

12 PAGES OF PUZZLES INCLUDING 8-PAGE PULL OUT FREE INSIDE



# Sunday Mail

£2.80  
May 26, 2024



CELTIC..1 RANGERS..0

## HISTORY BHOYS

Celtic do the Cup and League double with late 1-0 victory over Rangers - **BACK PAGE**

GET YOUR **Sunday Mail** AND **Daily Record** FOR **75p** A DAY

FOR SIX MONTHS!

PAGE 34  
Terms & conditions apply.  
New subscribers only.

WWW.SUNDAYMAIL.CO.UK

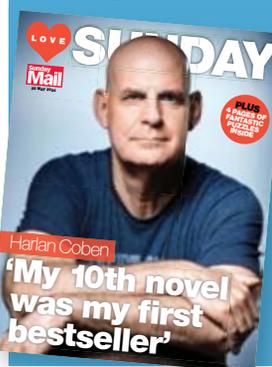
EXCLUSIVE



SPLIT The celebrity couple  
**RUTH AND EAMONN'S MARRIAGE IS OVER**

PAGES 8&9

INSIDE SCOTLAND'S FAVOURITE MAGAZINE



Harlan Coben  
'My 10th novel was my first bestseller'

# YOU'RE IN iBAD COMPANY

SNP lines up backroom deal with Greens to save face over Matheson



STORM Matheson

BY JOHN FERGUSON

**SHAMED** Michael Matheson could get a reduced punishment over his iPad scandal thanks to an SNP backroom deal with the Greens.

The Sunday Mail understands that the government's ex-coalition partners will vote with them to protect the MSP who lied about £11,000 roaming charges he claimed on expenses for his sons watching football on holiday.

PAGES 4&5

TESCO Clubcard The power to lower prices.



£5  
Half Price  
**£2.50**  
10 Pack  
Clubcard Price



Discover the power to lower prices on page 2.

Tesco Finest Traditional Pork Sausages 667g: Clubcard Price £3.75/kg, regular price £7.50/kg, ends 28/05. Available in the majority of larger stores and online. Excludes NI, Express, Isle of Man and Whoosh. Clubcard/app required. Delivery charges and some exclusions may apply.

TESCO  
Clubcard

The  
power to  
lower  
prices.

25%  
off

All Garden Furniture

Clubcard  
Prices



**TESCO**  
*Every little helps*

25% off all Garden Furniture, in-store only. Ends 05/06. Available in the majority of larger stores. Excludes Express and Whoosh. Clubcard/app required. Accessories and BBQs not included.



**CHANGE** Frank McAvennie  
**Frank dyed hair with his 1st big wage**

BY **GEORGE MAIR**

FRANK McAvennie has said the first thing he did when he earned a good wage as a footballer was transform from a ginger to a blonde.

Scottish football's most famous playboy blonde has admitted he struggled with life as a redhead.

He said ginger kids were targeted at school.

McAvennie, 64, is subject of a BBC Scotland Icons of Football documentary to be shown tonight.

He said: "I couldn't wait to get it dyed but I had to wait until I was on decent wages so I could go to a good hairdresser."

"As soon as my wages went up, I got it dyed and it was better for me."

"Would I have had as much fun in London with ginger hair? Probably not but who knows?"



**JOKE** TV host Jay Leno  
**Leno nearly arrested on Scotland trip**

BY **MARK HOWARTH**

TALK show legend Jay Leno nearly got arrested on holiday in Scotland - after having a play fight with his mum.

The US TV star brought his expat mum Catherine back to her home town of Greenock and pretended to lose the plot with her when she got lost.

Comedian Leno, who hosted The Tonight Show on NBC for 22 years, told the We Think It's Funny podcast: "My mother thought this was funny so she falls down on the street and somebody calls the cops because it looked like two men were beating up this old woman."

"So the cops come and they grab my father who's got two hearing aids."

"And my mother, she's sitting in a puddle laughing her ass off."

**STAGE IS SET FOR A SOAKING**

*Splashdance*



**WET WET SET** His routine was a smash hit

**MAKING A SPLASH** Leightonjay performing

**Dancer admits he will never forget BGT audience reaction to audition routine**

BY **HEATHER GREENAWAY**

**DANCER** Leightonjay Halliday is set to make a massive splash on tonight's episode of Britain's Got Talent.

The 23-year-old, from the village of Douglas in Lanarkshire, wows the crowds with an emotionally-charged routine on a stage of water.

The thrilling audition, which gets hosts Ant & Dec soaking wet, sees the crowd give him a standing ovation.

The performer, who dances to America's Got Talent's winner Kodi Lee's song Change, told the Sunday Mail: "I didn't even tell anyone, not even my mum, I was auditioning because, hand on heart, I did not think anything would come of it. Even now, only my family and closest friends know so there will be a lot of shocked people when the show goes out tonight."

The former Lanark Grammar pupil, who started dancing when he was 10, is keeping his cards close to his chest as to whether he gets through.

He said: "I don't just love dancing - I live for it. I



**HOPEFUL** Leightonjay Halliday dance all the time, even when I am walking down the street - it's my love and my passion.

"I wanted to go on BGT in the hope other young boy dancers will be inspired to keep going through their teenage years when it sometimes gets tougher to keep dancing due to peer pressure."

Leightonjay, who won a scholarship to the prestigious Urdang performing arts academy in London when he was 16, admitted he was very anxious before going on stage.

He said: "I got really nervous about an hour before I was due on and the production team took me



**INSPIRATION** Leightonjay into a room for a chat and told me how good I was. They really boosted my confidence.

"The first time I ever did the dance in water was at the audition but I went with it and it seemed to have an impact. I don't think I will ever forget the audience's reaction as long as I live."

He added: "No matter what happens, BGT has been one of the best opportunities I have ever had. If I do make it through to the live shows and go on to win, I would love to start a company to nurture young kids to know they can be authentically themselves."

**"I don't just love dancing, I live for it. It's my love and my passion"**  
 LEIGHTONJAY ON WHAT DANCING MEANS TO HIM

# INFO

## WEATHER

**Today**  
Sunday: Spells of rain and scattered showers, some heavy and thundery. Rest of Britain: Sunny spells and scattered showers, some heavy.

**Outlook**  
Another day of sunny spells and scattered showers, some heavy.

Temperature in celsius  
Wind speed in miles per hour

Midday Today  
Supplied by MeteoGroup

## MONDAY WORLD WEATHER

AM	PM	(C)	Max	Min	Outlook	(C)	(F)	
Aberdeen	16	9	showers	Amsterdam	16	61	thndr	
Dumfries	15	8	rain	Athens	28	82	sunny	
Dundee	16	8	showers	Barbados	31	88	fair	
Edinburgh	15	8	rain	Barcelona	21	70	sunny	
Glasgow	15	8	rain	Belfast	15	59	cloudy	
Hawick	16	7	showers	Canaries	24	75	sunny	
Inverness	15	8	thunder	Costa Del Sol	23	73	sunny	
Lerwick	13	10	rain	Dublin	14	57	fair	
Oban	15	9	rain	Lisbon	23	73	sunny	
Perth	16	7	showers	London	20	68	fair	
St Andrews	16	8	showers	Los Angeles	18	64	cloudy	
Stirling	16	7	showers	Majorca	24	75	sunny	
Stornoway	14	9	thunder	New York	27	81	sunny	
				Nicosia	30	86	sunny	
				Paris	19	66	fair	
				Rhodes	26	79	sunny	
				Rome	22	72	fair	
				Sydney	18	64	fair	

## 7-DAY FORECAST LOTTERY

UK: 0906 367 8367  
World: 0906 367 8368  
Calls cost 60p per minute

Last night's estimated jackpot is £4million

6 28 30 40 53 58 13  
Thunderball 3 5 13 16 36 1

**EXCHANGE RATE**  
US Dollar 1.2124  
Euro 1.1206

## EMERGENCY HELPLINES

NHS 24	111
National Rail Enquiries	0345 748 4950
Scottish Hydro Electric	0800 300 999
SP Networks	0800 092 9290
Scottish Water	0800 077 8778
Gas emergencies	0800 111 999
Childline	0800 1111
Crimestoppers	0800 555111
Samaritans	116 123
Victim Support	0345 603 9213
Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline	0800 027 1234
Scottish SPCA	03000 999 999

**DON'T MISS OUR EXCITING NEW £100 PRIZE GAME**

# CROSS OFF

PAGE 32

## Clarifications & corrections

If we have published anything factually inaccurate, contact the readers' editor on 0141 309 3454, at [readerseditor@sundaymail.co.uk](mailto:readerseditor@sundaymail.co.uk) or write to Readers' Editor, 55 Douglas Street, Glasgow, G2 7NP and, once verified, we will correct it as soon as possible.

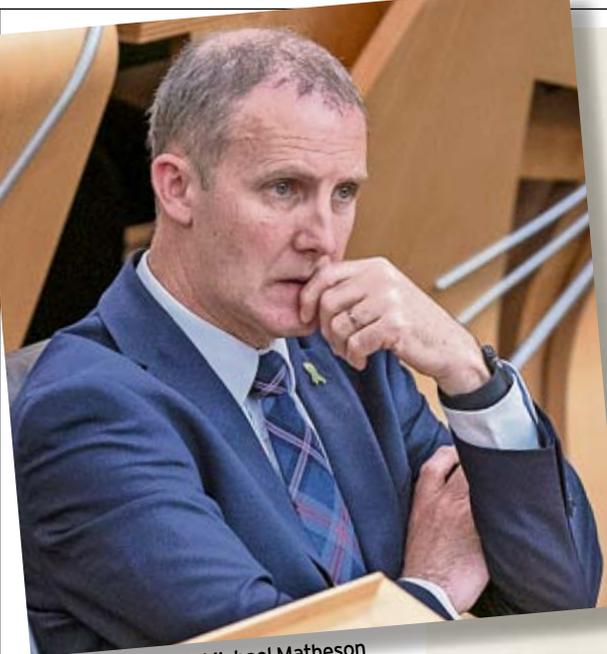
The Sunday Mail is published by Media Scotland, a subsidiary of Trinity Mirror PLC, a member of IPSO, the Independent Press Standards Organisation. We adhere to the Editors' Code Of Practice as enforced by IPSO, which is contactable at Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London EC4M 7LG; [www.ipso.co.uk](http://www.ipso.co.uk); 0300 123 2220; [advice@ipso.co.uk](mailto:advice@ipso.co.uk)

If you have a complaint about a potential breach of the Code, we will deal with it directly or IPSO can refer it to us.

Go to [www.trinitymirror.com/howtocomplain](http://www.trinitymirror.com/howtocomplain) where you can view our Complaints Policy. A How To Complain pack is also available by writing to the Legal and Compliance Department, Trinity Mirror PLC, One Canada Square, London E14 5AP.

**GOT A STORY?**  
PHONE 0141 309 3232  
EMAIL [reporters@sundaymail.co.uk](mailto:reporters@sundaymail.co.uk)

# ELECTION 2024 SWINNEY IN



**PAYBACK TIME** Michael Matheson

BY **JOHN FERGUSON**  
Political Editor

**JOHN Swinney could rely on a backroom deal with the Greens to save face in a crunch vote over his support for shamed former minister Michael Matheson.**

MSPs are set to decide whether to uphold sanctions against former health secretary Matheson after he charged taxpayers for an £11,000 iPad roaming bill racked up on holiday streaming football games.

The Sunday Mail understands Labour, the Conservatives, Lib Dems and Alba will vote to uphold the findings of the Standards Committee.

But we can reveal the Green party will back a proposed amendment, tabled by the SNP, to support a lesser sanction with their swing votes.

The SNP hopes this will save the First Minister from excruciating political embarrassment in the first week of the general election campaign.

Swinney tried to claim the committee had acted with prejudice because one of its members – Tory MSP Annie Wells – had previously criticised Matheson.

It recommended banning Matheson for 27 sitting days of Parliament and docking 54 days pay.

MSPs will vote on this and also a Conservative motion calling for Matheson to resign this week.

Opposition politicians have been scathing over the revelations. Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar said: "Michael Matheson tried to misuse £11,000 of public money but John Swinney seems to want to throw parliamentary procedure, parliamentary democracy, the committee system and good sense out the window in order to protect one of his friends.

"I think people can see that and it's completely and utterly unacceptable."

Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Alex Cole-



**SCOOPING VOTES**  
John Swinney on the election campaigning trail may enlist Greens' support over Matheson

**Matheson tried to misuse £11k of public money**

ANAS SARWAR ON DATA SCANDAL

## Crunch deal with former allies could

Hamilton MSP said: "The vote on whether to uphold the recommendations of the Standards Committee will be the most important vote to come before Parliament, and my party will vote to uphold the sanctions recommended for Michael Matheson.

"We will also support the Conservative motion for him to resign as an MSP. Without the power of

recall, his resignation and a subsequent by-election in which he stands would be the only way for Mr Matheson to submit himself to the judgment of his constituents."

Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross said: "It's wildly out of touch for John Swinney to claim in "no other walk of life" would Michael Matheson be sanctioned.

"In truth, in any other walk of life Michael Matheson would be sacked for making a false claim for £11,000 and



**FALLOUT**  
Humza Yousaf ended power sharing with Greens

# BID TO SAVE FACE – AND EX-MINISTER

## MacNeil asks prosecutors to pause SNP finances probe

BY MIKE MERRITT

WESTERN Isles MP Angus MacNeil is asking prosecutors to pause their probe into SNP finances, fearing it will derail the party's election campaign.

He has written to the Crown Office asking if further announcements relating to the fraud investigation can be withheld until after the vote on July 4.

Outspoken MacNeil, who previously represented the SNP, said: "I am writing to seek clarity because of the potential political hand grenade of more possible charges resulting from this investigation.

"It has the huge potential to change the narrative of this campaign. Will the Crown Office hold off until after July 4 as a result?"

"I am quite concerned for SNP friends on the mainland. Because I am no longer an SNP MP I can solicit the information they perhaps can't ask for.

"I am doing a favour for those campaigns that could get blown off course if any more charges - or indeed any prosecutions - are brought during the election period."

MacNeil fell out with SNP bosses last year over voting rows, was eventually kicked out of the party and now plans to stand as an independent at the General Election.

The day after the election date was announced, Police Scotland announced it had submitted its report into Operation Branchform.

It is up to the procurator fiscal's office to decide if further action will be taken, which could include court proceedings.

Former SNP chief executive Peter Murrell, husband of ex-party leader Nicola Sturgeon, was charged with embezzling party funds.

Former first minister Sturgeon and ex-SNP treasurer Colin Beattie were arrested last year, questioned by police and released without charge pending further investigations.

A police spokesman said: "Investigations continue and we are unable to comment further."

The Sunday Mail previously revealed that more charges are expected as part of the investigation.

Officers are investigating the funding and finances of the party as part of Operation Branchform.

There were questions about more than £660,000 raised for a second Scottish independence referendum campaign.

The probe has involved detectives seizing a motorhome worth £100,000.

A Crown Office spokesman said: "All Scotland's prosecutors act independently of political interference.

"As is routine, to protect the integrity of ongoing investigations, we do not comment in detail on their conduct."



CRITICAL Lib Dem leader Alex Cole-Hamilton and Tory leader Douglas Ross

dad-of-three had blamed his children for the data bill and was forced to pay back the sum after appearing to lie about when he knew the charge wasn't in relation to parliamentary business.

A Scottish Greens spokesperson said: "Michael Matheson made a mistake for which he has already been punished, but it is the view of the Green group of MSPs it is correct he receives further parliamentary sanction and we will vote for such action.

"However, we are united in our concern that the Standards Committee does not appear to have a consistent approach to the level of sanctions proposed, has allowed members to pre-judge the case, and has also seen draft proposals leaked. It is clear that if it is to retain confidence, the committee will require a more rigorous approach in future.

"What we will not do is support the unscrupulous and vindictive calls for him to resign from the Tories who are being not just shallow and callous, but abusing their positions as parliamentarians through partisan self-interest."

The First Minister visited constituencies around Scotland yesterday during the party's first "day of action" for the General Election campaign.

When questioned over his support for Matheson he said: "I'm not going to have prejudice taken forward in any part of Scottish life, it shouldn't happen in the Scottish Parliament.

"Now Parliament will sort out these issues, it will address these issues as it considers the committee's report."

He insisted another Conservative MSP had withdrawn from the Standards Committee due to previous comments about Matheson.

He said: "We cannot have our national parliament presiding over prejudice and certainly not prejudice from the Conservatives."

He also responded to criticism of the SNP from Patrick Harvie, co-leader of the Scottish Greens - whose party is now likely to save the SNP in votes on Matheson.

Harvie, who left the Scottish Government last month when the two parties' powersharing deal was ended by Humza Yousaf, said the SNP are "trying to face both ways on climate and the fossil fuel industry".

Swinney said he backed a "balanced approach to energy transition that will get us to net zero but will get us there in a way that supports our economy".



FALLOUT MacNeil no longer represents SNP

# Keep cool, Michael..

# The Greens are going to save us



TO THE RESCUE Greens Lorna Slater and Patrick Harvie

## thwart Holyrood ban on iPad-scandal Matheston

lying about it. Only the SNP think what he's done is acceptable.

"John Swinney is destroying his own credibility to protect a liar who tried to take £11,000 from taxpayers."

And a parliamentary source has suggested it was almost inevitable Matheson would face a police investigation over the scandal.

The source said: "The SNP are trying to defend the indefensible. Michael Matheson may well be a nice guy but

trading a parliamentary committee to try to get your friend off with trying to get away with £11,000 of taxpayers' money will go down like a bucket of cold sick in the real world.

"Based on the damning evidence in the report into this scandal, it is only a matter of time before Matheson is reported to the police for alleged fraud." The

### FLYNN: Labour £20bn oil cash raid is in the pipeline

PAGES 6&7

## ELECTION 2024 WESTMINSTER LEADER



TREADING CAREFULLY Starmer

## Week is a campaign washout for Sunak

BY MIKEY SMITH

THE Tory party lost more than a thousand years' worth of parliamentary experience in a matter of days - as dozens of MPs fled Rishi Sunak's "sinking ship".

In a mass exodus like nothing seen since Tony Blair's 1997 cull of high-profile Tories, big beasts including Michael Gove and John Redwood spent their last moments in Parliament.

Research by the MHP Group found the average length of service for the 78 Tory MP stepping down at the General Election is 15 years, meaning much of the party's "institutional memory" will leave with them.

Some are leaving to do other things. Some are retiring. But many don't want to risk a "Portillo moment" on July 4 - losing seats they've represented for years.

The mood among Tory backbenchers after Rishi Sunak's unexpected poll announcement was understandably bleak.

Few of them expected an autumn election to be easy - but none we spoke to thought a July poll would be anything but a disaster for their party.

Meanwhile, Sunak hosted an opening rally in a dark, poky room in the upper floors of the huge Excel Centre in London.

"Why he didn't use that room to call the election, rather than getting drenched in the street, I will never know," one MP said.

In the days that followed, similarly bungled campaign stops led senior Tories to openly question whether Labour had installed a spy in Conservative HQ.

Starmer, meanwhile, continued Labour's "ming vase" strategy - treading carefully to avoid breaking his 20-point poll lead.

Launching the campaign on Wednesday, Starmer unveiled Labour's slogan: "Change".

The simple message is expected to be slapped in big letters on the side of the party's battle bus - which will soon be trundling up and down the country with Deputy Leader Angela Rayner in tow.

BY JOHN FERGUSON  
Political Editor

THE SNP's Stephen Flynn has accused Labour of planning to divert £20billion of tax receipts from Scotland's oil wealth to build nuclear power plants in England.

Its Westminster leader also insisted his embattled party can win north of the Border and said First Minister John Swinney would be dropping divisive gender politics to campaign on the economy, jobs and the NHS.

In an exclusive interview with the Sunday Mail, he backed Swinney's refusal to support sanctions against iPad shame MSP Michael Matheson.

He also revealed he would be willing to work with Keir Starmer in a hung parliament.

The Aberdeen South MP's performances at Prime Minister's Questions have seen him widely tipped as a future SNP leader.

If he were to lose his seat at Westminster there has been speculation he would look to stand at the next Holyrood election, potentially positioning himself to succeed Swinney.

He is understood to have been one of the loudest voices calling for Humza Yousaf to tear up the Bute House Agreement and sack Green MSPs Patrick Harvie and Lorna Slater from government.

When asked if the former first minister had made the right move, Flynn answered with an unequivocal "Yes".

He added: "Of course we now occupy a minority government position in Holyrood but that's not unusual for the SNP and much of our best work has been achieved as a minority government."

"I've absolute confidence John and my colleagues will be able to navigate the parliamentary arithmetic in Edinburgh while we get on with the job of putting Scotland first in Westminster."

He went on to accuse an incoming Labour government of planning to sacrifice tens of thousands of oil industry jobs.

He said: "More than £20billion is to flow from Scotland's natural resources to the Treasury over the next six years, with £10billion exported last year alone."

"Meanwhile, 100,000 jobs are set to be lost in Scotland's energy sector and Scotland is paying the highest energy bills in the UK."

"These are not just oil jobs, they are energy jobs, the people who work in these jobs are engineers, they are the people who will be able to develop the net

# Flynn: Labour £20billion oil cash raid is in the pipeline

## MP says move would decimate the industry and ruin transition

zero technologies of the future. So if you decimate the industry, then you don't have the just transition. Labour say they will create GB Energy but nobody has a clue what it means.

"But what we do know is they want to take Scotland's oil wealth and Scotland's renewable wealth, and they want to channel it into building nuclear power stations in England."

Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar described Flynn's comments as "desperate".

While the SNP has been forecast by some pollsters to be facing huge losses, Flynn believes voters' minds will be focused as election day looms

and that Swinney has the popularity and policies to win. Flynn added: "The only poll that matters ultimately is the one that comes on Independence Day on July 4."

"I'm very confident because we have the most popular and the most trusted politician in Scotland leading our party in John Swinney. He's been very clear we will be focused on the economy, the NHS and, of course, eradicating child poverty."

"What Labour are offering is a continuation of £18billion of public sector cuts which would impact the ability not just to attract investment into Scotland, but also to deal with the crisis that's facing the NHS."

"If we look at child poverty, Keir Starmer won't even commit to changing the two-child cap in the benefits system to lift tens of thousands of kids out of poverty because he wants to continue with Tory policies."

"So there's a clear dividing line between what we stand for, what we believe and what the Labour Party stand for and believe in, and the public are going to have to decide who is putting Scotland's interests first."

"I am very confident with those arguments on the table that the SNP will do very well. Despite wanting to be prime

BATTLE  
Anas Sarwar

# ON WHY SNP CAN WIN VOTERS



**FOCUSED**  
Stephen Flynn says SNP have six weeks to win voters' trust



**FUTURE**  
Flynn on campaign trail. Left, he says North Sea oil jobs are at risk



**TARGET** Marion Fellows

## MPs struggle to raise cash for poll fight

HARD-UP SNP politicians have launched crowdfunding to pay for their election campaigns as the party struggles for cash.

Airdrie and Shotts MP Anum Qaisar has raised £170 of a £2000 target while John Nicolson, standing in Alloa and Grangemouth, is asking for £10,000 but has so far secured only £195 from six supporters.

Marion Fellows, standing again in Motherwell, Wishaw and Carlisle, has £80 of a £3000 target.

But Martyn Day standing in Bathgate has raised all of his £1500, while Evelyn Tweed in Stirling has raised the £5000 requested.

An SNP spokesman said: "We are grateful for all supporters who wish to ensure that Scotland's voice is heard at Westminster."

minister for so long now Keir Starmer still doesn't have an answer to the question as to how people in Scotland get to vote to be an independent nation, and he's going to have to come to the table before polling day and explain what he believes the mechanism should be."

While Labour is ahead in the polls a hung parliament where nobody has overall control remains a possibility. That could leave the SNP in a position to work with Labour to put Starmer in No10.

And Flynn made clear he would be willing to work with Labour, adding: "We would want to be the Labour Party's conscience and keep them honest. We believe in single market access, we believe there needs to be more migration, we believe in investing in net zero jobs, because that's how you improve the economy. We reject

austerity, unlike Keir Starmer and, of course, we believe the people of Scotland have the right to a democratic debate to decide their future."

When asked if he believed the SNP had taken a wrong turn in pursuing gender self-ID policies, Flynn indicated a new focus.

He said: "We've got six weeks to win the trust of the people of Scotland, and their priorities right now are the cost of living crisis, the economy, the NHS, eradicating child poverty and making sure that Scotland has a say over its own future. That's where my focus has been for a long time and it's where the party's focus is right now."

Swinney has been accused of "defending the indefensible" after refusing to support a Holyrood committee's recommended sanctions on Matheson after he appeared to lie about an £11,000 iPad data bill. He was sanctioned last week but the decision will go to MSPs for approval, and Swinney has said he will not back it, claiming the process had been "prejudiced" by Tory MSP Annie Wells.

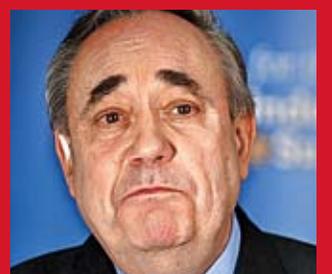
Acknowledging the "significant mistake" by Matheson, Flynn backed Swinney's move, saying: "But the public will understandably be furious about a Tory MSP trying to make political capital out of someone's difficulties."



**SNAP ELECTION**  
PM Rishi Sunak

**“ They want to take Scotland's oil wealth and channel it into nuclear power stations in England**

**STEPHEN FLYNN SAYS LABOUR PLANS A RAID ON SCOTTISH OIL REVENUE IF ELECTED**



**CHALLENGE** Alex Salmond

## Nats are happy to work with the Alba Party

STEPHEN Flynn suggested the SNP minority government at Holyrood could work with Alex Salmond's Alba Party in the Scottish Parliament.

The SNP Westminster leader said: "I'm very much of the view that what matters most in public life and in politics is your relationship with the public and once you have that you'll be successful."

"The challenge is the same for the Alba Party, the Lib Dems, Tories and Labour."

"They've got to face the challenge John Swinney has set them which is to come forward with constructive, sensible proposals that benefit people living in Scotland."

"It's no longer good enough to shout from the sidelines that something needs to change."

"You need to evidence how you're going to do that in a serious sensible way."

"These are serious times."

# Sheridan tipped to return for Gavin and Stacey finale



PRESENT Sheridan Smith

FANS excited for Gavin and Stacey's long-awaited final episode are in for an extra special Christmas present – with the return of Sheridan Smith to the cast.

The storyline for Gavin and Stacey: The Finale is understood to bring back Sheridan's character Ruth "Rudi" Smith, the gobby sister of co-writer James Corden's Smithy.

Rudi, who annoyed her

BY LAURA ARMSTRONG

brother by insisting on also being called Smithy, appeared in series two and three of the hit sitcom, but was missing from the 2019 Christmas special.

BBC sources say informal discussions have taken place.

An insider said: "The script includes all the major players, including Smithy's sister Rudi.

Nothing's signed and conversations are still ongoing, especially as a filming date hasn't been set. But all the stops are being pulled out to have the whole cast there."

Sheridan and James dated but split in 2008. The insider added: "They are still friendly – they recently bumped into each other at the Variety Club Awards and got on really well."

## TV'S EAMONN



### TV STARS

Pair on This Morning in 2021

BY JANINE YAQOOB and LAURA ARMSTRONG

**TV golden couple Ruth Langford and Eamonn Holmes ended their 14-year marriage after a "perfect storm" of relationship woes, friends said last night.**

Fans were stunned by a 19-word statement declaring their once rock-solid relationship was finished.

The couple's spokesman said: "Ruth Langford and Eamonn Holmes have confirmed their marriage is over and they are in the process of divorcing."

The pair, both 64, who began dating 27 years ago, are said to have grown apart because of pressures, including Eamonn's faltering health and their diverging career paths.

A source said: "They'd been leading separate lives for some time and had drifted apart." An insider close to Ruth said the split was recent but it was her decision to divorce.

There was a growing strain between them caused by losing their lucrative hosting gig on This Morning and Eamonn's chronic back pain. They also lost people closest to them. In November 2022, Eamonn's mum died and, in 2019, Ruth was devastated by sister Julia's suicide.

On top of this, Ruth has spoken of struggling with empty-nest syndrome when their son Jack, 22, described as the glue that held the family together, went to university in 2022. And Eamonn faces an ongoing legal battle over a disputed tax bill of £250,000 dating from 2018. He said the saga had caused shingles that could have left him blind.

The source said: "It's a perfect storm." The pair, last seen together almost two years ago, had been seen as one of TV's most formidable couples.

They were a regular fixture on This Morning for 15 years. They were famed for their on-screen quarrelling but Ruth said they would always work through it. She said: "We spar a lot, we're both quite fiery characters. I always say to people, 'We're not arguing, we're just having a difference of opinion!' We

don't argue about big stuff. It's just silly bickering."

In 2020, she told a magazine: "Eamonn and I can have big rows and argue, then 10 minutes later we're laughing about something."

"We've been together 23 years so it has been a long and happy relationship but we have our moments. There are times when he really annoys me and I really annoy him. There are times when I think, 'Get out of my face.' Obviously, you're not always going to get on, but you have to make it work."

They were replaced as the regular Friday hosts of This Morning by Alison Hammond and Dermot O'Leary in November 2020. They were

moved to a school holiday and bank holiday slot until 2021, when they both announced their departure.

They went their separate ways professionally which, insiders say, played a big part in the split.

Eamonn has been often travelling back to his native Belfast to film BBC show Farm To Feast and see his two grandchildren – Emilia, two, and baby Isabella, six months.

He has openly spoken of his hopes to move back to his home country but said Ruth wanted to

stay at their £3million home in Weybridge, Surrey.

The source said: "Eamonn travels back to Belfast most weekends. He loves spending time with his grandchildren. They bring him such joy. He wants to retire there."

Ruth and Eamonn were introduced by a mutual friend, TV presenter Sally Meen, and began dating in 1997.

They signed a lucrative deal with a glossy magazine for their lavish 2010 marriage at the grand 19th-century Hampshire hotel, The Elvetham.

Among the invited VIPs were their TV pals Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield, Gloria Hunniford and Jeremy Kyle, along with Sir Alex Ferguson, then



**IN PAIN**  
Physio this month

## Free prescription sunnies

Part of 2 for 1 from £70, with single-vision lenses to same prescription



## See everything under the sun

You're better off with

## Specsavers

# AND RUTH SPLIT AFTER 27 YEARS

# They just grew in different directions



**GOLDEN COUPLE**

Eamonn & Ruth at TV awards in 2020



**FIRST WIFE**

With Gabrielle and their kids



**EARLY DAYS**

Couple on ITV show in 2002

boss of Eamonn's beloved Manchester United. The couple are parents to Jack, while Eamonn also has sons Declan, 35, Niall, 31, and daughter Rebecca, 33, from his 10-year marriage to Gabrielle.

Last week, this paper revealed how Eamonn, now a GB News presenter, has painful physio almost daily. He has had back surgery to help with bulging discs but had a setback when he fell and

broke his shoulder last year. Recent photos showed him in London's Notting Hill on sticks and later in a wheelchair after another session.

Eamonn said in January the "harsh reality" was he may never walk again unaided. Despite his agony, he hosts his GB News shows from Monday to Wednesday.

Eamonn has posted on social media about another lady in his life - his good pal Emmerdale actress and ex-glamour model Linda Lusardi, 65.

With a picture of them together, he wrote: "1982 v 2024 and she hasn't changed a bit. My wonderful, close friend Linda Lusardi who I went to

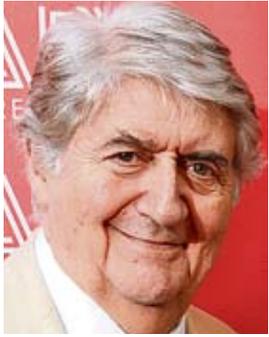
see today. 42yr friendship x". Ruth, who has been a presenter on ITV's Loose Women since 2013, is being supported by her pals from the show, say insiders.

Eamonn had burned his bridges with ITV after saying there was a "culture of toxicity" at This Morning.

The source said the couple have "never been able to meet back in the middle".

Hours after news of the divorce broke, Eamonn was celebrating his beloved United beating staunch rivals Manchester City to win the FA Cup Final at Wembley.

He posted on Instagram: "My God, what a Cup Final, what a result!"



CHARACTER Tom Conti

## Tom: I had idea for a sequel to Valentine

BY GEORGE MAIR

IT WAS the romantic comedy that spoke to a generation of women and was nominated for awards including Oscars, Golden Globes and Baftas.

Now, 35 years after the release of Shirley Valentine, its Scottish star Tom Conti has revealed both he and Pauline Collins, who played the title role, wanted to make a sequel.

The 1989 film starred Pauline as a bored Liverpool housewife who rediscovers herself after a holiday romance with a Greek tavern owner, played by Tom.

The film was based on the one-woman play by Willy Russell who also wrote the screenplay.

Speaking on the National Trust for Scotland's Love Scotland podcast, Tom, 82, said: "We were both keen for a follow up but Willy Russell, who is a brilliant writer, said: 'I can't write it.'"

"He said: 'I can only write things when I have my own picture of the actors in my head.' As soon as he knows he's writing for Pauline Collins and Tom Conti, it all grinds to a halt, he said, he can't do it."

Tom said his idea for a sequel saw his character fly to Liverpool to find Shirley.

He added: "What happens after that I don't know but that was the pitch I gave to Willy, then he said, 'I can't write it.'"

## Pilot dies in Spitfire crash

AN RAF pilot died yesterday after a Spitfire crashed into a field.

Police rushed to the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight event at RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire just before 1.20pm.

A Ministry of Defence spokesperson said: "It is with great sadness that we must confirm the death of an RAF pilot in a tragic accident near RAF Coningsby today."

# Brit tourists face chaos on hol isles

## 'Intimidating' demos hit Majorca & Ibiza streets



ANGRY 1000 march in Ibiza Town on Friday

BY SASKIA ROWLANDS in Majorca

### SPANISH anti-tourism protesters fed-up with holidaymakers last night staged the latest in a string of demos at hotspots.

Thousands took to Majorca's streets clutching placards saying "SOS tourism" and "Tourism is eating us".

It came 24 hours after similar scenes in Ibiza, and in Tenerife last month.

Yesterday's demo - in the Majorcan capital, Palma - was planned by a group called Mallorca No Es Ven, which means "Majorca is not for sale".

Members say rowdy holidaymakers, mainly Brits and Germans, are hiking prices and driving locals out.

They want a summer limit on vehicles and a ban on using taxpayer cash to promote the island as a party spot.

One worried British holidaymaker said: "This is intimidating to ordinary people who have come for a holiday."

Another said: "If this sort of thing continues, there won't be many tourists left for them to complain about."

Protester Daniella, 28, a teacher

ENOUGH Rally in Majorca



whose mum hails from Preston, Lancashire, said: "Over 40 per cent of my wages go on rent. Tourism increases the price of everything from gas to food and taxes."

Pal Cati, 29, added: "We can't drive any more to certain areas because

there is nowhere to park." But British expat Mitch Liebenberg, who works in tourism in Ibiza, said: "They're protesting their only source of income."

"What we need is to protest the government not building the infrastructure to cope with the tourists."



SIGNS Crowds in Ibiza Town

The Balearic Islands government, which is bidding to clamp down by banning booze sales at night and restricting party boats, said: "Tourists are still welcome."

"But the time has come to talk about containment and limits."



INFERNO Damaged building

## FIRE AT AMUSEMENT PARK KILLS 22

AT LEAST 22 people were killed yesterday when a huge fire broke out at an amusement park in western India.

It erupted at the park in the city of Rajkot, in Gujarat state, as children

enjoyed the school summer holiday.

Video was published showing firefighters clearing debris around collapsed tin roof structures that local media said were used for bowling,

go-karting and trampolines.

Police were examining whether to charge the amusement park's private owner, Yuvraj Singh Solanki, with negligence.

Police commissioner

Raju Bhargava said: "We will be registering an offence for negligence and the deaths which occurred."

"Further investigation will take place once we complete the rescue operation." The cause of the fire

was still under investigation last night.

Indian prime minister Narendra Modi said he was "extremely distressed", adding: "My thoughts are with all those who have lost their loved ones."

## Man found injured in street dies

A MAN has died after being found seriously injured.

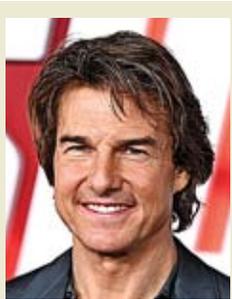
Emergency services were alerted after the discovery was made on William Street, in Anderston, Glasgow, at about 11.50pm on Friday.

Ambulance crews attended but the man was pronounced dead at the scene.

The death is being treated as unexplained, however there are not believed to be any suspicious circumstances.

A police spokesperson said a report would be sent to the procurator fiscal.

They asked anyone with relevant information to call 150, the non-emergency number.



DELAYS Tom Cruise

## Just not possible

THE eighth Mission: Impossible film has hit further delays - thanks to a malfunction with a £23million submarine.

A gimbal, used to lower the 120ft structure, jammed and had to be repaired, putting filming of the Tom Cruise movie, in Surrey, back weeks.

A source said: "They're not happy."

## Passenger forces early flight landing

A TUI flight from Glasgow was forced to make an emergency landing after a drunken passenger caused chaos in mid-air.

The plane to Antalya, Turkey, set off from Glasgow Airport at 5.15pm on Friday but the pilot soon diverted to Newcastle International Airport.

A drunk passenger was alleged to have assaulted a member of cabin crew.

Police removed a man from the plane in Newcastle and passengers were forced to stay there for five hours as bags were removed, fuel was topped up and some cabin staff changed. TUI and Northumbria Police were asked to comment.



BY NORMAN SILVESTER

THOUSANDS of Rangers fans gathered outside Ibrox yesterday for the unveiling of a statue to their legendary manager Walter Smith.

The bronze tribute was unveiled by members of his family, including wife Ethel and sons Neil and Steven.

Former Rangers stars who played under Smith, including John Brown and Gordon Durie, attended, as did current manager Philippe Clement.

Former Gers hero Nacho Novo watched from the crowd.

The statue of Smith, who died in 2021, aged 73, from cancer, was designed and sculpted by Douglas Jennings.

Ex-Scotland manager Smith won 10 league titles, six league cups and five Scottish Cups in two spells as Rangers manager.

The unveiling took place hours before the club's Scottish Cup defeat by Celtic.

PICTURE: ROBERT PERRY/PA

LEGEND Smith and, above, Steven, Ethel and Neil at ceremony

## Gers great Walter given fitting statue



LIMELIGHT Daniel on stage at the Hydro in Glasgow

# I want to Take That song and make it a hit single

## Emergency support act delight

THE unknown singer plucked from obscurity to open Take That's concert in Glasgow has released his first single.

BY GEORGE MAIR

Daniel Rooney, 26, was playing covers in the bar of the Radisson Red near the Ovo Hydro when he was drafted in to replace Olly Murs, whose flight from London had been cancelled.

Daniel, who comes from Cambuslang, near Glasgow, couldn't believe his luck when showbiz presenter Ross King heard him perform and texted singer Gary Barlow to suggest a last-minute stand-in.

Daniel was on stage in front of 14,000 fans just 20 minutes later, winning praise from Gary and thanks from Olly for saving the day.

He has now released his first single, Old Ways, on Spotify, Apple Music and Amazon Music.

Daniel, who wrote the single with his best friend turned manager Steff Corr, revealed he has kept in touch with Ross.

He said: "The story is all legit. A lot of people think it's made up and

Ross is my manager, which isn't true. Ross was in the restaurant having dinner with his family.

"Throughout the last few weeks we've been keeping in touch. He's been great and is making sure I'm coping with all the craziness.

"Now the single is out he's going to hopefully help me with a little promotion, like when he's on Lorraine [Kelly's ITV show] he can mention it.

"I want to thank him for sticking his neck out for a guy he didn't know, liking what I did in the bar and deciding to help."

Ross is thrilled that his big gamble paid off. He said: "I love Daniel's new

single Old Ways. It shows off his wonderful talent as a singer-songwriter.

"I'm so thrilled to have played a small part in bringing him to a bigger stage and letting people see just how good he is."

Daniel said: "The story does feel like a cheesy Hollywood film. Maybe Netflix will get in touch."



GRATEFUL Take That's Gary

# Zelensky says Ukraine is reclaiming Kharkiv areas

UKRAINIAN forces have secured "combat control" of areas where Russian troops entered the north-eastern Kharkiv region earlier this month, the Ukrainian president said. Volodymyr Zelensky claimed: "Our soldiers have now managed to take combat control of the border area where the Russian occupiers entered." But his comments in his

BY **SAM KULAB**

nightly video address on Friday appeared to be at odds with those made by Russian officials. Viktor Vodolatskiy, a member of Russia's lower house of parliament, said Russia now controlled more than half of the town of Vovchansk, three miles inside the border. He also said once Vovchansk was secured,

Russian forces would target the cities of Sloviansk, Kramatorsk and Pokrovsk in the neighbouring Donetsk region. No independent confirmation of the claims was immediately possible. Ukraine's problems have been mounting in recent months as it tries to hold out against its much bigger foe, and the war appears to be at a critical juncture.



**CLAIM** Zelensky in Kharkiv

# EXCLUSIVE PLEA

BY **NORMAN SILVESTER**

**IT'S been three decades since Christine Fulton lost her husband Lewis, the last police officer in Scotland killed in the line of duty.**

No others have died since – in no small part due to her determination that every officer be issued with body armour.

But as police numbers go down and the violence they face rises, Christine, awarded an MBE for a lifetime of helping families of wounded or killed officers, has a new aim – getting every officer trained to carry a Taser.

She believes it also would have saved her 28-year-old husband's life in 1994 when he was stabbed by schizophrenic teenager Philip McFadden in Glasgow's Gorbals.

Christine said: "Tasers are the way forward. I would like to see all officers Taser-trained."

"There was an incident in London recently where a police officer using a Taser took out a man carrying a samurai sword. Something like that would have worked with McFadden and saved Lewis's life.

**"I would also like to see body-cams rolled out for all officers as they are also an effective deterrent."**

About 2000 officers out of 16,300 in Scotland are trained to use Tasers. They are normally used to incapacitate threatening or violent people.

Christine's call is echoed by Scottish Police Federation chairman David Threadgold, who wants all officers to be issued with the devices because they can de-escalate incidents.

To mark the 30th anniversary of Lewis's death, an award has been created in his name by his family. The Lewis Fulton Memorial Trophy and medal will be presented to the best students at safety and first aid courses at the Scottish Police College at Tulliallan, Fife.

Each medal will carry the inscription: "The biggest tribute you can pay him is to do your job and do it well."

**Christine's life, as a mother to the couple's then year-old son Luke, was changed beyond all recognition on June 17, 1994.**

Lewis had kissed them goodbye as he headed off from their home in Kilmarnock to start an early shift in Glasgow. The family were due to go on holiday the next day.

She said: "I'd spent the day packing and getting ready. I went through to speak to a neighbour and left a friend, Gaynor, to look after Luke."

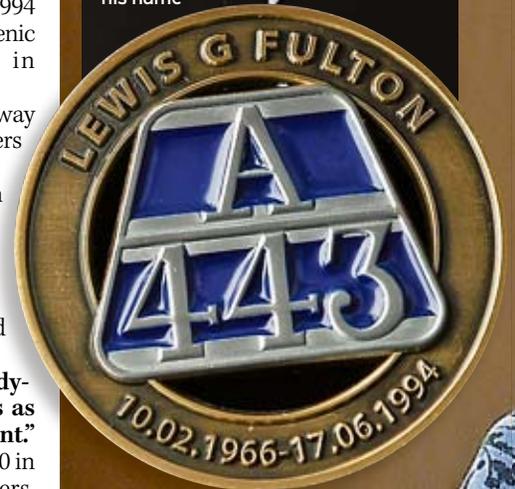
"Gaynor was holding the phone and told me Lewis had been involved in an accident."

"I laughed because this type of thing always seemed to happen before we went on holiday but usually it was something like a broken finger."

"The superintendent told me Lewis had been stabbed, he was 'serious but stable' and there was a car on the way to take me to



**KILLED** Lewis. Below, medal in his name



**PC's widow calls for ALL officers to be given stun guns**



**TRAGIC LOSS** Lewis and, main pic, his proud widow Christine

# 50GB

# £8

**WAS 16GB. FLEXIBLE 1-MONTH PLAN.**



**LESS MALARKY MORE SMARTY**

**SWITCH TO SMARTY MOBILE**

# TO BOOST POLICE SAFETY



# A Taser would have saved the life of my hero husband. Give one to every cop

PICTURE: TONY NICOLETTI



**TAKEN OUT** Cops Taser a man wielding a sword in London

hospital. At that time the hospital gave me no cause for alarm. They told me he was conscious and responsive and they thought it was a punctured lung”

Christine didn't get to see Lewis before he went into the operating theatre at the old Victoria Infirmary. He would die four hours later.

She said: “When they opened Lewis up they discovered that the tip of the knife had pierced his heart.

“It wasn't what they were expecting. The surgeon was devastated.

**“Those four hours haunt me. Did he know I was there? Did he want to speak with me?”**

Years later she would meet a nursing sister who had held Lewis's hand as he went under the anaesthetic.

She told Christine they shared stories about their young children and

Lewis had told her their son was teething.

Christine said: “His last words were about his son. It had never crossed my mind that he was about to die.

“My reaction was one of disbelief.” Christine said the days and weeks afterwards were a blur.

She added: “I tried to do my best for Luke. I have one of these books where you write in details of your child's first steps and words. But I have no memory of that at all.”

On the day of the murder, McFadden, 18, had been seen brandishing a large knife and trying to kick in the shutter doors of several locked shops.

He lived nearby and the police had been alerted after he had threatened

his brother. When the officers reached the family home, McFadden threatened them as they called for back-up but he headed for the city centre and attacked Lewis, who was wearing standard uniform and had only a wooden truncheon to protect himself. More

**“ Something like that would have saved Lewis's life**

**CHRISTINE FULTON MAKES THE CASE FOR TASERS**

than 500 people attended the constable's funeral in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, four days later.

