

SUNDAY PEOPLE

E-EDITION

JUNE 9, 2024



EXCLUSIVE See page 9



FREE inside

A2 GLOSSY EURO WALLCHART



TV DOC WIFE: WE WILL NOT LOSE HOPE

BY **PATRICK HILL** in Symi, Greece

THE wife of missing Michael Mosley has spoken out about his disappearance, saying: "We will not lose hope."

Dr Clare Bailey told of the family's "unbearable" ordeal as the search continues for the 67-year-old TV medic on the Greek island of Symi.

It comes as the local mayor said the mysterious case raised "many troubling questions".



HOLIDAY
Michael and wife Clare

Family's pain as hunt for missing Michael Mosley continues

See pages 4 & 5

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FLYING FLAG
Fan's tribute



JOURNEY'S END Si
with Liliana in Barrow

BY **JANINE YAQOUB** TV and Showbiz Editor

THOUSANDS of Hairy Biker fans hit the road yesterday to take part in a 300-mile motorbike ride in memory of Dave Myers.

The much-loved chef's TV partner, Si King, choked back tears as he joined 20,000 well-wishers to honour his best friend, who died of cancer in February at the age of 66.

But there was lots of laughter too as Si, 57, noticed many were wearing

Hawaiian shirts – a staple of Dave's wardrobe – when they turned out to ride from the capital to the late star's home town of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. Before they set off from the Ace Cafe, near Wembley in North West London, Si, said: "Every-

body's got that lovely Dave sartorial elegance about them – i.e. dodgy shirt.

"It's very emotional. You never know how these things are going to impact you, you know.

"It is a celebration of Dave's life – that's why we're here because he was so irritatingly

positive all of the time. And we love him." The crowds also brought comfort to Dave's widow, Liliana Orza, who married the star in 2011.

She said the amazing turnout had helped her cope with her heartache.

Liliana said: "We have people coming from all over the country. We have people coming from Texas, from Malaysia, from all over Europe..."

"It's endearing. It just helps me go through my process of grief because it

COUPLE Liliana with her much-missed Dave

SUNDAY PEOPLE TRAVEL

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SERVING UP A SMILE Si before ride at Ace Cafe



“Everybody’s got that lovely Dave sartorial elegance about them – i.e. dodgy shirt

just makes me feel that I’m not on my own.”

When the bikers arrived at their final destination, they gathered for a service of remembrance and a concert.

The event, which raised funds for cancer research and children’s charity the NSPCC, was branded ‘Dave Day’.

And Si hopes that people will say they are having one of those, instead of a “great day”.

He said: “We’re all like-minded folk, you

know, and it’s diverse and it’s as varied as every motorcycle that you see.

“All the characters and personalities here are just great.

“That’s the whole thing about a journey, because motorcycling isn’t about A to B, it’s about the bit in the middle – and that’s the bit of life that we all celebrate.”

janine.yaqoob@reachplc.com



LEADER OF THE PACK Si King



PROCESSION Bikers on road

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INCIDENT Fair yesterday
4 in hospital
after funfair
'horror show'

BY **SUSIE BEEVER**

FOUR people were taken to hospital last night after a fairground ride accident.

One witness described the scenes as being "like a horror movie" with people crying and screaming.

Another said on social media he was "scarred for life", adding that his wife was "physically sick".

London's air ambulance attended the Lambeth Country Show in Brockwell Park, South London.

The Metropolitan Police said the ride had "failed" but nobody was trapped.

Lambeth Council said: "The incident was reported at around 6.20pm and emergency services were quickly on the scene to treat four people."

An investigation is being carried out to determine the cause of the accident.



QUEUES At Birmingham
Liquids rule
blamed for
airport hell

BY **PHIL CARDY**

TRAVELLERS who don't follow baggage rules are the reason for big queues, an airport has claimed.

Nick Barton, chief of Birmingham Airport, says a rule-breaking bag can add up to 20 minutes to check-in queues.

A new government directive means the UK's airports have temporarily reinstated rules banning liquids over 100ml in hand luggage.

Mr Barton said the airport had been complying with the restriction already due to "outstanding regulatory approval on its new screening machines".

But he claimed people have been ignoring the liquid rules.

He added: "It's imperative all customers comply to ensure a smoother transition through the airport."

FAMILY'S PAIN AS HUNT FOR

LONGEST DAYS FOR MYSELF & CHILDREN

BY **PATRICK HILL** in Symi, Greece

MISSING Michael Mosley's wife last night vowed to carry on searching for the 67-year-old, declaring: "We will not lose hope."

Dr Clare Bailey, 62, spoke for the first time about her TV doctor husband's disappearance on Greek island Symi.

She said: "It has been three days since Michael left the beach to go for a walk. "The longest and most unbearable days for myself and my children.

"The search is ongoing and our family are so incredibly grateful to the people of Symi, the Greek authorities and the British Consulate who are working tirelessly to help find Michael."

Yesterday, the couple's four adult children – Alexander, Jack, Daniel and Katherine – retraced their father's last-known steps.

They were thought to be among a small group, including some of their friends, searching a two-mile trail between Pedi and Agia Marina.

Manolis Tsiboukas, coordinator of civil alert in Greece, said: "They are stressing so much for their father. They want to find him as soon as possible."

Wife of Dr Michael Mosley 'refuses to lose hope'

The search is focused on a mountainous area baked by 40C temperatures. Fire-fighters are also combing a tunnel system known as 'the abyss'.

The island's mayor, Eleftherios Papa-kaloudoukas, said: "We know he came through Pedi and then walked towards Agia Marina. It is about two miles and a harder walk than from St Nikolas.

"If he did try and walk that way to Symi, then that is a big mistake.

"There are also many troubling questions here. Why did he leave the beach

and his wife and friends? Why did he not take his telephone? From the CCTV footage, it's also clear he didn't stop for a drink in Pedi or take a rest.

"He seemed to be walking very determinedly. Surely it would have been better to stop and have a coffee or some water but, no, he decided to carry on."

A helicopter, police officers and other rescuers, including Red Cross volunteers who had travelled from the neighbouring island of Kos, yesterday joined in the hunt. One group just finishing a

three-hour shift described the heat as almost unbearable. The mayor said sniffer dogs brought in from Athens were also struggling in the extreme temperatures – with one exhausted after just an hour.

But he vowed the search would go on and said a thermal-imaging helicopter would arrive soon.

He added: "We are searching an area of around 6.5km in the mountains. There are only rocks, no shade, no trees. With 47C heat,

EYE IN SKY Chopper joins search for doc



Timeline of mystery

TUES: Dr Mosley and wife Clare arrive in Symi.

WEDS 1.30pm: Dr Mosley heads off for a walk after a swim with Clare at St Nikolas Beach. He ascends steep stone steps, climbing up from the beach, before

taking the coastal path towards Pedi Marina.

1.52pm: Dr Mosley is spotted walking through the marina on a cafe's CCTV.

2pm: A house camera films him on a "treacherous" mountain path.

SAT 8pm: Rescuers end day four of a search of the mountain footpath leading from Pedi village to the beaches and rocky outcrop of Agia Marina, as well as Symi port.

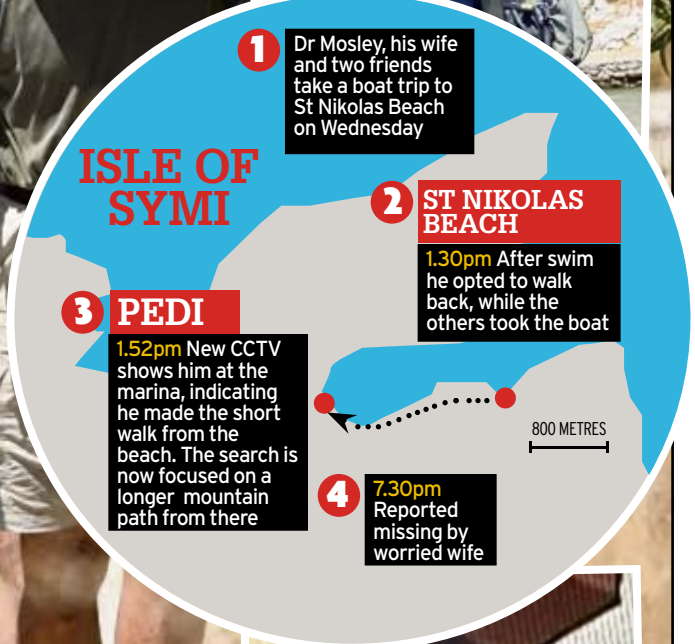
MISSING TV DOCTOR CONTINUES



ON THE TRAIL
Volunteers from the UK join search



HEAT Michael Mosley on isle



SPOTTED TV
doc with brolly



HOLIDAY
Michael Mosley & wife Clare

Local mayor says case raises 'troubling questions'

you can't survive." British tourists have also joined the operation. Two of them, Jan Brownsort, 68, and friend pal Sue, 70, said: "We did the walk from Symi town. We knew the area because we had just walked it so when we heard, we thought, 'Let's go and do the walk again and look'.

"We could see the area they were searching from where we're staying."

Officials have considered a number of theories, including that Dr Mosley may have fallen off a cliff or been bitten by a snake.

CCTV footage shows a man said to be him walking with a purple umbrella, just over a mile from the beach he set off from.

He and his wife were staying at a holiday home near Symi, the main port on the island, which is just 25 miles square and has a population of just 2,500.

She raised the alarm

after he failed to return at 7.30pm on Wednesday. In the wake of his disappearance, the son of a Welshman who vanished without trace while walking on a Greek island five years ago urged the Mosleys to keep searching.

John Tossell, 78, from Bridgend, went missing after going to visit a monastery on Mount Skopos, Zakynthos.

Son Gary told Sky News: "When I read the story it's like a cut and paste of my father. I wish nothing but love to the

Mosley family as I know exactly what they're going through. I want to tell them not to give up." Dr Mosley, who was born in Kolkata, India, used to be an investment banker before studying medicine.

He then joined the BBC as a trainee assistant producer and appeared on The One Show as well as ITV's This Morning and had just completed a nationwide tour called Eat Well, Sleep Better, Live Longer with his wife.

Dr Mosley, who was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes before managing to reverse it, has been an advocate for intermittent fasting diets, including the 5:2 diet and The Fast 800 diet.

He has sold more than two million books and was also given an Emmy nod for BBC science documentary The Human Face.

He also presented Channel 4 show, Michael Mosley: Who Made Britain Fat?

patrick.hill@reachplc.com



SWELTERING Rescuers comb rocks in 40C heat yesterday

TODAY'S WEATHER

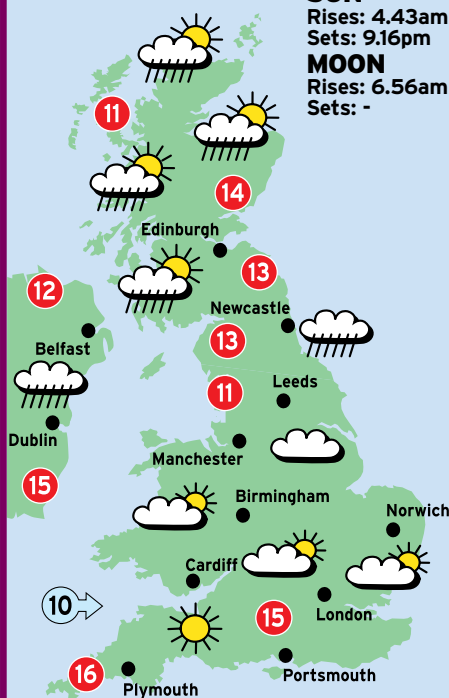
A bright start to the day in the south, with cloud and rain across northern England and Northern Ireland. Cloud will spread southwards through the afternoon, with rain pushing into northern Wales, heavy in the evening. A day of scattered showers with a few bright spells in Scotland. Moderate westerly winds.

SUN

Rises: 4.43am
Sets: 9.16pm

MOON

Rises: 6.56am
Sets: -



4 DAY OUTLOOK

	MON	TUES	WED	THUR
Birmingham	15c	15c	15c	15c
Cardiff	17c	16c	16c	16c
Edinburgh	14c	14c	13c	14c
Liverpool	15c	15c	14c	15c
London	15c	16c	16c	16c
Manchester	14c	15c	14c	15c
Newcastle	14c	13c	12c	14c
Norwich	13c	14c	14c	16c
Plymouth	16c	16c	17c	15c

ABROAD YESTERDAY

	C	F		C	F
Amsterdam	f	17 63	Madrid	th	25 77
Athens	s	33 91	Majorca	s	27 81
Barcelona	s	25 77	Malaga	s	27 81
Benidorm	s	27 81	Malta	s	28 82
Corfu	s	31 88	Marmaris	s	35 95
Crete	s	28 82	Miami	s	34 93
Ibiza	s	26 79	Paris	s	21 70
Larnaca	s	37 99	Sydney	f	17 63
Las Palmas	s	23 73	Tenerife	s	25 77

- : not available, m: misty, c: cloudy, s: sunny, r: rain, dr: drizzle, sn: snow, f: fair, fg: fog, sh: showers, th: thunder, hl: hail, sl: sleet

FREE
MAG
INSIDE



THE LOTTERY

Last night's numbers:

LOTTO: 3, 7, 10, 23, 24, 41 **Bonus:** 59
THUNDERBALL: 8, 15, 17, 25, 27
Thunderball: 6. £500k is the top prize.
HEALTH LOTTERY: 3, 20, 31, 33, 45
Bonus: 10. £100k is top prize.
FRIDAY'S EUROMILLIONS: 15, 16, 26, 30, 37 **Lucky Stars:** 5 & 8

KATE'S HEARTFELT LETTER



POMP Soldiers at yesterday's Trooping the Colour rehearsal

I do hope to represent you all very soon

BY SASKIA ROWLANDS

ROYAL fans will be delighted to hear the Princess of Wales is aiming to get back to public life soon.

The future queen, 42, appealed for time, space and privacy for her family in March when she announced on TV she was having cancer treatment.

Last month, Prince William told a well-wisher: "She's doing well."

And yesterday, Kate revealed her hopes for a public return "very soon".

And in a second boost, Queen Camilla, 76, said King Charles, 75, who is being treated for cancer, is "doing fine except he won't slow down and won't do what he's told".

Kate wrote a touching message to the Irish Guards Regiment apologising for missing a final rehearsal ahead of Saturday's Trooping the Colour parade.

The Princess, who is the Guards' Lieutenant Colonel, wrote: "I do hope that I am able to represent you all once again very soon. Please send my very best wishes and good luck to all involved." The note, read to troops

in a video posted by the regiment on social media, said: "I wanted to write to you to let you know how proud I am of the entire regiment ahead of the Colonel's Review and Trooping the Colour."

"I appreciate everyone trooping this year has been practising for months, and dedicating many hours to ensuring their uniforms and drill are immaculate. I'm very sorry I'm unable to make the salute at this year's colonel review."

Her message signed off with "quis separabit" – a Latin motto derived from the Bible and associated with the British Army in Ireland, meaning: "Who will separate us?"

The Regiment responded: "The Irish Guards were deeply touched to receive a letter from our Colonel, Her Royal Highness, The

Princess of Wales this morning. We continue to wish Her Royal Highness well in her recovery and send Her our very best wishes. Quis Separabit"

It is unclear if Kate will attend Trooping the Colour, held every year to mark the monarch's birthday. Charles is expected to travel by carriage with the Queen during the traditional birthday procession to and from London's Horse Guards Parade on Saturday.

He will likely watch the ceremony seated rather than on horseback.

Yesterday, Camilla was at the annual Queen's Reading Room Literary Festival at Hampton Court Palace in London when she told author Lee Child that Charles was doing fine but was not as he was told. Child joked: "Sounds to me like a typical husband".

Kate was admitted to hospital on January 16 for major abdominal surgery. Post-operative tests confirmed the presence of cancer and she started chemotherapy in February.

In March, the mum-of-three made an emotional televised statement confirming her diagnosis, saying it had been "an incredibly tough couple of months for our family". And to others facing battles, she said: "Please do not lose faith or hope. You are not alone."

Kate praised her husband Prince William, 41, for his love and support. And she said they had both told their children Prince George, 10, Princess Charlotte, nine and Prince Louis, six, of her illness and she had assured them: "I am going to be OK."

saskia.rowlands@reachplc.com

COMMENT: PAGE 14

HOPE Princess and her letter



TO TROOPING THE COLOUR SOLDIERS

HAPPY COUPLE
Guests throw
confetti as Olivia
and Hugh walk
hand in hand



VINTAGE Olivia arrives for the service in a Bentley

Picture perfect for the new Duke & Duchess

HUGH Grosvenor, the Duke of Westminster, and his bride Olivia beam with happiness in the first official photos from their elaborate wedding in Chester.

Prince William and Kate are pals with the Duke, 33, who inherited the £9billion Grosvenor Estate from his dad in 2016.

Billed as the society wedding of the year, Wills was on hand as an usher and

the new Duchess, 31, wore the Faberge Myrtle Leaf tiara, which has been worn by Grosvenor brides on their wedding day since 1906.

Other shots showed Olivia, from an aristocratic banking family herself, in her veil and arriving at Chester cathedral.

Princess Eugenie and TV producer Phil Redmond were also at the service.



INTRICATE Designed by Emma Victoria Payne, Olivia's veil incorporated floral motifs from her great-great-grandmother's veil in around 1880

Reveals not to dye for...

AN animal sanctuary is asking people not to dye birds for use in baby gender reveals after taking in a bright pink pigeon.

Polly is being cared for at Pudz in South Killingholme, North Lincs.

Founder Shena Fairless said dyed birds are at risk from harmful chemicals and more vulnerable to predators.

She said: "It's just for a few minutes of entertainment, then the bird has to live with that."

FREEDOM



SAVED From left: Almog Meir Jan, Shlomi Ziv, Andrey Kozlov, and Noa Argamani

TEARS OF RELIEF
Hostage Noa hugged by her dad



Four hostages are rescued in bloody Israeli Gaza mission

BY SIMON MURPHY

IT is a moment of joy they will never forget - and one they feared might never come.

Israeli hostage Noa Argamani is embraced by her weeping father, Yakob, as the pair are reunited after months of hell.

Noa, 26, is one of four hostages Israeli forces yesterday claimed to have rescued "under fire" on a mission in central Gaza. A video of her capture by Hamas in the October 7 massacre was seen worldwide as she screamed "don't kill me" while being carried off on a motorbike in the attack on a music festival in Israel.

Noa was seized with boyfriend Avinatan Or, whose whereabouts is still unknown.

Now, she will be reunited with her mother Liora, who has stage 4 brain cancer and released a video in April pleading to see her daughter before she dies.

Israel said Noa and three other hostages - Almog Meir Jan, 22, Andrey Kozlov, 27, and Shlomi Ziv, 41 - were rescued in two locations in daytime raids in the heart of Nuseirat refugee camp yesterday morning.

It came as at least 94 dead Palestinians, including kids, were brought to local hospitals, a health official said. Israeli aircraft reportedly hummed

overhead as the bodies were taken to Al-Aqsa Hospital, where spokesperson said over 100 wounded also arrived. Reporters saw dozens of bodies from the Nuseirat and Deir al-Balah areas.

Israel's military said it had attacked "threats to our forces".

A total of 250 hostages were taken by Hamas in the October attack that killed 1,200. In a November ceasefire, about half were released. Some 120 hostages remain, with 43 declared dead.

Released Chinese-born Israeli Noa spoke to PM Benjamin Netanyahu by phone. He asked how she was feeling and she said she was "very excited".

Pressure is mounting on Israel to limit civilian bloodshed. The war reached its eighth month on Friday, with more than 36,700 Palestinians killed, says Gaza's Health Ministry.

Shadow Foreign Secretary David Lammy tweeted the rescue was "a

glimmer of hope in the darkness", adding: "We need an immediate ceasefire now, to get all the hostages released and a surge of aid into Gaza."

Foreign Secretary David Cameron said: "The rescue of four hostages will be a huge relief to their families. My thoughts are also with families of those still captive."

simon.murphy@reachplc.com



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Superstar Taylor brings Swift changes to UK

TAYLOR Swift gears up for another big number, thrilling thousands of UK fans with a dazzling array of styles.

The superstar singer, 34, changes her stage outfit a whopping 12 times during her sell-out 3hr 15 min set.

Her glittery pink mini and yellow crop top, shiny sequinned leotard and flowing green gown have all gone down a storm with the Swifties.

And Taylor's fans have proved to be a big hit with the star herself, as she gave one girl a hug while wearing yet another costume topped off with a black hat.

So far, almost 150,000 people have seen the Shake It Off star perform in Edinburgh.

Tonight, she'll be dressing up again for the last of her three Eras tour concerts at the Murrayfield Stadium before cutting a dash to Liverpool for three gigs from Thursday.



SHINY STAR
In sequins



POP GODDESS
In green gown

Kylie in vogue

Netflix wins battle for star's story

EXCLUSIVE

BY LAURA ARMSTRONG
Assistant Editor, Showbiz

KYLIE Minoque has signed a seven-figure deal to film a fly-on-the-wall Netflix documentary.

The Aussie pop star has been locked in a bidding war with streaming giants for months.

But Netflix bosses beat rivals Apple+ and Disney to the rights to Kylie's story, with filming expected to start later this year.

A source said: "There was a serious bidding war over this."

"Kylie's had an incredible life, from starring in Neighbours to becoming a pop icon and still dominating the charts decades later."

"She has a massive fan-base so there's no question it will attract a huge audience."

That's why the offers went so high – everyone's very excited."

Kylie first found fame in 1986, when she joined the cast of daytime TV soap Neighbours as Charlene Mitchell.

But she went on to become the Princess of Pop, with record sales of more than 80 million. Seven of

her 16 albums have been No.1s, including last year's Tension, with racy hit single Padam Padam.

Kylie followed that up with her first concert residency at The Venetian hotel's Voltaire in Las Vegas.

And in December, she filmed ITV's An Audience with Kylie at London's Royal Albert Hall.

Both Kylie and Netflix declined to comment.

laura.armstrong@reachplc.com



CONFIDE IN ME
Kylie set to tell all



HAT AND HUG
Embracing fan

ELECTION 2024

£130k furlough for Farage party

EXCLUSIVE BY MIKEY SMITH

NIGEL Farage's Reform UK got more than £130,000 of furlough cash in the pandemic – despite arguing for the scheme to be shut down.

By the time the former Brexit Party relaunched as Reform UK in November 2020, it had already claimed £67,372. In June 2021, then leader Richard Tice said: "Open up, stop furlough." Party accounts show it claimed a further £66,536 that year. Reform was not on the Electoral Commission list of parties claiming furlough as it was not yet registered as a party.

The party said: "We said lockdown went on too long – people could not work, so furlough went on too long."

Reform 'to the rescue' of Tory

BY MIKEY SMITH

A REFORM UK candidate may have saved Tory Gavin Williamson's skin by quitting the election race.

Party leader Nigel Farage has pledged not to stand any candidates down to help the Tories. But in messages seen by the Mirror, Reform's candidate Tom Wellings in Stone, Great Wryly and Penkridge, Staffs, told supporters: "After careful consideration I have made the decision to withdraw."

He said he worried about splitting the vote, letting Labour in, adding: "I care deeply about the future of Staffordshire, therefore I have decided to support Conservative candidate Gavin Williamson."

Mercer: Letters don't break rules

EXCLUSIVE BY MIKEY SMITH

VETERANS minister Johnny Mercer has denied breaking Commons rules by writing to constituents of neighbouring MPs.

The Veterans minister, pictured, sent campaign letters, on Commons notepaper, to people in Plymouth who will only be in his seat after boundaries are re-drawn for July's poll – at which time he will be a candidate, not an MP.

His letters take non-constituents to his website, which declares: "VOTE FOR JOHNNY."

Mr Mercer said: "I'm not going spend my campaign responding to smear attacks. I adhere religiously to all the rules, and can prove it."

EXCLUSIVE

BY MIKEY SMITH Deputy Political Editor

LABOUR'S manifesto will pledge laws to crack down on violence against shop staff, says Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper.

Ms Cooper said the party would take action to end the tide of aggression – and vowed to stop police ignoring thefts valued at under £200.

Speaking to staff at a Co-op store, Ms Cooper heard harrowing tales of staff threatened with hammers and knives, and being sprayed with petrol.

She said: "It's a disgrace shop workers have to endure this at work.

"Everybody should be able to feel safe. During Covid these were key workers who kept everything going.

"Labour is determined we will pass a new law to make a specific offence of assaults and abuse against shop workers and to make sure it's taken seriously by the police."

As Ms Cooper laid out Labour's plans at the supermarket in Stapleford, Notts, new analysis showed shoplifting is soaring fastest in Tory areas across England.

Of the 10 areas with the largest rises since 2015, Labour found seven have Tory Police and Crime Commissioners.

The biggest increase was in Sussex, under Conservative crime tsar Katy Bourne – more than doubling since 2015 to over 17,100 offences, or nearly 300 a week.

Other big increases came in Nottinghamshire, up by 92%, and West Mercia – which includes Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire – where shoplifting rose 58%.

Nationally, incidents are up by 37% in just one year – to 49 every hour.

Ms Cooper also promised to end the "shoplifters' charter" under which police won't press charges unless the value of stolen goods is over £200.

It has led to professional shoplifters stealing up to £180 of goods, then moving on to other stores.

The criminals Ms Cooper wants to crack down on are not struggling people stealing out of desperation.

She said: "It's organised gangs that are stealing lots of things to sell on.

"One shop told me they use bike locks to secure fabric conditioner, because groups were clearing whole shelves into a basket. That is people stealing it for sale.

"They might be trying to sell it in pubs, or stealing to order, to sell online. But it's organised crime." Paul

GAME Rishi Sunak at village fete in Great Ayton, North Yorkshire, yesterday



TIME TO ACT
Yvette Cooper
pledges law on
shop assaults



“There’s a real feeling that when a crime is committed, no one comes and nothing’s done. The Tories’ legacy is just terrible

Dennis, Central England Co-op's head of food retail, said the group had spent £50million on safety kit for staff, including body cameras and watches to alert security if workers fear a situation may turn nasty.

But store manager John Hough said he had a stack of 50 CCTV files from across seven months – and only two had led to convictions.

Group president Elaine Dean told of one staff member, a mum of two in Burton-on-Trent, being

sprayed with petrol and told to empty the till as a thief flicked his lighter.

She said: "You can imagine, her whole life flashed before her eyes and she gave him the money. Police came, but nobody's been caught. Mostly, you ring 999 and no one comes."

Ms Cooper told us: "There's a real feeling that when a crime is committed, no one comes and nothing's done. There's two reasons – the first is the police are so overstretched, and second the neighbourhood police

have been lost. The very police who would have been working with local shops, who'd know about a wave of shoplifting or spotting an organised gang, have often disappeared."

She added: "After 14 years of the damage the Conservatives have done to this country, their legacy on law and order is terrible.

"You've got more criminals getting off, more victims being let down, and 10,000 fewer neighbourhood police and PCSOs on our streets. We need

Tories: Rishi's not PM material

EXCLUSIVE BY MIKEY SMITH

RISHI Sunak is "pushy and rude", and "not PM material", say members of his own party.

This newspaper has seen posts and comments by Tories hoping to be MPs after the election which are disparaging about their leader.

It comes after the party faces a

last-minute scramble to select candidates before Friday's deadline.

