job at ITV over an “unwise but not illegal” affair with a younger member of staff.

He has appeared to be on the comeback trail in recent weeks after being seen laughing and joking with ITV presenter pal Declan Donnelly.



All smiles... Charles with Maya. Right, with Camilla at service.



Talk... Queen, Arlene & Roman, top



Greeting... Charles and actress Rosie



Top chat... King, Barney and Bradley

THEIR ROYAL MAYA JESTIES

DELIGHTED King Charles chats to Maya Jama yesterday at a Buckingham Palace garden party for stars from the entertainment world.

Maya, 29, told the King: “I present Love Island, but I don’t suppose you’ve heard of that.”

Charles, 75, gave a diplomatic gentle shrug and joked: “There’s one born every minute.” Host Maya – in

By **MATT WILKINSON**, Royal Editor

shoulderless checked blue dress and matching wide-brimmed hat – was among 4,000 guests at the bash.

Other stars included actress and model Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, radio presenter Roman Kemp, ex-Strictly judge Arlene Phillips, and father-and-son Gladiators presenters Barney and Bradley Walsh.

Among TV favourites in attendance were Sir Lenny Henry, Homeland’s David Harewood and Mr Bates vs

The Post Office star Toby Jones. Film directing great Sir Ridley Scott was also in the Palace garden.

The King, who revealed just three months ago that he has cancer, was also seen talking to artist Tracey Emin, who was diagnosed in 2020.

She said afterwards: “We spoke about health and painting. He asked me if I was recovering, which I am.”

The Creative Industries Garden Party – held with support from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport – was also attended by Queen

Camilla, Prince Edward, and the Duchess of Gloucester.

It was the King’s fifth public engagement in three days. Earlier, he and the Queen wore pink robes at a service for the Order of the British Empire at St Paul’s Cathedral.

● **QUEEN** Camilla has written to animal rights group Peta pledging not to buy new fur garments. She follows in the footsteps of mother-in-law Queen Elizabeth, who switched to faux fur for new outfits from 2019. matt.wilkinson@the-sun.co.uk

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JULIA Hartley-Brewer

GUEST COLUMNIST



THREAT... Calocane

NEVER FREE KILLER

MY heart goes out to the families of the three innocent people brutally stabbed to death in Nottingham last June by Valdo Calocane.

He is a schizophrenic who was judged to be mentally incapable of committing murder.

The families of his victims, Barnaby Webber, Grace O'Malley-Kumar and Ian Coates, were angry that the Appeal Court ruled this week Calocane's indefinite hospital order wasn't "unduly lenient".

The judge said he would "very probably" spend the rest of his life in a high-security hospital. Sorry, but "very probably" isn't good enough.

This dangerous killer must NEVER be set free.

Whether he's mad or bad or both, we have to accept that some people can never be rehabilitated and that some commit crimes so heinous that they must never be free on our streets again.

Valdo Calocane is very certainly one of those criminals.

GIVE IT A REST, ST GARY

THE patron saint of BBC virtue-signalling has been at it again.

I'm talking about Gary Lineker, of course, who has been rightly criticised for casually referring to the October 7 massacre in Israel as "the Hamas thing".

Would he refer to other terror attacks as "the 7/7 thing" or "the Manchester Arena thing"? Of course not. So why this one?

Because Saint Gary wants us to know that he cares about the latest cause celebre – the plight of Palestinians – and he doesn't want his simple narrative of "good versus evil" to be confused with difficult facts.

Facts like WHY Israel launched military action. So let me remind you, Gary, that "the Hamas thing" was when Hamas terrorists invaded Israel, murdered 1,200 people, with others raped and tortured, and took 250 hostages.

Stick to talking about football and crisps, mate, because you haven't got a clue about Gaza.

For Starmer for worse, for Rishi for poorer

VOTING for a political party is a bit like getting married.

When they are wooing you, potential partners and politicians both make promises about what they're going to do for you.

It could be loving and cherishing you 'til death do you part, or cutting crime and tackling NHS waiting lists.

Most of us take the plunge eventually, and whether it's saying "I do" in front of family and friends or putting a cross in a box in a polling booth, it all comes down to one thing – trust.

We all have to ask ourselves the same thing: Will the man or woman of our dreams be faithful and true to their marriage vows?

And will the party we vote for stick to their manifesto pledges?

I'm a hopeless romantic who was lucky enough to marry the man of my dreams but, when it comes to my vote, I've been very unlucky in love.

Time and again, I've voted for politicians and parties that have let me down and broken their promises.

But, just like straying husbands, politicians have a habit of trying to work their way back into our hearts, even after they've failed us year after year.

Come election time, they will toil tirelessly to convince us that they've changed, that they will never let us down again, if only we'd give them the benefit of the doubt just one more time.

And that, folks, is pretty much where

we're at with the Conservative Government right now.

After 14 long years – and quite a few Prime Ministers – they are asking us to trust them again, to believe that they are our knights in shining armour.

Popular policies are being rolled out before us in a bid to win us over, like an eager suitor showering us with gifts of flowers and chocolates.

Whether it's the Rwanda policy to tackle the Channel migrants, or promising to slash visas for legal migrants, or spending billions to tackle long NHS hospital waiting lists, or taking on the shoplifters and the knife gangs, or even today's announcement about banning gender ideology in schools, they are trying to woo us back.

The trouble is that while most of the policies on offer are good, they come against the backdrop of years of betrayal and failure.

After all, it was the Tories who promised to reduce net migration to under 100,000 a year before seeing it jump to 745,000 in 2022.

It was this Government that oversaw the massive influx of illegal migrants on dinghies. It was the Conservatives who allowed NHS waiting lists to skyrocket (and long before Covid).

The explosions in shoplifting and knife crime have both happened under the Tory



PROMISES... Starmer and Sunak



watch, too. I can't even give credit to them for finally taking on the dangerous scourge of gender ideology in our schools, banning teachers from telling our children there are 72 genders and that some people are "born in the wrong body".

After all, who allowed that to happen in our classrooms in the first place? Oh yes, the Tories. I'm afraid Rishi Sunak has a long way to go to convince me and many millions of voters that he won't let us down if we lend him our vote. He is not, after all, our only suitor.

The polls suggest that millions think it's time to move on to a new beau, believing that Labour's Keir Starmer is a better bet for the future.

But would the grass really be greener on the other side? What evidence do we have that he would be any more trustworthy than Sunak?

Given Starmer's flip-flopping on every issue to date, I would say that is a leap of faith too far.

Our spouses ask us to stay true 'til death us do part on our wedding day.

We can only hope that our politicians will stay true to their promises once the polling stations close on election day.

● Listen to Julia on TalkTV, 10am-1pm, Monday to Thursday.

● WHAT on Earth happened on the BBC on Saturday night?

Friends and I tuned in to watch a fun Eurovision Song Contest only to find ourselves treated to a four-hour festival of sadomasochistic fetishism, gay porn and Satanic rituals amid hateful booing at a young Jewish woman. Our own entry was nothing short of embarrassing. Eurovision sure has changed since Bucks Fizz whipped off those skirts all those years ago – and it's not been for the better.



Art of the crimson king... I love it!

I SEEM to be in a minority of one among the British population who actually LIKES the first official painting of King Charles.

The huge vivid red image is a shock to the senses and a beautiful work of art – unlike the usual dour images we see of monarchs in crowns and velvet cloaks.

Although the concept of royalty dates back centuries, there's no reason why their portraits can't be brought into the 21st century.

Next time, let's have an even more up-to-date image – maybe of Charles doing the washing-up or ordering a McDonald's on Deliveroo.

IN THE FRAME... King with painting and artist Jonathan Yeo

SWIFT'S MEGA PAY TAY



TOUR... Taylor on stage

TAYLOR SWIFT isn't just a pop sensation, she's now an economic phenomenon, too.

The singer, who will touch down in the UK next month for the latest leg of her massive Eras world tour, has already made herself a billionaire.

And now she is credited with boosting Britain's economy to the tune of £1 billion.

I'd heard that her concert tickets were expensive but I didn't realise they were THAT bad.

It turns out the boost to our national GDP isn't just down to the ticket price, with Swifties forking out an average of £848 on travel, hotels and meals to see their idol at one of the 15 UK tour dates.

That's good news for the economy but bad news for Taylor fans who don't have a spare £200 to pay for the CHEAPEST concert ticket.

Shouldn't performers care about ALL of their fans, and not just those who can flash the cash?

MP BAN IS ANTI JUSTICE

PARLIAMENT voted to suspend any MP arrested for a sexual or violent offence. That sounds reasonable, huh?

But is it? Whatever happened to the principle that underpins our justice system – innocent until proven guilty?

Anyone can be arrested, but that doesn't mean they've committed a crime. We've seen many celebs accused of sexual assaults, only to discover they are innocent later.

They may walk free but their lives and reputations have been destroyed for ever.

ROD LIDDLE IS AWAY

COURT DELAY TO FREE JAIL CELLS

SUSPECTED criminals set to be kept in custody until their court date could be released on bail instead to ease jail overcrowding.

Ministers yesterday triggered emergency measures delaying cases for some suspects.

It means they may have to be released on bail, rather than sent to a remand cell until their trial. But it is not clear how many

By JULIA ATHERLEY

will be freed under Operation Early Dawn, expected to remain in place for at least a week.

The nationwide measures are understood to have only been used so far in London and the North East.

Last week prison capacity was at 98.6 per cent, with 1,238 cells free. Meanwhile a scheme allowing

Assurances . . . PM



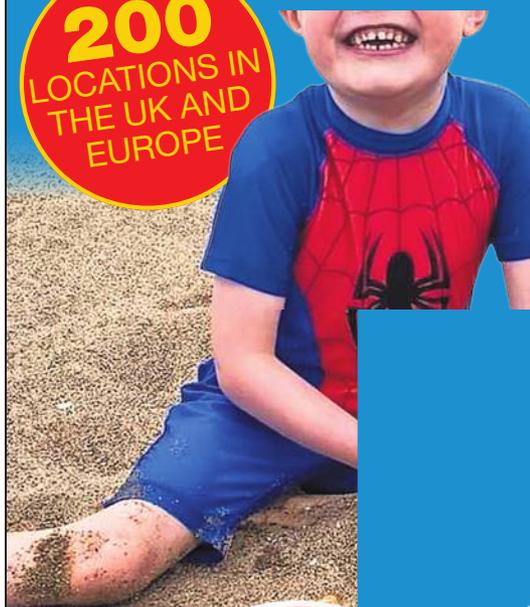
some lags to be released early has been extended. In October prisons were told low-level offenders could be freed 18 days early with strict supervision. That was increased to 60 days in March and will move to 70 days from next week.

Yesterday PM Rishi Sunak told MPs no one deemed a threat to public safety would be eligible. But Labour's Sir Keir Starmer pointed to a report of a high-risk can being freed from HMP Lewes, East Sussex.

BAG A BREAK TODAY

BEACH BOY . . . Koltan, four, on his family's Sun Hol From £9.50 in Skegness, Lincs

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OUR famous Hols From £9.50 are BACK, so if you haven't planned your break for the year yet, here is your chance to do so.

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Or book via post by collecting TWO tokens and sending them with the booking form that you can download from thesun.co.uk/holidays.

Sun Savers members can book via the Sun Savers app or at sunsavers.co.uk.

Go to the Offers section, click "Start Collecting" on the Hols From £9.50 page, then enter TWO Sun Savers codes to access booking, which is now open.

Today's codeword and token are here, you can find the Sun Savers code on page 22.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Price per person based on 4 sharing. Multiple token/code collect. Subject to availability. Date restrictions apply. Full T&Cs: thesun.co.uk/holidays.



2 IN COURT ON TREE CHOP RAP



Car park . . . scene

Screwfix sex cop in police force ban

By SARAH RIDLEY

A FORMER police chief who had sex with a fellow officer in a Screwfix car park has been banned from the job.

Insp Andrew McLullich was caught mid-romp with Stephanie Glynn by her hubby Gavin Harper – also a former cop.

The findings of a 2022 misconduct case involving McLullich have now been published after Harper, 45, was cleared at trial of assaulting his love rival.

It shows McLullich, 42, shared a string of lurid sexual messages about female colleagues with PC pal Paul Jackson.

The pair both quit the Merseyside police force before their tribunal.

It found both breached behaviour standards and would have been sacked if still serving officers.

Both were also barred from policing ever again.

Harper did get a two-year suspended sentence for stalking Ms Glynn.



Trial . . . Brueckner

Maddie suspect's blue eyes rape clue

From ROB PATTINSON in Braunschweig, Germany

A HOLIDAY rep “knew” Christian Brueckner was the man who raped her by his “piercing blue eyes”, a court has heard.

Hazel Behan recognised him in photos released as he was linked to Madeleine McCann's 2007 disappearance in Praia da Luz, Portugal.

She claims Brueckner – wearing a mask – tied her up and raped her three times in 2004 after climbing on to her balcony, also in the Algarve. Ms Behan, from Dublin, told the court in Braunschweig, Germany: “I remember he had piercing blue eyes. That's how I recognised him in the paper.”

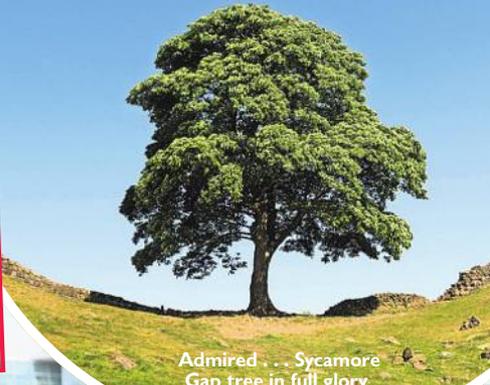
“As soon as I saw his eyes they made me sick.”

Brueckner is on trial for a string of rapes and indecent exposures, uncovered during the Madeleine investigation.

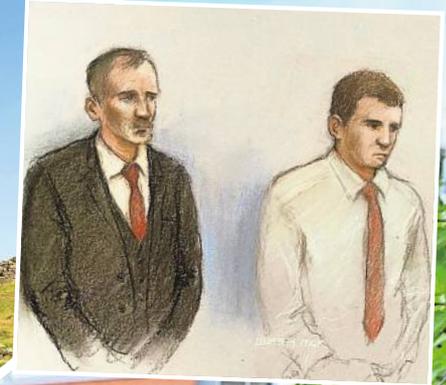
He denies the claims and the trial continues.



Unmasked . . . Graham



Admired . . . Sycamore Gap tree in full glory



Artist's sketch . . . Graham, left, & Carruthers



Hidden . . . Graham, left, & Carruthers at court yesterday

SYCAMORE GAP'S MASKED 'RAIDERS'

By PAUL SIMS

A LANDSCAPE gardener and his pal wore black balaclavas yesterday as they arrived at court accused of felling the Sycamore Gap tree.

Daniel Graham, 38, and Adam Carruthers, 31, hid their faces ahead of their first appearance in front of a district judge.

The men removed their head coverings once inside the court building.

They are accused of chopping down the 200-year-old tree – featured in movies

Accused cover faces

including 1991's Robin Hood: Prince Of Thieves – at night in September last year.

Each gave his name, date of birth and address before charges were put at Newcastle magistrates' court.

Graham, of Carlisle, denied criminal damage to the Sycamore Gap tree and to Hadrian's Wall – a Unesco World Heritage site – in Northumberland.

Carruthers, of Wigton, Cumbria, entered no pleas to the same charges.

Prosecutor Rebecca Brown said the case was “instantly

recognisable” and “complex”. She said the tree had been valued by botanists at £622,000 based on the number of people who had access to it, the serious distress caused by its felling and the resulting economic and social impact.

She told JPs that evidence had been gathered by police using cell site data from mobile phones and vehicle number plate recognition.

Miss Brown said Graham and Carruthers were charged as part of a joint enterprise and could face between 18

months and four years in prison if convicted. She said that the magistrates' sentencing powers were not sufficient to deal with the matter.

As a result, the case was adjourned. District Judge Zoe Passfield told the defendants: “This case is too serious to be heard in the magistrates' court, so I am sending your case to Newcastle crown court. Your first hearing will be on June 12.”

Graham and Carruthers pulled on their black balaclavas as they left the court.

The pair, who refused to comment, then ran towards a waiting white Range Rover, which whisked them away from the area.

paul.sims@the-sun.co.uk



They're off . . . pair outside court

GOT GOSSIP? CALL OR WHATSAPP THE BIZ BATPHONE WE NEVER SLEEP

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bi



Tom's a cup hero

HERE'S a great mugshot of TOM HOLLAND as he is greeted by fans while holding a cuppa. The Spider-Man actor has just kicked off his run in a production of Romeo And Juliet in London's West End, and looked chuffed at the reaction outside the Duke of York's Theatre. The modern-day adaptation features all the bells and whistles of a major production. At one point he even performs on the roof of the theatre in scenes that are filmed and shown inside – as I revealed this month he would be doing. The show will run until August 3, so Tom and his team have a busy schedule to focus on. So good on him for sticking to hot drinks and nothing stronger.

KACEY'S SICK OF HOLIDAY

COUNTRY singer KACEY MUSGRAVES must have regretted taking a holiday in Ireland before kicking off her current tour.

On stage at London's Roundhouse during her sell-out gig, the seven-time Grammy winner revealed she took a solo trip to the Aran Islands ahead of the first show in Dublin, but it ended in disaster.

She said: "There were no cars there, just electric bikes. The first thing I did within ten minutes of the ride was ride like an idiot and I bashed my knee up."

"I think it hurt my feelings more than anything. It was awful."

But that wasn't the worst of it. Kacey, above, added: "I was sad and alone and I see a roadside stand selling fish and chips. So I got some."

"On the way there I patted some horses and didn't think to wash my hands, because why would you? Cue eight hours later, it's a sad situation."

She added that she "probably threw up 40 times".



IT IS hard to believe that 23 years have passed since REESE WITHERSPOON first did the bend and snap in my favourite film, Legally Blonde.

And it is even more unfathomable that she got dressed up as her character Elle Woods again – and looked no different – to announce a prequel TV series.

Reese wore a pink skirt suit and carried a chihuahua, which looked just like her character's pooch Bruiser, at an event in New York to promote the show.

The series on Prime Video will follow Elle as a schoolgirl in the Nineties, years before the events of the movie and its 2003 sequel.

Casting is yet to be revealed and although Reese won't reprise her role, she will be an executive producer on the series, which will simply be called Elle.

She wrote in an online post: "Before she became the most famous Gemini vegetarian to graduate from Harvard Law, she was just a regular 90s high school girl."

"And all of you are going to get to know her next year on @prime video. I'M SO EXCITED!"



FILM ROLE Reese in movie

One Elle of a return, Reese

BILLIE BREAK-UP LINES HIT HARD ON ALBUM

BILLIE EILISH's music has never been the most uplifting – but her new album is more downbeat than ever.

The record, Hit Me Hard And Soft, is out tomorrow and on one track called The Greatest, she pines after a love who no longer wants her.

Billie sings: "All the times I've waited for you to want me naked . . . and you don't want to know what I would have done. Anything at all. All my love and patience. I'm unappreciated. I loved you and I still do."

Fans will no doubt wonder whether it's a break-up track from her relationship with US singer and actor JESSE RUTHERFORD, pictured with Billie. They split in May



last year. Another gut-wrenching track is Skinny, in which Billie sings about feeling dead inside, despite the world praising her for slimming down.

She adds: "People say I look happy just because I look skinny. And I still cry. And you said I was your secret but you didn't get to keep it. And the internet is hungry for the meanest kind of funny but somebody's got to feed it."

I have no doubt Hit Me Hard And Soft will end up with a nod at next year's Grammys.

But for now, I need a box of tissues and tub of Ben & Jerry's.

AVRIL LOVE CHEATERS

AVRIL LAVIGNE revealed in a rare interview that she has been cheated on "a s**t tonne".

Asked if it had happened, she replied: "Have I been with a male before? Then the answer is yes."

"As much as anybody has ever f***ed me over, which has happened a s**t tonne, I've always been the classy bitch, taken the high road and kept it to myself."

The Sk8er Boi singer, above, who was married to SUM 41's DERVYCK WHIBLEY and NICKELBACK's CHAD KROEGER, made the comment on the Call Her Daddy podcast.



RITA ORA will return with a new song in a couple of weeks, ready for summer.

The name of the track has not been revealed but she will sing it live for the first time at Mighty Hoopla festival in South London on June 2. And she told KELLY

CLARKSON of her new music: "It's a whole new thing for me. I am doing a huge LGBT festival where I will perform it. It's a really fun one."

"I'm about to get back on the road. I feel like I need to get back to my music roots."

ELLIE HENMAN'S

anne

With
HOWELL
DAVIES
& JACK
HARDWICK

ROD IN STEVE A.I. OUTCRY

ROD STEWART, PAUL WELLER and BRYAN ADAMS have locked horns with the estate of STEVE MARRIOTT over plans to bring out new music from the late singer, made using A.I.

He co-founded the SMALL FACES and HUMBLE PIE and died in 1991 aged 44. There are plans to complete unfinished demos.

A raft of big names, also including ROBERT PLANT and DAVID GILMOUR, and even his daughter Mollie Marriott, are opposed. Mollie said: "It would be a stain on my father's name."

UNDERCOVER RYLAN TUNES

RYLAN CLARK may have secretly crept on to your playlists without you realising.

The TV and radio presenter has been releasing music under a pseudonym – and said the tunes have become hits while people haven't noticed it's actually him singing.

Rylan, who was a contestant on The X Factor in 2012, explained: "I write music. I've done quite a lot of songs for myself. Some have been released, but not under 'Rylan', and they've done well, which is fun.

"I've released a couple of tracks that have done well and I'm happy with."

He hasn't yet worked out what his alias is, but I'm guessing he's not BEYONCE or TAYLOR SWIFT.

Asked whether he would release music under his own

name, Rylan told JESSIE WARE on the Table Manners podcast: "I'm not ready for that yet.

"When I started out on X Factor I had a very easy role to play on that show, and that was to be the one that everyone talks about and my job wasn't to sing.

"I think if Joe Public read tomorrow, 'Rylan's bringing out a CD', people would go, 'Shut up', and it would be pre-judged.

"I've been really lucky over the last 12 years. I've been successful in my career and I've done really, really well.

"And this hand is telling me, 'Don't tell people it's you because they'll pre-judge'."

"But there's this curiosity killed the cat hand going, 'Could you do it all again from scratch? Could you replicate what you've done for yourself again?'"



SECRET SONGS ... Rylan



OLIVIA RODRIGO almost flashed the crowd at London's O2 Arena during the first of her four shows there. She was singing the aptly titled Love Is Embarrassing on Tuesday when her leather bra top came undone, pictured, leading to her dancers desperately trying to fix it. Running to the back of the stage, she shouted: "This is ****ing embarrassing." She still managed to style it out and finished the song. Good on her.



Wiltshire
SOLD: £6.75m



Lake Geneva
SOLD: £24m



Beverly Hills
SOLD: £59.5m



Holmby Hills
SOLD: £51.6m

I'M SNUBBING ANGELES INSTEAD

ROBBIE WILLIAMS ran off to Hollywood to escape superstardom in the UK – where he couldn't walk down the street without being recognised.

But after 18 years in Los Angeles, he has packed up for good and sold his only remaining property there.

I can reveal he has flogged his mansion in the uber-rich Holmby Hills for a staggering £51.6million – making a handsome £12.3million profit.

He bought the three-house estate, featuring eight bedrooms, 11 bathrooms, pool, tennis court and garage fit for 15 luxury cars, for £39.3million in March 2022.

Only last month, the Angels singer was seen playing with his son on the tennis court at the property.

It was nicknamed the Funny Girl Estate, having originally been built by comedian FANNY BRICE, whose life story inspired hit musical Funny Girl. It was never



PROFIT ... wife Ayda

Robbie sells LA pad for £51m and quits States

actively on the market, which suggests Robbie and his wife AYDA FIELD got an offer they couldn't refuse.

It was snapped up by Australian billionaire Nick Molnar, who co-founded the buy now, pay later firm Afterpay.

The former TAKE THAT singer has sold four properties in the past two years, with the only asset being his £17.5million home in Ken-

sington, West London. In March 2022, his Beverly Hills home was bought by rapper DRAKE for £59.5million, then he flogged his Wiltshire country pad for £6.75million. His Swiss mansion near Lake Geneva was also put on the market for £24million.

Robbie said last year: "We don't want to live in California all the time. It's just not the best place in the world

to be raising teenagers and we're going to have four teenagers eventually.

"Life is too fast there. I grew up too fast. There are too many ways to grow up even quicker. We want to avoid that."

He left England for a new life Stateside in 2006.

During an interview at the time, Robbie explained: "Back home, I feel like I've

overstayed my welcome a little bit. I've enjoyed tremendous success for over ten years now, far more than I should have or I ever would have dreamed I'd have.

"And now it's the time for Robbie to go away in people's minds. I think it's time to not be in Britain for a bit."

That period lasted nearly two decades.

Welcome home, Robbie.



BACK TO BLIGHTY ... Robbie

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DEAL OF DAY



THIS Delonghi four-slice toaster will look stylish on your kitchen counter. It is reduced from £114.99 to £54.99 at Currys. **SAVE: £60**

CHEAP TREAT



TIE up your hair with this cute bow band, £6, at asos.com.

TOP TIPS ON KEEPING POLLEN AT BAY



Hay-fever reliever

HAY fever can turn summer to misery for sufferers.

Pricey gadgets such as air purifiers could help remove pollen and dust from your home.

But there are a few steps you can take that do not require splashing lots of cash.

Here is what you can try... **DRY INSIDE:** Warm, sunny days are perfect for drying clothes and bedding outside. But it also means that pollen can stick to fabric, triggering allergies once inside.

Check the pollen count and, if high, dry laundry indoors if you can, especially bed linen which will disturb your sleep if covered in pollen. A clothes

hanger in a top-floor bedroom with the windows shut on a sunny day should do the trick.

HOME CHANGE: When you come home after being out, it is worth changing your clothes, which could have picked up pollen. This will prevent allergens being spread around the house.

On days when the pollen count is particularly high, it is a good idea to shower and wash your hair after getting home.

CLEAN UP: To help keep allergies under control, try vacuuming regularly to avoid a build-up of dust and pollen on carpets.

Cut down on clutter and clean shelves and other areas where dust builds.

It might be worth putting away rugs that hold on to dust and pollen and opt-

ing for bare floors instead if your allergies are playing up.

BEDDING SWITCH: Try to keep pets out of bedrooms as they can carry pollen on their fur.

Wash bedding once a week to help keep it free from allergens. Vacuuming the mattress and bed frame can get rid of dust and pollen build-up to help you get a restful night's sleep.

KEEP IT CLOSED: Shut doors and windows when the pollen count is high to help keep pollen from blowing into the home. On warmer days when you need a breeze, a fan can help keep you cool instead.

●All prices on page correct at time of going to press. Deals and offers subject to availability.

TOP SWAP



£15

BLEND and build colour on your face with Rare Beauty's soft pinch liquid blush, above, £15, from sephora.co.uk. Or try Aldi's similar sweet blusher, below, £3.49.

SAVE: £11.51

£3.49



What's new?

PROTECT yourself from the sun at the beach or on water with this UV rash vest for £6.99, in Lidl stores from today.



Little helper

ADD a glow outdoors without adding to energy bills. B&Q has a four-for-three offer on solar lighting, including these £8 stake lights.



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HOT RIGHT NOW

POPEYES has two new breakfast wraps. The Big Cajun and Big Brekkie each cost £4.99 at restaurants across the country.



Funny ... Ederson

City ace in phone blunder

By SARAH RIDLEY

MAN City goalkeeper Ederson has been bombarded with messages from fans after having his phone number leaked. The Brazilian, 30, posted a screenshot on Instagram of numerous WhatsApps he received before Tuesday night's clash against Tottenham.

One said: "Don't let any howlers in tonight. Up the Arsenal."

Another wrote: "Hello, you beautiful Brazilian God. How much for a good night tonight?"

And one simply said: "Arsenal, Arsenal, Arsenal, Arsenal" — in support of Man City's last surviving rival for the Premier League this season.

Ederson, who described the messages as "funny", went off injured during the 2-0 away win over Spurs which puts City in touching distance of their fourth successive title.

It is not known how his number was leaked.

2 held on stabbing

A WOMAN has been arrested on suspicion of murder after two men were stabbed in a double knife attack at a house.

The 51-year-old from Basingstoke is the second person to be quizzed following the incident on Sunday in Popley, Hants.

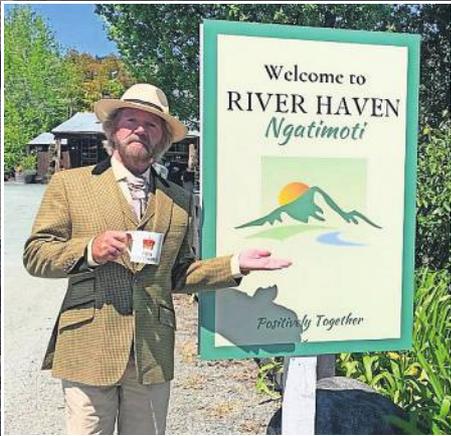
A man in his 30s was found dead at the scene and a second was seriously injured. He remains in hospital.

Hampshire police said a 55-year-old man, also from Basingstoke, was arrested on suspicion of murder on Tuesday.

TV STAR EDMONDS' PUB SHOCK



NOEL'S CHOP SHOP



Sour grapes ... Noel in his finest at his vineyard

MULTI-COLOURED SHOE SWAP

Noel's footwear faux pas outside Isle of Man café

EXCLUSIVE by RYAN PARRY

TV star Noel Edmonds has been accused of booting out 17 workers with just a day's notice — as he was seen posing in odd shoes.

Furious staff claim they were "blindsided" when the ex-Swap Shop host, 75, shut his New Zealand pub and winery for their winter.

Noel and third wife Liz have since flown to the UK, and a photo emerged yesterday of him wearing two different shoes on the Isle of Man. He beamed while holding an ice cream at Laxey Beach Stop Cafe — seemingly oblivious to his footwear faux pas.

But sacked staff at his River Haven vineyard and Buzzer Inn boozery in Ngatimoti were less happy. One said: "Emotions are very high. It came right out of the blue. We had a meeting a week before where Noel asked for our ideas for winter."

"At 4pm on the Saturday, April 27, one of the managers took a group of us into a back room and said, 'Tomorrow is your last day. We never saw Noel.'"

Another said they were booted out of his pub as they drowned their sorrows. They claimed: "The venue manager told us we would all have a drink at the Buzzer Inn that evening using our tip money."

"I think we'd had one round when another of Noel's bosses told us to go."

"He said, 'Get the f*** out, none of you are welcome here'. The next day Noel appeared and was cracking jokes, but there was no apology. No one has been told anything about future work. It's disgusting."

Ex-Deal Or No Deal host Noel, worth around £85million, moved to New Zealand in 2019 with former make-up artist Liz Davies. They launched a network of radio stations near Auckland before moving to remote Ngatimoti in 2022.

Another former worker said: "Before all this it was actually great, and Noel and Liz were brilliant. We would all have group hugs in the mornings and every night. We were so close, that's why it's so sad."

The River Haven website says staff are taking a "well-earned break" over winter, citing expansion plans. Noel has been contacted for comment.

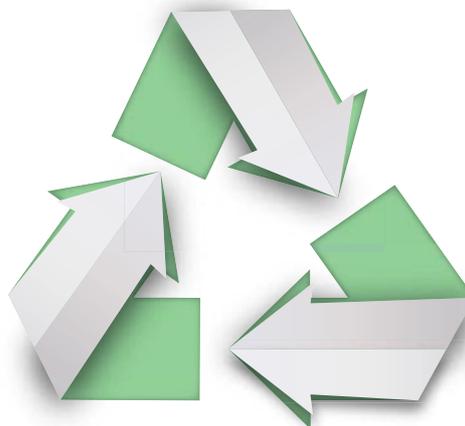
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17 staff axed on day's notice

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Jailed ... Lynch

Mother & son in jet 'disgrace' sentence

By RICHARD MORIARTY

A HOLIDAYMAKER was jailed and his mum handed a suspended sentence for drunken abusive behaviour on a jet.

Benjamin Lynch, 29, threatened to "chin" staff who intervened when he stumbled into a passenger sitting next to a baby.

His "gross" behaviour went on for a "very long time" on the busy easyjet flight from Antalya in Turkey to Manchester.

Lynch was arrested on arrival at which point his mum, Patricia, 59, yelled at police to "f*** off".

Jailing Benjamin for four months at Manchester's Minshull Street crown court, Judge Jonathan Seely told him: "Your behaviour was disgraceful - totally selfish."

Patricia Lynch got two months, suspended, and 80 hours of unpaid work for less serious conduct.

The pair, of Preston, admitted being drunk on an aircraft.



Drowned ... Iris-Mae

Iris-Mae, 3, dies in bathtime tragedy

By ALEX WEST

A GIRL of three drowned in the bath after turning on the taps while left alone, an inquest heard.

Dad Ryan ran it for Iris-Mae Aubrey, who had been sick on her pyjamas after falling ill earlier.

Mum Chelsea checked the water temperature and ensured the bath was half-filled before going downstairs to fetch a towel and tidy up.

When her daughter did not call to get out, she went up and found her in the fully filled bath in Abertillery, South Wales.

She lifted her out and attempted CPR before paramedics arrived but it was too late, the hearing in Newport was told.

Senior Gwent coroner Caroline Saunders said: "This was a terrible event which will never leave the family."

Ms Saunders said that Iris-Mae drowned while she was unattended.

Verdict: Accident.

AS LUSTY BRIDGERTON 3 LANDS WITH LESBIAN ROMPS, OUTDOOR BONKING AND THREESOMES...



EXCLUSIVE by FELICITY CROSS Deputy TV Editor

NICOLA COUGHLAN'S confidence bloomed as she swapped her Derry Girls school uniform for Bridgerton's period gowns.

And it is a good job, because she will need every ounce of that chutzpah as she today becomes the Netflix bonkbuster's latest leading lady.

The regency romp came under fire for a limp second series, with a meagre three minutes of bedroom action amid eight hours and 29 minutes of screen time.

But The Sun can reveal there will be more than **FOUR TIMES** that amount in the raunchy third outing. The first four episodes land today, and already include more than six minutes of kissing, sex, threesomes and lesbian love-making - and lots more to come.

This series follows Nicola, 37, as Penelope Featherington, who is exploring her feelings for close friend Colin Bridgerton, played by Luke Newton.

And the first part culminates in an X-rated scene as tension between them erupts.

The series is based on a string of published romance novels by Julia Quinn, so there is some clue what the second part - which lands on June 13 and covers episodes four to eight - will entail.

On top of lusty bedroom scenes, there are romps in a horse-drawn carriage, outdoor sex and a sizzling storyline between another man and a cougar. In fact, the action becomes so steamy, Nicola has revealed she had to request a "PG version" of the show to air for her family.

In the run-up to launch, the Irish actress said: "It's literally written into my contract. People think I'm saying it as a joke. I grew up Irish Catholic, that's just not how we vibe."

Nicola will need that family friendly edit more than ever as she takes centre stage.

'Amazingly empowering'

Playing Penelope is a job she relishes. But she revealed: "It was definitely intimidating. Hundreds of millions of people watch the show. That's really scary."

"But the sex scenes were one of the things I enjoyed most. Luke and I had a real hand in what we did and how it came across. Thankfully we had that physical comfort with one another, so it ended up being a really beautiful thing."

Of the bodice-ripping action, she added: "It's steamy. I was like, 'Oh wow, are we really doing that?'"

Bridgerton has captivated global audiences, with the first series breaking records when it was viewed by more than 82million households in its first four weeks.

Even the less-loved second series surpassed that as the most-watched English-language Netflix series ever.

It is expected the third will exceed all previous records, with anticipation at fever pitch. The show has catapulted Nicola from pigtailed schoolgirl Clare Devlin in Channel 4 sitcom Derry Girls to global fame.

She now has an Instagram following of 3.1million, a net worth of some £1.5million and is pals with Kim Kardashian.

But the actress, born in Galway to an Army veteran dad and housewife mother, has remained refreshingly down to earth.

And that is never more apparent than in the star's approach to her sex scenes in series three.

She said: "There is one where I am very naked on camera and that was my idea, my choice."

"It just felt like the biggest 'f*** you' to all the conversations surrounding my body. It was amazingly empowering. Having now watched those scenes, I'm so proud of them."

In a chat with Radio Times this week, she added: "This industry can be very narrow-minded.



EYES ON THE PRIZE ... Nicola as Penelope

A HOLLYWOOD intimacy co-ordinator says Bridgerton's sex scenes are so intricate they are organised like fight scenes. Brooke Haney, who has worked for HBO, Warner Brothers and Disney, reveals: "These scenes are really choreographed, almost like you would with a dance, stunt or a fight on screen."

"In a script, it might just read 'they kiss' or 'they have sex', and while some directors are very good at choreography, it's the job of intimacy co-ordinators to work out what kind of kiss or sex. Sometimes sex is the least sexy part of any production as it is technical, with choreography to remember."

JESS LESTER

Steamy sex scenes were my favourite... I'm very naked, it was my choice

Says NICOLA COUGHLAN



PROUD ... Nicola with co-star Luke

Within reason, anyone can play anything. I would never feel like I couldn't do something.

"You can change your accent, your hair, your build. If I'm going to play a bodybuilder, I'm going to go to the gym and get hench. People can feel hemmed in, but I feel like I've refused to be and I'm going to continue to do so."

It is not just Nicola and Luke, 31, who get busy in the new series.

Season two's lacklustre lovers Anthony Bridgerton (Jonathan Bailey) and Kate Sharma (Simone

Ashley) will engage in an oral sex scene. One romp sees him bury his head between her legs.

Elsewhere, Colin hires sex workers before realising his true feelings for Penelope, and asks them to put on a girl-on-girl show.