McFadden was later found insane and unfit to plead and ordered to be detained at the State Hospital in Carstairs, Lanarkshire. In 2000, he

recovered sufficiently to stand trial at the High Court in Glasgow but a jury found him not guilty of murder on the grounds that he was insane at the time of the killing.

He was then returned to Carstairs. Two year later, a fatal accident inquiry ruled protective equipment might have saved Lewis's life.

In 2006, McFadden changed his name and was being prepared for release.

Christine was told of the move and that his treatment had been successful. She said: “I had always accepted that he had been ill. I had no objections so long as he continued to take his medication.”

Lewis's killing caused a national outcry and there were demands to give police better protection. Strathclyde

Police decided to begin issuing all officers with stab-proof vests.

**For the past 30 years, Christine has dedicated herself to helping families of officers across Britain.**

In 2003, she co-founded the charity Care of Police Survivors (Cops) and set up the Scottish Police Memorial Trust, which remembers officers who have died on duty since 1812.

Christine, who has never remarried, remains immensely proud of her husband's bravery and his legacy. As does his son Luke, now 30, who works in the NHS.

She said Lewis was a brave officer, adding: “Lewis took the lead and sadly paid for it. He loved his job.

“I was proud of him every time that he put on his uniform and went to work.”

TESCO  
Clubcard

The  
power to  
lower  
prices.

25%  
off

Clubcard  
Prices



# All Clothing



Exclusively for  
**TESCO**

Available in majority of larger stores. Clubcard/app required. Subject to availability. Offer valid 23.05.24 – 29.05.24

# VICTIM'S FAMILY BLAST SENTENCING GUIDELINES

BY JENNIFER HYLAND  
and GRANT McCABE

**A MAN has been convicted of raping a teen girl in a classroom at lunch break while he was still a schoolboy.**

Zineelabibine Abbood forced his victim to go through a trial, and justice campaigners now fear he could be given a lighter sentence because of his age when he faces a judge next month.

The 21-year-old, who was 16 in November 2019 when the attack took place at a Glasgow secondary school, could be spared jail under controversial sentencing guidelines for under 25s.

The case has echoes of that of Sean Hogg, who was spared a prison term over offences which took place when he was 17, sparking a public outcry.

Hogg, whose conviction for raping a 13-year-old was later quashed, was initially handed a community payback order of 270 hours of unpaid work under the sentencing guidelines.

The family of the victim in the Hogg case have warned that Abbood could avoid jail under the same rules.

One said: "Rape is rape, no matter the age and offenders should be punished appropriately.

"Letting young offenders off with a slap in the wrist serves the victim no justice and acts in no way as a deterrent to others.

**"The justice system seems to be protecting these child abusers from prison but what about the life sentence the victim has to carry?"**

"We were let down and if offenders under 25 continue to be handed lenient sentences there will be plenty more victims who are left struggling to come to terms with the harrowing ordeals they have endured."

The rape case took four years to get to Glasgow High Court and Abbood denied the charges against him.

Jurors heard how Abbood and the teenage girl had initially been playing guitars in the music classroom.

He tried to claim the girl instigated the sexual activity but prosecutors stated Abbood raped the girl, which included him biting, pulling and groping her to her injury.

They said he pestered her about performing a sex act – and that he went on to insist he would "show" her.

Advocate depute Ruaraidh Ferguson quizzed him about the teacher coming into the classroom.

Mr Ferguson said: "She said that when she entered (the girl) was visibly upset, eyes red, face puffy and formed the view, that she had been crying for some time."

Abbood told the court he reckoned the victim was "fine", although he had "not been paying

**VIOLENT**  
Rapist  
Abbood bit  
his victim in  
the attack



# Don't let classroom rapist off with just a slap on the wrist

Man guilty of teenage attack on girl

**“No matter the age, offenders should be punished**

**FAMILY OF RAPE VICTIM SPEAKS OUT**



**QUASHED**  
Case against  
Sean Hogg



**DELAY** Case took four years to get to Glasgow High Court because of pandemic

attention" to her face at the time. He claimed the victim had consented multiple times. But jurors didn't believe him and convicted him of rape.

Judge Thomas Welsh KC agreed to continue Abbood's bail pending sentencing on June 14 in Edinburgh.

It's understood the case was delayed because of the Covid pandemic.

The new sentencing guidelines, which came into force in January 2022, aim to make rehabilitation rather than punishment a primary consideration when sentencing young offenders.

It means rapists like Abbood could be handed shorter custodial sentences than if he had been over 25.

In 2021, the Scottish Sentencing Council recommended an "individualistic approach" for under 25s which

takes into account their life experiences. It said the proposed changes would help reduce reoffending.

The council said its decision was based on scientific evidence that the brain is not fully developed below that age.

Hogg was initially convicted of raping a woman in Dalkeith Country Park, Midlothian, in 2018.

In April last year he was handed a community payback order of 270 hours of unpaid work in light of the sentencing guidelines.

The judge had considered the Scottish Government's sentencing guidelines and had come to the decision that prison would not contribute to his rehabilitation.

Lord Lake said Hogg would have been handed a four or five-year jail sentence if he had been over 25.

**After Hogg was sentenced, the Crown announced its intention was to appeal the "unduly lenient" sentence with a hearing.**

But his conviction was overturned in October following an appeal at the High Court of Appeal in Edinburgh after judges concluded there was an "insufficiency of evidence" to convict him.

Hogg's conviction was quashed after judge Lord Lake mistakenly gave directions to jurors that the "distress" of the victim, seen by a witness relating to a second alleged attack by the accused, could offer key corroboration required.

We previously revealed how Hogg had changed his identity and had been living in Hamilton under the name Sean Kay.



**TRIAL** Lord Lake gave lighter ruling due to sentence guidelines

# Sunday Mail

## OPINION

### Honest John fails first test

**RISHI Sunak announcing the General Election in pouring rain as Labour anthem Things Can Only Get Better blared in the background is a campaign gaffe which would take some beating.**

The Prime Minister seemed determined to outdo himself by moving on to a press call in Belfast's Titanic quarter, inviting predictable comparisons with sinking ships.

It is possible however that John Swinney has raised the stupidity stakes even higher with his indefensible decision to refuse to support the findings of a parliamentary committee into Michael Matheson's £11,000 iPad roaming bill.

Holyrood's Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee called for a 27-day ban and for the Falkirk West MSP to lose his salary for 54 days.

The decision will now go before MSPs for approval but Swinney has stated he will not be supporting the sanction, claiming the process had been "prejudiced" and brings Scottish parliament into "disrepute".

It is mind-boggling that the FM can't see that in the eyes of the public the only person bringing parliament into disrepute is him.

Matheson clearly lied about his iPad use and was happy for the public to pick up the bill until it became untenable for him not to pay the cash back.

The SNP accepting his wrongdoing while quibbling over the severity of the punishment is shameful.

In 2008, when Scottish Labour leader Wendy Alexander was sanctioned for a clearly less serious breach of failing to properly declare gifts, Swinney suggested she should be investigated by police.

The SNP were rightly furious about Boris Johnson's attempts three years ago to ignore the findings of a standards probe into Tory Owen Paterson over lobbying.

Swinney swept into Bute House promising a new culture of public accountability - but appears not to believe accountability extends to himself and his friends.

When you consider the other high-profile claims against the Nats it makes the FM's thought process even harder to fathom.

Honest John has fallen at the first hurdle when it comes to cleaning up the reputation of the SNP and with the starting gun on the election barely fired could have wrecked any chance of turning around the polls.

### Protect cops

**POLICE widow Christine Fulton knows better than anyone how thin the Thin Blue Line is.**

Her husband Lewis, killed on duty in 1994, was stabbed in the heart through his uniform by a schizophrenic teenager. His only defence was a wooden truncheon.

Despite her grief, Christine campaigned to keep frontline officers safer and provide vital support to police families who had lost a loved one. She championed the changes which saw the old-fashioned uniforms replaced with body armour.

Thirty years later, she is on the front line again. As violence in our towns and cities rises, Christine wants all officers trained to carry Tasers. Only about 2000 of 16,000 Police Scotland officers are able to use them.

Police chiefs and government should take heed. No one more than Christine would like Lewis to be the last Scottish officer killed in the line of duty.

# THE SUNDAY LIST SPORTING HEROES



### SHIRLEY ROBERTSON

Made it into the history books by becoming the first British woman to win an Olympic gold at consecutive games, Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004. Sailor Shirley, who grew up in Menstrie, Clackmannanshire, was appointed an MBE in 2000 and an OBE in 2005.



### DICK McTAGGART

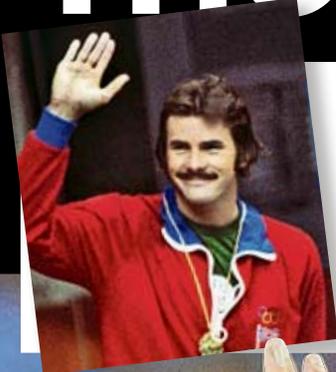
Boxer competed at the 1956 and 1960 games in the lightweight division and won a gold and a bronze. He was British ABA champ in 1956, 1958, 1960, 1963 and 1965. Retired with a record of 610 wins out of 634 bouts.



### DUNCAN SCOTT

The Glasgow-born swimmer made history after winning four medals - more than any other British athlete at a single Olympic Games - at Tokyo 2020, becoming simultaneously Great Britain's most decorated Olympic swimmer.

# The gold country



**Pool legend David Wilkie was one of a long line of Scots to show their mettle by getting among the medals**

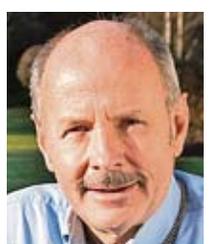
**HE was one of Scotland's greatest ever athletes.**

Swimmer David Wilkie, who died last week, was the 1976 Olympic 200m breaststroke champion, the first British swimmer to win a gold medal in the pool since 1960. He was the only

BY HEATHER GREENAWAY

person to have held British, Commonwealth, European, World and Olympic swimming titles at the same time.

Here are more of our country's exceptional athletes.

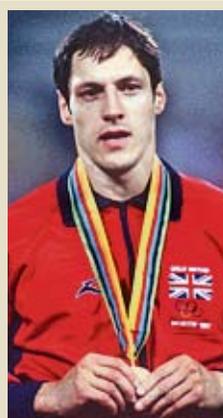


CHAMP David Wilkie

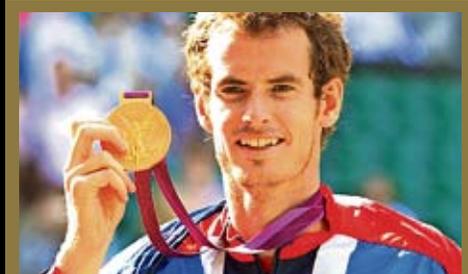


**CHRIS HOY**  
With seven Olympic medals - six gold and one silver - Edinburgh-born Hoy is the second most decorated Olympic cyclist. His 17 titles in four disciplines make him the most successful track cyclist. Knighted in 2008, he recently revealed he has cancer.

**ALLAN WELLS**  
Edinburgh-born sprinter won the 100m at the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. He was a multiple medallist for Scotland at the Commonwealth Games, winning two golds in 1978 and completing a 100m/200m double at the 1982 games.



**NEIL FACHIE**  
The Aberdeen Paralympic cyclist and ex-track athlete, who is visually impaired, won as a sprinter in 2008 in Beijing and as a tandem cyclist in London 2012. In London, he won gold in the men's individual 1km time trial and silver in the individual sprint.



### ANDY MURRAY

The three-time Grand Slam winner became the only man in history to win Olympic Gold and the US Open in the same calendar year - 2012.



### ERIC LIDDELL

At the 1924 Paris Olympics, the sprinter and Christian missionary refused to run in the 100m heats because they were held on a Sunday. Instead, he competed and won in the 400m. His story was told in the Oscar-winning 1981 movie Chariots of Fire.

### KATHERINE GRAINGER

Rower Grainger first won silver at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 in the women's quadruple sculls. In Athens in 2004, she won silver in the coxless pairs. In Beijing 2008, the Glasgow-born athlete won silver, in the quadruple sculls. At London 2012, Grainger and Anna Watkins took gold.

### LIZ McCOLGAN

The long-distance runner from Dundee won gold in the 10,000m at the 1991 World Championships and a silver over the same distance at the 1988 Olympics. She claimed three victories at the World Marathon majors: at the 1991 New York City marathon, 1992 Tokyo marathon and 1996 London marathon.



# Jean Johansson



## Trans rights are human rights and it's time we had an adult conversation

**IT'S a rare occurrence that I agree with former first minister Nicola Sturgeon but I do on transgender people being used as a political battering ram.**

At a literary festival last week she revealed the abuse she got over her government's plans to reform transgender laws which contributed to her decision to step down.

The former SNP leader said she had faced more vitriol and abuse on the issue than any other during her time in office.

She's absolutely right.

The obsession in Scotland with transpeople is real. They make up a mere 0.5 per cent of the population. That's 24,000 people according to the 2022 census.

I've had just a taster of the kind of hatred the former FM received just for having a trans flag on my X profile.

I simply believe that trans rights are human rights and consider myself an ally of every part of the LGBTIQI rainbow which shouldn't be controversial at all.

So much of the rhetoric and discrimination towards transmen and women reminds me of the way that gay people were spoken about when I was growing up.

And to me there's a lot of homophobia and transphobia disguised as "concern".

Scotland's biggest issues are the widening attainment gap, increasing poverty, violence in schools and a housing crisis so why so much air



**TARGETED** Nicola Sturgeon faced vitriol

time, social media content and column inches are spent discussing trans rights, I don't know.

There was controversy as the Hate Crime and Public Order Scotland Act came in to play.

And rather than welcoming a law designed to make it an offence to stir up hatred or commit a crime against people like me, critics were rallying against protections from stirring up hatred towards disability, race, religion and transgender identity.

With the latter being the one producing most discussion.

I'm not sure what's so hard to understand about the fact that there are women and there are trans-women. Seems pretty easy to grasp

yet some seem utterly confused or perhaps enjoy acting deliberately obtuse.

Of course there will be people who have genuine concern and issues like trans prisoners and gender identity should be robustly discussed and debated.

But surely the biggest input on those subjects should come from people within the justice system and experts in the field of child psychology and welfare when it comes to gender ID in children or adolescents.

Trans competitors in sports, changing rooms, puberty blockers all need considered and adult conversation applied as

does the subject of young people and adults who feel they've been born in to the wrong body.

I try to shy away from having opinions on the lives and choices of transpeople, as I'm not trans therefore it always feels more productive for me to listen and learn.

My default position is to have compassion for the struggles that transpeople face and I think Sturgeon was coming from the same place. Little did she know the topic would become so toxic it would topple her government.

**“ I've had just a taster of the kind of hatred the ex-FM received just for having a trans flag on X ”**

### Blonde on Blonde

IT'S the battle of the blondes at the National TV Awards as Holly Willoughby and her *This Morning* successor Cat Deeley could be going up against each other for title of Best TV presenter. Both are on the long list but I'm sure they'll be up there with Alison Hammond and Ant and Dec as nominees. With the NTAs voted for by the public there's often a shock. The stage is set.



### I'M WILD ABOUT TURKEY

**Turkey:** I'm currently filming in the seaside town of Fethiye for *A Place in The Sun* and I'm smitten.

It's my first time here and I've been missing out on the warmest people, stunning scenery, beautiful beaches and amazing food.

After a 15-year break the production decided to return as fans of the show

have been asking and recommending we film in Turkey. We listened and I'm glad we did.

I'm having the best experience in a country where east meets west. I've enjoyed touring properties with my house hunters and discovering a place that has truly captured my heart.



### RISHI'S REIGN ALMOST OVER

**Rishi Sunak:** The optics of Rishi Sunak's election announcement were absolutely tragic. The image of him soaked by the rain and drowned out by the *D:Ream* song and New Labour anthem *Things Can Only Get Better* was priceless. The spin doctor who thought it a good idea to send him out to get soaking wet and make a

soggy speech should get their P45 faster than the PM himself.

Standing outside was supposed to make him seem statesmanlike but he looked miserable.

He's started his farewell tour earlier than expected.

I can't wait to vote for change on July 4.



### 3 charged after £1.35m drug swoop

THREE men have been charged after drugs with a street value of about £1.35million were found.

Police raided a property in Tresta Road, Glasgow, on Thursday, discovering a "significant quantity of cocaine" and other "drug-related equipment".

The men, aged 29, 32 and 41, are due to appear at Glasgow Sheriff Court tomorrow.

Police thanked the community for their "continued support".

# BLOCKED FOR YEARS



ANGRY Alex Rowley

**COUNCILS** are taking more than three years to process planning applications for new homes despite the Scottish Government declaring a housing emergency.

First Minister John Swinney has blamed Westminster cuts to Scotland's capital spending budget for a lack of developments.

But we can reveal one planning application for 500 properties in

## New home plans gather dust on council desks

BY JOHN FERGUSON

Alloa, Clackmannanshire, lodged in 2021 is still waiting for approval – with officials admitting a lack of planning staff is partly to blame.

Experts have warned the situation is being replicated up and down the country, with new housing being delayed for years

on end. Labour MSP Alex Rowley has been left furious after senior managers at Clackmannanshire Council admitted in a letter a 500-home development in his constituency, on the site of an old distillery, was caught up in severe delay partly because of "small teams and competing priorities",

while a vacancy for a principal planning officer hadn't been filled.

Rowley said: "We must build more houses and drive investment and growth in local economies.

"The planning system has been cut to the bone and I am making clear to the SNP government that something needs to change."

# 50GB

# £8

WAS 16GB.  
FLEXIBLE 1-MONTH PLAN.



LESS MALARKY MORE  
**SMARTY**

SWITCH TO SMARTY MOBILE

Limited time offer. SIM only 1 month plan. Extra 34GB data applied per month to 16GB/£8 plan for 15 consecutive months. Terms at smarty.co.uk

IN TOMORROW'S **Daily Record**

# Why gardening is good for your health

IN YOUR LIFE SECTION



PLUS..

## FREE PACK

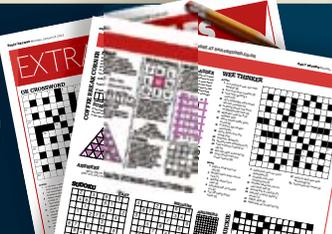
### Keelings®

FRUIT OR VEG

Iceland | the food WAREHOUSE



PLUS..  
FOUR pages of puzzles



AND..  
the Scottish Cup final.. all the big talking points

# EXCLUSIVE VICTIMS DEMAND INQUIRY INTO SFA

BY NORMAN SILVESTER

**TWO victims of a paedophile football referee have demanded a public inquiry into the historic sexual abuse of young players in the Scottish game.**

Peter Haynes and Stuart McMillan were targeted by SFA coach Hugh Stevenson, who died in 2004 aged 66.

Both have given up their right to anonymity and believe there are hundreds of other victims – some as young as six.

They are calling on the Scottish Government to hold a judge-led inquiry into what they believe was the wide scale abuse of children by Stevenson and others over decades.

Peter, now 58, said: "I would like a public inquiry into child abuse across Scottish football and not just Hugh Stevenson. These guys were allowed to do what they wanted. I want to know how much the SFA and other football bodies knew about the abuse.

"I believe there was a paedophile network operating in Scottish football at that time involving Stevenson and others which was ignored."

Peter said he was 12 when he was first raped by Stevenson in 1979 and the abuse went on for four years, with the attacks taking place at the referee's home in Paisley.

He has been fighting for justice for more than 30 years after he first went to the police in 1993.

Stevenson was arrested and charged but never stood trial. In 1994 Peter had a meeting with then SFA chief exec Jim Farry but was told there was nothing they could do as Stevenson was no longer affiliated to them.

Earlier this year it was revealed that Celtic Football Club were preparing to pay millions to more than 20 victims of paedophile boys' club coaches after decades of campaigning.

Peter is disappointed with the Scottish Government response over the years to his pleas for an investigation.

Victims were refused permission to take part in the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry as the SFA had already published their own probe in 2021, in which they issued a public apology.

Peter also met Sports Minister Maree Todd in 2022.

He said: "She told me she would do what she could. I'm still waiting on a response."

Peter first spoke openly about his abuse in 2016 and was contacted by others, who had been abused as boys by Stevenson, who was on the official list of SFA referees between 1964 and 1983. Dad-of-five Peter said: "He was

**FEARS**  
Peter Haynes was abused by Stevenson and believes there could be hundreds of other victims. Pic: Garry F McHarg



# We've got to uncover the truth about paedophile network that preyed on football kids



**“ He was abusing boys on an industrial scale**

**PETER HAYNES ON PAEDOPHILE STEVENSON**



**PREDATOR**  
Stevenson worked as an SFA referee from 1964 to 1983

## Peter and Stuart want to know full scale of abuse and cover-up

abusing boys on an industrial scale and in some cases whole families.

"The majority never reported the assaults for fear of not being believed or jeopardising their careers."

Peter, a community support worker in Fife, lived in the same street as Stevenson and first encountered him in 1979. He said the abuse began after the referee took him to the 1979 Scottish Cup final – the day before his 13th birthday.

He said: "There were so many complaints against Stevenson. The SFA knew there

was something wrong with him. If you ask me how many victims he had, I'd put it in the hundreds. I believed he continued up to his death in 2004."

Stuart McMillan, 62, a retired prison officer, also supports a public inquiry. Stuart, from Paisley, was 17 when he was targeted by Stevenson after he began training as a referee.

He said: "I would like the SFA to say they got it wrong. I have been left scarred and have difficulty maintaining relationships. Hugh Stevenson should never have been allowed the access he was given."

Their case has been taken up by the Conservative's justice spokesman Russell Findlay. In a letter to Todd, he said: "I am at a loss to understand why the Scottish Government refuses to better understand the scale of child sexual abuse in our national game and

broaden the remit of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry to include football.

"The abuse scandal is a stain on Scottish football. It caused immeasurable devastation to countless football-obsessed children. The government cannot continue to fail these victims."

The SFA said it was unable to comment. The Scottish Government noted the SFA's independent review "acknowledged the significant physical and mental harm caused to individuals and the need to ensure the safety, rights and wellbeing of children involved today".

It said it had axed the three-year time-bar for cases involving child abuse and supported police to bring predators to justice. It noted a number of people "responsible for such crimes have been successfully convicted".



**TARGETED**  
Stuart McMillan backs calls for inquiry



**MEETING** SFA's Farry



**LETTER** MSP Todd

# Book early, save big

Thinking about your next getaway? Stop thinking, start planning. And save up to 60% when you book early.

**SAVE**  
UP TO  
**60%**

Advance  
train  
tickets

Saving compared to Anytime Day Single. Book by 6pm the day before travel. Selected routes only. Subject to availability. Conditions apply.



Your ticket goes further than you think



**SHOT** Brian Low, 65

## Man charged on death of dog walker

BY NEIL POORAN

A MAN OF 75 has been charged in connection with the death of a former estate worker.

Brian Low, 65, was found dead on a remote track in Pitilie near Aberfeldy, Perthshire, at about 8.30am on February 17.

His death was initially said to be “medical related” by police.

During a post-mortem examination six days later, it was discovered Brian, who retired from his job as a groundsman at the Edradynate estate last year, had been shot.

On Friday morning, police confirmed the arrest.

The man is due to appear at Dundee Sheriff Court tomorrow. He remains in custody.

Police Scotland said: “A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.”



PICTURE: PHIL WILKINSON

### Putting on a white show

THIS white peacock is making his presence felt with a dazzling mating display.

The bird is one of the new residents at Bird Gardens Scotland in Oxtou, Berwickshire.

His feathers are white because of a genetic mutation.



**DAY IN COURT** Alec Baldwin

## Baldwin trial to go ahead after ruling

BY ELLE IORIZZO

LAWYERS acting for actor Alec Baldwin said “we look forward to our day in court” after a judge denied their bid to throw out his case.

The Departed star had previously pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter following the fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of film Rust in October 2021.

New Mexico Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer found the grand jury process was not prejudiced against the 66-year-old star.

Baldwin will stand trial from July 9, in New Mexico, after a prop gun he was holding went off, killing Halyna. He faces up to 18 months in jail if convicted.

Rust armourer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed was previously jailed for 18 months. She has filed an appeal.

# £6.6bn or we wave goodbye to 30k jobs



**WARNING** Graham

**BRITAIN'S most powerful trade union boss demanded urgent action after a report warned tens of thousands of Scottish offshore jobs will be lost by 2030.**

Sharon Graham spoke out after researchers at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen concluded a “just transition” to renewables will not happen without a multi-billion-pound government intervention.

The research shows one offshore wind turbine would need to be installed each day until the end of the decade along with laying 9300 miles of cables to replicate jobs likely to be lost in the oil and gas sector.

The outlook could be even worse if the UK chooses not to license new oil and gas fields as part of the drive to reduce CO2 emissions – and Scotland

## Trade union boss bids to save offshore posts

BY JOHN FERGUSON  
Political Editor

will be disproportionately affected, according to the study.

Graham, general secretary of Unite, last week launched a campaign urging a Labour government not to ban new fossil fuel developments without a plan for green jobs.

She said: “A catastrophe looms for the North Sea’s oil and gas workers. It cannot be denied any longer with grandiose promises of tens of thousands of jobs. The report underlines the urgency of Unite’s No Ban Without a Plan campaign, launched last week and supported by a hard-hitting

editorial in the Sunday Mail. By 2030, 30,000 North Sea workers face a jobs cliff-edge. And that’s if we keep developing remaining oil fields – the job losses will be even higher if we “accelerate” the end of drilling. To avoid disaster, local manufacturing

**“We’ll stop North Sea workers being coal miners of net zero”**  
SHARON GRAHAM ON CAMPAIGN FOR OIL & GAS WORKERS

of renewables must be at the heart of a future jobs plan. We need to build a new wind turbine every day.

“But that won’t protect jobs if those turbines are built overseas by multinational

corporations – that is what has happened for the last decade.”

Graham added: “To build local manufacturing we need investment which we’ve costed at £6.6billion over six years.

“It will pay itself back. But where will it come from? Unfortunately, there’s no sign of it from the massively profitable oil and gas companies. That means government will have to take a lead.

“The Labour Party’s current offer to North Sea workers is to cut jobs by banning licences with no alternative plan on the table – but we won’t let North Sea workers become the coal miners of net zero.”

www.breaks2go.co.uk

The best value, the best choice, since 2002

**Breaks2Go**

22  
Years  
Anniversary

The best value  
The best choice!



NEW BROCHURES AVAILABLE NOW

**UK, IRELAND & EUROPE**

SEE BROCHURES FOR ALL TOURS AND DATES

**BREAKS2GO FAVOURITES:**

- Luxury coach travel
- Reserved seats
- Full English breakfast
- Dinner
- Entertainment\*
- Excursions

\*Unless otherwise stated in brochure



**STRATFORD UPON AVON**  
& Cotswolds  
5 DAYS £279  
Mon 1 July



**4\*LIVERPOOL**  
At the Pullman  
5 DAYS £309  
Sun 30 Jun



**6 DAY TREAT BLACKPOOL**  
with £60pp BAR CREDIT  
6 DAYS £359  
Sun 23 Jun



**METRO & DURHAM ADVENTURE**  
3 DAYS £135  
Fri 21 Jun



**LLANDUDNO MARKETS & CHESTER**  
5 DAYS £309  
Mon 3 Jun



**SWING WEEKEND LARGS**  
3 DAYS £225  
Fri 7 Jun

**NEW For 2024 DOOR2DOOR**

- Luxury coach travel
- Reserved seats
- Pick up from your front door
- Full English breakfast
- Dinner
- Entertainment\*
- Excursions

\*Unless otherwise stated in brochure



**BLETCHLEY PARK**  
5 DAYS £459  
Mon 29 July



**SOUTHPORT**  
CRUISE & MARKETS  
5 DAYS £369  
Mon 17 June



**ISLE OF WIGHT EXPLORER**  
7 DAYS £599  
Sun 14 July



**GREAT YARMOUTH**  
& The Norfolk Broads  
5 DAYS £399  
Mon 29 July



**LUXURY ST ANNES**  
Leisure Break  
5 DAYS £419  
Mon 5 Aug



**3 COUNTRIES**  
Belgium  
Germany  
Holland  
7 DAYS £749  
Sun 13 Oct

THE UK'S LARGEST **BLACKPOOL PACKAGE** PROVIDER

All your favourite hotels

- SHERATON**
- RUSKIN**
- CRAIGYDON**
- LYNDENE**
- DORIC**
- BALMORAL**
- STRAND**
- GEORGIAN**
- OAK LEA**
- PARK HOUSE**
- ELGIN**
- IMPERIAL**
- SUTCLIFFE**
- FERNDALE**
- ADELAIDE LODGE**



**THE ALL IN ONE PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- Luxury coach travel
- Full English breakfast
- Delicious evening meal
- Nightly cabaret & bingo
- Tram & Bus pass WORTH £20



**JUNE 4 DAYS** Fri - Mon from **£159** pp  
Fri 31 May, 7, 14, 21, 28 Jun

**5 DAYS** Mon - Fri from **£189** pp  
Mon 3, 10, 17, 24 Jun

**8 DAYS** Full Week from **£269** pp  
Fri - Fri or Mon - Mon

**NOW ALSO BOOKING**

**JUL AUG** from **£169** pp

**ILLUMINATIONS**  
Sep Oct from **£159** pp  
Nov Dec

**MORE BLACKPOOL PACKAGES** From only **£79** pp

**RUSKIN B&B** PACKAGE NOW AVAILABLE

**JUNE**  
Fri - Mon £229  
Mon - Fri £279

from **£229** pp

- Luxury coach travel
- Full English Breakfast
- Nightly cabaret & bingo
- TRAM & BUS PASS

**LYNDENE 2 DAYS**  
Sun 9 Jun

- Luxury coach travel
- Full English Breakfast
- Delicious dinner
- Show night with 3 or 4 top acts & bingo
- Excursion

only **£79** pp

**BLACKPOOL MINI BREAKS**  
3 DAYS Fri - Sun

May 31 from £109  
Jun 7, 14, 21, 28 from £115

**OAK LEA** Fr £109 from **£109** pp  
**STRAND** Fr £139  
**DORIC** Fr £149  
**PARKHOUSE** Fr £149  
**SUTCLIFFE** Fr £119  
**LYNDENE** Fr £179 inc **£50** BAR CREDIT

**MINI BREAKS INCLUDE**

- Luxury coach travel
- Full English breakfast
- Delicious evening meal
- Nightly cabaret & bingo
- Excursion
- £50 BAR CREDIT (LYNDENE 2 DAYS)

**BLACKPOOL SELF DRIVE**  
4 DAYS DB&B from **£119**



**Tel: 0141 332 7078** www.breaks2go.co.uk



**DEPART POINTS** Alloa, Ayr Bathgate, Carlisle, Cumbernauld, Dundee, Dunfermline, East Kilbride, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Glenrothes, Gretna, Hamilton, Irvine, Kilmarnock, Kincardine, Kirkcaldy, Motherwell, Paisley, Stirling  
Breaks2Go & Blackpool Breaks 34 West George St. Glasgow G2 1DA Lines open 7 days

# INVITE TO GLITTERING OPENER



## BOSS Tesla's Elon Musk Tesla tops MoT league of shame

BILLIONAIRE Elon Musk's Tesla battery-powered eco cars top the list for flunking the MoT.

Nearly 20 per cent of its Model 3 Performance cars failed the test, which cars must take annually from three years old.

The study of last year's MoT results also showed almost 80 per cent of the £60,000 cars' failures were because of tyres. The car boasts a top speed of 163mph and accelerates from 0-60 in 2.9secs.

The Tesla Model 3 Long Range also finished in the top 10 of vehicles that failed their first MoT.

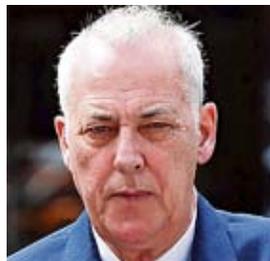
Other cars on the list of failures were three versions of the Ford Fiesta, a Renault Clio and the BMW 330.

The vehicle that has the best pass rate was the Honda Jazz. Tesla was asked to comment.

**EXCITED**  
Aldridge will travel as part of a twinning celebration



# I've bagged a ticket for our big match in Munich...and Eur paying



## PARTY Michael Barrymore New show to probe star pool death

A TV show is being made about the death of a man in Michael Barrymore's swimming pool.

Producers, who are eyeing a deal with Netflix or Amazon Prime, are tracking down witnesses who were at the ex-Strike It Lucky presenter's home in Roydon, Essex, on the night Stuart Lubbock, 31, died in 2001.

He had suffered severe internal injuries which suggested he had been sexually assaulted. No one was charged.

Police said "now is the time to come forward" and urged any new information be given to them.

Stuart's ex-wife Sue Homan said: "Anything that can shine a light on what happened is a good thing."

"There cannot be silence and unanswered questions forever."

BY PAUL DRURY

## A LORD Provost has bagged tickets to the country's Euro 2024 opener against hosts Germany next month.

Taxpayers will foot the £1400 bill to send Edinburgh council official Robert Aldridge to the match and glittering opening ceremony on June 14.

Aldridge has been invited by the mayor of Munich, Dieter Reiter, to be his guest to mark the 70th anniversary of the twinning agreement between the two cities, struck in 1954 in the wake of World War II.

A report to an Edinburgh Council committee, due to meet next week, recommends the Lord Provost's attendance, despite a preceding item on the committee agenda outlining how air travel impacts the local authority's carbon footprint.

As part of council policy, officials and councillors travelling by air are required to consider alternative forms of travel less harmful to the planet.

The report states: "As a part of planning for this visit, officers



**OPENER** Scotland will play Germany at the Allianz Arena on June 14



**OFFER** Dieter Reiter



**DONATION** McLaren



**TRIP** Angus Robertson

## Taxpayers foot £1400 bill to send city's Provost to Germany

estimate that travelling by train would require a 15-hour journey with three transfers.

"This option would incur a requirement for two additional overnight stays alongside accommodation and subsistence costs over and above an air travel equivalent.

"On this basis, it is recommended air travel is appropriate for this visit as a means to minimise travel time and costs."

As the mayor of Munich is

providing accommodation for the party of two – Aldridge and a council officer – the cost of the three-day trip is £1400.

Glasgow Lord Provost Jacqueline McLaren, who was given tickets to the game, has donated hers to charity.

Aldridge said: "I'm very much looking forward to visiting our sister city of Munich and celebrating the 70th anniversary of our twinning arrangement, the oldest relationship of its

kind. To be able to cheer on the Scotland national team in their opening game at the Allianz Arena is a great privilege for me and I have no doubt that the Tartan Army will be in full voice."

Alongside him in the VIP section will be Angus "Air Miles" Robertson, the Scottish Government's Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Secretary.

The MSP has already been abroad three times this year and

represented Scotland at Tartan Week in New York last month.

The Scottish Government said the costs of Robertson's Munich trip – along with a number of officials – will be declared later.

About 200,000 Tartan Army fans are expected to travel to Germany for the games.

They have received only 10,000 tickets for the opener at Bayern Munich's Allianz Arena, which holds 70,000.



## WEATHER SET TO RAIN ON PARADE

SCOTLAND could have an extra man at the opening game of the Euros next month – the weather.

June is normally a dry and sunny month in Germany but it's to be wet and colder than normal when Scotland set

**WASHOUT** Scotland fans

out against the hosts on June 14. The rain clouds are also tipped to follow the Scots around Germany as the troops travel to different venues.

In Bavaria, the dream of sitting out in the city's sun-kissed beer gardens could be washed away by

unseasonable downpours in Munich.

On the day of Scotland's opener, the weather service Met Check warns the chance of rain is 96 per cent. It won't be particularly warm, either, at just 17C in the shade.

Hamish Husband,

spokesman for the West of Scotland Tartan Army said: "This is actually good news for Scotland. The rain will stop us feeling homesick."

"Scotland fans travelling abroad need clothes for all weathers and it looks like Germany will be no different."

# AS NETFLIX EXPOSES CHEAT SITE,

**EXCLUSIVE**  
BY JACKIE ANNETT

**CHILDHOOD** sweethearts Sam and Nia Rader seemed to have it all – good looks, bright smiles, a fairytale marriage and, with millions of followers on YouTube, the world at their feet.

But as Ashley Madison: Sex, Lies and Scandal – the show currently taking Netflix by storm – reveals, that fairytale was built on huge lies.

The three-part docuseries tells how, in 2015, Ashley Madison, a website for married people looking to cheat, was hacked and the identities of 30 million users leaked on to the dark web and made public.

Among them was former ER nurse – and apparently committed Christian – Sam, who not only had numerous affairs, he also made advances towards his wife's friend.

In his first exclusive British interview, Sam says: "Breaking my wife's heart was the hardest thing I've ever had to do. My infidelity ripped Nia's world apart."

Growing up in Texas, all Nia ever wanted was a doting husband and a family of her own.

Meeting charming, handsome Sam, who she believed shared her important core moral values and religious faith, she thought she'd hit the jackpot.

The devoted couple tied the knot in 2009, when Sam was 24 and Nia was 20, and welcomed their first child, Symphony, now 13, the next year.

A sweet video of the husband and wife lip-synching in the car to the song Love is an Open Door from Disney's Frozen while their unimpressed daughter rode in the back seat was a YouTube hit in 2014.

The pair launched a successful career as influencers, painting a rosy picture of a happy home life to their 2.5million vlog fans as their family grew to include Abram, now 10, Juliet, seven, and Josie Grace, three.

Never in a million years did Nia think her adorable, God-fearing husband and business partner would risk everything by being unfaithful.

Yet no sooner was the ring on her finger than Sam was breaking the commandment 'Thou shalt not commit adultery'.

He had a number of affairs between 2009 and 2013 after joining the Ashley Madison site, which was founded in 2001 by Darren Morgenstern.

Sam, 38, first claimed he joined "out of pure fleshly desire and just simple curiosity" and says he stopped having affairs two years before the data was leaked – although he admits he probably would not have confessed if it were not for the hackers.

Sam said that when the scandal first broke, God and Nia had forgiven him, which meant he had been



**WEDDING DAY** Tying the knot in Texas, US, in 2009



**A UNITED FRONT** Pair are still together



**CHEATER** He admits lies on Netflix show

**“I was devastated and totally shocked because he had always been such a moral person”**

"completely cleansed of this sin". But after agreeing to take part in the Netflix series, the dad broke yet another Christian commandment by lying to producers.

He told them he had only opened an account and did not actually cheat on his wife – before finally confessing to everything, including approaching one of Nia's pals.

He says: "Watching the documentary and hearing all the ugly things I did out loud for the first time made me feel sick. What the documentary doesn't show is that my confessions were painfully drip-fed to my wife over a couple of weeks." By the time

Sam's sordid secret life was exposed through the Ashley Madison leak, the Raders had been married for nearly six years and together for 11.

Initially Nia, 35, a former clothing store manager, was adamant she wanted a divorce.

She says: "I had to let go of that fairytale facade. I was devastated, so angry and hurt. And I was totally shocked because he had always been such a moral person."

Yet despite the heartbreak and humiliation, family clearly comes first for Nia. In an act of Christian forgiveness, she renewed her marriage vows to Sam in 2019 following relationship counselling and in 2021 they

welcomed their fourth child. To this day, she cannot speak in detail about the depth of Sam's betrayal, as talking about his affairs still makes her cry.

What she will say is that being so deeply in love blinded her to the warning signs of his cheating.

She adds: "It wasn't easy to get over something like that. We had such an intense love and so I didn't understand how he could still love me and do that. I was totally blindsided when I found out."

The pair have written a tell-all book about their relationship, Sam and Nia Live in Truth: Public Scandal, Secret Vows, Restored Hearts.

And Nia agreed to put herself

through the mill again and air their dirty laundry on Netflix, as she says she wants to show other women that divorce is not the only option if their husband cheats.

She says: "I wanted to share my story in the hope that somebody would see it and realise there is hope for their marriage."

"There may be other women sitting there in my shoes, living in the situation I was in nine years ago, who may be trying to decide whether or not they want to stay with their husband."

"Divorce is not the only option. I had to take a step back and ask myself 'Is this worth throwing away everything over?' He

## THE HUSBAND

# My infidelity ripped Nia's world apart. Breaking her heart was the hardest thing I had to do

# A COUPLE REVEAL ALL

**BROKEN VOWS**  
Sam admits he was unfaithful to Nia several times

## THE WIFE

# We had such an intense love... I was shocked he could love me and yet cheat on me



**DRIVEN** Abbi Pulling  
Pulling power of car racing in Netflix doc

BY PHIL CARDY

A BRITISH racing driver is to star in a documentary about the all-female F1 Academy championship.

Abbi Pulling, 21, recently became the first woman to top the podium in a Formula 4 race.

Actress Reese Witherspoon's company is producing the Netflix documentary F1 Academy.

Abbi, of Gosberton, Lincolnshire, who drives for the Rodin Motorsport team, said the global audience it may attract would be huge for the sport.

She was excited to show people what happens behind the scenes.

She added: "It's not just turning a wheel and pushing pedals. You do more off track, 90% of your time is prepping for the next time you're in a car."



**GRATEFUL** Actor Rob  
No, no, thank YOU, insists Wrexham Rob

BY PHIL CARDY

A POLICE football team organised a charity kick-about to thank Wrexham AFC's celebrity owners for helping the area – and were thanked themselves by Rob McElhenney.

The actor and his co-owner Ryan Reynolds have donated nearly £20,000 in the past year to good causes promoted by Wrexham Police FC.

The game between off-duty officers and the inclusive team Happy Samedays raised £334 for kids' hospitals in Vancouver, Canada, and Philadelphia, US – the stars' home towns.

Star Rob said on his social media: "Love this. Thank you."

Sgt Dave Smith, of North Wales Police, said: "We just wanted to do something to give something back."

was working very hard to earn my trust back and I realised the grass is not greener on the other side."

While Nia has received a lot of support from some fans, other women have found it difficult to understand why she gave Sam a second chance.

She accepts that not everyone agrees with her choice. But she feels her husband has now proved he can be trusted.

Nia admits: "A lot of people see me as a dummy for

ignoring all the red flags, but that's just not true. The mistake I made was that I was too in love to see the warning signs. Sam is so honest with me now and I trust that he's not still doing these things.

"And what many people don't realise is that he didn't only stop because he was caught. The data breach happened in 2015 and the last time Sam cheated was 2013. He had already come to his senses but was carrying a huge secret. I forgive him."

As for Sam, he accepts he has only himself to blame – and has a warning for other spouses who may be tempted to stray.

Since the series began

streaming earlier this month, the dad has faced a swathe of criticism. He says: "People who say I don't deserve Nia are right. I'm a very lucky man."

"I'm the face of happily married men who go on Ashley Madison and I'm taking the brunt of people's anger about men cheating. But I get it, as I've invited this on myself."

"I don't regret the data leak – it had to happen at some point. My secrets were eating away at me."

"I hate that men are acting outside of their marriage and I hate that I did it. Adultery destroys families."

■ Ashley Madison: Sex, Lies & Scandal is streaming on Netflix, and the book Sam and Nia Live in Truth: Public Scandal, Secret Vows, Restored Hearts is available on Amazon

# GALLAGHER 'A PRISONER RIGHT TO THE LAST'



LOOKALIKES Taking break

## Evel Knievel convoy in charity ride

BY PETER JOLLY

NEARLY 50 Evel Knievel lookalikes on motorbikes shocked passers-by as they rode into Inverness.

To the skirl of a piper, they set-off earlier on Friday on a charity ride for NSPCC from John O'Groats to Land's End.

The 2000-mile journey was set to end today.

RIDE Cymru MCC organiser Jason Lewis said the riders were from all over the UK, adding: "People under 40 think we are Elvis impersonators."

# Wife's fury as dying inmate is chained to jail guards

NO PRIVACY Widow Susie Gallagher



**LET'S ROCK**  
SCOTLAND - THE RETRO FESTIVAL

**PARTY**  
- at the -  
**PALACE**

SATURDAY

**UB40**  
FEATURING ALI CAMPBELL

**LULU**

**ABC HEAVEN 17 BIG COUNTRY**  
PLUS MANY MORE ACTS

SUNDAY

**RONAN KEATING**

**BANANARAMA**

**CALLUM BEATTIE THE FARM**  
PLUS MANY MORE ACTS

**10th & 11th AUGUST 2024**

**BY LINLITHGOW PALACE**



SCAN ME

BY NORMAN SILVESTER

## THE family of the ringleader in the notorious 1980s roof-top prison siege at Peterhead claim he was treated inhumanely in the last days of his life.

Convicted killer John Gallagher, 72, should have been released on compassionate grounds, says his widow, but was instead chained to guards as he lay dying in hospital.

Susie, 62, said: "The way my husband was treated in his dying days was just barbaric. The two guards were there 24/7 and they were there when he died."

Susie said her husband was kept under constant guard in hospital by custody officers from a private prison escort firm employed by the Scottish Prison Service.

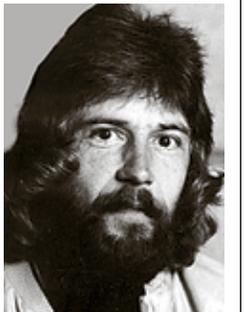
They were ordered by medical staff to remove his restraints including chains and handcuffs when he was first admitted.

She added: "They never gave us one moment to ourselves. They would sit on either side of the bed listening to every word. We could not speak with any privacy."

Gallagher died before his lawyer's application to Scottish Government ministers for him to be freed could be heard.

He was jailed in 1979 for the murder of a butcher during a botched robbery in Glasgow.

But he gained infamy in 1984 when prisoners at Peterhead rioted, taking two prison officers hostage and breaking through the top of the jail to protest at conditions. The five-day stand-off ended when the then PM Margaret



ROOFTOP Gallagher led riots at jail, left

## 'No compassion' for Peterhead prison siege leader on deathbed



FRIENDS Gallagher and Lockerbie bomber's card

Thatcher called in the SAS.

Gallagher, was out on licence when he learned he had cancer last November 3 and was recalled to prison the following week after an arrest on drugs charges.

Susie claims he had a life expectancy of up to two years but deteriorated in prison and died in Raigmore Hospital, having been admitted five days earlier from Inverness Prison. Susie, of Culloden,

Inverness, said her husband should have been given compassionate release in the same way as Lockerbie bomber Abdelbaset Al Megrahi. He and her husband became pals in Greenock Prison, and Megrahi even sent her a Christmas card one year.