Somerton and Frome's Lucy Trimnell called Mr Sunak "pushy and rude" in 2022 after seeing one of his leadership debates with Liz Truss.

Mid Leicestershire hopeful Peter Bedford liked a tweet nicknaming Rishi "Mr Flip Flop" and others

describing him as "irritable, bad tempered" and "NOT PM material".

And Sam Holland, who wants to stand in Dagenham and Rainham, liked a tweet about Labour calling for a probe into comments by Mr Sunak about redirecting money from deprived areas to Tory areas. They were approached for comment.

YVETTE COOPER'S PLEDGE



HARROWING Yvette hears of attacks on shop workers



HIGHLY RATED Keir at brewery to vow rethink for small businesses

It's a disgrace that shop workers have to endure violence ... Labour will act

to turn the page on that." Labour has long campaigned alongside union USDAW to make violence against shopworkers a standalone offence.

The Tories finally agreed to include it in the Criminal Justice Bill this year – but the bill was ditched when Rishi Sunak called the election.

Joe Fortune, of the Co-operative Party, said: "Labour and Co-operative MPs have been calling on the government for nearly a decade to act."

"Only Labour has a plan to protect

retail workers, tackle shoplifting and breathe life back into our high streets."

Labour leader Keir Starmer promised another boost for high streets yesterday, overhauling business rates.

Speaking at a brewery in his London constituency of Holborn and St Pancras, he criticised the Conservatives' failure to "fix" a system that has caused problems for firms for a "long time".

The party is also pledging to accelerate the establishment of banking hubs, stamp out late payments of

invoices by forcing large firms to report on their payment practices, and crack down on antisocial behaviour to "revitalise" high streets.

Mr Starmer said: "At the moment there's not a level playing field between businesses that are online and those that are sort of bricks and mortar."

Labour has also pledged to fix Britain's prisons crisis by unblocking the planning process to build more jails.

Shadow Justice Secretary Shabana Mahmood vowed to bring prison

governors and local employers together to create Employment Councils, linking offenders to training and jobs to reduce reoffending.

■ Seven in 10 voters say it is "unacceptable" that Rishi Sunak left D-Day commemorations early. The Savanta snap poll found even 61% of those voting Tory in 2019 felt the same. Savanta's Chris Hopkins said the situation was "unprecedented".

mikey.smith@reachplc.com
COMMENT: PAGE 14

**ELECTION '24
COUNTDOWN**
26 DAYS TO GO

**SUNDAY
PEOPLE**
Campaign diary

MANY viewers of Friday's BBC debate commented on **Penny Mordaunt's** impressive blow dry. Others, however, were distracted by her voice, which appeared to have an Aussie accent creeping into it. The accent is so weird," said one Labour staffer halfway through the event. "Everyone here mentioned it."



WHILE most politicians taking part in the debate sent aides or colleagues to the "spin room" in Broadcasting House to big them up to the press, a couple turned up themselves. Ex-BBC man **Rhun ap Iorwerth**, who leads Plaid Cymru, was in like a shot and the SNP's **Stephen Flynn** turned heads by rolling in with a bottle of Perrier and bag of Nobby's Nuts. When a journo asked how it went, he politely asked them to come back when he'd had his snack.



WHICH senior Labour figure revealed an unusual craving on the campaign trail? After an interview in a hotel, staff presented their team with sarnies. Asked if they wanted anything else, the northern MP asked if there were any more red onions. Staff brought in a bowl of chopped, raw, red onions, which the MP proceeded to chomp through.



RIGHT-wing Tory **Miriam Cates** yesterday declared on Twitter that taxes are so high because of "demographic change" – in other words, we as a nation are getting older. Her solution? "Throw everything we have at increasing the birth rate". Britain! Do your duty – and maybe you can have a tax cut.



REMINDER

Don't forget you need to apply for a postal vote if you have a holiday or engagement which means you can't get to the polls. The deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm on Wednesday, June 19. Go to gov.uk/apply-postal-vote. You must also be registered to vote by 11:59pm on Tuesday, June 18, via gov.uk/register-to-vote

Truss £115k 'must go'

EXCLUSIVE BY MIKEY SMITH

LIZ Truss should be stripped of her £115,000 a year lifelong allowance for being PM, says Lib Dem deputy leader Daisy Cooper.

The party's analysis found the departure of the failed PM, right, from No 10 after 45 days also cost taxpayers £230,000 in



severance payments for her sacked ministers. Ms Cooper said Lib Dem plans to scrap severance for

disgraced ministers would end the culture of "rewards for failure".

She said: "Truss's trousering of a six-figure sum every year is a kick in the teeth to families she left with spiralling mortgages."

Minister away claim

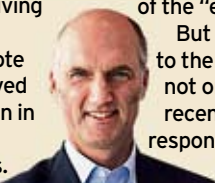
EXCLUSIVE BY MIKEY SMITH

ARMED Forces Minister Leo Docherty is facing claims he has been living out his constituency.

He was not registered to vote in his Aldershot seat and moved his primary address to London in February 2021, according to Parliament watchdog records.

Mr Docherty, below, insisted he was on the full electoral roll but opted out of the "extended" register.

But local sources with access to the full register said he was not on it as of June 1, the most recent update. He did not respond when asked when he registered to vote.



Crime queen Agatha gives Wagatha saga a new twist

BY NORMAN SILVESTER

A WOMAN bidding to trademark her own version of the Wagatha Christie moniker has been threatened with legal action by the late crime author's estate.

The name was coined for Coleen Rooney after she turned sleuth over leaked stories and accused fellow WAG Rebekah Vardy.

Vardy, 42, trademarked it after losing her High Court libel case

LIBEL LOSS Rebekah Vardy



against Coleen. But Edinburgh business-woman Tammie Ford McMillan wants to put the name on personalised T-shirts, written backwards mirror-style.

Vardy has threatened action – and now Agatha Christie Ltd says it owns all rights to her name, signature and trademarks.

Tammie, 47, said: "It's just a bit of fun. I've been penalised for doing the right thing by trying to trademark my design."

City plan too tall an order

PLANS for an extra 13 million sq ft of offices in the City of London by making buildings taller are a threat to St Paul's and the Tower of London, say historians.

Historic England warns that the draft City Plan 2040 is "unsound" due to its wider impact. Consultation on it ends next week.

Shravan Joshi, of the City of London Corporation's planning committee, insisted it would protect heritage "while continuing to support economic growth".

APPRENTICE



LEGALLY WED
Confetti time at the ceremony in Yorkshire on the first day

Pictures:
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ALTAR GAME
Harpreet wins

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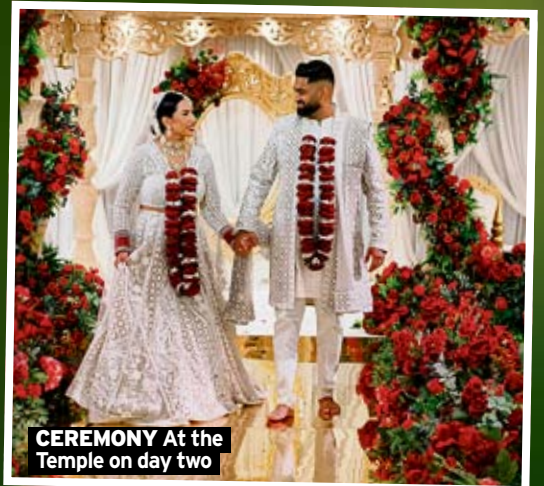


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STARS WED IN 3-DAY CEREMONY



TEAMWORK The Apprentice's Tim Campbell and wife Jasmine



CEREMONY At the Temple on day two



RED LETTER DAY At reception on day three



GOLDEN GIRL Petals shower was part of pre-wedding ritual on day one



See the full interview in this week's OK! magazine, out nationwide on Tuesday



HINDU BRIDE In Temple garden



SIGNED On the dotted line

BY **KENZI DEVINE** and **JANINE YAQOOB**

YOU'RE hitched! Lovebirds Akshay Thakrar and Harpreet Kaur have made TV history as the first Apprentice contestants to get married.

The couple met on the BBC series in 2022 and despite being on rival teams – with Harpreet winning the show – they negotiated a romance after it finished.

The partnership held firm and they got engaged in May last year.

And this month, they sealed the deal in a three-day wedding.

"It's crazy – what a story that we met on the show," says Akshay, 31, in an interview with OK! magazine. "I said in my speech, 'I think I'm the only man who can say I met my wife on The Apprentice'." Harpreet added:

"We would love to start a family, but we're going to wait. I want to appreciate each other and travel first."

Show winner Harpreet, 32, now runs three branches of her dessert parlour business, Oh So Yum, in Yorkshire – with Lord Sugar investing £250,000 in her venture.

She's since bought back the shares from him but although the tycoon declined his wedding invitation, she insists there are no hard feelings.

However, the show's first winner, Tim Campbell, turned up along with 2022 contestants Kathryn Louise Burn, Brittany Carter, Akeem Bundu-Kamara and Nick Showering.

They even played out a mock Apprentice contest during part of their ceremony featuring the show's theme tune. Akshay, 31, founder of

betting business Tips360, said: "The only way I can describe our wedding is that it felt like a movie, it was amazing." It began with a civil ceremony at the Wentbridge House Hotel in West Yorkshire.

Harpreet, who lost her dad last year, wore a stunning gown and veil from dressmakers Enzoani as she was escorted by her mum.

"It was beautiful, I've always dreamt of a white wedding dress as, being Indian, we don't always make a fuss of that day or the legal bit," she said.

After exchanging some "simple but personal" vows, the couple had a

roast dinner with their guests before going their separate ways, as is tradition, ahead of their Indian ceremony at the Hare Krishna Temple in Watford. Akshay

was greeted by Harpreet's family and had an Apprentice-style negotiation before taking his place for the Hindu ceremony.

He said: "The groom cannot marry his wife before cutting a ribbon and offering up some cash to the family."

"I distracted them and got my friend to cut it so I could sneak around without paying."

The BBC show's theme tune was heard as the couple played a tradi-

"The only way I can describe our wedding is that it felt like a movie. It was amazing"

tional game at the altar, where the winner is deemed the "boss" of the relationship... and Harpreet won.

The wedding reception took place the next day, with Akshay in a suit and Harpreet in a red gown.

Harpreet said: "It was the best party ever. The best night of our lives."

They will honeymoon in the Seychelles and Dubai. The couple bought their dream home in Leeds last year after just a year of dating.

"We knew the other was The One straight away, and it's just gone from strength to strength from the beginning," recalls Akshay. "Actually, getting married was more of a formality since we already knew."

kenzi.devine@reachplc.com

VOICE OF THE

SUNDAY
PEOPLE

Labour a safe pair of hands

IT'S not just Britain's streets which are more dangerous under the Tories. So are supermarkets, especially if you work in one.

The Office for National Statistics says muggings and robberies went up 11% last year. But there has also been a staggering 37% rise in shoplifting.

The nature of this crime has changed, too. A shoplifter was once someone who pocketed an extra pack of biscuits. Now, organised crime gangs move in to clear entire shelves of high-value goods. And if shop staff get in their way, they risk more than a push or shove.

Yvette Cooper tells us today how they face being threatened with hammers and knives, or even sprayed with petrol. That's why if she becomes Home Secretary she will introduce a law making assault and abuse of shop workers a specific offence, as unions demanded.

And under a Labour government police will no longer be able to ignore shoplifters who steal products worth less than £200.

Labour will also make good on the 20,000 extra prison places the Tories promised 10 years ago but fell short on creating.

Our streets will be safer with the 13,000 extra neighbourhood police and support officers on them that Ms Cooper has pledged to recruit.

People should be able to walk to and from the shops free of fear and know they will not encounter violence as they step inside.

And it would be a crime if Britain is denied the government which will deliver on that.

Fatcat outrage

FATCAT bosses award themselves sky high salaries simply because they can.

But it's not just huge pay packets that is an outrage – it's the way they keep increasing.

Top bosses got 20 times average worker earnings 40 years ago. Twenty years ago that had risen to 50 times.

Now, some CEOs are pocketing 480 times the average pay. If reward for work was divvied out fairly, the percentage rise in the boardroom would match that of the workforce.

Instead, bosses look for ever more inventive ways to cut costs and shed jobs to boost profits and pay themselves more.

Which is why Labour promises to outlaw pernicious practices such as fire-and-rehire and zero-hours contracts.

That won't stop excessive pay for fatcats.

But it will mean working people get to lap up a little more of the cream.

True trouser

IT CLEARLY pained the Princess of Wales, as ceremonial colonel of the Irish Guards, to miss their Trooping the Colour rehearsal yesterday.

But Kate can be assured everyone wants her to have all the time and space she needs to get fighting fit.

Which will put a spring in the marching step of her Irish Guards when they next salute her.



ANDY BURNHAM

.....
Mayor of Greater Manchester, guest columnist

GRENFELL LAW IS A DUTY

This week, it will be seven years since the Grenfell Tower fire. Seven years without justice for families who lost 72 loved ones.

It is so wrong they are being forced down the same lonely path as the Hillsborough families and those affected by infected

blood. Where is the accountability? The prosecutions? I hope to see a commitment in Labour's manifesto to a Hillsborough Law and a duty on all public servants to tell the truth at the first time of asking.

But more is needed to face the full horror of

Grenfell. Millions of people live in homes which risk their health and safety due to poor construction or landlords refusing to carry out proper maintenance.

We need a Grenfell Law so people have a safe home and can hold landlords and builders to account.



Time for Nigel barrage

Never mind Tories, new Reform leader is ripe for scrutiny

THIS week, something seismic might happen in politics: the Tories could fall to third place in opinion polls.

I can't recall ever seeing this before in a General Election – but then I can't remember a Conservative campaign worse than this one.

We didn't know it at the time but the sight of Rishi Sunak standing in the rain in Downing Street was the high point. It has gone downhill from there and this week fell off the cliffs of northern France.

Hopefully, this turn of events will now prompt something else which doesn't happen anything like enough: some proper media scrutiny of a certain Nigel Paul Farage.

Like his friend Trump, and other right-wing populists globally, former banker Farage is from a privileged background and strikes a carefully cultivated pose as a friend of the working class.

He plays his man-down-the-pub persona quite well, repeating the kind of casual comments you hear at a bar. He is less good at detail, as we saw this week. On Tuesday,

Farage gave his first big interview as Reform leader to the Today show. It didn't go well.

Under questioning, he had to re-write his party's immigration policy on air. "I don't think it's practical," he said of the plan to send refugees to British overseas territories. And he vowed to change his party's website, which

apparently he can, without any reference to his party's members, as that is how he made himself leader.

Remember those heady referendum days when Farage was our self-proclaimed champion of democracy?

I am not sure in what other democracy it is acceptable for a political party to be run as a private company where the "majority shareholder" can simply

declare himself leader. Don't forget, these are the people who endlessly criticised the EU for a supposed lack of democracy, yet think it's fine to run what is now one of our main parties as a personal fiefdom.

The danger for all of us is that it's not just his own party Farage wants to run like a private company. On Friday, in the TV debate, he said he wants to do the same with the NHS.

This populist politician holds some unpopular positions. On the NHS, he is out of step with the public. They've seen what running

other essential services like private firms gave us: raw sewage on beaches and in rivers. They do not want the NHS to go the same way. Farage's claim that no amount of money can fix it is simply untrue.

In 2010, when Labour left office, the NHS had its lowest waiting lists, highest public satisfaction and was judged to be the world's best-performing health system.

The mission of the next Labour government must be to make it so again – and expose Farage and Reform for the frauds they are.



“
This populist politician holds some unpopular positions



With so much hate spouted on social media these days, stoking conflict, it was a pleasure to hear rock-solid common sense in interviews with our D-Day veterans. “What a waste of time war

is,” said Stan Mincher, who was on Juno beach. “There is no need for it and it can be avoided. There is a danger war can creep back into our lives.” True wisdom. The best way we can honour veterans like Stan is to LISTEN to them.



This week I was in Rochdale, where my friend Paul Waugh is standing for Labour. Paul is Rochdale through and through, and I do believe it makes such a difference. But campaigning where you grew up is a worry. In 2001 I knocked on a door in Lowton and was greeted by an ex-girlfriend, just out of the shower. I didn't know where to look – nor where to put my leaflet.



DUPED Ex-PM took call Hoaxer tricks Lord Cameron into video call

BY **SIMON MURPHY**

FOREIGN Secretary David Cameron has been targeted by a hoax caller posing as a former president of Ukraine.

The ex-PM received a video call and messages from someone pretending to be Petro Poroshenko – but became suspicious when contact details for others were requested.

The Foreign Office said texts were exchanged “followed by a video call between the Foreign Secretary and someone purporting to be Petro Poroshenko”.

A spokesman said: “We are making this public in case the video is manipulated, and to ensure others are aware of this risk.”

Mr Poroshenko was the Ukrainian president between 2014 and 2019.



'NOT WORTHY' Star Combs Rapper Diddy loses degree after 'abuse'

BY **SERENA RICHARDS**

RAPPER Sean “Diddy” Combs has been stripped of an honorary degree as he fights abuse allegations.

Trustees at Howard University in Washington DC have said they removed Combs' award after a video emerged of him attacking ex-girlfriend Cassie Ventura in 2016.

The historically Black university said its board had ruled he was “no longer worthy to hold the institution's highest honour”.

The school will also be returning a £750,000 donation made by the rapper last year.

The hip-hop mogul was accused of physical and sexual assault by four women – including Ms Ventura – last year.

He has denied all the allegations.

POLICE PROTECTION
Singer Britney has former
officer keeping her safe



Brit who watches over Brit



**BOBBY ONE MORE
TIME** Ex-cop Nina.
Right, on the beat

Nina is pop star's top of the cops

EXCLUSIVE

BY **PATRICK HILL**

A FORMER British bobby is now pounding a very different kind of beat... as pop star Britney Spears' new bodyguard.

Nina Hobson served as a police officer for 15 years in the UK before becoming a private security expert.

And she is now busy making sure the Baby One More Time and Toxic singer is safe from harm.

Nina, 53, who runs her own security company in America, recently did her duty for Britney in Las Vegas.

And insiders say she is the chart-topper's No.1 bodyguard.

One said: “Nina was in charge, bossing the close protection guys around. She was the one in control.”

“She did not speak to Britney, she just let Britney do her thing and be as ‘normal’ as possible.

“It was plainly Nina's job to keep her in a safe environment where she was comfortable just to be herself.”

During her Vegas trip, Britney met up with her ex-fiance Jason Trawick.

But Nina made sure not everybody got close to the star. Our source said: “She allowed a mom and her daughter – fans – to approach Britney for a selfie. But she didn't let any guys near her at all.

“She plainly knew exactly what she was doing. She was very professional.”

Nina, who joined the Leicestershire force in the 1980s when she was 19, received four commendations during her police career. As well as her stint as a bobby, she worked in CID and on major crime cases. But she left in the early 2000s to work as a journalist.

Her documentary, Undercover Copper – an investigation into the police for Channel 4's Dispatches – received a Bafta nomination. And she starred in TV series Undercover Mum, which exposed individuals and organisations harming kids.

She later moved to Perth, Australia, where she founded her security business before moving to the US.

Our source said: “She may have started out on the beat but these days, Nina is in demand with A-list celebrities and high net worth individuals.”

patrick.hill@reachplc.com

“

She let Britney do her thing and be as ‘normal’ as possible... she was very professional

HE CHANGED VIEW OF EARTH



ICONIC Anders, and Earthrise pic

TRIBUTES have been paid to Apollo 8 astronaut Bill Anders after he died in a plane crash, aged 90.

Anders, who took the iconic Earthrise photo of the world from space, was flying a small aircraft that went down in

Astronaut Bill dies aged 90

the sea on Friday off Washington state, US.

Anders, who took Earthrise on Christmas Eve 1968, once said in a BBC

documentary: "We came all this way to explore the Moon and the most important thing we discovered was the Earth."

Retired astronaut and Arizona senator Mark Kelly said: "Bill for ever changed our perspective of our planet and ourselves."

WOMEN WHO



CAGE, 27
TELFORD UNIT, TX

AGGRAVATED ROBBERY

SERVING 50 YEARS

VIOLENT Cage's police mugshot

ANDREEA AND CAGE

EXCLUSIVE BY FRAN BOWDEN

SHE met the man she calls her soulmate on a website - but that is the only normal thing about Andreea Chaparro's relationship.

The 27-year-old started writing to US jailbirds during lockdown and is now married to a prisoner called Cage who is serving 50 years. He is not eligible for parole until at least 2037.

Cage, also 27, was handed the mammoth jail term in Texas for an aggravated burglary he carried out when he was just 16.

Andreea thinks his sentence was way too long - even by America's tough standards - as he didn't kill anyone, and all but one of the other gang members have already been released.

"There were so many injustices done in his case," she says.

"He was just 16, he was not mature at all. People have committed murder and haven't got a sentence that long.

"I think he has paid for his crime."

Andreea, a logistics manager from London, says she wasn't looking for love when she joined a website where people write to US inmates in September 2021.

But she says: "I saw Cage's picture and thought he was very handsome.

"I read his info and we had a lot in common. We both love the beach and love to travel.

"I also read about his crime. I wouldn't write to somebody that had committed crimes against women or children." Andreea and Cage soon started talking on the phone and within a month, had decided to marry.

"I knew from September I was truly, truly in love with this man," she says.

"I know it sounds crazy but we had lots of video calls, and we spoke more than some people speak in a lifetime.

"We were already calling each other husband and wife, so we decided the next step was to get married. He was

like, 'I want you to be my wife', and I said, 'I want to be your missus'."

Cage says: "Andreea sent me pictures and not only was she beautiful, she was so intelligent and smart. I felt like I was comfortable just reading her letter. I read it, like, five times."

The couple first met in person in 2023 at the Telford Unit in Texas, where Cage is being held.

Despite being separated by glass, the pair thought it was magical.

"We were kissing through the glass," Andreea says. "It felt so natural. Like I've never felt in my life with anyone."

Cage adds: "I was like, 'Yeah, this is a miracle. This is meant to be'."

Of their wedding in April, Andreea says: "It was beautiful. I forgot I was in a prison. I wore a beautiful white dress, and we had a wedding celebrant.

"The people who worked in the prison were so nice to us.

"We got to spend some time together - not intimate, of course, but holding hands. It was more beautiful than I imagined."

Andreea now visits her husband every few months.

"I'd love to be intimate with Cage," she says.

"The way he makes me feel and the way we love each other is beyond physical."

Being unable to have kids doesn't bother Andreea, who hopes to adopt.

Despite her parents' initial concerns about Cage, she says they "love him now".

She adds: "I was born to love him and he's my angel."

Psychologist Emma Kenny says a jail relationship can give a woman "a

sense of value, knowing they are a lifeline to someone in a dire situation".

She went on: "It provides them with a role as a confidante, supporter and sometimes, even a saviour."

"The crimes committed can also add an element of danger and excitement."

fran.bowden@reachplc.com

■ The new series of **Prison Brides** starts tomorrow at 10pm on Crime + Investigation and Crime + Investigation Play



CHATS Couple in Texas prison



KISS Sharing a smacker in jail

"I'd love to be intimate with Cage... the way we love each other is beyond physical"

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FALL FOR AND MARRY PRISONERS

Our soul inmates



HAPPY COUPLE Andreea and Cage tie the knot in jail

CLOSE Pair
wed in prison



EMMA AND CURTIS

When Emma told her parents she was marrying a man who was serving seven years in a US prison for carjacking and possession of a firearm, they feared the worst.

But she played down his crimes by explaining that every American carries a gun.

Emma, 32, fell for Curtis, 35, when she began writing to him after leaving a violent relationship.

The postal worker from London says:

"Writing to a prisoner allowed me to be who I am, to grow as a person, kind of on my terms."

After six months of phone calls, Curtis asked Emma to be his wife. "I fell in love with him because I could be my 100%

transparent self," she says. "As much as people say, 'You must've saved Curt,' he also saved me."

Curtis, who Emma describes as "funny, patient and articulate", is also full of praise for his wife,

saying: "I've changed so dramatically that if you knew me from back then, you would be so surprised."

The couple wed in St Louis Correctional, Michigan, witnessed by Curtis' mum and prison guards. Emma says: "I didn't expect it to be in

the visiting room next to the burgers, but it was perfect."

While Curtis was still inside, they made up for lack of intimacy with "spicy letters" and "imagination". The pair now live in Michigan.

“
People say, 'You must've saved Curt', but he also saved me
”



CARJACKER
Curt's arrest

CURTIS, 33
ST. LOUIS CORRECTIONAL, MI
CAR JACKING
POSSESSION OF A FIREARM
SERVING 7 YEARS

OLIVIA AND KJ

Jailed KJ says he doesn't regret his crimes - because if he wasn't in prison, he would never have met his future wife, Olivia.

She spotted him after signing up to a jail penpal site she saw on social media.

Olivia, 25, a dance teacher from London, says: "KJ and I emailed for two weeks and then he called for the first time. He asked me to be his girlfriend then three days later, he asked me to marry him."

When they met in person, she called it "love at first sight", adding: "His crimes don't define who he is."

Getting married wasn't an easy task for the couple as KJ, 25, who

is serving eight years for a home invasion at St Louis Correctional, Michigan, was adopted and they had to find his birth certificate.

But fellow prison bride Emma helped Olivia get the paperwork in order to tie the knot.

Olivia says: "I'm so happy that I'm finally married to him. I probably am the most consistent person that KJ's had in his life. He can rely on me."

KJ, who has two years of his sentence left to serve, adds: "I believe that

everything happens for a reason. I really needed this experience to reinvent myself so I don't regret it 'cos I would've never met Olivia."

“
I'm probably the most consistent person KJ's had in his life
”

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT Olivia with hubby KJ



CRIMINAL KJ
has no regrets

KEVIN "KJ", 24
ST LOUIS, MI
HOME INVASION
SERVING 8 YEARS

THE SILVER SPLITTERS

Huge rise in over-60s getting divorced

NEW SLICE OF LIFE Lyn Siddle, 67, divorced her husband of 38 years



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BY PHIL CARDY

COUPLES in their 60s are divorcing in their droves in what is being branded the 'silver splitter revolution'.

Statistics show that while divorce rates are at an all-time low, older people are bucking the trend.

Of the 78,759 divorces in 2022, 11,905 couples had been married for more than 25 years. Some 6,683 had been together for 30 years or more.

And the number of over-60s legally separating has jumped by more than 60% since 1990, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Lyn Siddle, 67, is among those to have called time on her marriage. She left John, 74, her husband of 38 years, after the pair "grew apart" when their four children left home.

The businesswoman, from Southport, Merseyside, said she felt compelled to "grab life with both hands" after the death of a friend – so packed her bags and went travelling across Central America, India, Australia and Asia.

Lyn said: "The people we had

become at retirement age were very different to how we were when we married. We'd started living separate lives, stopped communicating and ultimately, we grew apart.

"When my best friend died, I got a sense of 'Life is too short'. Eventually, we agreed to separate.

"I think we both understood we wanted different things and, despite splitting, we still have a good relationship." Sarah Balfour, a family law planner at Irwin Mitchell, said: "Older adults, particularly women, have become more financially independent, giving them the means to live alone and support themselves."

Relationship coach Susie Masterson added: "The fact we are

living longer and have access to all kinds of educational material around choice enables us to review our circumstances more than our parents did. Ultimately, there is less stigma and expectation around relationships for life."