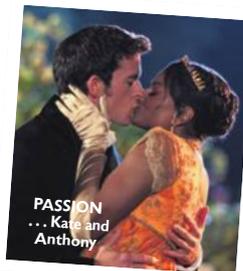
Benedict Bridgerton (Luke Thompson) becomes involved with a glamorous older woman. And even Penelope's uptight sisters bed their new husbands.

Luke said: "I feel like you're expecting that with this show, but I think we've really ramped it up. It's steamy across the board - there's lots

of people across the 'Ton that are at it, not just us." Nicola added: "There are bonking opportunities for all."

It is a far cry from the years she spent trying to make it as an actress, when she worked at an optician's and as a waitress. She said with a laugh: "It's funny because people see you at fancy events and think you must be fancy. No, no, I was making frozen yoghurt in Westfield shopping centre not long ago. This is not normal for me."

● Watch Bridgerton series three on Netflix today. Part two follows on June 13.



PASSION ... Kate and Anthony



Feud ... Finlayson

Ex-nurse kill threat to friend over man

By SARAH RIDLEY

A RETIRED NHS nurse vowed to kill her elderly next-door neighbour during a row over a man who came between their close friendship.

Yvonne Finlayson, 74, called 999 following a dispute with Christine Blower, 72, and told the operator: "I am going to kill her, the f****g c****"

Police later learned they had been feuding after Miss Blower befriended a local deliveryman known only as Gaz.

Finlayson had accused Miss Blower and Gaz of stealing money from her, while Miss Blower claimed Finlayson had hurt her dog with a knife. Miss Blower has died of natural causes since the bust-up last August.

At Wigan magistrates' court, Finlayson admitted malicious communication, although charges of assault and threatening behaviour were dropped.

She got a conditional discharge for a year.



Transplant ... Harlow

Girl, 6, is only one in rogue gene hell

By SAM BLANCHARD

A GIRL of six is battling a genetic condition so rare that she is the only one diagnosed with it.

It affects bone and cartilage growth, leaving Harlow Gardner still under a metre tall.

Her sight is failing, too, and she will need a kidney transplant, with mum Melanie the donor. Harlow has to be fed through a tube and finds it painful to walk.

And as there are no other known cases, doctors cannot even say how long she might live.

Melanie, 34, from Portsmouth, said despite it all, Harlow is a "confident, sassy little thing".

She and husband Peter, 37, were both found to carry the rare WDR19 gene but their three other kids are unaffected.

Melanie and sister Abigail Godden, 33, plan to take on the Three Peaks challenge to raise money to support the family during the transplant.



RASH READY TO ROLLS

EXCLUSIVE by RYAN PARRY

MARCUS Rashford's new £700,000 Rolls-Royce Black Badge Wraith is on its way to him from Germany. The Man United ace, 26, right, ordered the car to replace the one he smashed up in September, below.

NEW CAR

Motor is loaded on to lorry in Germany

OLD CAR

PRICE RISE AS CROP FLOPS

21% SQUEEZE FOR ORANGE JUICE FANS

ORANGE juice lovers must think shop bosses are taking the pith — with in-store prices rocketing by more than a fifth in a year.

And costs are set to increase even further as crop diseases and climate change continue to clobber harvests, experts say.

Heatwaves have hampered growers in Spain, while in Brazil — the world's largest producer of the tangy fruit — millions of trees

By ASHLEY ARMSTRONG

have been blighted by an incurable bacterial infection called citrus greening disease.

Two hurricanes and a cold winter have hit Florida's harvests.

As a result, the wholesale orange juice price is now £5,179 a ton — more than double last year's £2,300.

This has led to higher supermarket prices — with the average for own-brand juice up 21 per cent to £1.34 a litre, says The Grocer magazine.

It has been suggested that demand from buyers could outstrip supply as early as next month — which experts say will keep prices high. That is

bad news for millions of Britons because orange is the favourite juice of 59 per cent of the UK market, according to The British Soft Drinks Association.

British company Coldpress, which launched in 2011, said it had switched from using oranges to mandarins to combat the soaring price.

A spokesman said: "It's worth noting that mandarins are a fantastic, low-calorie fruit jam-packed with beneficial vitamins and minerals."

The brand is able to sell mandarin juice at the same price as its apple drink, which is 15 per cent cheaper than orange juice.

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WOMAN HURT IN GANG SHOOT-OUT

A WOMAN is in hospital after being caught up in a gangland car shoot-out.

The 38-year-old was hit in the leg as she walked down a busy street with friends.

Witnesses heard two shots ring out as a dark grey VW Golf hurtled after a black Ford Kuga in Stamford Hill, North East London, at 7.40pm on Tuesday.

Armed police and air ambulance crews were called to the scene outside a Morrisons supermarket.

By **ANDY ROBINSON**

Last night, the victim's injury was described as "not life-threatening".

Onlooker Suchi Rose, 18, said the cars raced down a bus lane, heading towards Clapton Common. She added: "The woman fell to the ground. Her two friends continued walking before realising. It all

Search... cops at scene



happened within seconds." Shop worker Sayed Popal, 29, said: "I heard two shots then I saw a woman on the ground and people trying to help her. She looked in a bad way."

Yesterday, the area was cordoned off while forensic officers searched for bullet casings.

Police scotched early speculation the shooting may have been an attack on the local Jewish community.

SUN CABBIE GRILL



By **MIKE RIDLEY**

ENERGY secretary Claire Coutinho took a cab ride into the future yesterday.

Sitting in the back of a black taxi, she warned if Labour win the next election ordinary people will bear the brunt of Shadow Energy Secretary Ed Miliband's Net Zero obsession.

PM Rishi Sunak's energy chief agreed to be quizzed by 63-year-old London cabbie Grant Davis — one of the ordinary people recruited to The Sun Cabinet to give their views on politics.

Grant, a black cab driver for 35 years, believes Labour's emission targets are "suicidal".

Ms Coutinho told him: "Ed Miliband thinks you're flat earthers and climate deniers."

"The next election is the referendum on Net Zero."

She took a trip yesterday in Grant's £100,000 electric cab from The Sun's London Bridge offices to Westminster for our brilliant Never Mind The Ballots YouTube show.

Sitting on the back seat, Sun Political Editor Harry Cole suggested the Energy Secretary has a £trillion problem — Net Zero.

She replied: "We are the first country to have halved emissions out of the top 20 largest economies in the world. So we're doing very well."

"We've done that whilst growing the economy and protecting household finances, which is what I care about."

'A £100,000 cab just to get to work'

But cabbie Grant — our Transport Secretary in The Sun Cabinet — asked: "How do you think normal working-class people can afford Net Zero?"

The dad of two wanted to know how ordinary folk could afford green heat pumps at around £13,000, even though the Government was giving grants of £6,000 towards the cost.

Grant said: "There's working-class people who can't put a tenner on the electric meter and you're saying we've got to buy a heat pump."

"Even with the discount, it comes to eight or nine grand. It's a sort of fantasy world, isn't it?"

The Secretary of State told him: "One of the first things that I did when I came into the post was to push back some of the dates when it comes to people's cars and boilers."

"Because I know they've had a really tough time and I wanted to give people a bit more time."

The Tories also increased the grant for heat pumps to £7,500.

Ms Coutinho added: "That grant is now the most generous of its kind in Europe."

"Because after the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, what I don't want to do is heap costs on to families when they have just had a really difficult time."

She revealed that there has been a 75 per cent increase year-on-year for the £7,500 grant.

The minister added: "You've got companies bringing the price down and coming up with new ways of doing this. And I'm giving you a helping hand."

"At the same time I want to give people the space to make choices for themselves."

But The Sun's Harry Cole backed Grant up and pointed out that only two per cent of households — 4,648 households out of a possible 300,000 — have



'How do you think people can afford Net Zero? Some can't find a tenner for the electric and you're saying we need to buy a heat pump'
— SUN CABBIE GRANT DAVIS



FARE'S FAIR... Sun's Harry Cole with minister

taken up the Government's scheme to help with insulating their homes to keep bills down.

The Energy Secretary conceded: "Look, it has been a bit slow on the uptake and we're working hard to improve that."

"But when it comes to homes in this country, when we came into power in 2010 only 14 per cent of them were well insulated."

"Now it's almost half, so we've come a long way. We've also done 70 per cent of social homes."

"For people who are on the lowest incomes, we've gone even further and we've got to keep going. So yes, I need to speed that up."

She also ruled out tapping into Britain's reserves of shale gas as a source of cheap energy which

has helped boom.

Ms Coutinho said she had a slight problem from America: "We've got a lot of companies across the world."

"In terms of seeing more people make sure they're safe before we get with it."

In the front of the cab, Grant revealed she was forced to leave the electric vehicle.

He said: "I'm not a cabbie, but I know where the drivers to have a cab just to get to work are becoming rich."

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TALK

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US ENERGY SECRETARY CLAIRE COUTINHO

CHEAP NUKE POWER

EXCLUSIVE
by HARRY COLE

MINI-nuclear reactors will begin to be rolled out across the country within the next ten years – but there will be no return to fracking anytime soon.

Claire Coutinho says Britain will be “one of the first countries in the world, if not the first” to have a small modular reactor that can produce power for a million homes.

She told The Sun it is “the kind of nuclear power plant that you can build in a factory and roll out cheaply across the country. This is cheap energy I want to bring to the country”.

Ministers promise the mini-reactors could one day be built in dozens of towns and cities.

Rolls-Royce, which makes them, says they will initially cost around £2.2billion each and operate for 60 years.

But quizzed on this week’s Never Mind The Ballots on the snail pace of their delivery, Ms Coutinho said: “Nuclear takes a bit of time to build. But in the early 2030s, this is what I’m working on.”

Ministers are aiming to quadruple UK nuclear power by 2050.

The first sites will be Wylfa Newydd and Trawsfynydd in Wales, Oldbury in the West Midlands, and Sellafield in Cumbria.

But Ms Coutinho poured cold water on giving the green light to shale gas extraction in the UK to protect our energy security like in the US.

America’s shift to natural gas from coal has yielded economic gains, but Ms Coutinho said the circumstances are too tricky to replicate in Britain.

After a massive backlash in communities, the Tories slammed the breaks on UK fracking ahead of the 2019 General Election.

EURO BLAST

By JACK ELSOM

MEDDLING Euro judges should stay out of national climate policies, the Energy Secretary has warned.

Claire Coutinho promised Sun readers she would fight Strasbourg’s bids to impose eco targets.

She hit out after the European Court of Human Rights controversially ruled against Switzerland for not doing enough to go green.

Speaking on Never Mind The Ballots, Coutinho said: “I think it’s an overreach for the ECHR to try and dictate climate change policy, because what you do in your climate change policy affects energy bills.”

Rishi Sunak has vowed to leave the foreign court if it blocks Rwanda deportation flights taking off.

IN DRIVING SEAT . . . Grant Davis and Claire Coutinho
Pictures: ARTHUR EDWARDS



‘Ed Miliband thinks you’re flat earthers and climate deniers. The next election is the referendum on net zero’
- ENERGY SECRETARY CLAIRE COUTINHO

Taxi for Miliband...

the US economy
no explained: “We do
different situation
ca. The problem is
much denser island.
unities are packed
country.
of fracking, we need
from the science to
that we know that it’s
we could proceed

people get the money from.” He added: “China’s flooding Europe and England with cheaper electric vehicles because they’re building them using fossil fuel power stations that we can’t. It’s going to absolutely destroy our automotive industries.”

Would the Government follow US President Joe Biden, who overnight slapped a 100 per cent tariff on electric vehicles coming from China?

Ms Coutinho revealed: “That would sit with the Transport Secretary and I know he’ll look at all of these things very carefully.”

“I think it’s also really important that you protect British industry. We’ve got to get that balance right.”

But she warned if Sir Keir Starmer won at the polls later in the year, they

would be even closer to the Chinese.

She added: “I’ve talked a lot about the threat of China and why we want to have things made here.”

“But if you look at Labour’s policy, which is to go ever faster, ever further, actually what you really risk is having a transition which is made in China because

they’re going to have to import a bunch of things.”

Grant revealed that not only did the race for Net Zero mean he had to buy an electric cab, he also had to sell his Kia Sorrento and buy a Nissan Qashqai because of London’s hated Ultra-Low Emission Zone expansion.

The Energy Secretary told Grant, who lives in Bromley,

South London: “I have a constituency which borders London, so I’ve had people in my surgeries.”

“I’ve gone to primary schools where six-year-olds ask me about Ulez because their parents can’t afford to get to work.”

“I think it’s a complete disgrace.

“I campaigned against it. I think it’s an appalling policy. It’s exactly how you don’t want to do climate change policy.

“You’re making people who have the least, pay the most and you are not providing solutions for them.

“This is exactly why I think the next election is really important. Because I don’t want the Labour Party to do to the rest of the country what they did to London.”

The Sun Says — Page Ten



NET ZERO . . . Miliband

NEVER MIND THE BALLOTS **THE Sun**

Scan the QR code to watch the show

Thursday

4-PAGE SECTION

TV GUIDE



6am Breakfast (S)
9.30 Morning Live (S)
10.45 Defenders: Busting The Bad Guys A cowboy builder. (R,S)
11.15 Homes Under The Hammer Property auctions. (R,S)
12.15 Bargain Hunt The red and blue teams shop for bargains in Kent. (R,S)
1.00 BBC News (S)
1.30 Regional News (S)
1.45 Doctors (S)
2.15 Money For Nothing Upholsterer Simon addresses a super cool sofa frame. (S)
3.00 Escape To The Country Denise Nurse helps a couple from Oxfordshire to find a home in the Peak District. (R,S)
3.45 Garden Rescue Flo Headlam and Chris Hull create a colourful garden with a Moroccan influence. (S)
4.30 The Finish Line Paula, Sam, Conor, Stephanie and Jon compete. (S)
5.15 Pointless Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Gabby Logan. (S)
6.00 BBC News (S)
6.30 Regional News (S)

6.30 am Bargain Hunt (R,S)
7.15 Garden Rescue (R,S)
8.00 Sign Zone: Gardeners' World From the RHS Malvern Spring Festival. (R,S,SL)
9.00 BBC News (S)
12.15 Politics Live (S)
1.00 Impossible (R,S)
1.45 Mastermind (R,S)
2.15 Great Coastal Railway Journeys (R,S)
2.45 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities (R,S)
3.15 Dogs In The Wild: Meet The Family A look at wild dogs' secrets to success. (R,S)
4.15 Supermarket Secrets Gregg Wallace examines the ways supermarkets fight for customers' loyalty. Last in the series. (R,S)
5.15 Flog It! From the Blickling estate in Norfolk. (R,S)
6.00 Richard Osman's House Of Games Yasmine Akram, Stephen Mangan, Ingrid Oliver and Tom Rosenthal take part. (R,S)
6.30 Marcus Wareing Simply Provence The chef presents a twist on a classic Sunday roast using chicken. (S)

6am Good Morning Britain (S)
9.00 Lorraine Entertainment and fashion news. (S)
10.00 This Morning Daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, lifestyle features, topical discussion, health and beauty advice and more. (S)
12.30 Loose Women Guest panellists engage in topical debate and celebrity interviews from a female perspective. (S)
1.30 ITV News (S)
1.55 Regional News (S)
2.00 ITV Racing: From York Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumanì present day two of the Dante Festival from York, including the **3.45 Al Basti** Equiworld Dubai Dante Stakes. Plus, action from Salisbury. (S)
4.30 Tipping Point: Best Ever Finals Compilation of some of the most dramatic endgames from the quiz show hosted by Ben Shephard. (R,S)
5.00 The Chase Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R,S)
6.00 Regional News (S)
6.30 ITV News (S)

6.30 am 3rd Rock From The Sun Triple bill. (R,S)
7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond Four episodes. (R,S)
9.40 Frasier (R,S)
11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA A steakhouse in Queens, New York. (R,S)
12.05 C4 News (S)
12.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA The chef visits a Danish restaurant in Florida. (R,S)
1.05 Find It, Fix It, Flog It Simon O'Brien becomes obsessed with a 1960s speedboat. (R,S)
2.10 Countdown (S)
3.00 A Place In The Sun (R,S)
4.00 Narrow Escapes Steve and Chris cruise north to Chester to help plan their daughter's wedding. (S)
5.00 Come Dine With Me: The Professionals The week in Essex begins with restaurant classics at Toulouse. (S)
6.00 Four In A Bed The week's final visit is to the Curious Fox in Skipton, North Yorkshire. (S)
6.30 The Simpsons Grampa makes a confession to Homer that proves hard to reconcile. (R,S)

6am Milkshake!
9.15 Jeremy Vine Jeremy Vine and Storm discuss the issues of the day. (S)
11.15 Storm Huntley Debate on the day's talking points continues. (S)
12.45 Friends Double bill. Phoebe is mistaken for a porn star. Then, the pals ponder what might have been. (R,S)
1.40 5 News (S)
1.45 Home And Away Cash is doing his best to make Stevie feel at home at his place. (R,S)
2.15 Missing And Alone A woman decides to dedicate her life to her daughter and her work after the untimely death of her husband. Thriller with CindyMarie Small. (2021) (S)
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun In Marbella, Wenda and her son head to a tattoo parlour. (S)
5.00 5 News At 5 (S)
6.00 Police Interceptors Carl and Wayne nearly become victims of a white-van man's dangerous driving. (R,S) Followed by **5 News Update**

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7.00 The One Show Hosted by Lauren Laverne and Roman Kemp. (S)
7.30 EastEnders Whitney panics as she faces giving birth in a taco van when Lauren's phone dies and their cries for help go unanswered. Tommy attempts to play matchmaker between Kat and Alfie. (S)
8.00 Dragons' Den (11/14) A couple pitch their sustainable coffee from Honduras, while a fashionista showcases her digital wardrobe app. With Evan Davis. (R,S)
9.00 MasterChef (20/24) The semi-finalists need to impress John Torode and Gregg Wallace with a dish that really turns on the theatrics. It must sing creativity, magic and sparkle, leaving the judges with a real problem on their hands. For one, the show ends here, but the remaining five are then whisked off to Buckinghamshire. Swedish Michelin-starred chef Niklas Ekstedt sets them the task of rustling up a five-course menu for a conservationists dinner hosted by bushcraft expert Ray Mears. (S)
10.00 BBC News (S)
10.30 Regional News (S)
10.40 Question Time Fiona Bruce hosts the political debate from Aberdeen. (S)
11.40 Newscast A weekly round-up from Westminster. (S)
12.15 -6am BBC News (S)

7.00 Digging For Britain (6/6) Alice Roberts explores treasures in the west of Britain, including the remains of Snodhill Castle in Herefordshire and the oldest house ever found in Cardiff. (R,S)
8.00 Why Ships Crash When the Ever Given blocked the Suez Canal, it triggered a global crisis. Using eye-witnesses speaking for the first time, this investigation aims to find out what really happened. (R,S)
9.00 Murder, They Hope (1/3) Gemma and Terry go undercover at a therapy retreat to chase mysterious death threats. Sian Gibson and Johnny Vegas star. (S)
9.45 Live At The Apollo (6/7) Desiree Burch hosts the show recorded before a packed house at London's Hammersmith Apollo, warming up the audience and then introducing stand-up performances by Paul McCaffrey and Jonny Pelham. (R,S)
10.30 Newsnight The day's important national and international news stories with Victoria Derbyshire. (S) Followed by **Weather**
11.15 Joe Wicks: Facing My Childhood Joe Wicks explores how his parents' mental health issues affected him as a child. (R,S)
12.15 Sign Zone: Saving Lives At Sea (R,S,SL) **1.15 Doctor Who.** Ncuti Gatwa stars. (R,S,SL) **2.50-3.20am** Great British Railway Journeys (R,S,SL)

7.30 Emmerdale Tom listens in on Belle on the puppy cam, and then has a go at her, while Paddy feels guilty when he sees Vinny humiliated. (S)
8.30 Tonight: Kids In Poverty - Britain's Shame With more than four million children now living in poverty in Britain, struggling families are among those discussing the issue with Paul Brand. (S)
9.00 The Fortune Hotel (4/8) At the luxury resort, the remaining pairs must attempt to search for the cash case and avoid the dreaded Early Checkout. Alliances are formed and suspicions grow about who is hiding the fortune. Plus, a surprising pair are given the Early Checkout card and face a premature exit unless they can offload it. (S)
10.00 ITV News At Ten (S)
10.30 Regional News (S)
10.45 The Late Debate Simon Harris is joined by a panel of local MPs for a discussion on the latest news and events at Westminster. (S)
11.15 Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport (1/12) The airport is having its busiest year to date. (R,S)
11.45 The Fortune Hotel (4/8) The remaining pairs search for the cash case. (R,S)
12.35 Shop On TV 3.00 The Fortune Hotel (R,S,SL) **3.50** Unwind With ITV (S) **5.05-6am** Katie Piper's Breakfast Show (R,S,SL)

7.00 C4 News (S)
8.00 Coca-Cola's Dirty Secret: Dispatches The environmental impact of the nation's huge soft drink habit. (S)
8.30 Kirstie And Phil's Love It Or List It: Brilliant Builds Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer look back at one of their biggest builds. (R,S)
9.00 Taskmaster (8/10) The continuing challenge sees John Robins attach oars to his arms, Sophie Willan make a wolf beatbox and Steve Pemberton skin a mannequin. (S)
10.00 Joe & Katherine's Bargain Holidays (4/6) Joe Wilkinson and Katherine Ryan enjoy a family adventure holiday in South Wales, involving a beach clean, orienteering, a sandcastle competition and a visit to a unique museum. (S)
11.05 Bill Bailey's Australian Adventure (4/4) Bill visits Port Hedland, one of the biggest ports in the southern hemisphere. (R,S)
12.10 Embarrassing Bodies (R,S) **1.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R,S,SL) **1.50** The Simpsons (R,S) **2.40 FILM** Animal Farm. Animated drama with the voice of Maurice Denham. (1954) (S,SL) **3.50** Unreported World (R,S,SL) **4.15** Location, Location, Location (R,S) **5.10** The Perfect Pitch (R,S) **5.35** Kirstie's House Of Craft (R,S) **5.50-6.30am** Countdown (R,S)

7.00 Britain's Poshest Farm Shop (1/2) Documentary celebrating the finest farm shops in the country. (R,S) Followed by **5 News Update**
8.00 Reuben: Life In The Dales (4/6) The friends set sail for France on Reuben Owen's first holiday abroad, a road trip which takes them to Normandy and the Loire Valley. (S)
9.00 The Hotel Inspector Alex Polizzi is called to help Lantern Theatre and Cafe in Brighton ran by Daniel and Janette, who have been putting on shows at the fringe venue and studio space for 25 years. (S)
10.00 Mummy's Little Murderer Documentary using covert police recordings and surveillance footage to examine the events surrounding the 2011 killing of Emily Longley by her boyfriend Elliot Turner. (R,S)
11.35 Making A Serial Killer (9/10) The crimes of Anthony Shore, who used his job as a telegraph repairman to target the women he preyed upon. (R,S)
12.25 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders (R,S) **1.20** PlayOJO Live Casino Show (S) **3.20** Secret Scotland With Susan Calman (R,S) **4.05** Entertainment News On 5 (S) **4.10** Britain's Greatest Bridges (R,S,SL) **5.00** Wildlife SOS (R,S,SL) **5.25** Entertainment News On 5 (S) **5.35** Thomas & Friends: Big World! Big Adventures! (R,S,SL) **5.45-6am** Paw Patrol (R,S,SL)

REGIONAL VARIATIONS S4C: 6am Cwyl 12.00 Newyddion S4C A'r Tywydd 12.05 Cais Quinell 12.30 Heno 1.00 Sain Flagan 1.30 Cysgu O Gwmpas 2.00 Newyddion S4C A'r Tywydd 2.05 Prynhawn Da 3.00 Newyddion S4C A'r Tywydd 3.05 Am Gwranada: 10.45-11.05pm The Granada Debate ITV MERIDIAN: 10.45-11.05pm The Last Word ITV WALES: 10.45-11.05pm Fishlock's Choice ITV WEST: 10.45-11.05pm Cath-od 5.20 Ar Goll Yn Oed 5.40 Itopia 6.00 Dan Do 6.30 Y Sin 6.57 Newyddion S4C 7.00 Heno 7.30 Newyddion S4C A'r Tywydd 8.00 Pobol Y Cwm 8.25 Rownd A Rownd 8.55 Newyddion S4C A'r Tywydd 9.00 Wrecsam: Clwb Nili 10.00 Cor Ynnu 2024: Y Ffeinol 12.20-12.35am Grid BBC ONE WALES: 0pm Wales' Home Of The Year 8.30-9pm The Crash Detectives ITV ANGLIA: 10.45-11.05pm Anglia Late Edition ITV CENTRAL: 10.45-11.05pm Central Lobby ITV BRITAIN: 10.45-11.05pm The Granada Debate ITV MERIDIAN: 10.45-11.05pm The Last Word ITV WALES: 10.45-11.05pm Fishlock's Choice ITV WEST: 10.45-11.05pm The Westcountry Debate ITV WESTCOUNTRY: 10.45-11.05pm The Westcountry Debate ITV YORKSHIRE: 10.45-11.05pm Last Orders

FILMS ★★★★★ Brilliant ★★★★ Very Good ★★★ Good ★★ Not Bad ★ Poor (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) Sign Language



By **ROD McPHEE**
TV Editor

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and **JESS LESTER**

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Sun tvbiz

GONG... Tess, left, & Claudia **STRICTLY BIRTHDAY SPECIAL**

STRICTLY Come Dancing will celebrate two decades of the show with a one-off special. The programme will look back at the most memorable moments from the past 21 series of the prime-time hit. Celebrity contestants, professional dancers and judges will offer their insight on why the BBC One show has become a global phenomenon, exported to more than 60 countries. Kalpa Patel-Knight, the BBC's Head of Entertainment, said: "Strictly Come Dancing has become an integral part of British culture, bringing families together and inspiring viewers of all ages to embrace the joy of dance." The special will air on BBC One and iPlayer later this year. It comes after hosts **TESS DALY** and **CLAUDIA WINKLEMAN** took home Strictly's gong for Best Entertainment Show at the Bafta TV Awards on Sunday.

DETECTIVE comedy series *Sister Boniface Mysteries* is returning for its third season next month. **LORNA WATSON** will be back as the murder-investigating nun for the new episodes, which will make their UK premiere on June 7 at 9pm on Drama and UKTV Play.

MATTHEW OUT FOR REVENGE

The cast of BBC One revenge thriller *Reunion* has been announced – and will see **MATTHEW GURNEY** play deaf man Daniel Brennan who has just been released from prison.

The four-part series sees him struggle to integrate into the hearing world as he tries to write his wrongs and reconnect with his estranged daughter Carly, played by **LARA PEAKE**.



The pair will be joined on screen by **ANNE-MARIE DUFF** as Christine, who is desperate to uncover the truth of Brennan's crimes.

EDDIE MARSAN and **ROSE AYLING-ELLIS** will play Christine's husband and daughter. The show is currently filming in Yorkshire and will air on BBC One and iPlayer.

**More listings:
Pages 30 & 31**



HAIR-RAISING
... Turner in Vogue shoot

GoT SOPHIE: MY CUSTODY FIGHT HELL

GAME Of Thrones actress **SOPHIE TURNER** says she "didn't know if she would make it" as she fought estranged husband **JOE JONAS** over the custody of their daughters last year. The mother of two tells June's *Vogue* magazine, inset: "I would call my lawyer saying, 'I can't do this. I just can't. I was just never strong enough to stand up for myself. I'm unhappy with the way everything played out, especially when it comes to my children. "They're the victims in all of this. But I think we're doing the best we can. "I'm confident that we can

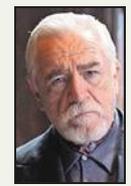
figure it out. Joe is a great father to our children and that's all that I can ask for." Meanwhile, Sophie is keeping herself busy filming for new Prime Video drama *Haven* alongside **JACOB FORTUNE-LLOYD**. The series, due out next year, sees Sophie as office worker Zara, who gets caught up in a heist after a gang of thieves break into her workplace and then use her to make demands. Jacob's DCI Rhys investigates, all while keeping his own problems at bay.



Picture: MIKAEL JANSSON. The June issue of British *Vogue* is available via digital download and on newsstands from May 21

BRIAN'S BACK IN CONTROL

THE Controller is back for more in Prime Video's *007: Road To A Million*. Succession star **BRIAN COX** will reprise his role as the puppet master tasked with setting the James-Bond inspired challenges for the contestants in the reality series. I exclusively revealed last year that the format, which sees contestants battle it out to win £1million, would be returning, before the first series even hit screens. The show – which is the brainchild of Hollywood producers behind the *007* movies – features challenges including trekking the Amazon and ascending volcanoes. A huge prize fund of £9million was previously set aside for the nine couples taking part as they travelled far and wide across the globe for the dangerous missions. Production on the new series is expected to start this summer.



BOND ... Cox will be reprising his role as the puppet master behind the *007* movies – featuring challenges including trekking the Amazon and ascending volcanoes. A huge prize fund of £9million was previously set aside for the nine couples taking part as they travelled far and wide across the globe for the dangerous missions. Production on the new series is expected to start this summer.

MTV series *Geordie Shore* is heading east for a Thailand takeover. The cast of the reality show will jet off to celebrate **KYLE CHRISTIE**'s stag do on the sunny island of Koh Samui. The episode will also see the return of original fan favourite, and former show star **SCOTTY T**.

PRIDE IS MINED ON SKY DOC

A **NEW** documentary will tell the real-life stories behind hit film *Pride*. The 2014 movie starred **GEORGE MacKAY**, **JOE GILGUN**, **ANDREW SCOTT** and **DOMINIC WEST** as miners and gay activists during the 1980s miners' strike.



Now the true story behind the film will be heard, 40 years on. Striking With *Pride: United At The Coalface* will feature interviews with Mike Jackson and Jonathan Blake, founders of *Lesbians And Gays Support The Miners*. They will be joined by former Labour MP **SIAN JAMES**, who was played by *Baby Reindeer*'s **JESSICA GUNNING** in the film. The programme will air on Sky Documentaries on June 1.

We Love Isle

MULTI-CHANNEL LAUNCH FOR DATE SHOW

ITV will be pulling out all the stops when *Love Island* returns in June. I can reveal the channel plans to launch the dating show simultaneously across **ITV1**, **ITV2** and **ITVX** for the first time ever. Which should guarantee host **MAYA JAMA** will bag the night's biggest audience. A source said: "ITV want to throw their weight behind *Love Island* and make sure it has a big, glitzy moment when the 11th series kicks

off next month. Showing it across every channel means creating what they hope will be a big TV moment. "It shows there is still a real commitment to the format even nine years on." **ITV** used the same "simulcast" schedule for the launch of its **Big Brother** reboot last October, which got 2.5million overnight

viewers. The source added: "Using the full might of **ITV** means reaching every demographic, including the crucial 16-34s. A cynic would say it also means wringing every inch out of the rating potential to prop up the stats, which have been dwindling recently." Last summer's launch hit 1.7million when streaming figures from **ITVX**

were included. Meanwhile, **The Sun** can reveal a hunky Welsh rugby player is joining the hunt for love in the new series. **Ciaran Davies** plays for rugby union team **Tondu**. A source said: "Ciaran caught the eye of *Love Island* bosses. He's gorgeous with a fit, athletic build that will send the girls wild, but he's also a sweet boy next door from Wales. "He's been in talks for weeks and is set to jet out to the villa in Majorca in the coming week or so."



VILLA THRILLER ... Ciaran

Thursday

4-PAGE SECTION

FREEVIEW

BBC THREE *Freeview 23*

7pm Top Gear: The Catch Up **8.00** Dubai Hustle **9.00** Roman Kemp: Our Silent Emergency **10.00** The Young Offenders **10.30** High: Surviving A Dubai Drugs Bust **11.00** Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star **12.00** I Kissed A Girl **1.40-2.10am** High: Surviving A Dubai Drugs Bust

BBC FOUR *Freeview 9*

7pm Great British Railway Journeys **7.30** Yorkshire Walks **8.00** A House Through Time **9.00** **FILM** Quartet. Comedy drama starring Maggie Smith. (2012) **10.30** Tosca's Kisses: Arena **11.55** The Sky At Night **12.25** The Last Battle Of The Vikings **1.25** Great British Railway Journeys **1.55-2.25am** Yorkshire Walks

ITV2 *Freeview 6*

6am CITV: Craig Of The Creek **6.15** DC Super Hero Girls **6.25** Jurassic World Camp Cretaceous **6.50** Teen Titans Go! **7.20** Scooby-Doo! Mystery Incorporated **7.45** Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! **8.10** What's New Scooby-Doo? **8.35** Scooby-Doo And Guess Who? **9.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **9.20** Catchphrase **10.00** Veronica Mars **11.00** Dawson's Creek **12.00** Secret Crush **1.00** Dress To Impress **2.00** Family Fortunes **3.00** Veronica Mars **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Dress To Impress **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase **7.00** Family Fortunes **8.00** Bob's Burgers **9.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** Bob's Burgers **1.30-2.10am** Don't Hate The Playaz

ITV3 *Freeview 10*

6am Classic Emmerdale **7.00** Classic Coronation Street **8.05** Endeavour **10.15** The Royal **11.20** Heartbeat **1.30** Classic Emmerdale **2.35** Classic Coronation Street **3.45** Marple **5.55** Heartbeat **8.00** Vera. A young man's body is washed up. **10.00** DCI Banks **11.50** The Royal **12.40-2.30am** Upstairs, Downstairs

ITV4 *Freeview 26*

6am The Derby Through The Years **6.15** Minder **7.15** The Sweeney **8.10** Robin Of Sherwood **9.20** Magnum, PI **10.20** Kojak **11.25** BattleBots **1.25** Robin Of Sherwood **1.35** Magnum, PI **2.35** Kojak **3.40** Minder **4.45** The Sweeney **5.55** BattleBots **6.55** Junk And Disorderly **8.00** Giant Lobster Hunters **9.00** Auf Wiedersehen, Pet **10.05** FILM Death Wish V: The Face Of Death. A former vigilante tries to start a new life with his fiancée, but is driven back to his old ways when she is murdered. Thriller sequel starring Charles Bronson and Robert Joy. (1994) **12.10-2.05am** The Sweeney

E4 *Freeview 13*

6am Hollyoaks **7.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **10.00** Young Sheldon **11.00** Modern Family **12.00** The Big Bang Theory **2.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.00** Modern Family **4.00** Young Sheldon **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Hollyoaks **7.30** Modern Family **8.00** Love Triangle Australia **9.00** Celebrity Gogglebox **10.05** Gogglebox **11.10** Celebrity First Dates **12.15** The Big Bang Theory **1.15** Rick And Morty **1.45-2.10am** Royal Crackers

MORE4 *Freeview 18*

8.55am Food Unwrapped **9.30** A Place In The Sun **10.25** A New Life In The Sun **11.25** Find It, Fix It, Flop **12.30** Come Dine With Me **3.10** Four In A Bed **5.50** Château DIY **6.55** Car

SKY ATLANTIC

6am Fish Town **7.55** True Blood **10.05** Billions **12.15** Game Of Thrones **1.20** Ray Donovan **3.30** True Blood **5.40** Billions **7.55** Game Of Thrones. Jon enlists the help of an unexpected ally. **9.00** The Tattooist Of Auschwitz. Lali strives to get medicine for Gita. **10.05** Band Of Brothers. Easy Company takes the town of Carentan. **11.30** The Gilded Age **12.20** Succession **1.20-2.35am** The Newsroom

SKY WITNESS

6am Stop, Search, Seize **7.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Air Ambulance ER **10.00** The Force: Manchester **11.00** Bull **12.00** New Amsterdam **1.00** 9-1-1 **2.00** FBI: Most Wanted **3.00** Caught On Dashcam **4.00** Nothing To Declare **6.00** Border Security: America's Front Line **8.00** Caught On Dashcam. Road disasters and highway crimes, captured via in-vehicle dashboard cameras. **9.00** FBI. Nina and Scola go undercover to find the person who killed an FBI agent. **10.00** FBI: International. Tate and Raines interrogate a corrupt US mercenary in Romania. **11.00** The Rookie: Feds **12.00** Departure **1.00-2am** Chicago Med. Crockett clashes with the Chief of Oncology.