It was not the first time that Gallagher had been recalled for breaching the terms of his parole.

Around 2004, he was convicted of stabbing a man and jailed for nine years before being released again.

A fatal accident inquiry will be held into his death. Gallagher's lawyer Graham Mann said: "We wrote to the Scottish ministers and asked for his immediate release but it didn't happen."

"There was never any relaxation in the hospital and he was a prisoner right to the last. It was handled insensitively and inappropriately in what was clearly his dying days."

The SPS said: "Every death, in prison custody or our communities, is a tragedy, and our thoughts remain with Mr Gallagher's family."

"While it would not be appropriate to comment on an individual ahead of any FAI any application will be carefully considered to determine if there are compassionate grounds justifying release."

**“They never gave us a moment to ourselves” SUSIE GALLAGHER**



EDUCATION Idris Elba

## Idris telling war tales of black heroes

BY LOTTE BRUNDLE

BRITISH actor Idris Elba has said the stories of black people who fought during World War II matter today from an “education” and “cultural appropriation perspective”.

The Luther star, 51, narrates the National Geographic documentary Erased: WW2's Heroes Of Colour, which premieres ahead of the 80th D-Day anniversary on June 6.

He said: “The importance is about the perspective of these wars and this part of the world and how history, if it’s slanted, can really leave out some important things to remember.”

“It’s important to remember that black and brown soldiers were a very important part of strategising this war, populating the war, and that history really does matter.”



HOME BOY James on stage

## Arthur seeks local act with the X Factor

BY PHIL CARDY

X FACTOR winner James Arthur is looking for a local support act for a homecoming gig next month.

The night before he plays Middlesbrough’s Riverside Stadium he will be at Teesside University’s Students’ Union, watching four acts compete to win the opening slot.

His family chose the finalists in the Road to the Riverside contest – Finn Forster, Lizzie Esau, Noyou and Spilt Milk.

Arthur, 36, and BBC Introducing’s Shakk will announce the winner on June 7. The singer’s sister Sian said the contest was “super important” to him.

She said: “He wants to give young bands and singers the chance to support him, to give back to the local community.”

**LOOK WAD YOU MADE ME DO**  
Almost 1.2m fans will watch Taylor’s 15 Eras gigs in the UK



# Airbnb owners make a Swift profit

## Room rates skyrocket on nights of Taylor gigs

BY NATASHA WYNARCZYK

**TAYLOR Swift fans needing a place to stay after the megastar’s gigs could be in for a Cruel Summer as the accommodation prices are soaring by up to 223 per cent.**

Those with rooms for concertgoers are making a Swift buck as prices for stays could rise by as much as £500 per night in some parts of the country when her record-breaking Eras Tour is taking place.

Researchers looked at Airbnb prices for the week before and the week Taylor is in town, to find the average costs to stay for two people for one night.

And the biggest hike was when Taylor, 34, is performing at Edinburgh’s Murrayfield Stadium over the weekend of June 7-9.

Then, Airbnbs cost an average of £769 per night – but the weekend before it is £237.88, making it a 223 per cent increase during the weekend of her gigs.

Taylor then heads to Liverpool’s Anfield, performing on June 13, 14 and 15. For the same dates the week before,

Airbnb rentals cost on average £99.64 a night but they rise to £202.59 on the dates of the gigs – more than double.

Her next show is in Cardiff, with Welsh fans seeing the least damage to their wallets. Taylor is playing one night at the Principality Stadium, on June 18.

That night, it is £185.07 for a stay compared with £156.44 the Tuesday before – an 18 per cent increase.

For London, Alt Index looked at Travelodge hotels within three miles of Wembley

Stadium. The average cost for a one-night stay when she plays on June 21, 22 and 23 is £222.60. But the same time period the week before is £109.93, making this a 102 per cent hike.

When Taylor is playing on August 15, 16, 17, 19 and 20, the average cost for a one-night stay at a nearby Travelodge is £167.96. For the same time the week before it is £88, making stays over the tour dates 91 per cent more.

Consumer expert Scott Dixon, of The Complaints Resolver, said: “This is blatant profiteering and extortion

which simply cannot be justified. No hotel or Airbnb can justify charging nearly £800 for one night.

“This highlights why consumers ought to plan ahead and factor in these costs, and consider different locations when buying tickets for events.”

**The Eras Tour is set to provide a £997million boost to the UK economy, according to Barclays.**

Fans will spend an average of £848 on tickets, travel, new outfits, merchandise, accommodation and food and drink.

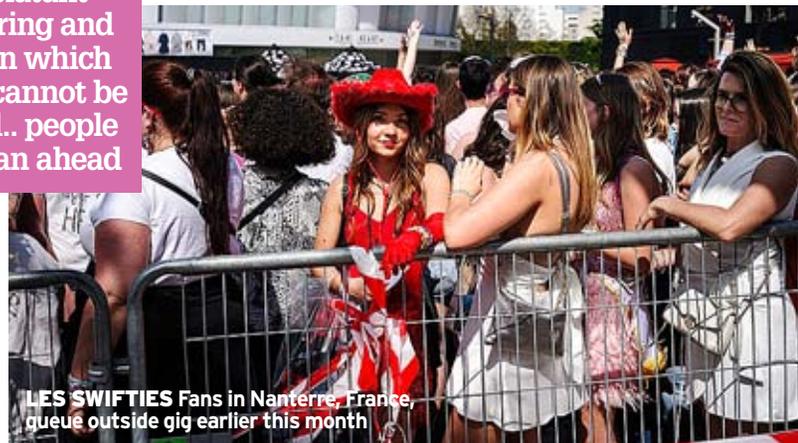
Almost 1.2million Swifties will catch her live shows when she visits the UK this summer for her 15 performances.

Taylor recently became the first artist to achieve billionaire status solely through her music, while the Eras Tour, which started on March 17, 2023 in Glendale, Arizona, is the highest grossing of all time – breaking the \$1billion barrier last December.

An Airbnb spokesman said: “The average price for booked accommodation on Airbnb in Liverpool, Cardiff and Edinburgh for the concert dates is around £233 per night.”

Travelodge said: “We pride ourselves on providing our customers with a well-priced, well-located stay they can trust.”

“This is blatant profiteering and extortion which simply cannot be justified.. people must plan ahead”



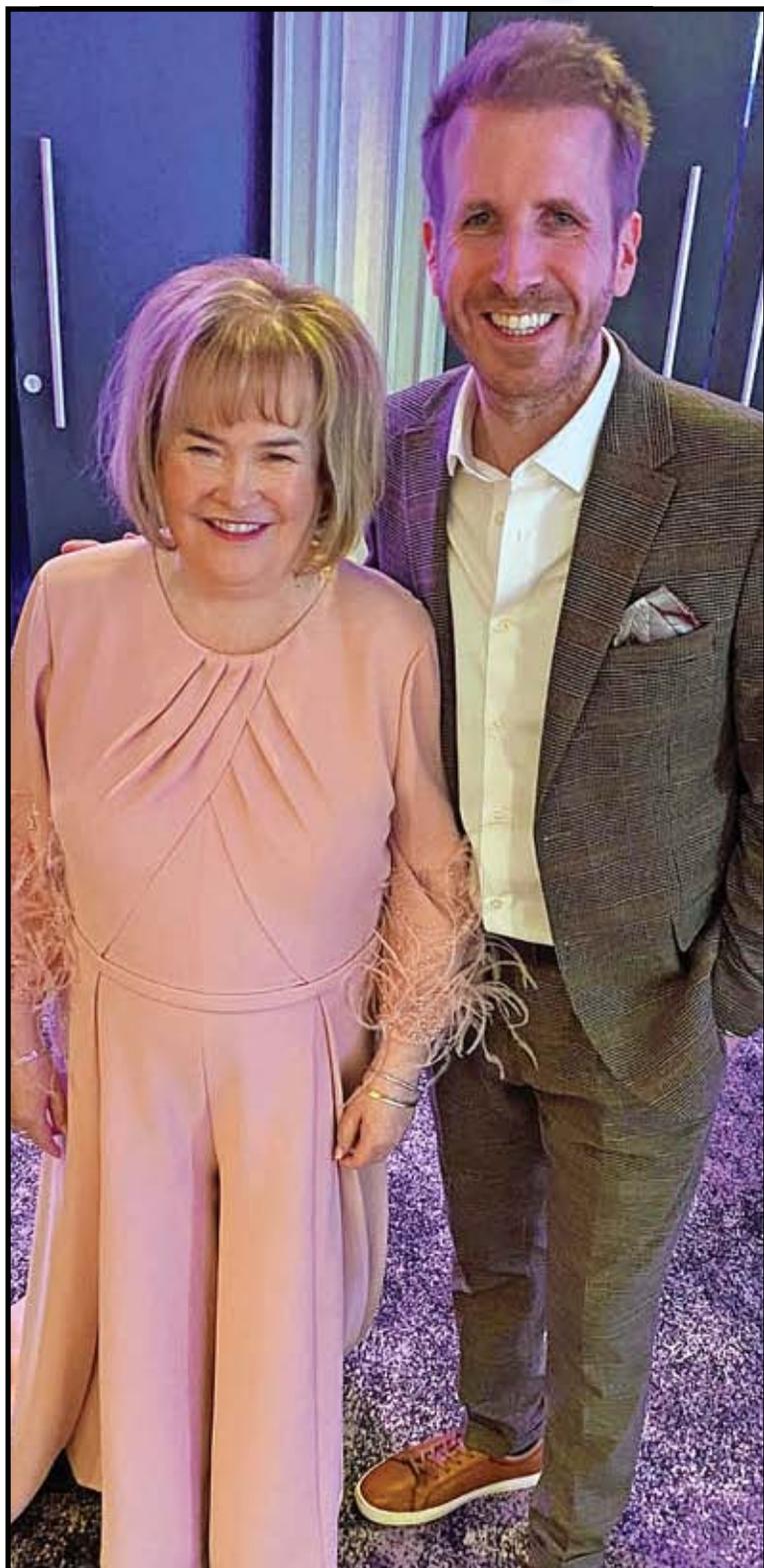
LES SWIFTIES Fans in Nanterre, France, queue outside gig earlier this month



# Garry Spence



Catch Garry live across Scotland every weeknight 4-7pm on Clyde 1, Northsound 1, Forth 1, MFR, Tay FM and West FM.



## It's an attack on our snacks by Uncle Government. And it's hard to swallow

**SO it looks like the meal deal could soon be a thing of the past.**

I've lost count of the number of times I've grabbed lunch on the run, heading for Tesco to get my usual ham sandwich, salt'n'vinegar McCoy's, a plastic pot of fruit (which costs several times more than mere fruit which lies 10 metres away) and a bottle of Diet Coke.

I'm always annoyed with myself for not being as organised as the Tupperware brigade at work who bring the remains of a chilli they had for the previous night's dinner.

What I do is less healthy and less economic than meal-prepping but, like most working parents, I have a hectic life and as an adult I reserve the right to make these less than perfect choices on my own – without Uncle Government deciding an intervention is in order to save me from myself.

I discovered via the news last week that I've missed the deadline for feeding back to a consultation which could see promotions around meal deals and multi-pack purchases seriously curtailed.

One glance at the online publication and I see the word "cancer" banded about as one of the motives for this move – and while I won't argue with the proven link between bad diet and bad overall health, I will talk about how easy it is



**NO DEAL** Lunch offer is in jeopardy

to feel patronised. I'm well aware that I'm not making the most health-conscious move when I head for the snacks section in a shop and no law is going to change my habits here.

Last week, I was in a supermarket looking for a chocolate bar to give to Charlie at the football – but they were nowhere near the check-out. This – as things stand but could well change – is not a requirement of the law but clearly a decision of the company. And that's fine because after spending an extra couple of minutes wandering deeper into the store to find something for him, I know the lay of the land and I know that I'll just jump into the petrol station next time. Their loss but their decision.

These blanket rules do nothing but put barriers in front of the vast

majority – who can be trusted to make decisions for themselves.

It's also yet another hammer-blow to retail – a sector which has been crying out louder than ever for support, not further strain on the relationship between trader and customer. The resulting legislation will not stop me from buying a less than protein-packed lunch on the run but I can tell you what would – a work canteen as good as that enjoyed by the people who want to impose these new restrictions.

The Holyrood café looks absolutely sensational – from the "macaroni in Lockerbie cheddar" to the Ayrshire ham. You want to see the prices as well, I can't imagine you'll find farm-assured chicken or West Lothian haggis any cheaper in the whole of Scotland.

Let's call the facts as they are – we have an obesity crisis that puts serious strain on the physical health of many and, therefore, our health service.

But what we have now is another situation where we face yet more financial punishment from people on very comfortable salaries with the ability to claim back the daily costs that the people of Scotland aren't allowed to. I don't have the answers but happily it's not my job to come up with them.

All I do know is that while we're not quite at "taxpayer subsidised champagne at Westminster", the government are in danger of further alienating a population who, on the whole, face a cost-of-living crisis they simply cannot relate to. Evidently.

**“It's easy to feel patronised. No law is going to change my snack habits.”**

GARRY ON LATEST LEGISLATION

### Wild Horses couldn't keep me from my telly heroes

WELL, I've had quieter Monday nights. The Pride Of Scotland awards at Glasgow's Hilton last week was a who's who of showbiz. I was determined to catch a few minutes with Doon Mackichan who plays chain-vaping lush Cathy in *Two Doors Down* – one of the funniest TV characters in Scottish comedy history. I still can't get my head around her real-life accent (she is English and about as far from Cathy as it gets). Susan Boyle was less than impressed I failed to identify her version of *Wild Horses* in my radio game Spence vs Shazam but was

on otherwise excellent form and floated around like a wee China doll for most of the evening. Grado had the room in fits of laughter with statements that cannot be repeated and it was also great to congratulate Gary Lamont on his role in TV hit *Boiling Point*. Actress Leah MacRae recently starred in *Baby Reindeer*, which is an amazing thing to see your pal do, and STV newsreader Kelly-Ann Woodland was an absolute riot. We've edged closer to arranging a long-overdue lunch. I've no doubt it will progress to a kebab 12 hours later and the next day off work...

### GIRLS ALOUD AND PROUD FOR SARAH

IT'S now a matter of weeks before one of the UK's biggest girl groups head back to Scotland. If you were lucky enough to get tickets for Girls Aloud in Aberdeen or Glasgow, I have to tell you that you're not mentally prepared for this tour. It was always going to be an emotionally charged show without the much-loved Sarah Harding, who was taken by cancer at a devastatingly young age. But going by the footage,

I've seen it looks like they've almost done it TOO well. Technology has made it possible to use video in a way that will genuinely stun those in attendance. It looks as beautiful as it is heartbreaking – and I can only imagine the effect it will have after a few pre-gig wines have been

consumed. This show will have it's tough moments for the other girls but they can be safe in the knowledge that it's not only what the fans want but Sarah would be loving the fact that the band she adored is back doing what she loved to do most – and very much in her memory.



# CROSS OFF

Hidden in the grid is a well-known phrase. To reveal the phrase, cross off the letters in the grid that correspond to today's numbers. Keep today's puzzle, and buy tomorrow's paper for more numbers to help you find the solution. If you cross off all this week's numbers, the answer will be revealed on Friday.

1	M	2	F	3	H	4	H	5	B	6	T	7	I	8	S	9	V	10	Y	11	T	12
13	T	14	D	15	P	16	H	17	L	18	O	19	N	20	T	21	E	22	P	23	A	24
25	O	26	N	27	H	28	E	29	T	30	A	31	G	32	E	33	I	34	B	35	L	36
37	O	38	E	39	A	40	N	41	C	42	I	43	T	44	V	45	H	46	S	47	U	48
49	U	50	T	51	H	52	L	53	E	54	O	55	R	56	A	57	A	58	M	59	D	60

Today's numbers

- 1
- 15
- 25
- 38
- 50
- 60

Last week's winner: Mhairi Heron, East Kilbride

For your chance to win the £100 weekly Cross Off prize send your completed phrase to Daily Record and Sunday Mail £100 Cross Off, PO Box 48, Liverpool L69 3EB. Closing date for entries is Wednesday, June 5, 2024.

Name..... Your answer.....  
 Address.....  
 Postcode.....

# Laura Boyd



## Weeeeeeeelll.. Lulu makes me wanna Shout

**I MADE a flying visit to London last week to meet the legend that is Lulu.**

I looked a bit of a hot and sweaty mess by the time I arrived after a long and delayed train journey and then a panic to try to find the venue.

But it was so worth it. In walked a gorgeously glowy denim-clad Lulu, as bubbly and brilliant as you would hope. She's petite – 4ft 11in, the same as Kylie, she informs me – but she's raging because she was sure she used to be 5ft 1in.

Whatever she may have lost in height, she's certainly not lost any of her star quality. I loved a good old Glasgow gossip with her.

Firstly, I can't believe she's 75. She looks incredible and is showing no signs of slowing down. Following a successful and emotional first run of her farewell tour, Champagne for Lulu, she's announced more dates due to public demand.

Lulu told me she often had a tear in her eye on stage as touring has been such a big part of her life and saying goodbye to it is hard.

But she's not hanging up her microphone – or anything else for that matter – just yet. Having appeared in films and TV throughout her career, for the past seven years she's been taking "serious acting lessons" and wants to do more of that in what she sees as simply a new chapter in her life.

She reminisced about being wee Marie McDonald McLaughlin Lawrie in Dennistoun, singing for family and friends and everyone cheering along.

Her Glasgow accent was in full flow and she admitted knowing people slag her because of the way it



**GLASGOW GOSSIP** Lulu and Laura

fluctuates depending on who she's talking to. But really, who cares?

But when I asked her if she still felt Scottish she laughed and screamed: "Of course. What do you think I'm going to feel?"

We joked that being a little bit French might be nice but at heart she credits being Scottish with

helping her keep things real and never resting on her laurels. What laurels she could rest on though.

She had a number one with Shout aged just 15, was loved by the Beatles, sang with Bowie, did a Bond song, relit her fire with Take That AND won Eurovision. It's remarkable.

A proud granny, she now feels she's ready to be more open than ever about her life with a documentary on the horizon, which I know will be a fascinating watch. And my final thing to shout about my time with Lulu?

She taught me to sing the opening to Shout, a song I've always loved.

What a woman and what a day. Champagne for Lulu? I'll drink to that.

**“Whatever she may have lost in height, she's not lost any of her star quality.”**  
LAURA ON FUN-PACKED MEETING

## MEET OUR INCREDIBLE WINNERS



**WATCH THE PRIDE OF SCOTLAND AWARDS NOW!**



SCAN ME TO WATCH THE SHOW



## SEND SWIFTIE RESPONSE

ARE you or someone you know a serious Swiftie who is going to the June 7 gig?

I will be putting on my STV News hat that day, along with my cowboy boots and friendship bracelets, to cover the build-up to the concert live outside Murrayfield.

I'm looking forward to chatting to her biggest fans. It blows my mind the impact Taylor has had not only on the music industry

but in popular culture in general and I'd love to mark her big arrival here by sharing what she means to some super Swifties.

Do you know someone who has used her music to get through a tough time? Is attending the show their first ever concert? Or do they simply

have a lovely story to share about how much she means? Email me at [laura.boyd@stv.tv](mailto:laura.boyd@stv.tv) to

tell me more and you could feature on STV ahead of the big show.

Never in my Wildest Dreams did I imagine I'd be covering such a pop phenomenon but I can't wait.



# Quiz of the week

1. Who were crowned SPL champions for the third year in a row?
2. On which airline did a British passenger die during severe turbulence?
3. Which British girl band has begun a reunion tour?
4. Which female TV presenter is dating Queen Camilla's ex-husband?
5. Who did Oleksandr Usyk defeat to become the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world?
6. Which former Blue Peter host claims Rolf Harris sexually assaulted her?
7. Which Strictly star has been accused of abusive behaviour towards dance partners?
8. Which party leader has vowed to eradicate child poverty in Scotland?
9. Which team won the English Premiership for the fourth season in a row?
10. The President of which Middle Eastern country was killed in a helicopter crash?
11. Which TV network broke political impartiality rules according to Ofcom?
12. Name the Australian 1960s singing star who has died at the age of 86.
13. Which airline has reported record profits and passenger numbers?
14. Which Scottish church has lost one million followers since 2011?
15. Which 1990s Britpop band sparked reunion rumours amid the 30th anniversary of their debut album?
16. When will the next general election be held?
17. Which veteran Scottish actor was stopped from carrying a penknife on to a plane?
18. Which Scottish cinema is celebrating its 85th anniversary?
19. Which Scottish Olympic gold medal swimmer has died at the age of 70?
20. Name the former post office boss who broke down in tears during a public inquiry?

- ANSWERS**
1. Celtic 2, Singapore Airlines
  2. 3. Girls Aloud 4. Anne Robinson 5. Tyson Fury 6. Yvette Fielding 7. Giovanni Perre 8. John Swinney 9. Manchester City 10. Iran 11. GB News 12. Frank Field 13. Ryanair 14. Church of Scotland 15. Oasis 16. July 4
  17. James Cosmo 18. Glasgow Film Theatre 19. David Wilkie 20. Paula Vennells

# STARRY NIGHT BELONGS TO A LITTLE PONY



BY HEATHER GREENAWAY

**HOLLYWOOD actors, chart-topping artists and politicians all came together last week to celebrate the country's unsung heroes, but it was a little Shetland pony who stole the show.**

Trotting along the red carpet in a tiny kilt, sporran and lace-up shoes, Wilson won the hearts of everyone he met at the Pride of Scotland Awards.

He and his owners, Elaine and John Sangster, who run Therapy Ponies Scotland, won a Special Recognition Award at our people's Oscars and the celebs were queuing up to get selfies with the equine superstar.

Braveheart and Trainspotting actor James Cosmo was enchanted by the miniature pony who nuzzled his arm. He said: "I've been to a fair few events and awards ceremonies in my time but I never thought I would ever share a red carpet with a little horse wearing a kilt and sporran – it's a night I will remember forever."

"The joy Wilson brings to sick and disabled children, the elderly and dementia sufferers across the nation is truly remarkable. He really is a magical little pony."

Elaine, and John, both 59, from Bathgate, West Lothian, set up Therapy Ponies Scotland nine years ago after taking Wilson to visit a rehabilitation care home and realising the positive impact he had on residents.

They now visit care homes, nursing homes, hospices, day-care centres, sheltered housing facilities and out-of-school clubs for disabled children with their 15-strong herd of miniature ponies.

Wilson and the Sangsters received their well-deserved award from Still Game's Greg Hemphill and Gavin Mitchell and singing sensation Susan Boyle, who were all tickled by the tiny horse.

Susan said: "What a gorgeous little pony and what a huge difference he and his owners are making! He is so well behaved and I loved having my photo taken with him."

Gavin, aka Booby the barman, said: "I can only imagine what joy wee Wilson and his horse pals are bringing to folk up and down



**CHARMER** Wilson with owner John Sangster, Gavin Mitchell, Susan Boyle, Elaine Sangster and Greg Hemphill. Pic: Alasdair MacLeod

**“I loved having my photo taken with him”**  
SUSAN BOYLE HANDS WILSON HIS AWARD

# PRIDE OF TROT LAND



**STAR** With Janey Godley, James Cosmo and Mark Hanretty

the country. Goan yersel' little man." Before he clip-clopped on stage, hosts Sanjeev Kohli and Elaine C Smith warned the audience that Wilson did not like clapping and suggested a jazz hands welcome instead.

**Greg said: "Thankfully Wilson was the best behaved celebrity in the room. What a wee star."**

Elaine is super proud of her animal, who caught the attention of Star Wars legend Denis Lawson, Dancing on Ice's Mark Hanretty and comedian Janey Godley.

She said: "Wilson joined our herd of ponies when he was around six months old. When we first met him he was so shy, he'd run into a corner and hide."

"When we took him home he was getting a bit bullied by the other ponies and he wasn't fitting in so we put him

in the kennel with our Newfoundland and he slept there.

"He soon grew in confidence and is now the star of the show. He is the cheekiest pony you will ever meet but is as gentle as a lamb. He is a very people's pony. He's very affectionate and loves a kiss and a cuddle. We are very proud of him and all the joy he and our other ponies bring"

John added: "Wilson loves getting dressed up and Elaine made his kilt and sash so he would fit in on the red carpet. He fits into the shoes from the Build-A-Bear Workshop so as well as his dress shoes he has two tiny pairs of Converse trainers."

Wilson's award was one of the highlights of an incredible night. From humbling acts of kindness and selfless acts of bravery to raising millions for charity, the Pride of Scotland Awards, in partnership with TSB, recognised winners in 11 categories.

The glittering event is now live on YouTube and you can watch all the tears and cheers from the night by scanning this bar code.



SCAN ME

Sunday  
**Mail**

# FREE

## Keelings® FRUIT OR VEG

**Iceland** | the food  
WAREHOUSE



**We've teamed up with Iceland and The Food Warehouse with a fantastic offer! You can get one free Keelings product in-store in participating Iceland and Food Warehouse stores from Saturday 25th May 2024 until close of stores on Wednesday 29th May 2024.**

The Keelings range at Iceland and The Food Warehouse offers a wide variety of fruit, vegetable, and salad items, providing fresh, great quality produce at low prices.

The range includes a wide variety of items; white potatoes; broccoli; easy peelers; cucumber; seedless grapes; sweet peppers; mushrooms;

blueberries; apples and much more, starting from just 80p.

To show you how good the Keelings range is Iceland and the Food Warehouse invite you to try it for yourselves and pick up one free product from the Keelings range, there's 59 to choose from. To receive your free Keelings product, simply present this voucher at the checkout. See terms and conditions for exclusions.

You can also shop and save at Iceland and the Food Warehouse, with a huge £1 value range, Birds Eye 10 for £10, Greggs 4 for £10 plus exclusive brands and loads of exciting new products.

**VOUCHER**

**FREE**  
**KEELINGS FRUIT  
OR VEG VOUCHER**

Sunday  
**Mail** Iceland | the food  
WAREHOUSE



5 010482 770082 >

One voucher per customer, per day. Valid from Saturday 25th May 2024 until close of stores on Wednesday 29th May 2024. Only valid in The Food Warehouse and Iceland stores. Not valid in The Range and Iceland Local stores. In-store only. Excludes online. Voucher entitles you to one free Keelings product subject to availability. Excludes Keelings Dates. Voucher not for resale, is nonexchangeable and non-refundable. UK only. Offer not applicable in ROI or CI. Voucher cannot be used with any other voucher or discount, including staff discount. One voucher per transaction, can only be used once and must be given to the cashier for redemption. Present original paper voucher to redeem offer. Cash value 0.0001p. Not for resale, exchange or refund. Iceland reserves the right to modify, withdraw, terminate or temporarily suspend any promotion or discount in whole or part at any time for reasons outside of its reasonable control. Terms apply: see Iceland.co.uk/terms. ©2024 Iceland Foods Limited, Second Avenue, Deeside Industrial Park, Deeside, CH5 2NW.

Don't miss another voucher in tomorrow's paper



**BORN AND BRED**  
Crofter  
Pearl Young

# I have never set foot in England ..why would I?

## Hard work, cold, gales and paradise.. TV show lifts lid on life on remote isle

**A CROFTER who has only ever left the Shetland Islands for the mainland is to become a reality TV star in a new fly-on-the-wall show.**

Pearl Young, who has never been overseas, is one of the characters in the series about life on the stunning archipelago of islands.

The 75-year-old, who has chickens, goats and an array of crops to make her self-sufficient, said: "As long as my feet are on Shetland that's all that matters to me. I've never set foot on England and I don't want to go abroad, I have no desire to leave."

"This is life for me, it's hard work when you're in cold, gales and snow but I just love it."

Pearl, married to Willie for 50 years, comes from a long line of crofters who have lived off the land at Westers Skeld.

Shetland: Scotland's Wondrous Isles will run on Channel 5 featuring both native Shetlanders and settlers on the islands, nicknamed "The Seychelles" due to their sandy white beaches.

Sally Reay and Jen Clark are the only inhabitants on Noss, along with 150,000

BY **AMANDA STOCKS**

seabirds, and work as NatureScot wardens. They live in an old crofter's house with no mains gas, not enough water to run a washing machine, only solar panels for electricity and have to go to their mainland office for a shower.

Jen, originally from Paisley, said: "Nothing beats Noss, it's like The Seychelles here, it's just gorgeous."

Jan and Pete Bevington, run Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary on Shetland and look after the many seals who need help. Jan arrived on Shetland 50 years ago and Pete 30 years ago.

Pete said: "I came for two weeks and never left, I married a seal sanctuary and just loved the way of life.

The seals are beautiful animals and to be able to have direct contact with them is special."

The Channel 5 series, narrated by actor Mark Bonnar, who starred in the BBC's drama series Shetland, will have continuity announcements for the show's launch in the island dialect for the first time.

**"I came for two weeks and I never left. I married a seal sanctuary"**

**PETE BEVINGTON**  
RESIDENT



**IDYLIC** Sally Reay and Jen Clark, left, and Pete and Jan Bevington

## Shop cherry price leaves a sour taste

LUXURY department store Harrods is flogging red cherries for £165 a kilo.

That means a single cherry costs £1.75.

The posh store in Knightsbridge, west London, says its grower is based in San Francisco and is the best in the world.

The store's Japanese Crown melon, which is presented in a black and gold box, costs £150.

Harrods was contacted for comment.

## Will care home fees threaten your legacy?



### Without Power of Attorney in place:

- No one, not even your next of kin, can make decisions on your health and welfare
- No one can help manage your money or pay bills
- You could be declared incapacitated with something as simple as a high temperature.
- With POA, it is someone you know and trust.

### Have you protected your home from care fees?

Without legal protection, if you go into care, you could:

- Have your home and assets seized by the local authority to pay for care home fees
- Be unable to pass your home onto your children

**But transfers and trusts can protect against this.**

### Wills, Power of Attorney and property trusts help ensure peace of mind and secure your legacy

**But you must act now! If you wait until you're about to go into care, it is too late.**

ILAWS Scot and can organise a Will and Power of Attorney at a fraction of the costs of other firms.

Whatever your situation

married, single, have kids or child-free - everyone should organise legal documents to fully control your assets and strengthen your financial future. Don't risk losing your home or assets to care home fees.

### What our clients say...

"It's great to have the peace of mind. I have no hesitation in recommending ILAWS. They were easy to speak to and everything they gave us was completely understandable and easy to read."

**Vera Walker, Aberdeenshire**



"They were so polite and helpful and I really feel choosing ILAWS was a wise move. All the documents were sent out very quickly and the price was reasonable. I would definitely recommend them!"

**Carole Smith, Aberdeen**



**POWER OF ATTORNEY** Normally costs up to £600

**Special Offer £195 +VAT\***

\*(+ £87 Scottish Court Registration Fee = £321, this is per person getting POA with us to 3 attorneys)

**SIMPLE WILL**

Prepared in your own home for only **£50 +VAT\***

(\*Wills £50 + VAT - £60)

**We cover all of Scotland and offer FREE NO OBLIGATION home, office, video or telephone appointments. SPEAK TO US TODAY to explore your legal options.**

**Freephone 0800 049 9688**



GLASGOW Bath Street G2 4JR  
CLARKSTON Midholm House, 2 Hillview Drive G76 7JD  
ABERDEEN Histle Street AB10 1XZ  
EAST LOTHIAN High Street, Tranent EH33 1LW

email: [info@ilawsscotland.co.uk](mailto:info@ilawsscotland.co.uk)  
[www.ilawsscotland.co.uk](http://www.ilawsscotland.co.uk)

★ Trustpilot ★★★★★ Excellent



**Daily  
Record**

**Sunday  
Mail**

**GET YOUR  
PAPERS FOR**

**75p**

**A DAY  
FOR SIX  
MONTHS\***

**OFFER CODE: CP242N**

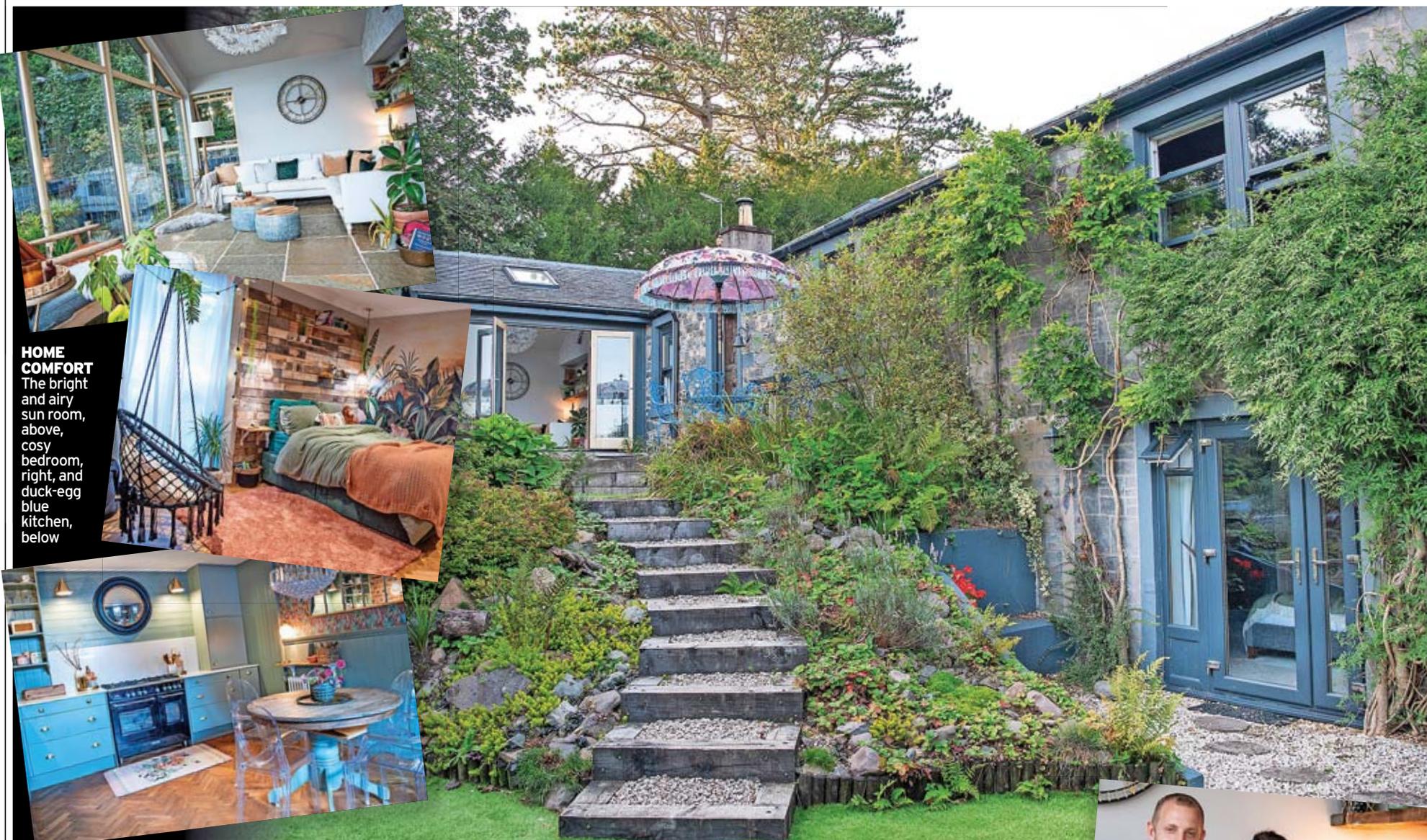


**VISIT [record.reachsubs.co.uk](https://record.reachsubs.co.uk)  
OR CALL US ON **0345 149 4848****



**SCAN ME**

\*Terms and conditions: Offer open to new subscriptions customers only. This offer entitles you to receive both your Daily and Sunday papers at a rate of 75p a day for 26 weeks and then a 15% discount thereafter. This offer is redeemable by direct debit (taken by a monthly payment plan). Voucher orders: To organise Home Delivery, please contact your local newsagent who will be happy to assist you. You will be sent individually dated pre-paid vouchers (to redeem at the retailer) within 14 days by post and use the vouchers as payment, a delivery charge will apply. Not all retailers offer home delivery, please check directly with them. Phone lines are open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, (closed on Bank Holidays), standard call charges apply. Offer valid until Sunday June 9, 2024.



**HOME COMFORT**  
The bright and airy sun room, above, cosy bedroom, right, and duck-egg blue kitchen, below

## Honeysuckle cottage is our home sweet home

**BRYONY** Ladd-Smith is hoping her fairytale Honeysuckle Cottage will cast a spell over the judges on Scotland's Home of the Year.

Nestled in the village of Moffat, Dumfriesshire, the stone dwelling dates back to the 1700s and is bursting with personality, incorporating Rachel's love of bold wallpaper, bright colours and chic furnishings.

The drama teacher, 39, and her husband Mark, 41, bought the cottage in 2011 and have spent the 13 years renovating, adding a glass sun room extension and making the house picture-perfect. With

**BY HEATHER GREENAWAY**

Bryony's vision and love for interiors and Mark's practical skills, they have created a fun family home for them, their two boys Grayson, 12, and Xavier, 10, and their menagerie of pets.

Mark, who gave up his job to manage the renovation, is now a full-time tradesman thanks to the skills he learned turning Honeysuckle Cottage into their dream home.

Bryony, who teaches at Lockerbie Academy, said: "It's so nice living in a house that has so much of us both in it. Mark is responsible for the physical

transformations and I put my heart and soul into decorating the interiors.

"We finished the day before filming started. I knew if the cameras were coming, we would have to finish all the little jobs we were leaving for another day. Having a deadline was great."

On tomorrow's show, on BBC1 Scotland at 7.15pm, the judges - interior designers Anna Campbell-Jones and Banjo Beale and architect Danny Campbell - also cast their eye over a self-build near Lockerbie and an old manse in Lanarkshire.



**DREAM TEAM**  
Mark and Bryony



**CHIC** The stylish bathroom

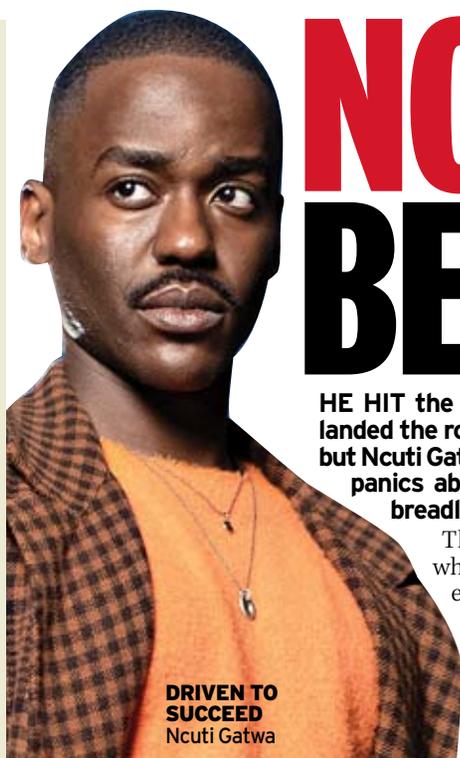
## FRUIT SHOOT

HIGHWAY bandits have made off with more than 40 tons of avocados in Mexico.

The heist involved two separate robberies in the western state of Michoacan - Mexico's main producer of the fruit.

In both cases, armed men stopped freight trucks carrying about 20 tons each, and stole the shipments, officials said.

Avocado growers have long been targeted by drug cartel extortion demands in Michoacan.



**DRIVEN TO SUCCEED**  
Ncuti Gatwa

# NCUTI MY FEAR OF BEING DEBTOR WHO

**HE HIT the jackpot when he landed the role of Doctor Who but Ncuti Gatwa admits he still panics about living on the breadline.**

The Scottish star - who struggled to make ends meet before landing his breakthrough role in Netflix's *Sex Education* - said he's constantly checking his bank

## Time Lord still worries about his bank balance

**BY JANINE YAQOOB**

balance and to make sure he has food in the house.

Even after bagging one of the most coveted jobs in telly as the Time Lord, Ncuti said he cannot shake his early career fear of not having enough cash in his accounts to continue his dream of acting.

The 31-year-old said: "I still wake up and check my bank balance or

I check if there's food in my fridge. That's the fuel that drives me - stay booked and busy."

At the lowest point in his career, Ncuti was penniless and homeless.

**He would borrow cash from friends just to travel to auditions on the Tube.**

Ncuti admits his mindset is impacted by struggling to land roles in his 20s. "When you don't

know where your next meal is coming from, you remember that feeling and it inspires you to keep booking more jobs," he told to Sirius XM Q show.

Last summer it was revealed Gatwa had already raked in almost £1million from his acting career - before his Doctor Who gig and a role in Hollywood blockbuster *Barbie*.

Stars put the accent on Scots

**THE BEST**

**JONNY LEE MILLER IN TRAINSPOTTING**

 When the original was released back in 1996 many Scots were surprised to learn Simon "Sick Boy" Williamson was played by English actor Jonny Lee Miller.

**JOHNNY DEPP IN FINDING NEVERLAND**

 Kentucky-born Depp was praised for his efforts as Scots novelist JM Barrie in the 2004 film - and for good reason. Hilariously, Depp says the accent came from watching Rab C Nesbitt.

**EMMA THOMPSON IN BRAVE**

 Produced a convincing accent as Queen Elinor in Disney Pixar's film, in part perhaps due to the fact her mother, actress Phyllida Law, is from Glasgow.

**THE WORST**

**CHRISTOPHER LAMBERT IN HIGHLANDER**

 The fact Sean Connery speaks in his normal tongue as Egyptian/Spaniard Ramirez, while the American-French Lambert butchers our accent is ludicrous and unforgivable. On the plus side, it's hilarious.

**JESSICA LANGE IN ROB ROY**

 Jessica's effort as Mary MacGregor in Rob Roy will make your toes curl. As yet no one can quite put finger on where her accent is supposed to be from.

**MEL GIBSON IN BRAVEHEART**

 Mel's go at the accent isn't the worst - which is not to say it is good - but combined with all else the film gets wrong, it's earned a spot on this list.

EXCLUSIVE AVENGERS STAR ON F

# Kevin Bridges can make me laugh until my sides are Thor

Chris Hemsworth on how Glaswegian stand-up's accent makes him sound even funnier and why he's planning to bring some Irn-Bru back to his Australian home

BY HEATHER GREENAWAY

**HOLLYWOOD** superstar Chris Hemsworth has worked with a host of comic actors but nobody has made him laugh quite like Kevin Bridges.

The Avengers actor, who first met the Glasgow stand-up on the Graham Norton show, admitted the straight-talking comedian had him in kinks - even though he couldn't understand most of what Bridges was saying.

In an exclusive interview with the Sunday Mail, Chris, who played a Scot in film Snow White and the Huntsman, said he is dying to play another Scottish role and is even trying to work out how he can get Irn-Bru delivered to his home in Oz.

The Thor legend, who fell in love with Scotland while filming Avengers: Endgame, said: "Kevin is one of those naturally hilarious guys - he doesn't need to try to be funny, he is just funny."

"He has one of the strongest Scottish accents I've ever heard - it makes his dry sense of humour even funnier."

The pull of

**BIG LAUGHS** Thor star Chris met comic Kevin on chat show



**BADDIE** Chris plays a warlord in Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga

Scotland is strong for 40-year-old Chris. And no wonder, he has roots here on his paternal side with his great-great-great grandfather coming from Argyll.

In fantasy movie Snow White and the Huntsman, he tried a Scots accent - widely acknowledged as about as good as Sean Connery's Irish accent in Untouchables. Despite getting his fair share of ribbing, Chris would try it again if it's called for.

The actor, who received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame last week, said: "In my defence I don't think the Scottish accent is the easiest in the world to get right but I wouldn't let it put me off another role where I had to speak with a Scots lilt. I would be up for the challenge."

One place Chris, crowned sexiest man alive by People magazine in 2014, is desperate to go back to is St Abbs on the Berwickshire coast. He filmed

there in 2017 when the Borders village became New Asgard for 2019 Avengers: Endgame. He said: "I have never been back to St Abbs but I genuinely would love to."

"Scuba diving is a big passion of mine. Here in Australia we are blessed with some of the best scuba diving destinations in the world - but I have heard only good things about St Abbs."

"It was a beautiful place so when I am in the UK next it would be amazing to come back with my family."

Chris, who lives with his actress wife Elsa Pataky, 47, and three children in Byron Bay, New South Wales, said: "My one real memory of Scotland was just how friendly the people are. I remember speaking to one of the locals about all the great



# HIS FAVOURITE SCOTS FUNNYMAN



**SWEET MEMORIES**  
Clip of Maya Jama asking Chris to try Irn-Bru went viral. Bottom, fishing village St Abbs was New Asgard in 2019 movie Avengers: Endgame



**BIG CHANGE** Chris as villain in new Mad Max prequel

“  
Even though it was pretty sweet, I quite enjoyed it. Maybe I'll bring some home  
CHRIS HEMSWORTH ON IRN-BRU

scuba diving opportunities over there – and I so want to come back and do some diving. There are supposed to be amazing wreck sites and I love that sort of thing.”

Chris was born in Melbourne but moved as a child to a remote cattle farm in Bulman in Australia's Northern Territory with his parents and brothers – Luke, 41, who plays Stubbs in Westworld and Liam, 32, who starred as Gale in The Hunger Games franchise.

He said it was “four-and-a-half hours from the nearest town” but the brothers enjoyed having the Australian Outback as their new playground.

They added surfing to the mix when the family moved again, to Phillip Island – a place that reminds him of St Abbs, which has become a pilgrimage site for Marvel movie fans.

He said: “It kind of reminded me of home, not that it was anything like it in the way it looked but it was this little village where the locals all knew each other.”

It's not just the people and scenery Chris fell in love with while filming in Scotland – he's also developed a taste for the nation's favourite fizzy drink – Irn-Bru.

A bottle appears in the Avengers movie where the Hulk and Rocket discover a dishevelled Thor lounging in

a fishing hut slobbering out on pizza and pop.

The cult scene was made into a Lego set which included a tiny bottle of Irn-Bru.

During promo interviews, Maya Jama presented Chris with a bottle and asked him to try it – the clip went viral.

He said: “Even though it was pretty sweet, I quite enjoyed it. I haven't ever seen it in any stores in Australia though – so maybe I will need to bring some back next time.”