The average length of a marriage in the UK currently stands at a record 12.9 years.

phil.cardy@reachplc.com

“Older women are more financially independent, giving them the means to support themselves”

Harry's order to his aces: No scoring before Soccer Aid!

BY JANINE YAQOUB
TV and Showbiz Editor

HARRY Redknapp has slapped a sex ban on his players ahead of tonight's Soccer Aid charity match.

The former West Ham and Tottenham manager wants total focus from his England side of celebs and football legends.

"No partners are here," he said at training ahead of the big game. "They've got a sex ban."

And the 77-year-old has also laid down the law when it comes to partying.

Harry said: "They went to bed early last night."

"It's a big game, so they won't be out late. They want to do their best."

"We hope the other team stays late in the bar."

After five years of losing out to the Rest of the World team, Harry is desperate to turn around England's fortunes. He has recruited nephew Frank Lampard, 45, to join him and pop star Robbie Williams, 50, as



MANAGERS Frank & Harry

coaches. Harry warned Frank would get the boot if they don't win - to which the ex-Chelsea and Everton boss laughed: "I'm used to that!"

Talking of his players, Harry said: "Some are not as fit as others. Tom Grennan is as fit as a fiddle - Danny Dyer is not!"

His team also includes Strictly star Bobby Brazier, cricket legend Stuart Broad, TV host Paddy McGuinness and former Chelsea icon Eden Hazard.

Line of Duty favourite Martin Compston, who returns to the pitch, joked: "I've got small man syndrome and I'm Scottish, so I like going in for the tackle. That's not as much as it used to be though!"

Usain Bolt, Sir Mo Farah, Roman Kemp and Steven Bartlett are also due to kick off at 7.30pm on ITV.

Soccer Aid is hoping to hit £100million in fundraising for UNICEF, which works in the world's toughest places to reach the most disadvantaged children.



BACK OF THE DECK
Lioness plays cards with the family



ON THE BALL Jill plays with brothers Nikhat, 13 and Uhar, 10, at the centre

"I had singing lessons but the world had different plans for me"

HEART-WARMING
Jill with Yulia, her mum and sisters

I saw how Yulia's life was shattered... and told her to dream big

EXCLUSIVE

BY LAURA ARMSTRONG
Assistant Editor, Showbiz

LIONESS Jill Scott knows all about living her dreams, so was heartbroken to meet a Ukrainian refugee who has had hers ruined by the war.

The England midfielder and 2022 Euros winner met budding singer Yulia at a centre in Romania that helps families forced to flee their homes after the Russian invasion.

Yulia, 15, has been staying at the UNICEF-funded Edmund Centre in Bucharest for six months and shares one room with her parents and sisters Arina, six, Daria, seven.

Jill, 37, was moved talking to the teenager, who is from Kyiv, and said: "She was telling me she had dreams of being a singer and she said something that gets me emotional just thinking about it."

"She said, 'I was doing all singing lessons in Ukraine, but the world had different plans for me'. She 100% understood the situation she was in and

Lioness Jill's advice to Ukrainian teen in camp

had kind of resigned herself to the fact her dream was over.

"She wasn't complaining - she was making the best of what she had - and her English was so good. I was so impressed. She was determined to get the most out of her education."

"I said to her, 'Just keep dreaming big because this is a bump in the road,

but if you still hold on to that dream of being a singer, then you can do it. It might just be a little bit later'. I hope she never gives up on her dream."

Jill, who will captain England against a World XI in tonight's celeb-packed Soccer Aid match at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge, has fronted a string of initiatives that help young people



- and the footballer admits she would one day like a child of her own.

Jill said: "Sport was always a big part of my life but I always had a doll in my hand as well as a football."

"I am maternal but I don't think I could bring a child into my life at the minute. I think I'd have to strap them to my back going from event to event, I'm that busy at the moment."

Jill's team tonight includes TV hosts Paddy McGuinness and Bobby Brazier, athlete Sir Mo Farah and Lionesses Ellen White and Karen Carney.

The Lioness is determined to end England's five-year losing streak and see the total raised smash the £100million mark so UNICEF can keep supporting facilities like the Edmund Centre in Romania.

Jill said: "Having been on this trip, I can say, hand on heart, that UNICEF are saving lives and your money is going a great cause."

laura.armstrong@reachplc.com

■ To make a donation ahead of tonight's game, visit socceraid.org.uk/donate



RIVALS White, Carney & Scott with World's Kaylyn Kyle, Livi Sheldon & Maisie Adam. Right, with Sir Mo



Postal scandal law chief given top legal award

Award for brief as postmasters persecuted

EXCLUSIVE
BY SASKIA ROWLANDS

THE Post Office's former chief lawyer was handed an industry award as sub-postmasters fought for justice.

Jane MacLeod accepted the prize at The Lawyer Awards in 2019. The industry bash came as 555 innocent sub-postmasters anxiously waited for a settlement.

Last night, sub-postmistress Seema Misra, who was pregnant when she was wrongly locked up for theft, called for the award to be "snatched away".

Seema, 48, from Surrey, said: "It



is sad and shows her true colours. She should have refused to accept the praise and instead accepted accountability."

Mrs MacLeod, 64, sparked anger last week when she refused to appear in person or via video link at the Horizon inquiry. The Post

Office's general counsel from 2015 to 2019 replied "no comment" when reporters confronted her at her home in Sydney, Australia.

Instead, she submitted a lengthy witness statement, apologising to Horizon victims.

The Aussie lawyer left the UK in 2020 and returned home with her company director husband Greg and two sons.

Last month, inquiry chairman Sir Wyn Williams said he wanted to hear Mrs MacLeod's evidence – but she would not play ball, despite an offer of free flights and accommodation.

saskia.rowlands@reachplc.com



My fished birthday...

LEO the sea lion is flippin' delighted as he celebrates his first birthday yesterday with a cake made of fish.

Adorned with love hearts made of gelatine – part of his normal diet – the treat was whipped up by keepers at Chessington World of Adventures Resort near Leatherhead in Surrey.

The Californian sea lion had his birthday on World Ocean Day. He deserves our best fishes.

A fairytale childhood in the shadow of war

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authors of
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TARGET PM Frederiksen Attack leaves Denmark PM with whiplash

BY SASKIA ROWLANDS

DENMARK'S Prime Minister was recovering from whiplash yesterday after she was attacked in capital Copenhagen.

A man walked up to Mette Frederiksen, 46, in the city's old town and gave her a "hard shove".

The attacker was swiftly arrested but police said his motive remained unclear.

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen called it a "despicable act".

A witness said: "A man gave her a hard shove on the shoulder, causing her to fall to the side."

Ms Frederiksen's Social Democrats are the biggest party in Denmark's coalition government.

A 39-year-old man was due to appear at a hearing at the Frederiksberg Court-house on Saturday.



RUBBLE Attack on Luhansk 'Ukraine raids in occupied zones kill 27'

BY PHIL CARDY

MISSILE attacks on occupied regions of Kherson and Luhansk by Ukraine have killed at least 27, according to Russian-installed officials.

Moscow-backed governor Vladimir Saldo said a French-made guided bomb and US-supplied missile killed 22 and injured 15 on Friday in Sadove, Kherson.

He claimed Ukrainian forces "deliberately made a repeat strike to create greater numbers of casualties" when "residents of nearby houses ran out to help the injured".

Kremlin-installed Luhansk governor Leonid Pasechnik said five had died and 60 were wounded in Friday's Ukrainian attack on the capital, also called Luhansk. Ukraine did not comment.

PAIN NEVER STOPS OVER SON'S DEATH

Dad backs probe over white collar boxing death



'MY WINGMAN'
Dominic, right,
with dad John and
brother Joseph

EXCLUSIVE
BY MATTHEW DRESCH

THE grieving father of a man killed by a "single, catastrophic" punch to the head had his son buried in a double grave - so he can eventually join him.

John Chapman says he has dealt with "unrelenting pain" since sports writer Dominic, 26, died after an ultra white collar boxing match in April 2022.

Now John, 60, is backing a coroner's call for a review into whether the sport should be regulated.

He said: "Losing a child is the worst thing that can happen to you. The pain we suffer every day is unrelenting."

"Most mornings, when Dominic left to go to work, he'd give me a call - at 8.05am. I miss that."

Risk

John, who was incredibly close to Dominic, branded him his "wingman" - and revealed he had a double grave dug for his son so that one day, they can be reunited.

"I decided to be buried with him," he said. "I just wanted to be with him, really... I didn't want him to be by himself."

Last month, an eight-day inquest was held into Dominic's death and coroner David Reid ruled he died of a brain injury after a charity bout at Worcester club, Tramps.

Mr Reid heard concerns from other participants about opponents being mismatched and said

“

Losing a child is the worst thing that can happen to you... I'll be buried with him so he's not alone

he would write to the Secretary for Culture, Media and Sport, Lucy Frazer, to ask "whether steps need to be taken" to regulate the sport.

White collar boxing started off as a craze among office workers in America in the 1990s and later spread

around the world.

The unlicensed, legal fights raise cash for charity - but in the UK alone, three men have been killed since 2017, and many others have been left with serious injuries.

Student Jubal Reji Kurian, 23, died after a charity bout in Nottingham held by Ultra White Collar Boxing in March last year.

And another UWCB fight in Harrogate, North Yorks, led to the death of software manager Alastair Peck, 44, in 2017.

Alastair's dad Richard said his son only signed up to raise money for Cancer Research UK - which cut ties with UWCB after seeing our story about the tragedy last year.

Jon Leonard, founder of the white collar boxing firm, based in Derby, said: "Boxing is a contact sport and with that, comes a level of risk. This is something we make each participant aware of. "More than 150,000

people have taken part in our events in the UK.

Injury rates are extremely low when compared to sports like football and rugby."

matthew.dresch@reachplc.com



BOUT Alastair, right,
with opponent Carlo
Francisco Sandoval

REDDY TO GO Paloma is all set for Glasto gig

No Filter

with Laura Armstrong & Janine Yaqoob

In good Faith

Paloma Faith can't wait to perform on the Pyramid Stage at Glastonbury later this month. But don't expect to find her knee-deep in mud with the rest of us at Worthy Farm, as she really isn't a fan of roughing it.

Asked this week if she would be sticking around post-performance, Paloma replied: "No, I will be in and out. I just don't like camping and I really don't like mud."

Thankfully, the Only Love Can Hurt Like This hitmaker is more

enthusiastic about entertaining the festival crowd than traipsing through puddles to get there.

She said: "I just love being on stage, performing."

"I think seeing the audience there in front of me helps me put in a better performance than when I'm just in a room with a microphone."

The singer added: "It is really daunting walking onto the Pyramid Stage at Glastonbury to perform because it is always so rammed, but it is exciting."

Hopefully she'll wave at us from her helicopter as she exits stage left.

UNIQUE KELLY HOLMES

Olympic Golden Girl. National Treasure. Dame Kelly Holmes kept a secret that tormented her for more than 30 years...



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CUTTING-EDGE SZA on stage



With countless nods to her iconic SOS album cover, SZA's nautical-themed show, left us feeling buoyant.

The R&B star played all her greatest hits, including Blind, Kill Bill, Snooze and Open Arms, as she stood on a high platform surrounded by dancers and visuals of the sea.

She impressed audiences with her energetic and erotic dance routines and did the full-on splits at one stage.

The Parisian crowd kept shouting SZA in a French accent (which sounded a bit like Caesar being screamed by a frenzied Roman crowd).

Her bondage-style outfit left little to the imagination - and she even did a Miley Cyrus, writhing around on top of a ball swinging across the stage while continuing to sing. Needless to say, the crowd went wild. Seriously impressive.

GIG OF THE WEEK ★★★★★

We've already smelled what The Rock is cooking... now it's time to taste what he's been mixing up. Dwayne Johnson has branched out into the booze business and his Teremana tequila is about to go on sale in the UK. He apparently tried 113 versions before finding the ideal blend. That's dedication.

CHEERS Dwayne with his tequila



COVER GIRL Meghan's new album, Timeless

Meghan Trainor has spoken about being a mum and a pop star, admitting she is terrified her kids may struggle on the road.

In September, the US megastar will go on tour, playing 24 dates in six weeks - and she is taking her family with her.

That includes her actor husband **Daryl Sabara** and their sons Riley, three, and 11-month-old Barry.

But Meghan says she would love to swap notes first with fellow mum **P!nk** to find out how she handles life on the road.

In an exclusive chat, Meghan tells us: "I'd love to talk to pop stars who have kids and ask, 'How do you tour with children?' because it's not like something you can learn on YouTube."

"We're trying to get in touch with P!nk - our nanny is going to reach out to hers."

"But until that happens we're just holding hands together,

All About That

EXCLUSIVE

trying to get through it." The Dear Future Husband singer released her sixth album, Timeless, on Friday from which latest single Been Like This is taken.

But as she prepares to tour it across North America,

Meghan explains:

"My children's happiness comes above all so I'm like, 'What if they're miserable? What if one is car-sick or nauseous?'"

"I always think the worst. But luckily my kids do love adventure, and they love car rides."

"Riley is stoked about the tour bus." If anyone can handle two kids and a tour, it's Meghan.

The singer exploded onto the pop scene in 2014 with global smash hit All About That Bass.

The track went to No.1 in almost 20 countries, including the UK and US. But Meghan says juggling the two sides of life is something she thought she

SUPPORT With husband Daryl

"I want to show my kids you can have it all and live your dreams"





**Meghan
Trainor
special**

Taking my kids on the road is so Meg-citing

Bass star on juggling music with being mum

might not have to do – as she feared motherhood would end her career.

She admits: “When I got pregnant, I had that thought, ‘Is my career done now I am a mom?’ I thought that I couldn’t do both. But then I released *Made You Look*, and that song blew up.

“I had the best year of my career after my baby – because he inspired me to be the best version of me.

“Every morning I would walk in, just stare at him for about 45 minutes and think, ‘I’m going to get the healthiest I’ve ever been, be the most motivated, write the best songs I’ve ever written.

“I’m going to work my a*** off to show you that you can have it all, and you can live your dreams’.

“If you want something bad enough, work hard and get it done, because we’re doers. That’s what I say to my husband all the time.

“We’ve had some tough times, but I always say that I’ve survived two pregnancies and two C-sections, so there’s nothing I can’t do.” Meghan admits that the

journey to motherhood has sometimes pushed her and Daryl to their limits.

When Riley was born, he spent time in intensive care – which Meghan recalls as being “traumatic”.

Then, when she was pregnant with Barry, she had a miscarriage scare.

Meghan also admits that she has struggled with lows after both pregnancies.

But she says that writing the self-love songs she is known for has helped her to get through those tough times. Her latest album is packed with sassy, empowering anthems such as *I*

Wanna Thank Me and Be My Bestie. She adds: “We’re all out here just trying to survive.

“All the self-love songs on my album are me recovering from new C-sections – the old stretch marks on top of new ones – and trying to love myself all over again.

“Then, there are also a lot of ‘Don’t lead me on’ songs because I know my worth, and I want my sons – and my daughter, if I have one – to hear that someday.”

Meghan says that despite years of writing and releasing songs, she still feels like she’s being underestimated.

She explains: “There aren’t many women writing and producing their own songs – me, **Ariana Grande** and **Taylor Swift**. And it can be frustrating when my manager gets calls asking who wrote my songs, and she replies, ‘For the love of God – MEGHAN’.

“That’s why I wrote *Been Like This*, the first single from the album. It’s me, screaming, ‘I’ve been here the whole time, it was me, for ever. I did it!’”



GIRL POWER Ariana and Taylor



“

I had my best year after my baby... I was inspired to be the best me

**MEG AN
IMPACT**
Meghan has released her sixth album

EXCLUSIVE

BY MATTHEW DAVIS

MORE than 35 kids under 16 were arrested every week for dealing drugs last year.

The shocking statistics from police forces in England and Wales reveal the extent of the problem caused by county lines drugs gangs.

A survey found 1,439 under-17s were held for either dealing drugs, or being found with such large quantities of illegal substances that they were suspected of being dealers.

Some 33 of the 44 police forces provided responses, meaning the true total is predicted to be just over 1,900.

Many teenage dealers were just 13, including a boy accused of peddling crack in London and others the same

Thousands of kids held for dealing hard drugs

age nabbed in the West Midlands, Dorset and Northumberland for pushing cocaine and cannabis.

Officers in West Yorks arrested a 15-year-old on suspicion of dealing heroin and crack, and Cheshire Police

pulled in two aged 15 who were believed to be supplying cocaine.

It is thought that many of the youngsters are being exploited by criminal gangs, who recruit children to go out into the suburbs to expand

their city-based drugs empires. The often-vulnerable youths are used because they look less suspicious.

Lynn Perry, CEO of children's charity Barnardo's, warned that "too many" young people are at risk of

criminal exploitation and "too often, they are treated as criminals, rather than victims". The Home Office said it is "committed to working with the police to tackle this horrific crime".

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SCAN ME



GIVING IT STICK
Van Dyke celebrates award in LA



NANNY G.O.A.T. Julie Andrews as Poppins with parrot-head broom

A broly nice nod to Poppins, Dick

IT'S a magical moment as Dick Van Dyke becomes the oldest Emmy winner, bagging a gong for US soap *Days of Our Lives* at 98.

But he will always be best known as Bert in the classic 1964 film *Mary Poppins* - and his parrot-headed walking stick was a touching reference to the enchanting nanny's broom.

BY ROSS KANIUK

BABY Reindeer star Jessica Gunning has told how a terrified woman screamed at her in the street because she thought she was following her.

The actress, who plays an obsessed stalker called Martha in the hit Netflix show, bumped into the woman outside her home just minutes after she had watched the last episode of the programme.

Jessica, 38, reckons this was the moment when she realised just how huge the show had become.

"I came out of my house the other week and a lady was just there on the street and went, 'Ahhh!', she says.

"But it's because she'd just finished episode seven, walked out of her door and then I was there.

"So I understand why maybe that may have been a bit freaky."

In the drama, Jessica's character Martha spends whole days in the street outside her victim's home.

And the actress admits she looks similar to the 58-year-old Scottish woman who claims she is the real-life inspiration for the character and is now suing Netflix for defamation.

Series creator and Scottish comic Richard Gadd – who also stars as victim Donny – based it on his experience of being stalked by a woman he met at the pub where he worked.

Brave

Donny is also shown being sexually assaulted by a male TV writer who promises to help him carve out a career in comedy – a storyline he says is also rooted in real events.

Jessica says she is proud of Richard for inspiring other victims of sexual assault to seek help.

She says: "The impact has been incredible. He works with a charity called We Are Survivors and they've had something like a 200% increase in emails since the show's been out.

"About 55% of those people said that Baby Reindeer was the reason why they reached out. That's really special and important.

"I think he was really honest and brave in how he told the story. He's having people talk to him all the time about how they've opened up to family members for the first time.

"People are out there feeling lonely, and like it's only ever happened to them, and then they see someone else who has gone through something similar."

The actress added: "I think I know Richard in a way that I've not really known anyone before.

"We've kind of gone through a bit of a crazy time together so we've got a special bond. I really care about him.

"I'm so, so proud of him... the effect that especially episode four [where Richard depicts being raped by the

People see me and think I'm a real stalker

Baby Reindeer star Jessica on TV show's effect

OBSSESSED
As Martha with
show creator
Richard Gadd



“

I think Richard was really honest and brave in how he told his story... I'm so proud of him

writer] has had on people watching. "But I was also so – not to sound too w***y – proud of him because I know him really well now.

"We filmed Baby Reindeer nearly two years ago so just seeing everything that he did, how amazing and brave he was, I found that really emotional.

"I think all the crew and Weronika (Tofilska), who

was directing that episode... everyone was really mindful that that would be a tough one to film and watch."

Of the show's global success, Jessica, who also stars in Stephen Merchant's BBC hit The Outlaws, admits: "I don't think any of us really expected it.

"I watched it on my own before it came out just to do a

bit of prep for interviews, and I definitely thought then, "This is going to be good, people are going to watch this". I thought it

might be a bit like an indie slow-burner but then everyone was talking about it, which was amazing. It's been a whirlwind.

"I think Richard's script is just incredible."

scoops@reachplc.com

Cricket team hunt for hero

MEMBERS of a cricket club are searching for the family of a Second World War hero so they can return his cloth cap.

The hat was found along with a note explaining it belonged to former player Geoffrey Slater – an RAF sergeant who died during a bombing raid on Germany in 1942.

Dave Colgate, president of Norton Woodseats, in Sheffield said: "It gives us the opportunity to doff our caps and say thank-you to him, and the thousands of people like him."

ON THIS DAY...

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in **1986**



NO.1 Doc & Medics

TOP 10 singles

- Spirit in the Sky**
Doctor and the Medics
- Holding Back the Years (1986)**
Simply Red
- I Can't Wait**
Nu Shooz
- Sledgehammer**
Peter Gabriel
- Addicted To Love**
Robert Palmer
- Can't Get By Without You (The Second Decade Remix)**
Real Thing
- Set Me Free**
Jaki Graham
- Everybody Wants to Rule The World**
Tears For Fears
- On My Own**
Patti LaBelle And Michael McDonald
- Vienna Calling**
Falco

19yrs' jail for double rapist

A RAPIST has been caught a second time by advances in forensic techniques.

Donald Kargbo-Reffell attacked a girl, 14, in 2006 but there was not enough evidence to charge him.

But justice was served this week when he was jailed for 19 years at Luton crown court due to a forensic breakthrough.

Kargbo-Reffell, 55, is already serving 12 years for a 1999 rape. Both offences took place in Bedford.

Police said forensic advances also helped convict him in 2018.

RECOGNISABLE Star
Jessica on red carpet



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FRIEND TELLS



TRIBUTE Fans honour Rob in seventh minute of yesterday's Challenge Cup final at Wembley

EXCLUSIVE
BY SASKIA ROWLANDS

AS rugby hero Rob Burrow battled motor neurone disease, his bravery touched the nation.

But few can have been more inspired by the sportsman's courage than fellow MND battler Ian Flatt.

Ian, who formed a close bond with Rob, has told how Rob's death a week ago, at the age of 42, is keeping him going in his own fight.

The dad-of-two was diagnosed just eight months before Leeds Rhinos hero Rob, and the pair were treated by the same medical team – inspiring each other in their shared struggle.

Impact

Ian, 58, told us: "Only two men have ever made me cry, and Rob is one of them. He was my beacon of hope."

"He was the most genuine, warm and generous person, and he changed so much for so many, including myself."

"Rob galvanised a community – and a movement – that MND sufferers could all be a part of."

"He gave me a sense of purpose, an identity and a reason to live."

Ian, from Harrogate, North Yorks, spoke of his enduring friendship with Rob just days after the rugby ace lost his four-and-a-half-year fight with the life-limiting disease.

Yesterday, Rob – who wore the No 7 shirt during his illustrious career – was honoured at the Rugby League Challenge Cup final.

The match, between Wigan Warriors and Warrington Wolves, kicked off seven minutes late in tribute to the star.

Fans at Wembley also took part in a minute's applause in the seventh minute of the game.

Rob and Ian first met at a charity function in 2022

– and despite Rob's inability to communicate verbally, Ian knew it was the start of something special.

He said: "Rob looked over at me from the other side of the room and smiled."

"We were in the middle of this black-tie event but he just wanted to talk."

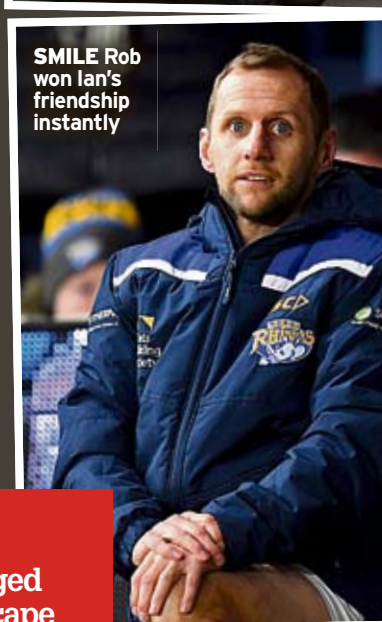
"Every time I saw him from that day on, his eyes would light up and that grin would spread across his face. It was a beautiful thing."

"There are few people who've had such a profound impact on me, but that

FIRED UP
Ian found a whole new outlook



SMILE Rob won Ian's friendship instantly



“Rob changed the landscape of MND... he showed me how to live, and to live for today

was Rob's gift – he let me into his life and made me feel like his best mate."

Ian's world was shattered in 2019 when

doctors revealed he could have just 15 months to live. And as he came to terms with the knowledge he would lose the ability to walk and talk, he and his wife Rachael, 49, had the added agony of telling their daughters, Charley, 24, and Iseabail, 19.

Ian also had to quit his high-powered job as a company director.

He says his default reaction was to simply put on a brave face. But after meeting Rob, and watching his tireless fundraising campaign with friend and

OF CLOSE BOND WITH RUGBY HERO

To donate
go to giveasyoulive.com
and search
for Leeds
Hospitals
Charity

CLOSE Rob, left, and Ian, right, with MND fundraiser Dave Farrington

Rob Burrow gave me a sense of purpose, an identity, a reason to live

former teammate Kevin Sinfield, 43, his outlook transformed.

Ian – who, like Rob, was treated at Seacroft Hospital in Leeds – explained: “My attitude was to bottle things up and appear stoic. But it took Rob and Kevin to come along for me to at last be honest with myself.

“It was only at that point that all my suppression and macho nonsense finally disappeared.

“The way Rob talked about MND was so honest and brave... it gave me the toolkit to be able to open up, to be emotional and to be raw.

“His example of how to live, and of living for today, was everything I believed in and wanted to do. And

Rob showed me how to do it.” Ian now relies on a wheelchair and is hooked up to a ventilator for 16 hours a day.

He says that coming to terms with his new body was a struggle – and left him feeling alone.

He said: “I didn’t know anybody with MND and I’d never heard of it.

“There was no support. You’re given two leaflets, a maximum half hour consultation for your diagnosis and prognosis, and that’s it – no more discussion.

“But Rob came along and changed the landscape of MND.

“He changed the attitude from, ‘Go and sit in a dark room and pass away’, to, ‘Let’s say no, let’s campaign and

let’s find a cure.” Rob – who leaves behind his wife Lindsey, 41, and children Macy, 12, Maya, nine, and five-year-old Jackson – spearheaded a £6.8million appeal for Leeds Hospitals Charity in order to build a specialist MND centre.

And now Ian, who worked closely with Rob on the building’s design, is set to embark on his own fundraiser for the project, starting on Saturday.

In a nod to the No 7 shirt worn

by Rob, Ian hopes to raise £77,777.77p by scaling seven mountains in his electric off-road wheelchair, nicknamed the Tangerine Dream Machine. And when things get tough, Rob will be in his thoughts.

Ian told us: “If I need a little bit of extra oomph, I’m going to get it from Rob.

“I’ll think about him, Lindsey, the children and his parents, Geoff and Irene. I’ve been both honoured and humb-

led to have Rob’s friendship these last few years and that will keep me going.

“It comes back to Rob’s message – in times of adversity, be brave, face it and get on with it as best you can.”

Rob spent his entire 18-year rugby league career with the Rhinos, joining in 1999 and helping them to win eight Super League titles.