GOLD

7.10am Desmond's **8.10** Keeping Up Appearances **9.25** Ever Decreasing Circles **10.00** Are You Being Served? **10.40** Open All Hours **11.20** Last Of The Summer Wine **12.40** Keeping Up Appearances **1.20** Ever Decreasing



WORK IN PROGRESS . . Peter's elephant trunk paved way for new nose

S.O.S 7.55 Grand Designs 9.00 GPs: Treating Rural Britain 10.00 24 Hours In A&E 12.05 Emergency Helicopter Medics: Car Crash Emergencies 1.10-2.15am 24 Hours In A&E

SKY MIX *Freeview 11*

7am Border Security: America's Front Line **8.00** Nothing To Declare **9.00** Motorway Patrol **10.00** Motorway Patrol **11.00** Stop, Search, Seize **12.00** Motorway Patrol **1.00** Border Patrol **2.00** Border Security: America's Front Line **3.00** Nothing To Declare **4.00** Stargate Atlantis **5.30** Stargate SG-1 **6.00** Stargate Universe **7.00** Star Trek: Voyager **8.00** The Rookie **9.00** S.W.A.T. **10.00** An Unexpected Killer **11.00** Britain's Most Evil Killers **12.00** Grimm **1.00-2am** Night Cops

W *Freeview 25*

6.25am My Kitchen Rules: Australia **8.00** Tipping Point **11.00** DIY SOS: The Big Build **1.00** Tipping Point **4.00** My Dream Home **6.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars **8.00** Gemma And Gorka: Life Behind The Lens **9.00** Nick Knowles' New Year Clearout **10.00** Inside The Ambulance **11.00** Louis Theroux's Forbidden America **12.15** One Born Every Minute **1.25** Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers **1.55-2.30am** Nigel Slater's Dish Of The Day

QUEST *Freeview 12*

6am How Do They Do It? **6.30** Shed And Buried **7.00** The Repair Shop **8.00** American Pickers **10.00** Chasing Classic Cars **11.00** Drago Works Garage **12.00** How Do They Do It? **1.00** Money For Nothing **2.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** Shed And Buried **4.00** Salvage Hunters **5.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **6.00** Wheeler Dealers **7.00** Find It, Fix It, Flop **8.00** Salvage Hunters: The Restorers **9.00** Richard Hammond's Workshop **10.00** FILM The Assassination Of Jesse James By The Coward Robert Ford. Western starring Brad Pitt, Casey Affleck and Sam Rockwell. (2007) **1.30-2am** Wheeler Dealers: Stripped Down

REALLY *Freeview 17*

6am Fantasy Homes By The Sea **7.00** Teleshopping **8.00** Salvage Hunters **10.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **11.00** Antiques Road Trip **12.00** Money For Nothing **1.00** The Repair Shop **2.00** My 600lb Life **4.00** Animal Cops Houston **6.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **7.00** Antiques Road Trip **9.00** My 600lb Life: Where Are They Now? **11.00** Help! My House Is Haunted **12.00** Unexplained: Caught On Camera **1.00-2am** Paranormal: Caught On Camera

YESTERDAY *Freeview 27*

6.10am Secrets Of The Transport Museum **7.10** Classic Car Garage **8.00** Abandoned Engineering **10.00** Narrow Escapes Of World War II **11.00** War Factories **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** Narrow Escapes Of World War II **5.00** War Factories **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Secrets Of The London Underground **8.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics. New series. The team purchase a 1981 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit. **9.00** Bangers & Cash **11.00** Abandoned Engineering **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00-2am** Secrets Of The Transport Museum

DAVE *Freeview 19*

7.10am Modern Wheels Or Classic Steals **8.00** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **10.00** Extreme Fishing With Robson Green: At The Ends Of The Earth **12.00** Storage Hunters UK **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairly Bikers' Best Of Britain **6.00** Rick Stein's Cornwall **7.00** Richard Osman's House Of Games **8.20** Would I Lie To You? **9.00** QI **10.20** Meet The Richardsons **11.00** The Shield **12.00** Mock The Week **12.40** Would I Lie To You? **1.20-2am** QI

DAVE *Freeview 19*

7.10am All Creatures Great And Small **8.00** Doctors **9.15** Classic Holly City **10.35** Classic Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40** Classic EastEnders **2.00** Pie In The Sky **3.00** Lovejoy **4.15** All Creatures Great And Small **5.20** Birds Of A Feather **6.00** Keeping Up Appearances **6.40** Last Of The Summer Wine **8.00** Sherlock. Drama starring Benedict Cumberbatch. **10.00** New Tricks **11.20** Soldier, Soldier **12.30** Lovejoy **1.45-2.50am** When The Boat Comes In

COMEDY CENTRAL

8am Most Ridiculous: Fashion Crimes **8.35** Most Ridiculous: Babies **9.00** Impractical Jokers **10.00** Home Improvement **11.00** Last Man Standing **1.00** Friends. Sixteen episodes. **9.00** FILM You, Me And Dupree. A thirtysomething jobless layabout moves in with his newlywed best friend - who comes to regret his act of hospitality. Comedy starring Owen Wilson, Matt Dillon and Kate Hudson. (2006) **11.10** Impractical Jokers **11.40** Jimmy Carr: Stand Up **1.15-2.20am** The Ricky Gervais Show

ALIBI

7.10am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Miss Scarlet And The Duke **10.00** Elementary **11.00** Shakespear & Hathaway: Private Investigators **12.00** Father Brown **1.00** Death In Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** Elementary **5.00** Father Brown **6.00** Shakespear & Hathaway: Private Investigators **7.00** Elementary. Holmes hopes to finally unmask Moriarty. **8.00** Death In Paradise. A prestigious chess match ends in

THE FACE DOCTORS

Really
AFTER skin cancer, 74-year-old Peter had an "elephant trunk" on his face to deal with. But it's a small sacrifice to achieve a new nose.

Peter was one of four people featured in the first episode of this new series (also available to stream on Discovery+), who are undergoing cutting edge treatment to fix their faces.

Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge has a leading dermatology and plastic surgery clinic, where staff cope with deformities caused by trauma, genetics and illness.

Peter's tumour removal left him with huge holes in his

last night

nose, which shattered his self-confidence.

Doctors took skin from his forehead and attached it to what was left of his nose, hoping it would latch onto a new blood supply and grow thick enough to cover the gaps.

This became known as his "elephant trunk" but in last night's show viewers saw surgeons operate on the skin and shape it into a perfect hooter, much to Peter's delight.

Although his new nose does have one drawback, he now

has to shave a section, as the skin borrowed from his head still grows hair - but that's an acceptable price to pay.

Elsewhere in the episode, skilled artist Nigel from the facial aesthetics team created a new ear for 12-year-old Rosie, who was born with only one ear fully developed.

Surgeons also came to the aid of Lily-May, whose teenage years had been blighted by a tumour growing out of her scalp.

It was Jack who provided the

SPORT



TNT Sports 1 6pm Gleyber Torres and New York Yankees face Minnesota Twins

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6am Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** The Football Show **10.30** **LIVE** Women's State Of Origin. Queensland v New South Wales. Kick-off at 10.45. **12.30** Luncheon **1.00** **LIVE** PGA Championship Golf. Coverage of day one in Louisville, Kentucky. **7.00** **LIVE** EFL. Leeds United v Norwich City. Kick-off at 8.00. **10.45** **LIVE** **12.00-6am** Sky Sports News

SKY SPORTS PREMIER LEAGUE

6am PL Greatest Games **7.00** PL Legends **8.00** PL Best Goals **9.00** PL 100 Club **10.00** The Football Show **12.00** Soccerbox **1.00** PL Years **3.00** PL Greatest Games **4.00** PL Best Goals **5.00** PL 100 Club **6.00** PL Legends **7.00** The Big Interview **7.30** PL Stories **8.30** Soccerbox **9.00** The Big Interview **9.30** PL Stories **10.30** PL Retro **12.30** PL Icons **1.00-3am** PL Years

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6am EFL Cup Retro **8.45** EFL Greatest Games **9.00** SPFL Highlights **9.15** EFL Greatest Games **10.00** SPFL **12.00** EFL Play-off Final C/Ship 15/16 **1.00** EFL Play-off Final League 1 15/16 **2.00** EFL Play-off Final League 2 15/16 **3.00** SPFL Highlights **3.30** EFL Cup Retro **5.30** Relegation Rollercoaster **6.00** Bundesliga Weekly **6.30** EFL **7.00** **LIVE** EFL. Leeds United v Norwich City. Kick-off at 8.00. Action from Eland Road. **10.45** Scottish Premiership Round-Up **11.00** SPFL Highlights **11.30** Bundesliga Weekly **12.00** EFL Highlights **12.30** SPFL Greatest Games **1.30-2.45am** SPFL Highlights

SKY SPORTS ACTION

6am NFL Highlights **8.00** Women's State Of Origin **10.00** My Icon **10.30** **LIVE** Women's State Of Origin. Queensland v New South Wales. Kick-off at 10.45. **12.30** Darts Special: Beyond The Oche **1.00** Women's State Of Origin **3.00** Darts Special: Beyond The Oche **3.30** State Of Origin Rugby League **5.30** Women's State Of Origin **6.30** Darts Special: Beyond The Oche **7.00** **LIVE** Premier League Darts **11.00** Darts Special: Beyond The Oche **11.30** What's My Name: Muhammad Ali **1.00-2am** Fight Night International

SKY SPORTS ARENA

6am Rugby League Retro **8.00** Women's State Of Origin **8.30** World Club Challenge **8.45** Super League **9.00** The Wheelchair Super League Grand Final **10.00** State Of Origin Rugby League **1.00** World Club Challenge **1.15** My Icon **1.30** British Basketball **3.30** World Club Challenge **3.45** My Icon **4.00** Fight Night International **6.00** NBC's Pro-Football Talk **8.00** Unbeatable **8.30** Super League Highlights **9.00** Super League **9.15** Super League Highlights **9.30** Fight Night International **10.30** Super League Highlights **11.00** Super League **11.15** Super League Highlights **11.30** Unbeatable **12.00** Total Access **1.00** Super League Highlights **1.15** Super League **1.30-2.30am** State Of Origin Rugby League

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6am IPL **10.10** Best Of England Vs Australia **11.00** ICC Men's T20 World Cup: Preview **1.00** ICC Men's T20 World Cup: Experts View **1.55** IPL **2.50** **LIVE** Indian Premier League. Sunrisers Hyderabad v Gujarat Titans. **7.00** Best Of England Vs Pakistan **7.50** Best Of The Women's World T20 **8.00** ICC Men's T20 World Cup: Preview **9.00** IPL **10.00** ICC Men's T20 World Cup: Preview **11pm-4.10am** IPL

SKY SPORTS GOLF

6am PGA Tour: The Cut **6.30** European Challenge Tour Golf **7.00** PGA Tour Champions Learning Centre **7.30** PGA Champs Official Film 2023 **8.30** McGinley & Chamblee At The PGA Championship **10.00** **LIVE** Ladies European Tour Golf. The Amundi German Masters. **1.00** **LIVE** PGA Championship Golf. Day one in Louisville, Kentucky. **12.00** PGA Champs Official Film 1999 **1.00** European Challenge Tour Golf **1.30-2am** PGA Tour Champions Learning Centre

ENTERTAINMENT



Sky Showcase 9pm Gita's condition deteriorates in The Tattooist Of Auschwitz

SKY SHOWCASE

6am Sky News Breakfast **7.00** Kay Burley **8.00** Caught On Dashcam **9.00** Nothing To Declare **10.00** River Hunters **11.00** Wildlife ER **12.00** The Flash **1.00** MacGyver **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 **4.00** S.W.A.T. **5.00** The Simpsons **6.00** The US Office **7.00** The Simpsons **8.00** Painting Birds With Jim And Nancy Moir. The couple head to Derbyshire in search of the dipper. **9.00** The Tattooist Of Auschwitz. Lali strives to get medicine for Gita as her condition deteriorates, asking Dr Schumann for help when he is sent to the hospital to tattoo prisoners there. **10.05** David Holmes: The Boy Who Lived **11.50** The Jinx Part Two **12.50-2.10am** Sex And The City

Circles **2.00** Open All Hours **2.35** Dad's Army **3.20** Are You Being Served? **4.00** Last Of The Summer Wine **5.15** Open All Hours **6.00** Keeping Up Appearances **6.35** Dad's Army **8.00** Only Fools And Horses. The Trotters become caped crusaders. **9.20** Not Going Out. The gang spends a weekend on Frank's new boat. **10.00** Men Behaving Badly. Two episodes. **11.20** Mrs Brown's Boys **12.40-2am** Only Fools And Horses

COMEDY CENTRAL

8am Most Ridiculous: Fashion Crimes **8.35** Most Ridiculous: Babies **9.00** Impractical Jokers **10.00** Home Improvement **11.00** Last Man Standing **1.00** Friends. Sixteen episodes. **9.00** FILM You, Me And Dupree. A thirtysomething jobless layabout moves in with his newlywed best friend - who comes to regret his act of hospitality. Comedy starring Owen Wilson, Matt Dillon and Kate Hudson. (2006) **11.10** Impractical Jokers **11.40** Jimmy Carr: Stand Up **1.15-2.20am** The Ricky Gervais Show

ALIBI

7.10am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Miss Scarlet And The Duke **10.00** Elementary **11.00** Shakespear & Hathaway: Private Investigators **12.00** Father Brown **1.00** Death In Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** Elementary **5.00** Father Brown **6.00** Shakespear & Hathaway: Private Investigators **7.00** Elementary. Holmes hopes to finally unmask Moriarty. **8.00** Death In Paradise. A prestigious chess match ends in

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murder. **9.00** Murdoch Mysteries. The former employee of a political candidate is found murdered. **10.00** Death In Paradise. First episode of the Caribbean detective drama starring Ben Miller. **11.00** Elementary **12.00** Evil **1.00-2am** Unforgettable

SKY COMEDY

8am Will & Grace **9.00** The Conners **10.00** Mr Mayor **10.30** Girls **11.40** Entourage **12.50** Vice Principals **2.10** Girls **3.20** Entourage **4.30** Mr Mayor **5.00** Will & Grace **6.00** The US Office **7.00** The Conners **8.00** Will & Grace **9.00** Insecure **10.15** Sex And The City **11.25** The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon. American chat show. **12.25** Barry **1.45-2.25am** Hung

DISCOVERY

6am How It's Made **7.00** Gold Divers **8.00** Building Off The Grid **9.00** Combat Dealers **10.00** American Chopper **11.00** Wheeler Dealers **1.00** Building Off The Grid **3.00** Gold Rush **4.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **6.00** American Chopper **7.00** Wheeler Dealers: Dream Car. Car owners trade up their unwanted vehicles to get them the car of their dreams. **8.00** Supertruckers. Key causes chaos in Norfolk transporting a sea crane. **9.00** Naked And Afraid. An adrenaline junkie and a self-proclaimed renaissance redneck face Colombia. **10.00** Bear Grylls: Escape From Hell. The Dolomites mountain range in Italy. **11.00** Combat Dealers **12.00** Gold Divers **1.00-2am** Naked And Afraid

RADIO



Virgin Radio 4pm Ricky Wilson ends your afternoon with a laugh

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Chris Evans **10.00** The Ryan Tubridy Show

most drama, as he was brought into the hospital for emergency surgery after crashing his e-scooter into a pothole.

He broke his jaw and shattered his teeth and upper mouth, which needed extensive treatment.

Injuries from e-scooter crashes are commonplace in Addenbrooke's, explained the doctors, because "everybody travels on two-wheels" in Cambridge.

Road users will have no problem seeing Jack post-surgery, now he's the owner of a set of new pearly whites.

And he didn't even need to travel to Turkey to get them.

STUART PINK



CAMPING . . . Joe and Katherine

JOE & KATHERINE'S BARGAIN HOLIDAYS, Channel 4, 10pm:

"Thank you for not taking me on a trash airline," says Katherine Ryan to pal Joe Wilkinson, as she pushes a wheelbarrow full of camping gear up a hill at a holiday park in south-west Wales.

Her smile soon disappears as it turns out to be a rather physical start to their staycation, as she is forced to take part in a community beach clean in exchange for free food and entertainment.

Thankfully, Joe has lots of other fun activities planned in his lever-arch file, so the pair enjoy a ride on cheap rental bikes before competing against kids in a sandcastle competition. But the real highlight of their bargain trip



picks

has to be a visit to Port Talbot's baked bean museum.

THE HOTEL INSPECTOR, Channel 5, 9pm: Alex Polizzi does not mince her words as she arrives at Daniel and Janette's theatre cafe in Brighton.

"It's just dirty and dingy, and kind of pointless," she says, as she takes a look around their closed establishment.

Things do not get any better as she explores upstairs to find lots of empty space. Alex hopes the couple, who have no hospitality experience, will be open to her

new ideas, though she can't help but feel resistance from Daniel.

Will she be able to convince them to transform the cafe and stand out from the crowd?

DISPATCHES: COCA-COLA'S DIRTY SECRETS, Channel 4, 8pm: Coca-Cola might be the world's biggest soft drinks producer, but it is also accused of being its largest polluter.

With two billion plastic Coke bottles and two billion cans sold each year in the UK, the drink's popularity has a huge environmental impact. Reporter

Ellie Flynn investigates what Coke says it is doing about the problem and what is actually happening.

Will her discoveries leave a nasty taste in the mouth?

TASKMASTER, Channel 4, 9pm: "I don't think it's unfair to say that that is the worst task attempt I've seen in 17 series," says Greg Davies bluntly, after watching one of the hilarious challenges.

But that's not the only brilliant blunder in this week's tasks, where John Robbins decides to use oars for arms to become a "human albatross" and Sophie Willan repeatedly says "umbrella" without anyone batting an eyelid. Bonkers but brilliant.

GEMMA GRAHAM

TNT SPORTS 1

6am Fishing **7.00** Premier League Reload **7.15** T20 Cricket Highlights **10.15** Fight Night **10.30** **LIVE** AFL. Gold Coast Suns v Geelong Cats. **1.30** MotoGP Highlights **2.30** Fight Night **3.30** Ultimate Pool **5.00** NBA Action **5.30** MLB: Off the Bat **6.00** **LIVE** MLB. Minnesota Twins v New York Yankees. **9.15** Premier League Reload **9.30** Premier League Stories **10.30** Premier League - The Big Interview **11.00** Ligue 1 Show **11.30** NBA Action **12.00** NBA **1.30-4am** **LIVE** NBA. Minnesota Timberwolves v Denver Nuggets.

TNT SPORTS 2

11.30am Ligue 1 **1.30** WRC Review **2.30** TNT Sports Reload **3.00** Fishing **4.00** MotoGP Rewind **4.15** Badminton Weekly **4.30** Premier League Netbusters **5.00** WWE **9.00** NBA Action **9.30** Fight Night **10.45** UFC **1.45-3.15am** The Isuzu FA Vase

TNT SPORTS 3

6am Isuzu A-League **6.30** Serie A - Full Impact **7.00** Ligue 1 **10.00** WSL: Inside Pro Surfing **11.00** Serie A **4.00** Ligue 1 **5.00** Isuzu A-League **5.30** MotoE **6.00** Serie A - Full Impact **6.30** Ligue 1 Show **7.00** AFL **9.00** Isuzu A-League **9.30** MotoGP **10.30** MotoE **11.00** FIM X-Trial World Championship Highlights **12.00** Pool **1.30-2.30am** Fishing

PREMIER SPORTS 1

6am Top 14 Rugby Union **8.00** LaLiga **10.00** Top 14 Rugby Union **12.00** NHL Ice Hockey **2.00** LaLiga News **2.30** LaLiga Match Highlights **3.15** **LIVE** IIHF World Championships. Kazakhstan v Sweden. **6.00** WSC URC Highlights **6.25** **LIVE** LaLiga. Las Palmas v Real Betis. **8.30** **LIVE** LaLiga. Almeria v Barcelona. **11.30** Bike World **12.00-3am** **LIVE** NHL Ice Hockey. Carolina Hurricanes v New York Rangers.

EUROSPORT 1

6am Cycling: Giro D'Italia **7.00** Giro D'Italia: The Breakaway **7.30** Roland-Garros **9.30** Cycling: Giro D'Italia **10.30** Giro D'Italia: The Breakaway **11.00** **LIVE** Cycling: Giro D'Italia. Stage 12. **4.45** Cycling: Tour Of Burgos **5.45** Mountain Biking **6.15** Cycling: Strade Bianche **6.30** Roland-Garros **8.00** Cycling: Giro D'Italia **9.00** Giro D'Italia: The Breakaway **9.30** The Judo Show **10.30** Speedway **11.30** Cycling: Giro D'Italia **12.30** Giro D'Italia: The Breakaway **1.00-2am** Cycling: Tour Of Burgos

Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00** Extra Time **5.00-6am** Early Breakfast

TALKSPORT2 *DAB talksport.com*

6am Sportsday **9.00** TalkSPORT Exclusives **1.00** The TalkSPORT 2 Social **5.00** TalkSPORT Exclusives **7.00** TalkSPORT Exclusives **12.00-5am** TalkSPORT Exclusives

TIMES RADIO *DAB thetimes.co.uk/radio*

6am Aasmah Mir And Stig Abell With Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00** Times Radio Afternoons **3.00** Jane Garvey And Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar With Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar And Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition With Kait Borsay **10.00** Henry Bonus **1.00** The Story **1.30** Highlights From Matt Chorley **2.00** The Best Of Times Radio **5.00-6am** Rosie Wright With Early Breakfast

RADIO 1 *97.6-99.8FM bbc.co.uk/radio1*

7am Greg James **10.30** Newsbeat **10.32** Rickie, Melvin And Charlie **12.45** Newsbeat **1.00** Dean And Vicky **3.00** Pop Anthems **3.30** Newsbeat **3.32** Going Home With Vick, Katie And Jamie On Radio 1 **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** New Music Show **8.00** Rave-Up With Arielle Free **10.00** BBC Introducing Dance **11.00** Residency **1.00-2am** Dance Presents

RADIO 2 *88-91FM bbc.co.uk/radio2*

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Jo Whaley **9.00** The Country Show **10.00** Trevor Nelson **12.00-3am** OJ Borg

MOVIES



Film4 9pm Justin Chon confronts the ghosts of his past in Blue Bayou

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

10.40am The Blackening (15, 2023) ★★★ **12.25** Force Of Nature: The Dry 2 (15, 2024) ★★★ **2.25** BlackBerry (15, 2023) ★★★ **4.25** The Blackening (15, 2023) ★★★ **6.05** The Equalizer 3 (15, 2023) ★★★★★ **8.00** Force Of Nature: The Dry 2 (15, 2024) Thriller with Eric Bana. ★★★★★ **10.00** Some Other Woman (15, 2023) ★★★ **11.35** BlackBerry (15, 2023) ★★★ **1.40-3.25am** Strays (15, 2023) ★★★★★

SKY CINEMA CULT CLASSICS

12.35pm The Mummy: Tomb Of The Dragon Emperor (12, 2008) ★★★ **2.30** The Scorpion King (PG, 2002) ★★★★★ **4.05** E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial (U, 1982) ★★★★★ **6.05** Doom (15, 2005) ★★ **8.00** Back To The Future (PG, 1985) ★★★★★ **10.00** Back To The Future Part II (PG, 1989) ★★ **11.55** Back To The Future Part III (PG, 1990) ★★★★★ **2.00-3.50am** Doom (15, 2005) ★★

SKY CINEMA MAD ACTION

1.40pm Justice League (12, 2017) ★★★★★ **3.45** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem (PG, 2023) ★★★★★ **5.30** Man Of Steel (12, 2013) ★★★★★ **8.00** The One (15, 2001) With Jet Li. ★★★★★ **9.35** The Fast And The Furious: Tokyo Drift (12, 2006) With Lucas Black. ★★★★★ **11.30** The Punisher (18, 2004) ★★★★★ **1.40-3.35am** Dragon Lord (15, 1982) ★★

FILM4 freeview 14

1.10pm The Man Between (U, 1953) ★★★ **3.15** The Green Man (PG, 1956) ★★★★★ **4.55** Arizona Raiders (U, 1965) ★★ **6.40** Sahara (12, 2005) ★★★★★ **9.00** Blue Bayou (15, 2021) Premiere. Drama. ★★★★★ **11.20** The Ring (15, 2002) ★★★★★ **1.35-4am** Resistance (15, 2020) ★★

TALKING PICTURES freeview 82

12noon Elmer Gantry (PG, 1960) ★★★★★ **3.00** Crown Court **4.30** Danger UXB **5.35** What's On TPTV With Noel **5.45** Albert RN (PG, 1953) ★★ **7.30** Miss MacTaggart Won't Lie Down **8.00** The Brothers **9.05** Van Der Valk **10.05** A Matter Of Choice (PG, 1963) ★★ **11.35** How To Undress In Public Without Undue Embarrassment (18, 1965) ★★ **12.30-1am** Sex Education

GREAT! MOVIES freeview 34

1pm Hidden Truth (2016) ★★ **2.55** Secrets In The Snow (PG, 2020) ★★ **5.00** Killer Night Shift (15, 2018) ★★ **7.05** The Double (12, 2011) ★★ **9.00** The Girl In The Spider's Web (15, 2018) Thriller starring Claire Foy. ★★★★★ **11.25pm-1.15am** Disturbing The Peace (15, 2020) ★★

GREAT! ACTION freeview 42

1pm Apache Ambush (U, 1955) ★★ **2.30** The Desperadoes (U, 1943) ★★ **4.25** Wild West Chronicles **5.05** Bullet To Beijing (15, 1995) ★★ **7.10** Seattle Superstorm (12, 2012) ★★ **9.00** Battle For The Skies (15, 2013) ★★★★★ **11.00pm-1.20am** The Winter Soldier (15, 2016) ★★

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dear deidre

Edited by **SALLY LAND**

No matter what the issue, I answer every single problem

Team: JANE ALLTON, HILARY FREEMAN, KALLY LEWIS, CATHERINE THOMAS, CHLOE STRATTON

FEEL LIKE A FAILURE OVER ADDICTION TO OVEREATING

Dear Deidre

I've been a compulsive overeater for decades and I hate myself. Food is my drug and I'm desperate to get better and lose weight. I'm a 53-year-old single man, and over the years I've tried everything, even taking fat-burning drugs. But I've never been taken seriously, maybe because I'm only a stone or two overweight like many men, and don't look obese. While I can exercise and eat healthily for a while and lose weight, something always triggers me to overeat again. Usually, it's an event, like a wedding or work conference, where food is abundant. I find myself stuffing my face and then I fall off the wagon. I feel like I've failed, so might as well carry on eating too much afterwards. Please help. I don't want to be like this for the rest of my life. **DEIDRE SAYS:** Compulsive overeating is a type of eating disorder. But it's very hard to overcome an addiction to food because it's obviously impossible to "go cold turkey". It's likely your overeating has its roots in a psychological issue – perhaps an unhappy childhood experience. Perhaps you overeat to fill an emotional hole. See my support pack on Eating Disorders and the Overeaters Anonymous website (oagb.org.uk) for advice and to find local support. Ask your GP about counselling with a focus on disordered eating.

Doubly hurt by wife's betrayal

Dear Deidre

WHEN I discovered a half-empty box of condoms in my wife's handbag, I knew she'd been unfaithful. But learning she'd been having threesomes with a female friend and her male partner was gut-wrenching I'm 47 and my wife is 44. We've been married for five years. She is more sexually adventurous than me. While I enjoy regular sex, I like to "make love" in bed. Sex for me is about intimacy. But she often wants me to try kinky things, or to use sex toys. Once, when drunk, she suggested a threesome. I reacted with horror and she made out it was just a joke. Lately, she's been going out with her best mate a lot. Sometimes she stays over so she can drink and not drive home. I thought nothing of it. But last weekend, she came home and went straight upstairs. I couldn't find my car keys so I went to get hers from her bag. It was then I

HERE TO HELP YOU

IF YOU are worried about anything please get in touch with my team of counsellors and we will do our best to help you. Every email receives a personal response within one working day.

deardeidre@the-sun.co.uk

found the condoms. I've had the snip – so we don't need them. I felt the blood drain from my face. When she came downstairs, I asked what was going on. I expected her to tell me about an affair with a man. Instead, she

admitted to having sex with two people: Her friend and her friend's partner. I had no idea she liked romps with women as well as men and I feel doubly cheated on. She has since begged for forgiveness, saying if I'd been more open to experimentation it would never have happened. I love her but I don't know if I can get over this. **DEIDRE SAYS:** You have every right to feel hurt and angry. Your wife has cheated and is blaming you for not being adventurous enough in bed. If she felt you were sexually incompatible, she should have talked to you and found a compromise. Instead, she decided to fulfil her own fantasies outside the marriage. That's selfish. Not wanting to try a threesome is perfectly fine. It doesn't make you less of a lover or husband. Talk to her and tell her how you feel. If she truly loves you and wants to make your marriage work, I would advise couples counselling and sex therapy, which you can arrange by contacting tavistockrelationships.org. And read my support pack, Cheating, Can you Get Over It?

MY GIRL IS TOO FAR AWAY FOR MY HELP

Dear Deidre

WORRYING about my depressed, drug-taking daughter is affecting my own mental health. She lives 200 miles away at university and I don't know how to help her. I'm her 49-year-old mum, and she's 20. She's had mental health issues for several years, and I was so relieved when she seemed so much stronger before going to university. But since breaking up with her boyfriend last autumn and getting involved with a boy who has a chaotic life and does drugs, she's gone downhill again. She's been experimenting with drugs and has admitted to me that she's very stressed. Although she's been sensible and has seen her university GP and spoken to student welfare, she doesn't seem to be getting enough counselling support. I feel so far away and badly want to be there for her. Thinking about whether she's coping keeps me awake all night. **DEIDRE SAYS:** However old our children get, we worry about them and want to protect them. It does sound like your daughter is aware she needs help, which is really positive. It's also positive that she confides in you. Keep in regular contact and make it clear you're there for her. She can also contact studentminds.org.uk (0113 343 8440) which helps students with their mental health. If you want support too, contact familylives.org.uk (0808 800 2222).

THE Sun

YOUR FREE TV MAG

Queen Vicky

Vicky McClure reveals why she loved her "traumatic" new thriller *Insomnia*, how she got "lucky" in her career... and what *Line Of Duty* fans always should do!

This week, Vicky McClure reveals how she got lucky in her career and why she loves her traumatic new thriller *Insomnia*.

EVERY SATURDAY ONLY IN THE Sun

stories | deidre's photo casebook | STEVEN'S SEX STRESS: DAY 4

I KNOW I SHOULDN'T BUT I CAN'T HELP MYSELF - IT'S JUST HER INTERNET HISTORY

PORN?! AND THOSE TOYS I FOUND EARLIER. SHE'S ENJOYING HERSELF WITHOUT ME

I'M SORRY IF THIS IS EMBARRASSING, BUT I FOUND YOUR VIBRATOR...

I'M SORRY, STEVEN, I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU - I'VE BEEN EXPERIMENTING ON MY OWN...AND REALLY ENJOYING IT. I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO HURT YOU

MAYBE IT'S FINALLY TIME WE TRIED THREAPY

I JUST WISH YOU COULD HAVE BEEN HONEST WITH ME

Clothes by Boohoo and BoohooMAN

CONTINUES TOMORROW

Dear Deidre

I LOST the love of my life over our differences in religious beliefs. Even though it's been several years since we split, and he is now married to someone else, I can't get over him. I'm 38 and still single. He is 40. We met ten years ago at a pub quiz and it was love at first sight. Talking to him was so easy, it felt like I'd known him for ever. He said he felt the same. We started dating but though our relationship was wonderful, there was a big gulf between us – he's a committed Christian and I'm an atheist. He told me he could only settle down with another Christian. I knew I couldn't convert or go to

RELIGIOUS VIEWS DROVE US APART

church so, eventually, we split. But we carried on being best friends and, even when he met another woman, continued to talk for hours every week. Then he told me he was getting married. He loved his fiancée but wasn't "in love" with her the way he was with me. We tried to stay friends but, every time we spoke he realised it was me he wanted. So he broke off contact. That was three years ago. I still miss him so much

and look at his social media every day. I haven't dated anyone else. No other man compares. **DEIDRE SAYS:** Your ex did the right and kind thing by breaking off contact. It's time to accept that just as he has moved on, so must you. He may seem like the perfect man for you, but you're looking through rose-tinted glasses. He wasn't, because of your irreconcilable views on religion. You can meet someone again, even someone more suitable, if you allow yourself to be open to try. You need to stop following his life online and concentrate on building your future. Read my support packs *Moving On* and *Mending A Broken Heart*.

hot topic

HALF a million children in the UK suffer from abuse each year. Signs that a minor is being abused include withdrawing from friends or activities, depression, anxiety or sleep problems and nightmares. If you're concerned about a young person, my support pack *Worried A Child's At Risk?* will help you.

GET IN TOUCH | If you are worried about something, my team is here to help. Please contact and follow us. **Online:** thesun.co.uk/deidre **Instagram:** @dear.deidre **Facebook:** @DearDeidreOfficial **X:** @DearDeidre **Post:** Dear Deidre, The Sun, 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF

FabDAILY

BODY & BEAUTY

Mum forced to have £6K breast reduction after catalogue of illnesses are linked to her implants

POSING for her wedding photos, Ionela Ardelean had never felt so confident.

The plunging neckline of her asymmetrical white gown showed off her 34DD implants to perfection – and she felt confident her new husband's head would never be turned.

But it came at a cost. Just a few years later, CCTV operator Ionela was left battling hair loss, a failing memory and heart palpitations so debilitating she feared she might die.

She says: "I was just 33 but felt like a frail 85-year-old. And the culprit was my boob job. It felt like my implants were trying to kill me."

With an estimated 8,000 women going under the knife each year, boob jobs are the UK's most frequently performed cosmetic surgery.

But not many would have heard about breast implant illness.

It is not currently recognised as an official medical condition, but some experts believe symptoms – which include brain fog, anxiety and joint pain – may be caused by an autoimmune or inflammatory reaction to the implants.

Previously a 34B, Ionela, 37, from Bristol, had always felt self-conscious about her smaller chest.

'I was exhausted and overwhelmed'

She met husband Vlatko, 40, a warehouse operator, on a coffee date in July 2015.

The pair quickly became an item but it was not long before she began to worry he would want to leave her for a woman with a bigger bust.

She says: "Vlatko always insisted I was beautiful and that he was happy with me as I was – and he'd never done anything to make me think he would stray."

"But I'd dealt with an unfaithful ex in the past, leaving me with some trust issues."

"So I got this idea in my head and couldn't seem to shake it."

"Vlatko said if I needed to get implants to boost my own confidence, then he would support me."

In May 2016, Ionela paid £5,000 for a 105-minute procedure at a clinic in the Midlands.

At first, she was thrilled with her larger breasts.

Apart from some discomfort when running, she had no significant side-effects.

But after the birth of their son in October 2019,

By JULIA SIDWELL

everything changed. She says: "I was exhausted and overwhelmed. Then, when my son was a couple of months old, I went to a sauna and after ten minutes, I felt nauseous and faint."

"I got a crushing headache, had reduced range of movement, zero energy and a strange burning in my chest. I spent the night curled up, sobbing silently, so as not to wake up my husband and son."

Things went more downhill from there, with Ionela developing severe memory loss and brain fog.

She would forget appointments, play-dates and social events and could not calculate the simplest of sums.

Then came the hair loss. A fistful would fall out with every wash.

She also suffered from a loss of feeling in her arms and fingers, a burning pain in her right foot and right wrist, severe headaches, heart palpitations, blurred vision, eye pain, IBS and constant exhaustion.

"I thought maybe it was postnatal depression, but that didn't explain the physical symptoms," she says.

"I went to the GP a few times, complaining of exhaustion and pain, but didn't get any answers. I felt like I was dying and there was no reasonable explanation for any of it."

"Thankfully, Vlatko was hugely supportive and understanding."

"When he wasn't working, he cared for our son and did as much as he could to try to ease the severe fatigue and low mood I had. He just wanted me to feel better."

Near the end of 2021, Ionela suddenly noticed her implants had sagged significantly.

She says: "I started researching local clinics that could do an implant exchange and a breast lift and stumbled across a term I'd never heard before – breast implant illness."

"It was like a checklist for all the symptoms I'd been experiencing."

"I went back to my GP and showed him the long list, but they didn't regard it as an actual condition."

"He agreed to give me a blood test and, of course, the results came back as normal."

"But I continued researching and told myself that if getting my implants removed would solve my problems, it was going to be the last time I would mess around with my body and health."

After being quoted £10,000 for surgery to

Turn to next page

BEAMING...
Ionela and Vlatko wed in March, 2018



Picture: HUW EVANS

I HAD A BOOB JOB SO MY HUSBAND WOULDN'T LEAVE ME...AND IT NEARLY KILLED ME



RADIANT... pregnant Ionela, with implants, and Vlatko

'BIGGER BOOBS NOT WORTH IT'

From previous page remove her implants in the UK, she decided to have the op in Lithuania in June 2022. The £6,000 surgery took five hours and included a breast reduction and uplift. She says: "As soon as I woke, I felt instantly better. "The pain in my joints had simply disappeared and I had this vibrant energy rushing through me. "I had no more brain fog, my memory loss

was gone, and all the other symptoms I'd had also disappeared." Since then, Ionela has gone from strength to strength. And she has a renewed appreciation for her smaller size 34B boobs. She says: "I can't understand how I could ever have been unhappy with what I had, or worried that Vlatko would leave me over my breast size." Her biggest fear now is that her son may also have been affected. She says: "I worry the heavy toxins in my implants might have damaged his health when I was breast-feeding him. "The majority of research online claims that it's safe, but there are scientists who have identified abnormalities. "Thankfully he has grown into a healthy and clever four-year-old, but I just don't know what my breast milk might have carried into his body. "To anyone considering a boob job, I'd say big breasts don't make you healthier, happier or smarter. "The implants stole £11,000 from my wallet and precious time and memories with my son. "I'm just lucky they didn't cost me my life, too."



GOING UP... pre and post



PETITE... Ionela pre-op

Symptoms of implant syndrome

BREAST implant illness is a term for a wide array of symptoms affecting people with implants. There is no formal test to diagnose it. Common symptoms include joint and muscle pain, chronic fatigue, memory loss, anxiety, breathing problems, headaches, rashes, dry mouth and hair loss. Symptoms can appear immediately after you get your implants, but could take years to develop. Removal of implants is the most common form of treatment. A Dutch study looked at 80 women who had silicone gel implants and were experiencing issues. In 69 per cent of cases, their symptoms improved after the implants were removed.

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£25

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Fab DAILY

BODY & BEAUTY

CAN AN £8 MASK GET RID OF MY FAT CHIN?

WATCHING myself on screen as I chat with John Boyega, something catches my eye.

No, it's not the handsome Star Wars actor's looks, or even my dazzling interview technique... it's my double chin.

I put it down to unflattering camera angles but there is no denying my unfortunate flubber.

As someone who talks to celebrities for a living, I need to look my best on camera.

But what could I do? At £2,500 for a chin reduction, surgery is not something I can afford, while fat-burning jabs cost hundreds of pounds a session and make me feel squeamish.

Then I saw Love Island host Maya Jama in a chin-sculpting mask on TikTok and started to wonder: If they help make her look so stunning, could they work for me too? I've been 38 for my last few birthdays and have really started to worry my chin will give my age away.