Marvel's Thor first appeared in 1962, with Chris becoming the Norse God in 2011 before appearing in Avengers, Thor sequel The Dark World in 2013, Avengers: Age of Ultron, Thor Ragnarok in 2017, Avengers: Infinity War,

Avengers: Endgame, and fourth Thor outing Love and Thunder in 2022, which also starred his wife Elsa.

Thor will

make a cameo in Deadpool and Wolverine which hits cinemas this summer and fifth movie Thor 5 is in the early stages of production.

Chris has been able to step out of the red-caped, hammer-wielding character's shadow to find success in other projects such as action thriller Extraction.

His latest movie, Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga, hit cinemas on Thursday. In it he plays evil warlord Dementus opposite Anya Taylor-Joy.

The actor is hardly recognisable as a villain with long, shaggy, shoulder-length hair, an overgrown beard and prosthetic nose and teeth – but that hasn't stopped his legions of female fans swooning over him.

Chris, who started his acting career in Aussie soap Home & Away, said: “He's a pretty horrible individual. It was a real departure from Thor and it was nice. I was about to say it was nice not to wear a cape, but I did have a cape in this film. And it's red – or it becomes red eventually. The absurdity of that.”



**LEADING LADY** With wife Elsa

# Hang with Heather

## Jimmy Two Guns a law unto himself

I HAD the pleasure of meeting James J McIntyre, author of *Jimmy Two Guns: The Life and Crimes of a Gangland Lawyer* at Crime-Con in Glasgow last month.

His book, with a foreword from his longtime friend and former client Paul Ferris, I devoured in just three sittings.

It offers an account of a life spent navigating the treacherous waters of Scotland's criminal underworld.

McIntyre's conversational narrative style draws readers in from the off, where he recounts his dramatic arrest for possessing unlicensed guns, setting the tone for a wild legal ride.

The book provides a glimpse into his university days in Stirling and Dundee, where his penchant for challenging authority first emerges.

McIntyre vividly captures the atmosphere of 1980s Edinburgh, painting a picture of a young apprentice lawyer thrust into a world of intrigue and danger.

Throughout, he peppers the narrative with vignettes of legal figures with wit and irreverence.

McIntyre's rollercoaster legal career is marked by a series of escapades, from his legendary seven-day "lie down" in Saughton Prison to his narrow escape from machete-wielding thugs.

His courtroom battles provide ample entertainment, showcasing his resourcefulness.

Despite his rebellious nature, McIntyre displays a

hint of remorse for the distress he caused his elderly mum.

As a man who straddled both sides of the law, McIntyre offers a unique perspective on our criminal justice system and its flaws and complexities.

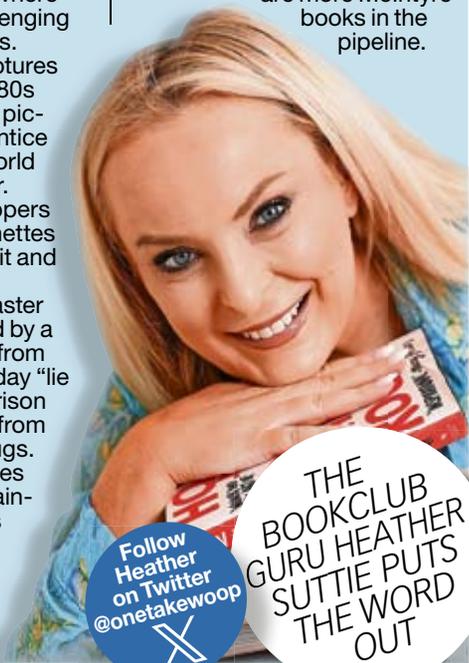
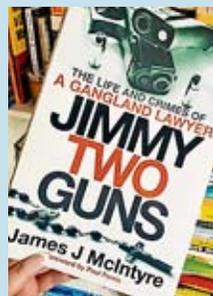
Described as a real-life Tom

Hagen, McIntyre's role as a middleman to gangsters adds a layer of intrigue.

His accounts of high-profile cases and clashes with the authorities reveal Scotland's murky underworld and his ability to bounce back from near-fatal attacks underscores his tenacity.

McIntyre's resilience shines through as he reinvents himself as a TV writer with scripts for *Taggart* and *EastEnders*.

And the good news is there are more McIntyre books in the pipeline.



Follow Heather on Twitter @onetakewoop

THE BOOKCLUB GURU HEATHER SUTTIE PUTS THE WORD OUT

## PURE DEAD BRILLIANT

The Saved by Liz Webb

**How would you best describe this book?** Psychological crime novel.

**What's it about?**

A woman finds the dead body of her partner off the west coast of Scotland.

He can't be resuscitated but as the body is flown to Glasgow, a

paramedic says: "You're not dead till you're warm and dead." If you have a heart attack at freezing temperatures you could be brought back to life up to six hours later.

The doc revives him but the woman doesn't recognise him. So she is stuck with a stranger.

**Who is the author?**

A comic, Liz was then a producer in BBC Radio drama till Covid, so she decided to write books. It's her second novel.



# Julie Scrumptious



## Balsamic strawberry tarts with ricotta

### INGREDIENTS

- Punnet of strawberries, hulled and any large ones halved
- 2 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 2 tbsp caster sugar
- 200g plain flour
- 2 tbsp icing sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 100g butter, cold and cubed
- One egg yolk
- One tub of plain ricotta

### METHOD

- 1 Make the strawberries the day before if possible, or first thing. Place them in a small bowl and sprinkle over the sugar and balsamic.
- 2 Cover and sit in a cool spot. Every hour or so, give them a gently stir.
- 3 After six hours you should notice the sugar has dissolved and created a sticky, shiny coating.
- 4 Sieve the flour with the icing sugar and salt and rub in the butter until you have a sandy texture.
- 5 Add the yolk and mix until you have a firm, soft dough - you may need a little water.
- 6 Roll the dough and cut six rounds with a glass or cutter just bigger than your bun tin patties.
- 7 Preheat the oven to 170C, gas mark. Place the pastry discs into the tin and press down lightly.
- 8 Roll six small balls of tinfoil and place them inside. Bake for 18-30 minutes or until pale gold. Allow to cool completely.
- 9 Place a desserts spoon of ricotta into your tartlet case and top with strawberries.

## Strawberry tarts forever

**THE French post office has issued scratch-and-sniff stamps to celebrate their famous baguettes.**

The loaves were given Unesco heritage status in 2022 and the stamps were launched on the feast day of Saint-Honore, patron saint of bakers.

Ink used on the stamps contains microcapsules which provide the bakery fragrance.

The only scratch-and-sniff thing I can remember having is Strawberry Shortcake toys which had a faint smell of Hubba-Bubba.

But the stamps got me thinking what would be the cake or dessert to celebrate our most famous protected produce.

Somehow the idea of a scratch-and-sniff stamp featuring an Arbroath Smokie or Stornoway black pudding wasn't that appealing.

For me, there is nothing more evocative than the smell of Scottish strawberries and we are lucky to have some of the best soft fruit in the world.

Around this time of year, make sure

that the strawberries which you are buying in the supermarket are Scottish.

You'll know the minute you open them because of that fresh but slightly heady scent.

The French may be famous for those fabulous strawberry pastries you see in the windows of bakeries.

But who doesn't have a special place in their heart for a Scottish strawberry tart even with that red gloop on the top?

The pastry has to be thin and crisp and with plenty of cream.

One way to make a slightly more sophisticated tart is to bring it up to date using mascarpone or ricotta and balsamic strawberries.

These are even more delicious than the sugar-packed gloop and slightly better for you.

The fruit macerates in the mix, creating its own sauce.

It's also delicious on vanilla ice cream.

✉ jscrumptious@hotmail.com

# Mailmotors



## BYD debuts London bus

THE new BYD BD11 double-decker bus has been launched in London with the promise of a rollout nationwide.

Chinese company BYD - which stands for Build Your Dreams - already has 1800 BYD eBuses operating on UK roads and last year introduced new innovations for the European market.

The BYD BD11, however, is the first bus to be powered by the company's pioneering Blade Battery technology which takes only two hours to fully recharge.

So far in the UK BYD has launched three electric cars, the Atto 3, the Dolphin and the Seal.



**RESTORED** The 1904 Italian racer

## RALLY CRY FOR FIAT

A LEGENDARY Italian racing car will join hundreds of other vintage vehicles this year on the annual London to Brighton run as part of Fiat's 125th birthday celebrations.

The mighty Fiat 130HP, built as one of three team Corsa race cars in 1904, was driven by Felice Nazzaro who took it to victory in the Targa Florio in Sicily, the Kaiserpreis in Germany and the French Grand Prix.

Propelled by 16.2-litre four cylinder engine, it was found rusting in a garden in the 1950s and partially restored before being bought by Fiat for its museum in Turin.

It is expected to be the star of the November event.

## Top honour for Hondas

HONDA has come out top in the annual Which? awards

The consumer organisation named it Car Brand of the Year due to its success in lab testing and an overall combination of efficiency, quality and performance.

The Japanese brand also received plaudits across the board for top customer satisfaction.

Judges awarded two models their Best Buy certification in their category.

They went to the small city runaround the Honda Jazz and the medium sized Civic e:HEV described as "the new medium car to beat".

BY **MAGGIE BARRY**

### I HATE a heated steering wheel - something my co-driver was well aware of.

She thought it would be quite funny to switch it on remotely while I was driving. "Hey Lexus," she said. "Switch on the heated steering wheel."

However what she did not take into account was that this was an intelligent car built by those clever people from Lexus.

"This instruction cannot be made from that seat," the car replied. I grinned.

A lovely compact crossover, the UX 300h is the 2024 fifth generation model upgraded from the 250h and now the second car in the Lexus line-up after the smaller LBX.

This model is a self-charging hybrid featuring a 2.0-litre petrol engine mated to a 222 Lithium-ion battery increasing the power output by eight per cent to 196bhp and bringing it in line with the all electric 300e version

Interestingly, while the power has gone up, the efficiency has too.

This new 300h will deliver 54.3 mpg with only 117g/km of CO2.

It also features an EV



**YOU CLEVER THING** The slick interior of the lovely Lexus, which looks great in exclusive Azure Blue

## You'll want to get behind the steering wheel of this bells-and-whistles Lexus

### TECH SPEC

**Model:** Lexus UX300h F-Sport Design  
**Engine:** 2.0-litre petrol mated to a 222v lithium-ion battery  
**Power:** 196bhp  
**Top speed:** 110mph  
**0-62:** 8.1s  
**Mpg:** 54.3  
**CO2:** 117g/km  
**Warranty:** Three years/60,000 miles  
**Price:** £37,495

button to save the electric charge for the ULEZ. This is indeed a car for its times.

And while this is the self-charging version for those who prefer, it also comes as a plug-in hybrid or all-electric car - so something for all.

It is good-looking and available in the F-Sport Design line in the exclusive Azure Blue.

The interior is slimmed down with a clean minimalist approach on the inside.

This model features an eight-inch colour touchscreen with wireless connectivity, cloud-based navigation with traffic and parking info. Get

the Lexus Link app and you can open and lock it remotely, adjust the temperature and send digital keys to those you allow to drive the car.

And they will want to drive it.

It is so silent and luxurious inside with fabric, synthetic leather and genuine leather seats as you go up the range.

The rear seat takes three or two and with two, the centre folds to offer cup holders.

The Lexus people have made this car more rigid than before and redesigned the internal gubbins for a more dynamic, smoother and

satisfying drive. The battery is situated below the rear seats which balances and stabilises this car along roads even in awful conditions

We drove it through driving rain switching through the modes - normal, eco and sport and it did not flinch.

The climate change buttons below the touchscreen made it easy to adjust the temperature as the rain got heavier and the mercury fell and the Lexus safety systems make you feel confident as you power along.

These include the Dynamic Radar Cruise Control's Curve Speed Reduction which automatically adjusts the vehicle's speed to suit the radius of the bends in the road.

Lexus is the luxury brand of Toyota which has always been way ahead of the game when it comes to hybrid technology.

This is evident in the tweaks and small changes made to this great little crossover which have created better driving dynamics, improved safety and money-saving fuel efficiencies.

There are a swathe of models to choose from including a four-wheel and this front-wheel drive which will not break the bank.



# HOT STUFF

# Refresh your kitchen with a simple but stunning makeover

Joe's Doors can simply transform your kitchen by replacing the doors, panels and trims.

With a huge range of kitchen styles to choose from, this cost effective, fuss free service, can be completed in under two days and best of all you don't even need to empty the cupboards!

Call now to take advantage of a **free survey**, **free quote** and **free design** service....with no pressure selling.

- ✓ No need to empty cupboards
- ✓ No mess, no fuss
- ✓ Most fitted in a day
- ✓ Made to measure



## FREE SINK

### MAY ONLY OFFER WORTH OVER £250\*

Present this voucher to our Home Consultant on the day of your Quartzize survey.

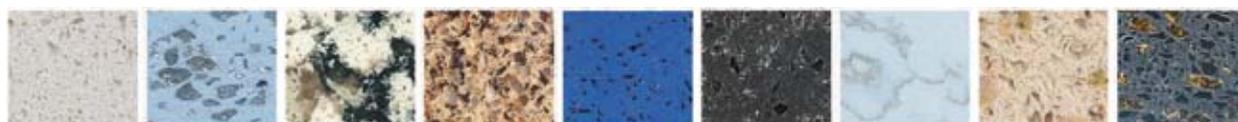
AS SEEN ON TV • PROUDLY MADE IN THE UK



### Transform your worktops with Quartzize stone overlays

Why replace your worktops when this unique quartz overlay simply fits over your existing surface. Here are some of the amazing benefits:

- **Timeless** - Looks clean and modern.
- **Hygienic** - A perfectly smooth surface.
- **Easy care** - Wipe with a neutral cleaner.
- **Durable** - Tough and scratch resistant.
- **Easily Installed** - Fitted in less than a day.



### Just three simple steps to transform your existing kitchen:

- 1** We'll pop along and take some measurements...
- 2** You choose from our range of doors and worktops...
- 3** Our fitters will arrange a convenient time to come back and transform your kitchen.

## JOE'S DOORS & OVERLAYS

**0131 5100173 • joesdoors.co.uk**



**FREE SURVEY**  
**FREE DESIGN**  
**FREE QUOTE**  
**FULLY FITTED**  
**NATIONWIDE**

Lines Open: Mon - Fri: 8.30am - 8.00pm, Sat: 8.30am - 6.00pm, Sun: 9.00am - 5.00pm. Over 30 years experience. Family run business.

\*Limited period promotional voucher. T and C's apply.



A stylish new development of one, two and three-bedroom apartments located on Burgh Hall Street, which offers a modern urban lifestyle within the fashionable heart of Partick



**View  
Apartment  
Now  
Available\***

\*Viewings are by appointments only.

Please call our dedicated Sales Consultant for more information.



**Reserve  
today  
for only  
£500\***



**Prices  
From  
£244,000**

**0800 587 0222**  
**westpointhomes.net**



**Westpoint**   
HOMES.

WE ARE THE ONLY HOLIDAY PARK IN SCOTLAND TO BE AWARDED FIVE STARS BY VISIT SCOTLAND AND FIVE PLATINUM PENNANTS BY THE AA.

Summer  
Holiday  
Availability  
Book Now



## HOLIDAY HOMES FOR HIRE

Try our Willow caravans, Eden Lodges, Little Lodge Glamping or visit our award winning Touring. Four times winners of the Campsite of the Year for Scotland. Our beautiful park is a short walk to St Andrews town centre.

## New Holiday Homes from £49,500

For a chance to own your own holiday home in the Home of Golf, contact us on **01334 475959** or email **info@craigtounmeadows.co.uk** to arrange a viewing.

Craigtoun Meadows Holiday Park, Mount Melville, St Andrews KY16 8PQ  
Telephone: 01334 475959 [www.craigtounmeadows.co.uk](http://www.craigtounmeadows.co.uk)



**BORN TO BE FREE  
NOT TO BE TROPHIES**

HELP KEEP WILDLIFE IN THE WILD  
AT [BORNFREE.ORG.UK](http://BORNFREE.ORG.UK)



## Need a vacancy filled locally?

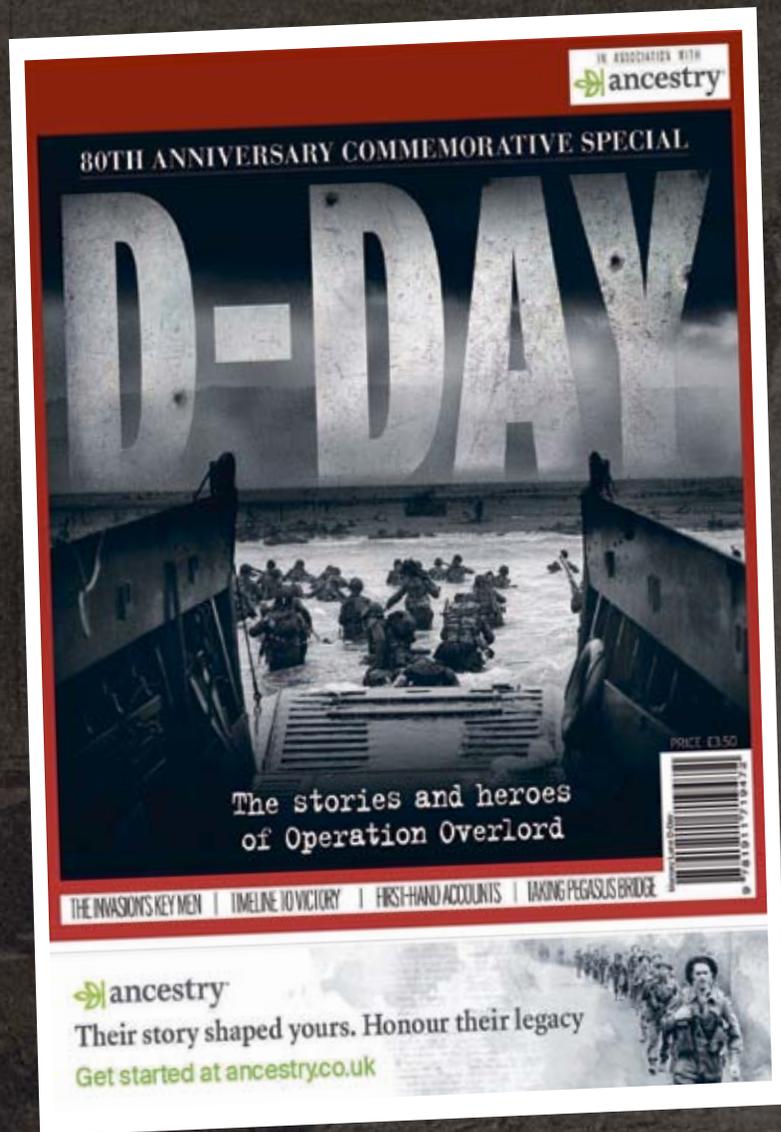
Speak to our recruitment specialists  
about getting your job advert in  
front of our readers.

Print and  
online from  
as little as  
**£79**

Call 0141 309 4960  
or online at [recruiter.fish4.co.uk](http://recruiter.fish4.co.uk)

**FISH4JOBS**

D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY  
COMMEMORATIVE SPECIAL  
**ON SALE NOW**



**ORDER YOUR COPY NOW**

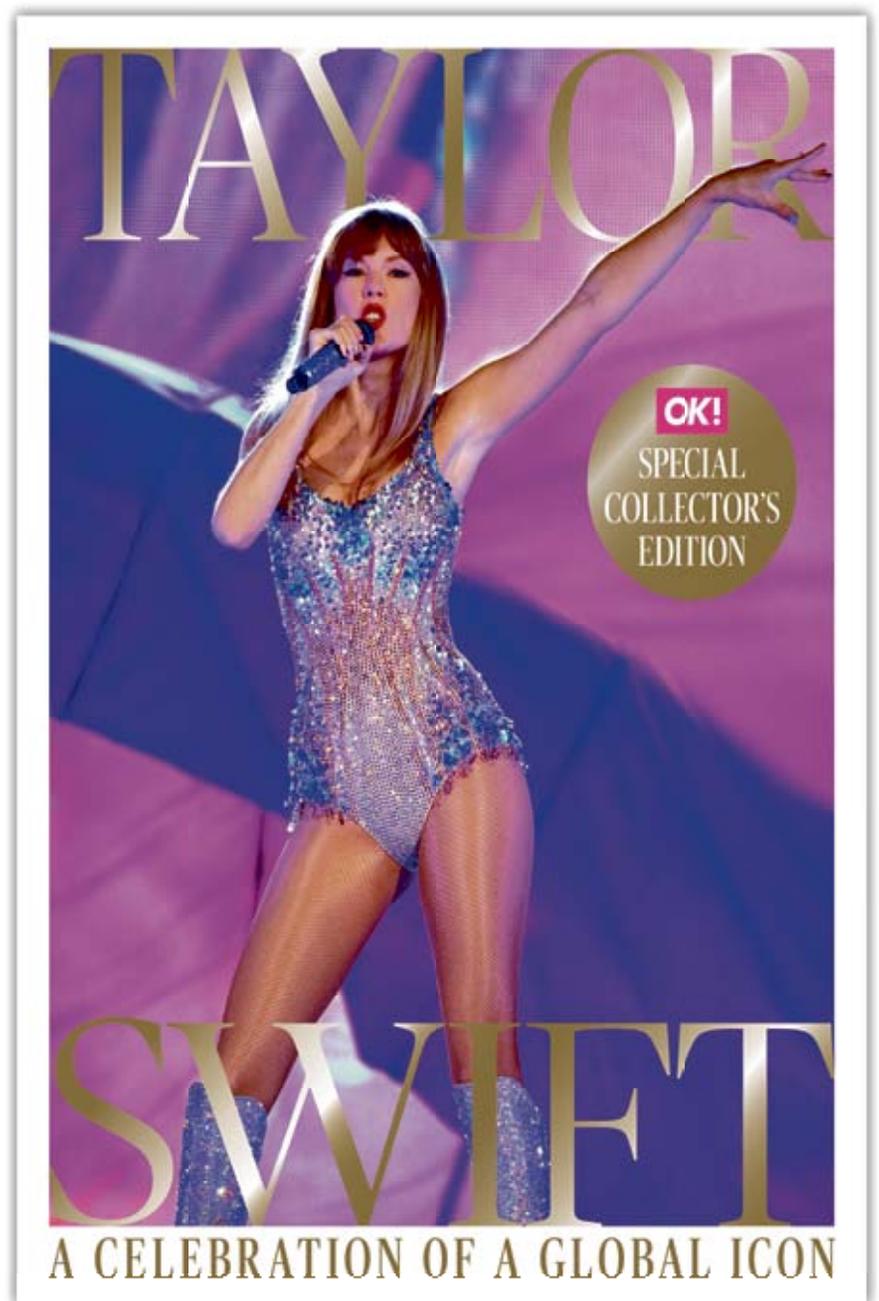


SCAN ME

**VISIT: REACHSHOPS.CO.UK/D-DAY**

Available to purchase in most supermarkets, high street retailers and independent newsagents in the UK from May 22, 2024

**ON SALE NOW**



AVAILABLE IN SHOPS, AND AT  
[ok.co.uk/taylorswift](https://ok.co.uk/taylorswift)



SCAN ME

Online purchase price excludes P&P. See website for details.



HELEN LEDERER  
**NOT  
THAT I'M  
BITTER**

'Dizzy, dippy and divinely funny'

*Stephen Fry*

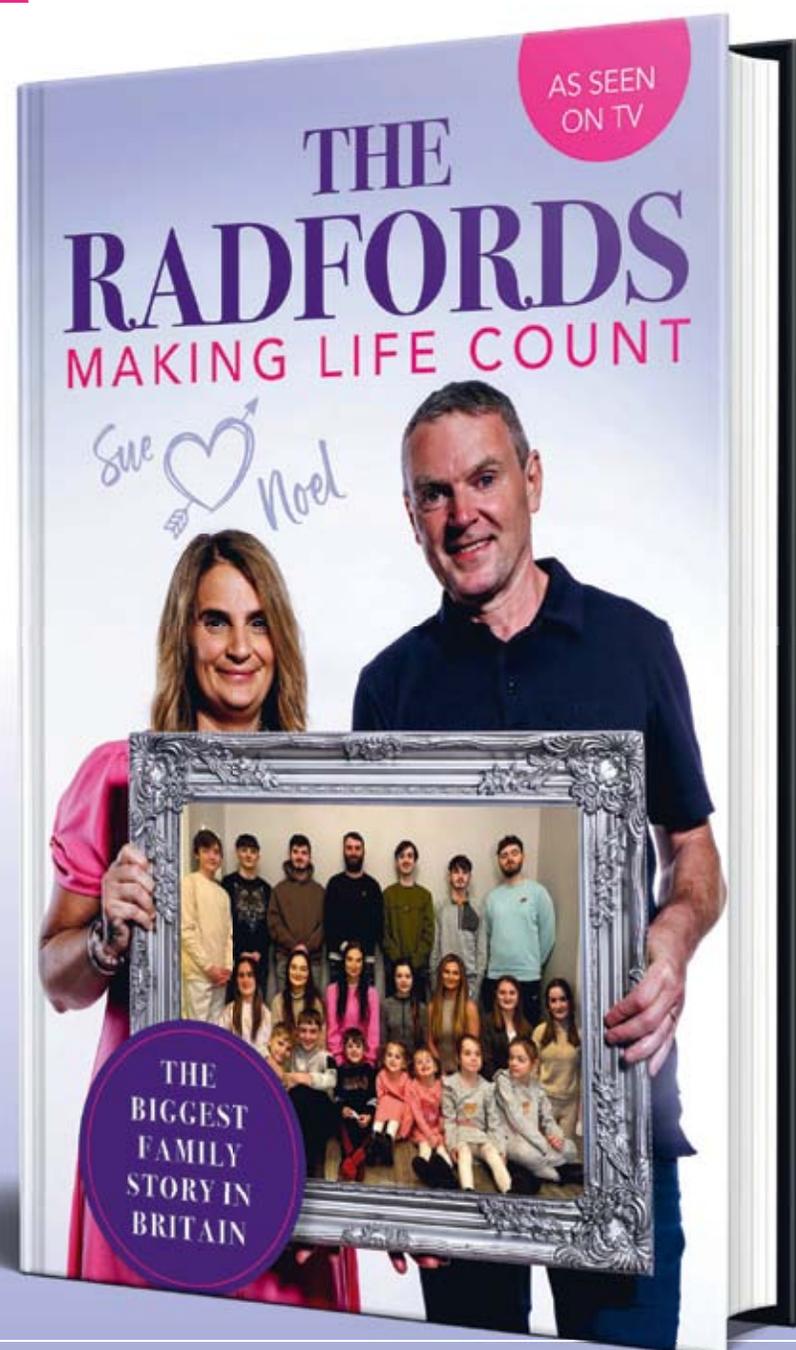


Available from Amazon, selected supermarkets and all good bookshops. Also available in ebook

# THE RADFORDS

***'We are Britain's biggest family, and proud of it'***

The Radfords are a family like no other. Take a look behind the scenes of Britain's biggest family in this love story about endurance and conquering the odds.

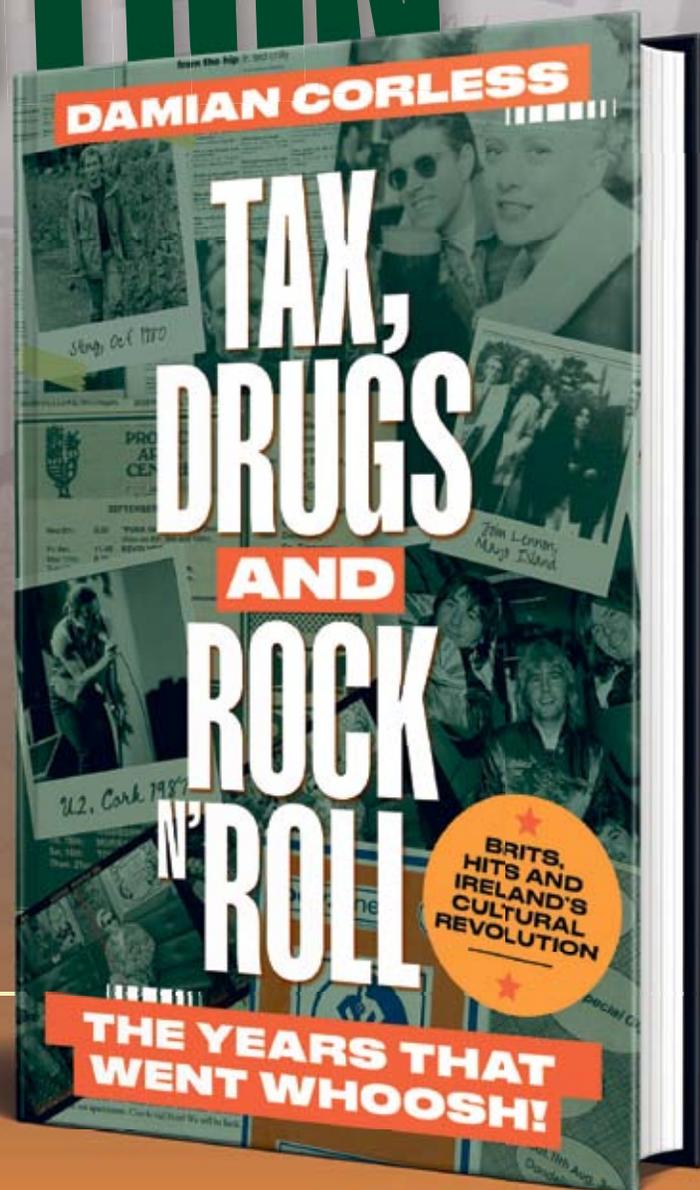


Available from Amazon, selected supermarkets and all good bookshops. Also available in ebook.

# BRITS, HITS AND IRELAND'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION

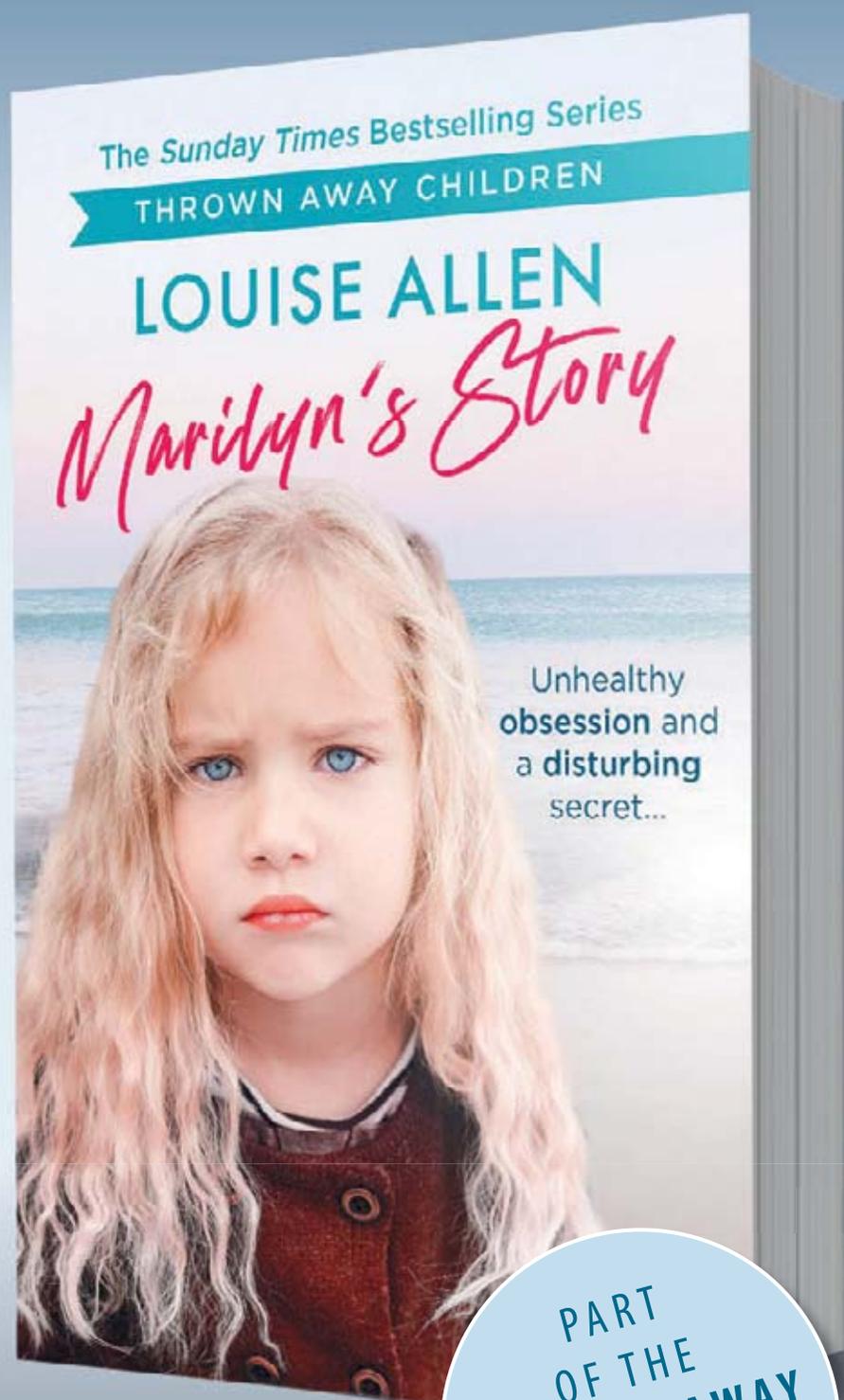
**The book that explores how an influx of British pop stars in the early 1980s kick-started a cultural transformation in Ireland**

On sale from all good bookshops and Amazon, ebook also available.



A BRAND NEW BOOK FROM THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

# LOUISE ALLEN



A baby is named  
Marilyn after  
Hollywood legend,  
Norma Jean.

PART  
OF THE  
THROWN AWAY  
CHILDREN  
SERIES



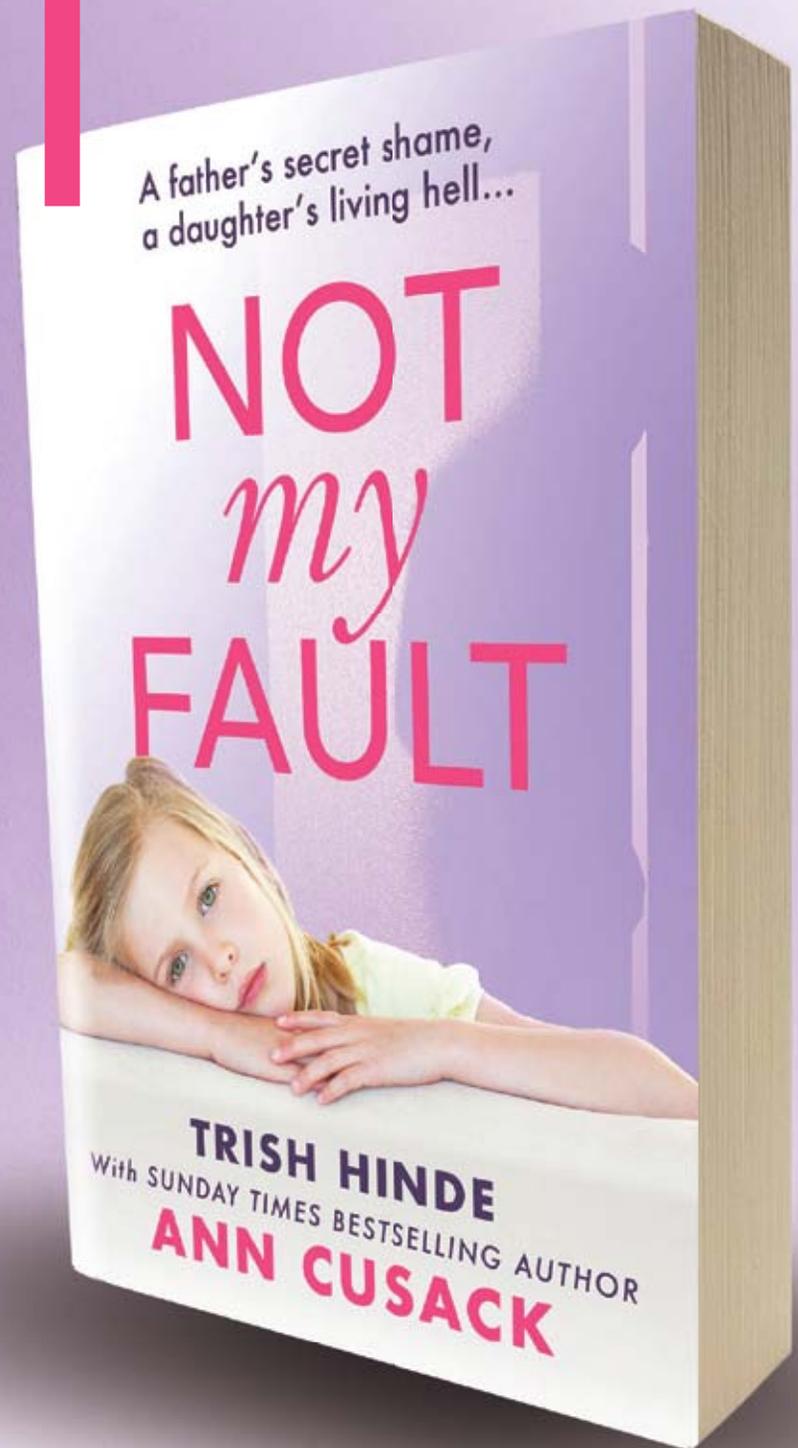
Available from Amazon, selected supermarkets  
and all good bookshops. *Also available in ebook*

**A FATHER'S SECRET SHAME,  
A DAUGHTER'S LIVING HELL...**

# NOT *my* FAULT

**'What mattered  
was that someone  
listened to me.  
Someone believed  
me after 25  
years. That means  
everything.'**

*By the  
writer of*  
**ABANDONED  
and THE  
CONVENT**



---

Available from Amazon, selected supermarkets  
and all good bookshops. *Also available in ebook*

# ART AS BIG AS LIVERPOOL...

Flags, banners mosaics and murals: The greatest gallery in football



Official  
Liverpool FC  
Book



**OUT  
NOW**

Order from [liverpoolfc.com/store](http://liverpoolfc.com/store),  
[reachsportshop.com](http://reachsportshop.com) and all good book shops

# Charles the first ready to reign on Monaco's streets

## FORMULA ONE

CHARLES LECLERC is confident it will be third time lucky in Monaco today after ending Max Verstappen's remarkable qualifying run.

The Dutchman was on a streak of eight poles in a row but it was home hero Leclerc who topped the timesheets yesterday.

However, the Ferrari driver has been here before and seen it slip away.

In 2021 he qualified on pole but failed to start because of a mechanical problem. The next year he was at the front again – but a botched Ferrari pit strategy cost him the win.

Qualifying king Leclerc has failed to convert any of his last 12 pole positions into victory but is ready to end that barren run.

He said: "I know from the past that qualifying is not everything. As much as it helps a lot for Sunday's race, we need to put everything together."

"In past years we didn't manage to do so but we are a stronger team in a



**FINISH THE JOB** Leclerc

stronger position and can achieve great things."

Leclerc only really received pressure from McLaren's Oscar Piastri, who will join him on the front row.

Carlos Sainz made it two Ferraris in the top three ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris and Mercedes star George Russell.

Red Bull's Verstappen had to settle for just sixth, with Lewis Hamilton one behind him for Mercedes.

Champion Verstappen was typically blunt as he assessed his car and said: "I'm not disappointed with the position, just our performance which for the whole weekend has been a surprise to me."

# Blair's a Toulouse cannon as he gives Leinster the boot

## SPORTSLOG

BLAIR KINGHORN was in dreamland last night after being crowned a European champion.

The Scotland star only quit Edinburgh for Toulouse in the winter but yesterday he kicked them on their way to a sixth Champions Cup with a 31-22 extra-time final win over Leinster.

Kinghorn slotted four penalties and prevented a certain try to have the French side 12-9 up in the second half at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium but the Irish side forced extra-time at 15-15.

A try from Matthis Lebel got Toulouse in front as Thomas Ramos' conversion and three penalties ensured victory despite Josh van der Flier's try.

Kinghorn beamed: "It's unbelievable, if you'd told me in November I'd be a Champions Cup winner, I'd not have believed you."

**ATHLETICS:** Beth Potter insists she's ready to go for Olympic gold after coming third at the World Triathlon



**EURO STAR** Blair Kinghorn

Series in Cagliari. The Scot, 31, had to settle for third in a sprint finish as French rival Cassandre Beaugrand snatched victory from Germany's Lisa Tertsch.

But world champion Potter believes her build-up to Paris is right on track.

She said: "My last race was eight-and-a-half months ago."

"I went for the win and had to settle for third but my goal is July 31."

"I wanted to get a race in to see where I'm at and everything was good. I'm happy with where I'm at."

Fellow Brits Georgia Taylor-Brown and Sophie Coldwell boosted their chances of being in Paris by coming sixth and seventh.

# GOLF WOMEN'S OPEN



**HALL TO PLAY FOR** 2018 champ aims to lift trophy again

# HALL OF FAME

BY CRAIG SWAN

**GEORGIA HALL** admits she has to strategically plan her US battles with nuclear Nelly Korda.

But the English star insists she is relishing the thought of going head-to-head with the American on St Andrews Sunday.

Korda is ripping it up with a magical run of form which is taking the women's game to a whole new audience.

The 25-year-old has won six of her last seven events and will be in Scotland in August for the AIG Women's Open.

Hall pegged it up for fun with Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy in the Champions Event on the Old Course at the 150th Open.

The 28-year-old admits she would consider following in the shoeprints of Annika Sorenstam and Michelle Wie in accepting an invite to a men's event if the right opportunity came along and Korda is also being lined-up for invites.

Hall insists her pal could mix it with the men and at least make the cut. She said: "I think it would be great just to showcase women's golf in a men's event. That would get more coverage."

"A couple years ago, I got invited to play in one and I didn't because I knew the course was too long. I knew that I would have three-woods into par fours, and if I play, I want to have a good chance of making the cut. "I was already looking at

## Former champ Georgia would love to go toe-to-toe with nemesis Nelly for Open glory at St Andrews

Switzerland on the men's European Tour, things like that. But I think, yeah, probably like a links course or a short one where I can at least have irons in.

"I think it's important not to compare ourselves to the men, including the whole prize money questions we get. They're two very different entities."

"We play golf differently and don't hit the ball as far but I think a lot of people like to watch us because of that as more people can relate. The tempo and rhythm we have, it's very different to the men."

"That's why it's important to see how far we've come in the last 10 years instead of looking like it's not equal to the men yet. And I don't think it will be for a while."

"But the support we're already getting from the R&A and AIG for this event in general is providing a great example for companies and tournaments to come in and kind of rise up to their level and do the same."

"I think it would be a great experience but, yeah, it would be great if Nelly did it in America. "I don't know what's going to

happen in the next six months but even if I can come down the stretch against her, I'd just want to win even more."

Hall will be refreshed and raring to go on home soil but it's not easy across the Atlantic and she opened up on the strains of competing on the LPGA Tour.

She, buddy Charley Hull and Scotland's Gemma Dryburgh will battle Korda at this week's US Women's Open at the Lancaster Country Club in Pennsylvania.

But fewer Brits are on the US scene and Hall outlined the factors as she

explained: "When I was in England sports, there were a lot of good players and now they just don't play golf anymore."

"I think half of it is travel. They don't want to live in America, they don't want to travel over there. They get homesick a lot."

"It's quite a lonely life. The Americans just have it a lot easier on their Tour. Everything is one, two-hour flight, three-hour flight."

"For me it was quite apparent that I didn't want to live in America. It's my sixth, seventh year on the LPGA so I've thought about it, but I never wanted to."

"I love being home and that's never going to change. Preparing my schedule is very important."

"There is only me and Charley [Hull] that really do this. She's my best friend so I think it's great that we have each other to kind of go through this journey together like we have from when we were 10 years old."

● Nacho Elvira has a four-shot lead heading into the final round of the Soudal Open after carding a 67 on day three in Belgium.

The Spaniard sits on 18 under, with English duo Joe Dean (66) and Ross Fisher (70), Frenchman Romain Langasque (68) and Dane Niklas Norgaard (67) tied for second.



**ON A RUN** Korda's won six of last seven events

PANEL BEATERS



WE ANSWER THREE KEY Qs

Q1 What's your biggest fancy at Kelso?

Mistral Nell (4.00) is nicely unexposed as a stayer for ultra-shrewd Fergal O'Brien. Mack The Man (3.25) should follow up his cosy Perth success for Nick Alexander. Everyday Champagne (2.50) is still on a winning mark after his good second here.

Q2 Give us your Nap at Fontwell or Uttoxeter.

Mr Hope Street (5.20) can keep up the good work over 2m 4f for Dan Skelton at Uttoxeter. Midnight Gold (3.50) can sparkle for in-form Neil Mullholland at Fontwell. Malaita (3.35) can stay in peak form for the thriving Mel Rowley at Uttoxeter.

Q3 Can you pick us a winner in Ireland?

Shelaka (2.00) can make a winning handicap bow for Dermot Weld at the Curragh. Bay Of Sanibel (5.25) can land the odds at the Curragh for Jessica Harrington. Fallen Angel (3.45) can get back on track in the Irish 1000 Guineas at the Curragh.



LION ROARS Hannon's colt powered home at the Curragh

ROSA BLOOMS IN TIGHT IRISH 2000 GUINEAS

ROSALLION deservedly became a Classic winner in the Irish 2000 Guineas at the Curragh. Richard Hannon's star was a 10-11 favourite after giving Notable Speech most problems in the UK version at Newmarket.

BY JOE REILLY said: "Having to stand in the second place spot in the paddock at Newmarket was utterly galling but this more than makes up for it. It's the icing on the cake. "Rosallion has always been a little bit special and we built him up quite a lot, so it's lovely to see him win a Classic. "Both horses ran the races of their lives. Rosallion will go to Royal Ascot now."

Kerdos (12/1) left it late to land the Temple Stakes at Haydock. Clive Cox's gelding made rapid headway in the final furlong to order. Royal Ascot now."