Following his diagnosis two years after retirement, he and pal Kevin raised £15million for MND research in less than five years.

He was made an MBE in the 2021 New Year Honours list for services to rugby league and the MND community, and became a CBE in January.

saskia.rowlands@reachplc.com

INSPIRED
Ian & wife
Rachael



EXCITED Show writer Tony

Liverpool 'has buzz about it from filming'

BY PHIL CARDY

THE creator of drama *The Responder* says Liverpool is "buzzing" in terms of filming and TV right now.

The hit BBC show, back for a second series, is filmed in the city and follows Chris Carson, played by Martin Freeman, as a policeman struggling with his mental health.

And writer Tony Schumacher, a former officer who the BAFTA-nominated show is based on, said: "It feels like it is a time for Liverpool at the moment, when it comes to filming and television."

"It's buzzing. When I'm driving around, I'm seeing location signs on lamp-posts. It's exciting."

Tony, 56, said Liverpool hosting Eurovision in May last year also helped to create that buzz.



OUT THERE Jordan Nobbs

Girls dish out red cards to footie sexism

BY PHIL CARDY

GIRLS say they continue to face sexism when they play football despite the success of the Lionesses.

Over 90% see online mockery from trolls while nearly 60% experience abuse at grounds or pubs.

Teenagers who play for Bournville, Birmingham, said boys their age treat women's football as a joke and get aggressive when they tell them they play it. Slurs online include "get back to the kitchen" and "women's football is so hard to watch it hurts".

The survey was done by Her Game Too which is against sexism in sport.

England and Aston Villa midfielder Jordan Nobbs, 31, said: "[Sexism] has definitely got better. I hear less about it now but it's still out there and we need to be stopping it at source."

NO HOLDS BARRED Tourist Rod with wife Dee and grandson Harrison



"We come here a lot and have never seen any problems"

Crime wave

Skegness, Cleethorpes & Margate top seaside offences league

BY PHIL CARDY

AS the birthplace of Butlin's, it has been adored by generations of holidaymakers.

But analysis suggests the most crime-plagued seaside resort in the country is... Skegness.

"Skeggy", also fondly known as Skeg Vegas, has recorded a rate of 181 offences per 1,000 inhabitants – more than double the UK average of 87.

In contrast, the seaside town of Padstow in Cornwall – where chef Rick Stein has four restaurants – is the safest seaside place, with just 14 offences per 1,000 people.

Skegness has been blighted by crime in recent years. Over the last Bank Holiday weekend alone, a man was shot in the leg with a pellet gun and a woman was assaulted.

Last month, five people were arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a metal pole was used in an attack that left the victim with life-changing injuries.

And cops made a GBH arrest after an alleged assault in the car park of a McDonald's restaurant.

The trouble comes a century after Billy Butlin set up his first amusement stall on the town's seafront. He opened



his first holiday camp in 1936. But today's visitors insist the findings will not stop them coming to Skeggy.

Rod Horne, who had travelled from Lincoln with his wife Dee and grandson Harrison, five, said: "I'm

Number of crimes per 1,000 people			
TOP FIVE		BOTTOM FIVE	
Skegness	181	Plymouth	49
Cleethorpes	177	Falmouth	36
Margate	157	Ilfracombe	36
Scarborough	152	St Ives	19
Blackpool	151	Padstow	14



POSITIVE Trader Darren

"Skegness is a great place ... it's very community-focused"

really surprised by those figures. We come here quite regularly and we've not seen any problems."

Darren Jones, who runs a coffee and doughnut stall on the pier, added: "I've worked all over the country and I have to say, everyone is really positive about this town."

"Skegness is fantastic – a very community-based place."

"During half-term, the town was packed with people who keep coming back and others who had come here for the first time. It's a great place."

Researchers analysed the 2023 crime

figures for dozens of the most popular seaside resorts in England and Wales. They compared data from the crimerate.co.uk, which uses government figures to track violent crime, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, criminal damage, drug offences, theft, possession of weapons, public order offences and vehicle crime.

Howden Insurance, which compiled the research, said: "It sheds light on the safety of seaside spots for travellers, especially those travelling solo or with young children."

The second most crime-hit resort in the survey is Cleethorpes, 30 miles up the Lincolnshire coast, with 177 crimes per 1,000 people, followed by Margate in Kent. Scarborough, in North Yorks, came fourth, followed by Blackpool, Lancs.

The second safest resort was St Ives in Cornwall with just 19 crimes per 1,000 people, followed by Ilfracombe in Devon and Falmouth in Cornwall. They were the joint third safest on 36 crimes per 1,000 people. The Devon city of Plymouth was fifth safest.

phil.cardy@reachplc.com



RECORDS Farrel O'Shea

Windsurf icon, 60, dies 'doing what he loved'

BY PHIL CARDY

A STAR windsurfer who died after breaking another record has been described as "one of life's good guys".

Farrel O'Shea, 60, of Abersoch, Gwynedd, collapsed on a beach in France last week after his feat in the wingfoil discipline.

Zara Davis, who was with him, said: "He died doing what he loved."

"He was generous to all with his time and unrivalled knowledge of speed windsurfing, a true legend."

Farrel ran a surf firm, developed technical moves in the sport and held the British speed record.

The O'Shea Surf company called him "one of life's good guys", while another local water sport firm boss commented: "He'd always drop everything, put the kettle on and sit down for a chat."



NESTING Seagull on track

Gulls ensure train has not had its chips

BY PHIL CARDY

A TRAIN'S very last journey has been delayed after seagulls were found nesting on tracks.

The class 175 train, part of a fleet withdrawn from service last year, was due to be moved from sidings to its final resting place this week.

But the crew could not get it out without disturbing the birds' nest.

And because gulls are a protected species and all other alternative tracks were blocked, the train's trip from Holyhead, Anglesey, to Landore, Swansea, was cancelled.

Network rail said the train, which is part of Transport for Wales' old stock, will now be removed another day, using an alternative track, so the gulls can get on with raising their young undisturbed.

'TRY TO BE KIND' Rachel is teaching girls it's good to volunteer



Pasha is teaching our girls to dance

Rachel says daughters Maven and Noa are learning Strictly routines

EXCLUSIVE
BY JAMES INGHAM

RACHEL Riley says her young daughters are following in Mummy's footsteps - by getting Daddy to teach them to dance.

The Countdown star, 38, has two girls with pro dancer Pasha Kovalev, who was her partner on Strictly in 2013.

They went on to marry and he is now showing Maven, four, and Noa, two, some moves. Rachel said: "Both the girls love to dance. My husband is teaching them and obviously has that covered."

"I played netball growing up and am a bit more sporty so I am hoping when my girls get a bit bigger they also get into sports so I can watch."

Yesterday Rachel was supporting The Big Help Out's nationwide weekend of volunteering. The math's wiz helped coach netball at a school in West London and brought her daughters along.

Rachel said: "I'm in a privileged position and I try to instil in the girls that it's important to

be kind and help people when you can. I try to lead by example and show them actions speak louder than words."

"Volunteering can really give you a big sense of purpose. You help others but you also gain a lot knowing you have done something worthwhile."

Rachel and Russian Pasha, 44, have been housing four Ukrainian refugees at their home in the capital for two years. And she told how Sasha Borysenko, 29, her son Mykyta, nine, mother Luba, 60, and her aunt Gayla were now officially part of the family.

"When my daughters are asked if they have brothers and sisters they say they have a big brother now because that's how they see Mykyta."

"They all play together which is really sweet. Sometimes we pick him up from school, sometimes they will pick our kids up. It is like having a big extended family living with you."

With Pasha's mum also staying, Rachel joked her husband was outnumbered by seven women.

She added: "As a dancer he is used to being surrounded by women. He is a real gentleman though, so loves it."

He is always carrying things and opening things for us all."

“
Volunteering can really give you a big sense of purpose
”



FAMILY Pasha and Rachel with Maven

scoops@reachplc.com

HELEN LEDERER

NOT THAT I'M BITTER

**'Helen Lederer
is the third
funniest woman
in the world'**
Dawn French



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and all good bookshops. Also available in ebook





IN A HOLE Common mole Churchman battles mole massacre

BY PHIL CARDY

A CHURCHWARDEN is defying a plan to kill problem moles by tackling the problem "humanely".

Parish councillors have voted to use lethal scissor traps on a playing field.

But Ray Goddard says he has controlled molehills at the village church for a year by removing the soil.

Mr Goddard said: "I want to work with the council and come to a humane solution instead of this dreadful killing."

In his volunteer Mole Patrol in Woodborough, Notts, is Essie, 11, who said: "There are a lot of moles but I think it's bad to kill them, they're innocent."

The RSPCA said traps risk "prolonged suffering".

The council said: "Daily damage is caused by moles and removing the mole hills does not reverse this."



NO REMORSE Vile Brown Sex worker's killer is jailed for 20 years

BY FAYE MAYERN

A MAN has been jailed for life after murdering a sex worker and burning her body in a car park.

Robert Brown, 38, sent a text saying "I want to kill people" days before he attacked Victoria Greenwood, 41, in his flat.

Her body was found in an isolated spot in Hertfordshire three days after she was reported missing.

CCTV showed her trying to leave his home in Luton before he pulled her back inside last November.

After a jury found him guilty, the judge at Luton crown court said Brown had shown no remorse and will serve at least 20 years.

Victoria's son Jack said: "She was a carer, a best friend and someone I could rely on. I was studying at university to make a difference in our lives."



SMOOCH They seal their union

WW2 hero's French kiss at 100

SECOND World War hero Harold Terens gets wed in Normandy, days after the 80th anniversary of D-Day, at the age of 100.

Harold first saw France aged 20 as a US Army Air Forces corporal, when he helped to liberate prisoners after D-Day.

He and Jeanne Swerlin, 96, married in Carentan-les-Marais town hall with a pipe

band playing. They met three years ago after Harold lost wife of 70 years, Thelma.

He said of meeting his bride: "My whole body started to quiver. I couldn't eat, I was all excited. I was falling in love at the age of 98."

She said as she arrived: "It's not just for young people, love, you know. We get butterflies. And we get a little action, also."



THUMBS-UP Joy for Jeanne



Fatcat bosses cream off even more cash

EXCLUSIVE
BY GRAHAM HISCOTT
Head of Business

SOME top bosses are raking in up to 480 times what the average worker earns, it has emerged.

Analysis of the annual reports of 58 firms in the FTSE 100 shows their chief executives netted a combined £329.4million in pay and perks for 2023.

That was up from £286.8m in 2022, and means the average fatcat's package jumped from £4.86m to £5.58m.

It comes amid debate over whether they should earn even more, as UK bosses often take home a lot less than their American counterparts.

Some say that is why many UK firms

CEOs earn 480 times the average wage

have moved their stock market listings abroad. But opponents say the gap that really matters is that between bosses and their workers. The top 2023 earner

was Pascal Soriot, from drugs giant AstraZeneca. His pay rose from £15.1m to £16.85m – 482 times the £34,963 earned by the average full-time UK

Five top paid FTSE chiefs

1. Pascal Soriot, AstraZeneca, £16.853m, up from £15.1m.
2. Charles Woodburn, BAE Systems, £13.4m, up from £12m.
3. Erik Engstrom, RELX, £13.6m, up from £8.5m.
4. Emma Walmsley, pharma firm

GSK, £12.2m, up from £8.5m. Package last year included £7.3m from a long-term bonus scheme.

5. Noel Quinn, HSBC, £10.6m, up from £5.5m.



HIGH EARNER Pascal Soriot

worker. Charles Woodburn, boss of defence firm BAE, went from £12m to £13.4m in pay and perks.

And Erik Engstrom of analytics firm RELX, took home £13.6m, compared with £8.5m in 2022.

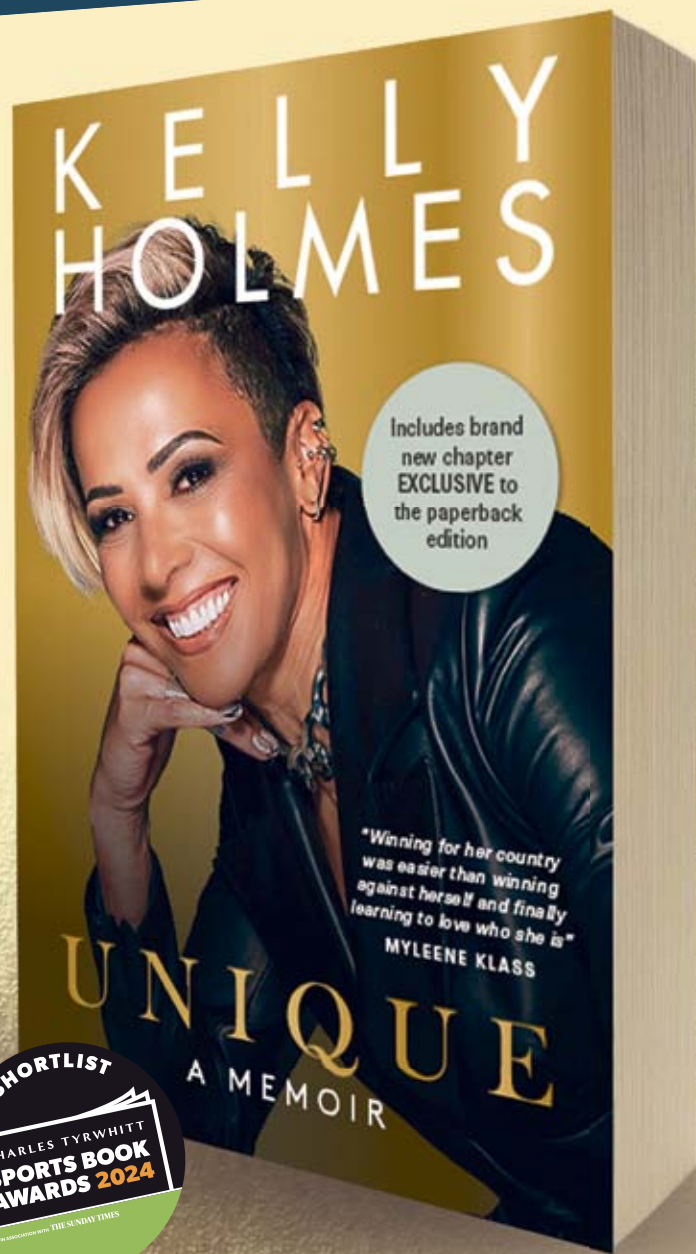
The analysis was compiled by this newspaper and think tank the High Pay Centre. Around half of the bosses analysed enjoyed hikes in pay and perks last year.

High Pay Centre boss Luke Hildyard said: "Higher CEO pay never benefits anybody but the CEOs. It means companies have less to pay to the wider workforce."

graham.hiscott@reachplc.com

COMMENT: PAGE 14

UNIQUE KELLY HOLMES



Olympic Golden Girl.
National Treasure.
Dame Kelly Holmes kept
a secret that tormented
her for more than
30 years...

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FILM ICONS ON HOW

EXCLUSIVE
BY JACKIE ANNETT

As the closing credits of teen comedy-drama *The Breakfast Club* rolled, the film's catchy anthem played.

Simple Minds sang *Don't You (Forget About Me)* and, almost 40 years on, many of us still remember the coming-of-age film about five US high school misfits stuck in detention on a Saturday.

The 1985 film was a critical and box office hit and won its young stars Emilio Estevez, Anthony Michael Hall, Judd Nelson, Molly Ringwald and Ally Sheedy a legion of fans.

But with the fame came a label the rising actors were less pleased about.

Along with the stars of 1985's *St Elmo's Fire* – Rob Lowe, Demi Moore, Mare Winningham and Andrew McCarthy – they became known as the Brat Pack.

A photo of Lowe, Nelson and Estevez headlined 'Hollywood's Brat Pack' appeared on a 1985 cover of *New York* magazine.

Journalist David Blum, who coined the term, said at the time: "This is the Hollywood Brat Pack."

"It is to the 1980s what the Rat Pack was to the 1960s – a roving band of famous young stars on the prowl for parties, women and a good time."

But McCarthy, now 61, said in a recent interview: "Were we brats? We hated the tag. We were now members of a club none of us wished to join."

"I felt that I lost control of the narrative of my career overnight."

He has directed *Brats* – a documentary out on Thursday – which reunites the members of the Pack and explores the impact the label had on their careers.

It is also a wonderful nostalgia-fest for film fans who get to see what happened to some of their favourite 80s stars.

But not everyone loathed the nickname. McCarthy admitted: "The young people of my generation loved it. Being in the Brat Pack meant I was one of the ultimate cool kids – the ones you wanted to hang out with, to emulate. We were the ones you admired."

"The Brat Pack label preceded me into every room I entered. If you were coming of age in the 80s, the Brat Pack was near the centre of your cultural awareness but from those of us experiencing it from the inside, the Brat Pack was something very different."

One of the first actors McCarthy

SUPERSTAR
Demi Moore
at Cannes
Film Festival
this year



“

We hated the tag... we were now members of a club none of us wished to join. I felt that I lost control of the narrative of my career overnight

ANDREW MCCARTHY, WHO STARRED IN *ST ELMO'S FIRE*

contacted about the *Brats* documentary was Lowe, 60, who, in 1988, stepped away from the limelight after a sex tape scandal.

His career bounced back by the turn of the millennium after he played Sam Seaborn in political drama, *The West Wing*.

But Lowe, who has been married to make-up artist Sheryl Berkoff since 1991, has a very different view of the nickname.

In May 2021, on his podcast *Literally!* with Rob Lowe, he said: "I love that the Brat Pack existed. I love being a part of it and have such fond memories."

Lowe also co-starred in *St Elmo's Fire* with Moore, 61.

LABEL AFFECTED THEIR LIVES

e weren't brats... e weren't a pack

Charities hail secret donor

A MYSTERY donor has sent £1,000 in cash to three different charities.

The latest organisation to benefit said it was "completely blown away" to receive a stack of £20 notes in the post – but has no idea who to thank.

A spokesman for Bristol Autism Support said: "Such a generous donation to a small charity will have an enormous impact on the families we support."

Cash gifts have also been sent to Marie Curie in Bristol and the RNLi in nearby Portishead.

WIN £100

DOUBLE PLAY

BINGO

Sun Jun 9 2024
Game 21 Day 7

56 70 45

Here's an extra chance to win £100 in our great Bingo game. Today it's **DAY 7**, the final day of **GAME 21** on your card. Every weekday new numbers are printed in the Daily Mirror. But if you don't have all the numbers crossed off on the grid you can still win our £100 Sunday prize. Today's Sunday Mirror has different numbers for extra chances to win. All 15 numbers on either of your **GAME 21** grids must be crossed off to win.

To claim tomorrow call **01420 525501** from 10am to 3pm on Mondays only, lines are not open today. No responsibility is accepted for failure to claim in the stated hours. Calls charged at national rate. Standard Reach plc rules apply, see [mirror.co.uk/2024bingorules](https://www.mirror.co.uk/2024bingorules). Full terms as previously published.

Killer back in jail over theft

A MURDERER given a job at an ethical trade shop to assist her rehabilitation has been jailed for stealing £17,000 from the business.

Alison Ramsay, 59, worked at Shared Earth as part of an offender scheme.

But the former nurse took cash from the store, in York, between 2019 and 2022 while on parole.

Ramsay, of no fixed address, was jailed for 20 months after admitting theft at York crown court.

In 2001, she was sentenced to life in prison for killing a pensioner with an unlicensed sedative.

ALL FIRED UP
St Elmo's cast
(back row, L to R) Estevez,
Moore and Lowe, (front
row, L to R)
Sheedy, Nelson,
Winningham
and McCarthy

SMOOTH
Played Billy

SUCCESS
Played Kirby

NOW PROF
She was Leslie

BIG STAR
Alec in film

STILL ACTING
Wendy in movie

DOCU DIRECTOR
Actor Andrew

He has refused to elaborate on suggestions they may have been more than friends by saying: "A gentleman never kisses and tells."

But Moore revealed in her 2019 memoir *Inside Out* that producers made her go into rehab before *St Elmo's Fire* due to her cocaine problem.

That, and the Brat Pack term, did not harm her career though. By the mid-1990s, she was highest-paid actress and still has a successful film career today. But she always hated the moniker.

Moore said: "It really irritated me. None of us really liked the idea of being called 'brats,' or that we weren't professionals or didn't take our work seriously."

Sheedy, 61, now a

theatre department professor in New York, told a book about the Brat Pack that "the article destroyed the group".

She added: "I had felt truly a part of something, and Blum blew it to pieces."

Nelson, 64, said the suggestion that the Pack were best friends was not necessarily the case. In September 2022, he told *The Jewish Chronicle*: "I lived in New York at the time and I didn't travel 3,000 miles to have a beer. I was working with those actors. That's why I was

having dinner with them." Hall and Ringwald were 15 when they starred in Brat Pack movie *Sixteen Candles*.

Hall, 56, later said being labelled as a Brat Packer at such a young age "was challenging" and "took some adjusting".

He has since had a successful acting career, is a songwriter and singer with the band Hall of Mirrors and, last June, became a dad for the first time.

Ringwald, 56, disliked being lumped into the Brat Pack too, saying it was "unfair" – especially as she was only 15 at the time, and still at school.

"We did a couple movies together, but I didn't really hang out with a lot of those people, just because I was younger at the time," she said on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* in 1994.

"When I did

Breakfast Club, I was 15, 16 years old, and they were already in their 20s.

"I was quite a bit younger, so when they were going out drinking and doing crazy stuff, I was going to school."

Estevez, 62, the older brother of Charlie Sheen, hated the label so much that he "turned down" everything related to the Brat Pack and still refuses to utter Blum's name, four decades on.

Despite this, he has had a successful film career – re-releasing cult film *The Way*, starring his father Martin Sheen, last year. But the coming-of-age actors have most certainly grown up.

McCarthy said catching up with Estevez after nearly 30 years "felt like meeting a long-lost brother". For the rest of us, Brats will provide a great opportunity to wander down memory lane.

jackie.annett@reachplc.com

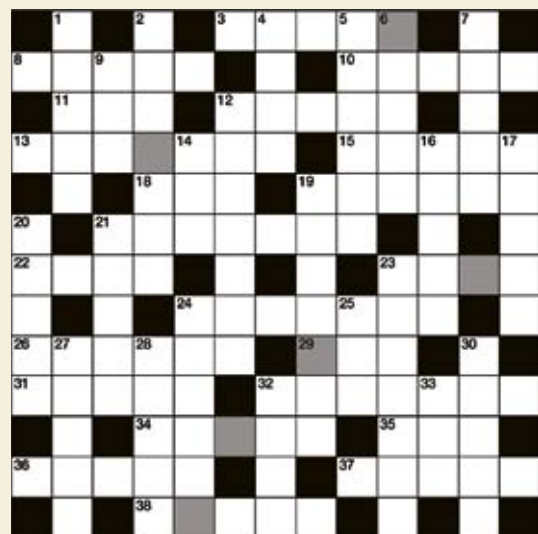
■ Brats is out on Hulu on Thursday.

CHALLENGE Hall

FLAMING GOOD
In *Sixteen Candles*

CHILD STAR Ringwald

£50 CROSSWORD



Solve the crossword in the normal way and the shaded squares, when read in order, will reveal the solution. Work out what it is and call our entry line below by midnight Saturday, June 15. One winner will be picked at random from all correct entries sent in by the closing date and will receive £50, or for Irish entries, the equivalent in Euros.

ACROSS

- 3 Precocious girl (5)
8 Nun's outfit (5)
10 Gain access to (3,2)
11 Rodent (3)
12 Foot-operated lever (5)
13 City fortress (7)
15 Lukewarm (5)
18 Dowel (3)
19 Gorgonzola, e.g. (6)
21 Universal remedy (7)
22 Adjoin (4)
23 Encircle (4)
24 Causing distress or injury (7)
26 Shuts (6)
29 Afflict (3)
31 Reddish dye (5)
32 Generous (7)
34 Keyboard instrument (5)
35 Belonging to us (3)
36 Glory (5)
37 Plimsolls (5)
38 Trivial (5)

DOWN

- 1 French capital (5)
2 Make quick light taps (7)
4 Biblical murder victim (4)
5 Woman's name (6)
6 Riotous fight (5)
7 Fertile spot (5)
9 Flying mammal (3)
12 Mythical winged horse (7)
14 Lair (3)
16 Danger (5)
17 Condescend (5)
19 Sure (7)
20 Timepiece (5)
21 Don (3,2)
23 Dismiss from consideration (4,3)
24 Funeral car (6)
25 Petty lie (3)
27 Slacken (3,2)
28 Pry (5)
30 Twists out of shape (5)
32 Ultimate (4)
33 Spirit (3)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION



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ENTRY LINES Calls cost £1.50/Call plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 + 1 standard network rate message. You may receive free promotional messages, to opt out end message with NO INFO. Lines close at midnight on Saturday except where stated. You must be 18+ to enter and T&C's apply. See www.mirror.co.uk/rules. SP Mi Telecom Ltd. Helpdesk 0330 880 6061.

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS 3 Seize, 9 Aight, 10 Endure, 11 Eclat, 12 Imam, 15 Limpet, 17 Locates, 19 Say, 20 Sable, 22 Aspic, 24 Elite, 25 Chore, 27 Wed, 29 Endears, 32 Around, 34 Rant, 35 Genus, 37 Emblem, 38 Recoil, 39 Sinew.
DOWN 1 Basil, 2 Lilac, 3 She, 4 Etches, 5 Zeal, 6 Entitle, 7 Bumps, 8 Jetty, 13 Monster, 14 Magic, 16 Eastern, 18 Sabre, 21 Elver, 23 Changes, 26 Ensure, 27 Wager, 28 Doubt, 30 Aaron, 31 Stalk, 33 Demi, 36 Sew.

WINNER FROM May 26

CROSSWORD solution was SWEDEN. Winner: M Booth, Yorkshire



Dan Rowe tells Lizzie Catt how becoming a father sent him spiralling into a suicidal mental health crisis

Back in December 2015, Dan Rowe was on the cusp of a new adventure. His first baby was about to be born and he was excited to become “the perfect dad, hands-on, involved at every stage”.

But while Dan now has a great relationship with his son, he had no idea that his journey into fatherhood would be an incredibly rocky one, with a mental health crisis culminating in three suicide attempts and a diagnosis of male postnatal depression.

At antenatal classes, Dan, now 42, absorbed the message that his role was to support his then wife, Andrea. But during labour, Dan felt helpless.

“I tried to do whatever I could to make things better for Andrea, but I felt like I was in the way. Then when my son was born, I didn't have that explosion of love they told me about. I didn't feel ‘this is incredible.’ I held him in my arms and it felt strange.”

There was little time to bond with their newborn, Charlie. Within an hour, the tot was whisked away to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Dan says, “I remember asking, where's my baby? I had no idea where NICU was in the building or what it even stood for. I thought, if I leave this room, I don't know where to go. I don't know where he is.”

Charlie had a rollercoaster ride in NICU fighting off an infection, initially making good progress then suffering collapsed lungs.

Drama

After 11 days, he was well enough to go home, but there was more drama in store.

“We'd noticed that Charlie's pupil wasn't completely round, more like a keyhole. Nobody raised it in hospital and we'd put it down to being something that made him even more special,” says Dan.

Then Andrea noticed that in photos, Charlie had one red eye and one white. Doctors told them to prepare for the fact that Charlie may have cancer.