Dr Barbara Kubicka, founder of the Clinicbe clinic in London, says: "The chin and jawline play a crucial role in the perceived age and vitality of the face. Sagging skin and accumulated fat can suggest age just as much as wrinkles do."

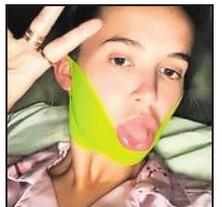
With this in mind, I track down the Wishful chin-lift sculpting sheet mask online. According to Boots' website, 88 per cent of users felt it made their jawline "more defined and sculpted" - and it seems Love Island's Molly-Mae Hague is also a fan.

At £8 per single-use mask, which needs to be worn for 20 to 30 minutes, they are not cheap, but I buy a week's worth. My seven-day chin challenge has begun...

Day 1: I break out my first mask, which smells delicious, like expensive soap. There is no danger of it falling off as it loops around my ears. My boyfriend merely says, sarcastically: "Oh, very attractive."

Half an hour later, the mask comes off and he fails to give me any compliments.

I don't turn any heads at the pub later, either.



FAN... Molly-Mae

Edited by
LYNSEY CLARKE
and **JOEL COOPER**

THE FAB DAILY TEAM: Digital Commissioning Editor Claire Dunwell, Contributing Editor Nikki Watkins, Senior Feature Writers Kirsten Jones and Alex Lloyd, Feature Writer Yasmin Harisha, Fashion Editor Clemmie Fieldsend, Deputy Fashion Editor Abby McHale



Picture: STEWART WILLIAMS

FACING FACTS . . . Samantha, main, in mask and, inset, interviewing John

By **SAMANTHA REA**

Day 2: We head off to my boyfriend's tennis match and I want to look my best. I ease on the mask and wear it for 30 minutes while I eat a bacon and egg sandwich. The mask restricts the movement of my jaw.

After the match, nobody notices how sculpted my jawline looks. Disappointing.

Day 3: I slap on the mask for half an hour before a class at Barry's, the fitness studio formerly known as Barry's Bootcamp.

Celebrities including Dua Lipa and David Beckham are rumoured to work out there, so there's no knowing who I might bump into.

I have got to look my best, but nobody comments on my chiselled chin.

Day 4: I'm meeting a friend for coffee and excited to see if they will comment on my tighter chin. No compliments, but I only had time to wear the mask for 20 minutes.

Day 5: Off to a burlesque show. With so many beautiful women there, I want to make sure my boyfriend's head isn't turned. Again, I only had time to wear the mask for 20 minutes, so cross my fingers it will work.

Although my partner's head does not turn all night, I'm not convinced this is due to the magic of the mask.

Day 6: Hungover, I wonder if the chin mask's fresh smell will rejuvenate me.

This time, I wear the mask for 40 minutes while watching TV. My ears are sore by the time I take it off.

Overall I am feeling much better, but not sure my chin is looking any more defined.

Day 7: After wearing it for 30 minutes, I whip off the mask for the final time, as if doing a striptease for my chin.

Seven days into the experiment and I wonder whether it's done any good. The mask smells gorgeous and my skin feels lovely afterwards. But has it really eliminated my saggy bits?

VERDICT: I've spent a week looking like Kermit the frog. The cost wasn't astronomical but I'd have been better off buying a nice scarf, because there was no change whatsoever.

I've decided to love my chin exactly as it is. So what if I've got a little bit of flubber? Instead of it getting me down, I'll be keeping my chin up.

● Additional reporting:
KIRSTEN JONES

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Skirt
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8 TRENDY TINTED LIP-BALM OPTIONS

IT looks like being the beauty roduct of the summer, with Google searches for "best tinted lip balm UK" and "tinted lip balm with spf" rocketing up 100 per cent and 70 per cent respectively in the past week. Fabulous Beauty Editor **TARA LEDDEN** shares her top picks for a tanner or less.

MAKEUP REVOLUTION POUT BALM ROSE SHINE, £4.99
revolutionbeauty.com

JUST like my favourite tinted lip balm from Charlotte Tilbury but this is a fraction of the price. With five "your lips but better" shades to choose from, there is something for everyone.



PS... £2.50, Primark

AN excellent product in two shades that offer the best of both worlds – a slick of medium-sheer colour with all the moisture of a balm that makes it comfortable to wear all day and easy to top up without a mirror.



BURT'S BEES, £5.99 Boots

THIS one is a classic of the catalogue for a reason.

The OG stick is super-creamy and stays put on your lips for hours after application.

The tint is sheer but buildable so you can easily tailor the colour for each wear.



LANOLIPS JELLY BALM, £8.99, cultbeauty.co.uk

2024'S answer to Lancome's Juicy Tubes and less than half the price.

Three fruity flavours but not sickly, and glossy without being sticky.

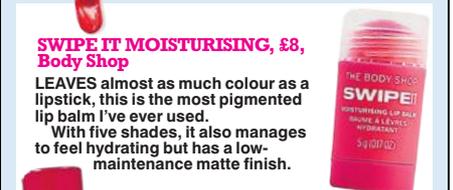
The tint is sheer, so perfect for "no make-up" make-up days.



SWIPE IT MOISTURISING, £8, Body Shop

LEAVES almost as much colour as a lipstick, this is the most pigmented lip balm I've ever used.

With five shades, it also manages to feel hydrating but has a low-maintenance matte finish.



NATURAL COLLECTION, £3.50, Boots

COMES in just two shades, peach and raspberry, but they are sheer enough to be universally flattering.

The luxe formula contains a powerhouse trio of vitamin E, squalene and olive oil to prevent chapped lips.



E.L.F. SQUEEZE ME, £4 elfcosmetics.co.uk

SMELLS so good it is practically a grown up version of Lip Smackers, and far more hydrating than the Noughties teen favourite. With five shades, the formula is the most nourishing tint I've tried.



HELLO SUNDAY, £10, Boots

IDEAL for those hot, lazy days that are just around the corner! Containd SPF50 to protect lips from damaging UV rays and prevent premature ageing.

It has a thicker-than-average formula, which stops the colour creasing in fine lines.



● THERE'S a secret underground car park in West London that gives a Dubai shopping mall a run for its money. I spotted an Aston Martin Valkyrie, two Pagani Zondas and lots of Ferrari something expensive. If I told you any more...



● KIA has now sold 1.5MILLION cars in the UK, 33 years after rocking up with Pride, left of the two. The electric EV6, right, shows just how far they've come.

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twitter: @robgilluk

sun motors



Tailored Swiftly

WHAT'S all this about Aston Martin on Taylor Swift's new album?

Is it a reference to a fling with Fernando Alonso?

Like, seriously? This time last year, Alonso posted cheeky TikTok videos fueling rumours of a relationship with the queen of pop.

Now fans are trying to unpick the lyrics to imgonnagetyouback, where she sings:

*"I'm an Aston Martin
That you steered straight into the ditch*

"Then ran and hid"
Two observations here.

First, that name-check is pure marketing gold for Aston no matter what the true meaning behind it is. Swiftly's new album has melted Spotify.

Second, if she really was an Aston Martin, she'd be the new Vantage V8 – because it's an absolute world-beater with a glorious set of lungs.

Powerful. Precise. Dreamy. Proper race car thrills combined with the everyday comfort of a tailored, tech-rich cabin.

Which was exactly the brief from billionaire boss Lawrence Stroll. He demanded Ferrari-like performance and Bentley-like luxury to push Vantage further

Key facts:

ASTON MARTIN VANTAGE
Price: **£165,000**
Engine: **4-litre twin-turbo V8**
Power: **665hp, 800Nm**
0-62mph: **3.5 secs**
Top speed: **202mph**
Economy: **23mpg**
CO₂: **274g/km**
Out: **Now**

upstream from Porsche and Maserati. Job done.

Let me talk you through the headlines.

Under that bulging bonnet is the usual 4-litre twin-turbo V8 sourced from AMG. Except this time power has been hiked 30 per cent to 665hp – bejezus – and torque is up 15 per cent to 800Nm. Rapid.

But what really scrambles my eggs is the absolute witchcraft going on beneath you to help you corner like a pro.

I think I've got this right. Vantage is 100 per cent stiffer across the suspension tops front and rear, which makes the car feel more agile and precise.

You can really lean on the front end in a corner and the car pivots around you.

Want to do

big skids at a track day? There are nine traction control settings that progressively make the rear-end more lively, with the last one being everything off.

As in, crashy-slidey off. Alonso had a play in one and then ordered one immediately. What does that tell you?

Director of vehicle performance Simon Newton said: "He was very positive about the car and found it quite exploitable."

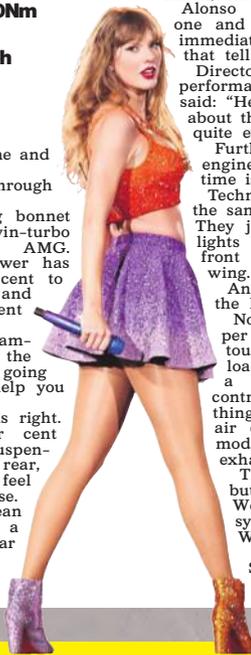
Further proof the engineers nailed it first time is the F1 safety car. Technically, it is much the same as the road car. They just added flashing lights and a race car front splitter and rear wing.

Another major plus is the lush interior.

Now one hundred per cent gorgeous. The touchscreen carries loads of tech. There's a flight deck-style control panel for the things we use most – air con, volume, drive modes and a louder exhaust note.

The leather is butter-soft Bridge of Weir. The sound system is Bowers & Wilkins.

As good as Taylor Swift singing next to you.



THE best car for first-time drivers is the old-shape Toyota Aygo, according to a CarGurus poll. Affordable, dependable, funky X-face graphic to cut it with the yoofs, useful kit, and up to 64mpg. No complaints from me. There are lots of good 2016-reg Aygos for around £5k.



● THIS is it. The last Jaguar F-Pace before Jaag takes it to the posh boys and becomes a high-end electric-only brand from 2025. This understated 90th Anniversary Edition starts at £47k. Brilliant SUV. The fastest-selling Jaguar ever. But I'd still go F-Type.

Wash 'n' KO

TYSON FURY washes his cars with his kids because "they're hard to earn" and "we've got to look after our things".

Good reminder for us all. When was the last time you washed yours?

And I don't mean scrolling socials while someone else does it for you at a car wash.





**Edited by
ROB GILL**

● TO my mind, this is as far as self-driving cars should go. Renault's robot minibus will shuttle fans to and from the Roland Garros car parks at the French Open tennis, on preset routes.



● KYLE WALKER has got himself a BYD Seal. It has more than enough range to go from Manchester to Sheffield and back when he rejoins the Blades. Sorted.



202MPH ASTON IS WORLD-BEATER



CHINESE EV FIRM LEAPS TO IT

HAVE a goosey at this Leapmotor T03. Leap who? Leapmotor. You're going to start hearing a lot from Leapmotor – another Chinese EV firm – in the years ahead, starting with this titchy 165-mile city car, arriving in March. It will rival the £15k Dacia Spring, the new Fiat Panda and BYD Seagull. Leapmotor has teamed up with Stellantis – owner of Vauxhall, Peugeot, Fiat and others – to build and sell electric cars in Europe. In fact, Stellantis owns 51 per cent of the international arm of the business and T03 will be sold alongside

Corsas and 208s. There is, of course, a family SUV in the pipeline. That's called C10 and does 261 miles. As seen from MG, the influx of Chinese cars is with us. They are on course for 100,000 sales here this year. So you either ride the wave – or get consumed by it? Stellantis boss Carlos Tavares said: "Yes, absolutely. We are racers. We are here to compete with the other Chinese car makers." If you can't beat them, join them.



VAUXHALL: 'We won't bin petrol yet'



VAUXHALL has ditched plans to go fully electric in 2028 – promising to do "what is right for the British public".

Every model from Corsa supermini to jumbo Movano van will have a battery-powered version by the end of this year.

So everyone has the choice. But the decision to continue making petrol cars and diesel vans beyond 2028 will please millions of loyal owners who can't make an EV work for them.

Right up to 2035, then? We think so. Here's Vauxhall design chief Mark Adams on the rethink.

He said: "We're not going to turn our back on the British customer."

"We want to give them what they need and what they want, as long as they need. We are part of a big group that enables us to do that."

"Who can predict what's going to happen tomorrow? Governments change. Pledges change."

"But we've got everything we need to meet all of the milestones ahead of us."

EXCLUSIVE

We've got the toolbox we need now. We've got the future toolbox of where we need to land. And we are weaving in the right things that help us bridge that transition period.

"We have hybrid, plug-in hybrid and fully electric. To now be fixed and say, 'We're going to do this', I don't think we need to, quite frankly, because we've got everything."

"We can do what's right for our customers. We are well positioned and we have a great portfolio."

Which brings us nicely to the Frontera, pictured, Mark's new baby.

It'll come in two power types, £21k petrol hybrid and £25k pure electric. The petrol will have a seven-seat option. The electric won't.

Now read our quickfire Q&A on the chunky family SUV.

Q&A

Vauxhall design chief
MARK ADAMS

FRONTERA is a famous old Vauxhall name. How did you settle on that for this new car?

The Frontera, back in the Nineties, was a pioneer for the compact SUV that we know today. So it was the natural fit for this car which is in the heart of the SUV market.

Size-wise, it sits between Mokka and the new, larger Grandland. Is that deliberate?

Yes. Exactly. Right in the heart of the market. It has the footprint of an Astra hatchback but the interior space of an Astra wagon. So really great packaging in this vehicle.

You look Peter Crouch-size to me?

Yeah, of course. When the driver's seat is set up for a normal person, I've still got seven to eight centimetres of leg room and the same above my head. So lots of interior space, ideal for a young family or just going out with friends.

Can you fit in the back?

Exactly. There's lots of really nice materials that uplift the interior – and lots of little details like the flexible

cup holder strap and rear seat pockets for iPhones. Just simple features people will really value.

I know you won't say it replaces Crossland but it does the job of Crossland in terms of practicality, right? And it looks great.

We think it does much more because it offers not just physical space but more presence. The front is much more upright with a proud, confident look and a great stance.

● Frontera will be with us early 2025. It should do well.



ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Ryobi's Cordless Power Washer blasts away dirt and grime with ease for a spotless finish every time!

As we are spending more time outdoors, we're reminded of all those cleaning tasks that need to be done.

But don't let the thought of tedious outdoor cleaning put a dampener on your plans — the Ryobi ONE+ 18v Cordless Power Washer is here to make outdoor cleaning quick and easy, without the hassle of traditional power washers.

You want those cleaning tasks done quickly, yet dragging out a bulky, cumbersome power washer that requires an electrical outlet just isn't practical. That's where Ryobi's 18V Cordless Power Washer comes in — the easy solution to all your outdoor cleaning woes.

Enjoy the convenience of cordless cleaning

This handy tool blasts away dirt and grime effortlessly. And as it's cordless, you won't have to worry about trip hazards or finding a power source. You'll have the freedom to clean wherever you need to, without being restricted by a cord.

And don't let its compact size fool you — Ryobi's 18V Cordless Power Washer makes light work of cleaning cars, patios, decks, and more. Plus, with the 3-in-1 nozzle, you'll be able to switch between jet, fine or wide spray to suit the task at hand, whether



that's removing stubborn dirt or general rinsing.

A great choice for the eco-friendly user, too

This cordless washer is a great choice for the eco-conscious buyer, too. The 6-metre syphoning hose lets you draw water from a bucket, butt or other water source — perfect for cleaning areas that aren't near a mains supply. With no tap left running, you only use the water your trigger finger demands! This ensures much more



18V CORDLESS POWER WASHER WITH 4.0AH BATTERY STARTER KIT

Powerful cleaning without mains power

3-IN-1 NOZZLE: Turbo, Fan & Shower

This power washer has really exceeded my expectations. Easy to move around with no cords holding you back and works wonders cleaning the car, kids' bikes and patio furniture. My new favourite tool.

Barry, Verified Purchaser

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Blast clean muddy bikes, car wheels, garden furniture and more



Draw water from any source with the 6m syphoning hose (included)

efficient water use — and it's a great way to feed your garden in the event of a summer hosepipe ban. Of course, it quickly and easily connects to your garden hose for instant mains supply should you wish.

Because it runs on a battery, there are no harmful emissions, making it a great choice for the environmentally conscious. And let's not forget about the huge:

recommended price. You get complete cordless cleaning convenience for a fraction of the usual price. So, what are you waiting for? Say goodbye to the hassle of traditional power washers and hello to the convenience of the Ryobi 18V Cordless Power Washer. With its impressive performance, cordless convenience, and eco-friendly

design, it's the perfect tool for all your outdoor cleaning needs.

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Letters @the-sun.co.uk

The page where you tell Britain what you think

I WAS deeply moved by the documentary *Me And The Voices In My Head* with Joe Tracini, pictured. He is a very talented and funny guy. I wish the actor and presenter well for the future.

ELAINE ADEY
Washington, Tyne and Wear

BOXER Tyson Fury's dad, John, is a big idiot.

He should be embarrassed after headbutting one of opponent Oleksandr Usyk's team before his son's world title fight this weekend.

He should have been arrested for assault.

GARY LILLEY
South Shields



SUNSPORT columnist Dave Kidd is right about boring Man City. They remind me of Spain when they won the World Cup in 2010 and the 2008 and 2012 Euros. I couldn't stay awake watching them.

RICHARD SIDDAWAY
Billingham, Teesside

SEX education will be banned for children under the age of nine. It's about time, this should never have been allowed in the first place.

MAVIS SINFIELD
Whitstable, Kent

WHAT is it with reality TV stars

like Billie Shepherd, Gemma Atkinson, pictured, and Gorka Marquez. If they all think they are experts at parenting then they should think again.

COLIN MANNING
Stafford, East London

TWO prison guards were shot dead as alleged drug boss "The Fly" escaped on Tuesday.

But this ambush on a motorway didn't happen in Colombia but in northern France. The level of violence is a frightening reality that drugs are destroying Europe.

SYD VAUGHAN
Birmingham



Seeing red on King art

£50 LETTER
THE new portrait of King Charles is facially striking, but I'm not sure the red mist shows off his Welsh Guard's uniform to best effect.

Though art must evolve, I think that, compared with other paintings of monarchs in Drapers' Hall, where it will hang eventually, it's a little out of keeping.

SALLY WILTON
Bournemouth

CONGRATULATIONS to Jonathan Yeo on a fantastic portrait of our King. It shows him as a caring man looking back on his life and the world in general, thinking, "Will there ever be peace?"

Unfortunately, in his lifetime and mine, I'm afraid not.

DANIEL ROSAK
Leicester

WHAT a genius and eye-catching portrait of King Charles. Most works of art featuring the royals struggle to capture the real person. But artist Yeo accurately creates an epic portrait of our King.

SAMUEL FAROOG
Tooting, South London

THE King's new portrait is terrible! No other description can suffice. It looks like Extinction Rebellion has painted it.

I can't believe the King allowed this monstrosity. It's humiliating for King and country. Get rid!

HARRY HODGE
Aldershot, Hants

THE King's very red portrait reminds me of the Game Of Thrones Red Wedding massacre.

Could red paint have been going cheap? Could it be a comment on the amount of blood spent on defending the monarchs and their kingdoms?

Could it be the love his people

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IF foreign governments refuse to take back their criminals, stop all flights to and from that country. We need to start looking after ourselves, not everyone else.

DAVE OSSELT, West Yorks

WHAT an awful portrait of the King. The painting looks like it has blood all over it.

J. Olney

PLEASE can we have the BBC licence fee scrapped?

BRIAN WAKEFIELD, West Yorks

I FIND the thought of Keir Starmer as PM frightening. Rishi Sunak may not be perfect but he has a brain and morals.

SUSAN WIGAN

have for him or the anger when somebody handed him a pen that didn't work? Time may tell.

DENNIS FITZGERALD
Melbourne, Australia

I LIKE the monarchy and the way it is developing through King Charles, but this portrait is an abomination, despite what Sun art critic Toulouse Le Plot says.

It looks like Charles's head is floating on a kid's finger painting.

NIGEL COLEY
Leicester

I AGREE with The Sun slamming our justice system after judges ruled triple killer Valdo Calocane's hospital sentence was not unduly lenient. It does not give his victims' families much hope

that he will never be released. He clearly needs help. But I wouldn't be happy if he was freed.

PAULA MADDOCKS
Theobalds Grove, Herts

IF ever anyone escaped proper justice, it's Valdo Calocane.

The killing of Barnaby Webber, Ian Coates and Grace O'Malley-Kumar was coldblooded and premeditated. Calocane used his schizophrenia as a defence. More families handed a life sentence thanks to cockeyed British justice!

ALEX DIXON
Morpeth, Northum

INMATES are reportedly being freed early from jail due to overcrowding. If so, why not start deporting foreign criminals? I suppose this will breach their human rights and be condemned by Labour and do-gooders.

LOUIS NAVLOR
Haverigg, Cumbria

I WONDER if Beverley Callard and Bill Roache have the same accountant? Both seem to have ended up in a money pickle. Astonishing, given how much they earned on Coronation Street.

JAMIE WILLIAMS
Dunstable, Beds

CORRIE stars Beverley Callard, Bill Roache and Simon Gregson have all allegedly faced big debts.

They must be getting pretty bad financial advice or they're not very savvy with their wages.

NAOMI WARBURTON
Stoneford, Co Antim

IT'S good to see vindication of Rishi Sunak's Rwanda policy, despite President Macron saying it was contrary to EU values.

Now 19 EU leaders want Rwanda-style processing to curb the flow of illegal migrants. Macron's view will no doubt change when he realises he's in the minority.

KEN POWELL
Doncaster

Mystic Meg

with **MAGGIE INNES**

ARIES March 21 – April 20



An unusually quiet day in the zodiac brings you the peace to think about where you are going, and why. This planet pause is your signal to take all your opinions and ideas into account, not just those you assume others approve of. Love is valuable to you just as it is – and now you see that for yourself.

TAURUS April 21 – May 21



Sticking to a stubborn viewpoint maybe feels right at this moment. But when you look into the future, you need to see a way forward, rather than standing still. Take time today to review and reconsider. All the dreams of Neptune gather in your chart and grow stronger, leading to a creative spot across an ocean.

GEMINI May 22 – June 21



Mercury is busy settling into your zone of symbols and storytelling. So this can be your moment to take all the tales you have been gathering through your life and spin them up into something special. If passion is your priority of the day, someone who devotes a lot of their life to helping others is the key.

CANCER June 22 – July 22



A conversation that was paused – even several years ago – can restart as though nothing has happened. But you will make more progress by accepting various changes. Saturn and Neptune take delicate feelings and toughen them up – so in the love sphere, you can keep repeating challenging words.

LEO July 23 – August 23



Perhaps you value certain people and promises deep inside, yet somehow you hesitate to show it. This can be a day of letting your vulnerable, grateful self show. So many planets can take a break from their usual activity to applaud this. Pluto reminds you partnerships can take many shapes, not just one.

VIRGO August 24 – September 22



A personal moon magic is your zodiac gift of the day. This helps calm your busy mind and active body. You start to see potential in every person and project that comes your way. Yes, it is safer to be a follower, but right now you are ready to try a leadership role. Just be yourself and stick to what you believe in.

LIBRA September 23 – October 23



The moon suggests a strong sense of release in your chart today. This can be your decision to break away from something you sense is no longer good for you. You can see this through with kindness and feel a positive boost to your future. Unusual writing or picture ideas are worth looking at in close-up.

SCORPIO October 24 – November 22



You are a smart deal-maker right now and agreeing to some extra time to get an agreement over the line can be a positive move. Deep down, you do know there are some aspects you have rushed. In love terms, even your bold ruler Mars is ready for steadier, long-term passion. This is the day to say so.

SAGITTARIUS November 23 – December 21



Only start a negotiation if you are prepared to see it through. You usually prefer a fast turnaround, but taking your time can reveal some surprise secret skills. As for passion, you have a cheeky charisma that is impossible to ignore. So if you would like to ask for another chance, this can be your moment.

CAPRICORN December 22 – January 20



This is a day for learning, acceptance and peace. You realise you can set your own standards in love and also at work, but not have to change yourself to suit other people. A group of three people who are all very different in outlook can go forward together towards a much richer future.

AQUARIUS January 21 – February 18



There is an element of loss in your chart as the moon sits in your eighth house. But this could be a positive pointer. It brings the opportunity to clear negative views and memories from your life and start over. You also have the ability to look at stress or sadness with honesty and push them out of your profile.

PISCES February 19 – March 20



Press pause just for today, before you pass on some big information. Mercury is keen to reach out but other planets favour some thinking time, as this can show you some options you may not yet have seen. If you are attached, simple down time together, doing nothing, can bring back that loving feeling.

Phone Meg's psychics for a chat on **0905 005 8102**

Or to pay by credit/debit card call **08000 356 684** or mobile users call **020 7111 6406**

Text a psychic. Just text **MEG** then a space and your question to **60016**

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puzzles

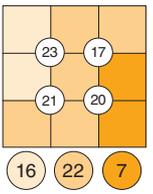
BRAINBUSTER

Can you find the hidden sports equipment in each of these sentences?

- [a] Coming from Jack's satchel, metal cutlery could be heard clanking away.
- [b] That new kitchen roll I bought can absorb a ton of spilt milk.

SUKO®

Enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of its four surrounding squares. Each coloured area should add up to the colour totals below.



We've got all your favourite brain teasers

PAGE 2 SUJIKO SOLUTION: Top line 568 middle 179 bottom 423

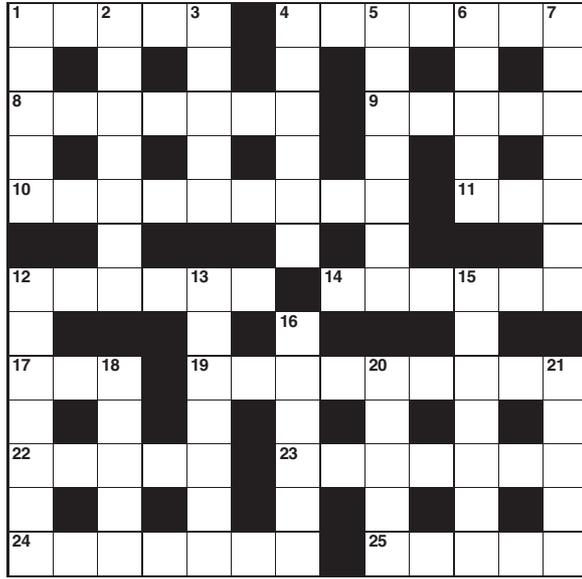
TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD

Two sets of clues but the answers are the same

Cryptic clues

- ACROSS**
- 1 Expert in Rolls-Royce or F1 driver? (5)
 - 4 International hotel next to my city? (7)
 - 8 Actor's first to go over contract? (7)
 - 9 Right on a length? (5)
 - 10 Rearranging tie or meet: depression's cause? (9)
 - 11 Slow and clumsy boat in Bath? (3)
 - 12 Foreign Office having back to wall? (6)
 - 14 Temptress, former lover put in place? (6)
 - 17 A Roman Catholic in Bow? (3)
 - 19 The high point of a sea voyage? (5,4)
 - 22 Discussed more peaceful destiny? (5)
 - 23 Nice lad dancing in cool place? (7)
 - 24 The Royal Marines with sailor in vessel? (7)
 - 25 Lines recited, say, in cathedral? (5)

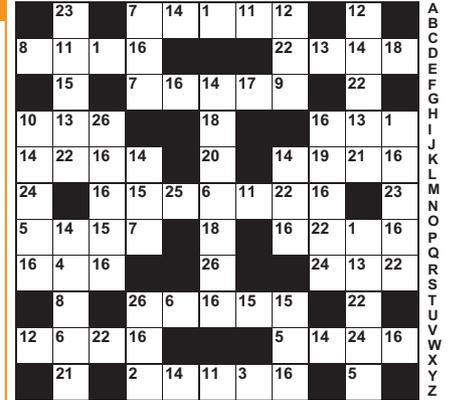
- DOWN**
- 1 Authentic Frenchman found in kingdom? (5)
 - 2 Keeper cut price in copper and gold? (7)
 - 3 Roadie almost ruined set? (5)
 - 4 Recognition for good exam result? (6)
 - 5 Sappers said to go free? (7)
 - 6 Darkness close: closer for Satanist? (5)
 - 7 Swimmer from Bali changed in hut? (7)
 - 12 Comprehensive cover? (7)
 - 13 Approval for a city council redirecting mail? (7)
 - 15 High-ranking ecclesiastic not yet dead? (7)
 - 16 Apes in epic so misrepresented? (6)
 - 18 Worry about Victor being cut? (5)
 - 20 Setting for public commotion? (5)
 - 21 US lawyer appearing in play now? (5)



Coffee time

- ACROSS**
- 1 Car competitor (5)
 - 4 Greek port? (7)
 - 8 Abbreviate text? (7)
 - 9 Permitted by law? (5)
 - 10 Rock from space? (9)
 - 11 Container? (3)
 - 12 Agency? (6)
 - 14 Attractive person? (6)
 - 17 Curve? (3)
 - 19 Lookout platform? (5,4)
 - 22 Buddhist fate? (5)
 - 23 Nordic nation? (7)
 - 24 Vacuum flask? (7)
 - 25 Plaintive poem? (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Sphere? (5)
 - 2 Museum custodian? (7)
 - 3 Wireless? (5)
 - 4 Recognition? (6)
 - 5 Assuage? (7)
 - 6 Hours after sunset? (5)
 - 7 Large flatfish? (7)
 - 12 Across-the-board? (7)
 - 13 Kudos? (7)
 - 15 Senior clergyman? (7)
 - 16 Duplicates? (6)
 - 18 Sculpt? (5)
 - 20 Landscape? (5)
 - 21 This 24-hour period? (5)

WORD WORKOUT



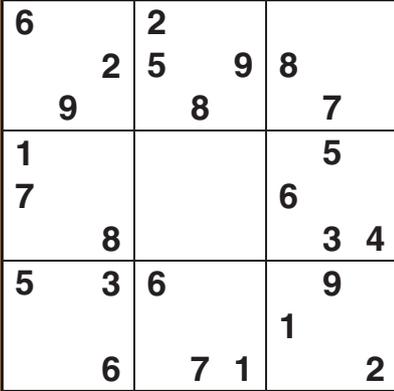
THIS is the world's best brain teaser. Each grid number in our Word Workout game represents a letter. So if you think 4 is the letter A, write A in all the squares with a 4. All the alphabet is used and we have supplied some letters to start you off. We will print the answers tomorrow.

YESTERDAY - ACROSS: Yard, Daft, Adobe, Pixel, Aspen, Fizz, Jape, Ovine, Halo, Crew, Kaput, Squat, Psalm, Snap, Need. **DOWN:** Ado, Does, Dope, Fax, Waif, Glee, Bazooka, Injects, Primp, Hiss, Womb, Atop, Upon, Urr, Aye.

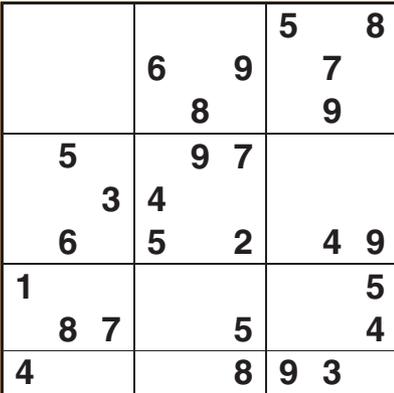
For 4 Extra Clues Call 0901 293 6299
Calls cost £1 plus network access charge.
or text **SUNWORD** to 64343.
Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.

DOUBLE Sun DOKU

TODAY'S TEASER Call 0905 757 0156 for clues or solutions. Cost £1 per minute plus network access charge.



TODAY'S TOUGHIE Call 0905 757 0152 for clues or solutions. Cost £1 per minute plus network access charge.



Calls for extra clues and answers last no longer than two minutes (Sundial answers may vary).
Helpline: 0333 202 3390 (9am-5.30pm).
Service provider: Spoke, W1T 4HD

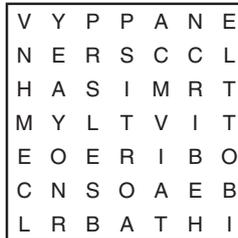
WORDSEARCH

Find seven words about babies. Words can run forwards, backwards or diagonally. Solution below.

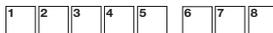


NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2020 was 67%



THE NAME GAME EACH clue leads to a well-known name. Put the initials or stated letters in the appropriate squares to identify a politician:



- 8 & 3 Oleksandr, Arsenal's Ukrainian "inverted" left back, formerly of Manchester City (first two letters of name)
- 7 Billie Joe _____, singer-songwriter of Green Day
- 1 Middle initial of Philip Dick, author of the books on which Blade Runner and Minority Report are based
- 5 & 6 Stage name of the ex-Neighbours actress who had hits with Kiss Kiss and State Of Mind
- 2 & 4 Ms Stevenson, actress who starred in the film Truly Madly Deeply (last two letters of name)

● Yesterday: Athlete **LYNSEY SHARP** (Danny (Drinkwater), Sharon Horgan, Lisa Stansfield, Ricky Ponting, Jenny (Seagrove)). Another Name Game in The Sun tomorrow.
■ If you can't wait until tomorrow for the answers, just call 0901 293 6298. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

30-SEC NUMBERCRUNCH

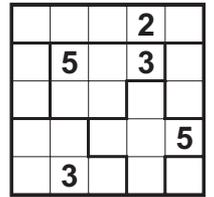
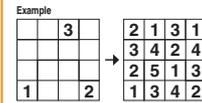
HERE is our fantastic puzzle, the 30-second NumberCrunch. There's no better way to keep your brain trained than playing our great teasers. So if you want to stay ahead of the game, you will love this challenge.

Starting at the left with the number provided, work your way across the three lines one at a time, applying all the mathematical instructions to your running total. Don't reach for your calculator - that would be cheating! Write your final answer in the last box of the line. You should be aiming to complete each round in about 30 seconds. Good luck! Answers below, right.

LEVEL	STARTING NUMBER	INSTRUCTIONS	ANSWER
BEGINNER	39	÷ 3 + 209 ÷ 6 - 28 Double it + 186 ÷ 4 - 18 ÷ 11	
INTERMEDIATE	100	+ 287 Third of it + 283 Quarter of it - 49 2/3 of it + 324 ÷ 5 + 279	
ADVANCED	751	- 433 5/6 of it + 2293 50% of it - 1069 ÷ 10 + 3889 ÷ 17 + 4051	

SUGURU®

Each cell in an outlined block must contain a digit: a two-cell block contains the digits 1 and 2, a three-cell block contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. The same digit must not appear in neighbouring cells, not even diagonally. Solution below.



SUNDIAL



SEE how many words of four or more letters you can "dial" using the one at the centre in each word. You can make at least one word using all of them. Don't use the letters more than once in any word. No proper names or plurals

BRILLIANT: 21. EXCELLENT: 17. GOOD: 13. GREAT SCORE FOR KIDS: 8.

YESTERDAY: Abated, baeed, bade, bald, baled, bated, bead, beadle, belated, belted, blade, bleated, bled, bleed, dabble, dale, data, dateable, date, dateable, deal, dealt, debate, debt, delta, ebbled, elated, lade, lead, tabbed, tabled, teed, DEBATABLE.

ending in 's'. Words from Collins Concise Dictionary.

Check today's answers by calling 0905 757 0155 before midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Teaser

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

Toughie

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

Two-Speed Crossword
ACROSS: 8 Cha-lice, 9 In-box, 10 E-wing, 11 Incense, 12 E-co-no-mist, 15 Ant, 16 Dip, 17 Dedicated, 20 Ba-nan-as, 22 Top-i-c, 24 L-one-r, 25 Air-head.
DOWN: 1 Scheme, 2 Mag(i)c, 3 Ring road, 4 Gemini, 5 Zinc, 6 A-bun-dant, 7 Ex-pert, 13 Opp-one-nt, 14 Tacit-urn, 16 Da-bb-le, 18 Di-sm-al, 19 De-cad-e, 21 N-or-m, 23 Pee-I (John).

Today's Solutions

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

NumberCrunch

3, 351, 4281
[a] Helmet
[b] Baton

Gtech

No fuss, fumes or cables. Just a perfect finish. The CLM50 Lawnmower.

**SAVE
£300**
plus FREE next
day delivery[†]

WAS £614.98
NOW
£314.98
USE CODE: **KF37**

"Love this mower!"

"Best mower we've ever had!
Lightweight, cuts the grass very well,
with several choices of heights. Love
not having a flex! Enabled us to cut
the grass in half the time."

Julia M ★★★★★



Easy to start and simple to use, our cordless mower delivers exceptional results with minimum effort.

Power and Precision

Powered by a 48V lithium-ion battery, the Gtech CLM50 runs for up to 40 minutes*, while the 1-hour charge adds flexibility to your gardening routine. Gtech's innovative power control reduces bogging down in wet conditions or in long grass, while the single, counter-balanced blade shears effortlessly through grass, delivering an impressively wide cut and neat edges.

Innovation and Simplicity

With no cables to untangle, or messy petrol motor to refill, the Gtech CLM50 makes cutting the grass easy. Its large wheels take the strain so moving across the lawn seems almost effortless. The CLM50's generous 50-litre grass bin has a smart indicator flap telling you when it needs emptying. The easily adjustable cutting height moves between 3cm to 8cm in 1cm increments, so whether it's the first cut

of the season or a mid-summer pristine finish, there's a setting for you.

Easy to use

Ready to mow? Just insert the battery, push the activation button, pull the handle lever, and go. For professional results, the CLM50 has a cutting width of 420mm, with a superior single blade. Move even closer to the edges of your garden with fewer passes, making it even easier to achieve an enviable lawn.

Includes Garden Safety Kit



For added protection while you're gardening, this kit includes Gtech's gloves and safety glasses.