Seven Questions (16/1) stayed on strongly late to finish third. However, Levey had yet to pay his cards on the winner who came late to collar his rival close home by a head. Hannon

RACING

ROCKAVON PA

- 2.15 BLUEBERRY WINE GEORDIES DREAM
2.50 EVERYDAY CHAMPAGNE EVERYDAY CHAMPAGNE
3.25 MACK THE MAN WELL EDUCATED
4.00 MISTRAL NELL (NAP) MISTRAL NELL
4.35 GOODTIMES BADTIMES TOUCAN SAM
5.10 YIPPEE KI YAY BOTHWELL BRIDGE
5.45 BEAU DELLA BEAU DELLA

2.15 J.A. WILSON CONTRACTORS NOVICES' HURDLE (GBB RACE) (4) Winner £4,357 (10 run) 2m 51yds

- 1 0/86U- ACUSTIC (109) (T) M Barnes 5 11-1... Conor Rabbit (5) 78
2 44532- BLUEBERRY WINE (32) (T) D McCain 8 11-1 (D)... B Hughes 105
3 /P49-7 FAIRLY FULLING (18) (H) Mrs J Walton 6 11-1... R Chapman
4 /U21-8 FAMOUS LISS (22) W Coltherd 6 11-1... S Coltherd
5 5/323- GEORDIES DREAM (82) (P) Miss P Robson 9 11-1 (BFCD)
6 5 RAVENS CRAIG CASTLE (10) (P,T) J Jardine 9 11-1... Craig Nichol
7 3P66-8 ROCK N ROLL CHAMP (18) S Forster 6 11-1 H Brooke
8 659- SARATOGA STEVE (30) (H,T) L Russell 5 11-1... P W Wadge (3)
9 SOMEONE YOU LOVED F O'Brien 4 10-9... K Woods
10 7775- DORCAS ROAD (37) (T) L Russell 6 10-8... D R Fox
BETTING: 11-4 Someone You Loved, 3 Blueberry Wine, 4 Geordies Dream, 9-2 Ravenscraig Castle, 7 Dorcas Road, 12 Saratoga Steve, 16 Others.
2023: CLODY FLYER 6 11 8, Brian Hughes 16 Fav (D McCain), 5 ran.

2.50 SCHLOSS ROXBURGH HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE (4) Winner £5,281 (8 run) 2m 5f 133yds

- 1 3435-P IMPULSIVE ONE (15) (T) B Ellison 6 12-0... H Brooke 120
2 0/123- GO BOY (57) A M Thomson 8 11-1... R Mania 117
3 42P1-1 FIVE DOLLAR FINE (15) A Hamilton 9 11-8... D McMenamin 112
4 110P-7 HIDDEN COMMANDER (18) (P,T) W Coltherd 9 11-5 (CD)
5 5F34-5 CHAPEL GREEN (15) (P) L Russell 7 10-13 (C)... D R Fox 105
6 1447-2 EVERYDAY CHAMPAGNE (18) (P) N Alexander 8 10-11... B Lynn (3) 103
7 7342-8 GRAND VOYAGE (10) (P) W Coltherd 8 10-10 (C)
8 1237-5 CASTLETOWN (18) (V) L Russell 12 10-8 (C)... P W Wadge (3) 100
9 /823-P OKAVANGO DELTA (16) (P) R Dobbin 8 10-7... Craig Nichol 99
BETTING: 11-4 Five Dollar Fine, 9-2 Everyday Champagne, 11-2 Go Boy, 7 Chapel Green, 8 Impulsive One, 10 Grand Voyage, Hidden Commander, 12 Others.
2023: THE FERRY MASTER 10 11 10, Ryan Mania 9-2 (A M Thomson), 4 ran.
IMPULSIVE ONE, did not finish, 40-1 (12-0, S Bowen) Always towards rear, well behind after 3 out, pulled up before 2 out, in a race won by Uggly Uggly (10-7) at Warwick 2m 5f hcp hdl 0-130 (3) gd, 13 ran 5m 07.10s.
GO BOY 9-4 (11-10, Danny McMenamin) Close up in 4th, tracked leaders 7th, not fluent next, ridden and weakened 2 out, slow next, just held on to poor 3rd, 3rd of 4, 311 behind Gerryville (11-2) at Carlisle 2m 4f hcp chs 0-130 (3) st in Mar 5m 35.81s.
FIVE DOLLAR FINE 7-2 (11-1, Danny McMenamin) Chased leaders, pushed along into 3rd before last, ridden run-in, ran on well to lead final 110 yards, won at Hexham 2m hcp chs 0-120 (4) gd beating Home Free (11-6) by 1l, 7 ran 4m 04.93s.
HIDDEN COMMANDER 33-1 (11-7, Sam Coltherd) Towards rear, lost touch 3 out, tailed off, 7th of 8, 441 behind No Regrets (11-4) at Kelso 2m 7f hcp chs 0-120 (4) gd 6m 01.82s.
CHAPEL GREEN 9-2 (11-2, D R Fox) In run, pushed along and lost touch after 6th, plugged on thereafter but never on terms, 5th of 7, 131 behind Five Dollar Fine (11-1) at Hexham 2m hcp chs 0-120 (4) gd 4m 04.93s.
EVERYDAY CHAMPAGNE 5-1 (10-8, Bruce Lynn) Prominent, disputed lead 2nd, led before 6th, faced challenge before 2 out, pushed along and headed narrowly approaching last, ridden and kept on run-in, 2nd of 8, nk behind No Regrets (11-4) at Kelso 2m 7f hcp chs 0-120 (4) gd 6m 01.82s.
GRAND VOYAGE 7-2 (12-0, Sam Coltherd) Mid-division, hit 7th and lost position, reminders towards rear 9th, well behind 2 out, 8th of 9, 131 behind Imperial Rise (10-10) at Perth 2m 4f hcp chs 0-105 (5) gs 5m 10.62s.
CASTLETOWN 10-1 (10-7, P W Wadge) Mid-division, pushed along after 2 out, plugged on and hit last, never a danger, 5th of 8, 61 behind No Regrets (11-4) at Kelso 2m 7f hcp chs 0-120 (4) gd 6m 01.82s.
OKAVANGO DELTA, did not finish, 13-2 (11-5, Dylan Johnston) Chased leaders, struggling 10th, soon behind, pulled up before 3 out, in a race won by The Electrician (9-11) at Market Rasen 2m 5f hcp chs 0-105 (5) gd, 9 ran 5m 39.20s.

KELSO RACING TV.

3.25 LOOK WHO'S 65 ELLIOT HENDERSON HANDICAP HURDLE (2) Winner £10,406 (8 run) 2m 51yds

- 1 /P260- JUNGLE JACK (44) (B) D McCain 8 12-0 (D)... B Hughes 131
2 21148- DOYEN DU BAR (37) (H) Miss P Robson 8 11-6 (CD)... H Brooke 123
3 13606- CAITHNESS (85) L Russell 8 11-3 (CD)... D R Fox 120
4 P023P- CARCAI CASTLE (67) (P,T) A M Thomson 8 11-2 (CD)... R Mania 119
5 8213-1 MACK THE MAN (10) (V) N Alexander 10 11-1 (D)... Mr K Alexander (5) 118
6 336-51 WELL EDUCATED (5) G Bewley 8 10-10 (CD)... J Bewley 106
7 44143- CRACKING DESTINY (32) Ewan Williams 11 10-6 (D)... Craig Nichol 109
8 /6127- MISTER MOODLES (80) R Menzies 6 10-5... J Hamilton 108
BETTING: 5-2 Mack The Man, 4 Well Educated, 6 Jungle Jack, 7 Caithness, 8 Mister Moodles, Cracking Destiny, Carcai Castle, 10 Doyen Du Bar.
2023: CASTEL GANDOLFO 6 12 0, Jack Hogan(5) 3-1 (F O'Brien), 5 ran.
JUNGLE JACK 40-1 (11-10, Peter Kavanagh) Ridden away from start, mid-division, not fluent 5th, soon struggling, not fluent and well beaten 3 out, 15th of 19, well behind El Jefe (9-9) at Aintree 2m cond hcp hdl (2) st in Apr 4m 19.05s.
DOYEN DU BAR 20-1 (11-10, Craig Nichol) Chased leader, led after 3rd until before 4 out, chased leader until 3 out, chased leaders, awkward and weakened 2 out, 8th of 13, 131 behind Primoz (11-1) at Ayr 2m hcp hdl 0-130 (3) st in Apr 3m 57.79s.
CAITHNESS 20-1 (10-12, D R Fox) Keen, prominent, pushed along to lead 2 out, ridden and headed approaching next, weakened flat, 6th of 17, 121 behind Cracking Rhapsody (10-8) at Kelso 2m hcp hdl (2) gs in Mar 4m 04.44s.
CARCAI CASTLE, did not finish, 8-1 (11-1, Ryan Mania) Chased leaders, lost place 4 out, jumped right and well beaten 3 out, pulled up before 2 out, in a race won by Prairie Wolf (11-10) at Haydock 2m 4f nov Limited hcp ch (3) st in Mar, 4 ran 5m 41.30s.
MACK THE MAN 4-1fav (10-10, Mr Kit Alexander) Front mid-division, headway into 2nd after 3 out, pushed along and led before last, ridden out and forged clear run-in, won at Perth 2m hcp 0-125 (3) gs beating Dance Thief (10-4) by 6l, 9 ran 3m 55.86s.
WELL EDUCATED 6-1 (10-13, Jonathan Bewley) Raced keenly in 3rd, went 2nd before led 2 out, ridden and stayed on gamely run-in, always doing enough, won at Hexham 2m 4f hcp hdl 0-125 (3) gd beating Hartur Douairies (11-7) by 1/2l, 2m 5m 12.60s.
CRACKING DESTINY 10-1 (11-2, Aaron Anderson) Prominent, pushed along and weakened approaching 2 out, 7th of 12, 30 behind One More Stroke (11-12) at Carlisle 2m 1f nh nov hdl (4) st in Mar 4m 29.01s.

4.00 FIVE STAR TAXIS MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE (4) Winner £4,225 (9 run) 3m 1f 170yds

- 1 /3223- MELUSINE DE PAIL (43) Noel Williams 6 12-0... J Hogan (3) 109
2 384F-7 LONE STAR (17) (T) P Kirby 7 11-13... J Williamson (3) 108
3 /1749- BLUE BALOO (67) A M Thomson 6 11-9... R Mania 104
4 P217-2 MISTRAL NELL (19) F O'Brien 7 11-7... J Burke 102
5 3518-6 BRIGHT SUNBIRD (16) (P) R Menzies 9 11-3 (D)... Tabitha Worsley (3) 98
6 96040- AAZZA (78) R Dobbin 8 11-1... Craig Nichol 96
7 4746-9 STARLYTE (18) (P,T) L Russell 7 11-1 (C)... P W Wadge (3) 96
8 /55F5- SOMEBODY'S FORTUNE (31) (T,V) L Russell 6 10-5... D R Fox 86
9 P/58-9 JOANNA I'M FINE (11) Mrs J Stephen 7 10-2... D Johnston (5) 74
BETTING: 3 Melusine De Pail, 7-2 Mistral Nell, 5 Somebody's Fortune, 7 Bright Sunbird, 8 Aazza, 10 Lone Star, Blue Baloo, 12 Starlyte, 20 Joanna Im Fine.
2023: No corresponding race.

4.35 PONSE UK NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (5) Winner £3,961 (8 run) 2m 7f 96yds

- 1 2129- GOODTIMES BADTIMES (77) A M Thomson 9 12-0... R Mania 100
2 6-3322 TOUCAN SAM (11) (T) A B Hamilton 6 12-0... A Doyle (5) 100
3 P7P2-P JETEYE (12) (P,T) S England 7 11-11 (BF)... Craig Nichol 97
4 3236- GRAND DU NORD (336) M Hammond 8 11-10... C O Farrell 96
5 3334P- BARON BRIGGS (57) (P,T) A M Thomson 7 10-8... D McMenamin 80
6 P6P60- IZZY BELL (16) (T) M Barnes 6 10-5... P J Kavanagh (3) 77
7 895P- DERWENT DEALER (34) (P) D Brooke 8 10-5... H Brooke 77
8 44994- DARK DUOMO (73) (B,T) M Hammond 6 10-2... Emma Smith-Chaston (3) 69
BETTING: 11-4 Jeteye, 3 Toucan Sam, 9-2 Baron Briggs, 5 Goodtimes Badtimes, 8 Grand Du Nord, 12 Dark Duomo, Derwent Dealer, 25 Izzy Bell.
2023: ROCKNOSOPH 6 12 0, Sean Quinlan Evens Fav (R Dobbin), 3 ran.

GOING: Good to Soft. COURSE: Left-handed oval track of 1m 3f, nine fences per circuit and stiff uphill run-in. A sharp hurdle course inside the chase course.

5.10 GRASSROOTS' HUNTERS' CHASE SERIES FINAL (3) Winner £5,797 (11 run) 3m 2f 39yds

- 1 122-31 SHANROE STREET (11) (V) G Walkingshaw 14 12-4... Mr Gregor Walkingshaw (7) 106
2 1443-2 SLIEVEGAR (14) (T) M Conley 8 12-4 (CD)... Doubtful 110
3 161U3- MATTS COMMISSION (34) (T) J Teal 11 12-1... Mr J Teal (7) 99
4 1P15-3 SUPER CITIZEN (11) Mrs Lucinda Hughes 10 12-1 (C)... Mr John Dawson 108
5 1412-2 YIPPEE KI YAY (23) (P) Mrs N Sheppard 6 12-1... Mr Milo Herbert (7) 117
6 2121-1 BOTHWELL BRIDGE (21) (T) Miss Kelly Morgan (7) 117
7 33U4-P COOLDINE BOG (23) Miss A Jackson-Fennell 11 11-12... Miss A Jackson-Fennell (7) 98
8 PP-113 INVICTON (20) (B,T) Ross Wilson 9 11-12... Mr Paddy Barlow (5) 90
9 2/13-4 TEDS CHARLEY ROE (18) Mrs Jacqui Lang 11 11-12... Miss Lucy Brown (7) 109
10P94-3P THE MACON LUGNATIC (8) (P) Mrs K MacLaggart... 10 11-12 Miss Isabel MacLaggart (7) 104
11 463-33 WATCH LAW (29) Jess Mckie 9 11-12... Mr N Orpwood (3) 104
BETTING: 9-4 Yippee Ki Yay, 5-2 Bothwell Bridge, 5 Shanroe Street, 8 Super Citizen, 10 Matts Commission, 16 Watch Law, The Macon Lugnatic, 20 Others.
2023: SLIEVEGAR 7 11 12, Mr Toby McCain-Mitchell (7) 4-5 Fav (P Rowley), 4 ran.
SHANROE STREET 2-1fav (11-9, Mr Gregor Walkingshaw) Prominent, settled in 3rd after 3rd in rear next, cajoled along and closed up before 2nd, disputed lead 4 out, pushed along and led approaching 2 out, ridden before last, kept on, all out, won at Perth 3m hts chs (5) gs beating Toucan Sam (11-5) by 2 1/4l, 4 ran 6m 22.19s.
MATTS COMMISSION 9-4 (11-7, Mr J Teal) Prominent, led by 6th, headed 10th, not fluent 12 or 2 out, lost 2nd before last, soon weakened, tailed off, 3rd of 6, 471 behind Jernysback (11-9) at Hexham 3m hts chs (5) hkn in Apr 7m 32.00s.
SUPER CITIZEN 7-2 (11-13, Mr Nick Orpwood) Held up in rear, went 3rd at 4th, pushed along and outpaced 14th, lost touch before 3 out, 3rd of 4, 131 behind Shanroe Street (11-9) at Perth 3m hts chs (5) gs 6m 22.19s.
YIPPEE KI YAY 4-1 (11-7, Mr Milo Herbert) In touch in mid-division, mistake 5th, outpaced 16th, not much room after next, rallying when mistake 2 out, well held by winner from last, went 2nd towards finish, 2nd of 9, 111 behind What A Glance (11-7) at Cheltenham 3m 1f hts chs (4) st 6m 59.54s.
BOTHWELL BRIDGE 2-5fav (12-5, Miss Elie Calwood) (tt) made all, stayed on wtl, won at Fernie 3m ptp beating The Unmentionable (12-5) by 5l, 2 ran 6m 52.00s.
COOLDINE BOG, did not finish, 33-1 (11-5, Miss Amber Jackson-Fennell) Led until 6th, lost place 8th, behind 13th, pulled up after, in a race won by Rebel Dawn Rising (11-12) at Cheltenham 2m 5f hts chs (5) st, 10 ran 5m 38.30s.
INVICTON 3-1 (12-0, R Wilson) (bl) (kn) (t) disp led to 5; 4l last 12; rwd off 15; rdn & out-pod 3 out, 3rd of 4, 201 behind Buster Valentine (12-0) at Zetland 3m ptp gd 6m 40.00s.
TEDS CHARLEY ROE 20-1 (11-5, Miss Lucy Brown) Chased leaders, not fluent at times, lost position 9th, hit 5 out, pushed along 3 out, soon held and weakened, led of 4, 341 behind On Cheez (11-13) at Kelso 2m 7f hts chs (4) gd 6m 07.98s.
THE MACON LUGNATIC, did not finish, 10-1 (12-0, T J MacLaggart) A bhd; Lo & pu at 4 out, in a race won by Famous Response (12-0) at Haydon 3m ptp st, 9 ran 7m 16.00s.
WATCH LAW 5-2 (12-3, Mr Nick Orpwood) Stdy hdwy aft 14; outped app 2 out, 3rd of 7, 51 behind Batman For Ever (12-0) at Overton Races 3m ptp gd in Apr 6m 13.00s.

5.45 SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER MARES' OPEN NH FLAT RACE (4) Winner £3,268 (11 run) 2m 51yds

- 1 4-1 GALE MAHLER (19) (P) A Keating 5 11-7 (D)... H Brooke 100
2 4-2 BEAU DELLA (15) J Jardine 5 11-0... C O Farrell 100
3 BELLMOUNT LADY T Davidson 5 11-0... H Reed 100
4 DEAR DOT C Grant 5 11-0... D McMenamin 100
5 GENIES GIRL (19) M Walford 5 11-0... J Hamilton 100
6 LEWESDON DANCER Paul Collins 5 11-0... Mr John Dawson (3) 100
7 CATCHA FLIGHT R M Smith 4 10-8... C Bewley 100
8 CRAFTY DANCER (30) K Scott 4 10-8... P W Wadge (3) 100
9 JO JO BINKS D Brooke 4 10-8... B Hughes 100
10 5- LIZZIE LUNA (51) Ewan Williams 4 10-8... Craig Nichol 100
11 0-9 MISSAURA (15) P Kirby 4 10-8... J Williamson (3) 100
BETTING: 7-4 Beau Della, 2 Gale Mahler, 7 Genies Girl, 12 Jo Jo Binks, Bellmount Lady, Lizzie Luna, 16 Dear Dot, 25 Catcha Flight, 33 Others.
2023: HARD AS NAILS 5 11 6, Jack Hogan(5) 2-5 Fav (F O'Brien), 3 ran.

RACING RESULTS RACING RESULTS RACING RESULTS RACING RESULTS RACING RESULTS

HAYDOCK
Going: Soft (Heavy in places)
1.15: NELLIE LEYLAX (P Jamin 9-2Cof) 1; Involvement (7-1) 2; Apiarist (20-1) 3; Candopomere 9-2Cof; Cerulean Bay 9-2Cof; 12 ran, 1 1/2, 4 (Tom Dascombe). Tote: £5.50, £1.80, £2.90, £3.90. Tote Exacta: £38.90, Csf: £34.62, Tricast: £582.52, N/R: Volterra. Tote Trifecta: £650.90.
1.50: KERDOS (R Kingscote 12-1) 1; Live In The Dream (6-1) 2; Seven Questions (16-1) 3; Astroa 4-1Jft. Beautiful Diamond 4-1Jft; 9 ran, 1/2, 2 1/4 (C G Cox). Tote: £13.70, £3.60, £2.40, £3.90. Tote Exacta: £135.90, Csf: £101.49, Tricast: £1,534.73, N/R: Makarova. Tote Trifecta: £1,106.90.
2.25: INISHERIN (T Eaves 9-2) 1; Orne (40-1) 2; Vandeeq (8-1) 3; 7 ran, 3 1/2, nk (K A Ryan). Tote: £5.50, £2.00, £3.10. Tote Exacta: £92.30, Csf: £132.40, Tricast: £252.59, N/R: Pandora's Gift. Tote Trifecta: £369.30.
3.00: ENGLISH OAK (O Murphy 8-11) 1; Persuasion (10-1) 2; Abduction (22-1) 3; 6 ran, 4 1/2, shd (E Walker). Tote: £1.73, £1.10, £3.50. Tote Exacta: £8.10, Csf: £87.70, N/R: Metabolit. Tote Trifecta: £58.70.
3.30: DIVINE COMEDY (K Fraser 3-1) 1; Solent Gateway (14-1) 2; Emlyn (12-1) 3; 13 ran, 5 1/2, 2 1/4 (Harry Eustace). Tote: £4.00, £1.70, £4.80, £3.60. Tote Exacta: £51.20, Csf: £47.16, Tricast: £454.97, N/R: Evaluation. Tote Trifecta: £748.20.
4.10: NARIKO (O Murphy 11-2) 1; Kodi Lion (8-1) 2; Moyila (22-1) 3; The Amazon 11-10; 15 ran, 2, 1/2 (H Palmer). Tote: £6.80, £1.90, £2.20, £4.80. Tote Exacta: £55.50, Csf: £47.96, Tricast: £393.33.
4.45: CORSIAN CAPER (S Osborne 11-2) 1; Squeezebox (11-1) 2; Bustoan (13-2) 3; Western Stars 5-2; 9 ran, 1, 3 1/2 (K Frost). Tote: £6.50, £2.00, £2.80, £1.90. Tote Exacta: £42.70, Csf: £32.44, Tricast: £398.96, N/R: Story Horse, Sultie Alshams. Tote Trifecta: £344.90.
Jackpot: Not won, Pool of £1,252.49 carried forward to Uttoxeter today.
Quadpot: £105.50, Placepot: £2,773.20.

YORK
Going: Good to Soft
1.35: TRIAC (K Shoemark 11-1) 1; Holkhamp Bay (17-2) 2; Stainie Mhath (17-2) 3; Champagne Sarah 10-3f; 21 ran, shd, 1 1/2 (J Channon). Tote: £14.00, £3.50, £2.90, £3.00, £2.80. Tote Exacta: £157.20, Csf: £102.37, Tricast: £874.59, N/R: Ray Vonn. Tote Trifecta: £1,418.40.
2.10: ARABIE (J Crowley 4-1) 1; Stratusline (18-1) 2; Simmering (9-1) 3; 14 ran, nk, 1 (K R Burke). Tote: £5.00, £1.70, £6.10, £1.90. Tote Exacta: £88.30, Csf: £69.99, Tote Trifecta: £374.20.
2.45: STARLUJZ (R Ryan 11-4) 1; Lethal Nymph (14-1) 2; Copper Knight (22-1) 3; 12 ran, 2 1/4, 1 1/2 (R M Beckett). Tote: £3.75, £1.80, £4.10, £4.30. Tote Exacta: £49.70, Csf: £43.41, Tricast: £720.81, N/R: Democracy Dilemma. Tote Trifecta: £330.40.
3.20: TERM OF ENDEARMENT (R Blackmore 4-1) 1; Night Sparkle (16-1) 2; River Of Stars (2-1) 3; 10 ran, 3/4, 1 1/2 (H De Bromhead). Tote: £5.00, £1.70, £3.80, £4.40. Tote Exacta: £57.70, Csf: £63.67, Tricast: £161.84, Tote Trifecta: £207.70.
3.55: BURDETT (K Shoemark 14-1) 1; Sea The Dream (8-1) 2; Bulmer Bank (20-1) 3; Diddy Man 11-2Jft. Quiet Resolve 11-2Jft; 14 ran, 2, shd (J Channon). Tote: £15.00, £3.50, £2.70, £5.20, £9.30. Tote Exacta: £147.50, Csf: £113.67, Tricast: £2,290.56, N/R: Rating. Tote Trifecta: £2,992.90.
4.30: PRIMO LARA (J Peate 2-1) 1; Midnite Storm (6-1) 2; Jayyash (9-2) 3; 7 ran, 2 1/4, 4 1/2 (Jane Chapple-Hyam). Tote: £3.00, £1.80, £3.20. Tote Exacta: £15.30, Csf: £13.61, Tote Trifecta: £73.10.
5.05: FEEL THE NEED (L Edmunds 12-1) 1; Mereside Diva (5-1) 2; Dreamrocker (10-1) 3; 18 ran, 1 1/2, nk (M Herrington). Tote: £15.20, £3.50, £1.90, £3.00, £1.90. Tote Exacta: £100.90, Csf: £68.06, Tricast: £649.89, N/R: Broken Spear, Extraction. Tote Trifecta: £1,355.90.
Quadpot: £57.10, Placepot: £341.80.

2.55: ANIMATO (J Watson 12-1) 1; Tigerten (9-2) 2; Rich Belief (8-1) 3; Dreams Adozen 11-4; 4 1/2, nk (D Mullins). Tote: £13.00, £2.60, £2.10, £2.80. Tote Exacta: £77.80, Csf: £66.21, Tricast: £469.06, N/R: Lusaka, Sobegrand. Tote Trifecta: £359.50.
3.35: CAVERN CLUB (F Norton 6-4) 1; Oman (7-2) 2; Yokell (15-2) 3; 5 ran, hd, 3 (James Owen). Tote: £2.50, £1.40, £1.90. Tote Exacta: £36.30, Csf: £26.76, N/R: Chase The Dolla. Tote Trifecta: £26.50.
4.05: SPURIT GENIE (G Wood 13-2) 1; Way To Dubai (10-1) 2; Yanifit (15-2) 3; Baradar 7-2; 9 ran, ns, 3/4 (J Candlish). Tote: £7.50, £2.20, £2.90, £2.90. Tote Exacta: £66.60, Csf: £68.40, Tricast: £497.13, Tote Trifecta: £441.30.
4.40: NIGHTYES (B Robinson 6-4) 1; Last Applause (17-2) 2; Aiga Moonstone (9-2) 3; 5 ran, 4, 1/2 (D O'Meara). Tote: £2.50, £1.30, £3.00. Tote Exacta: £12.60, Csf: £14.23, Tote Trifecta: £40.70.
5.15: FOURNONEHEVEER (B Loughrane 11-10) 1; The Hun (10-1) 2; Swordstick (17-2) 3; 5 ran, 1 1/2, 1 (G Boughny). Tote: £2.10, £1.20, £2.50. Tote Exacta: £34.50, Csf: £11.81, N/R: Travolta. Tote Trifecta: £38.50.
Quadpot: £50.50, Placepot: £142.90.

CARTMEL
Going: Good to Soft (In places)
4.00: SHANTWOPOINTIVE (J Bowen 4-1) 1; Dunblain Bay (5-1) 2; Jimmy Chou Pecos A (11-10) 3; 7 ran, 9 1/2, 9 (W Greathart). Tote: £5.30, £2.20, £2.30. Tote Exacta: £22.90, Csf: £23.75, N/R: Vroomoz, Elle. Tote Trifecta: £53.00.
4.35: MERMAIDS CAVE (C P O'Shea 5-1) 1; She's A Saint (7-4) 2; Spot On Soph (13-2) 3; 7 ran, 1 1/4, 1 1/4 (James Owen). Tote: £4.50, £2.40, £1.70. Tote Exacta: £14.50, Csf: £14.57, Tote Trifecta: £79.70.
5.10: FAUTINETTE (M Lucy Turner 4-1) 1; Fortuna Ligna (15-6) 2; Lady Mendoza (13-2) 3; 5 ran, 1 1/4, 3/4 (Miss V Williams). Tote: £5.30, £2.40, £1.30. Tote Exacta: £12.70, Csf: £12.48, Tote Trifecta: £62.10.
5.40: TOMMIE BEAU (M G Nolan 11-4) 1; Charlie Uberalles (7-4) 2; Filc Ou Voyou (17-2) 3; 5 ran, 1 1/2, 1 (J W Mullins). Tote: £4.34, £1.40, £1.20, £2.60. Tote Exacta: £11.60, Csf: £12.60, Tricast: £63.46, N/R: Tom Green. Tote Trifecta: £66.50.
Quadpot: £56.60, Placepot: £33.10.

CHESTER
Going: Good to Soft (Soft in places)
1.45: FAIR POINT (M Ghiani 2-5) 1; Hiya Honey (11-2) 2; Mostar Dreams (20-1) 3; 4 ran, 20, 1 1/2 (R M Beckett). Tote: £1.40, Tote Exacta: £2.70, Csf: £3.03, Tote Trifecta: £3.40.
2.20: COLUMNIST (J Garrity 5-2) 1; Cabelleroso (3-1) 2; King Of Angels (9-4) 3; 6 ran, 1 1/2, 4 1/2 (R A Fahay). Tote: £3.50, £1.50, £1.80. Tote Exacta: £10.10, Csf: £9.52, N/R: Flicka's Girl, One More Guinness. Tote Trifecta: £19.70.

4.48: MISS COLLADIA (J Leavy 11-10) 1; Mister McGregor (7-2); Lovestruck Romeo (5-1) 3; 8 ran, 1 1/2, 1/2 (R Hannon). Tote: £2.10, £1.10, £1.30, £1.50. Tote Exacta: £6.00, Csf: £5.00, Tote Trifecta: £12.80.

SALISBURY
Going: Good
4.48: MISS COLLADIA (J Leavy 11-10) 1; Mister McGregor (7-2); Lovestruck Romeo (5-1) 3; 8 ran, 1 1/2, 1/2 (R Hannon). Tote: £2.10, £1.10, £1.30, £1.50. Tote Exacta: £6.00, Csf: £5.00, Tote Trifecta: £12.80.

CURRAGH
Going: Good (Good To Firm in places)
2.40: ROSALLION (S M Levey 10-1) 1; Haatem (6-1) 2; River Bird (3-1) 3; 8 ran, hd, 1 1/2 (H Hannon). Tote: £1.91, £1.10, £1.70, £1.60. Tote Exacta: £5.90, Csf: £5.56, Tricast: £11.52, Tote Trifecta: £18.30.

LUCKY REILLY'S LUCKY 15 Everyday Champagne 9/2 (2.50 Kels), Malaita 4/1 (3.35 Uttx), Mistral Nell 7/2 (4.00 Kels), Mr Hope Street 9/4 (5.20 Uttx).

UTTOXETER SKY SPORTS RACING.

Table with 2 columns: ROCKAVON and PA. Lists race numbers and names like DAMEOFTHECOTSWOLDS, NATIVE MOON, BIG BLUE MOON, MALAITA, JOHNNY B, KADO DE JOIE, MR HOPE STREET.

GOING: Soft-Good to Soft in places. COURSE: Left-handed oval course of 1m 2f, there are ten fences per circuit and a run-in of 300 yards. TOP TRAINERS: Dan Skelton 43-247 (17.4%), Jojo & A J O'Neill 23-164 (14.0%), Donald McCain 23-138 (16.7%). TOP JOCKEYS: Sean Bowen 49-233 (21.0%), Harry Skelton 35-148 (23.6%), Sam Twiston-Davies 31-167 (18.6%).

1.50 UTTOXETER RACECOURSE MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (3) Winner £5,827 (6 run) 2m 3f 207yds. Lists race numbers and names like MISS MAVERICK, DORSET LADY, LOVE AT SEA, ONEFORTHEFAIRGREEN.

BETTING: 11-8 Dameofthecotswolds, 2 Miss Maverick, 6 Onefortheairgreen, 8 Yesanna, 14 Dorset Lady, 20 Love At Sea. 2023: OOH BETTY 5 11 4, Ben Jones 11-10 Fav (Ben Clarke), 13 ran. MISS MAVERICK 4-1 (11-3, James Davies) Took keen hold, led, headed 3 out, soon ridden, rallied approaching last where hampered and left in front, kept on, won at Uttoxeter 2m 4f nh nov hdl (4) gs beating Disco Daisy (11-3) by 4 1/2l, 9 ran 4m 59.61s.

2.25 TURF SERVICES NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (5) Winner £3,248 (6 run) 2m 7f 70yds. Lists race numbers and names like MY MONTY, NATIVE MOON, LADY MENDOZA, RELEASE THE KRAKEN.

BETTING: 7-4 Big Blue Moon, 3 Fourotakind, 4 Clondaw Royale, 6 McGowan's Pass, Touchy Feely, 33 Jac Jumper. 2023: PARK HILL DANCER 6 11 4, Nico De Boinville 15-8 Fav (N Henderson), 6 ran.

3.00 QUINNBT.COM HANDICAP HURDLE (4) Winner £4,066 (6 run) 2m 3f 207yds. Lists race numbers and names like CLONDAW ROYALE, TOUCHY FEELY, MACKENBERG, YOUR DARLING, NUMTOR, GLORY AND HONOUR.

BETTING: 7-4 Big Blue Moon, 3 Fourotakind, 4 Clondaw Royale, 6 McGowan's Pass, Touchy Feely, 33 Jac Jumper. 2023: PARK HILL DANCER 6 11 4, Nico De Boinville 15-8 Fav (N Henderson), 6 ran.

3.35 CLARKE CHASE (HANICAP CHASE) (GBB RACE) (2) Winner £20,812 (10 run) 2m 4f. Lists race numbers and names like MACKENBERG, YOUR DARLING, NUMTOR, GLORY AND HONOUR, EATON COLLINA, MYLESFROMWICKLOW, SAGEBURG COUNTY, HYSTERY BERE, MALAITA, ROYALE MARGAUX.

MACK READY TO REIGN AT KELSO

MACK THE MAN attempts to enhance his excellent record for new connections in the feature race on Ladies' Day at Kelso.

The Kinneston raider faces seven rivals in the £20,000 handicap hurdle as the Borders venue ends its spring campaign.

Trainer Nick Alexander said: "He's been in great form since he came to us and it's all down to my son Kit. He sourced him in the first place and rides him all the time."

"He's enjoyed coming back in trip and has won twice over two miles at Musselburgh and then at Perth last week so hopefully he'll run another big race."

Well Educated is turned out quickly after scoring at Hexham on Tuesday while Cracking Destiny reverts to hurdles. Stuart

BY GORDON BROWN Coltherd-trained Hidden Commander, ridden by son Sam, has a score to settle for last year in the handicap chase.

"I dislocated my shoulder on the run-in in this same race so I couldn't ride him out properly and we were still only beaten by half a length," the Selkirk jockey said.

"We would definitely have won and I'm back firing on all cylinders after an operation to tighten things up."

The legendary 'Red Rum' colours are sported by Donald McCain's Blueberry Wine in the opening novices' hurdle.

It's a contest in which the favourite has landed six of the last 10 renewals with McCain striking last year with a 1/6 shot.



ALEXANDER Manpower



MCCAIN Wine's on menu

4.10 QUINNBT DAILY FREE BET HANDICAP CHASE (4) Winner £4,700 (6 run) 3m. Lists race numbers and names like SPORRY JIM, NEXT LEFT, WALKING THE WALK, JOHNNY B, COKYTHO, HIGGS.

BETTING: 7-4 Next Left, 11-4 Higgs, 9-2 Johnny B, 7 Walking The Walk, Cokytho, 16 Sporry Jim. 2023: No corresponding race. SPORRY JIM, did not finish, 20-1 (11-7, Charlie Hammond) In rear, mistake and nearly unseated rider 1st, lost touch 10th, pulled up after 5 out, in a race won by Nocte Volatus (11-6) at Uttoxeter 2m 5f hcp chs 0-120 (4) st, 8 ran 5m 33.64s.

4.45 SCOTT MILLS RACE NIGHT 15TH JUNE HANDICAP HURDLE (4) Winner £4,066 (7 run) 1m 7f 168yds. Lists race numbers and names like HOMME D'UN SOIR, THE GREY FALCO, FORGET THE WAY, SKIP MAHLER, KADO DE JOIE, EAST END GIRL.

BETTING: 9-4 Forget The Way, 5-2 Kado De Joie, 4 Homme D'Un Soir, 7 East End Girl, 10 The Grey Falco, Skip Mahler, 20 Chef De Troupe. 2023: GALATA BRIDGE 6 12 1, Sam Twiston-Davies 7-4 (Dr R Newland & J Insole), 5 ran. HOMME D'UN SOIR 22-1 (11-3, S Bowen) Led, narrowly headed approaching 4 out, pressed leader, ridden turning in, 2nd and held when mistake and lost 2nd last, lost 3rd final strides, 4th of 11-2 3/4l behind King's Castle (10-13) at Warwick 2m hcp hdl 0-110 (4) gd 3m 53.75s.

5.20 QUINNBT HANDICAP HURDLE (5) Winner £3,248 (8 run) 2m 3f 207yds. Lists race numbers and names like MR HOPE STREET, NICK THE GREEK, ULLY VICKY, USHUAIA DANCER, KARL'S BERG DID, ASA, GETAWAY WITH YOU.

BETTING: 9-4 Mr Hope Street, 5-2 Asa, 5 If Karl's Berg Did, Ushuaia Dancer, 8 Getaway With You, 16 Well Vicki, 25 Nick The Greek, 33 Fort Nelson. 2023: No corresponding race.

FONTWELL SKY SPORTS RACING.

Table with 2 columns: ROCKAVON and PA. Lists race numbers and names like FINE MARGIN, MISTER UPTON, MIDNIGHT GOLD, WILLIAM EWART, SANDY BROOK, CAWTHORNE BANKER.

GOING: Good-Good to Soft in places. COURSE: Left-handed figure-of-eight track of 1m in extent. There are six fences and four hurdles per circuit.

nov hcp hdl 0-105 (5) st in Apr 6m 10.50s. BOBALOT 4-1 (11-5, Thomas Bellamy) Prominent, led 2nd, headed 4th, 4th and no extra last, 6th of 7, 28l behind The Bold Thady (10-13) at Fontwell 3m 2f hcp hdl 0-110 (4) gd 6m 37.60s.

4.25 STARSPTS.BET HANDICAP CHASE (5) Winner £3,248 (7 run) 3m 1f 210yds. Lists race numbers and names like FINE MARGIN, MISTER UPTON, MIDNIGHT GOLD, WILLIAM EWART, SANDY BROOK, CAWTHORNE BANKER.

BETTING: 2 William Ewart, 9-4 Doctor Foley, 5 Toad Of Toad Hall, 7 Hellstopatthetop, 8 Prince Cleni, 16 Friends Don't Ask, 20 Lough Salt.

5.00 STAR SPORTS HANDICAP HURDLE (5) Winner £3,248 (7 run) 3m 1f 166yds. Lists race numbers and names like SEIGNOR GRINGO, SANDY BROOK, DEAR RALPHY, CELTIC FORTUNE, KAPITALISTE, DANZINI, GLORIOUS MIST.

BETTING: 11-10 Sandy Brook, 9-2 Danzini, 6 Celtic Fortune, 7 Kapitaliste, 10 Seigneur Gringo, 14 Dear Ralph, 16 Glorious Mist.

5.35 STARSPTS.BET.CO.UK HANDICAP HURDLE (5) Winner £3,248 (8 run) 2m 1f 162yds. Lists race numbers and names like HAPPY BOY, BEAT THE HEAT, CAWTHORNE BANKER.

BETTING: 11-10 Happy Boy, 8 Beat The Heat, 11-3 Cd, 10 Sean Houlihan 103 8531-2 Cawthorne Banker (14) (P) Jonjo & A O'Neill 6 11-12 (BF)

CURRAGH RTV.

3.10 TATTERSALLS GOLD CUP (GROUP 1) Winner £300,000 (8 run) 1m 2f 110yds. Lists race numbers and names like AUGUSTE RODIN, CRYPTO FORCE, ELEGANT MAN, HANS ANDERSEN, LORD MASSUSUS, MASHHOOR, WHITE BIRCH.

BETTING: 8-11 Auguste Rodin, 4 White Birch, 11-2 Elegant Man, 8 Lumiere Rock, 20 Mashhoor, 33 Lord Massusus, Hans Andersen, Crypto Force. 2023: LUXEMBOURG 4 9 5, Ryan Moore 11-4 (A P O'Brien), drawn (2), 6 ran.

3.45 TATTERSALLS IRISH 1,000 GUINEAS (FILLIES' GROUP 1) (3-Y-O) Winner £290,000 (14 run) 1m. Lists race numbers and names like LILAC ROLLA, ALPHERATZ, AZADA, BLUEDRUM, BUTTONS, EVERLASTING, FALLEN ANGEL, FINSCAL LUAS, OPERA SINGER, PEARLS AND RUBIES, PURPLE LILY, QUEEN OF THUNDER, SKELLET, VESPERTILIO.

## JOE PUNTER



**A BIT OF SPARKLE** Everyday Champagne is flying

# Champagne to put opponents on ice at Kelso

**EVERYDAY CHAMPAGNE (2.50) can have the corks popping at Kelso.**

The gelding has moved into the care of Nick Alexander having formerly been with Nicky Richards and won first time up for the trainer at Ayr six months ago.

The eight-year-old hasn't been the same since but slipped back to that last winning mark of 103 at Kelso last time and finished a good second.

Dropped back in trip for this event, Everyday Champagne can leave the bookies light-headed.

**SOMEBODY'S FUTURE (4.00)** looks an ideal candidate for Lucinda Russell.

The six-year-old has point-to-point form and, although not so good under rules so far, he's up in trip for his handicap debut wearing a visor.

The ingredients are all there with two-time Grand National-winning pilot Derek Fox on board.

Heading down the road to the Midlands, there are seven races at Uttoxeter and **MALAITA (3.35)** is going to take some stopping for the in-form Mel Rowley.

Malaita has looked excellent in winning her last two starts at Ludlow and Cheltenham with Charlie Deutsch having steering jobs on both occasions.

Naturally, the assessor has had a say with another seven-pound hike from the win at Prestbury Park but it is dangerous to jump off a moving bandwagon.

At Fontwell, **SANDY BROOK (5.00)** is going

to be a short price for the Gordon team but there's a good reason for that.

Across the water, it's the final day of the big meeting at The Curragh with the 1000 Guineas taking centre stage.

**Opera Singer** was a brilliant two-year-old with a magnificent five-length win in Marcel Boussac at Longchamp the pick of her efforts.

The nagging doubt is that a setback ruled her out of Newmarket at the start of the month and, with that in mind, it has to be worth having an each-way poke.

**FALLEN ANGEL (3.45)** didn't deliver in the English equivalent but if you forgive that, the odds on the winner of a Group 1 Moyglare at this track last year read well.

Opera Singer will win if she's at her best but Karl Burke's charge is worth another chance.

**AUGUSTE RODIN (3.10)** has all the form to be winning the Tattersalls Gold Cup at odds-on.

Aidan O'Brien's star has a peculiar profile of either running brilliantly or being awful.

Last time out at Meydan was the latter as he performed dreadfully.

However, Auguste Rodin has a habit of bouncing straight back and that might just be the case again.

**OCEAN JEWEL (2.35)** has a chance of bustling up the favourite **Rogue Millenium** in the Lanwades Stud Stakes.

Willie McCreery has a good record in this race and the step back up to a mile might be suitable for this one.

# WORLD OF SPORT

**JOB DONE** Hero Pogacar celebrates as he crosses the line yesterday

TADEJ POGACAR all but secured the Giro d'Italia yesterday on his debut in the Italian grand tour.

The two-time Tour de France winner has only today's mainly ceremonial ride in Rome to confirm the triumph.

Pogacar once again destroyed his rivals in the mountains to claim a sixth stage win out of 20.

And that extended his already considerable advantage to nearly 10 minutes.

The UAE Team Emirates rider was all smiles as he soloed to victory following an attack on Monte Grappa.

He sat up, waved to the crowds as they roared him on, stretched out his arms and bowed as he crossed the line.

Pogacar finished the

BY **TED TRACEY**

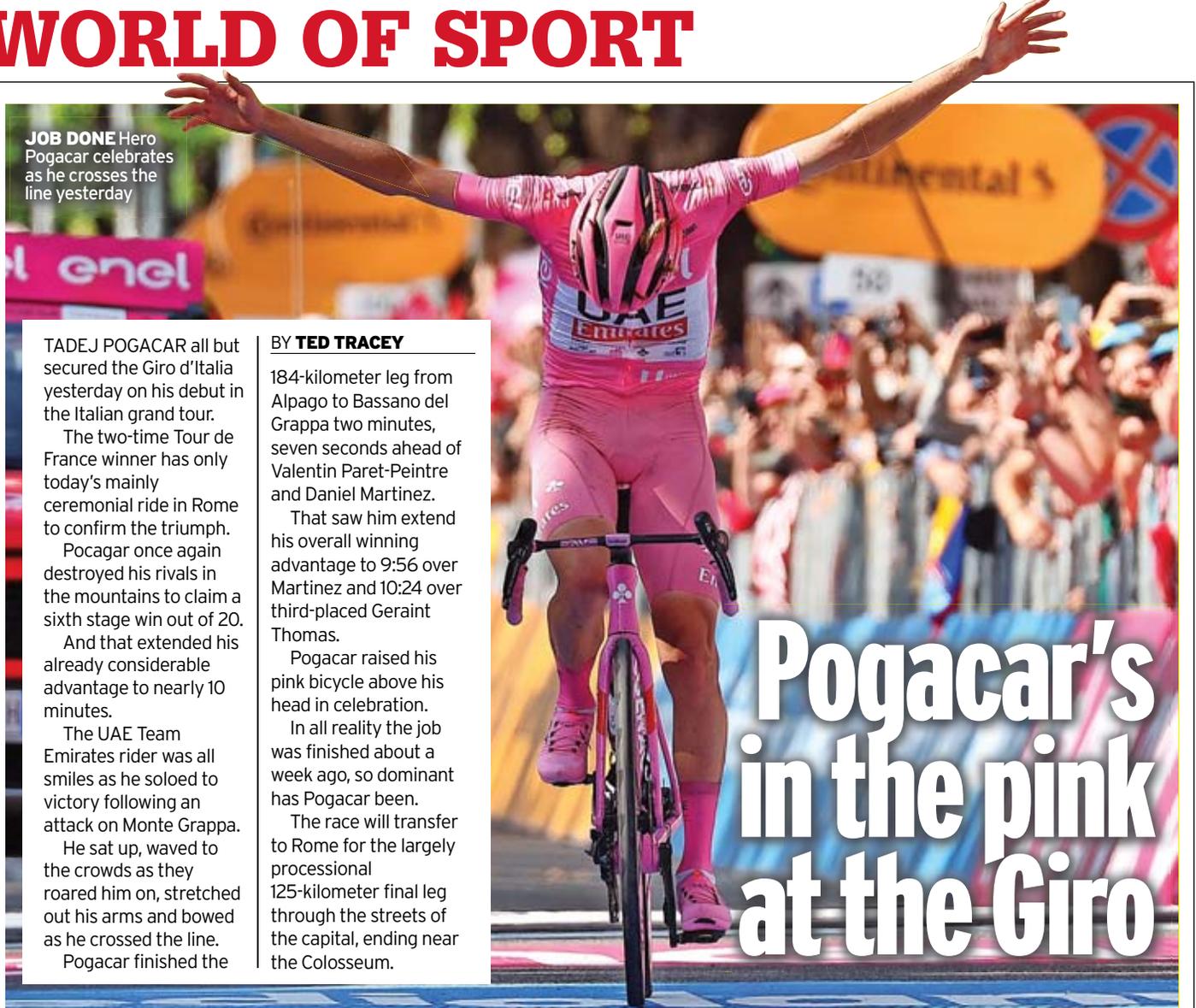
184-kilometer leg from Alpage to Bassano del Grappa two minutes, seven seconds ahead of Valentin Paret-Peintre and Daniel Martinez.