“I had what is probably a very male reaction – switching my emotions off, becoming very practical rather than preparing myself emotionally for what may come.”

Charlie was diagnosed with a condition called Coloboma. “They couldn't say how it would affect his vision until he was older but the condition can indicate problems with major organs, so for the next six months he had to go in for tests to see if he was OK.”

Having gone straight back to work in recruitment after two weeks paternity leave spent in NICU, Dan was already struggling.

“I couldn't concentrate. People

I never knew men could get postnatal depression – then I found I couldn't cope



NEWBORN Dan with Charlie soon after his birth

say, I bet it's great to go back to work for a break and outwardly you agree but you're thinking, why would I want to be at work? I want to be at home with my newborn.”

As months passed and Charlie underwent more tests, Dan felt progressively worse. “It was a constant feeling of failure,” he says, “like what was happening was my responsibility as it was my job as a dad to protect them. Fortunately, Charlie was fine, but it was a whole heap of worry and stress.”

“I was unaware of my feelings but Andrea could see I was struggling. I found it so hard to build any sort of bond and didn't know how to be a father. I thought other dads found it easy. I couldn't talk to Andrea. I thought, ‘If I feel like this, she must be going through something a million times worse.’

“I was drinking more than usual – recruitment's a sociable industry so it was never difficult to find somebody to have a drink with. It went from one or two to five, then 10.”

“I have no doubt that getting to the point of being suicidal for the first time was influenced by alcohol. It all happened so quickly with one thought snowballing – I was useless and the people in my life would be better off without me.”

After a mercifully unsuccessful

YOU



With
AMY PACKER



HAPPY DAYS
Dan and Charlie
enjoy a great
relationship

BONDING Dan
and Charlie

attempt, Dan confided in Andrea, who sent him to the local surgery where, after one less than positive experience, he managed to find a “phenomenal” GP.

“I was put on medication and given counselling,” he says. “That was where the notion of post-natal depression was introduced.”

Dan’s reaction to the diagnosis was surprise. “I didn’t know men could get it. It was helpful to have that understanding, but it came with a bit of shame, like, guys don’t experience this. I felt there was a stigma.”

Depressed

In fact, according to the National Childbirth Trust (NCT), the number of men who become depressed in the first year after becoming a father is double that of the general population, with 25 per cent experiencing mild depressive symptoms and between 10 and 12 per cent being diagnosed with depression.

The peak time for postnatal depression in men is three to six months, with first-time fathers most vulnerable. According to the NCT, it’s not just mothers whose bodies change after birth. They say, “Hormones including testosterone, oestrogen, cortisol, vasopressin and

prolactin may change in dads during the period after their babies arrive.”

And this could be a factor in triggering mental health issues.

While counselling helped Dan understand his issues, there was no time to work on fixing them before his sessions ran out and he had to go on a waiting list for more. He continued to struggle, making two more attempts on his life.

In desperation, he attended his first meeting at one of the peer-to-peer support groups run by charity Andy’s Man Club, which was set up in memory of Andy Roberts, a young father who tragically took his own life. “I’m not sure at that point how keen I actually was to get better. It was last chance saloon.”

“The first question at Andy’s Man Club is, how’s your week been? There was a guy who said he’d struggled to be a dad but never felt closer to his kids than he did now. I realised I wasn’t the only guy who’d struggled like that.”

“Men often carry these things internally because we don’t feel we have permission to talk. There’s an

incredible power hearing a guy you’ve never met before sharing that they’ve been in the same boat.”

He went back the next week, and the next. “It really helped me, having that weekly check-in, getting things off my chest and focusing on some of the positives in my life.”

Six years in, Dan has gone from his first session to becoming a volunteer facilitator, setting up more groups and now working for the charity.

“I still have days where I’m overwhelmed but my mental health is good. I have ways of dealing with it. Andrea and I separated, now I have an incredible partner, Steph, and Andrea recently had a baby with her new partner.”

“The four of us get on really well, Charlie’s gone from having two loving parents to four, and a baby sister.”

“I’m privileged to have a handful of people I trust implicitly. Most of my close friends I’ve met through Andy’s Man Club. It’s completely changed my life.”

This Father’s Day, Andy’s Man Club

is partnering with Hallmark on a range of cards designed to convey messages of love, support and understanding, and hopefully kick-start conversations that could save lives.

“What Hallmark is doing is really important, you never know what’s going to get somebody to open up,” says Dan.

“I feel really proud of being the dad I never thought I’d get to be – better than I would have been if I hadn’t gone through those challenges. Now I can just cherish the brilliant relationship I have with Charlie.”

■ Andy’s Man Club (andysmanclub.co.uk) offers free peer-to-peer support groups across the UK and online, aiming to end the stigma surrounding men’s mental health and help men through the power of conversation. Support the charity this Father’s Day by buying a card from hallmark.co.uk/pages/andys-man-club

■ If you need help with suicidal thoughts, the Samaritans are available 24 hours a day, 365 days

RETAIL THERAPIES



■ Dads love curry. Dads love barbecuing too, so the Cinnamon Club’s Sizzling BBQ meal kit (£37.50pp, thecinnamoncollection.com) is a no-brainer this Father’s Day. Available for nationwide delivery and serving four generously, the fabulous feast includes six mains (tandoori salmon skewers, lamb seekh kebabs, sandalwood chicken), four sides and sticky toffee pudding.

■ If your Pop’s all about the protein, check out the Imp & Maker Father’s Day Tomahawk Steak



Hamper (£119 for up to four, impandmaker.co.uk). The grass-fed, 28-day-aged steak from Dedham Vale comes with mixed leaf salad, super-sweet cherry vine tomatoes, the perfect potatoes for wedges, plus sauces and seasonings.



■ Or if you are happier heating than cooking, treat Dad to a Charlie Bigham’s Indian Banquet (£12.50 for two, Tesco) which are packed with fresh ingredients. Pick a main course, such as chicken jalfrezi or cauliflower & paneer, a side (we loved the creamy black dhal) and your choice of rice or garlic naan.

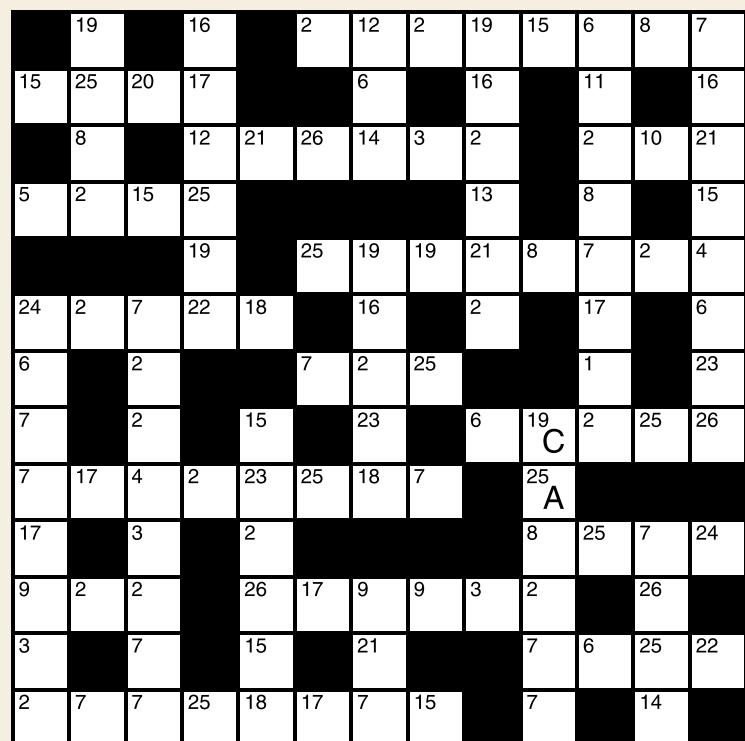


■ Did you know cheese can boost your gut microbiome? What better excuse to pass the crackers... The Snowdonia Cheese Co Cheese & Port Lovers Hamper (£65, snowdoniacheese.co.uk) contains three cheddar truckles including an extra mature Black Bomber and a Habanero chilli-packed Red Leicester, chutneys, crackers and antioxidant-packed tawny port.

“I felt useless and that people would be better off without me”

CODEBREAKER

We've taken a completed crossword puzzle and replaced each letter in the grid with the same number throughout. Two letters have been given to start you off, so write these letters wherever their numbers appear in the grid. The completed grid will include all letters of the alphabet. Remember, none of the answers are proper nouns.

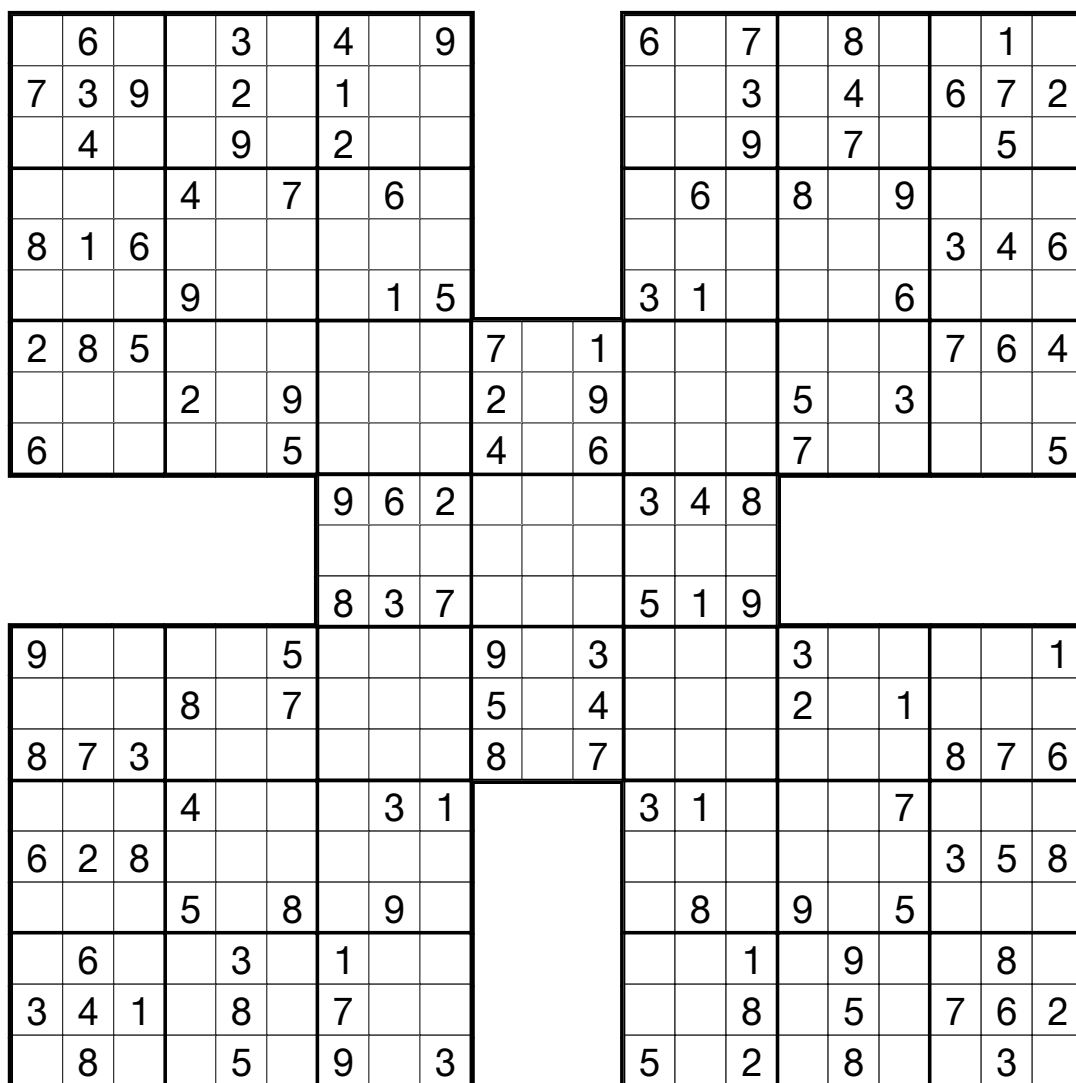


A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
					C						A	

BIG X SUDOKU

The rules for Big X Sudoku vary only slightly from the standard sudoku rules. The 9x9 sudoku at the centre of the X shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outer sudoku. None of the 9x9 sudokus can be solved individually, you must cross-reference between the intersecting grids.



NINER

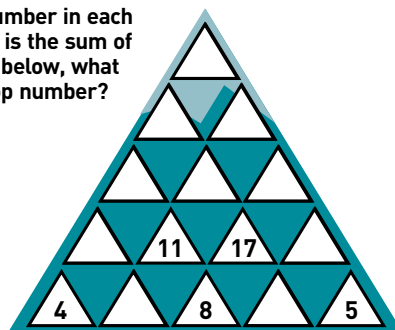
Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 7238** gives an instrument
5695 gives an opera
4171 gives a musical piece

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

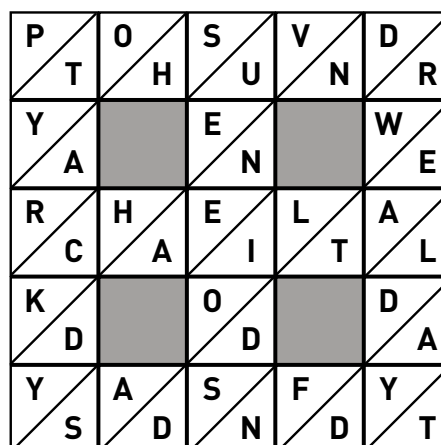
SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?



SPLIT DECISION

Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.



PUB QUIZ

Can you pick out the correct answers in our multiple choice Pub Quiz?

- Which river flows through Oxford, Reading and London?
A The Avon
B The Thames
C The Lea
- What nationality was the novelist Marcel Proust?
A French
B Swiss
C Austrian
- A caiman is what type of animal?
A Bird
B Mammal
C Reptile
- In which state of the USA are the cities Houston and Dallas situated?
A Texas
B Florida
C California
- How many strings does a violin usually have?
A Five
B Four
C Six
- Who wrote the novel Jane Eyre?
A Charles Dickens
B Charlotte Brontë
C Jane Austen
- What sort of creature is a whelk?
A A mollusc
B A water snake
C A freshwater fish
- What word refers to the time taken by the Earth to complete one revolution around the Sun?
A Year
B Day
C Month
- In which county is Dartmoor situated?
A Somerset
B Cornwall
C Devon
- In what year was the NHS founded?
A 1932
B 1948
C 1959

BRAIN TEASERS

Can you bend your brain around this set of mathematical, lexical and logistical teasers?

- Grant is looking after his sister's cats, but they all seem to have wandered off. There are only a few places they can be... Lola isn't in the wendy house or under the bed. Moses isn't in the shed or the wendy house. He thought Socks might have climbed the oak tree, but he found Pax up there instead. Who's hiding where?
- Which two words meaning 'leaf' and 'insect' combine into one meaning 'procession'?
- Find the classic sweets in these anagrams:
a) Sea Burglary,
b) Horsemen Belt,
c) Urgency Fails
- Keith likes a long shot. In the next three days local teams are 100-1 to win 5-0 in each game. He plans to place £1 on the first match and then place his returns on 5-0 again the day after and then again the day after that. If he wins each bet, what will he collect after the third game?

LOGIC

Can you work out the details of Mr and Mrs Jones' summer of weddings?

Last year, Mr and Mrs Jones had a very busy summer. They had been to five different weddings, at five different locations, in five different months. They also had a different main course at each one.

After so many happy occasions, the memories had begun to mingle together, so Mr and Mrs Jones attempted to unpick the details:

"All I can say for sure is that the Dubois couple tied the knot in France, and that we had pork at the wedding of Mr and Mrs Thomas," said Mr Jones.

"That's right, and I know for a fact that we ate that delicious pork before the rather bland chicken dish up in Edinburgh," said Mrs Jones.

"I know we ate cod and chips at the July wedding in Yorkshire, but whenever it was that we ate the salmon,

it certainly wasn't until after the Scotts' wedding."

"You're absolutely right. Also, I recall that the Campbells got hitched before the Scotts but after Mr and Mrs Singh."

"I remember that we travelled to the European mainland in September, because there was that whole issue with the passports. I also recall that one of the weddings in England was in May, but I can't remember which."

"I don't remember either, but I do know that we had the vegetarian dish at one of those English weddings, and that the event in Yorkshire didn't happen until after our trip to Italy."

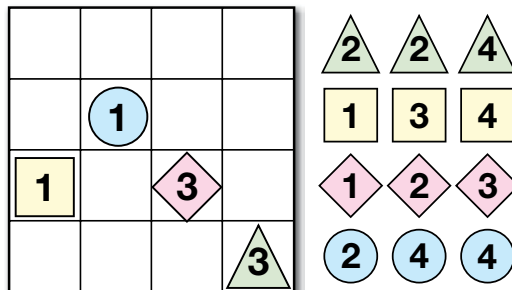
Can you piece together the details of each wedding from the Jones' patchy recollections?

	Edinburgh	France	Italy	Devon	Yorkshire	Chicken	Mushroom	Cod and chips	Pork	Salmon	May	June	July	August	September
Campbell															
Dubois															
Scott															
Singh															
Thomas															
May															
June															
July															
August															
September															
Chicken															
Mushroom															
Cod and chips															
Pork															
Salmon															



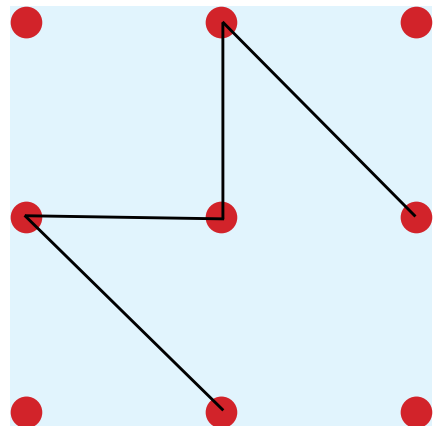
KEIJO

Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column of the grid.



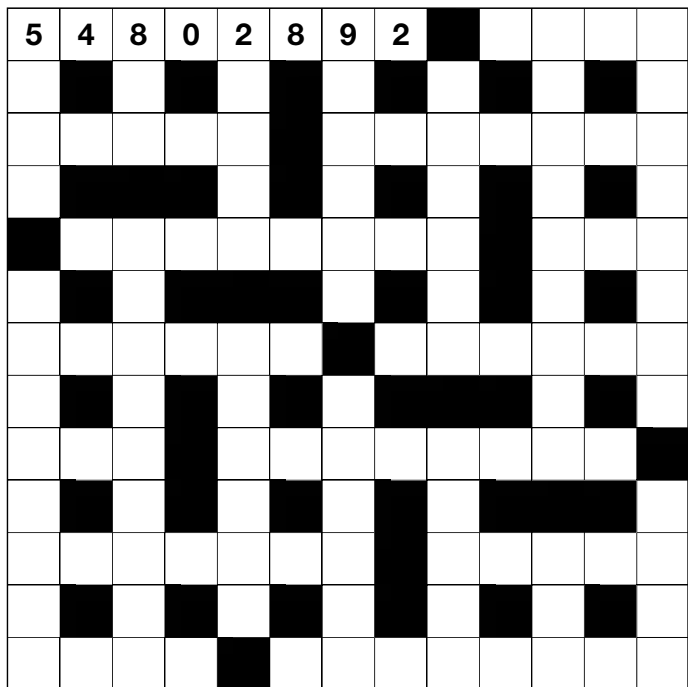
TRIANGLE

Draw 3 straight lines to make 6 triangles. Lines must be drawn from dot-to-dot, either passing through one dot or none at all. Valid triangles must not contain lines running through them, every line segment must form part of a triangle.



NUMBERFIT

All of the listed numbers fit into the grid and there's only one way to do it. One number has been provided to get you started.



3 digits

435
563
569
845

4 digits

1782
5071
5830
6345

5 digits

26524
43728
74568
76545

6 digits

123428
364032
562546
791832
842975
979371

7 digits

9568057
9768345

8 digits

15654264
21785787
38153976
54802892
65246760
96580940

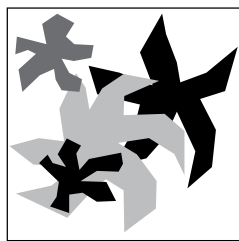
9 digits

562237614
720240406

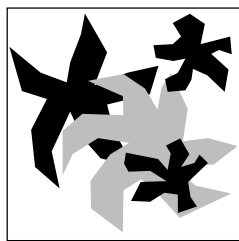
MIRROR IMAGE

Which of the shapes A-D is an exact mirror image of the original?

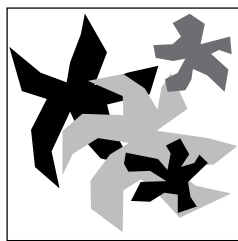
ORIGINAL



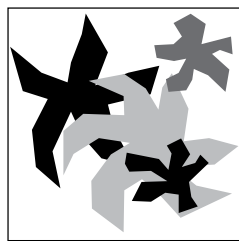
A



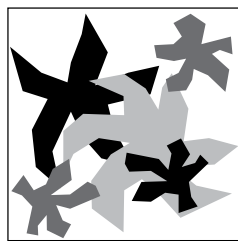
B



C



D



SOLUTIONS

CODEBREAKER
1=Z, 2=E, 3=L, 4=D, 5=F, 6=O, 7=S, 8=R, 9=B, 10=M, 11=Y, 12=J, 13=Q, 14=G, 15=T, 16=H, 17=I, 18=Y, 19=C, 20=X, 21=U, 22=K, 23=W, 24=P, 25=A, 26=N

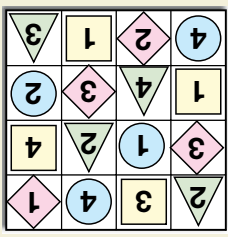
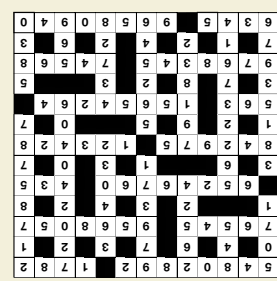
BRAIN TEASERS
1) Pax is in the oak tree, Lola in the shed, socks in the Wendy house and Moses is under the bed. 2) Page-ant. 3) a) Sugar Barley, b) Sherbet Lemon, c) Flying Saucer. 4) £1,030,301.

PUB QUIZ
1 The Thames 2 French 3 Reptile 4 Texas 5 Four 6 Charlotte Brontë 7 A mollusc 8 Year 9 Devon 10 1948.

SUMMIT UP
105

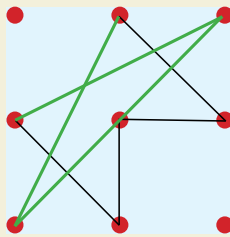
MIRROR IMAGE
C

OUTSAILED LUTE, AIDA, SOLO



S	A	N	D	Y
K	O			A
C	H	I	L	
A	N			E
P	O	U	N	D

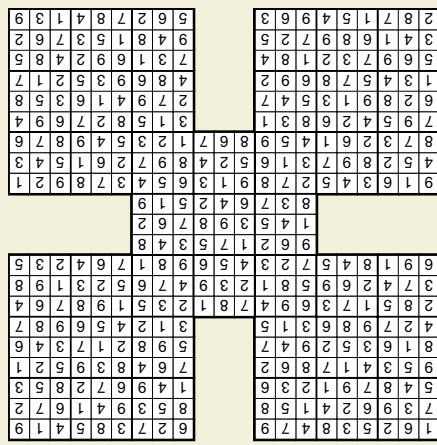
SPLIT DECISION



TRIANGLE

Couple	Location	Main course	Month
Campbell	Yorkshire	Cod and chips	July
Dubois	France	Salmon	September
Scott	Edinburgh	Chicken	August
Singh	Devon	Mushroom	May
Thomas	Italy	Pork	June

LOGIC



BIG X SUDOKU

time to **Talk Money**with
**WARREN
SHUTE**The
Smarter
Spender **£**

Getting ahead financially means making some smart money decisions. Here is a snapshot of the key money information you need to know...

Market movements

Index	YTD (%)	10yr (%)
FTSE 100	8.66	5.91
S&P 500	12.84	15.89
MSCI World	10.91	12.82
MSCI Emerging Market	4.84	5.98
Gold Price	12.54	9.41
UK Property market proxy	0.79	3.20
Deposit Rate	0.66	0.20
RPI	1.58	4.17
CPI	0.98	2.93

Total return in pounds sterling. YTD is the year-to-date percentage total return. 10 yr (%) is the compound annualised growth rate over 10 years. Deposit rate reflects a typical savings account at £2,500. RPI and CPI are inflation measures.

Great savings rates

■ Ulster Bank has a variable savings account of 5.20% pa.
■ National Bank of Egypt has a one-year fixed rate of 5.22% pa.
■ Isbank Raisin UK is offering a three-year fixed rate of 4.75% pa.
■ Isbank Raisin UK is offering a five-year fixed rate of 4.75% pa.
Please check the T&Cs before depositing your money. If you hold money with a UK authorised bank or building society, you are covered under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme up to £85,000 per eligible person, per bank or building society.

Great mortgage deals
If you're remortgaging:

■ Barclays is offering a 4.31% fixed rate until 30/09/2029 at 60% LTV.
■ AIB is offering a 4.71% fixed rate until 31/08/2029 at 80% LTV.
If you're moving home:
■ Barclays is offering a 4.33% fixed rate until 30/09/2029 at 60% LTV.
■ Danske Bank is offering a 4.53% fixed rate until 02/07/2029 at 80%.

If you're a first-time buyer:

■ Lloyds Bank is offering a 4.71% fixed rate until 31/08/2029 at 90% LTV.
■ Halifax is offering a 5.10% fixed rate 31/08/2027 at 100% LTV.
Please check the fees and T&Cs of the mortgage before arranging it. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.



Time flies... so make it count

Work out how you want to live the rest of your life

To me, it seems like only the other week that we were celebrating the new year, but we're halfway through 2024 already.

Before we know it, summer will be over – if it ever arrives – and we'll be planning our Christmas celebrations.

This week also marks the fourth anniversary of my column so I'd like to share my experiences of being financially well-organised.

It's important to note that information is useless without action.

The decisions we make in life will shape our future, and that's why I always want to know two things from my clients at Lexington, my financial planning practice, before we start talking money – what's your outcome, and what is important to you?

I need to know what you want to

achieve because if you don't know what you want, how can I help you get there? The clearer you are on what your outcome is, the more likely you are to achieve it.

With clarity comes certainty, and you feel some excitement because you can begin to visualise what it is you really want out of life.

Take a moment to try this: think of something you'd like to do, close your eyes and see it clearly in your mind's eye.

Next, make the colours of this image bright and vivid, like the most vibrant image you've ever seen.

Now make it a motion picture and put yourself into the film, with surround sound which in turn brings feelings to your body. Then magnify these feelings, making them more intense. This is how you truly visualise your outcome.

Professional athletes and sport-people have known this technique for years, but I believe you can use it to

help design your life. Knowing what you want to achieve is necessary, but it's only part of the process – why is that outcome important to you?

Are there times in your life when you've felt like everything is going in your favour and you just can't help but win at life?

Athletes refer to this as being 'in the flow' and it happens when your actions and your values are aligned.

The advertising world spends billions of pounds trying to grab your attention and tell you what you need.