Get the **CLM50 Cordless Lawnmower** and **Garden Safety Kit** for **£314.98** (RRP **£614.98**) if you order before 31/07/2024.

Order now at Gtech www.gtech.co.uk
call **08081 681 988** or scan the QR code:

Use code **KF37**



Individual RRP of CLM50 is £599.99 and Garden Accessory Kit is £14.99 which gives a total RRP of £614.98. Offers valid until 31/07/2024 or while stocks last and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. 30-day money-back guarantee, excluding £10 collection fee.
†Order before 7pm for Next Day Delivery to UK mainland (excludes Scottish Highlands) See website T&Cs for details. *Runtimes quoted may vary depending on condition of grass being cut. Limited 2-year warranty.

Inventor & Owner, Nick Grey

'As a keen gardener myself, I've experienced the hassle of petrol and corded lawnmowers, and the loud noises that come with them. The CLM50 produces fewer fumes and is quieter than other mowers, and allows you to roam free for up to 40 minutes.'

Nick

www.gtech.co.uk



Gtech's rating is 4.8 out of 5 after 130,000 reviews



Free tracked next day delivery and 2-year warranty

FTSE
100
UP
17.67
TO
8,445.80

Sun business

By **ASHLEY ARMSTRONG**

✉ ashley.armstrong@the-sun.co.uk

🐦 @AArmstrong_says

£ =
€1.17 \$1.27
OIL
\$82.38
Brent Crude barrel
Petrol: **149p**
Diesel: **157p**



Mega drive . . . Raspberry Pi

LONDON'S NICE AS PI FOR TECH

RASPBERRY PI has given a juicy boost to the City after confirming plans to list on the London stock exchange.

The company, which was valued at around £450million recently, makes small, cheap, credit card-sized computers that help to teach children how to code. Its decision to list is a big boost for the UK's tech industry after founder, Eben Upton, had been leaning towards listing in New York.

Raspberry Pi's cheapest computer costs £3.90 and it has sold 60million devices in 70 countries since 2012.

Last year it made £210million sales and operating profits of £29.7million.

Upton said the float would allow the firm to enable more "young people to realise their potential through the power of computing".

The firm is owned by a charity foundation which has received \$50million in dividends to promote computer science among young people.

SHARES

BARCLAYS
down 4.10 to 213.10
BP
down 5.35 to 496.95
CENTRICA
up 4.75 to 144.15
HSBC
down 4.70 to 701.70
LLOYDS
down 0.04 to 54.50
M&S
up 1.90 to 275.80
NATWEST
up 2.80 to 326.40
ROYAL MAIL
up 43.40 to 314.80
SAINSBURY'S
down 1.40 to 277.20
SHELL
down 32.00 to 2,869.00
TESCO
down 3.20 to 310.70

THE VICE IS RIGHT

SALES at the maker of Embassy cigarettes and Golden Virginia tobacco keep rolling in as price hikes make up for the number of people quitting.

IMPERIAL BRANDS yesterday reported it had raised prices by 8.6 per cent, which it said more "than offset volume declines". The tobacco market size shrank by 15.2 per cent in the UK compared to last year but vape sales make up 7 per cent of revenues.



● SET TO ACCEPT £3.5BN TAKEOVER
● CZECH BILLIONAIRE'S LAST-MIN BID

Royal Sale

ROYAL MAIL is ready to accept a sweetened £3.5billion takeover bid from Czech billionaire Daniel Kretinsky — after he pledged to protect workers and pensions.

His commitments are designed to soothe the political jitters about a foreign takeover of a nationally important company.

A takeover could hand posties a £318million payday, as around 6 per cent of the company is owned by workers.

Royal Mail's owner **INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION SERVICES** yesterday revealed that just four hours before a takeover deadline it had received an improved

cash offer at 370p-a-share from Mr Kretinsky's **EP GROUP**.

Mr Kretinsky, right, is already the biggest shareholder with a 27.5 per cent stake — alongside the sizeable stakes that he has in **WEST HAM UNITED** and **SAINSBURY'S**.

He is being advised by former Labour shadow business secretary Chuka Umunna, now a senior banker at **JP MORGAN**.

The new bid is 16 per cent higher than his previous surprise offer of 320p-a-share, which valued the business at £3.1billion.

Royal Mail confirmed Mr Kretinsky had made several commitments to protect workers' rights, including their pension pots and its £1.3billion surplus. It is understood that he has also pledged not to separate it from its profitable parcels business **GLS**. The



company has already put forward a turnaround plan to Ocom to reduce second-class deliveries to every other day — but keep a six-day service for first class post.

IDS revealed Mr Kretinsky said he would maintain this service level and keep the business headquartered and paying tax in the UK.

Keith Williams, chairman of IDS, said that it was "minded to recommend this offer price which it considers to be fair".

Mr Williams added Kretinsky's proposed undertakings would protect workforce interests and maintain key parts of postal standards.

It is understood IDS has talked to the Government about the approach. Chancellor Jeremy Hunt had said last month that it was important to learn lessons from private ownership of water companies.

He said: "We need to make sure companies are regulated in a way that makes sure that what happens to the balance sheet doesn't do damage to public services."

THE boss of **BURBERRY** is lobbying for tax-free tourist shopping to return — after claiming that punters are shunning the UK to visit Europe instead.

Alongside reporting a slump in profits, Jonathan Akeroyd said: "The UK continues to significantly underperform continental Europe."

"Obviously, the absence of tax-free shopping is playing a part in that. London is losing out to Paris and Milan and the gap is widening."

He said the firm's stats show spending by Chinese tourists in London is less than half pre-pandemic levels, but in Paris it has tripled.

Burberry has suffered from a widespread slowdown in luxury spending which has knocked sales by 4 per cent to £2.9billion. Profits plunged 40 per cent to £383million in the year to the end of March.

Mr Akeroyd said even the wealthiest shoppers were starting to cut spending.

It has been trying to sell more handbags, including its £1,450 "Rocking Horse" design, as well as new collections by designer Daniel Lee, who replaced Riccardo Tisci last year.



Stamp duty hope . . . Natwest

NATWEST SHARES DUTY BID

PLANS are being considered to lift stamp duty on **NATWEST** shares to make its sale to ordinary Brits more attractive.

The Government next month will likely pull the trigger on selling a chunk of its remaining 26.9 per cent stake in the firm to individual investors.

It has had a stake since its £50billion bailout of **ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND** in 2008.

It is understood that the shares will be offered at a discount, with a free share on offer for long term investors.

But the Government is also considering lifting the usual 0.5 per cent tax on buying shares to encourage more Brits to take part when they become available.

A similar approach was taken in the stock market flotation of **ROYAL MAIL**.

It comes a day after the boss of **FLUTTER**, the owners of **PADDY POWER**, called for the move to "abolish stamp duty on share trading" to help revive the London Stock Exchange.



SHARES in soft drinks maker **BRITVIC** fizzed more than 10 per cent after beating sales forecasts and launching a £75million buyback. The firm said all its brands, which includes **ROBINSONS** and **J20**, were enjoying success and growing.

ELECTRIC TARGETS HIT SKIDS

ELECTRIC car sales have stalled and the industry will struggle to hit targets, the boss of one of Britain's biggest car dealers warned.

The government's net-zero targets mean motor manufacturers must ensure 22 per cent of their cars sold this year are electric, rising to 28 per cent next year, or be hit with financial penalties.

Robert Forrester, chief executive of **VERTU**, said: "Battery electric vehicle sales growth in the UK has stalled. Government targets increase over the coming years and there's a risk the industry falls short of these."

Forrester said the threat of fines could mean manufacturers hold back sales of petrol and diesel cars to hit quotas, leading to higher prices for consumers.

FURY v USYK 2 DAYS TO GO

SPORTS ROUND-UP RESULTS & FIXTURES

PREMIER LEAGUE

BRIGHTON (O) 1 CHELSEA (1) 2
 Welbeck 90 Palmer 34
 Att: 31,555 Nkunku 64

MAN UTD (1) 3 NEWCASTLE (O) 2
 Mainoo 31 Gordon 49
 Diallo 57 Hall 90
 Hojlund 84

CINCH PREMIERSHIP

ABERDEEN (O) 5 LIVINGSTON (O) 1
 Hollett 58, 81 Palmer 34
 Att: 15,043

Shinnie 74
 Pohara 77
 Boyd 90

HIBERNIAN (2) 3 MOTHERWELL (O) 0

Maclida 41 (pen) Att: 15,451
 Boyle 45, 55

KILMARNOCK (O) 0 CELTIC (3) 5

Armstrong 53 Idah 5
 Maeda 12
 Forrest 35
 O'Riley 51, 71
 Att: 9,585

ST JOHNSTONE (O) 1 ROSS COUNTY (1) 1

Sidbeh 90 Dhandu 28
 Att: 4,202

ST MIRREN (1) 2 HEARTS (1) 2

Scott 7 Tagawa 20
 Bolton 65 Shankland 73
 Att: 7,222

SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

PLAY-OFF FINAL FIRST LEG

HAMILTON (2) 2 INVERNESS (O) 1

O'Hara 6 Pepple 68
 Owens 22 Att: 1,389

FA WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

TOTTENHAM (O) 0 CHELSEA (1) 1

Hamano 37

COPPA ITALIA FINAL - Atalanta 0 Juventus 1.

LA LIGA - Celta Vigo 2 Athletic Bilbao 1

Getate 0 Atletico Madrid 3, Rayo Vallecano 2
 Granada 1, Sevilla 0 Cadiz 1.

LIGUE 1 - Nice 1 PSG 2, Reims 1 Marseille 0.

BASKETBALL

NBA PLAY OFFS: Eastern Conference

- New York 121 Indiana 91 (New York lead series 3-2). **Western Conference**

- Denver 112 Minnesota 97 (Denver lead series 3-2).

CRICKET

IPL

Rajasthan Royals v Punjab Kings

Cuwahati: Rajasthan Royals 144-9 (20
 overs; R Parag 48); Punjab Kings 145-5 (18.5
 overs; S M Curran 63nc). **Punjab Kings
 bt Rajasthan Royals by 5 wickets.**

CYCLING

GIRO D'ITALIA (Foligno di Val Fontore -

Francavilla Al Mare, 203km). **Stage 11:**

J Milan (Ita) Lidi-Trek 4h 23m 18s, 2 K Groves
 (Aus) Alpein-Decœurnick, 3 G Lonardi (Ita)
 Team Polti Kometa, 4 L Pille (Aus) Groupama-FDJ, 5 S Molano
 (Col) BORA-hansgrohe at 2m 40s, 3 G
 Thomas (GB) INEOS Grenadiers at 2:56, 4 B
 O'Connor (Aus) Decathlon AG2R La Mondiale
 at 3:39, 5 A Tiberi (Ita) Bahrain Victorious at
 4:14. **Selected:** 2 J Swift (GB) INEOS
 Grenadiers at 1h 22m 33s, 80 L Askey (GB)
 Groupama-FDJ at 1:33:12, 91 H Wood (GB)
 Colfids at 1:47:08, 93 C Swift (GB) INEOS
 Grenadiers at 1:47:43, 136 R Mullen (Ir) BORA-
 hansgrohe at 2:26:53.

ICE HOCKEY

NHL PLAY OFFS: Eastern Conference

- Florida 1 Boston 2 (Florida lead series
 3-2). **Western Conference** - Edmonton
 3 Vancouver 2 (Series tied 2-2).

SPEEDWAY

CAB DIRECT CHAMPIONSHIP: Oxford 53

Redcar 36; Poole 61 Worthington 29.

TENNIS

ATP & WTA INTERNAZIONALI BNL

D'ITALIA (Rome): Qtr-finals, Men - A

Tabilo (Chi) bt Z Zhang (Chn) 6-3 6-4; A

Zverev (Ger) bt T Fritz (USA) 6-4 6-2. **Women**

- A Sabalenka (Blr) bt J Ostapenko (Lat)
 6-2 6-4; D Collins (USA) bt V Azarenka (Blr)
 6-4 6-3.

TODAY'S SPORT

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP

PLAY-OFFS SEMI-FINAL 2ND LEG

Leeds (O) v Norwich (O) 8.0
 (Live on Sky Sports Main Event)

DARTS

PDC Premier League Night 16 (Shel-

field): Florida 1 Boston 2 (Florida lead series
 3-2). **Western Conference** - Edmonton
 3 Vancouver 2 (Series tied 2-2).

GOLF

The PGA Championship (Valhalla Golf

Club, Louisville, Kentucky).

SPORT

JONATHAN MILAN

saw off Tim Merlier in a
 sprint finish to claim
 his second stage win
 of the Giro d'Italia.

The Italian beat Slovenian Tadej Pogacar,
 who retained his overall
 lead after Stage 11.

SHORT



TYSON TOP

His wallet is heavyweight as Fury is biggest Brit earner on £300million

TYSON FURY is British boxing's biggest-ever earner after raking in a £300million fortune.

The incoming £80m payday for Saturday's clash with Oleksandr Usyk means he tops rival Anthony Joshua.

Fury has gathered his riches thanks to a trilogy of battles with Deontay Wilder, an £80m five-fight deal with USA broadcaster ESPN, long-running partnership with TNT and last year's win over Francis Ngannou in Riyadh.

If the unbeaten Gypsy King becomes undisputed world heavyweight champ by adding Usyk's WBA, IBF and WBO belts to his WBC strap, he will be able to write his own cheques for the showdowns that follow.

Saudi paymasters will offer Fury **TEN** more bank-busting paydays, starting with an expected rematch with Usyk and a double-header against Joshua.

Promoter Frank Warren, who guided Fury back from 29st laughing stock to king of the sport's stock exchange, says he will floor all before him.

Asked if his 6ft 9in star attraction has now eclipsed his predecessors and rivals, Warren said: "Yeah. No question - by far. He's made **BIG** money."

"Think of all the records - highest-grossing heavyweight fight to take place

From **WALLY DOWNES Jr** in Riyadh

in Las Vegas, which was him and Deontay Wilder.

"Wembley Stadium against Dillian Whyte was the highest-grossing event they've ever had."

"At Tottenham, he sold out 60,000 tickets for an open-air show in December against Derek Chisora - come on. That's what he is."

If he sees off Usyk, Fury can expect his clashes with Joshua to be the biggest fights in British history.

Saudi's combat sport kingmaker Turki Alalshikh wants to make Fury vs Joshua above all else, with February 2025 the dream date.

And Warren added: "If Tyson comes through, of course we want to see the big fight between Fury and AJ."

"But I don't think that will be the fight afterwards."

"I don't think it will be because there is so much money involved for the loser of this fight - and the rematch."

"I don't know what sort of step-aside money you'd give them to do that."

"It would only happen if someone was out of action after this first fight - that would be a thing. But it will come around quickly, February."

No promoter fights his man's corner

like veteran campaigner Warren, 72, and this week is no different.

For all the positive comments about the new muscles Fury has been flexing in Saudi, umbrage has been taken with the way the Mancunian giant's regularly contradictory comments are not given more leeway.

Fury, 35, suffers from bipolar disorder which, among other things, can cause huge mood swings.

Warren said: "It's well-documented that he's bipolar and I get p****ed off when people keep talking about how he contradicts himself."

"He does that because he's bipolar. I find it offensive that people keep digging him out over things like that."

"I don't understand it, it feels like a little campaign against Tyson Fury."

"He has been one of our best boxers, has gone out and done everything that has been asked of him, overcoming demons that most people would never have got out of."

"He was a drug addict and a boozier and all that s*** and he's then come out of it and gone and won fights, won the title, gone in people's backyards and done it."

"Here we are again, he's fighting a guy who is undefeated. These are two guys in their prime."



MURRAY ... birthday

Muzza's Jacq-pot

By **ROB MAUL**

ANDY MURRAY received a birthday treat - when his opponent pulled up lame. Muzza, who turned 37 yesterday, was facing French qualifier Kyrian Jacquet in the first round of the BNP Paribas Primrose in Bordeaux.

The Scot won the opening set 7-5 in under an hour, led 2-0 in the second and was cruising through towards a victory in this ATP Challenger event.

But then Jacquet, 23, who began serving in the third game, called it quits after 64 minutes of play.

He pointed to his groin muscle and tapped his right calf with his racquet. The crowd then sang 'happy birthday' to Muzza, who plays Gregoire Barrere in the last 16 today.

Asp's up for Cup

NATHAN ASPINALL battles pal Michael Smith in a Premier League Darts knockout - with an FA Cup final trip on the line.

Tonight's Sheffield clash sees the Asp, who is fourth in the table on 25 points, face Bully Boy, fifth and one point behind.

Whoever wins qualifies for next week's play-offs at The O2 arena in London.

If Aspinall makes the Finals on May 23, he aims to see his Manchester United heroes face bitter rivals Manchester City at Wembley on May 25.

Yet he will not go with fellow Red Luke Littler.

Aspinall said: "If I'm in the Finals night, I'll probably watch United."

"Would I go with Luke? Absolutely not. I'd spend five hours having pictures with him and the fans."

O'Kane's respects

By **ROB MAUL**

NEIL ROBERTSON hailed two-time Crucible quarter-finalist Dene O'Kane, who has died aged 61.

O'Kane, New Zealand's biggest snooker star, passed away in hospital on Tuesday after falling at his Waiheke Island home.

The Auckland cueist lost 13-6 to Jimmy White in the last eight of the 1987 World Championship.

Five years later, he was eliminated by Stephen Hendry, who went on to claim a second crown.

Aussie Robertson, 2010 world champ, said: "Very sad to hear this. Dene was really supportive of me."

"He tried to pass on as much advice as possible as we came from the same part of the world. A classy player and man."

AJ RIGHT AT RINGSIDE

LENNOX LEWIS says Anthony Joshua has made the right call by finally turning up for a Tyson Fury fight.

For around 18 months, AJ refused to go and confront his compatriot at any of his shows.

During that time, Joshua was the WBA, IBF and WBO champ and Fury, 35, was WBC boss.

But Brit Joshua is in Saudi for Fury's heavyweight clash with Oleksandr Usyk on Saturday night. Lewis, the last undisputed world

From **WALLY DOWNES Jr**

heavyweight king, said: "You have to come to the fights. People have to see you and you have to campaign for the fights, at the fights."

"So, it's very important to come to feel the atmosphere and what it's like boxing in that vibe."

Lewis believes 6ft 9in and 20st Fury will be too big for former undisputed cruiserweight champion Usyk, 37.

But Lewis (right) knows how amazing a Usyk

win would be as even his old foe Evander Holyfield could not manage the double-undisputed feat.

London-born Lewis, 58, said: "I think it will be a great fight because you have two great fighters, one who is undisputed at cruiserweight and is coming up like Evander Holyfield did."

"It's not an easy task but, if he completes it, it will be a great thing."

Watch Fury v Usyk, 'Ring of Fire' live from Riyadh on TNT Sports Box Office on Saturday. For more information, visit: tntsports.co.uk/boxoffice



JOSHUA ... out in Saudi

GOLF **USPGA CH'SHIP** 1.30pm sky sports golf

Putt it out of your mind

RORY 'READY' TO PLAY



QUIETLY CONFIDENT ... McIlroy is fully focused on USPGA

By DAVID FACEY

RORY McILROY refused to speak about his bombshell divorce application ahead of the USPGA Championship – but insisted he is ready to play his best golf.

If he is right, McIlroy must be golf's ultimate iron man. Because he now has to cope with ferocious interest in his private life, as well as all the baggage that comes from ten years without winning a Major.

He has also taken a key role in attempted peace talks between the PGA and the breakaway LIV set-up.

When his management confirmed McIlroy had filed divorce papers, seeking to end his seven-year marriage to wife Erica, they also insisted he would not comment on the matter.

USPGA officials at Valhalla made sure he would not have to, making it clear before his pre-tournament press conference that the issue was off-limits.

In the end, the session lasted under nine minutes and McIlroy answered only seven questions – easily the shortest press conference of the week.

Even though he is the world No2 and won the last of his four Majors at Valhalla in 2014.

The closest McIlroy came to being quizzed about his divorce was when a journalist asked him: "How are your energy levels and, just on a personal level, how are you doing?"

McIlroy simply replied: "I'm ready to play this week."

Despite looking tired and unshaven ahead of today's start, he may be right. He filed for divorce in Florida on Monday, less than 24 hours after completing a resounding five-shot win over a world-class field at the Wells Fargo Championship in North Carolina.

That came on the back of a victory at the two-man Zurich Classic, alongside Irish pal Shane Lowry, two weeks earlier.

So unless the divorce was a spur-of-the-moment decision – highly unlikely – it has clearly not been affecting his form in the build-up to the USPGA.

McIlroy, 35, even suggested those wins were just what he needed as he seeks to end that long drought in the game's biggest tournaments.

He said: "The game feels good coming off the back of two wins, a fun one in New Orleans with Shane and then a really good performance last week.

"It's all about confidence and momentum – and I have a lot of

confidence and quite a bit of momentum coming into this week. So it's just about trying to keep that momentum going."

McIlroy became animated only when he was asked about the resignation of PGA Tour bigwig Jimmy Dunne, who had been the chief negotiator in the peace talks with LIV, until a group of players led by Tiger Woods took centre stage.

McIlroy pointed out that Dunne had earned the respect of the Saudi Arabians in charge of the Public Investment Fund, who have earmarked £2billion to bankroll LIV.

He said: "It's a huge loss for the PGA Tour, if they are trying to get this deal done with the PIF and trying to unify the game."

"Jimmy was basically the sort of conduit between the PGA Tour and PIF. It's been really unfortunate that he has not been involved for the last few months and I think part of the reason that everything is stalling at the minute is because of that."

"So it is really disappointing and the Tour is in a worse place because of it. "We'll see where it goes from here. But I would say my confidence level on something getting done before last week was as low as it has been."

"And then, with this news of Jimmy resigning and knowing the relationship he has with the other side, and how much warmth there is from the other side... it's concerning."

McIlroy is clearly a man with a lot on his mind.

5

To watch



TAYLOR PENDRITH (125-1): Long-hitting Canadian (left) had maiden win at CJ Cup.



BEN AN (60-1): Won PGA at Wentworth in 2015, fourth and third in his last two starts. Length off the tee is a bonus at Valhalla.



BROOKS KOEPKA (16-1): Fresh off an LIV win, the defending champion has won three of the last six USPGAs. A shock if he DOESN'T contend.



RORY McILROY (15-2): The bombshell of his divorce could be a distraction – but he won the Zurich and Wells Fargo. Course knowledge from his 2014 victory helps.



JASON DAY (60-1): Resurgent Aussie (right) is close to form that won this in 2015 and took him to world No 1. Shared second in last year's Open.

★ POP legend Sir Rod Stewart will hope to stir the Tartan Army into Euro 2024 fever next month. Sir Rod, 79, will take a break from the German leg of his European tour to headline a special event for Scotland fans in Munich on June 13, the night before Steve Clarke's side kick off the tournament against Germany. Former Scotland star Pat Nevin is being lined up to DJ the event.



THE LIPTON FACTOR

Martin Lipton at the heart of sport

RICK & RICH IN HARMONY

FEUDING Richard Masters and Rick Parry were united as they told MPs the planned Regulator must stay out of Profit and Sustainability Rules raps in football.

Prem chief Masters (above right) and EFL chairman Parry (below) are bitterly divided over the next funding deal for the pyramid and future of parachute payments.

And Merseyside Labour MP Ian Byrne asked the pair whether a Regulator should have the power to intervene and rule over the sort of breaches that saw Everton and Nottingham Forest deducted points this season.

But here the duo were on the same side. Masters said: "It has been a difficult period. "This is the first time that PSR have been activated in the Premier League and it is a

difficult experience and situation for fans of those clubs to live with. "But if you have financial rules, you have to enforce them. "The decision the Government has taken — which is the correct one — is this is for football bodies to look after, not the Regulator. "That would be getting involved in the running of the sport and the sporting competitive issues that exist within the game. I wouldn't support that."

Parry added: "I agree with Richard. It's the boundary of where football authorities deal with the rules that govern the competition. "And part of the role of PSR is competitive balance, rather than the sustainability of individual clubs. "The rules should fall firmly with the leagues to operate."



★ MALI FA chief Mamatou Toure dialled in to Fifa's Council meeting yesterday from JAIL. Toure, 66, is in prison after being charged with embezzling public funds. He joined by video call, with some Fifa members under the impression that he was in a clinic.

★ ALL three Uefa club competition finals are due to be broadcast FREE for armchair fans. TNT Sports – who show the Champions League, Europa League and Conference League – say the matches will be available to non-subscribers and streamed on their discovery+ channel.

PR stunt 'Mann

GERMANY coach Julian Nagelsmann will confirm his Euros squad today. But half the 26-man party decided by the boss (right) has ALREADY been unveiled in a series of online and TV "reveals".

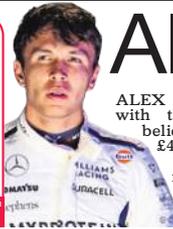
First up was Dortmund's Nico Schlotterbeck, on the German FA's Instagram, before the RTL TV channel then announced Munich star Aleksandar Pavlovic, and influencer Chiara named skipper Manuel Neuer.

Stuttgart winger Chris Führich was confirmed by a video with his image on the side of a bakery bag in the Black Forest. I suspect FA chiefs will stick with the tried and trusted when England boss Gareth Southgate names his provisional party on Tuesday.



Sport
NFL star Aaron Rodgers plays at Spurs' football ground when his New York Jets side faces Minnesota on October 6. Jacksonville will face Chicago there and New England at Wembley on October 13 and 20.

SHORT



Albon's real deal

ALEX ALBON signed a new deal with the Williams F1 team – believed to be worth around £4million a year. The London-born Thai racer, 28, has cemented his place as their No1 driver, though is yet to score a point this season.

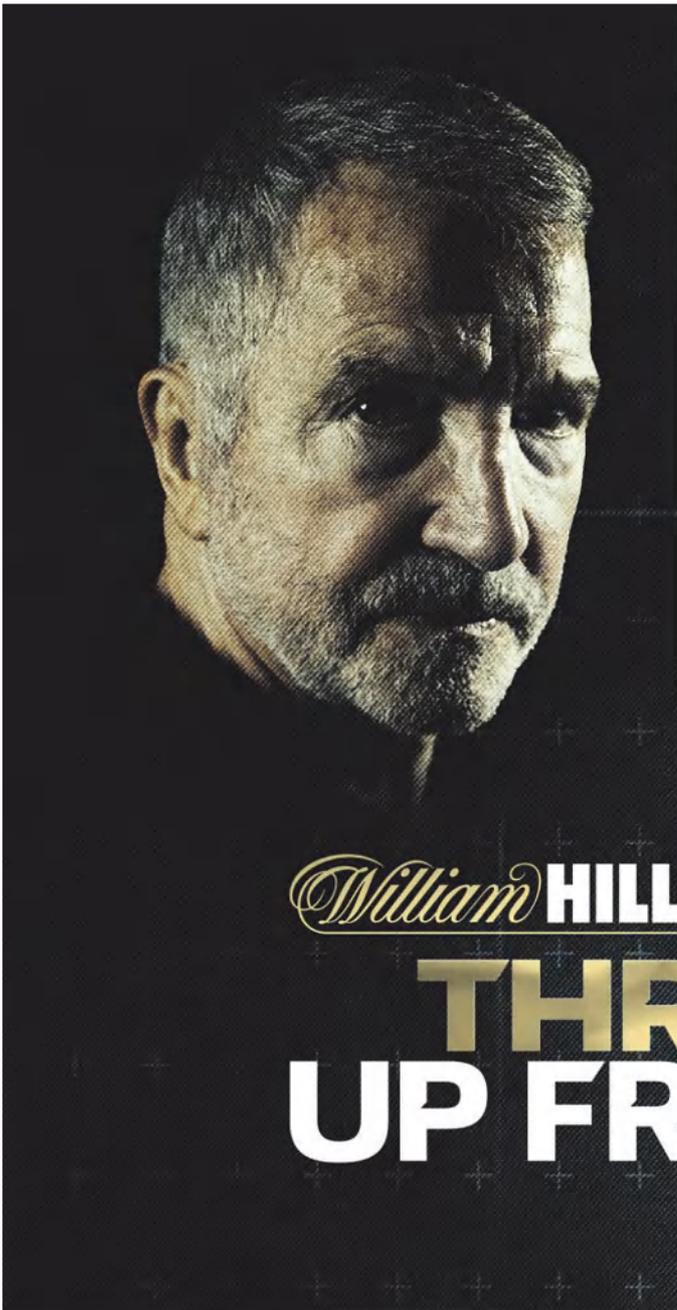
By BEN HUNT
Albon (left), who joined Williams in 2022, said: "We have made significant progress together. "This is a long-term project I really believe in and want to play a key role in – which is why I've signed a multi-year contract."

SHORT

Sport
KEELY HODGKINSON set a personal best for the 400 metres at Italy's Citta di Savona meeting. The Olympic silver medalist clocked 51.61sec while fellow Brit Charlie Dobson won the men's race with a PB of 44.46.

★ NOTTINGHAM FOREST'S promised legal pursuit of Sky Sports and pundit Gary Neville may leave the channel's boss in a pickle. Forest threatened to sue Sky and Neville after the ex-England defender said the club's attacks on VAR Stuart Attwell were like a "mafia gang". Sky Sports managing director Jonathan Licht is a big Forest fan and may hope avoiding relegation will encourage the club to call it a day.

SHORT



EMERY LOSER WINS

By GRAEME BRYCE

SIR ALEX FERGUSON knows a thing or two about football.

So perhaps we all should have piled our cash on Aston Villa qualifying for the Champions League back in August.

That was when the great man singled them out for praise... on the back of a 5-1 hiding at Newcastle.

Asked who had impressed him most on the opening weekend of the Premier League, Fergie replied: "I watched Aston Villa and I can't believe the scoreline."

"Honestly, Villa played fantastic football and just lost to bad goals."

"It's a surprising game, football. You can just play teams off the pitch and not score - that's what Aston Villa did."

Fergie was ridiculed on social media then, but the legendary Manchester United boss showed he had not lost his eye for detail.

At that time the bookies had the Villans priced as 150-1 outsiders to win the title, while data analysts Opta predicted that they would finish **NINTH**.

Defensive linchpin Tyrone Mings tore knee ligaments in the Toon defeat, while midfielder Emi Buendia did the same earlier that week.

Yet Villa marched to a club-record 15 straight home wins, which included a 1-0 triumph over Manchester City in December - the last time Pep Guardiola's side lost in the Prem.

City managed just two early shots with Villa dominating for 80 minutes in a supreme display as

William **HILL** PRESENTS
THREE UP FRONT



Jur: Sofa so good

By KEN LAWRENCE

JURGEN KLOPP is looking forward to going nuts in his front room - rather than on the touchline.

The 56-year-old takes charge of his 491st and final Liverpool game when Wolves visit on Sunday.

Klopp (*below*) is relishing a new life away from football management. He said: "Will I miss it? Probably.

"But I won't miss the rest. All the things about being famous, being important.

"These kinds of things, I do not like it. "I will work again, I don't know when - and football is what I know best.

"But I would love to just sit in front of the telly going wild in the living room. Why not?"

Klopp's No 2 Pep Lijnders was yesterday confirmed as Red Bull Salzburg's next boss.



Farke wants cool heads in Ell fire

By CHRIS HUGHES

DANIEL FARKE challenged his Leeds players to remain cool in the return leg of their play-off semi-final against Norwich.

A raucous Elland Road will lift the Yorkshire club tonight as they hope to move within 90 minutes of the Premier League.

And boss Farke said: "It will be an amazing atmosphere, probably much whiter than yellow."

"It will be a pretty impressive atmosphere."

"But we have to make sure that we are again not overexcited. To show good mental strength in this moment will be important."

Leeds are favourites to make an instant return to the top flight but have wobbled recently - winning just once in their last seven games, including Sunday's goalless first leg at Carrow Road.

They also have a strong home

Championship play-off semi-final second leg



record this season, but lost their final two home matches to Blackburn and a Southampton side they could meet in the play-off final.

German Farke added: "Everything is still possible. Norwich is just a really good side and also a threat on the counter-attack."

"If you're too greedy and open too many spaces, then they could punish you. We have to make sure we find a good fine margin."

"Obviously we like to play at home, there's no doubt about this. "We have overall a really good home record over this season - but it's no guarantee."

"So still it is 50-50 and both sides have the same chance to

earn their spot in the final. I was pleased with the performance in the first leg, and overall also happy with the result, but nothing is done yet."

"It's still a tight game and we have to make sure that we keep going because Norwich are really, really dangerous."

Norwich manager David Wagner is hoping to use his play-off experiences to reach Wembley.

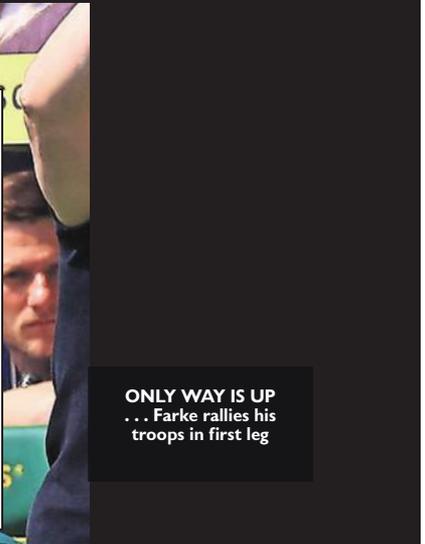
Wagner guided Huddersfield to the promised land through that route in 2017 and feels frustrating Leeds could be their best bet.

The German said: "Of course I'd have loved to win the first leg."

"But I have experience and I know a draw at home is a good result where you can really put pressure on the opponent, especially away from home the longer the game goes."

"We are fully in the race, so I have a positive mood. I know what we are capable of."

ONLY WAY IS UP
... Farke rallies his troops in first leg





GRAFTERS
... Villa boss Emery (left) and United icon Sir Alex

Fergie rated Unai boys despite 5-1 loss

their season really peaked. And further injuries to key midfielders Boubacar Kamara and Jacob Ramsey meant Villa never hit their fluent best again.

Yet, while juggling the demands of reaching the semi-finals of the Europa Conference League, Unai Emery's brilliance has still helped Villa get over the line to end their 41-year wait to play in Europe's

top competition. That last appearance was back in 1982-83 – the season after the club famously beat Bayern Munich 1-0 to lift the old European Cup.

As Villa celebrated their success at the club's annual awards bash on Tuesday – thanks to City's 2-0 win at Tottenham – Emery spoke of players and fans achieving this season's "dream". He talked about

the four long-term injuries, which he had barely done previously as part of his "no-excuses" culture.

The Spaniard, 52, was heavily reliant on two players that he has transformed.

Skipper John McGinn and Ollie Watkins, who stands one goal from becoming Villa's first 20-goal-a-season Premier League striker.

Villa have scored more goals

than in any other season since 1976-77 and are the only club to have beaten title contenders City AND Arsenal this season.

The secret of Emery's success can be attributed to one factor more than any other.

It is a trait that he shares with Fergie – an insatiable appetite for hard work.

Four-time Europa League-winner Emery is a workaholic who is always first to arrive at Villa's Bodymoor Heath training ground at 7am and last to leave around 8pm.

Players have bought into his long video analysis meetings because they have seen the results.

As one Villa insider put it: "We've had plenty of bosses who worked late into the night."

"But they spent some of that time catching up with staff over a coffee, or they would go and watch a youth game."

"Unai is different. He is full-on, every minute is spent studying, analysing, planning."

"There is no down time with him, he craves football."

Emery famously watched 27 of Legia Warsaw's home matches before Villa travelled to Poland in September.

It has helped that Villa owners Nassef Sawiris and Wes Edens have given him the keys to the castle – with Emery even able to handpick Monchi as his own sporting director.

But there is no doubt Emery is the boss in Villa's football department and Sawiris will offer him a lucrative new long-term contract in the summer.

Banking on a Ram raid

EXCLUSIVE by GRAEME BRYCE

ASTON VILLA are set to sell at least one star name this summer despite bagging a £50million Champions League payday.

There is unlikely to be any spending spree – and fans can all but rule out a romantic reunion with Manchester City's Jack Grealish, even for a £50m fee.

SunSport can reveal Villa will not access their European windfall until much later next season.

And they reported a record loss of £119.6m up to May 2023 – the highest in Europe, according to Uefa.

The Prem's Profit and Sustainability Rules only allow losses of £105m over

three years and Villa expect to be close to the limit next month so may have to sell.

Homegrown Jacob Ramsey (above) could be sold if Villa's asking price in excess of £50m is met – and it would be pure profit since he is an academy graduate.

Brazilian Douglas Luiz is a long-time target for Arsenal and Villa have now paid off his £15m fee to Manchester City.



ALL SIDES OF THE GAME COVERED

VOTE ON VAR

From Back Page

and the game'. Wolves have suffered a number of contentious calls this season, starting on the opening weekend when they were wrongly denied a penalty at Manchester United.

Boss Gary O'Neil received a number of apologies from refs' chief Howard Webb after other clutch calls went against his men, who have had only **ONE** VAR overturn in their favour this term.

Wolves will table a motion at the Prem's AGM in Harrogate on June 6 calling on clubs to back their push for the end of VAR.

A Wolves statement said: "It has caused numerous unintended negative consequences damaging the relationship between fans and football – and undermining the value of the Premier League brand. "After five seasons of VAR in the Premier League, it is time for a constructive and critical debate on its future.

"Our position is that the price we are paying for a small increase in accuracy is at odds with the spirit of our game."

Manchester United legend Wayne Rooney said of VAR: "I don't like it. It's taken all of the enjoyment out of the game. You

score a goal and you're then having to wait to celebrate.

"Then they're getting decisions wrong. We are still getting that human error."

Thirteen clubs will need to back Wolves' motion but it will **NOT** be supported by Prem bosses.

Wolves argue VAR ruling out goals for tight offside has damaged goal celebrations and the "spontaneous passion that makes football special".