That saw him extend his overall winning advantage to 9:56 over Martinez and 10:24 over third-placed Geraint Thomas.

Pogacar raised his pink bicycle above his head in celebration.

In all reality the job was finished about a week ago, so dominant has Pogacar been.

The race will transfer to Rome for the largely processional 125-kilometer final leg through the streets of the capital, ending near the Colosseum.



# Pogacar's in the pink at the Giro

# PROTECTION RACQUET

Switch hints Andy could play on

**ANDY MURRAY hopes a change of gear will keep his career motoring on.**

The Scots legend has switched racquets from Head to Yonex – the first change of his pro career.

And as he prepared to face Stan Wawrinka in the first round of the French Open today, Murray admitted he's turned Tinkerman in a bid to prolong his glittering career.

The triple Grand Slam champion, now 37, said in February that his career was coming to a close and he was "likely not going to play past this summer".

But yesterday Murray – on the comeback trail after rupturing ankle ligaments in March – said: "The results I have been having are not what I would want. But the

**NEIL McLEMAN** IN PARIS

mentality around whether it's with my racquets and rehab or whatever, it's always to try to get better.

"I have to wait to see whether it's a good decision for me or not. It's something that I wanted to see whether it could make a difference.

"You wouldn't get a golfer using the same clubs that they came out with 25 years ago. A Formula One car is not going to be the same today as it was 25 years ago.

"For some reason tennis is a sport where players are reluctant to change.

"I felt like now is the time to see whether it can make a difference. I have really enjoyed it as well. That has probably helped me a bit the last few weeks."



**TINKERMAN** Murray works out with his new Yonex racquet in Paris



# EURO2024

# You don't know what you're missing

## Gaffer's message to those who snubbed Scotland call for his first squad in 2019



**SECOND LIFE**  
James Forrest is proof the door is never closed if stars work hard

BY SCOTT McDERMOTT

**IT seems almost unthinkable now. Players who don't want to be picked for Scotland.**

But when Steve Clarke took over as gaffer five years ago, that's where we were at.

The national team boss won't name any names. But he knows they're still out there.

And part of him hopes when they tune in to see his boys competing at Euro 2024, they regret saying no.

Clarke pinpoints the Germany tournament as a clear marker in Scotland's progression.

From guys not keen on turning up... to boys absolutely devastated that they haven't made the cut.

He named his provisional 28-man squad for the Euro 2024 last week.

And he's not looking forward to having to tell two of those players they won't be on the plane to Germany.

It's changed days from 2019 when he got knock-backs while trying to compile his first Scotland selection.

Clarke said: "I remember in my first week I made a lot of phone calls and actually got rejections from people who didn't want to come with the national team.

**"They didn't know that we would be as good as we have been so some have missed out on a really good journey.**

"It's amazing to think that now. But here we are, five years later, and there will be some of them who wish they had been more positive to that initial phone call.

"But that's the evolution we've had - and hopefully there is more to come.

"If you look through it, there are a number of players who are 32 or 33 so will be 34 or 35 come the next tournament.

"So there will be more evolution in the future, no matter who the head coach is.

"Ben Doak can be one going forward for us, so let's have a look at him.

"I don't think I'd get many rejections now.

"I'm sure there will be a number of players out there now who are disappointed not to make the provisional

squad. But as James Forrest has proved, the door's never closed.

"It's not nice to be excluded from a squad but that's part of football. James is the example.

**"If you continue to work hard and be professional you never know what can happen."**

Clarke's job was made more difficult by injuries to important players such as Aaron Hickey, Lewis Ferguson and Nathan Patterson.

A few weeks ago, when Scott McTominay and Stuart

Armstrong limped off during club games, the manager must have been watching the TV through the cracks in his fingers.

It's possible that enquiries were made about the availability of Anglo Scots such as Newcastle pair Harvey Barnes and Tino Livramento.

Maybe they rejected us too but that is surely their loss.

Clarke said: "Those things, people will never know. I've had private conversations with a lot of people. That's all I'll say on

that. I don't think it's fair that I sit here and discuss players who can play for other countries.

"But was I panicking when players were going down injured? Aye.

"In March I said that I knew we'd probably lose players. Historically, it's usually two in every camp.

**"But this time it's four who would have been picked or close to being picked."**

"It was disappointing because I had to make four sad phone

calls to Lewis, Aaron, Nathan and Jacob Brown.

"But I re-emphasised to all of them they're young enough to make the next tournament.

"That has to be their focus. They have to realise it's not just about the injury that puts them out of the Euros.

"It's an injury they have to overcome to be ready for the next stage of their career.

"They're all young enough to be ready for the World Cup in 2026."

## Under-21s are poised to answer Clarke's call

BY MARK WALKER

SCOT GEMMILL says his players will be ready if Steve Clarke needs to raid the Under-21s team for the Euro finals.

National team gaffer Clarke revealed he will call on the kids in the event of injuries when he announced his Euro 2024 squad last week.

The Under-21s are off on their travels to face Turkey and Austria in friendlies at the start of next month.

Aberdeen's Connor Barron, Sturm Graz's Max Johnston, Bristol City's Tommy Conway and current skipper Josh Doig - all tipped to sneak into the squad for Germany - are all on the trip.

And Gemmill insists they know what's at stake.

He said: "Steve knows better than anyone who's in the squad, what level they're at, the potential they have.

"Anything can happen in



**READY** Skipper Josh Doig

football during this preparation period so the players have to be ready.

"But the players are intelligent and will have watched Steve speaking on Wednesday.

"We'll be concentrating on our own games - and if anything happens we will react to that."

The friendlies will help Gemmill fine tune his side as they face four Euro 2025 qualifiers in the autumn.

The Scots are in a strong position to qualify, second to Spain in their group and in the top three for best runners-up positions.

Gemmill said: "It's important the Under-21s play at every opportunity.

**"Turkey and Austria will be challenging in terms of travelling and culture, plus physicality and tactics in the games."**

"It's just what they need for their development.

"It's a chance for players who maybe haven't had so much of an opportunity so far. We want to be competitive but also to try to develop players."

## WE'LL BE READY FOR GERMANS

STEVE CLARKE insists no stone will be left unturned as Scotland prepare to face our Euro 2024 opponents.

And lessons have been learned from the Covid-hit Euro 2020 finals.

He believes the addition of set-piece specialist Austin MacPhee, from Aston Villa, could be vital at the tournament.

Especially against the hosts who typically appear to be finding top gear again before facing Scotland.

Clarke said: "We'll be ready for the

BY SCOTT McDERMOTT

opposition. We know pretty much how they're going to play.

"If everyone on the squad list is fit, do I know in my head what I want my starting XI to be against Germany? Yes.

"And Germany are in good shape.

"They've beaten France and Holland recently - and we know how good those two are because we've just played them.

"Germany are the host nation so they'll be ready, don't worry. The Swiss

are also a good team who always qualify for the latter stages of tournaments.

"And Hungary are on a similar path to ourselves - on an upward curve with good players and a good way of playing.

"From Euro 2020, obviously I've acquired a set-play coach so we can do a little bit more work on that this time.

"Maybe we didn't utilise that enough. Set-plays are pretty important.

"Hopefully Austin will come up with something that will get us a goal."



**SPECIAL PLAY** Clarke with Austin MacPhee

## FA CUP FINAL

## TEENAGE

United's kids help Erik rock City for his last hurrah



**RED BLISS** Fernandes lifts FA Cup for Man United, main, as scorers Mainoo and Garnacho party, inset from top, boss ten Hag kisses the famous old trophy and City gaffer Guardiola consoles Foden



## MARTIN'S GOT PLAN A AND HE

RUSSELL MARTIN was a stickler for detail as a player – so much so that he used to weigh every meal he ate.

So Charlie Mulgrew isn't surprised that his former Scotland team-mate now leaves no stone left unturned as a gaffer.

Martin will lead his Southampton team out at Wembley today against Leeds United in the Championship play-off final.

With over £100million and a golden ticket to the Premier League's promised land up for grabs, it's one of the most high-pressure games on the planet.

But when it comes to his principles as a manager, Mulgrew insists nothing will faze Martin or veer him away from

## EXCLUSIVE

BY SCOTT McDERMOTT

his beliefs. The pair were Scotland's centre-back partnership on many occasions for ex-bosses Craig Levein and Gordon Strachan.

And they're still close pals now, with Mulgrew recently spending time down at the South Coast club as he starts out on his own coaching journey.

The former Celtic defender is pleased to see his pal on the cusp of the big time – but Mulgrew always knew Martin would end up in the dugout.

He told *MailSport*: "The first time I

met Russell was when he came into the Scotland squad.

"We both made our debut on the same night away to Slovenia.

"Most of our caps were together. There were few times when one of us played without the other.

**"We had a good relationship, I enjoyed playing alongside him.**

"Russell was a top professional, probably one of the best I ever played with in terms of diet, nutrition and how he looked after himself.

"He probably got into the Premier League – and at that higher level in his career – quite late on. So he knew the value of those things.

"I admired him as a person and how

meticulous he was. Russell was vegan and I wasn't as strict as him.

"He was into drinking shakes and looked at every wee detail. He'd weigh out all of his food and I had a lot of respect for him with stuff like that.

"I always knew Russell had the potential to be a good coach.

"We used to speak football all the time and I knew he was passionate about that side of it."

Mulgrew has visited the likes of Ange Postecoglou and Roberto De Zerbi as he looks to expand his knowledge of the game and develop as a coach after hanging up his boots.

When he messaged Martin he feared the worst with Saints on a bad losing



EPL QUEST Saints manager Russell

BIG MATCH ACTION

KICKS

ERIK TEN HAG outwitted the best manager in football in what is likely to be his last game as Manchester United boss.

The Dutchman conjured up a cunning tactical plan to destroy Pep Guardiola's dream of becoming the first man to claim back-to-back Doubles as United lifted the FA Cup in a triumphant Wembley finale for Ten Hag.

Only a dramatic U-turn from United co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe will save Ten Hag from the ignominy of the sack despite rescuing a dreadful season with a trophy.

First-half goals from teenagers Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo ensured one of the great Cup shocks.

Speaking about the magnitude of the win, Man of the Match Mainoo said: "(It means) absolutely everything. It's been a tough season with ups and downs.

"This is the only thing we've had to look forward to. Last year I was in the stands. We knew we had to come together. The preparation for this game has been amazing. We've shown we can compete and win."

United finished 31 points behind their rivals as City in the Premier League after losing to their rivals in last season's Cup Final.

Ten Hag's masterplan ensured there would be no repeat.

His blueprint was to pack the midfield, frustrate the champions - and then try to punch a hole in City's backline by exploiting the pace of Marcus Rashford and Garnacho on the flanks.

Two goals in nine first-half minutes gave United an advantage they needed as City produced a furious second-half onslaught.

Their only reward was an 85th-minute strike from sub Jeremy Doku, their best performer on a

MAN CITY..1 MAN UNITED..2

SIMON MULLOCK AT WEMBLEY

gut-wrenching day. As expected, City exerted their usual control of the ball without producing any real threat up front.

It looked like Guardiola's players may have been partying too hard in the six days since clinching the title as they struggled to shake off a hangover.

Garnacho gave them an early warning with an angled drive that flew straight at City keeper Stefan Ortega. Ortega was then lucky to get away with a suicidal pass inside his box to Mateo Kovacic.

And United's growing confidence produced a breakthrough in the 29th minute when the German blundered once again.

Josko Gvardiol was in complete control when Diogo Dalot sent a long pass forward. But when City's keeper came racing from his goal, the defender's attempt to find him with a header only presented Garnacho with an open goal.

The opening scorer said: "Incredible. Nobody believed in us. But we're a team, all together. We fought, the game of our lives.

"Incredible (the supporters). The fans are always there when we win or lose, home or away."

Asked about team-mate Mainoo, Garnacho added: "The best player in the squad and he's the youngest. We're also good friends. I'm so happy for him."

Rashford soon had another effort disallowed for offside before Mainoo struck brilliantly six minutes before the break.

Rashford's raking switch of play unbalanced the holders. And when Garnacho found Bruno Fernandes

on the edge of the box, his unselfish pass presented the teenager with the kind of chance he would have dreamed of when he was growing up in Stockport.

Delighted United captain Fernandes said: "It was the last chance to get something positive from the season.

"It is crucial for everyone. We know the manager is under so much scrutiny, he deserves this, also everyone in the backroom staff and the players, we all deserve this."

It was clear Guardiola had used the half-time break to remind his players what was at stake.

Manuel Akanji was sent on to shore up the defence, while Doku's introduction gave City the threat they had been lacking. He gave Aaron Wan-Bissaka a torrid time.

The Blues could have been level by the hour. Phil Foden mis-kicked in front of goal before Erling Haaland's shot shuddered the bar.

Andre Onana produced a brilliant save to tip behind Kyle Walker's drive. And when Julian Alvarez replaced Kevin De Bruyne he was high and then wide with two golden chances.

But City kept going as United started to visibly tire. With five minutes to go, a lifeline when Onana allowed Doku's 25-yard shot to sneak from his grasp and sneak in at the near post.

Ten Hag held his head in his hands and then asked Mason Mount and Victor Lindelof to man the final barrier.

Eight years ago, Louis van Gaal was sacked just 24 hours after winning the Cup. Ten Hag's fate will be decided in the coming week.

Tuchel waits in wings despite final flourish

BY HARRY PRATT

ERIK TEN HAG waved goodbye to Manchester United by leading them to a stunning FA Cup triumph.

In emotional scenes at the final whistle after a 2-1 victory, United's apparently-doomed coach Ten Hag celebrated wildly with his side before taking a bow in front of the club's ecstatic fans.

It certainly seemed he was bidding farewell after the leaked news 24 hours earlier that he would be sacked whatever the result of this showpiece.

Former Borussia Dortmund, PSG, Chelsea and Bayern Munich manager Thomas Tuchel is in the frame to replace the Dutchman.

When asked about his future, Ten Hag, with Europa League football now secured, said: "I don't know.

"The only thing I'm doing is preparing my team, developing my team. This is a project for me.

"When I came in I can say it was a mess. Now we are better. Football is about winning trophies. I want to play the best football, dynamic, attacking football, but in the end you have to win trophies.

"This was our one opportunity this season and we did it.

"I'm very proud of the players and staff. It shows what happens when have a fit squad."

As for whether the speculation surrounding his job was unfair coming so close to the final, the



BAYERN SNUB Thomas Tuchel

former Ajax chief added: "Yes, I think so. For the team. For me."

Tuchel, meanwhile, believes he will be the next manager at Old Trafford.

Reports in Germany claim the former Chelsea boss turned down the chance to remain at Bayern because he wants another crack at the Premier League.

Tuchel is believed to be one of a number of names on the wishlist of Sir Jim Ratcliffe's INEOS Group should the decision be announced to end Ten Hag's two-year reign.

But according to sources in Munich, the 50-year-old reckons he is already nailed on for the job.

City boss Pep Guardiola said: "Congratulations to Manchester United for winning. I think my gameplan was not good.

"Disappointed today, it's normal teams can lose finals but this season has been extraordinary fighting for all the trophies in a good way. We will rest and come back next season."

FOUR FORTY FIVE

SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

Celtic 1 Rangers 0 (Idah 90) HT 0-0 Att 48,556

Celtic: Hart, Johnston, Carter-Vickers, Scales, Taylor, O'Riley, McGregor, Hatate (Bernardo 78), Forrest (Kuhn 71), Furuhashi (Idah 62), Maeda. Subs not used: Palma, Nawrocki, Iwata, Bain, Ralston. Booked: McGregor, Hart, Idah, Forrest, Taylor, Maeda, Kuhn. Rangers: Buttland, Tavernier, Balogun, Davies, Yilmaz, Diomande, Raskin (Lundstram 90), Sterling (McCausland 81), Cantwell (Wright 74), Silva (Matondo 74), Dessers (Sima 46). Subs not used: Jack, Dowell, McCrorie, McKinnon. Booked: Sima, Sterling, Cantwell, Yilmaz, Raskin. Referee: Nick Walsh

FA CUP FINAL

Man City 1 Man Utd 2 (Doku 87) HT 0-2 Att 84,814

Dee: Ortega, Walker, Stones, Ake (Akanji 46), Gvardiol, Rodri, Kovacic (Doku 46), Bernardo Silva, De Bruyne (Alvarez 56), Foden, Haaland. Subs not used: Dias, Grealish, Matheus Luiz, Booked: Alvarez, Man Utd: Onana, Wan-Bissaka, Varane, Martinez (Evans 73), Dalot, Mainoo, Amrabat, Garnacho (Lindelof 90), Rashford (Hojlund 74), McTominay (Mount 90), Bruno Fernandes. Subs not used: Bayindir, Eriksen, Diallo, Antony, Kamwala. Booked: Mainoo, McTominay. Referee: Andrew Madley

EAST REGION MIDLANDS LEAGUE

Downfield 4 Dundee Violet 1

NORTH REGION PREMIER LEAGUE

Nairn St Ninian 1 Stonehaven 1

NORTH REGION PROMOTION/RELEGATION PLAY-OFFS 1ST LEGS

Aberdeen East End 1 Deveronside 1

Lossiemouth United 3 Longside 1

EUROPEAN RESULTS

ITALIAN SERIE A

Juventus 2 Monza 0

SPANISH LA LIGA

Almeria 6 Cadiz 1

Osasuna 1 Villarreal 1

Rayo Vallecano 0 Athletic Bilbao 1

Real Sociedad 0 Atletico Madrid 2

TURKISH SUPER LIG

Fatih Karagumruk 3 Samsunspor 1

Sivasspor 2 Kayserispor 1

NUMBERING

Due to a lack of results, our usual numbering from 1 to 150 is provided below, chosen at random, for those readers who rely on it for sweepstakes.

Table with 15 columns of numbers for sweepstakes.

CELTIC POOLS

Table with 15 columns of numbers for Celtic pools.

From May 4 to July 27, scores will be randomly generated by computer. Your team selections are made automatically and if you pay by direct debit any winnings are paid directly into your bank account.

CLUB POOLS EAST FIFE - 1, 5, 15. Jackpot winner. Next jackpot is £100. CLYDE - next draw July 3.

SAINT FOR CHANGING

run. But instead he was welcomed with open arms on the south coast.

Mulgrew was in awe of how Martin dealt with adversity - and quickly turned around the club's fortunes.

He said: "I went down to see him at Southampton recently. I just messaged him and asked if I could oversee things.

"They'd just lost four in a row and it can be difficult to go into that.

"Managers can sometimes get touchy because they know they're only ever a couple of games away from potentially getting sacked.

"So I gave him the chance to say: 'Charlie, can we leave it for another time?' But he was brilliant with me.

"I went down and really admired

what he's doing down there. I sat in on their Monday team meeting after that fourth defeat and how he spoke to the players was fantastic.

"He kept the messaging the same. What impressed me most about Russell is very simple. It's not often that a manager sticks to his principles.

"But in terms of how he sees the game, nothing ever changes. It's just about making Plan A better.

"He explained what was wrong and told the players what they had to do to make it right. It was just so clear.

"After those four games they went unbeaten in 25. I kept texting Russell, saying it was all down to me!"

Martin, who previously managed

MK Dons and Swansea City, will see his stock rise considerably if Saints can reach the Premier League.

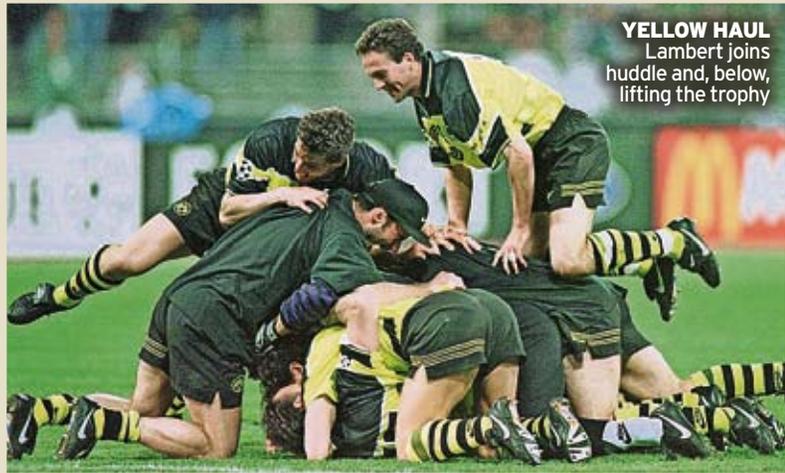
Mulgrew is keeping his fingers crossed and knows that - even if he goes to the Etihad, Anfield or anywhere else - he'll play the same possession-based football that got them there.

He said: "It has taken them to where they wanted to be - they're 90 minutes away from the Premier League.

"And I think it's impressive how he has done it. If he gets there he won't change how his team plays.

"I'll be delighted if they get over the line at Wembley. I'll be messaging him straight away and saying: 'That was down to me - when do I start?'"

## EXCLUSIVE



**YELLOW HAUL**  
Lambert joins huddle and, below, lifting the trophy

## Lambert: It's Real playback of 1997

PAUL LAMBERT was part of a Borussia Dortmund team that lifted the Champions League against all the odds.

Ahead of that 1997 final, even one of Lambert's Dortmund team-mates had totally written off their chances of beating Juventus. But Celtic hero and former Scotland international Lambert, 54, reckons that boss Edin Terzic's class of 2024 can do exactly the same this Saturday - and shock the mighty Real Madrid at Wembley in the showpiece.

Lambert had the daunting task of marking Zinedine Zidane in Munich 27 years ago. Back then Juve also had Alessandro Del Piero, Christian Vieri, Alen Boksic and Didier Deschamps in a side expected to be too strong.

Karl-Heinz Riedle - the German striker who would later sign for Liverpool - said Dortmund had "a one per cent chance of beating Juventus" after Lambert told him their team would either be European champions or beat Bayern Munich to the Bundesliga title that season.

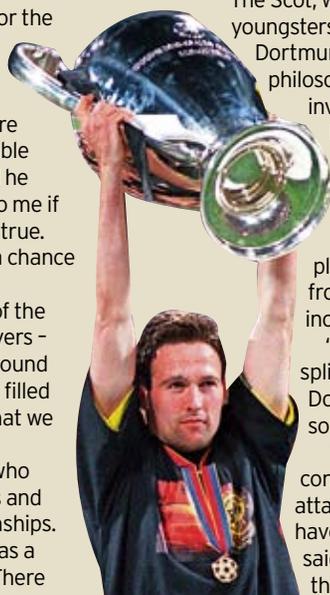
But it was Riedle who would score twice in a sensational 3-1 victory over Juventus on a famous night in Munich. Lambert recalled: "I had told Kalle [Riedle] that we would either win the Champions League or the Bundesliga. I just had this feeling.

"He knew that I loved his watch, a rare and extremely valuable Rolex Daytona - and he promised to give it to me if my prediction came true.

"No one gave us a chance against Juventus.

"They had some of the game's greatest players - but when I looked around our dressing room it filled me with the belief that we would do it.

"We had players who had won World Cups and European Championships. Matthias Sammer was a Ballon d'Or winner. There



BY SIMON MULLOCK

was Andreas Moller, Jurgen Kohler, Riedle, Paulo Sousa and Stephane Chapuisat up front.

"I knew we had a great chance. Kalle wasn't so sure. But he scored our first two goals. And he was as good as his word afterwards.

"I've still got the watch. It means so much because of what it represents."

Lambert went on to manage Livingston, Aston Villa, Norwich, Blackburn, Wolves and Stoke, among others, after a playing career that also brought four Scottish league medals at Parkhead and 40 Scotland caps.

He provided the cross for Riedle's opening goal as well as keeping French star Zidane under lock and key.

But he accepts that the odds are now once again against Dortmund.

Real Madrid are looking to become European champions for the 15th time and have knocked out Manchester City and Bayern on the road to this final.

But if Dortmund can control the fearsome counter-attacking threat of Jude Bellingham, Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo then Lambert is convinced they can land a major shock.

The Scot, who has been coaching youngsters in Australia as part of a Dortmund initiative to spread their philosophy, has accepted an invitation from his old club to

be part of the famous Yellow Wall for the final.

He said: "Madrid can be beaten in a one-off game - and the fans can play their part. Playing in front of the Yellow Wall is an incredible experience.

"Wembley might be evenly split on numbers but Dortmund's fans will make it sound like a home game.

"If we can exert some control over Madrid's attacking players then we have a chance. That's easier said than done - but they said the same thing back in '97."

## JOSELU'S STOKE OF GENIUS

JOSELU credits Peter Crouch for shaping him up to be Real Madrid's surprise package.

The striker flopped in spells at Stoke and Newcastle and few of those clubs' fans would have predicted he'd end up on Europe's greatest stage.

But the Spain international's two-goal blast against Bayern secured a place in the final and he is set to spearhead the

attack against Borussia Dortmund in Saturday's showpiece at Wembley.

And he learned so much from a gangly Englishman at Stoke, he's earned the nickname of Crouchy from his pals.

Joselu, 34, said: "My experience in England helped me reach where I am now. Crouch is a funny guy but football wise he helped me a lot. If we win the Champions League I'll hug everybody,"

# HAVE BOOTS

# ...I WILL TRAVEL

Douglas is looking for his next challenge and, like always, it won't be easy option

**WEE POZ FOR REFLECTION**  
Douglas (centre bottom) with his Lech Poznan team-mates is now looking at his next step

**FROM Pollok to Poznan. It has been some journey for Barry Douglas.**

And even at 34, after seven clubs, six major honours and a Scotland cap, it's not over yet.

The kid from a Glasgow housing estate bid an emotional farewell to 42,000 Lech Poznan supporters yesterday after a 2-1 defeat by visitors Korona Kielce.

He has spent six years of his life there over two separate stints.

For his wife Debbie, son Kaidyn and daughter Darci, it's where they've started to call home.

But Douglas and his family are used to moving.

In fact, the Scot's sense of adventure is a huge part of why he has been so successful since leaving Queen's Park as a 21-year-old.

And even now he has lost none of that. When he leaves Poland this

BY SCOTT McDERMOTT

summer the easy option would be to return to the UK.

But Douglas has never made an obvious decision in his career - and he's not about to start now.

Granted he has thought about a dream return to the Spiders before he hangs up his boots.

But not yet.

Incredibly, after everything he has achieved and everywhere he has been, he still wants to explore and to experience something different.

**After 11 years away from Scotland, Douglas told *MailSport*: "I'm looking forward to a break this summer and I'll be free.**

"I don't know where I will be going next. But I'm not anxious about that. I'm excited to enjoy some family time.

"Afterwards, I'll see how I feel. I don't think it's the time for me to

hang up my boots yet. But a lot depends on what opportunities arise and my own motivation.

"I still feel like I've got a few more years left in me at a high level.

"And my kids are still at an age where they can still explore and learn with us.

"I won't close any doors but if I could choose I'd probably like to be out of my comfort zone again and exploring something new.

"I'm still hungry and I enjoy challenges in life.

"As long as I feel like that I'll continue to travel and play.

"I'm always thinking, 'What's next?' I've been smart and I'm involved with different things.

"I've got a property company with Debbie that's successful and I'm also co-owner of a sports psychology company.

"My business partner has 30-plus

# GLOBE-TROTTING SCOT



## Poznan will always be so special

BARRY DOUGLAS signed off at Lech Poznan yesterday after six years - and says players will never know how special a club it is until they've tried it.

The Scottish left-back has had two separate spells at the Ekstraklasa club, where he won titles in 2015 and 2022.

He played his final game at the Poznan Stadium yesterday and said goodbye to their fanatical support.

Douglas moved there from Dundee United 11 years ago and it was the launchpad for a successful career.

And he admits it will probably only be when he retires and reflects that he'll realise what he had in Poland.

Douglas said: "I've spent five-and-a-half years in Poznan, six seasons in total. This club mean a lot to me. You don't stay somewhere for that length of time without having a



**MEMORIES** Douglas as Dundee United player back in 2012

connection to the fanbase. And it helps when you're successful and win things.

"Once I'm away and the dust settles, I'll look back, reflect and take it all in.

"I've some great memories here and it's the longest I've stayed at any club. It was an emotional goodbye for me.

"When you win games and enjoy big moments, it makes it easier to enjoy a place. It gives you a sentimental connection and I've got that here.

"Loads of better players than me go through their whole career and don't win anything.

"So to do it twice in the same place is a big achievement. The club have only won eight titles in history and I've played my part in 25 per cent of those.

"It's hard to explain what it's like here. People need to come and feel it for themselves, that atmosphere.

"It can be a hostile place when you're not winning because of how emotionally attached the support are.

"But when you're successful? The stadium is really magical."

**“**  
I'm always thinking: 'What's next?' It will probably be out of my comfort zone again  
**”**

athletes from all over the world on board now.

"But I've built up so many relationships in football over the years.

"So I'll be involved in the game. But while I'm still fit and motivated to do well, I'll be playing.

"When I'm not, I'll be calling everyone on my contacts list looking for a job!

"I've thought about the possibility of being back at Queen's Park where it all started for me. I don't think it's the moment just yet.

**"But I do think it would be nice to go back and be close to family and friends again.**

"It would feel like I was closing the cycle while trying to help the next generation achieve what I have."

When Douglas left Dundee United in 2013 he took a gamble going to play abroad in Poznan.

After winning the Ekstraklasa title

he signed for Konyaspor in Turkey before a move to Wolves, where he was a key player in their promotion to the Premier League.

Leeds United was his next stop and he was at it once again, winning the English Championship.

But eventually the full-back was drawn back to Poland and a club he now has a deep affection for.

Douglas said: "If we had a crystal ball, we'd know what decisions to make but we don't.

"At the time I moved here initially from Dundee United, the decision was scrutinised a bit.

"People saw it as a bizarre move for a British player.

"But when I did research on the club and saw the facilities for myself, I realised what a great opportunity it was for me.

"I wouldn't have had the career I've had if I didn't make that decision to

move abroad at a young age.

"Going to Poznan opened up so many doors in my career. That's why I decided to come.

"In football terms I knew it would give me avenues to explore - and a chance to achieve my ambitions as a footballer.

"My family feels at home here. My daughter is three now but came when she was just five months old.

"So Poznan is all she knows, this is her normal.

"My son is at an age where he understands stuff so he's sad to leave his wee friends from kindergarten.

**"I've tried to explain that it's part of football life.**

"You are never really settled anywhere forever."

And that was proven yesterday when Douglas said his goodbyes at the

Poznan stadium to Lech's famous Ultras, Kole Jorz.

That translates into Railway Men, which is a nod to the club's historical traditions.

They've been grateful for Douglas' contribution over six years and two titles in 2015 and 2022.

And the feeling's mutual.

**He said: "It would have been great to sign off with another title this season but it wasn't to be.**

"So it's a bittersweet ending for me in a way.

"But I think I'll be embraced whenever I come back here, which is a nice feeling.

"Lech Poznan's culture is based on honest, hard-working men.

"Their history is about the railway men who helped build the club.

"I like to see myself as a hard-working character - and I think they've appreciated that."




# ROSS COUNTY v RAITH ROVERS

**A CAMEO display from Dylan Easton helped give Ross County a fright on Thursday night.**

But today the Raith Rovers winger is desperate to be let loose in the Highlands from the start.

The 30-year-old flair player came off the bench in midweek and inspired Ian Murray's side to get back into the Premiership play-off final.

At 2-0 down, Raith looked out of it. But the introduction of Easton and fellow wide man Josh Mullin was the catalyst for a mini-comeback as Sam Stanton's goal kept the tie alive.

The 30-year-old has been superb for Rovers all season in their charge to second place in the Championship.

But niggling injuries have resulted in him being a bit-part player at the business end of the campaign.

Now fully fit, he has begged Murray to let him off the leash in Dingwall for this afternoon's vital second leg.

Easton said: "It was frustrating not to play but I was injured in the lead up to the Partick Thistle semi-final.

"The manager felt I wasn't ready in terms of fitness. But I was always ready to come

# LET ME OFF THE LEASH BOSS

Easton desperate to fight for chance in top flight

BY SCOTT McDERMOTT

off the bench on Thursday and make an impact.

"The first game needed that little spark and hopefully Sam's goal will be crucial.

"It's been stop-start for me recently. I had a problem with my back then I did my groin.

**"I'd been injury free all season and felt really good so it has been a nightmare.**

"This is when you want to be available, these big games.

"I just want to be unleashed in the second leg. I don't fear anything.

"I just love getting on the ball and making things

happen so I'll be ready to help the team as much as I can.

"In these crucial games you have to be ready. I hope I did enough on Thursday night (to get a start).

"If I'm in from the start I'll be giving my all to help the team get over the line."

With the ability Easton has, he should have been playing top-flight football for the majority of his career.

But for him it would mean everything to be playing Premiership football with Rovers next term.

To do that they'll need to overturn their 2-1 deficit to

the Staggies and Easton said: "It would be special for me to play in the Premiership.

"I started in the Lowland League years ago but I never doubted my ability.

"I always believed I could play at the highest level.

"With the season I've had, I am feeling really confident.

**"It would be incredible to get over the line even though it will be difficult."**

Easton insists Murray's men have nothing to lose.

He said: "For most of the second half on Thursday we were probably the better team. We go into every game

**PACKING A PUNCH** Raith ace Easton is hoping he gets the chance to face County



## Enjoy an epic summer of football, on a TV made by Sky.

With a 4K UHD screen and Dolby Atmos® soundbar built in.



From  
~~£699~~  
**£555**

or £11 a month for 48 months. 0% interest.  
 \*Requires Sky Ultimate TV subscription.

sky glass

Available in 3 sizes, 65", 55" and 43".

Go to Sky.com Visit a Sky store

TODAY 12PM, SKY SPORTS

Randall reckons Dhanda can be hero for Staggies again

# YAN OF THE BEST I'VE PLAYED WITH

BY SCOTT McDERMOTT

**CONNOR RANDALL** reckons Yan Dhanda has the X-factor.

And he's praying the Ross County star delivers one more big performance today before he leaves for Hearts.

The Staggies playmaker was instrumental in their 2-1 Premiership play-off first-leg win over Raith Rovers in Kirkcaldy on Thursday night.

Dhanda opened the scoring with a penalty then fired over the corner that Jack Baldwin headed home for No.2

Randall has been alongside the 25-year-old in County's midfield this season and insists he's one of the most creative he has ever played with.

But after Raith pulled a late goal back in midweek to keep the play-off tie alive, he hopes Dhanda can be their star turn again in Dingwall.

Randall said: "It's clear to see how good Yan is. He has that X-factor about him.

"He can create something out of nothing and has popped up with a few important goals.

**"Hopefully he can carry that into the play-off second leg and do it again.**

"He's good to play with, you see the quality he has with his delivery and his set-pieces.

"Yan is cool when he takes penalties as well and he's up there with the best I have played with.

"He's great to have on our team and hopefully he can turn in another big display. He would definitely be hard to play against next season – but the full focus is on being in there first.

"We want to stay in this league so we need to recover and get ready again.

"It would be a nice leaving present if Yan could put a couple in, that would be good for us.

"But we know it's going to be another tough test."

Dhanda signed a pre-contract agreement with Hearts in January but hasn't let it affect his displays for County.

Randall spent a year at Tynecastle on loan from Liverpool in 2017 so knows what it takes to play for Hearts.

He's convinced Dhanda will adapt to life in Gorgie no problem – and reckons Jambos fans will love him.

The 28-year-old said: "The Hearts fans will definitely take to Yan. He has a lot of quality

**YAN-DO ATTITUDE**  
Randall and Dhanda, left, after victory in Kirkcaldy



**“It would be a nice leaving present if Yan could put a couple of goals in.. he'll be fully focused**  
CONNOR RANDALL BACKS PAL TO SHINE



**TYNE SERVED** Randall as Jambo

and there's a great fanbase there so I'm sure that they will get behind him.

"But he's still a Ross County player at the moment and has a massive game to play.

"So I'm sure he's fully focused on that right now.

**"Hearts are a big club and there's a lot of expectation there but the fans back you.**

"If you show you are willing to work for them they will get behind you.

"I'm sure that he will have a good time at Tynecastle but he has plenty of things to think about first.

"He hasn't let anything distract him, he's not that kind

of person. I don't think it was ever going to be an issue, he's fully focused on this club."

Randall was pleased to get out of Fife with a lead on Thursday night and wants Don Cowie's men to finish the job today and retain their top-flight status for another season.

And he believes the experience of beating Partick Thistle in the play-off final just 12 months ago will stand them in good stead.

Randall said: "It was a positive result on Thursday night because it's a tough place to go.

"Rovers have had a great season so we always knew it was going to be difficult. So to

go back up the road with a lead has to be positive.

"Last year the lads who were here experienced the play-off so if we need it we can fall back on that.

"We're just really focused. Do we feel the pressure?"

"No, it's a huge game but with the players and staff we have we'll prepare like we always do.

**"We have good home form and we want to go and implement that again.**

"Raith are a good side. We did our homework on them so knew what to expect.

"But we know what we want to do so it's all about being ready to go again."



**ROBERTSON** Coming home

## I had to quit Israel to be proper dad to my kids

BY FRASER MACKIE

CLARK ROBERTSON secured legend status with the goal that saved Ashdod from relegation.

But no amount of adulation could persuade the ex-Aberdeen centre-half to extend his stay in Israel.

Robertson has just completed a season as the first Scot ever to play in the Israeli Premier League.

He signed off two weeks ago with a second-half header that silenced a capacity home crowd at Hapoel Tel Aviv.

Robertson's goal in front of 30,000 in a 2-0 victory sent the hosts down and spared Ashdod the drop – but he'd already made up his mind to return home.

He needed to be closer to his kids Cole, eight, and four-year-old Mimi back in Aberdeen. He said: "I had an idea a couple of months ago I wanted to be closer to my kids. Not seeing them has been tough.

**"I've probably missed a lot of what both of them have been up to. It's the right time to come home and be more of a dad.**

"I had a chat with the club. They understand how hard it's been for foreigners to play in Israel this season, particularly with concerns of families [due to the war].

"I've loved living abroad, something I've always wanted to do and it's been an amazing experience."

As the league split, Ashdod were in deep trouble. But they won four and drew three to complete a stunning survival coup.

Robertson said: "Hapoel was effectively a cup final. Whoever won, stayed up.

"It's the best atmosphere I've played in and it's the most important goal I've ever scored."

There's sure to be interest in defender Robertson who said: "I feel I'd come back a better, more experienced and mature player."

**BARRY MOVING AGAIN**  
PAGES 56&57



# RANGERS LEGEND'S VERDICT

## No-one will blame Jack for hurt at Hampden

MONEY talks in football but I can only hope that Jack Butland doesn't bow out at Rangers on the back of losing that goal in yesterday's Cup Final.

There has been a lot of talk surrounding the keeper and captain James Tavernier - another of the top performers over the course of the season.

Bids could potentially come into Ibrox for them from different leagues.

That wouldn't surprise me because Butland has been outstanding in goals for Rangers all season.

Ultimately, that last-minute spill of Paulo Bernardo's shot has led to the loss of the Scottish Cup.

But there is not one supporter, player or coach associated with Rangers



**GLOVE IN** Butland with Hart

who would blame Jack for letting them down.

Time and again this season he's stepped up and made massive saves. He's barely put a foot wrong.

So no-one will hold what happened yesterday in the Cup Final against him.

He was perhaps unsighted with the shot then the ball moved a fair bit in mid air.

He makes the save and, unfortunately, it spills straight to Adam Idah who did exactly what a good striker should be doing.

Yes, it was a costly error - but on the back of an almost flawless season.

There will be no surprise if there is more interest in him from the English Premier League.

But here's hoping he's back playing for Rangers again next term.

# STERLING SERVICE

## Dujon's had a terrific first season but Gers still need a proper right winger



**HE'S SITTING PRETTY** Gers hero Sterling gives Greg Taylor the bum's rush - and he's set to grow as a player at Ibrox

**PHILIPPE CLEMENT** has a player in Dujon Sterling who can fill in a number of positions really well and NEVER let you down.

And for Sterling to do that at the age of 24, in his first season dealing with the demands of playing for Rangers, is impressive.

The guy is a guaranteed 'seven out of ten' at least every week - no matter where he's been played.

Yesterday, Sterling was so effective again.

But he's not a right winger and I do not envisage him playing that position too often next season.

Because if Rangers are going into a cup final, a league decider, the start of next season or whatever, the team needs to have a right-winger playing right wing.

That's what needs addressed. And Sterling can then be the best player possible in the best position for his best attributes.

After being here a year, it's important he is settled and able to prove himself a top-class player where he's most

**KENNY MILLER**

WRITES FOR YOU



comfortable. That might well be right-back.

Could he be the potential answer there if James Tavernier is sold?

**Maybe Clement has got his replacement right there in Sterling ...**

And that gives the boy more of an opportunity to build on a good first season.

It's unfair that he's gone in at left-back, right centre-back like the last Old Firm game, central midfield in the League Cup Final and Real Betis.

He's also been deployed on both flanks of an attacking three! Fair play to him.

Sterling was definitely a positive in Rangers' performance yesterday and I agree with boss Clement that it was their best display against Celtic in his tenure.

Rangers made it the game it needed to be for them to have the best opportunity of

he showed the legs and energy to carry the fight in an attacking sense.

His determination, work ethic and hunger are excellent but he also showed quality.

**Can he build on this experience after five months as a Rangers player?**

It's hard to go down that road - we were saying similar things about Nico Raskin and Todd Cantwell last season.

While there might still be positives, I don't think either had the kind of season we expected given how well they finished a year ago.

You'd like to hope Diomande is more ready for what the Scottish game brings.

We've not seen a lot of Raskin under Clement but it was a decent display from him at Hampden.

The debate was him or John Lundstram and I felt it

was correct going with Raskin who grew into the game.

It was a clear push from him on Joe Hart, though.

You won't get away with that now VAR is around. It was probably the right call.

After an hour Rangers were looking more likely to score.

But it was a tie decided on one mistake that was punished and the timing gave Rangers little chance to respond.

Cup finals can be lost on such fine margins.

Had Rangers won, there would STILL be big changes at Ibrox. They had five goes

at Celtic in 2023/24 and just couldn't manage to get the better of them.

Clement will know what he wants. And they need more quality in that final third - that's been missing all season.

That forward line needs to be improved - and it will be Clement's key focus.

**Clement will be looking at how Rangers can get more control in the derby next season**



UEFA  
**EURO2024**  
GERMANY



**OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT MAGAZINE**

Includes team profiles, quizzes, interviews, venue guide and a

**FREE GIANT WALLCHART!**

**ON SALE NOW**

[WWW.REACHSPORTSHOP.COM](http://WWW.REACHSPORTSHOP.COM)

Also available in selected WHSmith, supermarkets and newsagents



# THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

Scotland's squad woes might keep us grounded

LET me get this right ...

A large part of Scotland's hopes at Euro 2024 rest on the shoulders of teenager Ben Doak who has never played for the full international team.

And hasn't, due to injury, played any football in the last six months.

I don't care how great his potential may be - that's a long shot, is it not?

You would need to have Rishi Sunak's grasp on what's going on at the Euros to believe Steve Clarke is anything other than the victim of circumstances.

His squad bears the scars of bad luck, the withdrawal of crucial players and the assembly of the walking wounded among the able bodied.

If Clarke, below, had been able to pick his strongest side and beaten hosts Germany in the opening match it would have been the greatest



**CLARKE** Squad troubles

result ever achieved by the national side.

As things stand, out of necessity he will cobble together players still trying to recover from various ailments and others, like James Forrest, restored after years in exile.

It might help temper the usual hysteria that accompanies Scotland to major tournaments.

Since 1958, over seven World Cups and three Euro finals, the pattern has always been the same.

The squad is tip-top. Optimism is through the roof. And it always ends in tears after failure to qualify from the group stage.

Better to deal in reality.

Only a mug would predict a win over Germany so let's hope that brings out the illogical side of our personality.

And if it doesn't work out that way, what did you expect? We can't lose, even if we don't win.

# GOING THROUGH THE COMMOTIONS

**BRENDAN RODGERS** was just going through the commotions yesterday.

At the end of a tumultuous season, full of internal strife and external noise, the Celtic manager achieved a league and Cup Double by once again rising above the sound and the fury.

The Scottish Cup was just one more commotion able to be negotiated by keeping calm in the face of remorseless, relentless pressure, including a VAR decision which justifiably disallowed a goal for Rangers after a double-handed push on Joe Hart in his last ever game.

The charge levelled against Rodgers by a former Celtic player that the manager was "going through the motions" was finally found to be Not Proven on the back of Rodgers maintaining the best win percentage of any boss in Old Firm history.

Celtic were unrecognisable from recent weeks and high on the list of anonymous performers were the trusted trio of Callum McGregor, Reo Hatate and Matt O'Riley in midfield.