But you already know what you need if you ask yourself, 'What's important to me about...?'

So this weekend, to mark the fourth birthday of Time To Talk Money, why don't you ask yourself: 'How do I want to live the rest of my life?'

Allow yourself some me-time to ponder the answer and live your life by design, not by default.

■ **To find out more about lifestyle planning or for financial advice, search for lexingtonwealth.co.uk**

Nvidia gives Nasdaq a boost

The success of AI firm Nvidia has caused US technology index the Nasdaq Composite to close above the 17,000 level for the first time.

Share prices at the chip manufacturer increased by more than 20% on the week, pushing its market capitalisation to over \$2.8trillion. That means it is closing in on tech rivals such as Apple.



The holding company of Czech entrepreneur Daniel Kretinsky has agreed a deal to purchase Royal Mail for a sum of £5.3billion.

The takeover bid for the 500-year-old postal service coincides with the General Election.

Mr Kretinsky has pledged to acknowledge the postal workers' union and to closely examine uniform postal charges across the UK.



Hitting goals: 5 things we all should know

The
BIG
save

Here are a few key things I've touched upon over the last year that you can do now to make the rest of 2024 count:

1 Know what you want out of life. If you don't know, how will you ever know when you have achieved it?

2 Know what's important to you about money. Staying true to your values will result in you leading a happier life.

3 Take action. Knowing the answer to both of the above is great, but procrastination is the assassin of success. Do something with your knowledge and make it count.

4 Take time to review your results. We need to check in on ourselves and our goals from time to time to ensure we're still on the right path.

5 Be patient. We often overestimate what we can achieve in a year and underestimate what we can achieve in a decade.

Q&A

✿ I want to start a pension but have little money behind me. What should I do?

WARREN: First, look at your income and expenses. Try to allocate 20% of your income to yourself each month and save this into a deposit account until you have three months of expenses secured. Once you have done that, redirect the 20% into a pension. Getting an emergency fund first is essential.

✿ I have a buy-to-let flat in London which costs me money after I have paid the mortgage and tax each month. Should I keep it for capital growth?

WARREN: Property is unlikely to outperform equities over time and the fact it's costing you money makes it a liability. Given the punitive taxation of buy-to-lets over other forms of investments, I would consider selling up.

GET in TOUCH

Send your emails to warren.shute@reachplc.com or tweet @warrenshute

STAR RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent
 ★★★★ Good
 ★★★ Worth a look
 ★★ Poor
 ★ Don't bother

Movies



STOIC
 Viggo
 Mortensen
 takes
 the reins



STEELY
 Vicky
 Krieps

Emotional ride

THE DEAD DON'T HURT

Cert 15 ★★★
 In cinemas now

Dead men tell no tales and, sometimes, the living also prefer silence. Moments of quiet reflection and lamentation punctuate actor Viggo Mortensen's second directorial feature, a slow-burning revenge thriller set before and during the US Civil War, which pits neighbouring states against each other.

The Dead Don't Hurt is more ambitious in scope than his accomplished 2020 debut Falling, chronicling the fractious relationship between a gay man and his cantankerous, ageing father.

Intergenerational conflict also lights the dramatic fuse here but the consequences are violent and potentially deadly in an era

when heartfelt prayers could be just as impactful to survival as the limited supplies in a doctor's medicine bag.

The intentionally fractured chronology of Mortensen's script withholds an expected emotional sucker punch until the conclusion of the first hour, sowing seeds of rage and retribution in a second half that noticeably picks up the pace to an energetic trot.

Mortensen reunites with top-line creatives from his first picture including production designer Carol Spier, art director Jason Clarke and Danish cinematographer Marcel Zyskind to conjure majestic panoramas of the American West.

Vicky Krieps invests her strong-willed homemaker with a steeliness and

“
**Sows seeds
 of rage and
 retribution
 as the pace
 picks up to an
 energetic trot**

self-reliance that makes her character's fate truly heartbreaking. She sparks delightful screen chemistry with a gruff and stoic Mortensen, whose multi-tasking extends to composing the film's mournful score.

Opening with soft, rhythmic breathing on a deathbed, The Dead Don't Hurt sits comfortably in the saddle of a genre that frequently takes innocent lives with the reckless pull of a trigger. Gunfights on foot and horseback are well executed.

Supporting characters are convincingly fleshed out, stoking tension between townsfolk down to the Bible-spouting judge of a kangaroo court, who justifies a perversion of justice with verbose scripture.

The guilty cannot escape righteous punishment forever.

BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE

Cert 15 ★★★
 In cinemas now

During a frenzied gunfight in the fourth instalment of the Bad Boys franchise, grim foreboding grips Will Smith's police detective. His wisecracking partner, played by Martin Lawrence, breaks the dreamlike stupor by forcefully slapping one side of Smith's face. Three times.

The close-contact violence conjures an uncomfortable flashback to the 94th Academy Awards and an on-stage altercation between Smith and comedian Chris Rock. Bad Boys:



RETURN
 Lawrence
 and Smith

Ride Or Die plays its repeated slaps as physical comedy before returning directors Adil El Arbi and Bilal Fallah launch into a spectacular action sequence replete with bomb-laden drones, somersaulting gas cylinders and

unfriendly wildlife. The Belgian filmmaking duo ricochet wildly between dizzying gyroscopic camerawork and slow-motion destruction to wreak havoc on land and water, and in the air. Meanwhile, Smith and

Lawrence rekindle their rat-a-tat repartee as Miami police detectives Mike Lowrey and Marcus Burnett, trading barbs and bullets as they seek to clear the unfairly maligned name of their murdered captain (Joe Pantoliano).

A plot steeped in corruption clearly signposts who they shouldn't trust and Eric Dane's glowering antagonist is disappointingly two-dimensional.

"Bad boys, bad boys, Whatcha gonna do?" Smith and Lawrence sing at each other.

To answer their question: please stop while you're slipping behind.

DEEP SEA

Cert PG ★★★
 In cinemas now

In The Little Mermaid, red crab Sebastian urges mermaid Ariel to abandon her land-lubbing dreams because "Life under the sea is better than anything they got up there".

Visually dazzling Chinese animated fantasy Deep Sea, written and directed by Tian Xiaopeng, wholeheartedly agrees with the crustacean, conceiving an epic underwater odyssey for a little girl desperate to reconnect with the mother who abandoned her when she was born.

Beneath the waves, little ShenXiu (voiced by Kanami Shimanuki) follows an amorphous squid-like creature called a Hijinx to the ailing Deep Sea restaurant run by chef NanHe (Eduardo De Los Reyes). His avant-garde eatery, housed inside a pedal-powered submersible, is crippled by debt and one-star reviews. ShenXiu agrees to work alongside walrus sous chef Laojin (Sean Burgos) in the kitchen to turn the business around.

Released with English language dubbing, Deep Sea draws comparisons to the otherworldly adventures of Studio Ghibli (Spirited Away) but lacks the emotional complexity of the Japanese powerhouse.

The flavour profile of Xiaopeng's picture is salty and sweet, garnished with eye-catching visuals that meld traditional 3D computer animation and Chinese ink painting. Style consistently overwhelms substance.

If looks alone could feed the soul, then Deep Sea is utterly mouthwatering.



FANTASY
 Life under
 the waves

NAIVE
 Kids' charm
 wears thin
 well before
 the end



RIDDLE OF FIRE

Cert 12A ★★★
 In cinemas now

Writer-director Weston Razooli's nostalgic coming-of-age fairy tale opens with a feral flower child (Lorelei Olivia Mote) dreamily inviting us on a fantastical adventure with "three immortal reptiles". Rambunctious brothers Hazel (Charlie Stover) and Jodie (Skylar Peters) and good friend Alice (Phoebe Ferro) seek a blueberry pie to placate the boys' sickly mother (Danielle Hoetmer), who has password-protected the family television.

The diminutive trio screech around the hills of Ribbon, Wyoming, on motorised bikes, armed with paintball guns and mobile phones that magically double as surveillance cameras to spy on members of The Enchanted Blade Gang, who are really a coven controlled by spellcasting witch Anna-Freya Hollyhock (Lio Tipton).

Shot on 16mm film, Riddle Of Fire possesses a naive, homemade charm that regrettably wears off well before the children have gamely waded through stilted dialogue that sounds like it could have been written by their impish characters.

The awkwardness and inexperience of the young cast in front of a camera is evident (smallest tyke Jodie is largely unintelligible and requires subtitles) and ripened profanities tumble from their lips with surprising frequency.

An underlying parental plea to play outdoors and stop staring at a screen could extend to judging whether to watch Razooli's film.

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Edited by
NIGEL THOMPSON
@TravelEdNigel

Step right up

Vicky Lissaman visits
Whitby, Helmsley and York
on a delightful holiday in
God's own county

BAYWATCH
The view
from Whitby's
199 steps

The handsome market town of Helmsley is a little slice of heaven in God's own county. Sitting on the fringes of the North York Moors, it has everything you could ever want in a hamlet to holiday in: a pretty town square, a 12th century castle, a walled garden, a country park, and a river – the Rye – running through it.

There's a jolly buzz about the place with people pottering around the shops, meeting in cafes, enjoying pints on benches outside pubs, and chatting in queues snaking out of the delis.

On our first morning we set off on a stroll around town, stopping to pose for the classic Helmsley photo in front of its babbling brook with the tower of All Saints Church in the background.

We then wandered up the ruins of 900-year-old Helmsley Castle, with our

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE

BIG DEAL

South Cornwall from £428: a four-night self-catering staycation at the dog-friendly Penmarlam Lodge Retreat, near Fowey, for selected dates in June with accommodation in a two-bed holiday home sleeping up to six. lovatparks.com

Going green

PLANET-FRIENDLY TRAVEL NEWS
BY NIGEL THOMPSON

Endangered sea turtles in four holiday hotspots are getting enhanced protection.

The TUI Turtle Aid programme will boost its certification scheme operations in Cape Verde, Kenya, Turkey and Greece to support around half a million hatchlings. More than 200,000 visitors

and locals will be educated in marine conservation and turtle-friendly tourism through info kiosks, public presentations and community engagement.

Cape Verde's archipelago has the largest nesting population of loggerhead sea turtles in the world and the focus will be on ground and drone monitoring of beaches, relocation of endangered nests and awareness activities include radio programmes and workshops organised with schools.

In Kenya's Watamu and Diani, more

than 200 adult sea turtles will be rehabilitated, and thousands of hatchlings protected through night beach patrols.

Activities in Antalya and Mugla, Turkey, will include installing protective cages over nests and conducting nightly patrols, while in Greece, the programme – part of the TUI Care Foundation – will work in Rethymno and Chania on Crete and will include counting unhatched eggs.

Beachfront hotels can also apply for a turtle-friendly business certification. tuicarefoundation.com

BIG DEAL

Greek Islands from £385pp: save £100pp on a seven-night self-catering sunshine getaway at the three-star Erietta Studios in Svoronata, south-west Kefalonia. Depart from Bristol on June 19, flights from other UK airports also available. olympic.holidays.com

CRUISE NEWS

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

Say bonjour to Bordeaux on a new range of seven to 21-night French river voyages in 2025 with Avalon Waterways.

Itineraries on the Garonne and Dordogne rivers will showcase chateaux and fine cuisine with e-biking through vineyards and a chance to explore UNESCO world heritage site towns. Seven-night round trips from Bordeaux start at £2,498 per person, flights extra.

Avalon will also sail the Rhine, Seine and Saone next year as part of a 30% boost in French voyages. avalonwaterways.co.uk



■ No-fly premium value line Ambassador's new June sale offers include buy one get one half price, £50 per person deposits, children from £99 on multigenerational sailings, 5% discount on groups of 15 or more and single supplement savings. ambassadorcruiseline.com

BUY OF THE WEEK

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

Climate change is fuelling a shift in the way we think about travelling, and more of us are looking to cut our plane trips.

This new guide showcases 80 more sustainable itineraries for discovering the best of Europe by train, boat or bicycle – ranging from weekend getaways to month-long journeys.

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PRAISE
York Minster and Jorvik Viking Centre



CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

picnic made up of delights from Thomas of Helmsley in the town – you must try the rich and meaty black pudding deli sausage roll.

You can also walk through Duncombe Park and its 450 acres of meadows and river valley, or around Helmsley Walled Garden with its orchards and glasshouses.

Our family of four rented Castle View, a lovely four-bedroom, three-bathroom holiday let, a one-minute walk from town, from Sykes Cottages.

Homely and comfy, with an airy conservatory that looks out on to a beautifully designed garden, we'd sit there with our morning coffee planning our week.

A big day out to York beckoned. First stop: York Minster, the gothic masterpiece that has attracted visitors for more than a thousand years.

Watching over the city from its west front is the slightly larger-than-life statue of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Intended to mark her Platinum Jubilee, the French limestone sculpture was poignantly unveiled by King Charles, two months after her death.

Inside, we just about managed the 275 steps of the Tower Climb to reach what is officially York's highest point at 197ft for amazing views out to the countryside. You can also go on a free stained-glass tour and visit the Undercroft Museum, which reveals two millennia of history.

For lunch, we called in at The York Roast Co. on Stonegate for a proper roast dinner inside a giant Yorkshire pudding. Order, fast-food-style, at the counter then take it away or eat it out of a box in the upstairs dining area. Genius!

The Van Gogh Immersive Experience in St Mary's church opened in 2019 and has proved so popular, it keeps extending its run.

A digital production, it showcases the post-impressionist's works, as visitors sit in low deckchairs in the darkened former church to stare up and all around at the dazzlingly colourful

paintings as they move and morph into one another. It's such an inventive way to enjoy and appreciate these famous artworks and hear the stories behind them.

“
Jorvik Viking Centre story captivated Blue Peter viewers 40 years ago

Next door is the world-famous Jorvik Viking Centre.

Its story captivated Blue Peter viewers 40 years ago – it went from a small excavation behind Lloyds Bank in 1972, to deep layers full of preserved timber

buildings, shoes and clothes being found, along with seeds and insect remains – things that usually rot away over time.

When a shopping centre development was proposed, it was agreed that further excavations could take place before plans were finalised. After 40,000 items

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CHARMED
Market town of Helmsley

Yorkshire more

were identified, The York Archaeological Trust set about creating a heritage experience to showcase the artefacts.

The result was the Jorvik Centre, which is more like a film set than a museum.

Instead of walking around the exhibits, visitors get to ride specially-designed "time cars" around a recreated Viking village, witnessing life up-close, from folk preparing meals, to sitting on a Viking toilet – sounds, smells and all! And if you've still got your Blue Peter badge, you can get in free.

Helmsley is an ideal location to combine city sightseeing with coast and countryside visits.

In under an hour you can be at the quirky seaside town of Whitby and it was here I finally fulfilled a lifelong food ambition...

To sample Fortune's kippers, which are smoked daily on the premises. To me they are food heaven.

Those who want them have to be up early to bag their place in the queue at the shop, which has been tucked beneath the cliffs on Henrietta Street since 1872.

I have arrived on several occasions before to discover the shop shut, displaying a "sold out" sign, and have gone away disappointed. All 500 herrings, which are split from head to



HOOKED
Whitby fish wish and York view



tail, soaked in brine, then hung on rods to be smoked using a mix of oak, beech and softwood, are often gone by noon.

Not this time.

Smugly bagging the last pair (£2.50 each), we continued our tour of the town.

On the list was climbing the 199 steps to the stone skeleton of spooky Whitby Abbey, ducking into shops to marvel at the jewellery made with its shiny black Whitby jet, and strolling out on to its pair of stone piers.

But we couldn't leave before trying another Whitby food institution – Maggie Cafe.

Four generous portions of golden battered cod, fluffy chips and mushy peas arrived promptly via a smiling waitress, swiftly followed by pots of tea – the only drink to have with this lunch of perfection. If you don't fancy a big meal, you

can pick from the interesting menu featuring Lindisfarne oysters, pickled cockles and a Whitby crab bisque, and you get a good view of the harbour from the upstairs dining section.

So was it as good as people say? Indeed it was – an excellent plate for £16.95.

From Helmsley we also visited "the finest view in England" – well half of it, as it was a bit cloudy.

This is Sutton Bank, and former local resident, vet James Herriot, loved it.

From the car park, follow the trail to the viewpoint where you'll stand 968ft above sea level and the ground in front of you plunges 656ft to the valley floor.

From here you can see a great swathe of northern England, stretching all the way to the Pennines,

“
Helmsley is an ideal spot to combine countryside, coast and city visits

BOOK IT

Seven nights at Castle View, Helmsley, North Yorkshire, costs from £782, (Ref. 2779) sykescottages.co.uk
Helmsley Castle, adults £9.50, children £5.50, english-heritage.org.uk
Duncombe Park parkland, £1 per visit, children free. Tickets from Duncombe Park shop in Bridge Street, Helmsley, or National Centre for Birds of Prey within Duncombe Park, duncombepark.com
York Minster, adults £24 for admission and tower climb, children £6, yorkminster.org
Van Gogh Immersive Experience, York, adults £15, children £9, families £42, vangoghexpo.co.uk/york
Jorvik Viking Centre, York, adults £16.50, children £11, under 5s free, jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk

MORE INFO

yorkshire.com

30 miles to the west. Our days out exploring would always end with a drink in a pub in Helmsley, which has plenty of lovely options around the town square.

One that really stuck out for quality and friendliness was Helmsley Brewing Company, where we sipped pints of Yorkshire Legend, a rich bitter, at its onsite bar, with a log burner, next to the beer being brewed.

After a wonderful week in Helmsley, we certainly went out on a high.



Bug warning for summer

BY **CYANN FIELDING**

Brits heading for Spain this summer are being warned that they could face new plagues of genetically hardened cockroaches thanks to climate change.

The alert was raised by a Spanish environmental organisation which says the insects will emerge in their masses this summer.

Anecpla (National Association of Environmental Health Companies) warned bars, restaurants and hotels to take urgent action if they spot any early signs of cockroach plagues.

Experts believe the surge in the pests is due to increasing temperatures and the hot months extending further into the year than before.

"A summer of significant cockroach infestations is approaching," said general director of the Anecpla, Jorge Galván. "The increase in temperatures as a result of climate change is causing insects like bedbugs, or cockroaches in this case, to exponentially accelerate their life cycle."

Anecpla claims that it is scientifically proven that when the temperature is above 28C cockroaches multiply their reproduction speed.

Increasingly strong EU rules banning the use of some pest killing chemicals are also making it trickier for exterminators to shift the bugs.

"The heat arrives in the middle of spring and does not end until well into autumn, so cockroach populations have only expanded," said Jorge.

Tourists who spot infestations should inform their accommodation of the issue.

Infestations can be avoided by not leaving food out and by using rubbish containers secured with tight lids.

BIG DEAL

No-fly Spain, France and Portugal from £999pp: save up to £460 per couple on a 14-night round trip aboard MSC Virtuosa, sailing from Southampton on September 28 and calling at La Coruna, Seville, Malaga, Alicante, Palma, Barcelona, Valencia and Lisbon. cruisekings.co.uk



Why over-50s cabin crew are flying high with British Airways.

By **Nigel Thompson**

You are never crew old to fly! British Airways says over-50s are queueing up to join as flight attendants.

The flag carrier reports that the volume of new recruits aged 50 and above has increased in the last five years – up from one in 12 in 2019 to one in seven last year.

And early indications for 2024 suggest that those numbers will increase with perhaps 20 per cent of new cabin crew being aged over 50.

BA says it encourages people of all ages and backgrounds to join and values the transferable skills and life experience that they can bring.

Here, three BA cabin crew say why they chose to take up a new career at 38,000ft later in life...



LIVING THE DREAM
Helen

Helen Salmon, from Welwyn Garden City, Herts – joined aged 69, after getting a PhD when she was 60

“After a series of different jobs in my 40s, such as hospitality and teaching ballet, I decided to go to university – an opportunity that wasn’t afforded to me when I was younger. I studied geology and finally achieved a PhD at the age of 60.

“During this time, I was also employed in a mineral exploration company.

“This entailed a lot of travelling, something instilled in me by my parents when I was much younger.

“As my father was an aeronautical engineer, I was always fascinated by aviation and travel.

“When Covid struck, I couldn’t travel in the company I worked for any more and I felt I needed to pursue something else. I had been very interested in the airline business for many years, and I wanted to explore this further.

“The chance to mix my love of travel and my hospitality experience together was enticing and exciting and to do this for the

This plane takes ages to get airborne



GOLDEN TOUCH
cabin crew at work

national flag carrier was my dream. “For British Airways to take me on at the age of 69 was incredibly gratifying and brave. I have had the chance to visit amazing places and as a representative of BA now, I hope to demonstrate to others that despite your age, you can still have qualities that are valued.”



IT'S A WHOLE NEW WORLD
Nigel

Nigel Humphriss, a retired Metropolitan Police officer from Central London, joined at 59,

“I retired from the Metropolitan Police with an injury, and was looking

for a suitable change of career. I thought ‘what would be better than a career in the airline industry as cabin crew?’

“I applied to a company called Air Europe and got through the whole process of interviews and was given a start date.

“In the interim period, I went from working as an estate agent to setting up my own business in Kent.

“This extremely successful venture culminated in me selling the business some years later, with offices dotted around Kent, to none other than Savills, which enabled me to take time off, move with my family to Naples in Florida for a two-year sabbatical and look at what I really wanted to do.

“It was at this point that I decided the massive itch that needed to be scratched was still there, and I made what turned out to be a successful application to British Airways at the ripe old age of 59!

“I am now 61 and loving every single minute of life. I have visited so many new countries, met so many fantastic people, both passengers and of course crew, and I just regret not being able to get into this

“I am 61 and loving life. I regret not getting into this industry much sooner

industry much sooner.

“I would recommend any person considering retirement to think again and look at a complete career change, which gives the opportunity to travel the world, meet new people, and enjoy working for such a prestigious organisation.

“If I could inspire just one person to make this career change, I would be delighted.”

Margaret Eastaugh, from Sunderland – joined at 57, as a former civil servant whose son is an inflight manager at BA

“I got my wings [cabin crew graduation] two months before I was 57.

“Previously, I was a civil servant for 28 years based in Newcastle and Seaham, specialising as a pensions and benefits officer. I can’t say I ever loved my job but the hours and flexibility fitted in with having two children, so I stayed for longer than I should have.

“After experiencing a lot of changes in the job, it encouraged me to take early retirement and I started travelling a bit more with

my son, who was cabin crew then. During that time, I met a few ‘mature’ crew, who inspired me to apply.

“When applying, I honestly didn’t think I would be accepted, being a larger and older lady.

“My son is now an inflight manager for BA and I love my job working with so many lovely crew. It’s amazing that I can travel the world and it is a privilege that I am now able to take my husband away on trips that we would have never been able to experience previously.

“I have never looked back.”

MORE INFO

careers.ba.com



TRIPS OF A LIFETIME
Margaret

Pets



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Sneezing dog worry

Q My 10-year-old male German shepherd started sneezing intermittently recently. He also has a mild discharge from his left nostril. Could this be hay fever and could it go away on its own? Or does he need to see the vet?

A This is very unlikely to be the hay fever-like syndrome (atopy) in your dog for several reasons. Atopy usually starts between six months and three years, and not in older dogs.

Skin disease is prominent, and although sneezing is possible it is not very common. I wouldn't expect a nasal discharge to be from one nostril only.

Rather than wait, he definitely needs an examination now to enable a precise diagnosis and treatment.

There are various possibilities. The signs could be caused by a foreign body, such as a blade of grass. These sometimes migrate to the back of the throat and pharynx. Endoscopic examination of the nasal passages and oropharynx would be necessary to find the foreign body, and also check for dental disease – another possibility.

Other causes could be bacterial, fungal or viral diseases or a nasal tumour. Endoscopic examination is useful for investigating these, and radiographs of the area will likely be advised. CT scans are useful for suspected tumours and your vet may advise referral for this.

Early investigation and prompt treatment offers the best chance of a cure, although fungal infections may need several treatments. Radiotherapy for tumours aims to prolong an improved quality of life.

Q My three-year-old cat developed total baldness on the back legs and

abdomen. Treatment is only temporarily successful. A flea control programme is ongoing and if this isn't successful my vet suggests a specialist to get a diagnosis. Do you have any experience of this problem?

A Many skin diseases in cats look similar in a small number of ways, known as cutaneous reaction patterns, and this makes an accurate diagnosis more difficult.

Your cat has a reaction pattern called symmetrical alopecia. Allergic causes are common. Some are due to parasites – and infections or anxiety can add to the problem.

I agree with your vet starting the diagnostic process with a thorough flea control programme, and it's possible it may result in a cure, because allergy to fleas is the most important cause of cat skin problems.

A really thorough flea control programme should clear all fleas within three months.

If this fails, a step-by-step approach is the best way forward, aiming to eliminate other possible causes.

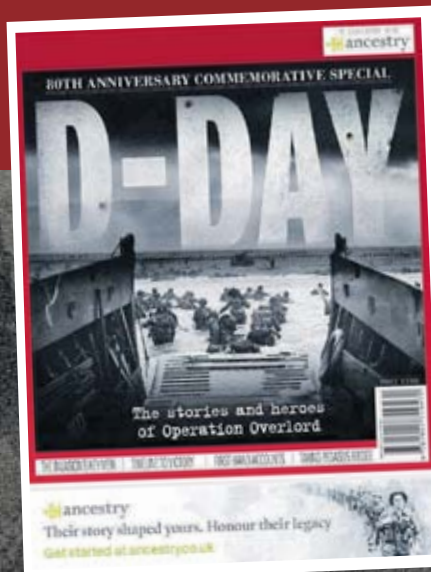
Although initially expensive, there are many advantages to getting help from a specialist at this stage.

A detailed lengthy history is very important. Along with a physical examination it will produce a list of possible diseases known as a differential diagnosis. Some of these can be ruled out at the initial consultation with hair and skin sampling tests.

The specialist can then collaborate with your vet in her clinic on further investigations such as food trials, and treatment advice.

This may result in a cure, or at least long-term good control, depending on the diagnosis.

● David Grant has been a vet for more than 50 years. Email questions to him at pamperedpets@people.co.uk. He cannot enter into individual correspondence.



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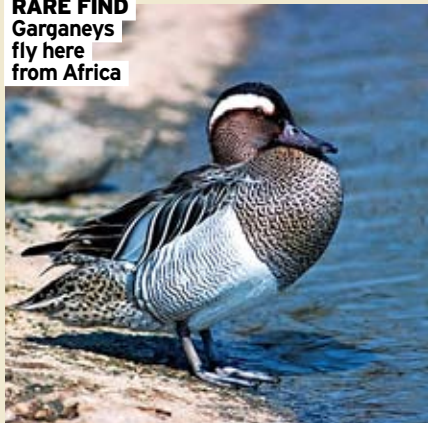
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WINTER'S WILDLIFE

with STUART WINTER

RARE FIND
Garganeys
fly here
from Africa



Dabbling ducks from the desert

Good weather for ducks does not necessarily mean they all enjoy getting drenched by torrential rains in bone-numbing temperatures.

Watching wildfowl is traditionally a winter pursuit for keen birders to celebrate the seasonal influx of ducks, geese and wild swans from frigid climes to our reservoirs and coastal marshes.

Not that every duck lives its life under a cloud. One of Britain's rarest nesting species probably basks in more sunshine and sultry temperatures than swallows, swifts and other traditional harbingers of spring.