The club says it created "frustration and confusion" inside grounds with lengthy VAR checks, arguing it has made stadium atmospheres "more hostile".

Wolves suggest there has been an "over-reach" of the original purpose to correct "clear and obvious mistakes".

And that the "continued errors" have "diminished" the accountability of on-field officials, which is contributing to an "erosion of trust" in the game.

On VAR, United legend and Sky pundit Roy Keane said: "This was supposed to help officials but

we're talking about decisions more than ever before VAR."

So far this season 30 goals have been ruled out by VAR for offside, with 15 other "goals" chalked off.

SunSport analysis has found that without VAR the top eight clubs would all be in **EXACTLY** the same position in the Prem table.

But relegated Luton would be a point clear of Nottingham Forest at the bottom.

Though Prem chiefs will argue strongly against the proposal.

They say scrapping VAR would lead to **MORE** incorrect calls and would lead to **GREATER** criticism of officials and increase supporter frustration.

Club bosses agreed to introduce semi-automated limb-tracking cameras to speed up offside calls next term, while microphones will let refs explain changed decisions to fans.

Refs' chief Webb also wants pioneering real-time cricket and rugby union-style broadcasting of the VAR conversations.

A Prem spokesperson said: "We acknowledge the concerns and issues around the use of VAR."

It takes all enjoyment out of the game

– WAYNE ROONEY

SIMON JORDAN

GRAEME SOUNESS

TROY DEENEY

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PREM



CITY ONE GAME FROM TITLE



We Ort to keep him

MANCHESTER CITY are still hoping to convince hero Stefan Ortega to commit his future to them.

By **MARTIN BLACKBURN**

Yet the German keeper – outstanding as a sub in Tuesday's win at Tottenham – is yet to sign a deal that has been on the table for much of this season.

The 31-year-old has just 12 months remaining on his existing contract and has ambitions to be a No.1.

He also feels his performances since joining the club on a free transfer from Arminia Bielefeld two years ago warrant

an improvement on the terms currently offered. City boss Pep Guardiola has been surprised at just how good Ortega is.

But he recently admitted Ederson – who has been forced off injured in **FOUR** games this season – remains the first choice.

And Guardiola says he will "understand perfectly" if Ortega decides to go in search of more regular first-team football.

Bayern Munich made an inquiry last summer while Nottingham Forest showed interest in January. There are likely to be

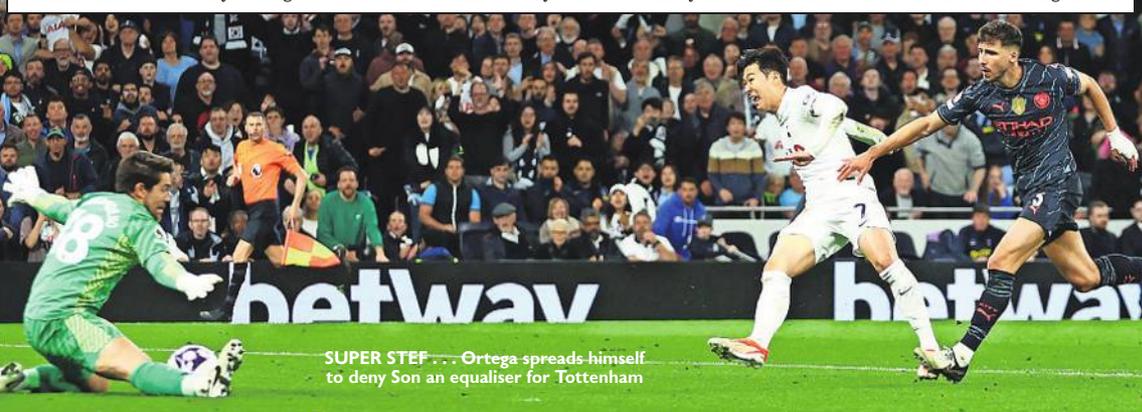
plenty more clubs tracking him after his superb cameo against Spurs as well.

Meanwhile, defender Manuel Akanji admitted the goalkeeper 'answered his prayers' when a costly slip almost gifted Tottenham an equaliser.

Son Heung-min pounced on the error and looked certain to score but Ortega made a vital save.

Akanji, 28, said: "He saved the game for us. I was so nervous and I was praying that the ball wouldn't go in."

"After the game I thanked Stefan for the incredible save and for saving me."



SUPER STEF... Ortega spreads himself to deny Son an equaliser for Tottenham

HOT ROD... Bentancur kicks out after being subbed

No longer a Poste boy

ANGE POSTECOGLOU dropped a bombshell by claiming Spurs' "foundations are fairly fragile" after the 2-0 loss to Manchester City.

The Tottenham manager was clearly unhappy with many fans wanting the team to lose to City and so hurting Arsenal's Prem title hopes. **CHARLIE WYETT** looks at the overall situation at Spurs.

WHAT DID HE MEAN WITH "FRAGILE" COMMENT?

It was a remarkable post-match press conference and Postecoglou's anger was not solely directed at fans wanting Spurs to lose to City.

Postecoglou clearly believed Tottenham fans were too concerned about Arsenal's fortunes and should have only focused on their own team.

Some would argue this is small-club syndrome.

In fairness to the Spurs faithful, though, many other clubs' fans in a similar situation would have felt the same.

Asked where the fragility lies, Postecoglou (*below*) said: "Outside, inside – everywhere. It's been an interesting exercise."

Some felt Postecoglou's comments were directed at chairman Daniel Levy but this is unlikely.

He was possibly frustrated by the overall attitude of some members of staff at the club going into the City game.

Equally, he was not impressed by Rodrigo Bentancur, who kicked his seat three times after being substituted.

SPURS HAVE BLOWN FOURTH AND FACE THE EUROPA LEAGUE NEXT SEASON. WHAT DO THE PLAYERS THINK?

Micky van de Ven said: "Of course, we are disappointed. Of course, we want to play in the Champions League."

"Hopefully we can do some good stuff in the Europa League next year and we can reach the Champions League."

"We are still positive. We are still trusting in what the gaffer wants. We want to end the season strong. We have

one game to go, and we want to win at Sheffield United and hopefully next year we can do some good things."

WHAT WILL ANGE DO THIS SUMMER IN THE TRANSFER MARKET?

He will get backing from Levy even though the club will need to move on a few players as well.

Spurs have done well to all-but clinch European football and improve on last season despite losing Harry Kane – but they need a new No.9 as it seems Richarlison cannot stay fit. They also need to strengthen in midfield, ideally a box-to-box player and also two full-backs for added depth.

What Postecoglou most wants, and this takes us back to his comment about fragility, are some players who have been winners. Of the current squad, not many have won much and Postecoglou is very aware of this issue.

WHAT DO THE FANS THINK?

Postecoglou did not endear himself to supporters with comments both before and after the City match. PR-wise, it was a disaster.

He cannot understand why many fans wanted a City win to stop Arsenal from winning the title.

It was a superb start as boss but it has been a rollercoaster season.

After accusations that he did not have a Plan B, Postecoglou made a few tactical tweaks for the City game.

But a run of five losses in the last six has raised doubts among some fans.

He still has support but, if Spurs struggle next term, it could get rocky at Christmas.



Kyle: Make Sunday less stressful..

DON'T GO 2-0 DOWN!

FOR the sake of fans' fingernails, Manchester City skipper Kyle Walker hopes history does not repeat itself from 2022.

By **CHARLIE WYETT**



A win against West Ham on Sunday will secure a record-breaking fourth successive Premier League title for Pep Guardiola's brilliant City team.

But the champions know the dangers of final-day complacency after their scare at home to Aston Villa two years ago.

With 15 minutes left, they trailed Villa by two goals and Liverpool were set for the title as they were beating Wolves.

Yet in the space of five minutes, City grabbed three goals – İlkay Gundogan scoring two of them – to complete a stunning turnaround and secure the championship.

Asked how City must avoid a similar situation against West Ham, skipper Walker said: "Don't go 2-0 down! It's

as simple as that. Don't get yourself in that situation where you're scrambling and need Gundogo to come up with prime Zidane moments.

"We were scrambling and you are looking for moments of genius. But now, we are fully focused for this Sunday."

"We have given ourselves the opportunity to win it in front of our own crowd – but it is far from done yet."

Against Spurs on Tuesday,

there were times when City were not at their best but, crucially, they secured the 2-0 win to move above Arsenal.

This season has not all been plain sailing for City.

In his first term as club captain, Walker (*above*) has had to take some players to one side for advice.

He said: "There are always points in the season where you need to have words. You don't have a full campaign with everything going swimmingly."

"There are times when you lean on certain players and have a quiet word with them individually or collectively."

"All I want is the best for

the club and the lads in there. They work their socks off."

"People see Instagram and whatever else but nobody sees the hard graft these lads dedicate themselves to every day."

"We're competing in all the competitions, travelling here, there and everywhere to play in the competitions that we've been fortunate to win."

"I'm not saying Arsenal don't do that. They do. "Whoever wins the Premier League come Sunday deserves it – so may the best team win."

KEVIN DE BRUYNE has given City a major boost by declaring he will be fit for Sunday.

The Belgian star, chasing a sixth Prem title medal, went off at Spurs after getting a kick.

But he said: "I think I'm OK. It's really sore because of the place it is in, the Achilles. "It felt a bit like a knife at the time but it's only an impact injury so it's not bad. I will be OK."

FIRST 37 PREM GAMES AS MANAGER			
	KLOPP (2015-16)	ARTETA (2019-20)	POSTECOGLOU (2023-24)
WINS	18	16	19
DRAWNS	10	8	6
DEFEATS	9	13	12
GOALS	73	52	71
CONCEDED	50	40	61
POINTS	64	56	63
WIN RATE	49%	43%	51%

TOP OF PREM			
Pos	Pld	GD	Pts
1	MAN CITY 37	+60	88
2	ARSENAL 37	+61	86

MAN CITY know a win over West Ham at home on Sunday will secure them a fourth Prem title in a row. They will also claim title if Arsenal fail to beat Everton.



O'RILEY... two goals

It's glory Bhoys...

Kilmarnock.....0
Celtic.....5

CELTIC thumped Killie to seal their third straight Scottish Premiership title.

Brendan Rodgers' side needed only a point after last Saturday's Old Firm derby victory over Rangers — but were clearly in a rush to get the job done.

After just 12 minutes, the Bhoys were within touching distance of their 12th crown in 13 seasons.

Star man Matt O'Riley's low cross was swept home from close range by Adam Idah and then Daizen Maeda repeated the trick to double the lead.

James Forrest made it 3-0 just past the half-hour mark against an out-classed Kilmarnock.

O'Riley got in on the act himself six minutes after the break when he rifled one into the top corner — before rounding off the scoring with a cool finish.

Celtic lost just three games this term on their way to securing top spot.

£5m Eds to Blues

CHELSEA will trouser a final £5million windfall from Eden Hazard's move to Real Madrid — even though he has retired!

The terms of Hazard's initial £88m transfer deal in 2019 included a £5m payment whenever the Spanish giants made the Champions League final.

Although the injury-hit Belgian, 33, terminated his contract and retired in October, Chelsea still get the cash for Real reaching this season's showpiece.

But the payout will only make a small dent in the £1billion transfer bill run up by Blues in the last two years.

Maiking a move

Tottenham.....0
Chelsea.....1

MAIKA HAMANO fired Chelsea a step closer to a potential FIFTH successive WSL title as they went top.

The Blues knocked Manchester City off the summit thanks to Hamano scoring the only goal from a Niamh Charles cross in the 37th minute.

Tottenham put in a spirited second-half display but Chelsea held on.

Emma Hayes' side are level on points with City — but boast a better goal difference by two going into Saturday's final game at Manchester United.

City finish their season with a final-day trip to Aston Villa.

PREM BRIGHTON 1 CHELSEA 2

WELBECK 90

PALMER 34; NKUNKU 64



CATCH 22

Cole extends goal run but James sees red

COLE-DEN BOY... Palmer brilliantly heads past Bart Verbruggen for the opener before James' red card (inset)



COLE PALMER'S season gets better and better, while Reece James' could hardly get worse.

Chelsea superstar Palmer has single-handedly guided the club from the depths of mid-table to what should be continental football next season with his elite scoring prowess.

His 22nd goal of the Premier League term — a smooth looping header in the 34th minute — helped down Brighton to lift the Blues into a Europe-beckoning sixth spot.

And, as if the weight on Palmer's shoulders is not heavy enough, he will surely be expected to replicate this stunning form for England in Germany this summer at the Euros. But what of James? An injury-plagued season and a straight red card here coming off the bench, will see him miss yet more football, with a major tournament looming and friendly auditions on the horizon.

It was an idiotic 88th-minute kick-out at Joao Pedro off the ball on a night when VAR was under the microscope more than ever. Christopher Nkunku stepped off the bench to double the lead in the 64th minute with just his third goal in a Chelsea shirt.

But the away end sung Palmer's name into the night, even after Danny Welbeck's injury-time consolation for Brighton.

Three Lions manager Gareth Southgate is notoriously safe in his selection process, yet you simply

By JORDAN DAVIES



cannot ignore the elegance and electricity that Palmer possesses right now — and you cannot ignore James' dramatic plummeting form.

On the right-back's red, Chelsea boss Mauricio Pochettino said: "I didn't see it back. Maybe it's the frustration that led to it."

"A painful one on a fantastic night of football and he is our captain. A really important player. I'm disappointed that he will miss the next game and some games next season."

But what a £40million signing Palmer has been since arriving from Manchester City, taking Etihad boss Pep Guardiola's preferred main man Erling Haaland — who has 27 Prem goals so far — all the way for that Golden Boot with just one outing remaining.

A fourth straight top-flight victory for the first time since October 2022 has steadied the ship and calmed choppy waters at Chelsea. Progress is — finally — being made in West

London. Poch purred: "I am so proud. To face a team like Brighton is always difficult and we are so happy because the three points gives us the hope to do what we want, which is to play in Europe."

On the South Coast, Robert De Zerbi's Seagulls end this historic campaign — where they have competed on four fronts domestically and on the continent — battling for a top-ten presence.

One win in their last nine in the Prem was not what De Zerbi envisioned, yet the Italian knows that, with their injury crisis soon behind them, next season offers yet more promise.

The Italian coach — now expected to remain at Brighton for another year at least — said: "It has been a tough season. We've done better than last season but you have to consider how many problems we have had without important players. We are Brighton. Chelsea's subs are Sterling, James and Nkunku."

In the 16th minute, ex-Seagull Marc Cucurella thought he had won a penalty following Facundo Buonanotte's lunge. Ref Michael Salisbury

had no hesitation, that was until VAR requested a monitor review which showed Buonanotte had just won the ball. Who needs VAR, huh?

No intervention needed for Palmer's brilliance — guiding Cucurella's cross over Brighton keeper Bart Verbruggen with ease.

The hosts responded. Tariq Lamptey was influential before a nasty off-the-ball collision that decked Mykhailo Mudryk, Nkunku replacing the Ukrainian soon after.

VAR checked and waved play on. Palmer almost found another from a Malo Gusto delivery but for Lewis Dunk's block, Nicolas Jackson had a flick-on ruled out for a foul in the build-up and Pedro smacked the bar with his header.

Palmer, Gusto and Jackson all squandered big second-half chances and Poch was getting edgy until Nkunku tucked away Gusto's low cross with aplomb on 64 minutes.

VAR had one more spotlight moment, rightly asking ref Salisbury to watch back footage of James — who had only been on the pitch for 19 minutes — swiping at Pedro while on the floor. Red all day.

Nevertheless, Chelsea fans can start to dust off their suitcases...

HOW THEY LINED UP
BRIGHTON: Verbruggen, Igor, Dunk (Barco 46), Welbeck, Lamptey (Offiah 85), Gilmer (Baleba 70), Gross, Adingra, Enciso (Fati 85), Buonanotte (Welbeck 70), Pedro.
CHELSEA: Petric, Cucurella, Badiashile, Chalobah, Gusto (James 69), Caicedo, Gallagher (Ugochukwu 90), Mudryk (Nkunku 42), Palmer (Casadei 90), Madueke (Sterling 69), Jackson (Silva 90).

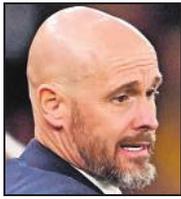
BRIGHTON		CHELSEA	
12	SHOTS	13	
2	SHOTS ON TARGET	6	
54%	POSSESSION	46%	
544	PASSES	471	
492	COMPLETED PASSES	427	
37	TOUCHES IN OPPOSITION BOX	23	
4	CORNERS	6	
13	FOULS CONCEDED	14	
2/0	YELLOW/RED	2/1	

MATCH TIME: 110m 5s
BALL IN PLAY: 61m 10s

32 COLE PALMER has now had a hand in 32 Premier League goals this season — netting 22 goals and providing ten assists.

4 ONLY the Prem's bottom four sides — Sheff Utd (7), Luton (11) Nottm Forest (13) and Burnley (13) — have collected fewer points in 2024 than Brighton (18)

8 REECE JAMES became the first Chelsea player to be red-carded twice in a single Premier League season since John Terry eight years ago (2015-16 season).



TEN HAG... rallying cry

ERIK

From Back Page

yet. First, we will go to Brighton where we travel for three points and then we go to Wembley.

"And I promise you those players will give everything to get that Cup and bring it to Old Trafford."

United must now better Toon's result on Sunday — or beat Manchester City in the FA Cup final on May 25 — to clinch a European spot.

If Eddie Howe's side win at Brentford then the Red Devils MUST beat Brighton away to qualify for Europe through the league.

Speaking to TV after the game, Dutchman Ten Hag added: "It's always nice to win any game."

"It's important to win the last game at Old Trafford this season."

"The fans deserve this because they've had difficult times and always stayed with us."

"We are here together. We wanted to pay the fans back."

"Fantastic. Great goals. But it was a team effort how we made the goals."

"But I am always happy at young players who are progressing very good and scored some brilliant goals."

Newcastle boss Howe was baffled how his team did not get a penalty when Sofyan Amrabat clipped Anthony Gordon.

He said: "You could see the contact, it's a stonewall penalty."

"I don't know how the VAR hasn't seen it."

"Generally, I like the power being with the refs."

Regarding their European hopes, he added: "It's out of our hands but there's hope. We had a feeling the season would go to the end."

Trouble Bru-ing

BRUNO FERNANDES refused to commit his future to Manchester United.

SunSport revealed the Red Devils captain was considering a summer move after 4½ seasons at Old Trafford.

And after helping United beat Newcastle 3-2 on his return from a wrist injury, he was unable to confirm whether he will still be at the club next season.

Portuguese Fernandes, 29, said: "I feel the club wants me to be part of the future."

"I don't want to be a player the club doesn't want to have."

"If for some reason they don't want to have me, I will go. If they want me, I will stay."

Red Devils boss Erik ten Hag said: "Absolutely, the club wants to keep Bruno. And as far as I know, he loves to play for Manchester United."

KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT

Hojlund, Mainoo & Diallo give hope

By NEIL CUSTIS



ERIK TEN HAG keeps telling everyone the future is bright for Manchester United.

It is just the present that continues to be a problem.

But on a night when Kobbie Mainoo, 19, and Amad Diallo, 21, gave the Red Devils a chance of European football next season you can at least see glimmers of hope.

Who knows? If 21-year-old £64million buy Rasmus Hojlund, who came on to grab their third, can regularly find his shooting boots — and Alejandro Garnacho, 19, continues his progression — the dark clouds could be shifted come next season.

Ten Hag certainly believes he has a core group that could take United forward if they find the right gear.

It was Mainoo who opened the scoring last night after being found by Diallo on 31 minutes. Then, after Newcastle's England winger Anthony Gordon grabbed an equaliser four minutes after the break it was Diallo who thumped home the key second near the hour mark.

He will surely not hit a sweeter volley in his career.

Ten Hag looked on with pride, maybe this pair could even carry them to an unlikely FA Cup final triumph over title-winners-to-be and neighbours Manchester City a week on Saturday at Wembley.

Whether the Dutch manager will still be in place to see their development after that is another matter.

Ten Hag had made just one change to his starting line-up from the team that lost 1-0 to Arsenal.

He decided to play with no striker at all in a bid to "confuse" the opposition, leaving under-fire Hojlund on the bench.

Given that everybody else is so confused as to what Ten Hag has been trying to do with his team for most of the season this was hardly a



NO CASE FOR THE DEFENCE

KEY... Mainoo nets (top) as Trippier fails to get level (below left) and (right) when Casemiro erred for Arsenal goal Sunday



change from the norm. While the manager tried to also explain it as a chance to give Hojlund a rest, it must have been a major vote of no confidence for the expensive Dane.

He had struggled since returning from injury, scoring just once in his previous ten games, but it is not as if the service has been there.

Indeed, it seems his team-mates do not trust him to do anything with the ball despite that burst of eight goals in as many games from Boxing Day to mid-February.

So were the Magpies' wings clipped by this tactic?

Well they were a goal adrift by the break. Sofyan Amrabat, in the last game at Old Trafford of his loan spell from Fiorentina, found Diallo and he was able to roll it to Mainoo unchallenged in the area.

The young United midfielder could barely believe the time and space he

had by the penalty spot as he controlled, turned and picked his spot.

But why was Newcastle's returning captain Kieran Trippier so deep?

This was not the first clanger he has dropped this season as he hung behind the rest of Toon's back four to play Mainoo inside.

Even the VAR did not need a second look, and they tend to have a second look at everything.

Mind you they did not spot a very valid Newcastle penalty claim soon afterwards, despite replays showing Amrabat's foot going down Anthony Gordon's Achilles. No penalty.

Undaunted, Newcastle thought they had an equaliser on 36 minutes when the towering Dan Burn rose at the far post to meet Jacob Murphy's cross.

He did everything right beating keeper Andre Onana but Casemiro nodded the ball off the line.

Another chance quickly followed

for Eddie Howe's men when a deep Trippier corner found Bruno Guimaraes at the far side of the box but his returning header was too high.

Newcastle did not have to wait too long after the break to find the net.

Onana was brought to the club for his distribution skills but for the second game running his long punt resulted in a quick return and goal.

Amrabat was at fault for not being able to control a loose ball and when Alexander Isak played it wide to Murphy his low cross was perfection for Gordon to steer home with the outside of his right boot.

If Amrabat was at fault for that he quickly redeemed himself to stop the visitors from taking the lead.

It began with a Red Devils corner which saw Fernandes have a near-post shot saved.

When the ball sprung free, Gordon took it and raced forward towards United's goal. It was two-on-one.

Gordon did the right thing as he squared to striker Isak but Amrabat slid in to deflect the Newcastle striker's shot over the bar.

A big moment that seemed even bigger when five minutes later on 57 minutes the hosts took the lead.

Bruno Fernandes' near-post corner was only headed clear as far as Diallo 16 yards out and he absolutely muddled his shot on the volley past Toon keeper Martin Dubravka.

Sub Hojlund would make things safe on 84 minutes — receiving a ball from Fernandes, forcing his way wide of two Newcastle players and shooting back across the goalkeeper.

Toon pulled a goal back in injury-time when Lewis Hall drilled in a cracker after Casemiro failed to clear for United but the hosts held on.

At least the final game here has given everyone of a red persuasion a bit of belief that an FA Cup may yet sit on the mantelpiece at Old Trafford come the end of the season.

HOW THEY LINED UP

MAN UTD: Onana, Wan-Bissaka, Diallo, Amrabat, Casemiro, Evans, Diallo (Hojlund 82), Mainoo (Martinez 83), Fernandes (Eriksen 90), McTomlinay, Garnacho (Rashford 83).

NEWCASTLE: Dubravka, Trippier (Schar 63), Hall, Guimaraes, Kruff, Burn, Longstaff (Barnes 77), Anderson (Joelinton 62), Isak, Murphy (Almiron 62), Gordon.

10

TEENAGERS have scored ten PL goals for Man Utd this season (Alejandro Garnacho 7, Kobbie Mainoo 3), their third highest tally in a single campaign.

MOST PREM GOALS BY TEENAGERS THIS SEASON

Brighton	12
MAN UTD	10
Burnley	4
Aston Villa	2
Man City	2

4

ANTHONY GORDON is the fourth Newcastle player to score home & away v Man Utd in a PL campaign after Andy Cole (93-94), Demba Ba (11-12) & Matty Longstaff (2019-20).

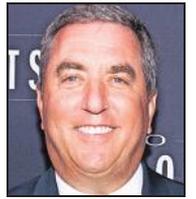
UTD 3 NEWCASTLE 2

GORDON 49; HALL 90

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man City	37	27	7	3	93	33	88
Arsenal	37	27	5	5	89	28	86
Liverpool	37	23	10	4	84	41	79
Aston Villa	37	20	8	9	76	56	68
Tottenham	37	19	6	12	71	61	63
Chelsea	37	17	9	11	75	62	60
Newcastle	37	17	6	14	81	60	57
Man Utd	37	17	6	14	55	58	57
West Ham	37	14	10	13	59	71	52
Brighton	37	12	12	13	55	60	48
Bournemouth	37	13	9	15	53	65	48
Crystal Palace	37	12	10	15	52	58	46
Wolves	37	13	7	17	50	63	46
Fulham	37	12	8	17	51	59	44
Everton	37	13	9	15	39	49	44
Brentford	37	10	9	18	54	61	39
Nottm Forest	37	8	9	20	47	66	29
Luton	37	6	8	23	50	81	26
Burnley (R)	37	5	9	23	40	76	24
Sheff Utd (R)	37	3	7	27	35	101	16

(Everton deducted 8pts. Nottm Forest deducted 4pts)



MILLER... wants games

USA

From Back Page

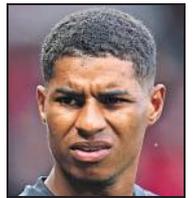
promised the working party — comprising reps from clubs, leagues, national associations, players, fan groups and “private entities engaged in organising international matches or competitions” — must consider TEN aspects before granting approval. They include addressing fan concerns over “fairness” and “missing the opportunity to attend”.

Plus demanding “adequate provision” for fans to be able to see the game. The working party must also weigh up the “potential impact on the balance of the competition” if every team no longer plays the same number of genuine “home” and “away” games.

But Fifa’s change of heart was slammed by fans. The Football Supporters Association said on X: “Fifa trying to stitch up overseas league games by setting up a working group which must ‘assume a positive decision to stage matches internationally’.

“And Fifa wonder why people don’t trust them?” Earlier this month, Prem chief exec Richard Masters said the US court case meant “the door looks more ajar for games in the US”, though he added: “It’s not part of our current plans. It really isn’t.”

But Jon Miller, a senior executive at the Prem’s US broadcast partner NBC, wants to see “a couple of Premier League games open the season here”. More than half of Premier League sides are now under US ownership.



RASHFORD... in video

Rash fan bust-up

MARCUS RASHFORD was involved in a furious bust-up with a fan before last night’s clash.

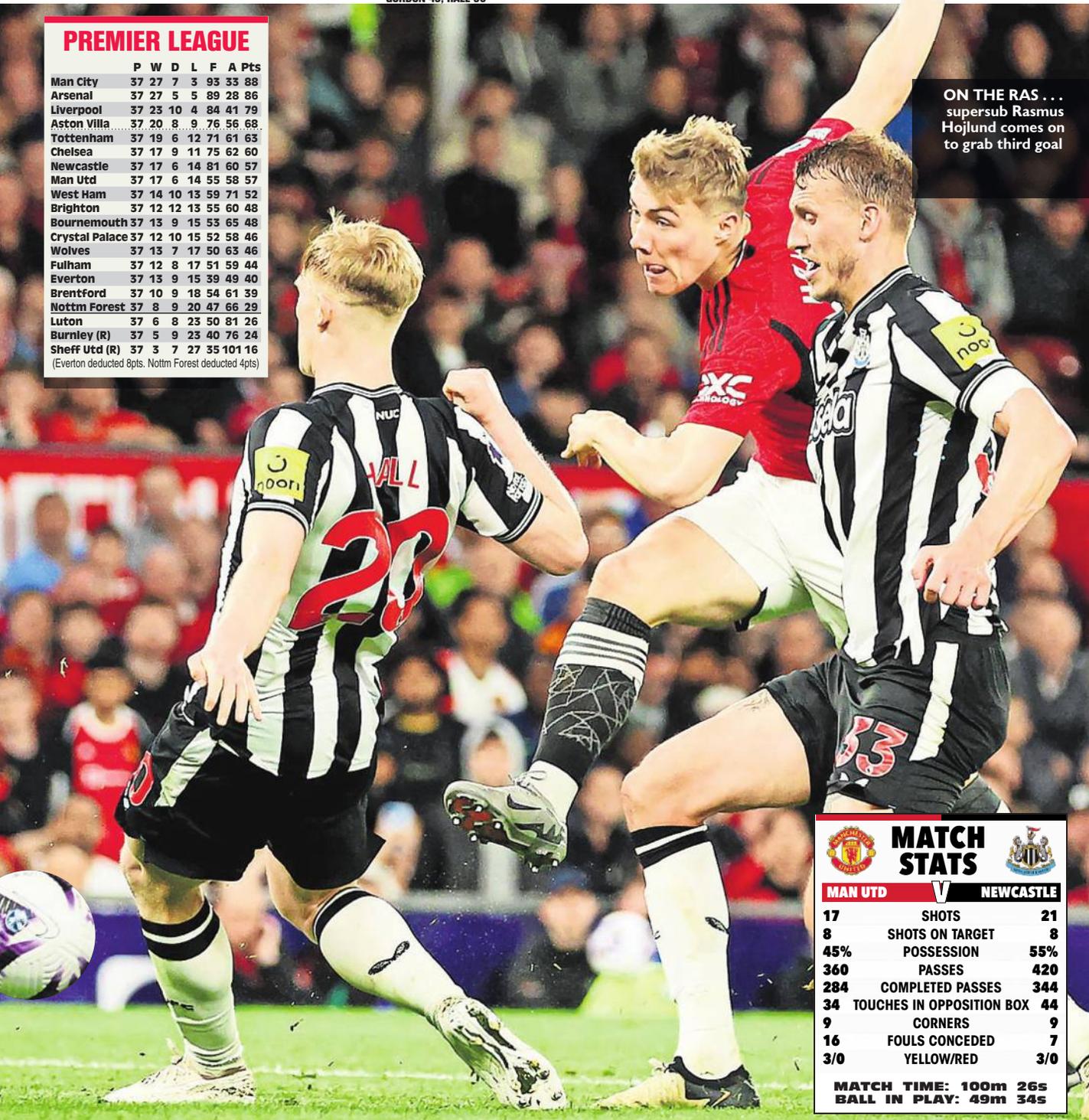
The England star, 26, reacted to abuse being hurled at him from pitch-side as he warmed up.

A video posted on social media showed Rashford breaking away from teammates and storming over to confront the supporter.

Christian Eriksen and Antony tried to stop him as he became embroiled in a heated verbal spat — inaudible in the video.

Rashford was named as a sub as he recovers from bruised ribs and a heel problem. He replaced Alejandro Garnacho for the final seven minutes.

ON THE RAS... supersub Rasmus Hojlund comes on to grab third goal



MATCH STATS	
MAN UTD	NEWCASTLE
17	21
8	8
45%	55%
360	420
284	344
34	44
9	9
16	7
3/0	3/0
MATCH TIME: 100m 26s	
BALL IN PLAY: 49m 34s	

CLEAR... Amrabat (right) fells Gordon



NEWCASTLE should clearly have been awarded a penalty.

Manchester United’s Sofyan Amrabat caught Anthony Gordon’s heel — you could see his ripped sock and red skin.

However, I can understand why referee Robert Jones did not initially award a spot-kick.

In real time it looked as though Casemiro made a clean challenge — but Amrabat had fouled Gordon from behind.

Is it clear and obvious? Had it been awarded by Jones then VAR would have stayed with the on-field decision. This could be used as



another example of the poor implementation of VAR, which has angered players and fans.

After the game, winger Gordon said: “I don’t understand what the point of VAR is. There’s constantly too many mistakes.”

“It’s a clear and obvious mistake. I don’t know how you can get it wrong, either get rid or get better.”



1 MANCHESTER UNITED have lost only one of their 29 Prem home games against Newcastle (W19 D9), going down 1-0 in Dec 2013.

58 ERIK TEN HAG’S side have conceded 58 Prem goals this season, their most in a single PL campaign. The Red Devils last shipped more in a season in 1978-79 (63).

3 ALL three of Kobbie Mainoo’s Prem goals have put Manchester United in the lead, with last night the first time he’s scored the opening goal of the game.

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VOTE ON VAR

Wolves ask rival clubs to scrap it

By MARTIN LIPTON

PREMIER LEAGUE clubs will be asked to vote on SCRAPPING VAR next month.

Wolves plan to formally ask the other 19 clubs to support their call for it to be axed next season. Last night, VAR stepped in to correctly rule out a Chelsea penalty.

Ref Michael Salisbury originally thought Facundo Buonanotte tripped Marc Cucurella before replays showed the Brighton midfielder got the ball.

But in the other Prem game, VAR did not step in to recommend a review when Newcastle's Anthony Gordon appeared to be fouled in the box by Manchester United's Sofyan Amrabat.

Wolves say that the system, in place for five years, is 'damaging the relationship between fans'

Turn to Page 47

BAD CALLS ... Ref Salisbury overturns his decision and (inset) Gordon's ankle scraped by Amrabat but pen is not given

MAN U 3 NEWCASTLE 2



Amad world

ERIK CUP RALLYING CRY AFTER THRILLER

AMAD DIALLO fired a rocket as Manchester United kept alive their faint hopes of reaching Europe.

Then boss Erik ten Hag gave a post-match rallying cry to fans ahead of the FA Cup final. Kobbie Mainoo, 19, netted the opener on a night when the Red Devils' youngsters starred. Anthony Gordon levelled for Newcastle before winger Diallo, 21, hit his first Prem goal. Sub

By MARTIN BLACKBURN

Rasmus Hojlund, also 21, struck a third before Lewis Hall's consolation. United go level on points with seventh-placed Toon.

Addressing the Old Trafford faithful, Ten Hag said: "As you know it wasn't an easy season, but one thing remained constant and that was the backing of you for the team."

"But this season is not over"

Turn to Page 50

It's Prem stars 'n stripes

By MARTIN LIPTON

PREM games in the USA are a big step closer after a Fifa U-turn.

World football chiefs had been fiercely against allowing domestic league matches to be played outside "home" territories.

Yet Fifa signalled a change of stance last month as they withdrew from a court case between US Soccer chiefs and event promoters Relevent Sports over the attempt to block the staging of LaLiga games on American soil.

Now, at a meeting in Bangkok, Fifa's ruling council approved the formation of a new working group expected to officially confirm backing for "out of territory matches".

And that opens up the prospect of US-owned Prem clubs pushing to play games abroad within a handful of years — and Uefa coming under pressure to stage the Champions League final in the USA as well. Fifa

Turn to Page 51

DREAM NIGHT ... Amad Diallo celebrates his first Prem goal

FURY'S £300M PURSE

PAGE 44

BLEW IS THE COLOUR... BRIGHTON...1 CHELSEA...2

PAGE 49

NO 1

9 770307 268746

Satire's no laughing matter

BALDING'S SECRET SERVICE DELIVERS



OAKS CONTENDER... Secret Satire wins under Oisín Murphy

THE Secret is well and truly out — Andrew Balding has an Oaks horse on his hands.

It might have come as a shock to most of us when Secret Satire powered clear at 22-1 to win the Musidora Stakes at York.

But bullish Balding and Oisín Murphy were quietly confident and it's now full-steam ahead to Epsom for the big one on May 31.

There was plenty to like about the performance, as she put clear daylight between herself and the field inside the final furlong.

The bookies were divided, though, with Coral cutting her into 20-1 from 100, though she is as short as 8-1 with Bet-Victor. She

By JACK KEENE at York

ran strongly through the line and found loads under pressure in the straight, which is more than can be said for the odds-on favourite Friendly Soul.

The 8-11 shot refused to settle for Kieran Shoemark and hung across to the stands rail in the straight, finishing last as John Gosden's indifferent start to the season continued.

Balding is flying, however, and speaking from Kingsclere he said: "I'm thrilled with that. We have always liked her, her work at home has been good at home so it's not a huge shock, I thought she'd be in the first three. She ran well in a good race at Sandown behind a couple of nice fillies with a penalty, so we knew she had a good level. Turn to Page 6



THE YORK DANTE FESTIVAL Favourite

Thursday, May 16, 2024

FREE WITH



in association with



KING OF STEEL's career looks over after he picked up a tendon injury on the gallops.

The horse was carrying out a routine piece of work in Newmarket when he was swiftly pulled-up. He has already left Varian's yard to undergo rehab.

The devastating news comes hot on the heels of a bust-up between trainer Roger Varian and owners AMO Racing which Sun-racing exclusively revealed on Tuesday.

AMO chief Kia Joorabchian had also taken a number of horses away from Varian's Carlburg

By CALLUM JAMIESON

Stables. Joorabchian is already looking at stallion opportunities for his star and it would be a surprise if Varian was to train for AMO again after this latest setback.

Varian (below, right) and the AMO team fell out over a €1million horse purchased at last week's breeze-up sales in Deauville, France.

Tensions have run high since with the location of King Of Steel's comeback run also strongly debated between camps.