It was Hatate's replacement, Paulo Bernardo, who had a hand in deciding the final with a shot spilled by Jack Butland and turned in by Adam Idah.

If you can win a final while being so far short of the best version of yourselves then there are some things that are bigger than all of us.

It's as if history is falling into place in order to accommodate Rodgers' fondest wishes.

Yesterday, on May 25, the most iconic date in all of Celtic's 136-year existence, he won the Scottish Cup against his club's greatest rivals, Rangers.

In doing so, Rodgers nodded in the direction of Jock Stein and Billy McNeill on the 57th anniversary of the manager and his captain winning the European Cup.

A sentimental symphony arranged and conducted by Rodgers in the setting of the Hampden bowl, and an addition to the way he has orchestrated recent events by turning Celtic into a force of nature at the right time of the season.

The part of the campaign when the prizes are handed out.

Meanwhile, his



Brendan's collage course delivered a Double thirst for class of 23/24

**CUP OF CHEER**  
Rodgers beams as he holds Cup aloft after final win which left rival Clement, below, playing catch up next term

## » HUGH KEEVINS

A WORD FROM THE WISE



Ibrox counterpart, Philippe Clement, said after his team had won the Viaplay Cup there was "zero challenge" in motivating his players to go on and win a domestic Treble.

This can now be seen, with the benefit of hindsight, as a sizeable miscalculation of his squad's collective determination.

Rodgers, on the other hand, can do no

wrong in terms of manipulating his group's mindset.

There was, in the approach to the league games which ultimately decided the outcome of the championship, and in yesterday's final, the creation of a siege mentality which would have done credit to Alex Ferguson in his pre-knighthood days at Aberdeen.

"A collage of negativity," was the description used by Rodgers when talking about the newspaper cuttings pinned to the dressing room wall before the final two weeks of the season when a Double was constructed.

When Santa Claus came out of the tunnel at Celtic Park last weekend carrying the

Premiership trophy it was a cleverly thought out note of humour after he was booed by the fans during a half-time appearance in December as their team was losing to Hearts.

**In other words, the collage of negativity, if everybody's being truthful with one another, included a support base who were more critical of Rodgers' team than anyone else.**

But the same people have now been humbled by Brendan's mastery of a season that became too much for Clement to control.

The Belgian arrived when Celtic had a seven-point lead in the table and they eventually won by a total of eight points.

It is as if his presence went unnoticed. That can't continue to be the case next season.

What the Celtic support want is a league title win that equals Rangers' total of 55.

Should that happen, the fall-out at Ibrox would be of seismic proportions.

But, rising above domestic squabbling for a moment, the anniversary of Celtic making European history has to be seen in context.

European football has long

since become a source of embarrassment for Celtic.

Lip service has been paid to the notion of improving their standing in that arena but there's only one way that will actually happen - through buying proper players for proper money.

What is qualification for the Champions League meant to symbolise exactly?

Is it simply the acquisition of extravagant funds to perpetuate the localised domination of the noisy neighbours?

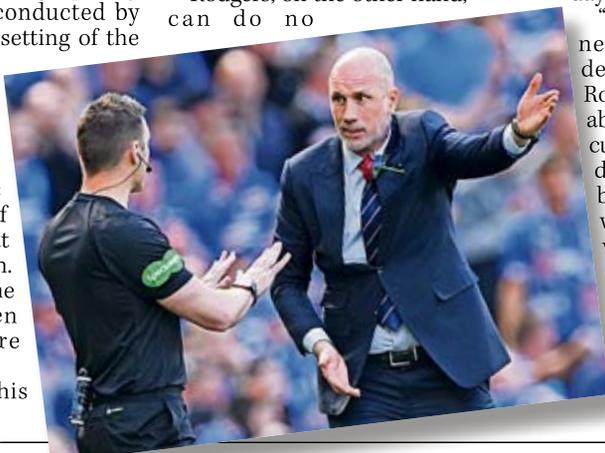
Or is it a means by which to restore Celtic's reputation in a place where they were once regarded as serious competitors?

Rodgers now needs to come up with a way of getting inside the heads of his employers as good as the one which galvanised the dressing room to see where he goes towards achieving that objective.

It's the club across the road on the other side of the city who have most cause to regret, that being the case.

Being not quite best, but better than the rest, is not the advertising slogan that Rangers need.

And regret can't become a lasting condition. Or else.





# SCOTTISH CUP FINAL



GOAL SPREE Sam Lammers

## Sam's Ibrox future talks as Alkmaar mull swoop

BY MARK WALKER

SAM LAMMERS has revealed he will hold talks with Rangers this week after AZ Alkmaar were linked with him as they bid to replace the top scorer in the Dutch League.

Lammers has been a revelation for Utrecht since joining on loan in January. He has netted 10 goals in his last 11 games for the club, including one in their European places play-off semi-final win against Sparta Rotterdam on Thursday.

They face Go Ahead Eagles for a European spot today, which will be Lammers' last game for Utrecht this season.

And the 27-year-old could move to AZ in the summer after reports suggested they had targeted him to replace the top scorer in the Netherlands, Vangelis Pavlidis, who has been linked with a move to England.

Lammers said: "I still have to contact the people at Rangers. That will happen as soon as the season is over.

"Right now I want to achieve European football for the club."

Dutch TV pundit Hans Kraay said: "Lammers earns very good money at Rangers and the Scots paid a large part of his salary while on loan. They won't do that next season and Utrecht cannot afford his wages.

"I know that Lammers is high on the list of new signings at AZ to replace Pavlidis in attack."

## GERERS FACE JOSE FIGHT

RANGERS face competition from newly-promoted Turkish Super League side Eyupspor for the signing of Panama defender Jose Cordoba.

The Ibrox side have been strongly linked with a £3million move for the Levski Sofia stopper, who visited Ibrox last month.

And while they remain favourites to tie up a deal, Gers may have to fight off a late bid from Turkey.

# THE MAN WHO MAKES IT TIC

## FORMER Rangers skipper Barry Ferguson had one hand on the Cup as it was carried into Hampden.

But it was Celtic's current captain courageous Callum McGregor who walked out of the National Stadium with a firm hold on the silverware as the Hoops tightened their grip on Scottish football.

And anyone looking to put a finger on where the biggest difference lies in this ultimate derby battleground needs only look at the man who continually drags his side out of the mire.

Put simply, Rangers would give anything to have a dominant player in the engine room like Ferguson back in the day.

Celtic? They've already got one in McGregor.

Lifting his 22nd honour in the Hoops, he is now level with predecessor Scott Brown – and without doubt is every bit as influential in this green machine.

After covering every blade of grass to ensure Rangers – on top for most of the second half – couldn't ram home their superiority, McGregor waited until the clock struck 90 to do what he does best.

Picking the ball up deep inside his own half he turned defence into attack with one pinpoint pass.

**Five seconds later Celtic had the lead. And the Double in the bag.**

Is it any real surprise Celtic "came alive" as Brendan Rodgers put it at the business end of the season after their on-field leader returned to full fitness?

Rangers simply can't stop McGregor having a hold in these encounters – even when the Hoops' other big players are off the boil, like they were here.

The biggest worry now for Celtic and Scotland is he turns 31 next month.

And the Light Blues must be absolutely desperate for father time to catch up.

It's the unseen 50-yard bursts back to track his marker, the know-how to slow the game when needed and turn it up at



OLD FOES Barry Ferguson, right, and former Celt Mikael Lustig with the Cup



ON HIS TODD McGregor gets the better of Rangers' Cantwell

## CalMac leaves Gers all at sea again as skipper steps up to get Hoops home and dry for the Double at Hampden

### » VERDICT

BY FRASER WILSON AT HAMPDEN



the flick of his left boot that make CalMac irreplaceable.

Philippe Clement's side were for much of the game better than their rivals – but still ended up on the wrong end. Mohamed Diomande ran his heart out and really deserved to be on the winning side.

This will sting for Rangers almost as much as letting the league title slip.

Fergie's pre-match presence was a reminder of the quality on BOTH sides 22 years ago when they last clashed in the final and the Ibrox hero got to lift the Cup.

How many of the current Rangers side would trouble Alex McLeish's side all those years ago?

Maybe James Tavernier at a push. Whereas for all the top

quality Martin O'Neill had in his ranks that day you could still make a case for Joe Hart, McGregor, Cameron Carter-Vickers and Matt O'Riley squeezing their way into his XI.

Even if O'Riley had a day to forget. And this final won't live long in the memory either.

Jefté – confirmed as a Gers player less than 24 hours before kick-off – took no time to get into the spirit as he mingled with fans ahead of the final.

The temperature might not have been what he was used to in Cyprus or indeed back in his Brazilian homeland – but the atmosphere was red hot.

Clement needed to try something different after failing to get the better of Rodgers so far.

But it was the tried and tested – if not trusted – 4-3-3

deployed by the Rangers boss, with Parkhead sinner John Lundstram left on the bench and Nico Raskin brought in beside Diomande at the base of midfield.

**Celtic's side picked itself.** The early signs looked ominous for Rangers. McGregor was enjoying the freedom of Hampden in the middle as if Clement's men had learned nothing from recent history.

Out wide Daizen Maeda took less than two minutes to show Tavernier a clean set of heels only to lose control as he hared into the box.

Another two minutes later McGregor was bursting clear of Nico Raskin as a Celtic break fell apart in the box again.

Out of possession Gers were sitting off and it was inviting trouble. But for whatever reason the final ball kept letting Rodgers' side down.

One man in the middle who was looking on it for Rangers was Diomande. Snapping into tackles and bursting forward

at any given opportunity, the January signing was right up for it.

His efforts started to see Gers work their way into the game.

If not for VAR they'd have led through sub Abdallah Sima too.

Rangers looked certain to make the breakthrough as they kept pushing. But with one minute of the 90 to go, the Hoops did what they do best.

McGregor started the move with a pinpoint pass to Paulo Bernardo who drove into space and unleashed a swerving shot that Jack Butland should have dealt with.

But the keeper – Gers' best player by a distance this season – ended the campaign on a low note as he could only parry straight to the onrushing Adam Idah who slammed home.

It's what Celtic do. It's what Callum McGregor does.

Unfortunately for Rangers, it's also what they've done too often latterly as they let a game seemingly in their control slip from their grasp.

# BIG MATCH ANALYSIS



# FANS' LOVE GOT MURDO BACK ON HIS FEET AGAIN



**LEADERS OF MEN** Callum McGregor and boss Brendan Rodgers get hands on Cup

EVERYONE who watched the moment on television remembers it well.

Henrik Larsson, the King of Kings for the Celtic support, walks past Sir Rod Stewart in the directors' box at Celtic Park to warmly embrace his old friend Murdo MacLeod before the league game with Rangers on May 11.

What no one knows is the pain Murdo had to go through just to climb the stairs for that emotional reunion.

He helped coach the Swede alongside Wim Jansen in the season when Celtic stopped Rangers from winning 10-in-a-row in 1998.

The last year of Murdo's life has been a story so astonishing it would be called far-fetched unless you knew the truth. Now he is revealing what he has been through in a book to be published on October 3.

The famously private Larsson has contributed words of tribute for his friend to adorn the cover of the biography "Murdo, Murdo" - the chant chorused by Celtic fans.

And last night Henrik underlined the contribution Murdo made to that unforgettable last day of the season when goals from Larsson and Harald Brattbakk beat St Johnstone and secured the title from rivals Rangers.

"Murdo was vital for us because he was the link between Wim and the players," Henrik said. "He knew what it was like to play for Celtic and what that title win meant to the fans."

**In April 2023, Murdo was released from hospital after 103 days spent fighting for his life.**

Since then, the transformation has been such that the man who won four league titles, two Scottish Cups and one League Cup with the Hoops has

BY HUGH KEEVINS

visited Australia and the United States at the request of overseas fans.

"Meeting the Celtic supporters gives me the lift I need to carry on with my personal fight to get better," he says.

"If you asked me a year ago if I would go globe-trotting, I know what my answer would have been. I couldn't walk to the end of my street then.

"And I wouldn't miss my trips to Celtic Park because it's the supporters who get me through everything with their time and their affection."

Murdo will be back at Celtic Park today for the club's charity foundation friendly against Borussia Dortmund,

the club he joined after leaving Celtic.

It will be like his life flashing before his eyes, although what has happened since has arguably been more dramatic.

**The medical complications that set in after a second, life-saving heart operation in 2022 were severe.**

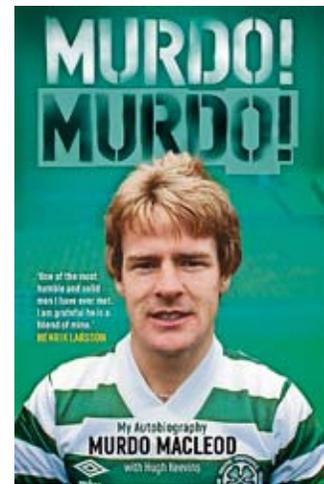
The consequence of having been on a ventilator for eight weeks to keep him alive meant Murdo lost all 10 toes and had to learn to walk all over again.

"My survival came at a price," he says. "I take pills every day to help me cope with the discomfort."

"But my reason for doing the book now is not to gain sympathy. I refuse to be defined by illness."

"A year ago the hospital sent me home with a zimmer and a wheelchair to assist me. This afternoon I'll walk up every step from the board room to the directors' box on my own two feet."

"I've been lucky in life to have been part of special chapters in Celtic's history. Now I'll go through a few chapters of my own story."



**Daily Record**  
**PUNTERS CLUB**

GET SET FOR THE EPSOM DERBY

SUBSCRIBE TO PUNTERS CLUB FOR FREE TODAY AND GET THE INSIDE TRACK ON HORSE RACING

DELIVERED STRAIGHT TO YOUR INBOX

- 🏆 TOP TIPS FROM OUR STABLE OF EXPERTS
- 📰 NEWS, PREVIEWS AND ANALYSIS
- 🎟️ FREE TICKET OFFERS AND COMPETITIONS

SIGN UP NOW [DAILYRECORD.CO.UK/PUNTERSCLUB](http://DAILYRECORD.CO.UK/PUNTERSCLUB)

Sign up 25+ only. Terms and conditions apply. See website for details.



# SCOTTISH CUP FINAL



**COOKING ON GAS** Potter wants to get her hands on the Cup today

## WE'VE GOT A HUNGER FOR SILVER

JO POTTER insists Rangers can bounce back from their title frustration – by fast-tracking their way to glory in today's Scottish Gas Women's Cup Final against Hearts.

The Gers boss saw her hopes of clinching the Championship dashed last weekend when Celtic produced a last-minute winner to beat Hibs 1-0.

But they can make amends today and the 39-year-old believes she has already seen the hunger of her players to deliver the silverware.

Potter is confident that she will see a reaction from her team to write another chapter in the history of the club.

But it was agony for Potter and her team last weekend as Amy Gallacher's last-gasp winner secured the SWPL title for Celtic on goal difference.

Potter said: "It was a sickening moment. It got to 85 minutes and everything was still positive. I looked over to Jay [Bradford] and she gave me a nod and a raised eyebrow.

"It is then that you start to think that there is a bit of hope – but it is that hope that kills you.

"I would rather Celtic had beat Hibs 6-0 than score a 90th-minute winner. But it was never in our hands – and that was the problem.

"It is fine margins. You think back to what you didn't do well and where you should have done better.

"There have been a few of those. It's funny because I knew it at the time when those slip-ups happened – you have a bit of a sixth sense.

"You look at head-to-heads and we were by far the better team. Out of 10 games this season we have only lost one against our top two opponents.

"When we look at that, and our goals conceded, we are the

### » RANGERS v HEARTS

TODAY, 2.30PM, BBC ONE

best team in the league – but just not in goals scored.

"In our head-to-heads we are good, goals conceded we are on top but goals scored is where we lost it."

Potter is confident her side can now exorcise that hurt and feels her side are back into a positive frame of mind.

**She said: "We were all smiles again by Wednesday morning and I can see the hunger in them."**

"Four players on Wednesday hit a new, personal top speed.

"Little things like that tell me, mentally, that they're right and physically I know they're right. That is after a long season and a three-game week.

"We are in a good position now and the girls know that."

Hearts manager Eva Olid has already beaten Gers this season.

The defeat inflicted on Rangers at Oriam was significant in shaping the outcome of the title race – that result

was the first time across the entirety of the season that Celtic were in the driving seat.

And the Spaniard is keen to upset the odds again this afternoon at Hampden.

"It is a great experience to be at our first final," said Olid.

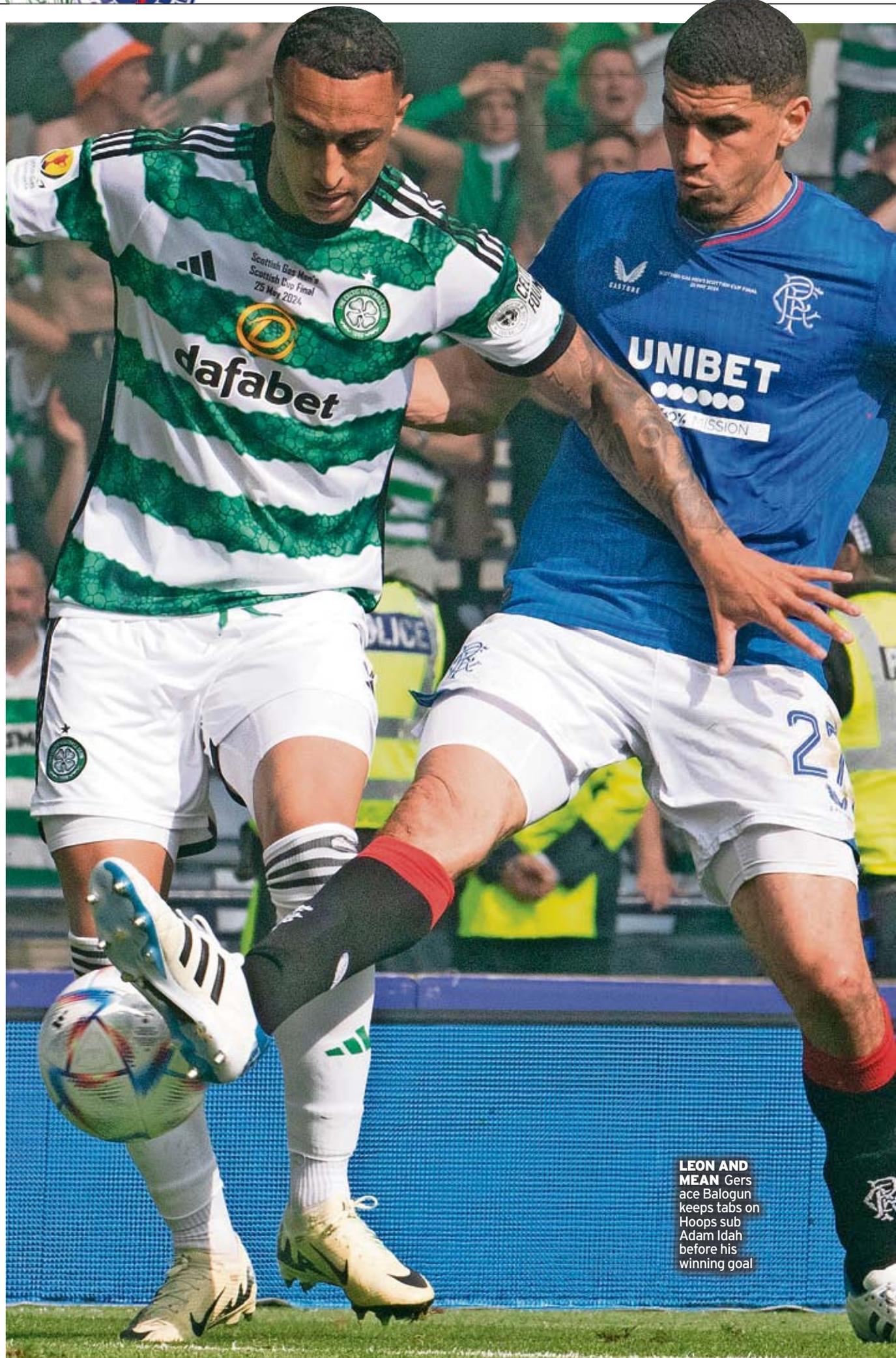
"We have players who are only 16-years-old and they are going to play in a final.

"We want to be ambitious and this final can help us get our objective next season.

"We have to believe we can beat them, because if not, what is the point?"

"Rangers are under pressure. It's normal for them to win – they just have to – if not it could be a disaster for them."

**Alison McConnell**



**LEON AND MEAN** Gers ace Balogun keeps tabs on Hoops sub Adam Idah before his winning goal



**DEAL IS UP** John Lundstram

## PHIL: REF NICKED THE CUP

### FROM BACK PAGE

it out for a push by Nico Raskin on Hoops keeper Joe Hart.

Clement was raging with the decision – citing an earlier push by Liam Scales on Dujon Sterling that went unpunished.

The Belgian boss is convinced that if Sima's goal was allowed

to stand, Rangers would have got their hands on the trophy. Instead, the Ibrox side conceded a 90th-minute goal to Celtic striker Adam Idah who pounced on a Jack Butland mistake.

Raging Clement said: "When you score and it's disallowed in that way, it's disappointing.

Especially when I compare it with the push by Scales on Sterling in the first half.

"It's a much bigger push than what happened to Hart.

"I also saw Celtic defenders grabbing my players and having their arms around their necks and waists at that moment. It



# BIG MATCH REACTION

BY FRASER MACKIE

**LEON BALOGUN insists Rangers must believe they can get over their hump against Celtic next season - even if he's not at Ibrox to help them.**

The veteran defender was gutted not to get a victory at Hampden on what might be his farewell appearance for the club.

Balogun is out of contract and his future at Ibrox is in the balance as he approaches his 36th birthday next month.

What he does know is Celtic's silverware streak for many years has given them an Old Firm edge.

After Rangers suffered a fourth defeat in five Old Firm meetings this season, Balogun said: "It's important that you build a different kind of confidence going into these games.

"Personally, there is nothing to fear. That is just me. I am not saying that anyone in our dressing room fears them.

"But they (Celtic) just have confidence on their side because of recent years.

"We must change that. It's about mentality - the edge they had over us this season was in confidence.

**"They turned up and delivered when they needed to - and that's where we fell short."**

Balogun, who started the League Cup Final victory over Aberdeen, brought his experience to Hampden yesterday alongside Ben Davies in central defence.

The stopper was missing from the side as Rangers lost their momentum in the league title race just before the split.

The Ibrox men finished eight points behind Celtic in the Premiership and the Nigerian admits yesterday's improved display counts for nothing.

He said: "If you look at the whole season there was a gap. If you look again today there is a gap - because we haven't won the game.

"We were in a position at one point in the league where we should've gone five points clear but we didn't.

"For me, that is the story of the season. When we had to turn up we didn't - that is the difference.

"It is something we need to change and it stems a bit from confidence.

"It's a bit more on their side because of recent history but it's something we need to get out of our heads and work on."

Balogun, sent off at Celtic Park in a 2-1 defeat at Christmas, featured just 19 times during the campaign.

With Connor Goldson and John Souttar ruled out, he battled



**HIGHS AND LOWS** Sima thinks he has scored - but pain for Rabbi Matondo at the end, right



## REF WATCH BY FRASER WILSON

### DIRTY DOZEN AND LOTS OF BIG CALLS

This might have been Nick Walsh's second Scottish Cup Final. But in so many ways it must have felt like the first for the whistler.

In his showpiece debut in 2021 St Johnstone clinched a stunning double against Hibs but Hampden was empty due to Covid.

Compare that to the thunderous Old Firm atmosphere. Twelve cards, a goal chalked off by VAR, a penalty shout waved away and no end of ear bashings from both sides.

Early on he kept it cool and resisted going to his pocket. But you knew it was just waiting to take off and it arrived in the 23rd minute.

Greg Taylor's cross was flicked on by Kyogo Furuhashi and brushed off Ben Davies' right hand. Celtic fans screamed 'penalty'. VAR, you'd like to think, took a look. Whatever the process Walsh decided no penalty.

It was Rangers fans up in arms 12 minutes later when Reo Hatate went through the back of Todd Cantwell. It looked a bad one but Walsh resisted reaching for the yellow.

The first booking arrived bang on 40 minutes as Callum McGregor hauled down Cantwell as he broke

# GERS HAVE GOT TO BE FEARLESS

## Balogun tells mates to find a winning mentality

through the pain barrier with a back injury to take his place at Hampden.

But he took a sore one with the rest of his team-mates as Adam Idah struck in the final minute of the tie to snatch the silverware.

Balogun said: "I was pretty much OK the whole week. I pushed for it, made sure I did what I could to be ready for the game.

"I think I showed I was fine. But obviously it's very disappointing.

**"Especially if you look at the way we performed compared to the last Old Firm games.**

"We were there from start to finish. It was pretty much equal. I felt on the pitch that things were going more our way.

"I don't want to call their goal a sucker punch because it's disrespectful to the opposition. But it felt like one for us. It felt like we

were more in the game. So it's hard to take, a tough one, because every one of the boys gave their all.

"We will need some time to settle down. When we're looking back on the game, there will probably be a lot of positives to pick out compared to the last few derbies.

"But at the moment this really just stings."

Gaffer Philippe Clement gathered his deflated troops together on the National Stadium pitch and addressed them as a group.

Balogun refused to divulge the precise details of the Belgian's briefing but said: "In that talk, the manager was just telling us to keep our heads high.

"I don't think there was much for him to fault in this performance. My own feeling is that we didn't deserve to lose the game." Balogun, a title

winner with Gers in 2020/21, returned to the club after one season with Queens Park Rangers.

There have been positive noises coming out of Ibrox that Clement fancies offering the former Brighton and Wigan man an extra year.

Balogun would be open to the prospect but appreciates there are plenty big decisions for the boss to make in the weeks to come.

He said: "I am going to go home to switch off for a few days.

**"I would like to stay, of course. I said the same thing two years ago and nothing has changed.**

"But I think everyone needs to digest today first then we will see what direction it goes.

"You would need to ask the manager [his opinion]. They are his plans and I hope there is some space in them for me."



**DOZEN LOOK GOOD** Ref Walsh free. A simple decision. But another flashpoint arrived shortly after when Dujon Sterling looked to be pushed by Liam Scales. Walsh played on, VAR couldn't get involved as it was outside the box.

But it certainly looked a foul. Abdallah Sima was a lucky boy after kicking out twice at Alistair Johnston after a coming together. The second booking of the day arrived. It could have been red.

Four minutes later Rangers fans were off their seats as Sima was barged over by Scales. It was getting feisty and when Rangers netted in 59 minutes all hell broke loose.

Hart missed James Tavernier's inswinging corner and Sima struck at the back post. But VAR spotted a two-handed push on Hart by Nico Raskin and Walsh said 'no goal'.

Sterling went into the book for a tackle on Greg Taylor then James Forrest for catching Raskin late.

Adam Idah, Taylor, Cantwell took the cards to eight. Nicolas Kuhn and Ridvan Yilmaz, Paulo Bernardo and Daizen Maeda picked up late bookings but thankfully the red card stayed in Walsh's pocket.

## FROM US WHEN CHALKING OFF OUR GOAL

was a really big call to disallow that goal.

"That's a grey decision, not white or black, and he made the decision."

It was Rangers' fourth defeat to Celtic this season as they finished the campaign with just the League Cup. But

Clement claimed: "Even the Celtic people - who aren't neutral - told me we were the better team.

"So it's mixed feelings. We did everything to win and everyone worked really hard.

"I'm proud of what the team showed here. But do we need

to take steps? Yes. I'm sure if we'd scored to make it 1-0 we would have got a second goal and won.

**"Some of our players are coming back from injury and you could see that was decisive in key moments.**

"They gave their best but I

have to create a squad next season who are fitter for the full season so I'm not juggling with players like today."

Clement refused to blame Butland for the error at the goal. He said: "Should Jack have done better? No.

"The ball was moving in the

air. It was a really unlucky moment for us."

Gers stars John Lundstram, Borna Barisic, Ryan Jack and Leon Balogun are now out of contract. Clement added: "We have players who will leave and we must replace them without money coming in."



# SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

## McGregor's rant at state of whistlers in Scotland

RANGERS legend Allan McGregor has slammed the "state" of referees in Scotland following controversial calls in the Scottish Cup Final.

The former No.1 was involved in a prickly spat with Celtic legend Neil Lennon as Premier Sports pundits.

It came after referee Nick Walsh opted not to penalise Cameron Carter-Vickers for a first-half foul on Ciriack Dessers in the penalty box, which led to the Gers striker limping off at half-time.

The row between the former Old Firm rivals was already rumbling however after Liam Scales had appeared to give away a free-kick as he barged Dujon Sterling off the ball.

Analysing the incident at half-time, Lennon said: "Yeah, it's a clear free-kick. He has pushed him in the back and taken him out at the legs."

"I don't know why he hasn't given that one against Scales. I think he is fortunate to get away with that."

McGregor replied: "It's



**SPAT** Lennon and McGregor

mind-boggling. It doesn't surprise me with the state of these referees to be fair..."

Lennon attempted to defuse the flashpoint saying: "Oh, he is on one now."

Undeterred McGregor went on: "Oh yeah, I'm on one!"

"The linesman is about 15 yards away. He has got two hands on his back, what is he looking at? It doesn't surprise me to be fair."

The heavy challenge by Carter-Vickers on Dessers was then flagged and Lennon said: "It's a good block from O'Riley. "It's a good follow up from Carter-Vickers, it's a really strong challenge but it's clean. There is no hint of a penalty there whatsoever."

McGregor replied: "I still think it's a big naughty" but Lennon added: "There is no touch on the follow through..."

The former Ibrox keeper went on: "I get that. My wee pal in her room at Hampden once told me when I asked her if to endanger the opponent you need to actually touch the person and she said no."

**LIONS ROAR**  
Celtic boss Brendan Rodgers kept European Cup win anniversary from his players to avoid piling on pressure



BY SCOTT McDERMOTT

**BRENDAN RODGERS** had two things on his priority list when he returned to Celtic as gaffer.

The league title and the Scottish Cup. And yesterday at Hampden, the Hoops boss was able to tick them off with a huge sense of satisfaction.

When Rodgers was enticed back to Parkhead to replace Ange Postecoglou last summer, a huge section of the Celtic support weren't happy.

He knew he had to get back in their good books quickly.

And having been in Glasgow before, he knew the best way to do that was winning trophies.

He took a huge step towards redemption by securing the Premiership a couple of weeks ago as Celtic fended off Rangers' challenge.

And yesterday it felt like his comeback was complete as they defeated their Old Firm rivals for a fourth time this season and got their hands on the Scottish Cup.

Adam Idah's 90th-minute winner gave Rodgers and the supporters what they craved at Hampden.

And the manager could barely wipe the smile off his face.

When asked if this is how he envisaged his Celtic return, Rodgers said: "I knew I had to win. Because you have to win at Celtic – there is no other way of thinking."

"So I'm so pleased to have done it. The league and Scottish Cup were virtually aligned for me over many years growing up, in terms of their importance."

"And obviously with the Champions League and the money and everything else it has made the title a bit more prestigious."

"However, the Scottish Cup and the history of this club with it means it is still so important."

"You could see that in this game and with the supporters at the end."

"I know my job here and that's to protect the rich history of this club whilst continuing to write the chapter of this team and win trophies."

It was a dream day for Rodgers and his players, none more so than veteran keeper Joe Hart.

The Englishman signed off his career with another piece of silverware and now goes into retirement a Celtic hero.

He looked like he'd conceded a goal to Rangers after an hour when Abdallah Sima scored – but a push on Hart by Nico Raskin saw it ruled out.

So it was another clean sheet for the 37-year-old and Rodgers was effusive in his praise for the Celtic goalie. He

## Brendan won't rest on his laurels after Double as he chases more glory days

# I know my job is to protect the rich history of this club and continue to write the chapter of this team & win trophies

said: "It's brilliant for Joe. He has finished on a clean sheet, which means a lot for a goalkeeper."

"I said to the players on Friday, this is a guy who has worked for 21 years."

"We have some young players who have just completed their first season training with us and have had 200 sessions over the course of the season."

"Joe has done about 4200 training sessions in his career! And every time I see him training it's like his first one."

"His enthusiasm, his love of the game, his leadership and everything about the man is top class. What a way to finish."

"He's a Double winner at a club that will idolise him for the rest of his life. "I'm just so pleased for him."

May 25 is a date etched in Celtic's

history as it's when the famous Lisbon Lions lifted the European Cup in 1967.

Rodgers was aware of its significance before yesterday's final but refused to mention it to the players as he didn't want to heap more pressure on them.

He said: "I'd be lying if I said I talked about that because I didn't."

**"But I think the significance for us will come afterwards. I've said before, I don't like to add pressure to the players."**

"This is an iconic date that's synonymous with this club and always will be. But this will join it."

"This date, and the guys winning a Double with the Scottish Cup, will be a great memory for all Celtic supporters."

"But I didn't touch on it beforehand." Meanwhile, former Celtic skipper

Scott Brown paid tribute to Rodgers and current captain Callum McGregor for instilling a relentless winning mentality at the club.

Brown said: "You've got Callum and Brendan there who drive that feeling. "But it's not just that – it's the board, all the way from the top, all the way to the staff at the club as well."

"That's exceptional. They set standards and the players have got to make sure they deliver for the supporters as well."

"It's a mentality thing. Celtic have got that mentality, how to win – continuously win. Rangers have not got that mentality. There's a difference."

"They come and they play well but they just can't get it over the line. Celtic





# BIG MATCH REACTION



## » FIVE TALKING POINTS

BY CRAIG SWAN

### RODGERS JUST KEEPS WINNING

Brendan Rodgers' reputation in this fixture was already secured but it was crucial for Philippe Clement to prove he could get the big result against the Celtic manager after three previous failures. Getting to half-time without conceding was a first. Rodgers would not have been happy with the performance levels but his team dug in and found the moment. It made it 14 wins in 18 Old Firm games for the Celtic boss.

### CANT DO ENOUGH TO GET THE WIN

Todd Cantwell got the nod in the middle for Gers with Dujon Sterling starting off the right. Nico Raskin's selection ahead of John Lundstram was about legs and energy and Mohamed Diomande provided plenty of those alongside the Belgian. Cantwell made way with 15 minutes to go but the other pair kept going until the brutal finale for Rangers. Diomande lost his cool in injury time with a kick out.

### TOP BHOYS GET THE JOB DONE

Celtic had trophy-winning experience in the shape of Callum McGregor and James Forrest. McGregor's influence was clear as he hounded Liam Scales for chipping an aimless ball. Forrest tried to get at Ridvan Yilmaz and broke free before a shot was blocked approaching the hour. It was the skipper who got the move going for the winner. He never stops. Even when the team isn't flowing.

### RIGHT ON THE BAL UNTIL END

Leon Balogun, 35, was drafted into the heart of the Rangers defence having been a pre-match doubt and his contribution was going to be vital alongside Ben Davies. The Nigerian was sure footed when he had to step into challenges before the break as his partner survived a big handball shout. Balogun was sharp into the interventions but caught on his heels when Jack Butland spilled a shot and Adam Idah won it.

### IT'S END OF THE LINE FOR HART

Celtic's Joe Hart brought down the curtain on a superb career and got the second medal of the season that he cherished. However, it was not without a major scare. He was accomplished for the first half. Good hands to keep a hold of a low shot and sure with his fists and feet. Felt the nudge in the back from Nico Raskin at the corner when Abdallah Sima put the ball in the net and VAR spotted it. Joy for Hart in the end.

**CHERISHED PRIZE** Boss Rodgers with the Cup he insists means so much to Celtic

“The Scottish Cup and this club's history with it is so important”

**RODGERS ON THE ALLURE OF THE TROPHY**

**HAIL OF A TIME**  
Jubilant Hoops fans



**OLD BHOY**  
Scott Brown greets gaffer Rodgers as the party warms up

always want to get it over the line and they know how to do it.”

Brown also insisted there is a gulf in quality between the two teams. He added: “You look at Celtic going forward, they look fluent, they look efficient, they can continue playing for 90 minutes.

“Take nothing away from Rangers, they work hard and they're honest, but I think Celtic have just got that little bit more quality.

“It was actually a good game. Both teams tried to play. Rangers go a little bit more direct.

“I think the big thing was Celtic dominated the first half, controlled the game.

“There was a change-up at half

time obviously for Rangers. They brought someone up top with a little bit of pace (Abdallah Sima). It maybe caused Celtic more problems.

“Rangers perhaps edged the second half but goals win you games. That's the difference.”

And Brown echoed boss Rodgers' fulsome praise of swan-song goalkeeper Hart.

He added: “If you go and ask all the lads what they think about Joe Hart, he's humble.

“He's been at one of the biggest clubs in the world (Manchester City) but he's not a big-time Charlie. He's definitely going to miss the club, you can see what it means to him.”



# SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

## Man by Man

BY FRASER MACKIE

### CELTIC

#### JOE HART 6

Last game of a glittering 20-year career that began for Shrewsbury against Ebbsfleet and finished with Hampden glory in an Old Firm final. Finished with a 17th clean sheet of season thanks to Sima's goal being disallowed.

#### ALISTAIR JOHNSTON 7

Spun by Fabio Silva for a first-half Rangers chance. Saw a deflected shot inside the box beaten away by Butland and started the move leading to winner.

#### CAMERON CARTER-VICKERS 8

The main man at the back, threw himself in where it counted as Gers threatened. Great double block to deny Dessers and touch away to prevent a tap in for Sima.

#### LIAM SCALES 7

Fine display to keep Rangers out but lucky to escape sanction for barge on Dujon Sterling on edge of box in first period and off the ball block on Sima in second.

#### GREG TAYLOR 6

A tough shift against Sterling but tried his hardest to work with Maeda and saw plenty of the ball. Booked in second half for clash with Cantwell.

#### MATT O'RILEY 6

Wasn't able to exert his customary influence going forward. Drifted into some good positions, as ever, but didn't manage to get free and dangerous in front of Butland.

#### CALLUM MCGREGOR 8

Escaped the press early on to get on the ball and probe. First man booked, for dragging down Cantwell, but was driving force for his side in middle of the park as he battled through to lift more silverware.

#### REO HATATE 6

Saw a fierce snapshot cleared by head of Davies but was otherwise unable to get into any more dangerous positions before Bernardo replaced him.

#### JAMES FORREST 5

Came into game in sensational form but forced inside by Yilmaz and didn't manage to muster a killer ball. Booked for a lunge on Yilmaz just before Kuhn replaced him.

#### DAIZEN MAEDA 6

Maeda made himself the main menace to Rangers skipper Tavernier once again. Got in behind a couple of times and delivered into dangerous areas but the scrappy game didn't suit.

#### KYOGO FURUHASHI 6

Couple of trademark dashes to six-yard box didn't spawn a surefire chance and withdrawn for Idah on 62 minutes.

#### SUBS

**Adam Idah:** Anticipation for goal was top class. **6. Nicholas Kuhn:** Like Forrest, didn't get much change out of Yilmaz. **4. Paulo Bernardo:** Driving force for winner, brushing off Raskin before forcing Butland into the parry. **6.**

# Adam was the scapegoat at Canaries & now he's flying with Celtic

## Hampden hero Idah admits loan move has turned his career around

**A SCAPEGOAT in Norwich in January. A Double-winning hero in Glasgow just four months later.**

BY FRASER WILSON

Paulo Bernardo's 90th-minute shot to fire the Hoops to glory at Hampden yesterday.

Adam Idah admits his career has enjoyed a sharp uplift in the space of less than half a season after joining Celtic on January deadline day.

Given the bird by Canaries fans in the first half of the season he's had Celtic fans chirping ever since his move north.

Nine goals in 16 games, a title in the bag and now a Scottish Cup winner's medal to go with it – no wonder the 23-year-old striker admits he's in dreamland.

Idah pounced when Rangers keeper Jack Butland could only parry

And he admits that moment right in front of the Celtic end was the best yet from a sensational four months in Glasgow.

Considering that includes a late goal at Ibrox, a crucial double at Hibs, and an equally important second-half double at Motherwell, then it's got plenty of competition.

Indeed his contribution of big goals at big moments is a major reason why Celtic recovered from the wobblest of mid-season jitters to storm to the double.

Idah will now head back to

Norwich not knowing what his future holds.

Brendan Rodgers is keen to make sure that the Republic of Ireland international is on a return journey north in the not too distant future.

Whatever happens the big striker knows his time in Glasgow has given his career the boost it badly needed through the support of a fan base that he himself was a part of not so long ago.

He said: "You can put it down to that. I probably wasn't enjoying my football down south.

"I was a scapegoat and it's tough when you're in there.

"The love I've had here has been amazing. I'm loving it here. I probably

didn't expect it to be as good as what it was.

"I've said it before, this has really changed my career around.

"I wasn't in the best of places when I was down south and I've come up here and the players, the staff, the fans, they've all welcomed me in.

**"They have given me that confidence and belief to enjoy playing football again.**

"Could I have imagined this in January? It's a strange one.

"I was always quite confident in my own ability but I knew coming here, the demands of the club and the pressure, I do enjoy that but no-one knows what is going to happen. I got off to a good start and

## This old Bhoys has had his Hart strings pulled due to

EMOTIONAL Joe Hart shed a tear as he pulled the curtain down on his remarkable career with a Scottish Cup winners' medal yesterday – and thanked Celtic for "making an old boy happy".

The veteran keeper insists there will be no U-turn over his decision to retire at the age of 37 even if, in his own

BY FRASER WILSON

words, Celtic were the only club on the planet he'd have stuck around for.

But the former England No.1 knows a huge psychological crash lies in wait when the full enormity of not having football in his daily life anymore hits home.

Hart, who won six major honours at Manchester City, now has seven from his three years in the east end of Glasgow climaxing with yesterday's last-minute winner against Rangers to win the Scottish Cup.

And he admits it doesn't get much better than that coming hot on the heels of a third

successive title triumph.

Hart said: "Oh my word! I'm worried something bad is going to happen to me because over the last few weeks life has felt really good.

"I'm all drained out. I'm just happy we won. I know it's the end of my career but my focus was on this game and it's so important for the club to keep

winning. To double up the title with the Scottish Cup is a special feeling.

"This place has made me feel so special. The manager, players, I know it's coming to an end for me but those boys have made me feel so special.

"They have made an old boy happy and I'll be forever grateful. Of course I will miss

# BIG MATCH REACTION



“ Scoring in the last minute in a cup final against your rivals – what more do you want?”

ADAM IDAH RATES WINNING GOAL HIS BEST

**ADAM GOOD FEELING** Idah celebrates with the trophy after his goal sank Rangers and sealed a league and cup double for Celts

## » Man by Man

BY FRASER MACKIE

### RANGERS

**JACK BUTLAND** 6 Wasn't drawn into serious action until 31 minutes when turning an Alistair Johnstone shot round his post. Undone by the swerve of Bernardo's shot at Idah's winner.

**JAMES TAVERNIER** 6 Typically tough afternoon against Daizen Maeda. Caught out on a couple of early occasions but grew in strength and influence. Couple of great deliveries from corners.

**LEON BALOGUN** 6 Played through the pain barrier with a back injury and soldiered on after appearing hurt early on. Timely tackle against Maeda and held the fort well in the centre of defence until agonising late goal.

**BEN DAVIES** 6 Teamed up well with Balogun to keep Kyogo quiet but Idah was a different case and couldn't react quickly enough to prevent winner.

**RIDVAN YILMAZ** 7 In tears through the week, fearing he'd miss out through injury. Forced Forrest inside as much as possible and great read to cut out a Hatate pass but shot was tame.

**MOHAMED DIOMANDE** 7 Fearless on the ball and ferocious in the tackle to win the ball back which helped get Rangers started on their best attacking moves.

**NICO RASKIN** 7 Preferred from the start to John Lundstram and justified the call. Spotted by VAR for push on Hart that saw Sima's goal chalked off. Some great drives forward.

**DUJON STERLING** 8 His physicality was key on the right and caused Taylor no end of problems. Booked and hobbled off late on.

**TODD CANTWELL** 6 Was unable to prevent McGregor getting on the ball but grew in influence himself as the first half progressed. Couldn't resist an argument and booking seconds before substitution.

**FABIO SILVA** 5 Great spin away from Johnston to create opening, but wasted with weak shot. Stuck to his task of trying to trouble down his flank but inconsistent as ever.

**CYRIEL DESSERS** 5 Shot blocked by a trio of Celts from his best chance, but striker was hurt in the process and replaced by Sima at the break.

**SUBS**  
**Abdallah Sima:** Thought he had put Rangers ahead but strike chalked off. Booked. **6. Rabbi Matondo:** Early promise soon disappeared. **3. Scott Wright:** Failed to control as Gers attacked and Celtic went up the park to score. **2. Ross McCausland:** Unable to get running at Celtic defence. **2. John Lundstram:** Little time to make mark but harried and put himself about. **1.**

just thrived off that belief. The support here has been top-class.”

If those punters had their way Idah would be heading back to the east end of Glasgow as soon as the close season ends.

But football is never as simple as that. Norwich hold all the aces with the player still under contract at Carrow Road.

And the hitman said: “I’ve been loving it here, but I am still contracted to Norwich.

“I’ll have some time off now and see what happens. It’s not up to me. Football works in strange ways.

“I’m still contracted at Norwich. I’ll have my time off and enjoy it as much as I can, and I’ll see what

happens. We set targets and that was getting to two trophies and we’ve done that. We got the job done so let’s see what happens now.”

Idah showed the instincts of a predator to pounce on Butland’s error as the clock ticked towards added time at Hampden.

That it arrived so late in the day against the club’s fiercest rivals and right in front of those adoring supporters in the Celtic end made it the stuff of dreams.

Yet the Norwich ace – who netted nine goals for club and country in the first half of the campaign before heading north – admits his mind went blank when he tried to replay his big moment afterwards. Asked

where the goal ranks he said: “I think that’s my number one, it’s got to be!”

“I thought the last game against Rangers at Ibrox was the one, but today’s is unbelievable.

“Last minute in a cup final against your rivals – what more do you want?”

“I don’t actually know what happened! My mind went blank. From what I can remember Paulo took a shot and I just followed it in.

“It probably wasn’t the prettiest of goals but we do it in training every day – rebounds, rebounds and more rebounds.