The garganey is unique among its web-footed peers, visiting the UK each summer from sub-Saharan wintering grounds that stretch from Senegal eastwards to Sudan and the Nile Valley.

From March onwards, a small number arrive on marshy meres and wet meadows, their cagey nature making them hotline finds for delighted birders. My most recent encounter in glorious early evening sunshine brought home the beauty of these small, dabbling ducks that are easily overlooked when they are skulking in the reed-fringed margins of a lake.

Although ostensibly a brown species, one glimpse of the drake marks him out as a real dandy with his creamy white head markings and fancy epaulettes draped across the shoulders. My telescope view revealed the intricate patterning on the chocolate-tone breast and grey flanks, enhancing its beauty while dabbling away in the shallows.

Female garganey, as with most duck species, are dowdy creatures - their subtle shades of dappled browns perfect camouflage for raising young in the dank margins of wetlands rich in reed and sedge.

The creation and restoration of this type of fenland habitat to protect species such as bittern and bearded reedling is the likely reason why garganey are faring better in Britain than other parts of northern Europe.

Drought and wetland loss in Africa is feared to be having a severe impact on the numbers that migrate north each spring, but here the breeding numbers are stable.

Latest figures from the UK's Rare Breeding Bird Panel show an average 120 pairs nesting each year.

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DELICATE
Phlox
brings
scent to
borders



VIBRANT
Sedums
have
masses of
star-shaped
flowers

It's the season to enjoy your garden, so here's how to give it a boost

With the Chelsea Flower Show behind us and the weather settled - mostly - into a warmer, more pleasant cycle, it's time to get our summer gardens under way.

I've enjoyed several days of gardening, marvelling at the growth and enjoying the blossoms. I've done a last bit of planting and I'm looking forward to the rewards over the next three months.

Here are my tips for

summer season gardening, both for our enjoyment along with benefits for our garden ecosystems.

WATERING

If you have planted anything from last autumn through to this spring, especially trees, keep an eye on them.

Although we have had lots of rain it is remarkable how fast the soil can dry out in some parts of the country.

It is advisable to encourage plants to find water for themselves but you may find



Top tips for summer colour

that the newbies get stressed in dry periods. Keep an eye on them and if required, water carefully, not drowning but allowing the water to sink in before adding more.

LIQUID FEED

Lots of your garden plants will appreciate a liquid feed boost during the busy growing season.

It's at this time of year that many are producing flowers or fruit or setting seed.

Why not make your own liquid feed using either comfrey leaves or nettles? Next week, I'll bring you a series of home-made recipes for lotions, potions and feeds for use in the garden.

MULCHING

This is a wonderful way of feeding your soil, conserving moisture and reducing weeds. In effect it means spreading a layer of composted organic matter



PRETTY
Anthemis
daisy

around the base of your plants after you have watered them thoroughly. If you do this to a depth of around 3cm, it will repay you with brighter plants and fewer weeds.

COMPOSTING

At this time of year, our gardens can produce enormous spurts of growth and you

may find yourself cutting back foliage or deadheading piles of flower heads, and ending up with weekly lawn clippings. Rather than binning them, get yourself a compost bin or create a compost heap.

Create layers of green stuff, then branches, then flowers and throw in the odd handful of garden soil. Repeat these layers like a lasagne. It won't take long for this

to break down into something beneficial for your garden. Maybe by the autumn you'll have your own home-made material to use as mulch.

CHELSEA CHOP

It's at this time of year that some of our favourite perennials can get a little bit unruly. Plants like nepeta can be cut back, which will encourage them to bush out and repeat flower.

This technique of cutting back perennials is known as the Chelsea chop and it will make the plant more compact and floriferous. It works very well with sedum, phlox, solidago, heleniums, rudbeckia, penstemons, echinacea, perennial sunflowers and anthemis.

Just chop back some of the clumps but leave others as is – this way you will achieve different heights and extend the flowering season too.

“
New trees
need careful
watching so
they don't
dry out and
get stressed

JOBS for the week

■ Plant out young courgettes, pumpkins and squashes. If you didn't grow these from seed, there's plenty available in garden centres.

■ Thin out carrot seedlings – remove these thinned seedlings. If left, their scent will attract carrot fly. You can cover with horticultural mesh to help keep them away.

■ Collect seed from candelabra primulas and sow fresh. Pop a few nasturtium seeds in pots for a late summer vibrant display.

■ Start feeding tomatoes in grow bags with high potash feed to encourage flowers and fruit formation.

■ Tie in climbing and rambling roses – the more you train them

horizontally, the more this will encourage side shoots to develop and produce more flowers. Spray roses to protect against diseases.

■ Water containers, pots, window boxes and feed fortnightly.

■ Train sweet peas and start cutting flowers as they appear so you'll get more.

■ Plan for next spring – now's the time to start sowing seeds of Bellis perennis, polyanthus,

pansies and wallflowers so they will be in flower (when very little else is) for brightening up the garden in late winter/early spring.

■ Soft fruit such as gooseberries need netting over them before the birds tuck in.



PLANT of the week

PICTURE SARAHRAVEN.COM



Cosmos atrosanguineus 'Cherry Chocolate'

This new improved version of chocolate cosmos was launched at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. Unlike the original, it has rich, cherry-red flowers but still has the delicious scent of chocolate. The stems are shorter, making for a more compact plant.

What's really different though is its hardiness rating – it can withstand winter temperatures of up to -10C, which makes it hardy in most of the UK, though plants in pot are more vulnerable.

If you are able to overwinter dahlias in your plot, then this plant should also survive, with a layer of mulch for winter protection.

You ask...

Hi Diarmuid

I have three young camellias planted at the base of my garden wall but they don't seem to be doing well. The leaves are yellow and there seems to be little or no growth. Help!

Dolores

Hi Dolores

The most likely answer here is that they are not in the correct

soil. There's an easy way to find out what soil you have – getting a pH testing kit at your local

garden centre. Camellias need acidic soil to access iron and if the soil is too alkaline, you will see yellowing leaves.

The base of a wall tends to be quite limey in any

case. You're best off digging them up and planting them in pots with ericaceous compost which should be ideal for them.

Diarmuid





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RESULTS

BANGOR-ON-DEE: Good

1.40: NOT NOW NATHANIEL (B Hughes 1-30) 1. **UPAGAINSTIT** (6-1) 2. **KINTARO** (66-1) 3. 14 ran. 9½, 61. (O McCain). Tote: £134. £102. £180. £9.80. Tote Exacta: £34.0. Trifecta: £46.50. CSF: £3.01.

2.15: ALMAZHAR GARDE (Paul O'Brien 12-1) 1. **GETAWAY GLORY** (7-2) 2. **REBELIOUS GALE** (8-1) 3. 10 ran. 3-11 Daranova. 3¼, 6½. (C Longsdon). Tote: £137.0. £3.50. £1.70. £2.40. Tote Exacta: £63.60. Trifecta: £368.17. Trifecta: £565.50. CSF: £55.78.

2.50: MAXCEL (C Deutsch 15-2) 1. **FEEL THE PINCH** (9-2) 2. **LUNAR SOVEREIGN** (9-4) 3. 9 ran. 7¼, ¾. (Mrs M Rowley). Tote: £99.0. £2.20. £1.50. £1.30. Tote Exacta: £45.10. Trifecta: £100.79. Trifecta: £145.40. CSF: £41.54.

3.25: BREIZH RIVER (H Brooke 13-2) 1. **IN THIS WORLD** (2-1) 2. **GRAIN D'OUAIDRES** (4-1) 3. 7 ran. 7¼, ¾. (Paul Robson). Tote: £73.0. £3.10. £1.50. £1.30. Tote Exacta: £45.10. Trifecta: £58.66. Trifecta: £82.30. CSF: £20.66. NR: Almost Gotalay.

4.00: REGAL AND ROYAL (Sean Quinlan 5-2) 1. **CLARABOY** (11-8) 2. **GENTLE VICTOR** (16-1) 3. 8 ran. 1½, 9½. (J Candlish). Tote: £33.0. £1.20. £1.10. £3.30. Tote Exacta: £6.30. Trifecta: £37.97. Trifecta: £42.30. CSF: £6.18.

4.35: FANCY STUFF (S Bowen 11-8) 1. **GENTLE CONNECTIONS** (9-2) 2. **RORY'S STORY** (14-1) 3. 10 ran. 5½, ¾. (T R Grettton). Tote: £2.38. £1.40. £1.80. £3.30. Tote Exacta: £10.50. Trifecta: £60.55. Trifecta: £104.40. CSF: £8.59. NR: Nowintown-init.

5.10: SAYVA (R McLernon 28-1) 1. **BOLD RECRUIT** (1-2) 2. **GWENNIE MAY STAR** (evens) 3. 11 ran. 1¼, 5½. (Jonjo & A O'Neill). Tote: £29.00. £5.50. £1.70. £1.10. Tote Exacta: £215.40. Trifecta: £75.30. CSF: £186.65.

Placepot: £11.90. Quadpot: £3.50.

BEVERLEY: Good to firm-good in places

1.30: REMOJI (James Doyle 15-8) 1. **MYS-TERYTHOSANDS** (3-1) 2. **HIGHLAND OLLY** (2-1) 3. 5 ran. 11-81 Alreth Cha. ½, 4. (R Varian). Tote: £2.88. £1.40. £1.40. Tote Exacta: £6.30. Trifecta: £28.40. CSF: £7.54.

2.05: PERFECT PART (C Hardie 125-1) 1. **MAW LAM** (7-2) 2. **AVIATION TIME** (10-1) 3. 13 ran. 1¼, 2¼. (B Ellison). Tote: £126.00. £19.80. £1.50. £3.50. Tote Exacta: £410.10. Trifecta: £4682.50. CSF: £536.29. NRs: Larchill Lass, Lift Lady.

2.40: SHAREHOLDER (James Doyle 6-4) 1. **MOVING FORCE** (15-8) 2. **JM JHINGREE** (14-1) 3. 3 ran. shd. 2¼. (R Burke). Tote: £2.50. £1.30. £1.30. Tote Exacta: £4.50. Trifecta: £16.00. CSF: £4.53. NR: Rajeterlat.

3.15: BILLYB (S James 9-4) 1. **PARK STREET** (12-1) 2. **TROPEZ POWER** (7-2) 3. 13 ran. 1¼, 1¼. (Craig Lidster). Tote: £3.25. £1.50. £4.10. £1.90. Tote Exacta: £35.50. Trifecta: £98.16. Trifecta: £136.70. CSF: £30.70. NRs: Broken Spear, No Nay Nicki, On The River.

3.50: LUDO'S LANDING (J Hart 5-2) 1. **ISLAND NATIVE** (6-1) 2. **BLUEFLAGFLYINGHIGH** (7-4) 3. 7 ran. 2¼, nk. (C Johnston). Tote: £3.50. £1.70. £2.10. Tote Exacta: £15.80. Trifecta: £30.82. Trifecta: £42.10. CSF: £16.97. NR: Order Of Malta.

4.25: WALTER HARTRIGHT (David Egan 4-1) 1. **MISS GITANA** (11-10) 2. **WANNABEA-WALLABY** (12-1) 3. 6 ran. 2¼, ¾. (E Dunlop). Tote: £5.00. £1.30. £2.00. Tote Exacta: £9.40. Trifecta: £54.50. CSF: £9.03.

5.00: THIS YEARS LOVE (Joanna Mason 7-2) 1. **EVELYN'S PHOENIX** (evens) 2. **PORT AND STARBUDD** (9-1) 3. 10 ran. ½, 1¼. (M & D Easterby). Tote: £4.50. £1.50. £1.10. £2.00. Tote Exacta: £8.60. Trifecta: £28.50. Trifecta: £36.90. CSF: £7.35. NR: Jesmond Dawn.

Placepot: £22.70. Quadpot: £4.70.

CATTERICK: Good to firm

2.10: RAPIDO GIRL (W Pyle 5-2) 1. **ASINARA** (5-6) 2. **MORAL STANDARDS** (18-1) 3. 7 ran. 1½, ¾. (Craig Lidster). Tote: £3.60. £1.30. £1.10. Tote Exacta: £5.40. Trifecta: £23.30. CSF: £4.52.

2.45: PATONHEBROCK (R Scott 11-2) 1. **RAIN CAP** (18-1) 2. **ROCKIN ROSA** (5-1) 3. 11 ran. 7-21 Shark Two One. 1¼, 1¼. (G Tutty). Tote: £6.50. £2.00. £5.20. £1.80. Tote Exacta: £118.00. Trifecta: £532.45. Trifecta: £895.00. CSF: £100.96. NR: Bits And Bobs.

3.20: WITHOUT DELAY (F Norton 13-2) 1. **SUNNY ORANGE** (6-1) 2. **PEARL SANDS** (25-1) 3. 12 ran. 7-21 Miss Willows. ¾, ns. (T Waggett). Tote: £7.50. £2.10. £2.20. £1.80. Tote Exacta: £54.90. Trifecta: £917.88. Trifecta: £1002.50. CSF: £43.47.

3.55: SECRET COMMAND (C Murtagh 7-2) 1. **LADY OF THE GARR** (25-1) 2. **ALFA MOONSTONE** (2-1) 3. 14 ran. nk. 1¼. (Adrian Nicholls). Tote: £4.50. £1.70. £7.80. £1.40. Tote Exacta: £144.80. Trifecta: £234.36. Trifecta: £553.80. CSF: £101.33. NR: Unavailable.

4.30: GIBSIDE (O Fentiman 11-2) 1. **KNIGHTS AFFAIR** (9-2) 2. **GASTRONOMY** (13-2) 3. 11 ran. 7-21 Pons Aelius. 1¼, 1¼. (T Easterby). Tote: £6.90. £1.70. £2.30. £2.40. Tote Exacta: £38.30. Trifecta: £167.16. Trifecta: £239.50. CSF: £29.20.

5.05: TATTERSTALL (O Muscatt 7-2) 1. **ALBEGONE** (9-1) 2. **LE BEAU GARCIN** (11-2) 3. 10 ran. 100-30f Vadamiha. 2¼, 1¼. (M Dods). Tote: £4.50. £1.80. £2.70. £2.10. Tote Exacta: £25.90. Trifecta: £171.09. Trifecta: £217.20. CSF: £33.82.

5.40: STARSHINE LEGEND (O Muscatt 11-8) 1. **MADE IN CHINA** (18-1) 2. **LIVINHELIFE** (9-2) 3. 7 ran. ¾, 1¼. (J Ferguson). Tote: £2.38. £1.50. £6.30. Tote Exacta: £25.30. Trifecta: £104.00. CSF: £28.15.

6.10: RESILIENCE (T Eaves 12-1) 1. **KING OF TONGA** (5-1) 2. **GATHANFAR** (13-8) 3. 9 ran. shd. nk. (Craig Lidster). Tote: £14.60. £3.20. £1.90. £1.40. Tote Exacta: £77.70. Trifecta: £152.21. Trifecta: £263.80. CSF: £71.51.

Placepot: £91.50. Quadpot: £23.00.

HAYDOCK: Good-good to firm in places

1.50: BELIEVING (O Tudhope 5-1) 1. **COM-MANCHE FALLS** (11-1) 2. **KORKER** (14-1) 3. 8 ran. 5-4f Live In The Dream. 2¼, 6½. (G Boughey). Tote: £6.00. £1.40. £2.60. £3.30. Tote Exacta: £50.30. Trifecta: £457.80. CSF: £53.94.

2.25: IRON LION (P Spencer 11-2) 1. **KNIGHTSWOOD** (11-2) 2. **STRUTH** (5-1) 3. 8 ran. 6-4f Divina Grace. 1¼, ¾. (O Meara). Tote: £3.80. £1.80. £1.50. £1.80. Tote Exacta: £23.90. Trifecta: £160.84. Trifecta: £186.00. CSF: £33.88. NR: Maghlaak.

3.00: QUEEN OF THE PRIDE (O Murphy

9-2) 1. **LADY BOBA** (6-1) 2. **MISTRAL STAR** (12-1) 3. 13 ran. 4-11f Sea Theme. 4-11f Sapphire Seas. shd. 2¼. (J & J Gosden). Tote: £55.00. £2.20. £2.30. £3.10. Tote Exacta: £39.40. Trifecta: £309.66. Trifecta: £293.30. CSF: £30.04. NR: Miss Canthik.

3.35: TIBER FLOW (T Marquand 6-1) 1. **SIRONA** (12-1) 2. **POGO** (11-2) 3. 11 ran. 7-21f Witch Hunter. 1¼, ½. (W Haggas). Tote: £7.00. £2.20. £4.10. £2.00. Tote Exacta: £76.70. Trifecta: £430.97. Trifecta: £576.60. CSF: £77.00. NR: Noble Dynasty.

4.10: PEDRO VALENTINO (R Kingscote 13-2) 1. **TOURIST** (14-1) 2. **JONNY CONCRETE** (18-1) 3. 11 ran. 7-21f Tennessee Gold. 7-21f Bigbertie-basset. 1¼, 1¼. (C Cox). Tote: £7.50. £2.20. £4.30. £5.10. Tote Exacta: £100.60. Trifecta: £1596.74. Trifecta: £1123.30. CSF: £95.85. NRs: Daring Legend, Ezra Cee.

4.45: BUCCABAY (C Bishop 18-1) 1. **ARAMIS GREY** (22-1) 2. **RADIO GOO GOO** (15-2) 3. 14 ran. 11-21f Billyjoh. ¾, nk. (E J-Houghton). Tote: £22.20. £9.50. £7.20. £2.50. Tote Exacta: £519.90. Trifecta: £322.52. Trifecta: £4652.90. CSF: £375.66. NRs: Tinto, Wiltshire.

5.20: DASHING DARGY (S De Sousa 4-1) 1. **NEW CHELSEA** (10-1) 2. **GUNFIGHTER** (6-1) 3. 9 ran. 7-21f Cerulean Bay. 2¼, 1¼. (R Varian). Tote: £5.00. £1.70. £3.10. £2.00. Tote Exacta: £36.80. Trifecta: £238.78. Trifecta: £212.20. CSF: £43.13.

5.52: LIVEANDLET LIVE (L Edmunds 3-1) 1. **CROWN ESTATE** (5-1) 2. **CHRISTIAN DAVID** (10-1) 3. 9 ran. ½, 2¼. (W Muir & C Grassick). Tote: £6.00. £2.30. £4.80. Tote Exacta: £47.60. Trifecta: £471.70. CSF: £58.03.

Jackpot: Not won. pool of £13,610.12 carried over. Placepot: £6,226.80. Quadpot: £307.20.

NAVAN: Good-good to firm in places

1.45: CELTIC CHIEFTAIN (W M Lordan 8-1) 1. **RED EVOLUTION** (11-8) 2. **FLASH THE CASH** (12-1) 3. 16 ran. nk. 1¼. (A P O'Brien). Tote: £10.40. £2.20. £1.70. Tote Exacta: £28.50. Trifecta: £93.60. CSF: £19.72. NRs: Ace King Queen, Oitentina.

2.20: THUNDERBEAR (C T Keane 5-1) 1. **ARNHEM** (12-1) 2. **NEVER SHOUT NEVER** (9-1) 3. 7 ran. 15-8f Mehma. 1¼, ¾. (J Davison). Tote: £6.00. £2.30. £4.80. Tote Exacta: £47.60. Trifecta: £471.70. CSF: £58.03.

2.55: KEKE (W J Lee) 13-8f 1. **ERUPTION** (12-1) 2. **REALTIN FANTASY** (20-1) 3. **CUBAN GREY** (11-2) 4. 16 ran. 1½, 1½. (E Lynam). Tote: £2.63. £1.20. £3.20. £5.50. Tote Exacta: £25.10. Trifecta: £344.13. Trifecta: £182.30. CSF: £24.77. NR: Step Back In Time.

3.30: EVERLASTING (R L Moore 10-11f) 1. **ASIAN DAZE** (5-1) 2. **BLUEDRUM** (100-30) 3. 8 ran. ½, 2¼. (A P O'Brien). Tote: £1.91. £1.10. £1.30. Tote Exacta: £5.40. Trifecta: £15.00. CSF: £5.97. NR: Kayaana.

4.05: OLD FAITHFUL (R L Moore 9-4f) 1. **GOING REMOTE** (17-2) 2. **GIBBS ISLAND** (13-2) 3. 7 ran. nk. ind. (A P O'Brien). Tote: £3.25. £1.70. £3.60. Tote Exacta: £13.00. Trifecta: £99.70. CSF: £21.47.

4.40: MO GHILLE MAR (S Foley 9-4f) 1. **CANCELLED** (5-1) 2. **DECLAREE** (11-4) 3. 11 ran. hd. 1¼. (J Harrington). Tote: £3.30. £1.60. £2.10. £1.10. Tote Exacta: £12.40. Trifecta: £48.30. CSF: £14.05. NR: Quilieve.

5.15: MAYO FOR SAM (Adam Caffrey) 7-11f 1. **LA DAME BLANCHE** (20-1) 2. **EXPLORES WAY** (12-1) 3. **DOCTOR GRACE** (7-11f) 4. 22 ran. 3½, ind. nk. (A McGuinness). Tote: £8.40. £2.40. £4.90. £3.30. £2.20. Tote Exacta: £212.60. Trifecta: £1721.92. Trifecta not won. CSF: £153.32. NRs: Higher Kingdom, Mr Mills, Sand Castle, Tasmanian Girl.

Placepot: £52.90.

PUNCESTOWN: Good-good to yielding in places

1.22: NAPPER TANDY (J Smith 4-1) 1. **ICARE DESBOIS** (4-6) 2. **TA NA LA** (12-1) 3. 6 ran. 2¼, 8½. (W J Smith). Tote: £5.00. £1.90. £1.10. Tote Exacta: £3.70. Trifecta: £21.50. CSF: £7.35.

1.57: THE BANGER DOYLE (C P Millar 3-11f) 1. **GREAT BEAR** (3-1) 2. **GAELIC ARC** (100-30) 3. 7 ran. shd. 8¼. (J Queally). Tote: £4.00. £1.80. £1.70. Tote Exacta: £12.10. Trifecta: £30.04. Trifecta: £41.30. CSF: £12.52. NR: Lieutenant Highway. Result Stands.

2.32: MARRONSTOWN (A Harvey 9-1) 1. **LAND JET** (14-1) 2. **THEHAIRYFELLA** (4-1) 3. 13 ran. 100-30f Jump The Shark. 8¼, ½. (D M Christie). Tote: £10.50. £2.90. £4.50. £1.80. Tote Exacta: £180.20. Trifecta: £596.12. Trifecta: £665.10. CSF: £119.73.

3.07: GAUCHER (K Callaghan 13-8f) 1. **KIMY** (28-1) 2. **LIGHT FANDANGO** (22-1) 3. 22 ran. 15¼, ¾. (W P Mullins). Tote: £2.63. £1.10. £8.60. £6.50. Tote Exacta: £88.70. Trifecta: £1337.70. CSF: £56.39. NRs: Jim's Cracker, Rampere West, Tuscaloosa Anna.

3.42: DONNIE DEVITO (P P Harney 11-1) 1. **MY GREAT MATE** (8-1) 2. **THE DIDDLE** (80-1) 3. 22 ran. ½, 6½. (R Sullivan). Tote: £16.90. £2.60. £1.10. £7.20. Tote Exacta: £39.60. Trifecta: £1240.60. CSF: £21.29. NRs: Colorado Charlie, Dairy Force, Trickers Cruising.

4.17: GAELIC DES CHASTYS (C P McNamara) 10-11f 1. **DEL GIRL** (15-2) 2. **WARMER DAYS AHEAD** (7-2) 3. **THE VIRGINIAN** (14-1) 4. 18 ran. shd. 1¼, 10¼. (E McNamara). Tote: £12.30. £3.00. £2.80. £6.20. Tote Exacta: £112.70. Trifecta: £327.72. Trifecta: £673.40. CSF: £83.25. NRs: Cloughroe, Leis Fein, Miss Vivacious.

4.52: FLASHTHELIGHTS (Gavin Brouder) 7-1 1. **PAPA BARNES** (15-2) 2. **KALARUOD** (22-1) 3. **MAC'S XPRESS** (15-2) 4. 17 ran. 3-1f Birdsandthebees. 4½, 5½, 1¼. (N C Kelly). Tote: £9.00. £1.80. £1.90. £5.30. Tote Exacta: £48.90. Trifecta: £1151.89. Trifecta not won. CSF: £61.10. NRs: Hurricane Honey, Katherine, Mayos Vendangeur, Tour Moon.

5.27: FATAL FLAW (Mr D O'Connor 5-1) 1. **BASE OF FIRE** (4-1) 2. **CHART TOPPER** (7-2) 3. 20 ran. 9-4f Passenger. 2¼, 2¼. (Jonathan Sweeney). Tote: £6.50. £2.00. £1.50. £1.80. Tote Exacta: £29.30. Trifecta: £333.10. CSF: £25.81.

Placepot: £33.20.

CHEPSTOW: Good to firm-good in places

5.25: JACQUELINA (Grace McEntee 11-8f) 1. **HOWZAK** (11-2) 2. **WEDGEWOOD** (15-2) 3. 6 ran. 3¼, 1¼. (P McEntee). Tote: £2.38. £1.30. £2.20. Tote Exacta: £8.60. Trifecta: £34.10. CSF: £8.62. NR: Won't Stand Down.

6.00: VIOLET LOVE (Billy Loughnane 13-8f) 1. **JANE GARFIELD** (7-1) 2. **GO STEELERS GO** (66-1) 3. 9 ran. 4½, 1½. (G Boughey). Tote: £2.63. £1.20. £1.50. £13.00. Tote Exacta: £11.70. Trifecta: £241.80. CSF: £13.73.

6.30: ROSY AFFAIR (Billy Loughnane 11-10f) 1. **MISS ANO** (9-2) 2. **VIA BLANCA** (7-2) 3. 5

PERTH

GOING: GOOD WEATHER: LIGHT RAIN

NEWSBOY'S TIPS: 1.27 KIMJOY, 1.57 DAPPER GENT, 2.32 MALANGEN, 3.07 FIX AT ALL, 3.42 HANG IN THERE, 4.17 EVERYDAY CHAMPAGNE, 4.52 DEQUALL, 5.27 DIAMOND STATE
DOUBLE: HAYMAKER and KING OF CONQUEST

1.27 BET365 NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 2m 4f Winner £4,225 (9 run)

1 -13 CLODDERS DREAM (7) G Elliott (IRE) 6 11-8.....S Ewing
2 -12 BUY SOME TIME (13) R M Smith 6 11-1.....C Bewley
3 5-2 HIGHLAND FASHION (32) I Duncan 5 11-1.....C O'Farrell
4 3-6 THE JEWELLER'S PET (24) I Duncan 5 11-1.....Sean Quinlan
5 2-3 BISHOP HILL (25) L Russell 5 10-8 (BF).....P W Wadge (3)
6 6F KIMJOY (46) S Crawford (IRE) 5 10-8.....B Hughes
7 80- MONGIBELLO (59) S Crawford (IRE) 6 10-8.....J Slevin
8 6-7 TREAD SOFTLY NOW (25) I Duncan 5 10-8.....D R Fox
9 8 BLEU LAGUNE (25) S Crawford (IRE) 4 10-2.....S Bowen
BETTING: 2 Clodders Dream, 11-4 Bishop Hill, 4 Kimjoy, 6 Others.