And after yesterday's bitter blow for both, the partnership hangs by a thread with the majority of AMO's horses now in Lambourn with Dominic

Turn to Page 5

STEEL SHOCK

Roger and Kia rocked by big King injury as star ruled out



KING KO... King Of Steel suffers gallops injury at home



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Favourite HOME OF RACING WE'RE YOUR BEST

LINGFIELD TEMPLEGATE

- 5.52 ... Veer
6.22 Doubletrouble
6.52 Symbol Of Honour
7.22 ... Marcus
7.52 ... Cinque Verde
8.22 Profit And Loss

TOM PEPPER

- 5.52 ... Bella Grazia
6.22 Doubletrouble
6.52 Symbol Of Honour
7.22 So Obsessed
7.52 Nogo's Dream
8.22 Nordic Glory

TIC-TAC: Left-handed all-weather Polytrack of 1m 21.21 run-in. Turf course is left-handed undulating course of 1m 4f with a 3f run-in. Races up to 7f are run on the straight course. DRAW: High best on turf up to 7f. LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS (2019-2024): A Watson 62-327, R Hannan 61-492, A Balding 58-286, A Carroll 58-515. THIS SEASON: A Carroll 3, A Balding 8, C Johnston 5. TOP JOCKEYS WITH RIDES (2019-2024): J Mitchell 69-382, S M Levy 53-276, D Keenan 40-353, K O'Neill 40-493. THIS SEASON: J Mitchell 6, G Rooke 4, P Bradley 4. LONGEST TRAVELLER: Hound Dog (6.52) trained at Middleham, Round trip of 540 miles. FIRST RUN SINCE GOOD OP: None. LIVE ON SKY SPORTS RACING

GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM) (TURF); STANDARD (AW)

5.52 HANDICAP (Class 6); 3-y-o; winner £3,140; 1m 4f. Aw (10 runners)

- 1 (10) 67-7 VEER 36 (H) C Fellows 9-9 ... H Davies
2 (8) 62-5 SUN DANCER GIRL 18 A Balding 9-8 C Hutchinson (3)
3 (4) 73-12 PUBLICITY 15 (B+CD) J Butler 9-7 ... P Bradley
4 (1) 59-3 BELLA GRAZIA 15 Sir M Prescott 9-7 ... J Gilligan
5 (7) 6 HONRADO 16 (H) M Best 9-7 ... K Stott
6 (9) 0-98 RONNIE RAVEN 16 (B+) E Dunlop 9-4 ... J Darcy
7 (5) 470- HOUND DOG 188 C Johnston 9-3 ... F Norton
8 (7) 088- MARMALADE LADY 162 H Morrison 9-2 ... G Bass (3)
9 (6) 86-4 MISS DUBAI 28 D Coakley 8-11 ... G Rooke
10 (2) 066- PAGELONG 237 Murphy/Keady 8-9 ... D Keenan
Bella Grazia 89, Publicity 98, Hound Dog 97.

6.22 HANDICAP (6); winner £3,664; 2m. Aw (9 runners)

- 1 (4) 1136 DREAMS FLED AWAY 37 (B) F Brennan 5-9-13 K O'Neill
2 (2) 44/3 MYRIAD 14 (P) R Hughes 5-9-13 ... G Rooke
3 (6) 3136 ABRAAJ 19 (D) S Pearce 6-9-11 ... J Mitchell
4 (3) 732 DOLBYETROUBLE 44 J Butler 6-9-9 ... P Bradley
5 (1) 1211 YOUNG ENDLESS 17 (VD) L Morgan 5-8-7 ... S Kelly
6 (8) 5-07 SMITH 70 (V-CD) L Richards 8-9-6 ... W Carson
7 (7) 54-5 BASINIC 21 (D) E J-Houghton 5-9-6 O Carmichael (7)
8 (9) 903 SIMPLY ED 19 A West 4-9-3 ... S Kirrane
9 (5) 1732 MERRY MINISTER 14 (CD) C Johnston 4-9-1 ... Pearson
Young Endless 89, Doubletrouble 98, Merry Minister 97.

6.52 MAIDEN STAKES (4); 2-y-o; winner £5,211; 6f. Aw (8 runners)

- 1 (3) AFENTIKO P & O Cole 9-7 ... J Mitchell
2 (7) DARK THUNDERSTORM A Haynes 9-7 ... K O'Neill
3 (5) DIVIDEND Dr R Newland & J Insole 9-7 G Mangan (3)
4 (1) FEERAS A Watson 9-7 ... J Bryan
5 (4) HOFBLIND R Hannan 9-7 ... J Levey
6 (2) 65 SABRIMENTO 23 B Meehan 9-7 ... D Keenan
6 SYMBOL OF HONOUR 11 (BF) C Appleby 9-7 H Davies
8 (1) THE OUTLAW R Beckett 9-7 ... K Stott
Sabrimento 89, Symbol Of Honour 98.

7.22 HANDICAP (6); 3-y-o; winner £3,140; 5f. Turf. (11 runners)

- 1 (11) 1361 SO OBSESSED 19 (D) M Bott 9-9 ... B Winkie (5)
2 (10) 0423 PANNONICA 9 (D) J Levey 9-9 ... J Mitchell
3 (2) 679- BARNISNAE BOY 159 (H) A West 9-9 ... S Kirrane
4 (5) 9095 SIR BOLTON 17 (B-D) Murphy/Keady 9-8 T Fisher (3)
5 (3) 9-47 LA VERITE 18 R Cowell 9-8 ... J Mitchell
6 (7) 768- TOMSHALFISTER 189 (B+BP) R Cowell 9-8 H Davies
7 5343 IT'S SHOWTIME 10 J Butler 9-7 ... J Gilligan
8 (4) 075 MARCUS 16 C Wallis 9-2 ... P Bradley
9 (2) 2357 TEN O'CLOCK 56 G Harris 8-10 ... K O'Neill
10 (1) 8570 MAJOLICA 10 (P) S Hodgson 8-10 ... B Lewis (7)
11 (6) 00-6 LAMIOS PARK 86 M Murphy & M Keady 8-10 D Keenan
Pannonica 89, It's Showtime 98, So Obsessed 97.

7.52 HANDICAP (5); winner £4,187; 5f. Turf. (7 runners)

- 1 (4) 4-36 SKALLYWAG BAY 26 (D) R Hannan 4-9-10, S Levey
2 (7) 3-75 FAUSTUS 26 (V-CD) R Cowell 6-9-8 ... J Mitchell
3 (3) 327- NOGO'S DREAM 218 (BF,D) R Hughes 4-9-7 ... G Rooke
4 (2) 1175 BANG ON THE BELL 17 (BD) J Jenkins 5-9-5 E Greathart
5 (5) 1461 CINQUE VERDE 14 (D) A Carroll 4-9-3 J Doughty (7)
6 (1) 6253 THE DEFIANT 23 (P,T,D) L Dace 9-9-2, A Keelley (3)
7 (6) -983 SECRET HANDSHEIKH 26 (V,D) J Gallagher 8-8-13 D Keenan
The Defiant 89, Nogo's Dream 98, Cinque Verde 97.

5-2 Cinque Verde, 4 Nogo's Dream, 5 Bang On The Bell, 13-2 The Defiant, 7 Skallywag Bay, Secret Handsheik

Sun Form

SECRET HANDSHEIKH (8-6) 8-1 ran on, 3rd of 7 (btn 3/1) to A Conquistador (8-0) FAUSTUS (9-7) 15-2 on the lead, 5th (btn 5) SKALLYWAG BAY (9-8) 5-1 led until 100, 6th (btn 6) (7 ran) (Brighton 5f hcap) (4) £4,972 good.

NOGO'S DREAM (9-6) 11-4 fav kept on, 7th of 11 (btn 3/1) to Al Ameen (9-5) (Kempton 6f hcap) (5) £4,187 AW.

BANG ON THE BELL (9-10) 7-1 kept on, 5th of 6 (btn 3) to Antiphon (9-9) CINQUE VERDE (8-13) 7-2 effort 10 ft out, last (btn 5/1) (Windsor 5f hcap) (5) £4,397 good to soft.

CINQUE VERDE (9-4) 5-2 led 3/4 out, 1st Crimmon 9-4 (9-3) 1 (1) 6 ran (Lingfield 6f hcap) (6) £3,716 AW.

THE DEFIANT (8-1) 25-1 ran on one pace, 3rd of 12 (btn 3) to Night On Hand (8-8) (Epsom 5f hcap) (3) £9,020 good.

8.22 HANDICAP (6); winner £3,664; 6f. Turf. (11 runners)

- 1 (7) -911 DIAMOND DREAMER 17 (BD) P Channing 4-9-11 H Davies
2 (8) 5-32 PROFIT AND LOSS 31 (D) G Baker 5-9-9 ... A Keelley (3)
3 (6) -402 ZINA COLADA 12 (D) G Haragon 4-9-8 M Mortenson (7)
4 (3) 6266 NORDIC GLORY (D) M Atwater 5-9-5 ... W Carson
5 (10) 4586 COMEY LEADER 15 (S) & B West 4-9-4 ... L Kenley
6 (5) 482- MELLIS FLYER 23 (D) C Wallis 6-9-4 ... P Bradley
7 (9) 1629 ARLECCHINO'S SHIF 23 (CD) M Usher 5-9-3 ... G Rooke
8 (2) 2154 MISS MOONSHINE 17 (BD) S Millman 4-9-0 Searle (7)
9 (1) 8893 PABLO DEL PUEBLO 8 (D) S Whit 6-9-1 G Howarth (7)
10 (1) 4290 MORGANATE 26 (D) P Murphy 5-9-9 ... J Egan
11 (4) 047- CARRANITA 388 J J Perkins 4-9-9 ... E Greathart
Diamond Dreamer 4, Profit And Loss 98, Nordic Glory 97, 15-2 Miss Moonshine, Nordic Gl, Arlecchino's Gift.



TODAY'S ABC RUNNER CHECK: C-Clonmel, F-Fontwell, Li-Lingfield, Lm-Limerick, P-Perth,

Table listing various horse races and runners across different tracks, including names like A Okay 8.30C, Barba Queen 8.30C, Call Off The Dogs 7.40F, Dalvey 7.00C, Escapologist 8.10F, He's Gorgeous 8.30C, Judge Me Not 3.35Lm, Lord Church 3.05Lm, Morning Soldier 8.00C, Per Contra 5.20Y, etc.

ANCIENT WISDOM looks a clever bet in the £190,000 Dante (3.45 York).

He looked a superstar in the making when winning the Group 1 Futurity Trophy at Doncaster in October. Stepping up in distance should bring lots of improvement and he can put himself bang in the Derby picture here. Cavair Heights looks the main danger after an impressive win at Newmarket last time and he's proven over this trip. Al Musmak is another who could take a major step forward today for Roger Varian. He needs more to win but it wouldn't be a surprise to see God's Window run a lot better than Chester last time.

AL MUSMAK ***** AL a pal. He progressed well last season, winning on debut at Ascot before landing an impressive Listed win at Haydock in September. He left that form behind when chasing home Ghostwriter in the Group 2 Royal Lodge Stakes at Newmarket in September. He sees out a mile strongly so there's every chance that moving to middle-distances will bring improvement and he goes on any ground. He'll have to raise his game again but there's every chance he'll be able to for Roger Varian.

ANCIENT WISDOM ***** WISDOM a whizz. This son of superstar sire Dubawi hardly put a foot wrong last season. He won a couple of minor contests over 7f with ease before his sole defeat when a close third at Ascot in July. Trainer Charlie Appleby put him away for three months after that blip and he came back stronger when upped to a mile for the Autumn Stakes at Newmarket. He relished every yard of the longer trip to land a comprehensive success. That saw him sent off favourite for the Futurity at Doncaster in October where he put in another impressive effort when landing the win. He went from the front only to be headed piling the two-furlong pole. But he soon rallied and ended up winning with plenty left in the tank. That bodes well for stepping up in distance this season and the Dante has always been the plan for his three-year-old debut. He goes on any ground and it will be disappointing if he's not good enough.

CAMBRIDGE ** BRIDGE too far. He didn't look one of the leading lights in the Aidan O'Brien camp last season with a maiden win, his sole victory. He came back in the Craven at Newmarket last month where he tried to make all and was collared inside the final quarter-mile. He's bred to improve for this step up in distance and you



FOR COLOURS, SUNFORM AND TOP TIPS

SALISBURY ON TV: 2.30

GOING SOFT

DOM

Pinstickers' Ante Stakes



By STEVE MULLEN

never write off a runner from Ballydoyle. That said, he'll have to take a fair step forward to score in this stronger company and is surely playing for a place.

CAVIAR HEIGHTS ★★★★★

HIT the Heights. This son of Sea The Stars showed some promise last season when winning over a mile at Goodwood. He moved to Karl Burke over the winter and kicked off this season with a decent third ahead of impressive Lingfield Derby Trial winner Ambiente Friendly in the Fielden Stakes at Newmarket. He left that form behind when stepping up to this trip for a four-length success in a Listed contest at HQ 13 days ago. He showed an impressive turn of foot there and looked a strong stayer. Decent ground suits and he looks the main danger.

ECONOMICS ★★★

HOME in on Economics. William Haggas didn't run him until November last year when he was a promising fourth at Newmarket over an inadequate seven furlongs. He enjoyed the mile much better when scooting on comeback at Newbury last month. That was only a maiden so he'll have to improve in this company but stepping up in trip looks a wise move and he could hit the frame.

GOD'S WINDOW ★★★

WINDOW of opportunity. He was a good third in the Futurity Stakes last season and seems to have been written off after he clearly hated Chester when last time. It's true he has plenty to prove after that poor run but this more conventional track should suit and it wouldn't be a shock to see him finish a lot closer here.

WAR ROOMS ★

WAR in a battle. He won on debut at Doncaster as a juvenile before coming up short in Listed company back on Town Moor. He showed very little when sixth in the Sandown Classic Trial over this trip and appears to have a mountain to climb.

TOP TRAINER... Charlie Appleby

S-Salisbury, Y-York

San Martino 8.00C	Springboard 7.00C	Trixi 7.30C
Sapphire Seas 3.15V	Squealer 2.15V	Trois Blancs 3.30S
Sara Valentina 1.30Lm	St John's Road 4.20P	Turing Test 7.30C
Surfied 6.40F	Stateofmindening 5.30C	Tyler 3.35P
Scar Bridge 7.30C	Statuano 3.20P	Two Mile House 6.30C
Seaside 3.50P	Storford Lady 7.30C	Victory Star 6.30C
Seattle 4.45F	Stormlong 7.30C	Vocho 1.50P
Secretaries Of Stone 5.30C	Stones End 5.30C	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Secret Handshakes 7.52L	Stylisht Recruit 1.50P	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Shalita Asker 2.15V	Subsequent 4.00S	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Shantay 7.30C	Sword Of Fate 4.20P	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Shantou Lucky 4.20P	Symbol Of Honour 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Shantou Point 5.30C	Symbol Of Light 1.45V	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Shawna 4.00S	Tango Sunset 4.25P	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Shawna 2.05Lm	Tara II 6.40F	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
She's A Fine Wine 8.00C	Taricaf 4.45V	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Shirebrook 6.30C	Teagarden Jazz 7.00C	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Short Change 1.30Lm	Tees Spirit 2.15V	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Silver Hill Flyer 3.80F	Temptation Time 6.30C	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Simply Ed 6.22L	Ten O'Clock 7.22L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Sir Bolton 7.22L	That's About Right 7.00C	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Sirene Success 2.35Lm	That's Me Finished 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Sluggish 5.50P	The Defiant 7.22L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Smiff 6.22L	The Goat 2.30S	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Southern Point 5.30C	The Happy Chapati 8.10F	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Spanish Sain 2.20P	The Jeweller's Pet 2.20P	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Spartan Arrow 2.15V	The Mass Path 7.00C	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Spartan Warrior 4.38Lm	The Outlaw 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Special Predictor 5.02S	The Outlaw 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Springer 1.30Lm	The Outlaw 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Solid Silver 4.32S	The Outlaw 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Solway Molly 2.50P	The Outlaw 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Sommelier 4.15V	The Outlaw 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
South Of Spain 4.05Lm	The Outlaw 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
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South Of Spain 4.05Lm	The Outlaw 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Southern Point 5.30C	The Outlaw 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Spanish Sain 2.20P	The Outlaw 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Spartan Arrow 2.15V	The Outlaw 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Spartan Warrior 4.38Lm	The Outlaw 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Springer 1.30Lm	The Outlaw 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Solid Silver 4.32S	The Outlaw 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Solway Molly 2.50P	The Outlaw 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
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South Of Spain 4.05Lm	The Outlaw 6.52L	Unbreak My Heart 4.15V
Southern Point 5.30C	The Outlaw 6.52L	

DAY TWO OF YORKKON LIVE: 2.15, 2.45, 3.15, 3.45

TEMPLEGATE

- 2.15..... Looking For Lynda
- 2.45..... Point Lynas
- 3.15..... Bluestocking
- 3.45..... Ancient Wisdom (nb)
- 4.15..... Big Evs
- 4.45..... Andesite
- 5.20..... WHISKEY PETE (nap)

TOM PEPPER

- 2.15..... ALLIGATOR ALLEY (nap)
- 2.45..... Metal Merchant
- 3.15..... Free Wind
- 3.45..... Ancient Wisdom
- 4.15..... Big Evs
- 4.45..... Andesite
- 5.20..... Cool Legend

TEMPLEGATE'S TRIO: Whiskey Pete and Ancient Wisdom (double) with Point Lynas (all York).

TOM PEPPER'S DOUBLE: Alligator Alley (York) and Ravenscraig Castle (Perth). SUNRATINGS MAP: LONDON CITY (5.20 York). SIRIUS, Sun On Sunday, nap: CAVIAR HEIGHTS (3.45 York).

TRACKFAX...

TIC-TAC: Left-handed, U-shaped track of 2m, 5f run-in. Races of 71 start on a spur. DRAW: Low best on straight track, especially when soft. FAVOURITES: (2019-2024): 176 have won out of 647 races (27%). At the corresponding meetings, 41 have won out of 163 races (25%). JACKPOT: 1-6. LIVE ON RACING TV

HOT 'N NOT

TRAINERS with best record in last 14 days: J Channon 7 winners from 23 runners; C Hills 7 from 24; P O'Brien 10 from 39; R Beckett 6 from 28; D O'Meara 9 from 42; C Appleby 6 from 34; R Varian 6 from 35; R Fahey 5 from 30.

JOCKEYS with best record in last 14 days: D Nolan 7 wins from 28 rides; J Watson 5 from 22; O Murphy 14 from 64; W Buick 9 from 44; R Ryan 10 from 50; James Doyle 6 from 31; D Tudhope 6 from 36; T Marquand 8 from 49.

TRAINERS who have had the most runners since last win: Mrs A Duffield 43; N Tinkler 22.

JOCKEYS who have had the most rides since last win: J Hart 30; J Crowley 20; O Orr 17; Fanning 16.

TRAINER TRACE

FIRST RACE FOR NEW YARD: 4.15 Kyllan K R Burke to A Watson.

RACEFAX: J Gosden won the 3.15 in 2019, 2019 & 2023 and the 3.45 in 2015, 2016 & 2018. T Easterby won the 2.15 in 2019 & 2021.

LONGEST TRAVELLERS: Grey's Monument (2.45), Bluestocking (3.15), Mr Chaplin (4.45), Whiskey Pete (5.20) trained by R Beckett, Kington Down, round trip of 502 miles; Novus (3.15) trained by G & J Moore, Horsham, round trip of 458 miles; Per Contra (5.20), O Sangster, Marlborough, round trip 424 miles.

IN THE MONEY

MONEY TALKS: Cool Legend (5.20) opened 7-2, won at 9-4; One Night Stand (2.15) opened 10-1, unplaced at 11-2; Economics (3.45) opened 5-6, won at 4-6; Palace Green (5.20) opened 9-4, won at 7-4; Clarendon House (2.15) opened 9-2, unplaced at 7-2.

TOP TRAINERS

2019-2024 W Haggas 38-207, R Fahey 30-449, D O'Meara 27-388, J & T Gosden 26-172, T Easterby 26-487, K Ryan 23-294, M Dods 22-160, K R Burke 20-185, R Beckett 18-116, N Tinkler 13-171.

TOP JOCKEYS

2019-2024 D Tudhope 34-290, T Marquand 25-177, R L Moore 19-144, W Buick 18-134, D Allan 16-199, J Crowley 14-93, O Murphy 14-124, J Hart 13-159, C Lee 12-89, James Doyle 12-84.

TOP EARNERS

4.15 Big Evs£613,998
2.15 Equilateral£551,686
3.15 Free Wind£415,061
2.15 Copper Knight£396,117
2.15 Areccio£361,590
2.15 Alligator Alley£309,354

UNDER ORDERS

SEVEN-DAY WINNERS: None. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None. WISDOMED FIRST TIME: 2.15 Shalaa Asker; 4.15 Dante Vintage. FIRST RUN SINCE: Blue For You (2.45), Symbol Of Light (2.45). WEIGHTWATCHER: 2.15 Copper Knight (won off 97, down 16lb to 81); 2.45 Crufty Turn (won off 91, down 3lb to 88). JOB JOCKEY: W Buick rides Sapphire Seas (3.15), Ancient Wisdom (3.45) for C Appleby, 686 from 2331, 29%. C Planas rides Good Earth (2.15) for M Herrington, 5 from 19, 26%. J Crowley rides War Rooms (3.45) for Owen Burrows, 99 from 385, 26%. James Doyle rides Metal Merchant (2.45), Caernarfon (3.15) for J Channon, 3 from 12, 25%. T Marquand rides Al Mubhir (2.45), Economics (3.45), Cool Legend (5.20) for W Haggas, 304 from 1335, 23%. R Ryan rides Grey's Monument (4.45), Bluestocking (3.15), Mr Chaplin (4.45), Whiskey Pete (5.20) for R Beckett, 113 from 494, 23%.

BIG-RACE TRENDS

Yr	6	Ran	Winner	Age	Jockey	Trainer	SP	Wt	OR	Drw	Days	Form
23	GF	11	THE FOXES	3	Murphy, O	Balding, A M	6/1	9-2	11	2	28	49112
22	GD	6	DESERT CROWN	3	Kingscote, R	Stoute, S R M	7/2	9-2	10	3	190	1
21	GD	10	HURRICANE LANE	3	Buick, W	Appleby, C	5/1	9-0	99	11	27	11
20	GS	6	THUNDEROUS	3	Norton, F	Johnston, M	3/2	9-0	103	2	12	1112
19	GF	8	TELECASTER	3	Murphy, O	Morrison, H	7/1	9-0	0	5	31	21
18	GF	9	ROARING LION	3	Murphy, O	Gosden, J	3/1	9-0	116	4	12	11235
17	GS	10	PERMIAN	3	Norton, F	Johnston, M	10/1	9-0	106	7	12	1153321
16	GF	12	WINGS OF DESIRE	3	Detlori, L	Gosden, J	9/1	9-0	88	9	19	31
15	GD	7	GOLDEN HORN	3	Buick, W	Gosden, J	4/1	9-0	11	2	29	11
14	GS	6	THE GREY GATSBY	3	Moore, Ryan	Ryan, K A	9/1	9-0	108	6	12	122720
13	GD	8	LIBERTARIAN	3	Buick, W	Burke, K	33/1	9-0	94	4	20	14
12	GD	7	BONFIRE	3	Fortune, J	Balding, A M	3/1	9-0	108	4	232	1

THERE'S nothing fishy about CAVIAR HEIGHTS in the Dante.

Today's ten-furlong York feature is still the best trial for the Derby and it's provided six winners this century along with Benny The Dip in 1997.

So keep a close eye at Epsom on horses who do well in this Knavesmire Group 2 test.

There are some decent trends to point the way to the winner this afternoon.

The biggest one being to stick with a horse that was either first or second last time.

Eight of the past ten Dante winners could tick that box and they had all won at least once already in their career.

It hasn't been a great race for favourites with only two obliging in the past decade.

Ten of the past 12 Dante winners had been on the track within a month or so and most are already in three figures on the official ratings.

Let's have a closer look at this afternoon's line-up when applying the trends and how

we have come to our decision: **AL MUSMAK**: Off for 229 days but was second last time and is 108 on the official ratings.

ANCIENT WISDOM: Been off 201 days and has the bad record of favourites but is 115 on OR and won last time.

CAMBRIDGE: Outside the first two last time.

CAVIAR HEIGHTS: Won last time, has had a recent run, not favourite.

ECONOMICS: Won last time, has had a run but has not got an official rating.

GOD'S WIDOW: Ticks a lot of boxes but was fourth last time.

WAR ROOMS: Was sixth last time and 98 on ratings.

VERDICT: CAVIAR HEIGHTS doesn't have any negatives and the Karl Burke yard has won this race before. **Al Musmak** goes close to fitting the bill too if we are swerving the short-price Godolphin favourite **Ancient Wisdom**.

2.15 LINDUM YORK HANDICAP (Class 2) value to the winner £25,770; 5f (19 runners)

1 0121-7 **KORKER 37 (BF,CD)**
(4) K Burke 5-10-0 Clifford Lee 96
Runs: 26 Wins: 6 (2F,2S,GS,G) Places: 8 £133,148
Best form over this trip, track suits, well rounded, looks high in weights

2 0105-0 **EQUILATERAL 111 (CD)**
(7) C Hills 9-9-13 non-runner 97
Runs: 41 Wins: 8 (4F,A,GS,2G) Places: 7 £551,686
Won big heap at Ebor meeting, only a lb higher, ruled out yesterday

3 11-434 **CLARENDON HOUSE 13 (D)**
(12) R Cowell 6-9-12 Tom Marquand 96
Runs: 23 Wins: 7 (2A,4F,G) Places: 5 £122,280
Best recent form on the sand, trip suits, dropped to last winning mark

4 209-18 **TEES SPIRIT 12 (D)**
(2) A Nicholls 6-9-6 Mia Nicholls 5 96
Runs: 28 Wins: 7 (F,6G) Places: 6 £132,892
Outclassed in G3 last time, likes this trip, any ground, 8lb above last win

5 927-28 **SQUEALER 90 (CD)**
(18) N Tinkler 4-9-2 Rowan Scott 90
Runs: 16 Wins: 3 (G) Places: 4 £47,600
Bits of winter form in Bahrain, trip and track suit, needs his best form

6 9333-8 **MARINE WAVE 25 (D)**
(9) R Fahey 4-9-0 Oisín Orr 97
Runs: 11 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 4 £44,826
Rusty comeback latest, solid over this trip, any ground, place player

7 48-514 **JM JUNGLE 25 (D)**
(16) J & S Quinn 4-9-0 Jason Hart 94
Runs: 23 Wins: 4 (F,2G) Places: 7 £194,584
Solid comeback run, best over this trip, looks on a fair handicap mark

8 1051- **SPARTAN ARROW 328 (T;D)**
(11) S & E Cristof 4-8-13 Callum Shepherd 94
Runs: 6 Wins: 2 (F,G) Places: 1 £13,228
Good form before long break, trip suits, up weights, entitled to need it

9 1-8555 **BERGERAC 48 (B;CD)**
(14) K Ryan 6-8-12 Tom Eaves 85
Runs: 36 Wins: 6 (3F,2A,G) Places: 11 £126,435
Good course record, fair form on AW, any ground, may nick a place

10 511809 **ONE NIGHT STAND 23 (BF,D)**
(19) S Dixon 7-8-11 Hollie Doyle 90
Runs: 48 Wins: 9 (F,7A,G) Places: 3 £121,051
Front-runner, poor at Epsom last time, best form on the all-weather

11 307-24 **ARECCIO 12 (B;BF,D)**
(8) D Carroll 9-8-11 Zak Wheatley 5 97
Runs: 7 Wins: 6 (2S,F,G) Places: 22 £361,590
Knocking on the door, likes this trip, any ground, up in class here

12 34-686 **ALLIGATOR ALLEY 48 (T,V;CD)**
(13) D O'Meara 7-8-10 Jason Watson 99
Runs: 44 Wins: 7 (3F,4A) Places: 9 £309,354
Sixth in this last year, 11lb lower now, good run last time, may figure

13 27-623 **LOOKING FOR LYNDA 19 (P;CD)**
(10) K Burke 4-8-8 Sam James 95
Runs: 22 Wins: 3 (G) Places: 6 £71,286
Two good runs this season, trip and track suit, down the weights

14 217-36 **WEN MOON 19 (CD)**
(3) B Haslam 4-8-8 Andrew Mullen 97
Runs: 15 Wins: 3 (2S,G) Places: 4 £55,499
Won on last run here, best on soft, still fair mark, not out of this

15 100-00 **GOOD EARTH 19 (C,D)**
(6) M Herrington 7-8-8 Connor Planas (3) 95
Runs: 67 Wins: 11 (5S,F,A,GS,3G) Places: 20 £152,721
Below last winning mark but recent runs poor, this looks a tough ask

16 254700 **MONDAMEJ 23 (D)**
(5) A Brittain 7-8-2 Cam Hardie 97
Runs: 56 Wins: 6 (3F,3A) Places: 13 £177,165
Poor on turf return after modest winter on AW, others preferred here

17 36-456 **SHALAA ASKER 18 (T,V;*)D**
(15) A Keatley 6-8-2 Sean D Bowen 5 96
Runs: 51 Wins: 7 (6A,G) Places: 13 £93,551
Solid form on AW without winning, needs first-time visit to help

18 656-72 **COPPER KNIGHT 7 (P,T;CD)**
(1) T Easterby 10-8-2 Duran Fentiman 94
Runs: 92 Wins: 14 (2S,2F,A,GS,6G) Places: 16 £396,117
Won in 2019 and 2021, ran cracker at Chester, can't rule out a place

19 830-80 **COUNT D'ORSAY 6 (P;D)**
(17) T Easterby 8-8-2 Joe Fanning 94
Runs: 77 Wins: 7 (3S,3GS,G) Places: 17 £188,031
Bits and pieces of form at low levels but needs a lot more for this

BETTING: 5 Clarendon House, 6 Korker, 8 Areccio, Spartan Arrow, 10 Marine Wave, 12 Looking For Lynda, Shalaa Asker, 14 Copper Knight, 16 JM Jungle, Alligator Alley, 16 Wen Moon, 20 Bergerac, Tees Spirit, One Night Stand, 33 Squealer, Count D'Orsay

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 0-10-0
2023: Regional 5-9-5, C Rodriguez 5-1 (E Bethell), dr 3, 13 ran.

Sunracing FORM

KORKER (8-13) 11-10 fav pushed along 2f out, kept on past beaten horses final furlong, held, 7th of 13 (bt 6/1) to Vicious Harry (9-2) (Deaווille 5f Listed 222,609 heavy).

CLARENDON HOUSE (9-6) 7-2 every chance halfway, ridden 1f out, no extra, 4th of 13 (bt 2/1) to Star Of Mystery (6-5) EQUILATERAL (9-6) 4-1 held up near rear, ridden 2f out, no progress, 11th (bt 10/1) (13 ran) (Meydan 5f Grp 2 £115,24 good).

TEES SPIRIT (9-1) 14-1 quickly away at soon, led in centre, headed 1f out, weakened, last of 8 (bt 4/1) (13 ran) to Seven Questions (9-0) (Newmarket 5f Grp 3 (1) £48,204 good).

JM JUNGLE (9-1) 10-3 raced far side, prominent, smooth headway to lead under 2f out, shaken up and ran on well if out, comfortably bt Thunder Moon (9-1) 1/4 SQUEALER (9-6) 6-1 ridden 2f out, 8th (bt 6/1) (17 ran) (Bahrain 5f Hcap £100,000 good).

ARECCIO (8-2) 20-1 chased leaders, challenged 1f out, stayed on, held finish, bt hd by Equality (9f) JM JUNGLE (9-0) 7-1 in touch, edged 2f out, edged left final furlong, one pace, 4th (bt 11/4) MARINE WAVE (9-2) 13-2 raced, switched 1f out, some late headway, never dangerous, 8th (bt 5/1) (14 ran) (Musselfburgh 5f Hcap £28,856 good to soft).

SPARTAN ARROW (9-10) 15-8 fav made all, clear if out, ridden run-in stayed on well, unchallenged, bt Swift Asset (9-5) 1/4 (7 ran) (Goodwood 5f Hcap (4) £6,621 good).

BERGERAC (8-9) 50-1 led, ridden 2f out, headed 1f out, stayed on same pace inside final furlong, 5th of 14 (bt 4/1) to Fifthvansandstone (9-0) (Newcastle 6f Grp 2 £77,310 AW).

LOOKING FOR LYNDA (9-4) 6-1 handy, pressed leader 2f out, ridden and every chance 1f out, drifted left, held, 1/4 by Night On Earth (9-8) ONE NIGHT STAND (9-1) 11-2 fav near rear, pushed along 2f out, no progress, 9th (bt 6/1) MONDAMEJ (9-1) 10-1 always rear, 11th (bt 7/1) (12 ran) (Epsom 5f Hcap (3) £9,020 good).

ARECCIO (9-12) 4-1 fav every chance 1f out, no extra finish, 4th of 13 (bt 3/1) to Star Of Lady M (9-5) (Thirsk 5f Hcap £10,000 good to soft).

ALLIGATOR ALLEY (9-9) 22-1 mid-division, pushed along 1f out, kept on, 6th of 12 (bt 7/1) to Bosh (9-9) (Lingfield 8f Hcap (9) £23,501 AW).

LOOKING FOR LYNDA (6-11) 4-1 led 1f out, headed 10 yards out, no extra, 3rd of 9 (bt 2) to Glorious Angel (8-3) WEN MOON (9-0) 16-5 tracked leaders, pushed along 1f out, weakened inside last, 6th (bt 4/1) (Ripon 5f Hcap (2) £15,462 soft).

GOOD EARTH (9-7) 40-1 tracked leader, pushed along 2f out, 12th of 16 (bt 15/1) to Magical Spirit (9-9) (Doncaster 6f Hcap (3) £9,936 soft).

COPPER KNIGHT (8-11) 12-1 led final furlong, 11th of 12 (bt 9/1) to Mattice (9-9) (Ripon 5f Hcap (5) £4,711 good).

TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

LOOKING FOR LYNDA comes here after two good runs at Epsom and Ripon over this trip. He has winning form over this trip and track and is still on a 133 mark. He is versatile groundwise and should go close. **Alligator Alley** ran well in a hot contest at the Ebor meeting race and has come down the weights. He looks a solid each-way option. **Clarendon House** ran a cracker on comeback at Goodwood when beaten just over a length. He's dropped to his last winning mark and will be competitive.

Top weight **Korker** likes York and will be fitter for his comeback run in France last time where he had trouble in running. He goes on any ground and likes this trip. **JM Jungle** was a solid fourth on his UK return at Musselburgh and is off his last winning mark. He'll need a personal best to take this but he's only four and there should be more to come. **Copper Knight** has won this twice and went well for a long way at Chester. It's asking a lot to win but he could be thereabouts at a price despite his advancing years. **Areccio** is a regular in races like this and it wouldn't be a shock to see him make the extended places on offer with several bookies. **Marine Wave** will be better for his comeback run and is another in the picture at a big price.

2.15

2.45 OAKMERE HOMES HAMBLETON HANDICAP (2); winner £38,655; 1m (20 runners)

1 8231-3 **GREY'S MONUMENT 54 (B;CD)**
(14) R Beckett 4-9-12 Rossa Ryan 94
Runs: 12 Wins: 3 (A,2GS) Places: 3 £84,527
Consistent over this trip, Listed winner at best, track suits, up weights

2 3936-2 **AL MUBHIR 19 (T;BF,D)**
(1) W Haggas 5-9-11 Tom Marquand 97
Runs: 16 Wins: 3 (2S,G) Places: 3 £82,765
Just pipped on comeback, trip suits on soft, chance if ground eases

3 502-57 **NORTHERN EXPRESS 12 (C,D)**
(9) M Dods 6-9-6 Paul Mulrennan 98
Runs: 31 Wins: 6 (2S,2F,2G) Places: 10 £145,484
Saves his best for York but form has been patchy, needs his A-game

4 22024- **POINT LYNAS 250 (H;D)**
(5) E Bethell 5-9-5 Callum Rodriguez 97
Runs: 21 Wins: 3 (F,A,G) Places: 8 £117,729
Ran a cracker at the Ebor meeting, trip ideal, yard can get them fit

5 00070- **BLUE FOR YOU 208 (T,V;CD)**
(15) D O'Meara 6-9-6 Daniel Tudhope 96
Runs: 23 Wins: 4 (S,GS,2G) Places: 2 £153,730
Had wind up, largely poor last season, needs help from handicapper

6 4-788 **POPEDRO 12 (V;D)**
(10) D O'Meara 8-9-4 Jason Watson 95
Runs: 48 Wins: 8 (S,2F,GS,3G) Places: 11 £220,194
Back to last winning mark, trip ideal, loves a lot of pace, shortlisted

7 1797-5 **MIRSKY 12 (D)**
(2) D O'Meara 5-9-4 David Nolan 95
Runs: 12 Wins: 4 (S,G) Places: 5 £80,614
Good comeback run, trip fine, best on soft ground, can outrun odds

8 6210-1 **METAL MERCHANT 26 (D)**
(19) J Channon 4-9-2 James Doyle 99
Runs: 16 Wins: 4 (A,GS,2G) Places: 3 £84,194
Won in big fields lately, could improve past 5lb rise, trip ideal, yard

9 181-30 **NAVIGIO 26 (D)**
(13) J Horton 5-9-1 Ryan Moore 98
Runs: 18 Wins: 3 (2S) Places: 8 £65,112
Solid in lesser races in Ireland, trip suits, Moore booking catches eye

10 06-022 **DUTCH DECOY 12 (D)**
(6) C Johnston 7-9-0 Joe Fanning 97
Runs: 60 Wins: 9 (4F,3A,GS,G) Places: 15 £207,512
Two cracking runs at HQ, stays well, any ground, each-way chances

11 9327-0 **LA TRINIDAD 12 (CD)**
(8) R Fell & S Murray 7-8-13 Oisín Murphy 97
Runs: 35 Wins: 5 (3F,2G) Places: 8 £71,559
Rusty on comeback, trip and track ideal, still 8lb above last win

12 2616-0 **CATCH THE PADDY 28 (P;C)**
(18) K Ryan 4-8-12 Jamie Spencer 97
Runs: 13 Wins: 3 (F) Places: 4 £66,383
Solid form here but prefers 7f, all wins on quick ground, bit to find

13 53-226 **SYMBOL OF LIGHT 48 (H;*)P;*)D**
(16) J Camacho 5-8-12 Ryan Sexton 85
Runs: 10 Wins: 3 (3A)

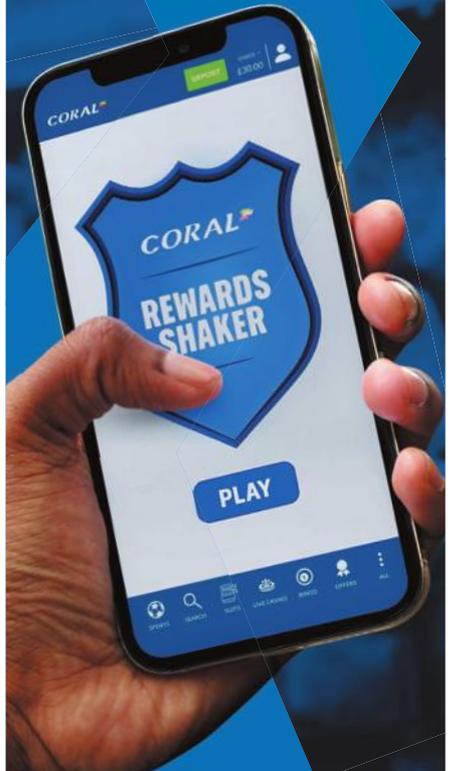
3 & 4.15

GOING: GOOD



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WE'RE HERE FOR IT

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TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

BLUESTOCKING took a little while to get going last season but ran crackers when second in the Irish and Yorkshire Oaks before finishing with a neck second in the Champion Fillies and Mares at Ascot in October. She should have won really but was given an easy lead that she couldn't quite reel in. Being hampered turning in didn't help either. She was still a little green if anything and will improve further as a four-year-old. **Free Wind** came back from 10 months off to win this race 12 months ago and was beaten in a photo for the Yorkshire Oaks just ahead of the tip. She clearly loves it here and goes well fresh so today could be her best chance of a win this season even if Frankie Dettori is no longer around to ride her. **Sapphire Seas** progressed nicely last season, winning a couple of minor contests before landing a Yarmouth Listed race over this trip. She ran well in Dubai last time in February but needs more progression to topple the big two. Sir Michael Stoute has been patient with **Infinite Cosmos** who has had just four runs so far. She looks like a longer trip would suit and she's best watched on comeback.