“Fortunately enough I was there to tap it in.”

His determination to feed off those

scraps summed up an afternoon where Celtic were far from their free-flowing best – but got the breaks for never giving up.

It’s a mantra that has seen Rodgers’ side get back on the rails after a mid-season wobble and storm to the league and cup double.

Idah said: “That’s the mentality we have had throughout the whole season at Celtic.

“Since I’ve been here, that’s one of the biggest things I have learned – never give up and have that attitude all the time.

“You can see today it wasn’t the best of performances by ourselves but we stuck together right until the end and got the result.”

## ending my career but I’m leaving in Double Paradise

Celtic. But I will have to wait for that crash and comedown.

“I’m an emotional guy. I have always played with my heart on my sleeve.

“I’m probably more emotional when I’m happy, not so much when I’m sad.

“I shed a tear at the final whistle, pure joy, sheer happiness and very proud.”

Hart has excelled in the second half of the season and made a series of huge saves at key moments as Celtic overturned Rangers advantage in the league and made it five Old Firm clashes unbeaten along the way.

The campaign might have ended on an ultimate high. But nothing will change the

75-times capped England keeper’s mind over hanging up the gloves. Asked if he has second thoughts, Hart said: “I haven’t. It’s not an emotional decision, I made it earlier in the season because it just felt the right time. Physically it wasn’t a question but it felt the right time as a family.

“I’m comfortable with it

and it’s someone else’s turn.

“There’s nobody else I’d want to play for on the planet other than this club. When I realised it wasn’t going to be the case in terms of going back home and get on with life, from that point of view it was the right decision.

“I came here to win, this club wants to win and so do

I will have to remove myself from that crazy way of thinking and living. I just feel love and respect and a lot of passion towards this place.

“That fanbase is superb. It doesn’t just turn up and cheer and sing. It expects when you play with passion and with desire to work for the badge they get behind you.”



# SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

## RELEASE CASH TO SIGN ADAM

### FROM BACK PAGE

frontman. He said: "The board knows how I feel about Adam, that was the reason for bringing him in."

"He has been a real catalyst for us, especially over the last few months."

"He's a big-game player. In so many big moments, he has stepped up to the plate for us."

"I'm so happy for him - a boy from Ireland, a striker scoring the winning goal in the Scottish Cup Final against Rangers. Wow."

"What a summer he will have now."

"I don't know if we'll get him in the summer, the board will look at it."

"My talks with Adam will remain private because there's a lot of work to do."

"But he knows my feelings and so do the club so we will see what happens."

Rodgers has seen Idah improve since arriving at Parkhead but insists he can become even better under his tutelage.

The Irish striker came off the bench at Hampden yesterday when his side were second best to a Rangers team in the ascendancy.

After Jack Butland spilled a Paulo Bernardo shot late on, Idah pounced to ensure Celtic's name was on the famous old trophy for the 42nd time.

Rodgers said: "I knew what I was getting with Adam because I'd seen him in the Premier League at the age of 18."

"He has all the right attributes."

"He's fast, dynamic, strong and I felt with better positioning he'd get goals."

"What he has done since coming in is show that he's a goalscorer. He gets different types of goals."

"He has great movement in the box and deals with pressure moments."

"Today, he was like a real No.9 sniffing in and around the box."

"He has been absolutely immense for us and he's clearly someone I'd like to do something with."

"I just know with Adam that he's got such a high



**BERNARDO** Key to the win

ceiling. Coming here, he has thrived on the pressure of being at a big club.

"At Celtic, you learn how to prepare. You can't have a lazy day here, you've got to be on it."

"He has benefited from that. The environment has made him grow."

"He was clear on his role when he came in and how I would use him."

"Adam had to get a feel for us but I told him he had to be ready to make an impact, either starting games or coming on."

"His confidence has never wavered."

"He has been a brilliant team player."

Celtic weren't at their best in the final but still came away with the trophy after Idah's winner.

Rodgers heaped praise on his players' character as they followed up their Premiership triumph with a fourth Old Firm victory over Rangers this season.

He said: "I'm so happy. To win another title is an amazing feeling."

"It was a really tense and tight game and I knew we would have challenges."

"But the will of the players and their desire was immense."

"To get that winning goal was a great feeling."

"These games are never easy, they're always tight."

"You aren't going to win titles playing beautiful football all the time."

"We had spells in the game but we lacked a bit of energy as it was our 50th game of the season."

"We brought Adam and Paulo Bernardo on to give us more power and threat."

"I'm just so proud of the team because they showed resilience and kept fighting."

**BRIGHT IDAH** Adam gleefully tucks the ball past Butland for the Cup-winning goal



### THE STATS

#### ANALYSIS

<b>63</b>	<b>POSSESSION</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>SHOTS ON</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>SHOTS OFF</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>CORNERS</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>FOULS</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>YELLOW CARDS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>RED CARDS</b>	<b>0</b>

### ADAM IDAH'S eyes must have lit up.

The Hampden clock was just about to hit 90 minutes.

And Rangers keeper Jack Butland - so often his side's saviour this season - had just slapped the ball into his path.

Right in front of the Celtic end, the Irish striker found himself eight yards out - with the goal at his mercy. And the Scottish Cup in his hands.

It was a gift for Idah and Hoops boss Brendan Rodgers.

And if Rangers gaffer Philippe Clement has learned anything this season, it's that you can't afford to give this team a chance.

Idah duly despatched the opportunity to hand Celtic a dream Double and leave their Old Firm rivals devastated.

Until that point in the final, Rangers had pretty much

## » CELTIC...1 RANGERS...0

### SCOTT McDERMOTT AT HAMPDEN PARK

dominated. Against the odds, Clement's men had been on top and were left to curse VAR when Abdallah Sima's goal was chalked off for a foul on Joe Hart.

But you can't take anything for granted against Celtic.

Despite producing their worst derby display of the campaign the Hoops STILL emerged victorious and with yet another piece of silverware.

**That's where Rodgers and his players deserve credit.**

Yesterday, it was his subs who came up trumps.

Paulo Bernardo struck the piledriver that Butland couldn't deal with.

And Idah - a loan signing from Norwich City who was derided

by some fans in January - put their name on the Scottish Cup for the 42nd time.

Even if for the majority of the match, it didn't look likely.

Rodgers would have slept easy in his bed on Friday night, safe in the knowledge that his team picked itself at Hampden.

The rebirth of James Forrest and miracle recovery of Daizen Maeda over these last few months guaranteed the Celtic boss a good kip.

Clement, on the other hand, might well have woken up in a cold sweat, wondering what 11 players he had at his disposal - never mind how he was going to line them up.

Leon Balogun and Ridvan

Yilmaz both declaring themselves fit at least gave him some defensive comfort.

But the Belgian still had big calls to make.

John Lundstram has been in hiding since his red card in the last derby at Parkhead.

Despite returning from a ban, Clement left him on the bench.

And in Dujon Sterling - Gers' Mr Versatile - the manager had a tactical dilemma in where to deploy him.

As a central midfielder to replace Lundstram's physicality? Or wide right to try and out-muscle Greg Taylor?

**Clement opted for the latter with Todd Cantwell playing just off Cyriel Dessers.**

Celtic have become renowned in this fixture of late for being fast starters.

So in a white-hot atmosphere, Rangers' initial task was to get a

## » HERO'S GRINNING LIKE A CANARY

SEE PAGES 68 AND 69



# FOLLOW THE IDAH

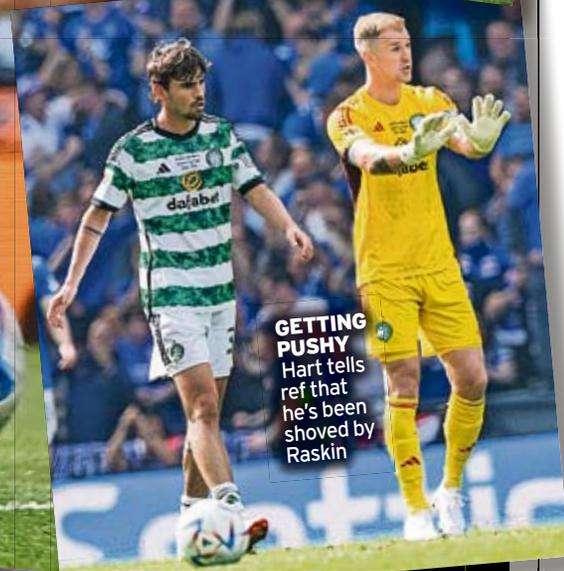
Sub seizes moment as late winner seals the Double to sicken Gers



**ADAM BUSTER**  
Butland flat out as Idah slams home



**VAR CRYING** Sima sticks out a knee - but goal is chalked off after VAR check for shove on Hart



**GETTING PUSHY**  
Hart tells ref that he's been shoved by Raskin



**REF RAGE**  
Clement lets rip at whistler Nick Walsh

foothold in the game without falling two goals behind – a feat they haven't managed in the last three Old Firm games.

And it was a cagey opening to the Cup Final.

As usual, Rodgers' men tried to play through skipper Callum McGregor in midfield.

**Clement's job was to devise a plan to stop it, with Cantwell crucial to it.**

It wasn't a man-marking job but he'd clearly been told to cut off the obvious passing lanes to McGregor's feet. Early on, it worked for Rangers.

Let's be clear, no one gave them a chance of lifting the trophy before kick-off.

Their fans feared a fifth derby humbling of the season.

But the bare minimum they expected from their team was to compete – and they did here.

The aggression of Sterling and

Mo Diomande's tenacity in the middle of the park gave supporters hope.

And that's how they got to half-time, still right in the mix.

Celtic claimed for a penalty when the ball spun up and hit Ben Davies' hand – but it was so close to the defender whose arms were by his side that VAR was never going to intervene.

Joe Hart and Butland had one routine save each to the make – from Fabio Silva and Alistair Johnston respectively – but gilt-edged chances were a rarity.

At the break, Clement was forced into a change with Sima replacing Dessers up top.

**And the tempo of the game definitely intensified.**

A bit of needle between Sima and Johnston cranked it up a notch, as if that was necessary.

Then the blue half of the ground exploded into life when

they thought Rangers had edged in front.

From a James Tavernier corner, Hart was crowded out and Sima knocked it home at the back post.

**Clement and his players were convinced they had what they craved – to draw first blood against Celtic.**

But with Hart claiming a foul, ref Nick Walsh was told to go to his VAR monitor and ruled that Nico Raskin had shoved the big keeper in the back.

Clement and Rangers' supporters were furious. Walsh was in the firing line again when he wrongly punished Sterling for a super tackle on Taylor.

Rodgers' side had been lethargic since half-time and the boss threw on Idah for Kyogo in a bid to re-energise them.

With 20 minutes to go, Celtic hadn't turned up yet, which is so

unlike them in these derbies. It was foolish to write them off but Rangers were definitely in the ascendancy.

Raskin, who was excellent in midfield with Diomande, fizzed a ball across the box that was begging to be put in – before Cameron Carter-Vickers nudged it past his own post.

Clement lost Cantwell and Sterling to injury and it was a huge blow to Rangers. A turning point in the final.

As the game opened up Celtic began to look more dangerous and – as ever – they produced a moment at the death.

Bernardo drove forward and unleashed a shot that moved in the air. Butland could only palm it to Idah who buried it.

From nowhere, Celtic had won it. And Rangers were left bemused and bedraggled – wondering how they'd lost.

# Mail Sport

## PHIL: REF NICKED THE CUP FROM US

PHILIPPE CLEMENT took a swipe at ref Nick Walsh and VAR for chalking off a goal he believes would have won Rangers the Scottish Cup. His side were on top in

BY **SCOTT McDERMOTT**  
yesterday's Hampden final and thought they'd struck first through Abdallah Sima. But after a VAR check, Walsh ruled  
**TURN TO PAGE 64**

## CELTIC..1 RANGERS..0



**MAKE OURS A DOUBLE**  
Celts celebrate with the Cup and Idah, left, after his goal

# UP & ADAM

**NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING**  
The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2016 was 62.8%



MASTR 260524

9 770307 587177

## Brendan pleads with Hoops board to seal a permanent deal for Hampden hero Idah

**BRENDAN RODGERS** watched Adam Idah win the Scottish Cup for Celtic - then urged the Hoops board to get him signed up for NEXT season.

The Irish striker, who is on loan from Norwich City, scored a 90th-minute winner against Rangers at Hampden to seal a Double for the Hoops.

And his manager confirmed that he's desperate to sign the 23-year-

BY **SCOTT McDERMOTT**

old on a permanent deal. Rodgers hailed Idah's impact since arriving in January from Carrow Road.

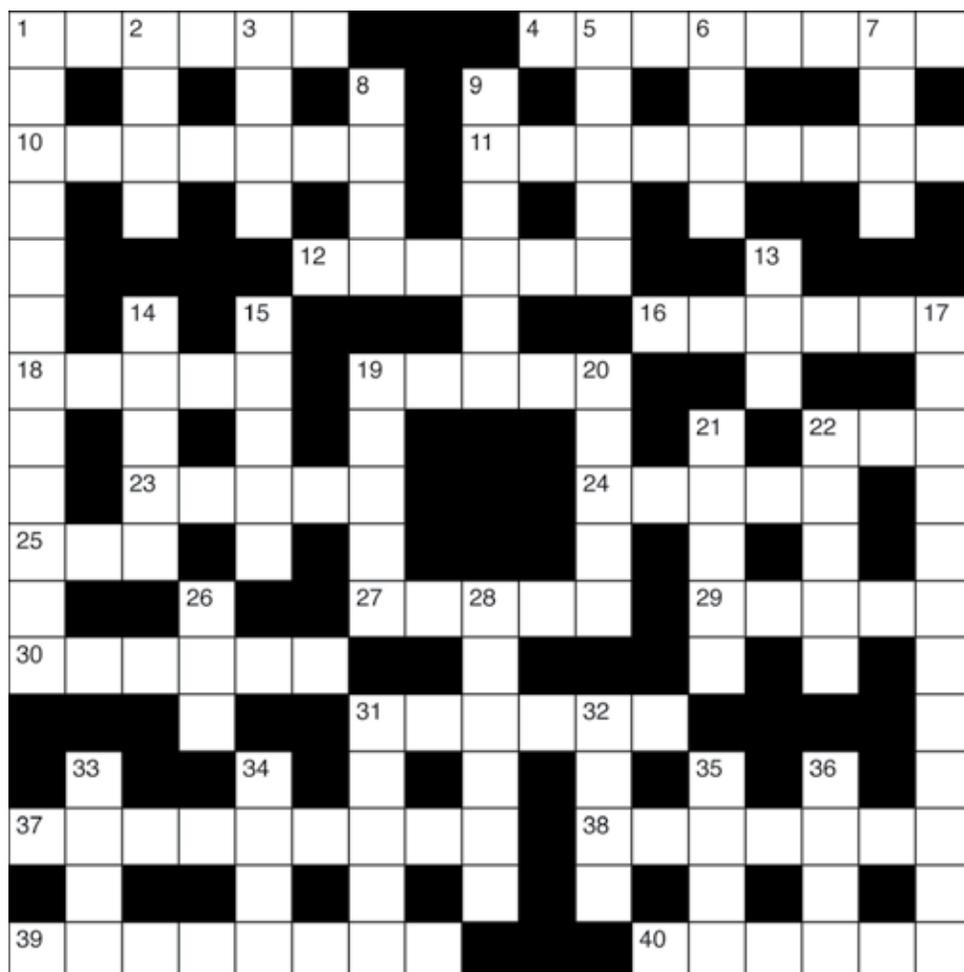
He's bagged nine goals, including one that helped clinch the league title at Rugby Park and yesterday's sensational last-gasp cup clincher.

Now Rodgers is praying the Celtic board can come up with the cash to land the £6million-rated

**TURN TO PAGE 70**

# PUZZLES EXTRA

## ENTERTAINMENT CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1 Actors Everett or Grint (6)
- 4 Freddie \_\_, celebrity who married Sarah Michelle Gellar in 2002 (6,2)
- 10 and 38 Across Puerto Rican Oscar-winner, father of one of Rod Stewart's grandchildren (7,3,4)
- 11 Mad Men actress, Christina \_\_ (9)
- 12 James \_\_, Ruth Jones' Gavin and Stacey co-writer (6)
- 16 Mikey \_\_, 5 Down's former bandmate (6)
- 18 Former World No.1 tennis player, Chris \_\_ (5)
- 19 Last name of celebrity twins Mary-Kate and Ashley (5)
- 22 Irish DJ and broadcaster, Annie \_\_ (3)
- 23 Head chef at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons restaurant, Raymond \_\_ (5)
- 24 Scottish comedienne, \_\_ Cameron (5)
- 25 Stage name of rapper Robert Van Winkle, Vanilla \_\_ (3)
- 27 \_\_ Fiennes, played Lord Voldemort in the Harry Potter films (5)
- 29 Violin and viola virtuoso, \_\_ Kennedy (5)
- 30 Irish broadcaster, \_\_ Holmes (6)
- 31 Big Brother 4 star who appeared on Brainiac, Jon \_\_ (6)
- 37 Hollywood A-Lister whose films include Disclosure and Ghost (4,5)
- 38 See 10 Across
- 39 Musician and poet famed for his 1960s protest songs (3,5)
- 40 Price Tag singer, \_\_ J (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Country music artist sometimes referred to as "The Queen of Country" (4,8)
- 2 Two-time Best Actor Academy Award-winner, Sean \_\_ (4)
- 3 English chef, \_\_ Stein (4)
- 5 Irish singer and broadcaster, \_\_ Keating (5)
- 6 Iconic movie legend, Robert De \_\_ (4)
- 7 Mr Gyllenhaal, Donnie Darko and Brokeback Mountain star (4)
- 8 U2 singer (4)
- 9 Duran Duran keyboardist, Nick \_\_ (6)
- 13 American singer, Ava \_\_ (3)
- 14 One quarter of boy band Blue, Simon \_\_ (5)
- 15 \_\_ Hawke, Uma Thurman's second husband (5)
- 17 Scottish businesswoman who founded Ultimo lingerie (8,4)
- 19 \_\_ de la Renta, leading designer (5)
- 20 Come Away With Me singer, \_\_ Jones (5)
- 21 Former rugby union player, \_\_ Wilkinson (5)
- 22 Former Neighbours matriarch who was married to Harold Bishop, played by Anne Charleston (5)
- 26 Three and a Half Men actor, \_\_ Cryer (3)
- 28 Former EastEnders actress, Zoe \_\_ (6)
- 31 Ms Birch, rose to fame in American Beauty (5)
- 32 \_\_ Gaga, singer and actress (4)
- 33 R&B singer-songwriter born Shaffer Chimere Smith, Jr (2-2)
- 34 American actress and singer, \_\_ Rossum (4)
- 35 Fashion creator, \_\_ Saab (4)
- 36 \_\_ Stone, English singer (4)

## CODEWORD

The number in each square corresponds to a letter. Work out the words in the grid using the letters provided. Fill in these known letters first, then use skill and judgement to work out the others.

**1**

	26		18		15		11	21	21	25	2	
13	3	25	25	18	5	11	6			17		
	7		21			10	6	3	4	25	21	L
5	14	6	21	4	18	5	16	25			7	O
	20			24			23		13		3	
3	25	22	4	5	25	15		25	9	5	21	25
		4				11			18			
19	4	5	6	25		23	7	4	10	24	8	2
4		20		21			1				25	
15				23	4	12	21	5	6	11	8	25
12	11	23	3	25		5			2		6	
	5			18		17	5	8	18	6	24	2
25	3	25	6	8		25		8				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	O	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20		L	22	23	24	25	26

A  
B  
C  
D  
E  
F  
G  
H  
I  
J  
K  
L  
M  
N  
O  
P  
Q  
R  
S  
T  
U  
V  
W  
X  
Y  
Z

**2**

	24		20	10	7	22	7	9	26		23	
22	4	25	7			4			5	10	7	13
	16		13			21			5		10	
6	17	18	25	11	4	16	24	9			22	
24		26				19		16	9	6	16	25
26	7	10		3				23		11		14
20		25	2	16	23	17	24	7	15	16		17
16		16		20				13		15	16	7
25	26	24	7	10		26				15		10
	5			7	10	15	4	23	11	26	1	16
	5		11			15			17		19	
12	7	2	16			16			5	24	16	21
	24		8	11	16	10	16	26	5		8	

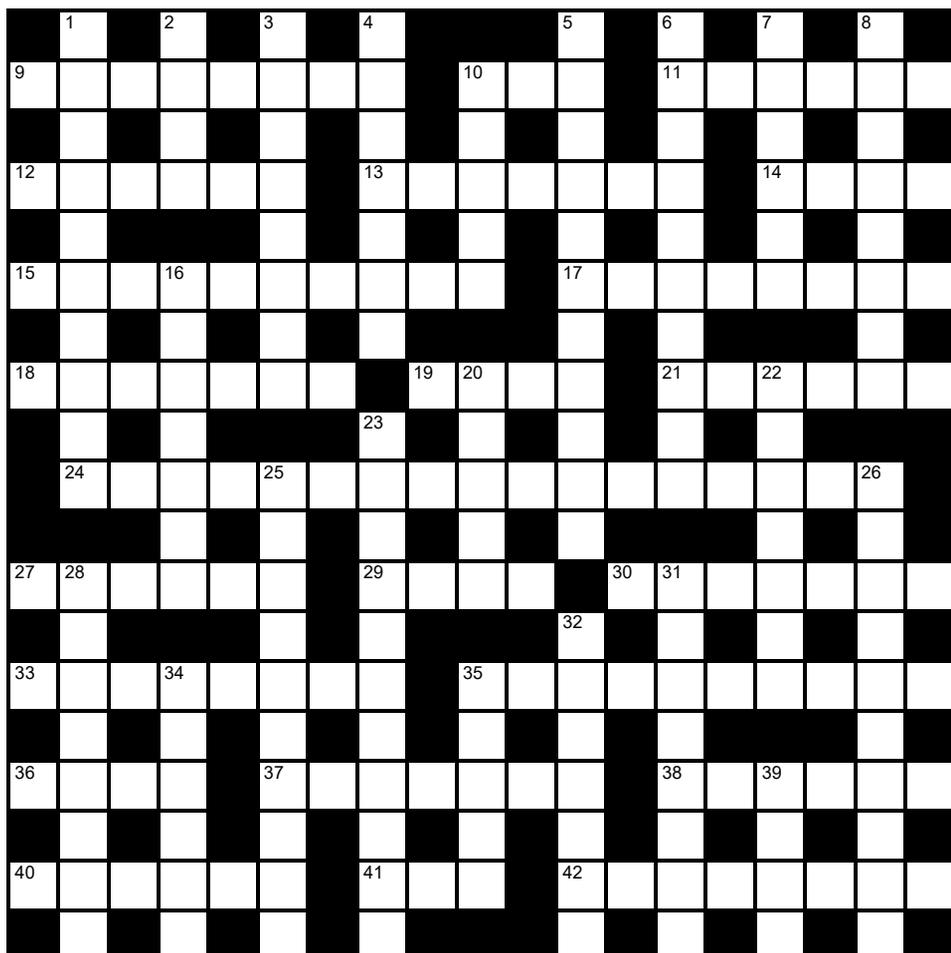
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20					L		O

A  
B  
C  
D  
E  
F  
G  
H  
I  
J  
K  
L  
M  
N  
O  
P  
Q  
R  
S  
T  
U  
V  
W  
X  
Y  
Z





# BIG CROSSWORD 1



**ACROSS**

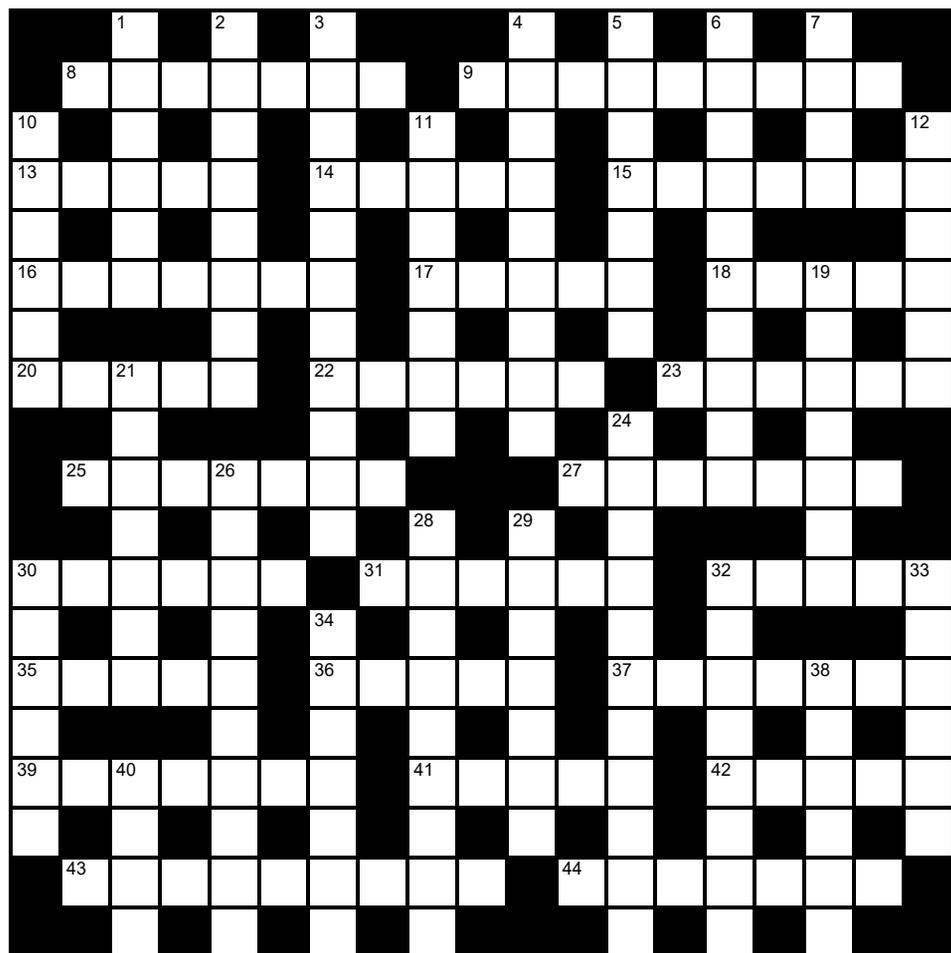
- 9 Tinder (8)
- 10 Dog (3)
- 11 Complained (6)
- 12 Royal son (6)
- 13 Supervise (7)
- 14 Religious image (4)
- 15 Expert (10)
- 17 Squirmed (8)
- 18 Spins (7)
- 19 Den (4)
- 21 Landed property (6)
- 24 Arrive at the facts (9,3,5)
- 27 Rabbit colony (6)
- 29 Insincere talk (4)
- 30 Stimulants (7)
- 33 Brought to fruition (8)
- 35 Distinct (10)
- 36 Certain (4)

**DOWN**

- 1 Percussion instrument (10)
- 2 College head (4)
- 3 Put up with (8)
- 4 Foolish (7)
- 5 Reliable (11)
- 6 Obstacle (10)
- 7 Assessing (6)
- 8 Fragrant (8)
- 10 Crate (5)
- 16 Speak rapidly (7)
- 20 Pale (5)
- 22 Dishevelled (7)

- 23 Medicine man (5,6)
- 25 Exile (10)
- 26 Seven-sided (10)
- 28 Sufficient (8)
- 31 Raiders (8)
- 32 Hostile (7)
- 34 Room for manoeuvre (6)
- 35 Awkward (5)
- 39 Among (4)

# BIG CROSSWORD 2



**ACROSS**

- 8 Structure used for hangings (7)
- 9 Political agitator (9)
- 13 Unit of heat (5)
- 14 Cricket fielders (5)
- 15 With doubt (7)
- 16 Flap (7)
- 17 Firearm (5)
- 18 Range of influence (5)
- 20 Large cloth bags (5)
- 22 Provides food (6)
- 23 Less fresh (6)
- 25 Liquorice-flavoured substance (7)
- 27 Unrest (7)
- 30 Vicious (6)
- 31 Small celestial body (6)
- 32 Greek letter (5)

**DOWN**

- 1 Elaborate cake (6)
- 2 Climbing plant (8)
- 3 Filled with wonder (3-8)
- 4 Period of truce (5-4)
- 5 Floor show (7)
- 6 Lowest possible level (4,6)
- 7 Decayed building (4)
- 10 Walking sticks (6)

- 11 Journey to different habitat (7)
- 12 Torment (6)
- 19 Weighing device (7)
- 21 Disapproval (7)
- 24 Solid figure (11)
- 26 Mediterranean plant (10)
- 28 Thick crude oil (9)
- 29 Beg (7)
- 30 Bend out of shape (6)
- 32 Actress (8)
- 33 Irritates (6)
- 34 Springy (7)
- 38 Excursion (6)
- 40 Large black bird (4)

# TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD

This two-speed crossword has two sets of clues, but just one grid

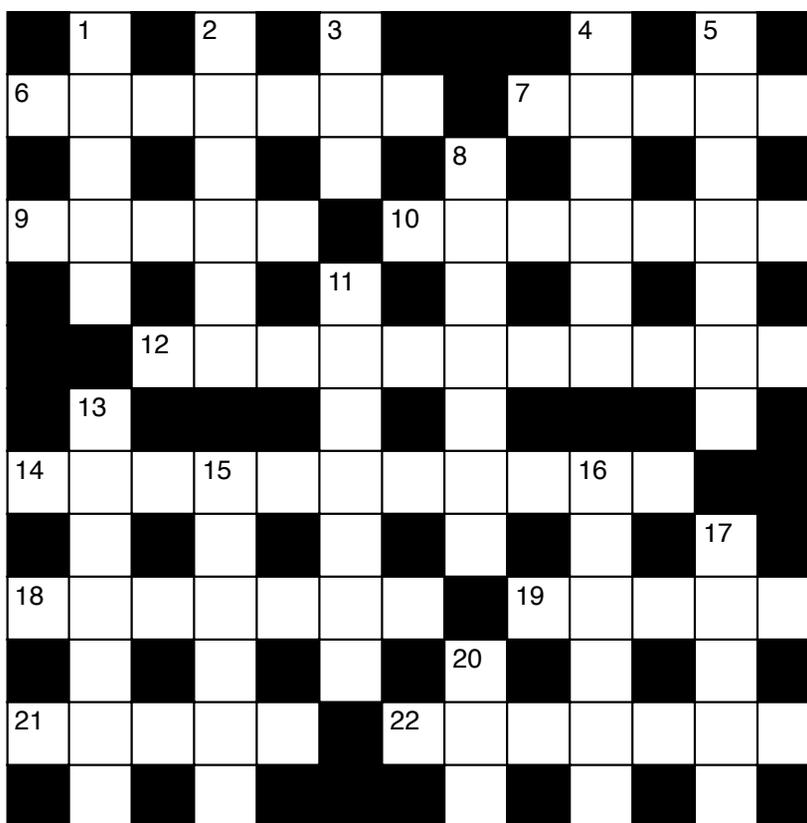
## CRYPTIC CLUES

**ACROSS**

- 6. Fine offer possibly gets it (7)
- 7. Stewed pears left over (5)
- 9. Telltale sort of snake (5)
- 10. Doesn't approve of material things? (7)
- 12. She seeks excitement, coming with devious ruses (11)
- 14. Continues to reform, though still argumentative (11)
- 18. He's about to irritate with temporary stoppages (7)
- 19. Enter the office uninvited? (5)
- 21. Wrinkles for a bad scholar? (5)
- 22. He has his deserts (7)

**DOWN**

- 1. Strike for money (5)
- 2. Fearfully impressed (6)
- 3. Tailless river duck (3)
- 4. Seem to come into view (6)
- 5. Outcry in favour of a trial? (7)
- 8. Avoid making the mark of a sailor (7)
- 11. Strange men dare wander at random (7)
- 13. If a man is willing, this may be added (7)
- 15. Bill of fare? (6)
- 16. Possibly push to its conclusion (6)
- 17. A way to carry a rifle, perhaps (5)
- 20. From which one drives, we hear, for a drink (3)



## QUICK CLUES

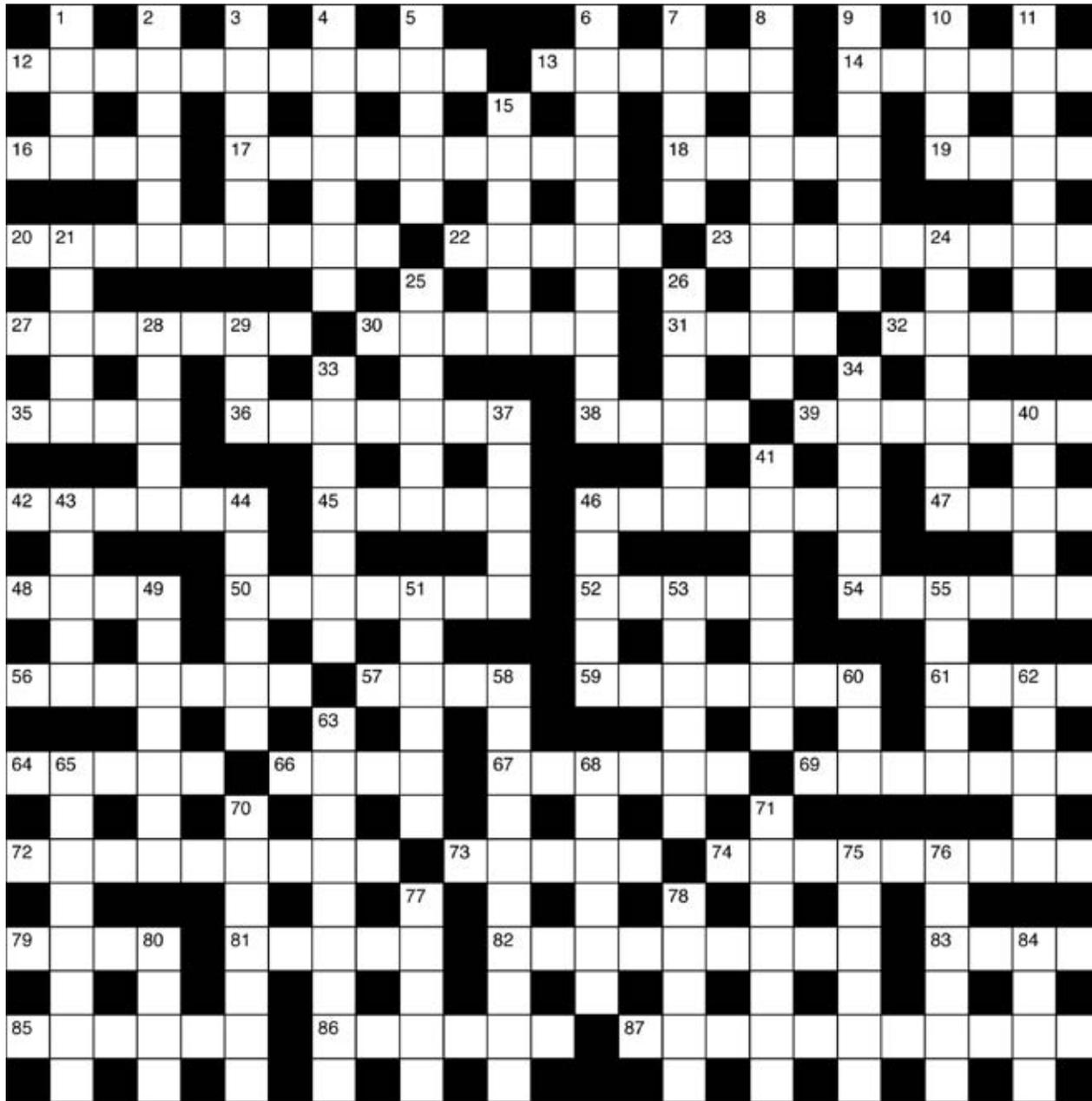
**ACROSS**

- 6. Penalty (7)
- 7. Additional (5)
- 9. Move furtively (5)
- 10. Items (7)
- 12. Risk taker (11)
- 14. Controversial (11)
- 18. Obstacles (7)
- 19. Seize illegally (5)
- 21. Rows (5)
- 22. Nomad (7)

**DOWN**

- 1. Weight unit (5)
- 2. Scared (6)
- 3. Zero (3)
- 4. Seem (6)
- 5. Dissent (7)
- 8. Refrain (7)
- 11. Wander (7)
- 13. Will supplement (7)
- 15. Travel pass (6)
- 16. Outcome (6)
- 17. Track (5)
- 20. Beverage (3)

# JUMBO CROSSWORD



## DOWN

- 1. Work (4)
- 2. Materialise (6)
- 3. Follows (6)
- 4. Resolved (7)
- 5. Fight (5)
- 6. Estrangement (10)
- 7. Tweak (5)
- 8. Famous (4-5)
- 9. Attired (7)
- 10. Hoot (4)
- 11. No (8)
- 15. Gateway (6)
- 21. Soil (5)
- 24. Excess (3,4)
- 25. Films (6)
- 26. Furrow (6)
- 28. Prance (5)
- 29. Cut (3)
- 33. Grille (7)
- 34. Fatal (6)
- 37. Step (5)
- 40. Only (5)
- 41. Substitute (5-2)
- 43. Outside (5)
- 44. Rider's seat (6)
- 46. Snag (5)
- 49. Mention (3,4)
- 51. Journey (6)
- 53. Intimidation (6)
- 55. Vision (5)
- 58. Be dismissed (3,3,4)
- 60. Pitch (3)
- 62. Back (5)
- 63. About (9)
- 65. Gracious! (4,4)
- 68. Plaid (6)
- 70. Boss (7)
- 71. Plant (7)
- 75. Witness (6)
- 76. Article (6)
- 77. Attracted (5)
- 78. Retains (5)
- 80. Snatch (4)
- 84. Transmit (4)

## ACROSS

- 12. Tree (6,5)
- 13. Fish (6)
- 14. Searched (6)
- 16. Shade (4)
- 17. Flower (5,4)
- 18. Prison rooms (5)
- 19. Amphibian (4)
- 20. Corrected (9)
- 22. Creep (5)
- 23. Wavering (9)
- 27. Exact (7)
- 30. Pepper (6)
- 31. Ranks (4)
- 32. Ladies (5)
- 35. Fellow (4)
- 36. Exercise session (4-3)
- 38. Approach (4)
- 39. Reading (7)
- 42. Scratches (6)
- 45. Sample (5)
- 46. Swift cat (7)
- 47. Band (4)
- 48. Bad (4)
- 50. Gave (7)
- 52. Giant (5)
- 54. Whipped (6)
- 56. Chatter (7)
- 57. Report (4)
- 59. Musician (7)
- 61. Pant (4)
- 64. Vowed (5)
- 66. Attending (4)
- 67. Artist (6)
- 69. Composed (7)
- 72. Leaves unnoticed (5,4)
- 73. Brusque (5)
- 74. Circumvent (3,6)
- 79. Understand (4)
- 81. Tree (5)
- 82. Exhausted (6,3)
- 83. Fair (4)
- 85. Gratify (6)
- 86. Quite modern (6)
- 87. Instant (5,6)

# NUMBERCRUNCH

Follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row

BEGINNER	<b>64</b>	-51	x4	+32	÷6	-7	Squared	+26	7/15 of this	-21	ANSWER
INTERMEDIATE	<b>51</b>	2/3 of this	+78	5/7 of this	-51	x5	-37	÷4	+133	63/80 of this	ANSWER
ADVANCED	<b>84</b>	x3	-238	Squared	+56	÷7	-25	Squared	+215	÷8	ANSWER

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the six differences between these two pictures?



# GIANT SUDOKU

Every row, every column and every 5 x 5 box must contain every digit from 1 to 9 and every letter from K to Z.

6	9	X	W	Y		L	1		T		M	4		R				N		
L		P			5	T	2	6			V		Z					M		
		Z	N		O	3	V			2		M	Q	S	Y			U		
		1	S	X	U		Z		Q	7	W					8	3			
					9		4			N		U	L		W	6	2	Z		
	O	R	9			W		T	U			7	1					3		
1				8	V			4	P		Y	O	Q		U	R	5	X		
	L	K	6	X		S	Y	V	Z		2	4								
V	7	P				5	N	9			T	S			K	Y				
			Q	R	Z				1	K		5	W	U	2	7		S		
		5			3		O					9	Z	S		P	4			
	7		3	O		1		U		M				5	R			S		
Z	U	2						7	Y	Q	3	T	6	W	X	1		9		
	S		8	U		6		2	X			P	R			7		O		
4	6	V			R	N	T		1			M	U		Q	Z		K		
O	X	T	1		L	5	R		M	Z	6				K			8		
Y			Z		K			2		5	O	8	N			P	Q	W		
Q	N			W	2		Z	S		P		1		5	7	9	O	T	M	
	3		U				X			R			P	V		6	N			
7	W			M	N	9			T	4	2				X			R		
9	1		P				X				Z			T	L		2	3		
	M	V		2	Y	Q		N	L				W	8	7	5		O	1	
K				L	U		5			S		2	3				7	N		
3				O		K	8	P		7		V	X	9	6			R		
	Q	S		5	1	V	4	T	8	2			R	N	O			X		P

# MEDIUM SUDOKU 1

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

# VERY HARD SUDOKU 1

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

# CROSS OUT 1

Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.

<del>S</del>	<del>R</del>	<del>S</del>	<del>S</del>	<del>K</del>	<del>H</del>	<del>K</del>	<del>A</del>	<del>O</del>	<del>W</del>
	F		H		N		A		
T				Y				B	
	N				R				H
I		S		K					
	N		C						

# CROSS OUT 2

<del>W</del>	<del>A</del>	<del>B</del>	<del>S</del>	<del>A</del>	<del>T</del>	<del>S</del>	<del>P</del>
		R		O		F	
R				D			N
	O			D			F
S		N		S			
	A						

# IMPOSSUDOKU 1

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

## MEDIUM SUDOKU 2

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

## PATHFINDER 1

From the top corner, make a path of words linked to the theme. The trail goes through each letter once but never diagonally.

Fictional schools

G	R	I	O	R	Y	W	E	R	I	E	G	R	A	N
R	F	A	L	A	T	O	R	B	D	G	U	R	L	G
E	Y	R	S	M	N	I	S	Y	K	C	D	G	L	E
E	D	A	N	A	I	R	S	E	L	A	P	E	I	H
M	Y	C	S	C	A	T	T	A	N	G	A	T	H	E
O	H	A	S	E	C	S	T	R	S	K	R	O	O	B
G	R	T	S	L	K	M	R	U	U	M	N	D	Y	S
W	A	E	B	B	A	N	S	D	E	M	W	L	A	H
I	R	A	U	X	T	O	I	R	R	D	O	L	C	H
N	P	S	I	H	H	G	N	E	D	O	L	C	N	E
G	F	H	G	T	A	U	S	B	A	O	R	R	U	M
E	I	L	E	N	R	O	R	O	O	R	E	T	A	H
L	D	E	M	E	Y	S	N	S	L	A	W	A	L	L
G	I	E	L	V	T	W	E	G	D	D	E	K	O	B
H	H	Y	L	A	E	E	R	L	E	I	F	O	R	

Will Smith films

I	E	P	E	W	R	E	H	E	P	S	U	E	S	S
N	D	E	L	H	E	T	T	E	U	R	I	N	Y	P
E	D	N	A	T	E	H	N	C	O	D	T	H	A	P
N	C	A	R	K	D	A	A	B	F	N	O	F	T	K
D	E	H	O	Y	S	Y	V	A	G	E	L	E	H	C
A	Y	S	U	I	E	T	R	E	G	G	E	B	L	A
G	E	L	M	A	K	A	U	S	S	M	E	N	I	N
E	N	S	U	S	I	X	C	N	I	A	R	I	C	E
I	D	S	I	D	A	D	E	O	O	N	I	E	A	M
R	O	Y	C	I	U	Q	G	C	N	M	A	D	H	T
O	B	D	A	D	E	S	R	S	U	C	H	C	H	R
B	O	S	B	V	E	S	E	S	O	F	T	I	A	
A	T	D	N	E	N	E	L	A	O	F	T	I	R	E
N	Y	O	U	O	P	T	E	T	E	S	A	O	E	T
E	W	R	K	W	I	N	R	S	P	A	R	N	A	F

## VERY HARD SUDOKU 2

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

## WORDSEARCH 1

Find 12 words in the left and 13 words in the right grid.

Victorian painters

S	I	R	R	O	M	D	N	O	E
Z	B	E	Y	T	X	O	P	T	S
A	D	L	W	S	T	T	A	W	U
S	R	T	B	H	R	O	T	B	O
I	A	S	G	U	Y	N	W	N	H
A	P	I	P	A	E	D	Q	D	R
L	E	H	D	G	M	O	O	R	E
L	R	W	R	T	O	S	S	I	T
I	L	A	N	D	S	E	E	R	A
M	S	G	O	D	W	A	R	D	W

English counties

Y	O	R	K	S	H	I	R	E	L
X	E	S	S	U	S	K	S	S	L
B	T	N	E	K	L	O	A	U	A
R	F	H	M	O	M	D	N	F	W
R	A	A	F	E	Z	O	O	F	N
S	U	R	R	E	Y	R	V	O	R
G	O	S	X	E	S	S	E	L	O
N	E	I	D	B	B	E	D	K	C
T	E	R	I	H	S	T	L	I	W
M	E	J	B	D	U	R	H	A	M

## IMPOSSUDOKU 2

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

## ARROWWORD 1

Evergreen tree		Feline mammal		Large black bird		Go against orders	
Oppose		Discharge		Snatch			
↳		↓		↓			
Vintage	↳					More mature	
Scour clean		Marine mollusc		Lopsided	↳		
↳		↓		Item	↓		
Nickname for Leonard	↳			Health resort	↳		
Tired	↳						
↳							
Greeted	↳			Expert (abbr.)	↳		

## ARROWWORD 2

Flowering plant		Poisonous snake		Sharpen		Crucial point	
Italian greeting							
↳				That girl	↳		
Celebrity		Farewell	↳			In front of	
↳		Everything	↓				
Dash	↳			Levy	↳		
Website address (abbr.)				Short message	↓		
↳				Married	↳		
Nocturnal flying mammal		Piifer	↳				
↳				Whirlpool	↳		