3.15

AL BASTI DANTE STAKES (GROUP 2) 3-Y-O; winner £108,997; 1m 2f (7 runners)

- 1 1212- **AL MUSMAK** 229
Runs: 4 Wins: 2 (GS,G) Places: 2 £76,055
Went close in Newmarket Gr2, longer trip should suit, won't be far away
 - 2 1131- **ANCIENT WISDOM** 201
Runs: 5 Wins: 4 (F,2S,G) Places: 1 £176,702
Gr1 Futurity winner, bred for this trip, any ground, could be a superstar
 - 3 312-4 **CAMBRIDGE** 28
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 (F) Places: 2 £20,575
Held in two Gr3s including on comeback, needs to improve for this
 - 4 219-31 **CAVIAR HEIGHTS** 13 (D)
Runs: 6 Wins: 2 (GS) Places: 2 £56,128
Improved to win Listed latest, proven stayer, each-way prospects
 - 5 4-1 **ECONOMICS** 26
Runs: 2 Wins: 1 (GS) Places: 2 £11,307
Easy winner of minor race latest, will improve, stiff rise in class here
 - 6 13-14 **GOD'S WINDOW** 7
Runs: 4 Wins: 2 (S) Places: 1 £60,956
Below par in Dee Stakes, may prefer this track, don't write him off yet
 - 7 13-6 **WAR ROOMS** 20
Runs: 3 Wins: 1 (S) Places: 2 £11,276
Held in Sandown Trial on return, needs to find plenty to figure here
- BETTING:** 11-10 Ancient Wisdom, 4 Al Musmak, 5 Caviar Heights, 8 Cambridge, 12 Economics, 14 God's Window, 20 War Rooms
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2 3 4-2 3
2023: The Foxes 9-2, O Murphy 6-1 (A Balding), dr 2, 11 ran.

Sunracing FORM

AL MUSMAK (9-2) 7-1 raced centre in group of three, pushed along and led 2f out, ridden and headed final furlong, stayed on same pace, no chance with winner, b/n 1/4 by Ghostwriter (9-2) **CAVIAR HEIGHTS** (9-2) 14-1 raced in group near side, close 3rd, went 2nd in group 3f out until 2f out, faded quickly, last (b/n 7/4) (9 ran) (Newmarket 1m Grp 2 £70,888 good to firm). **ANCIENT WISDOM** (9-2) 5-4 fav led, pushed along and headed 2f out, rallied to lead again final furlong, ridden and ran on, bt Devil's Point (9-3) 1/4 **GOD'S WINDOW** (9-3) 8-1 slowly away in touch, pushed along 2f out, switched 1f out, ridden and stayed on finish, 3rd (b/n 2) (7 ran) (Doncaster 1m Grp 1 £127,576 heavy). **CAMBRIDGE** (9-2) 5-1 led centre in group, headed final 2f, faded, 4th of 7 (b/n 6/4) to Haatem (9-2) (Newmarket 1m Grp 3 £48,204 good). **CAVIAR HEIGHTS** (9-2) 7-1 close 3rd, led 2f out, ridden clear 1f out, stayed on strongly, 2nd (b/n 5/4) (8 ran) (2) 4 (5 ran) (Newmarket 1/2m Listed (1) £31,190 good). **ECONOMICS** (9-7) 4-6 fav tracked leader centre, pushed along to lead group 2f out, chased near side leader, led final furlong, bt Under Siege (9-7) 1/4 (17 ran) (Newbury 1m (m) £40 good to soft). **GOD'S WINDOW** (9-2) 10-3 slow into stride, soon recovered and close up in 4th, pushed along 3f out, ridden over 1f out, never a factor, last of (b/n 6) (1) to Capulet (9-2) (Chester 1/2m Listed (1) £56,020 good). **WAR ROOMS** (9-3) 11-2 held up in 5th, pushed along 2f out, ridden entering final 2f, soon weakened, 6th of 8 (b/n 8) to Arabian Crown (9-3) (Sandown 1/2m Grp 3 (1) £48,204 good to soft).

TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

ANCIENT WISDOM ended last season by winning the Group 1 Futurity Stakes at Doncaster in October. He went from the front under William Buick and looked beaten when headed only to rally and end up winning comfortably. That bodes well for this step up in distance and this son of Dubawi can put himself in the Derby picture by taking this. **Al Musmak** did well last season with two good Listed efforts at Ascot and Haydock before going close in the Royal Lodge at Newmarket. He's another who stayed the mile strongly and should get home over this distance. **God's Window** never went a yard in the Dee Stakes at Chester last time where the track may not have suited. He wasn't helped by missing the kick and he couldn't get into the race. He will have to do a lot better to win this but should run a lot better on this faster track. **Caviar Heights** relished the step up to this trip when winning easily at Newmarket earlier this month. He went from the front there and is likely to try the same tactics against this stronger opposition. **Cambridge** was below par in the Craven last time and will need this longer trip to conjure up improvement.

3.45

EACH-WAY THIEF

LOOKING FOR LYNDA (2.15 York) likes the Knavesmire and has run twice over this trip already this season. He is on a fair mark so have an each-way double with **TOKYO BAY** (5.20 York) who had plenty in hand at Ripon and can improve now handicapping.

4.15 WESTOW STAKES (LISTED) (1) 3-Y-O; value to the winner £39,697; 5f (7 runners)

- 1 1101- **BIG EVS** 195 (D)
Runs: 6 Wins: 4 (2S,F,G) Places: 1 £613,998
Breeders' Cup winner, trip ideal, any going, much the strongest form
 - 2 3122-6 **DARK VINTAGE** 20 (V*;D)
Runs: 5 Wins: 1 (G) Places: 2 £138,180
Ex-Wesley Ward in US, rusty UK debut latest, should have more to come
 - 3 11365- **KYLIAN** 244 (D)
Runs: 7 Wins: 2 (A,G) Places: 2 £55,045
Listed winner over this trip, any ground, chance on debut for new yard
 - 4 1854- **MON NA SLIEVE** 237 (CD)
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 (G) Places: 2 £20,151
Won maiden here on debut, didn't build on it, needs to show more
 - 5 411-29 **SOMMELIER** 48 (P*)
Runs: 5 Wins: 2 (2A) Places: 1 £20,371
Fair form on AW, best over 6f, best watched on this first turf outing
 - 6 311-8 **SPORTS COACH** 20 (T*;BF,D)
Runs: 4 Wins: 2 (2A) Places: 1 £8,073
Won small races on AW, held in hcup on turf debut, hard to fancy
 - 7 1363-0 **UNBREAK MY HEART** 27 (D)
Runs: 6 Wins: 1 (F) Places: 2 £18,856
Poor on comeback but may improve for run, trip fine, likes it rattling
- BETTING:** 8-13 Big Evs, 7-2 Kylian, 12 Sommelier, Mon Na Slieve, 16 Unbreak My Heart, 20 Sports Coach, Dark Vintage
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 3 8 4-6 9
2023: Great State 9-4, O Murphy 13-2 (R Fahey), dr 9, 10 ran.

Sunracing FORM

BIG EVS (8-10) 16-5 prominent, ridden 2f out, driven to lead 1f out, ran on well, driven out, stayed on gamely, bt Valiant Force (8-10) 1/4 (12 ran) (Santa Anita 5f Grp 1 (1) £433,333 good). **DARK VINTAGE** (9-7) 22-1 off the pace in last trip on rail, some late minor progress, never on terms, 6th of 9 (b/n 3/4) to Equity Law (8-8) **SPORTS COACH** (9-1) 4-1 fav chased leader, pushed along and lost 2nd inside final 2f, weakening when unbalanced and eased inside final furlong, 8th (b/n 10) (Sandown 5f hcup (2) £23,193 good). **BIG EVS** (9-3) 9-4 fav started quickly, made all, two lengths clear 2f out, ridden and asserted advantage, four lengths clear final furlong, kept up to work run-in, readily, bt Flora Of Bermuda (9-0) 25/1 **KYLIAN** (9-3) 5-2 held up in rear, ridden 2f out, soon switched to race alone stands side, looked to be disputing lead 3f out, held 1f out, weakened, 4th of 5 (b/n 7/4) to Beautiful Diamond (9-0) (Ayr 5f Listed (1) £20,132 good to soft). **SOMMELIER** (9-9) 7-2 held up in mid-division, took keen hold, ridden over 2f out, soon beaten, 9th of 11 (b/n 6/4) to Fire Demon (8-12) (Newcastle 6f hcup (2) £77,310 AW). **UNBREAK MY HEART** (8-12) 5-1 rear, ridden 2f out, soon beaten, 12th of 13 (b/n 10) to Adaya In Devon (8-12) (Bath 5f Listed (1) £28,355 good).

TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

BIG EVS was one of the stories of last season as he won at the Breeders' Cup for local hero Mick Appleby. He kicked off by blitzing his rivals from the front to win the Windsor Castle Stakes at Royal Ascot before taking the Molecomb at Glorious Goodwood. He found the Nunthorpe against older horses here too much before getting back on track in the Flying Childers at Donny. He blasts off and makes all and, provided his juvenile career didn't take too much out of him, it's hard to see him being beaten here. **Kylian** looks the only one with scope to score but he has seven lengths to find on the tip on their Flying Childers run. He has moved to Archie Watson from Karl Burke which could conjure improvement but it needs to. **Unbreak My Heart** finished last season with a solid third in a Newmarket Group 3. He got no luck in running at Bath on comeback and is a lot better than that. **Sommelier** showed his best in all-weather handicaps and looks short of this level. **Mon Na Slieve** won his maiden here last season but struggled to make a mark after that. He could make a better three-year-old but is best watched here.

REST OF YOUR YORK CARD

STEEL SHOCK

From Page One
Ffrench-Davis and **George Boughey** in Newmarket on the other side of town. **Varian** and **AMO** both released statements yesterday confirming the injury to **King Of Steel**. **AMO** said: "It is with a heavy heart we have to announce that **King Of Steel** has sustained an injury during his routine exercise. "We are happy to report that he is fine and his usual bubbly self, but sadly, he will miss his seasonal debut." **Varian**, in a shorter response, said: "Unfortunately **King Of Steel** has had a setback, which will rule him out of the early part of the season."

THE Placepot is a bet where you select a horse to be placed in the **FIRST SIX** runs of any meeting. You can pick more than one horse in a race - you just multiply the number of selections in each race to calculate your stake. So for staking it's 2x2x1x1x1x2 which adds up to 8 lines. You can stake what you want upwards from 5p a line if you want a bigger perm. A 50p line on our perm would cost £4. Provided at least one in each race is placed, we get a payout!

- ### TODAY'S PICKS AT YORK
- LEG 1 Looking For Lynda, Clarendon House
 - LEG 2 Point Lynas, Metal Merchant
 - LEG 3 Bluestocking
 - LEG 4 Ancient Wisdom
 - LEG 5 Big Evs
 - LEG 6 Andesite, Seattie

ng FORM

rear, 19th (well b/n) (20 ran) (Ascot 1m hcup (2) £103,080 soft). **DUTCH DECOY** (8-12) 13-2 raced in group towards far side, led group and overall 1f out, ridden and headed run-in, kept on, b/n 1/4 by Liberty Lane (9-7) **BOPEDRO** (9-6) 12-1 raced in centre group, held up in rear, headway near side of group 2f out, held 1f out, 8th (b/n 6) (13 ran) (Newmarket 1m hcup (2) £51,540 good). **METAL MERCHANT** (8-10) 12-1 in touch, headway 2f out, ridden to lead final furlong, ran on, bt Godwinson (8-7) 1/4 **LOOK BACK SMILING** (8-3) 25-1 rear, pushed along and headway 2f out, one pace, 9th (b/n 87/4) **NAVAGIO** (9-1) 10-1 rear, headway 2f out, weakened 1f out, 14th (b/n 15) **DASHING ROGER** (8-6) 50-1 raced led, pushed along and headed 2f out, 20th (well b/n) (21 ran) (Newbury 1m hcup (2) £36,078 good to soft). **NORTHERN EXPRESS** (9-7) 12-1 close in touch, ridden and headed 2f out and kept on, 5th of 15 (b/n 4) to Poet Master (9-5) **CATCH THE PADDY** (8-12) 7-1 rear, pushed along 3f out, faded, 4th of 12 (b/n 12) detached, 14th (well b/n) (15 ran) (Newmarket 7f hcup (2) £25,770 good). **SYMBOL OF LIGHT** (9-0) 6-1 headway 3f out, driven 1f out, 8th of 14 (b/n 4/4) to Talis Evolvere (8-5) (Newcastle 1m hcup (2) £77,310 AW). **NIBRAS ANGEL** (9-1) 8th of 20 (b/n 5) to King Of Time (9-5) (Abu Dhabi 1m hcup £10,835 good). **MASTER RICHARD** (9-10) 14-1 led and soon clear, ridden and reduced lead 1f out, headed near line, 3rd of 12 (b/n 1/4) to Fantastic Fox (9-7) (Newcastle 1m hcup (3) £8,208 AW). **CHUZZLEWIT** (9-10) 28-1 chased leaders, went 2nd halfway, ridden 2f out, weakened final furlong, 9th of 16 (b/n 7) to Crack Shot (9-9) (Newmarket 1m hcup (3) £20,616 good).

TE'S VERDICT

nd in this race 12 months in a tight finish for a red- and distance at the Ebor ped into Group 3 company aydock. Trainer Ed Bethell ord with fresh horses so his and he can go well again at m a decent low draw. **Metal** when scoring in the Spring ry last month. He showed a foot to score over this trip and the weights looks fair. **Mirsky** ood run on debut for new in the Thirksh Hunt Cup and ve for that over suits. **Northern** efferent horse three wins n on his weights he looks **Back Smiling** k of a close-ner he came le. He would and but can't comments who was ter on a run

LETON FILLIES' STAKES

0,605; 1m 2f (6 runners)

- 1 **BLUESTOCKING** 208 (P)
Runs: 4 Wins: 2 (GS,G) Places: 1 £287,901
Season, trip suits, any ground, hard to beat
 - 2 **ERNARFON** 11
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 (GS) Places: 4 £158,684
1 this level, held in Newmarket Gr2 latest
 - 3 **FREE WIND** 208 (CD)
Runs: 6 Wins: 2 (GS,G) Places: 2 £415,061
es the track, goes well fresh, big danger
 - 4 **INFINITE COSMOS** 239 (D)
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 (GS) Places: 3 £29,381
r, trainer in form, entitled to need this run
 - 5 **ORUS** 12 (P;D)
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 (GS) Places: 3 £113,102
Best form on soft, needs the rain to come
 - 6 **SAPPHIRE SEAS** 83 (D)
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 (GS) Places: 1 £92,185
by 4-9-2, William Buick 97
- BETTING:** 1 1 3 1
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 6-5 Fav (J & T Gosden), dr 6, 7 ran.

ng FORM

2/4 **INFINITE COSMOS** (8-13) 5-1 in touch, headway final furlong, stayed on, 3rd (b/n 3/4) (14 ran) (Yarmouth 1/2m Listed (1) £29,224 good). **NOVUS** (9-12) 11-2 mid-field, ridden 2f out, soon led, pressed final furlong, headed final strides, b/n sh by Royal Dress (9-7) (5 ran) (Goodwood 1m Listed (1) £24,026 soft). **SAPPHIRE SEAS** (9-0) 8-15 fav tracked leaders, every chance 2f out, b/n 2/4 by English Rose (9-0) (7 ran) (Meydan 1m 1/2 Grp 2 £109,771 good).

(2.45 York) had some decent racing and showed promise on David O'Meara in the Thirksh Hunt Cup last time out.

Favourite NO.1 FOR COLOUR CARDS AND FORM

REST OF YORK DAY TWO

4.45 FRANK WHITTE NOVICE STAKES (2) 2-Y-0; value to winner £15,462; 6f (12 runners)

- 1 **ANDESITE** (1) K Burke 9-7 Daniel Tudhope
Pinatubo colt out of Katie's Diamond
Yard do well here, related to smart Dramatised, lots of speed on page
- 2 **ASKTHEBOSS** (10) A Keatley 9-7 Oisín Murphy
Dandy Man colt out of Lauren's Girl
55,000 yearling, yard going well with juveniles, top jockey booked
- 3 **BLACK SKY** (8) M & D Easterby 9-7 Joanna Mason
Invincible Army colt out of Hidden Steps
34k yearling, stable not known for debut winners, lesser type on paper
- 4 **I NEED YOUR LOVE** (2) M & D Easterby 9-7 Billy Garritty
Zoustar gelding out of Dubai Cyclone
27,000 yearling, brief for a bit further, best watched on debut today
- 5 **JORGE ALVARES** (6) K Ryan 9-7 Shane Gray
Cotali Glory gelding out of Soul Of Calypso
30,000 yearling, yard like to send a good one here, second string?
- 6 **LOOM** (11) R Fahey 9-7 Oisín Orr
Kodiac colt out of Stunner
85,000 yearling, yard finding feet with youngsters, speed in the family
- 7 **MR CHAPLIN 11** (4) R Beckett 9-7 non-runner
Runs: 1
Only runner with experience, will need more, ruled out of this
- 8 **PROUD TO BE FOX (H*)** (3) T Easterby 9-7 David Allan
Mohaahter colt out of Under The Covers
135,000 yearling, family is all speed, hood on for debut a worry
- 9 **RARE CHANGE** (7) R Hughes 9-7 William Buick
Mehmas colt out of Plus Ca Change
90,000 yearling, yard still in great form, champion jockey booked
- 10 **SEATTLE** (9) A O'Brien (ire) 9-7 Ryan Moore
Siyouni colt out of Hourglass
2.2 million yearling, stoutly bred, must be showing up well at home
- 11 **TARLAC** (12) K Ryan 9-7 Tom Eaves
Pinatubo colt out of Sharja Queens
Homebred, dam was best over ten furlongs, looks yard first string
- 12 **YAH MO BE THERE** (5) R Spencer 9-7 Hollie Doyle
Mohaahter colt out of Shurakaa
Yard have some smart juveniles this year, 95k yearling, market check

BETTING: 11-4 Seattle, 7-2 Andesite, 13-2 Tarlac, Loom, 10 Rare Change, Asktheboss, 14 Jorge Alvares, Proud To Be Fox, 20 Yah Mo Be There, 33 I Need Your Love, 50 Black Sky
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED AND 2023: No corresponding race.

TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

ANDESITE looks perfect for this test with plenty of speed in his pedigree. His sire Pinatubo was a superstar juvenile and his dam won a sprint as a two-year-old too. Trainer Karl Burke does well at the track and he has another life chance. **Seattle** cost two million quid so Aidan O'Brien will hope he can do the business. His pedigree is all about a mile and further but he should have enough class to figure over this trip too. **Yah Mo Be There** has plenty of juvenile winners in his family and should enjoy this trip on debut. He's one to keep an eye on in the betting. Richard Hughes is doing well this season and his **Rare Change** is bred to be speedy and the booking of William Buick catches the eye. **Tarlac** is another son of Pinatubo but with a lot more stamina on his dam's side. Kevin Ryan can get them ready at home so watch for a market move.

PROBETS
HANDICAP SNIP: WARMONGER (5.02 Salisbury) goes up in trip by half a mile on this handicap debut for Sir Mark Prescott.
SUPER SPEED: CINQUE

VERDE (7.52 Lingfield) clocked a fast time when winning here last time and has more to offer.
GAMBLER ON: RETURN FIRE (7.22 Perth) was well backed here last time and will be out to make amends for Lucinda Russell.

From Page One

of ability. We had her half-sister who stayed all day, but she was by Camelot and needed every inch of two miles.

"She is by Advertise so we wanted to find out today where her limit would be trip-wise and the way she hit the line you'd have to be very encouraged.

"We've got the entry in the Oaks so we will give it a whirl, if you're not in it you can't win it."

If Secret Satire's win was clearcut, Mill Stream's was by the width of a fag paper in the Group 2 Duke Of York Clipper Stakes.

Jane Chapple-Hyam's classy sprinter had to weave

SECRETS OUT

his way through traffic under William Buick and got there in the nick of time to beat Shouldvebearing by a nose in a photo.

Thankfully he managed to keep clear of the mid-race drama when Tiber Flow clipped heels and fell, but both horse and jockey Tom Marquand miraculously escaping unscathed.

The winner, who is owned by Butlins boss Peter Harris, will now go to the Group 1 Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee

5.20 COLLECTIVE GREEN ENERGY HANDICAP (3) 3-Y-0; winner £12,885; 1m 4f (9 runners)

- 1 **56-1 LONDON CITY 33** (5) A O'Brien (ire) 9-9 Ryan Moore 99
Runs: 3 Wins: 1 (A) £6,978
Cosy win on return at Dundalk, this tougher but mark looks generous
- 2 **115-1 PER CONTRA 38 (D)** (8) O Sangster 9-8 James Doyle 94
Runs: 4 Wins: 3 (S,A,GS) £16,593
Game win on return up in trip, looks potentially smart, on shortlist
- 3 **U35-1 PALACE GREEN 45** (4) R Hughes 9-5 Oisín Murphy 91
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 1 £6,316
Tricky customer but got act together latest, bit to prove from mark
- 4 **233-1 WHISKEY PETE 215 (C)** (6) R Beckett 9-5 Rossa Ryan 95
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 (S) Places: 3 £20,026
Solid at two, should kick on this season, mark not prohibitive, in mix
- 5 **591-3 AL MOOTAMARID 38** (7) M Bott 9-2 Neil Callan 89
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 (A) £27,420
Behind Per Contra at Wolves, too keen there, outside shout if settling
- 6 **531- COOL LEGEND 148** (2) W Haggas 8-12 Tom Marquand 97
Runs: 3 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 1 £6,569
Off mark in weak race at Kempton, will improve now, mark workable
- 7 **352-32 HAMPDEN 23** (1) T Ward 8-11 William Buick 92
Runs: 5 Wins: 5 Places: 4 £6,772
Still a maiden, just denied on hcap debut, deeper waters, ew at best
- 8 **24-1 TOKYO BAY 28 (D)** (9) K Burke 8-9 Pierre-Louis Jamin 97
Runs: 3 Wins: 1 (S) Places: 1 £6,593
Easy winner at Ripon last month, all form on soft ground, interesting
- 9 **224-2 ALIGN THE STARS 29** (3) C Johnston 8-9 Joe Fanning 98
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 Places: 3 £17,509
Caught the eye behind a smart one at Newmarket, same mark today

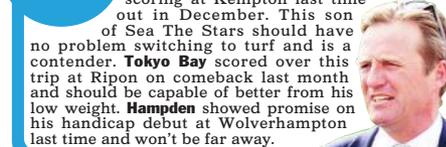
BETTING: 10-3 London City, 5 Palace Green, 11-2 Cool Legend, 6 Whiskey Pete, 8 Tokyo Bay, Per Contra, Align The Stars, 10 Hampden, 14 Al Mootamarid
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2 1
2023: Chesspiece 9-10, R Moore 3-1 Fav (S & E Crisford), dr 4, 11 ran.

Sunracing FORM

LONDON CITY (8-9) 11-10 fav handy, improved to 2nd after 2f, on terms 3f out, headed 2f out, ridden to lead if out, ran on under pressure closing stages, bt Ozark Daze (9-8) 1/4 (6 ran) (Dundalk 1m 3f mdn £7,200 AW).
PER CONTRA (8-9) 9-2 led 8f out, edged left if out, stayed on strongly, bt Dunstan (9-4) 7/4 AL MOOTAMARID (9-7) 9-4 led until 8f out, hung right 2f out, hung right inside final furlong, no impression finish, 3rd (1/4) (5 ran) (W Hampton 1/2 m hcap (3) £5,851 AW).
PALACE GREEN (9-4) 7-4 fav led, ridden 2f out, clear, ran on well, bt Educate (9-11) 5f (8 ran) (Kempton 1/2 m hcap (3) £5,780 AW).
WHISKEY PETE (9-3) 11-4 fav chased leaders, switched left 2f out, led and edged right 1f out, pressed well inside final furlong, stayed on well, bt Classy Boy (8-9) 1/4 (10 ran) (York 1m hcap (2) £2,462 soft).
COOL LEGEND (9-7) 9-4 in touch, ridden to press leader final furlong, stayed on to lead final strides, bt Classic Encounter (9-7) nk (13 ran) (Kempton 1m 3f mdn (4) £5,102 AW).
HAMPDEN (9-3) 5-2 midfield, headway 4f out, led 2f out, narrow lead final furlong, soon pressed, ridden, headed on line, btn ns by Four-oneheifer (8-13) (5 ran) (W Hampton 1/2 m hcap (4) £4,372 AW).
TOKYO BAY (8-10) 15-2 made all, ridden 2f out, clear final furlong, ran on, bt See The Green (8-10) 2/4 (12 ran) (Ripon 1/2 m mdn (5) £4,387 heavy).
ALIGN THE STARS (8-12) 10-3 tracked leaders, went 2nd halfway, stayed on but no chance with easy winner, btn 10f by Kalpana (8-11) (9 ran) (Newmarket 1/2 m hcap (3) £15,462 good).

TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

WHISKEY PETE finished last season with a battling win over a mile here in October. That was an impressive handicap debut and he got better as the race went on so this longer trip should be ideal. A 3lb rise in the weights looks more than fair and trainer Ralph Beckett (below) is in fine form. **London City** stayed on strongly to win a maiden at Dundalk last month and his opening handicap mark of 93 seems fair. He wasn't stopping over 1m2f so should have no problem staying. **Cool Legend** showed his staying power when scoring at Kempton last time out in December. This son of Sea The Stars should have no problem switching to turf and is a contender. **Tokyo Bay** scored over this trip at Ripon on comeback last month and should be capable of better from his low weight. **Hampden** showed promise on his handicap debut at Wolverhampton last time and won't be far away.



FONTWELL GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

5.10 MARES NOVICE HURDLE (Class 4); winner £4,575; 2m 2f (14 runners)

- 1 231-BREAK MY SOUL 20 N Henderson 5-11-7 J Bowen
 - 2 03-ARENAS DEL TIEMPO 32 J & S Best 6-11-0 T Cannon
 - 3 0-BING BELLE 171 (T*) A Honeyball 5-11-0 B Godfrey
 - 4 0P-F DRISHOGUE 8 (H,P*) N Gifford 5-11-0 J Davies
 - 5 P4-P HALLOWED ROSE 18 (P*) W Kitrow 7-11-0 R Dunne
 - 6 46-HURST HILL 61 S Mullins 5-11-0 D Sansom (3)
 - 7 1/8-MISS GOLDFIRE 28 (T) H Fry 5-11-0 L Murtagh
 - 8 635-MORNING FORTUNE 20 R Potter 5-11-0 N Schofield
 - 9 12-SHANTWOPPOINTINE 42 W Greatrex 5-11-0 H Cobden
 - 10 3P-SILVER CHORD 22 (P*) C Down 6-11-0 D Noonan
 - 11 323-BRIEFLY 24 A Honeyball 4-10-8 S Twiston-Davies
 - 12 DESIRABLE WALK D Skelton 4-10-8 non-runner
 - 13 LAZED G & J Moore 4-10-8 C Quinn (3)
 - 14 6PP-WHAT AN ICON 86 (H) G Down 4-10-8 B Carver
- Break My Soul 99, Briefly 99, Shantwoppointine 95.
9-4 Break My Soul, 3 Shantwoppointine, 9-2 Briefly, 5 Miss Goldfire, 12 Arenas Del Tiempo, 16 Lazed

5.40 HANDICAP HURDLE (4); winner £4,647; 3m 2f (5 runners)

- 1 114-NORTON HILL 32 (B,D) A Honeyball 8-12-0 S Twiston-D
 - 2 43-2 ISLAND RUN 10 (P*,BF) Hobbs/White 7-11-4 M Nolan
 - 3 5PP-EARTH KING 25 (P*) N Mulholland 8-11-1 H Cobden
 - 4 5P4-BLUE RIDGE HILL 24 (W) S Drinkwater 7-10-8 R Dunne
 - 5 P3P-EMOTIONAL MEMORIES 74 D Jeffreys 7-10-8 D Bellamy
- Norton Hill 99, Earth King 98, Island Run 97.
7-4 Island Run, 5-2 Norton Hill, 11-4 Earth King, 6 Blue Ridge Hill, 16 Emotional Memories

6.10 NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (5); winner £4,014; 2m 4f (10 runners)

- 1 255-FLAMECO 27 G & J Moore 6-12-0 C Quinn (3)
 - 2 75P-RAJAMATAZ 52 Newland/Insole 6-11-10 C Hammond
 - 3 4PP-MISS FEDORA 59 S Mullins 5-11-5 M Nolan
 - 4 53-P HOOKY STREET 9 (B) H Dickin 8-11-5 B Poste
 - 5 543-GUINIVEE 27 (BF) A Honeyball 5-10-9 R Dingle
 - 6 4P1-MILLIES MITE 27 (C) J Jewell 8-10-8 M Goldstein
 - 7 /PP-VESNOSORRY 179 (T) N Gifford 7-10-5 J Davies
 - 8 74P-PENOL 166 N Martin 7-10-3 M Nolan
 - 9 368-ONNAROLL 27 (H,T) C Woods 6-10-2 P Armon (3)
 - 10 9P-0 MAWLLOW 9 (P,T) G Howell 8-10-2 T Worsley (3)
- Flameco 99, Guinivee 98, Rajamataz 97.
5-2 Guinivee, 11-4 Millies Mite, 11-2 Flameco, 6 Rajamataz, Hooky Street, 12 Miss Fedora, 20 Vesnosorry, Penol

6.40 HANDICAP HURDLE (5); winner £4,014; 2m 2f (12 runners)

- 1 91P-CLINTON LANE 24 (C) M Gillard 6-12-0 F Gillard
 - 2 374-MERMAIDS CAVE 8 (C) J Owen 5-11-7 (ex) Mr A Chadwick (7)
 - 3 4P-3 TARA ITI 9 (P,C,D) G & J Moore 6-11-8 R Hargreaves (7)
 - 4 PPO-AT A PINCH 36 T Lawes 6-11-7 K Brogan
 - 5 176-SASSIFIED 182 (C,D) P Hobbs & J White 6-11-7 M Nolan
 - 6 3/9-PHIL HEALY 20 P Jorling 8-11-6 C Hammond
 - 7 849-RAYS THE ONE 27 (P,T,C,D) M Pattinson 7-11-3 J Best
 - 8 457-EMANATE 24 (P) N Mulholland 6-11-0 S Twiston-Davies
 - 9 U45-EXECUTIVE POOL 27 (B) G & J Moore 5-10-2 Quinn (3)
 - 10 U4F-GORCOMBE MOONSHINE 25 R Wallford 7-10-6 H Kimber
 - 11 P/3-MAC BE LUCKY 58 E Williams 7-10-4 A Wedge
 - 12 987-AFRICAN SUN 142 (P) J Murphy 7-10-2 H Tucker (7)
- Mermaids Cave 99, Mac Be Lucky 98, Tara Iti 97.
11-10 Mermaids Cave, 5 Gorcombe Moonshine, Mac Be Lucky, 8 Phil Healy, 10 Tara Iti, 12 Sassaified, 25 Clinton Lane

7.10 HANDICAP HURDLE (4); winner £4,647; 2m 3f (6 runners)

- 1 691-CECILDETHONE 27 (C) J Owen 7-12-0 Mr A Chadwick (7)
- 2 1P3-CAPE VIDAL 27 (C,D) A Honeyball 7-11-10 S Twiston-D

TEMPLEGATE

- 5.10 Break My Soul
- 5.40 Norton Hill
- 6.10 Guinivee
- 6.40 Mermaids Cave
- 7.10 Jolyump
- 7.40 Ferrybridge
- 8.10 Jubilent

TOM PEPPER

- 5.10 Miss Goldfire
- 5.40 Island Run
- 6.10 Flameco
- 6.40 Mermaids Cave
- 7.10 Baltray
- 7.40 Lone Soldier
- 8.10 The Happy Chapati

■ TIC-TAC: Left-handed figure-of-eight track of 1m in extent. There are six fences and four hurdles per circuit. ■ LEADING COURSE TRAINERS (2019-2024): G & J Moore 73-342, A Honeyball 37-109, C Gordon 30-187, N Mulholland 28-173. ■ TOP TRACK JOCKEYS (2019-2024): T Cannon 26-145, S Twiston-Davies 22-96, R Dingle 21-111, B J Powell 16-128. ■ LONGEST TRAVELLER: Blaze A Trail (7.40) trained at Bridgford, Round trip of 380 miles. ■ FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OP: What An Icon (5.10). ■ LIVE ON SKY SPORTS RACING

- 3 /21-BALTRAY 192 E Lavelle 6-11-10 T Bellamy
 - 4 691-BADDESLEY 66 (P) C Gordon 9-11-3 F Gordon (5)
 - 5 P1-2 JOLYJUMP 9 G & J Moore 5-10-11 C Quinn (3)
 - 6 661-THAHAB IFRAJ 217 (C,D) A Dunn 11-10-11 H Cobden
- Hecculdethone 99, Thahab Ifraj 98, Baltray 97.
13-8 Baltray, 10-3 Hecculdethone, 11-2 Thahab Ifraj, 13-2 Baddesley, Jolyump, 10 Cape Vidal

7.40 HANDICAP CHASE (5); winner £4,014; 2m 2f (6 runners)

- 1 2P2-BLAZE A TRAIL 25 (H,C,D) J & R Flint 10-12-0 C Brace
 - 2 462-KALKAS 27 (P) B Aprehannian 8-11-10 T Cannon
 - 3 15-3 FERRYBRIDGE 9 (H) J Owen 6-11-8 L Pinchin
 - 4 P44-CAVAL OFF THE DOGS 22 (B) G & J Moore 9-11-4 C Quinn (3)
 - 5 633-LONE SOLDIER 58 (H,T) D Skelton 6-11-0 F Gillard
 - 6 606-BERLAIS DU GEORGE 45 S Mullins 5-10-10 M Nolan
- Blaze A Trail 99, Ferrybridge 98, Kalkas 97.
3 Kalkas, Lone Soldier, Ferrybridge, 9-2 Blaze A Trail, 11-2 Caval Off The Dogs, 50 Berlais Du George

8.10 NAT HUNT FLAT (5); winner £2,535; 2m 2f (12 runners)

- 1 231-JUBILANT 21 J Owen 5-11-9 C Quinn (3)
 - 2 ELYSIAN KNIGHT N Mulholland 5-11-2 S Twiston-Davies
 - 3 ESCAPOLOGIST J Porting 5-11-2 G Hammond
 - 4 8-MROOPLY BLUE 189 B Pauling 5-11-2 B Jones
 - 5 0-MR GONOVYV 187 H Fry 5-11-2 L Murtagh
 - 6 00- THE HAPPY CHAPATI 22 N Henderson 5-11-2 J Bowen
 - 7 KEVANO BREEZE M Madgwick 4-10-10 M Goldstein
 - 8 KLIC BUMP E Williams 4-10-10 I Williams (3)
 - 9 3-KORUS 36 W Greatrex 4-10-10 H Cobden
 - 10 RUSSELLS WISH N Mulholland 4-10-10 B Powell
 - 11 P-SILVER HILL FLYER 32 S Smith 5-10-9 M Nolan
 - 12 52-GETAWAYS GIFT 32 A Honeyball 4-10-3 R Dingle
- Getaways Gift 99, Jubilent 97, Korus 89.
5-2 Getaways Gift, 3 Jubilent, 13-2 Korus, 8 The Happy Chapati, Elysian Knight, Russells Wish, 14 Klic Bump

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