1.57 NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP HURDLE (6) 2m Winner £4,225 (10 run)

1 77- LEMOINE (65) J Ewart 5 11-12.....B Hughes
2 7-4 MARTY MCFLY (22) A M Thomson 6 11-8 (BF).....R Mania
3 PP- BLUE CLOVER (51) Lizzie Quinlan 6 11-7.....Sean Quinlan
4 92- NORTHERN CARDINAL (45) L Russell 5 11-4.....D R Fox
5 70- ONE STEP UP (44) W Coltherd 6 11-4.....S Coltherd
6 22 DAPPER GENT (22) M Barnes 7 11-1.....D McMenamin
7 7-0 HEART ABOVE (30) D Sayer 6 10-10 (BF).....H Brooke
8 7-5 DON'T LOOK BACK (24) W Young Jnr 6 10-6.....A Doyle (5)
9 53- FOXWOOD (174) G Bewley 6 10-5.....P J Kavanagh (3)
10 P-0 STAR OF MARKINCH (30) H Graham & G Rutherford

BETTING: 11-4 Northern Cardinal, 7-2 Marty Mcfly, 5 Dapper Gent, 6 Others.

2.32 BET365 HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 2m Winner £5,281 (13 run)

1 0-7 INFERNO SACREE (24) N Hawke 6 12-0 (CD).....Miss E Herbinson (7)
2 PO- BELLE OF ANNANDALE (51) A Keatley 5 11-13 (CD).....B Hughes
3 79- CARRAREA (99) H McMahon 7 11-12 (D).....E Austin (5)
4 16- KILBRAINY (234) A M Thomson 8 11-2 (BF).....R Mania
5 7-3 KINBARA FIRSTDRAFT (24) S Crawford (IRE) 5 11-9.....J J Slevin
6 76- BIX BEIDERBECKE (92) L Russell 6 11-7 (CD).....P W Wadge (3)
7 34- BURGUNDY MAN (1094) R M Smith 7 11-2.....Ben Smith (7)
8 8-9 MUTHALUZA (24) G Elliott (IRE) 5 11-2.....S Ewing
9 60- ALDBOURNE (73) L Russell 5 11-2.....Craig Nichol
10 3-4 MALANGEN (8) Miss L Harrison 9 10-10 (CD).....P J Kavanagh (3)
11 30- THATS JET (44) D Bourke 4 10-12.....C Bewley
12 8-0 DARKEST DAY (19) W Young Jnr 9 10-6 (D2).....D R Fox
13 6P- SOLWAY MOLLY (200) Miss L Harrison 9 10-6 (D2).....Conor Rabbit (5)

BETTING: 7-2 Kinbara Firstdraft, 4 Kilbrainy, 5 Muthaluz, 7 Others.

3.07 SILVER CUP HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2m 4f Winner £10,562 (9 run)

1 50- FRANKY DU BERLALS (58) P & M Bowen 11 12-2 (D2).....J Bowen
2 8-V PRESENTANDCOUNTING (30) D McCain 10 12-2 (CD).....B Hughes
3 6/9 MOTOWN MAGGIE (23) G Elliott (IRE) 7 12-0 (D3).....S Ewing
4 7-5 PARISCORE (32) N Richards 8 11-11 (CD).....D McMenamin
5 2-1 FIX AT ALL (27) N Mulholland 8 11-10 (D3).....R McLernon
6 1-4 FINDTHE TIME (46) W Coltherd 8 11-6 (D).....S Coltherd
7 0-7 GANAPATHI (24) A M Thomson 8 11-4 (D).....R Mania
8 -21 GOD'S OWN GETAWAY (17) D Skelton 6 11-0 (D).....H Skelton
9 5-2 PLANNED PARADISE (33) Christian Williams 8 10-6 (BF, D) J Tudor

BETTING: 11-4 Fix At All, 10-3 God's Own Getaway, 6 Pariscore, 8 Planned Paradise, Motown Maggie, 10 Others.

3.42 PERTH GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE (2) 3m Winner £17,690 (8 run)

1 52- HANG IN THERE (53) E Lavelle 10 12-0.....J A Anderson (3)
2 -21 DUFFLE COAT (13) G Elliott (IRE) 7 11-5.....S Ewing
3 3-1 KARL PHILIPPO (34) F O'Brien 9 11-4 (D).....J Hogan (3)
4 7-3 BALLYGRIFIN COTAGE (36) D Skelton 9 11-3 (BF,

SPORTS SHORTS

Brit Louie sprints to place in US history

ATHLETICS BY ALAN SMITH

LOUIE HINCHLIFFE ran a stunning 9.95secs to become the first European winner of the prestigious NCAA 100m title in Eugene, Oregon.

That made him the sixth fastest Brit of all time as he staked a claim to be part of the Olympics squad.

Hinchcliffe (above), 21, said: "This is what I've been working towards all year. This means a lot. I gave it everything I had.

"But the main job now is the Olympics. It's time to forget about this and shift my focus to the trials."

Sheffield-born Hinchcliffe is coached by Olympic legend Carl Lewis at the University of Houston.

GOLF

THE PGA Tour has reported "progress" in face-to-face talks with Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, which bankrolls the breakaway LIV Golf league.

The meeting, involving PIF governor Yasir Al-Rumayyan, took place in New York on Friday.

"We want to get this right, and we are approaching discussions with careful consideration for our players, fans, partners and the game's future," stated the PGA Tour subcommittee, which includes players Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy and Adam Scott.



Wiebes is Dutch too much for rivals

CYCLING

LORENA WIEBES claimed victory on stage three of the Tour of Britain Women for SD Worx-Protime's third successive win.

The Dutch rider delivered a sprint finish in Warrington to finish ahead of Charlotte Kool and Georgia Baker.

World champion and Wiebes' teammate Lotte Kopecky, who won the previous two stages, continues to lead the competition despite her seventh-place finish yesterday.

"The team did a really good job today," said Wiebes (above). "It's good to finish it off. We will go for the fourth stage too tomorrow."

NFL

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS' BJ Thompson is recovering after a seizure and cardiac arrest.

The defensive lineman, 25, was taken to hospital on Thursday after falling ill in a team meeting.

Rick Burkholder, Chiefs' vice-president of sports medicine and performance, said Thompson "was only in cardiac arrest for less than a minute and a half".

"He's headed in the absolute right direction," Burkholder added.

CRICKET



AUSTRALIA BEAT ENGLAND BY 36 RUNS
T20 WORLD CUP



WHAM ZAM

Jos Buttler (left) reacts after being dismissed and Adam Zampa (right) celebrates his dismissal

SCOREBOARD

Australia v England

Bridgetown: Australia (2pts) beat England by 36 runs

AUSTRALIA

T Head b Archer	34
D Warner b Ali	39
M Marsh st Buttler b Livingstone	35
G Maxwell c Salt b Rashid	28
M Stoinis c Brook b Jordan	30
T David c Livingstone b Jordan	11
M Wade not out	17
P Cummins run out	0
M Starc not out	0
Lb1 w6	7
Total (7 wks., 20 overs)	201

Fall: 70, 74, 139, 141, 168, 200, 200.

Bowling: Ali 2-0-18-1, Jacks 1-0-22-0, Archer 4-0-28-1, Wood 3-0-32-0, Rashid 4-0-41-1, Jordan 4-0-44-2, Livingstone 2-0-15-1.

ENGLAND

P Salt b Zampa	37
J Buttler c Cummins b Zampa	42
W Jacks c Starc b Stoinis	10
J Bairstow c Maxwell b Hazlewood	7
M Ali c Warner b Cummins	25
H Brook not out	20
L Livingstone c Starc b Cummins	15
C Jordan not out	1
Lb3 w5	8
Total (6 wks., 20 overs)	165

Fall: 73, 92, 96, 124, 128, 152.

Bowling: Starc 3-0-37-0, Hazlewood 4-0-28-1, Cummins 4-0-23-2, Stoinis 3-0-24-1, Zampa 4-0-28-2, Maxwell 2-0-22-0.

Umpires: J Wilson & N Menon.

BY GARY FITZGERALD
JOS BUTTLER rolled the dice with his bowling attack and finished up a huge loser as his side slumped to defeat in Barbados.

The skipper's T20 World Cup gamble to open with a double dose of spin against the Aussie power hitters backfired and left England still looking for their first win of the tournament.

And, after putting his rivals into bat and seeing his attack fail, holders England endured a 36-run World Cup T20 loss in Barbados.

Buttler conceded: "We lost to a very good team today but have to remain confident. We have to dust ourselves down and come back fighting in the remaining two group games.

"The Aussie batsmen made the most of the short boundary and put up a big score." But it was Will Jacks' costly first over which allowed the Aussies to get a flyer and lay the foundations for victory.

While Moeen Ali was accurate, Jacks was smashed

for 22 and removed from the attack. From that moment, England's attack was hit all over the Kensington Oval by David Warner, Travis Head and others leaving Buttler and co having to chase down 202 for victory.

But they fell well short despite Buttler's 42 top score and are now under real pressure to progress from a group they really should sail through into the Super Eight phase. The heat has been turned up by the first game with Scotland being rained off and now this heavy defeat.

Just as they did in their poor bid to retain the 50-over world title last year, they are struggling to repeat their T20 glory two years ago.

While Australia top the group with two victories, Buttler and his men need to not just beat Oman and Namibia in their final two games but do so convincingly.

Buttler and Phil Salt gave England a fine start putting on 73 before Zampa removed Salt (37) and then Buttler himself.

Ali hit Glenn Maxwell for

three sixes but the run rate kept increasing and England's batting ran out of puff far too quickly and easily.

England were left cursing their poor bowling and made to suffer by some powerful Aussie batting in their 201-7.

Jofra Archer was the most economical of the bowlers with 1-28 from his four overs while Chris Jordan showed some control at the death. But the target still proved too tough for England with Warner, retiring from international cricket after the World Cup, top scoring on 39.

He and Travis Head (34) let rip early, spraying the ball around the ground. Australia hit 13 sixes in total.

Jacks endured his nightmare over and Mark Wood was also off target, going for 22 runs - hit for three sixes in one over.

Ali made the breakthrough bowled Warner while Archer's slower ball deceived Head.

But thirties from Glenn Maxwell, Mitch Marsh and Marcus Stoinis ensured they passed 200.

SALT RIDING HIGH AFTER SHAKY START

EXCLUSIVE BY RICHARD EDWARDS

THIS T20 World Cup represents something of a homecoming voyage for Phil Salt.

But the 27-year-old England opener's route to the top has been anything but plain sailing.

Salt, who hit 37 last night against Australia, spent six years in Barbados after his family moved out to the Caribbean where his father was working as a property developer.

There are worse places to earn a living. But on his return to England, the odds were fairly lengthy on him one day making it as a professional cricketer. "As a coach you gauge

whether kids have a chance and Phil was one of those you felt always had one because of the shots he played and his mentality," says Keith Medlycott, former Surrey spinner and cricket professional at Reed's School in Surrey.

"But you have to remember that Phil didn't get selected for any Surrey age group team during his time here."

Salt (right) would eventually get his breakthrough at Sussex, after Medlycott recommended him to Mark Davis, the county's then head coach. "I told him he was a player

they need to take a look at and everything just snowballed from there," he said.

Salt would eventually make his professional debut for Sussex in 2016 and within five years the Welshman would be making his England bow against Pakistan.

Now he's a regular in this England white ball side and an in-demand player in franchise cricket having shone for the Kolkata Knight Riders at this year's Indian Premier League.

"He has demonstrated what's possible if you keep believing in yourself," says Medlycott.



TENNIS: FRENCH OPEN



ALCARAZ SIGHTS ON LEGEND LIST

FROM NEIL MCLEMAN in Paris

CARLOS ALCARAZ will bid to emulate his hero Rafa Nadal and other Spanish legends by winning his first French Open title today.

The Wimbledon champion faces Alex Zverev in the final - the German who knocked out 14-time winner Nadal in the opening round.

Spanish male players have claimed the claycourt Grand Slam event a record 20 times in the Open era, with Alcaraz's coach Juan Carlos Ferrero winning in 2003 - a month after the 21-year-old was born.

The double Major champion said: "I have a special feeling for this tournament because I remember when I finished school I ran home just to put the TV on and watch the matches here in the French Open.

"I watched a lot of matches. Of course Rafa Nadal dominated this tournament for 14 years. I wanted to put my name

on that list of the Spanish players who won this tournament.

"Not only Rafa. Ferrero, [Carlos] Moya, [Albert] Costa, a lot of Spanish players, legends from our sport that won this tournament."

Alcaraz is also the youngest player to reach a Grand Slam final on all three surfaces - clay, grass and hardcourts.

"I knew that," smiled the 2022 US Open winner.

"If I want to be one of the best players in the world, I have to be a good player on every surface, like Roger [Federer] did, Novak [Djokovic], Rafa, [Andy] Murray."

This is the first French Open final since 2004 without Nadal, Federer or Djokovic.

Olympic champion Zverev, meanwhile, is looking for his first Major after losing the 2020 US Open final.

"I was not ready to win my first Grand Slam final," he said. "I was too much of a kid still. I'm 27 now. If not now, then when?"

SWIATEK IS JUST A TOUR DE FOURCE

WOMEN'S FINAL
Iga Swiatek 6 6
Jasmine Paolini 2 1

BY NEIL MCLEMAN

IGA SWIATEK earned comparisons with Rafa Nadal and was backed to smash more records after her fourth French Open triumph.

The Queen of Clay outclassed Italian Jasmine Paolini in a one-sided final 6-2 6-1 in only 68 minutes.

The Polish world No.1 joins legends Monica Seles (1990-92) and Justine Henin (2005-07) in winning three consecutive titles at Roland Garros.

Chris Evert holds the women's French Open singles record with seven titles while Nadal has 14.

Eurosport analyst Boris Becker said: "Iga reminds me a bit of Rafaela Nadal and I wouldn't be surprised if she reaches double figures in the titles in Paris."

Swiatek, who also won here in 2020, said: "It has been a really emotional tournament - I was almost out in the second round. I'm really proud of myself because the expectations and pressure have been pretty high."

FORMULA ONE

CANADIAN GRAND PRIX
TODAY, LIVE ON SKY SPORTS, 7PMBY GEORGE
HE'S DONE IT

Roaring Russell on pole as Brit and Verstappen clock SAME time for only second time in sport's history

BY DANIEL MOXON

GEORGE RUSSELL whooped with delight as he snatched pole position from Max Verstappen as they set the EXACT same time.

Down to three decimal places, the two F1 stars couldn't be split in Montreal - but pole went to the Mercedes man because he finished his lap first.

It is only the second time since F1 adopted the current timing system that pole has been decided in this way.

At the 1997 European Grand Prix, Jacques Villeneuve beat Michael Schumacher and Heinz-Harald Frentzen to top spot despite all three setting identical times.

Russell (above) didn't care about the fine margins, though, and let his emotions out when boss Toto Wolff told him he will start today's race at the front.

He was still beaming as he got out of his car, picked up a microphone and declared: "It feels so good, so good."

"So much hard work back at the factory has gone into this. We said in Monaco that we hoped it was the start of something for our season, and I think it is!

"I've missed this feeling. First step done, but now we've got our eyes on that win."

Asked if he thinks that is truly possible for Mercedes now, he replied: "Why not? Let's go for it!

"The car has been feeling amazing here. We brought some upgrades to Monaco and we are really in that fight now. We're going for it

tomorrow." Red Bull's Verstappen took the disappointment well and shrugged as he admitted: "It's how it is, right?"

"Overall, we had a good qualifying. The whole weekend has been a bit tricky for us. P2, I'll take it - I would have definitely taken it going into qualifying."

As for today's race, the Dutchman simply said he's "not that stressed about it".

Lando Norris was third quickest ahead of McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri to make it two Brits in the top three.

He congratulated friend Russell on his achievement and joked that it would be "light work" to move past the two cars ahead of him on the grid today.

Norris said: "I'm happy with third. When you're so close you always think, 'Could I have jumped in the car a little bit more?'. But I'm happy and excited for tomorrow."

"The car has been great all season, especially the last three or four races where we've been on

a roll. Two very fast drivers ahead and plenty more behind. We'll put on a good show."

Russell's team-mate Lewis Hamilton was in contention for pole, but couldn't put his final lap together and had to settle for seventh on the grid.

Daniel Ricciardo was torn apart by 1997 World champion Villeneuve on Friday, who questioned: "Why is he still in F1?"

The Aussie responded with fifth in the RB, three places ahead of team-mate Yuki Tsunoda, who signed a new deal yesterday.

Sergio Perez, who was also handed fresh terms last week, punched his Red Bull as he suffered a Q1 exit, leaving him 16th on the grid.

And Ferrari also had a day to forget as both Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz failed to make the top 10.

RUSSELL CROW
George Russell celebrates in MontrealIT'S MATCH
VERSTAPPEN
World champ
congratulates
Russell after
finishing on the
same time

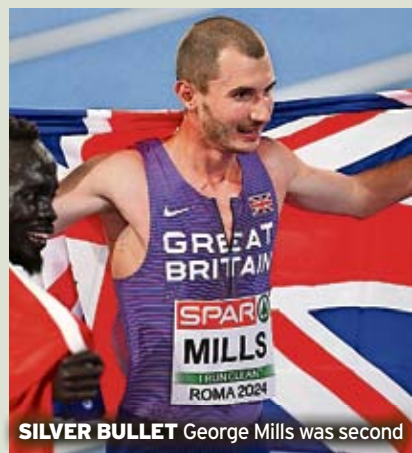
QUALIFYING RESULT

1	G Russell (Gbr)	1:12.000secs
2	M Verstappen (Ned)	1:12.000
3	L Norris (Gbr)	1:12.021
4	O Piastri (Aus)	1:12.103
5	D Ricciardo (Aus)	1:12.178
6	F Alonso (Spa)	1:12.228
7	L Hamilton (Gbr)	1:12.280
8	Y Tsunoda (Jpn)	1:12.414
9	L Stroll (Can)	1:12.701
10	A Albon (Tha)	1:12.796
11	C Leclerc (Mon)	1:12.691
12	C Sainz Jr. (Spa)	1:12.728
13	L Sargeant (USA)	1:12.736
14	K Magnussen (Den)	1:12.916
15	P Gasly (Fra)	1:12.940

DRIVERS' STANDINGS

1	Verstappen (Red Bull)	169pts
2	Leclerc (Ferrari)	138
3	Norris (McLaren)	113
4	Sainz Jr (Ferrari)	108
5	Perez (Red Bull)	107
6	Piastri (McLaren)	71
7	Russell (Mercedes)	54
8	Hamilton (Mercedes)	42
9	Alonso (Aston Martin)	33
10	Tsunoda (RB)	19

EUROPEAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS



SILVER BULLET George Mills was second



THIRD MAN Romell Glave with bronze

MILLS & GLAVE A BRIT SPECIAL

BY ALAN SMITH in Rome

GEORGE MILLS won GB's first medal of the European Championships by claiming silver in a crowded 5,000m.

But the son of former England and Leeds full back Danny said he will not take a second to celebrate his achievement because there is no time to waste in the dash for an Olympics spot.

Mills, whose main event is the 1,500m, spent much of the race in the front pack.

It was just his second outdoor 5,000m but he ran smartly in a field of 27, staying out of the chaos behind.

However Olympic and world champion Jakob Ingebrigtsen surged with just over 400m to go and the Norwegian's class told as Mills held on for an impressive second in a time of 13min21.38secs.

With his dad watching on in the Stadio Olimpico sidelines, the 24-year-old said: "This is what I expect of myself. I want to win. But there will be no celebrations. It's mid-season, the season ends September.

Maybe a Kombucha if I can find one, but there's not much of that in Italy. If you celebrate mid-season, it's a bit weird."

A proud Mills senior said he was more nervous watching than in any game of football he played himself.

Danny added: "He executed it perfectly, pretty much. I know a lot of people get disappointed with silver and he probably will be, but I think when it settles down and when he looks back at it, you know, to only lose to Jakob is a phenomenal achievement."

Romell Glave then announced himself on the international stage by holding on for 100m bronze in a time of 10.06sec, a race won by home favourite Marcell Jacobs.

Glave was only a reserve for the 4x100m team that secured Olympic qualification in the Bahamas last month.

But the Croydon athlete, who moved to London from Jamaica in 2015, was given his first senior GB vest for these championships - and made the most of it.

JEM OF A RUN NEEDED

BY ALAN SMITH

JEMMA REEKIE will spearhead GB's three-pronged attack in tonight's 1500m final.

But the Scot insists her expectations remain low after deciding to run the event as preparation for a stacked 800m at the Olympics.

Reekie finished first in her heat on Friday (right) in 4:06.68 and will be joined this evening by Georgia Bell and



Katie Snowden in a field of 12 that also has Irish star Ciara Mageean.

And, despite being among the favourites to win gold, Reekie said: "I've got no pressure here, just that I want to do well. I have never got out of a 1500m round before. The first job was to get that done."

Dina Asher-Smith is the top pick to win the 100m, with both the semi-finals and final tonight.

INJURY FORCES KJT'S EXIT

BY ALAN SMITH

KATARINA JOHNSON-THOMPSON'S withdrawal - just three events into the heptathlon - due to a niggle in her right leg was described as precautionary.

But, as she watched arch-rival Nafi Thiam show few signs of rust in her first competition of any kind for 11 months, the world champion's confidence must have taken a significant knock.

KJT (right) arrived in Rome saying she felt healthy and more motivated than ever.

She also stressed this weekend was, above all, about the performance, with an eye already trained on the Olympics.

"The heptathlon is like spinning plates," she said. "You have to try and put them together."

Except those plates started spinning out of control. Her 13.66sec in the 100m

hurdles was more than half a second off her best. She managed only 1.83m in the high jump, way off her personal best, and could throw only 12.44m in the shot.

It was obvious that not all was right and, sitting ninth in the standings, the decision was taken to pull out.

Coach Aston Moore confirmed the decision was made "in light of the proximity of the Olympics".

He added: "We don't want to risk losing any time from training."

But if KJT had been leading this competition, the sense was that the call would likely have been different.

By that point, Thiam was enjoying a triple-digit lead and being pushed hard by team-mate Noor Vidts heading into last night's conclusion. And the steady performances of KJT's rivals will have made her discomfort feel a lot worse.



RUGBY UNION



SAINTS



» Hero Lawes: I can't believe we won it

RATINGS BY ADAM HATHAWAY

NORTHAMPTON	BATH
Furbank.....7	Gallagher.....6
Freeman.....7	Cokanasiga.....6
Odendaal.....7	Lawrence.....6
Dingwall.....7	Redpath.....6
Sleightholme.....7	Muir.....6
Smith.....6	Russell.....8
Mitchell.....6	Spencer (Capt).....8
Waller.....6	Obano.....2
Langdon.....6	Dunn.....6
Davison.....6	Du Toit.....8
Moon.....6	Roux.....6
Coles.....7	Ewels.....7
Lawes (Capt).....9	Hill.....7
Pearson.....8	Underhill.....9
Augustus.....8	Barbeary.....4
REPLACEMENTS	REPLACEMENTS
Odendaal (Hendy 44);	Cokanasiga (Reid 78);
Smith (James 71); Waller	Redpath (Bailey 79);
(Iyogun 52); Langdon	Dunn (Annett 53); Roux
(Matavesi 57); Davison	(Stooke 69); Hill (Bayliss
(Millar Mills 57); Moon	69); Underhill (Reid
(Mayanavanua 71);	65-75); Barbeary
Pearson (Ludlam 61);	(Schoeman 22,
Augustus (Graham 67)	Stuart 53)

MAN OF THE MATCH COURTNEY LAWES

Signed off in style by dragging his club over the line.
REFEREE: Christophe Ridley

Northampton 25 Bath 21

BY ADAM HATHAWAY at Twickenham

COURTNEY LAWES signed off at Northampton in style, but was still fuming despite landing a second Premiership title.

The back row was part of Saints' last Premiership title-winning side in 2014 and repeated the trick in his 283rd and final appearance for the club - but it nearly ended in tears.

Bath fought like tigers after having prop Beno Obano red-carded for a head shot on Saints' No. 8 Juarno Augustus in the 21st minute.

But they came up just short as Lawes pocketed another medal before his move to France with Brive.

Finn Russell played like the million-pound man he is and flanker Sam Underhill terrorised Saints as Bath nearly pulled off a stunning victory.

But Alex Mitchell's 72nd-minute score left Bath on the canvas after

Saints had been on the ropes for most of the match, despite having an extra man.

Saints felt the pressure of being favourites to win once Obano was given his marching orders and nearly blew it, leaving skipper Lawes furious.

Afterwards, he said: "I can't believe we won it. We tried so hard to lose it, but we did what we had to do."

"I don't think we could have played any worse - I am actually still livid from the game."

"I said it would be the icing on the cake - and it is. We might not have deserved to win it today because we were awful, but I think we were the best side this season."

"Sometimes when you receive a red card it actually galvanises you a bit."

"All of a sudden all of the pressure is piled on to the side with 15 and we really felt that. We

CLINCHER Mitchell's winning try

PREMIERSHIP FINAL



SINNERS



ROARING SUCCESS Saints hoist the trophy aloft after their triumph

didn't fire on all cylinders and didn't get our game on the pitch enough." Heroic Bath led 21-18, with eight minutes left, before super sub George Hendy broke the game open. He swerved in and out of an exhausted 14-man Bath, with Mitchell on his shoulder and the scrum-half scored under the posts. Bath had one more crack up the other end – but that was that. Obano's red card was as obvious as you will ever see after he ploughed into Augustus's head with his shoulder and did not attempt to wrap his arms. Guilty on more than one count and the first red card in a Premiership final since Dylan Hartley's in 2013. That cost Hartley a Lions tour and this one probably cost Bath the match and a first

title since 1996. Bath boss Johann van Graan said: "Beno is disappointed, but we are a circle of men and women at this club, we win together and we lose together. "It is part of the game, but it makes difficult to play with 14 men. "I don't believe it is foul play, it is a collision between two extremely powerful players. "We spoke about being tough to beat and we were tough to beat. We stuck in it until the last play of the game and I can't be more proud of the team." Apart from losing their first-choice loose-head prop, who was in tears on the bench, Bath had to bring Juan Schoeman on to comply with scrummaging laws and sacrifice No.8 Alfie Barbeary. In one fell swoop, they were a prop down and without one of their best ball carriers. Northampton ripped them open a minute

later, with George Furbank hitting a great line off Lawes' inside ball to feed Tommy Freeman and make the score 10-3. Then wing Ollie Sleightholme touched down his own kick before Bath got into the swing of being a man down. Russell and Ben Spencer were front and centre and when the Scotsman pinned Saints back, prop Thomas du Toit managed to pile over from a line-out drive. Spencer's cross-kick for wing Will Muir on 51 minutes levelled the game up at 18-18. And then Russell's penalty edged Bath in front. Fin Smith limped off for Northampton, who had to rejig their backline – and then came Hendy's magic moment. NORTHAMPTON: Tries: Freeman, Sleightholme, Mitchell. Pens: Smith. Cons: Smith, Furbank. Drop goal: Smith. BATH: Tries: Du Toit, Muir. Pens: Russell (3). Con: Russell



EARLY BATH Beno Obano is sent off on 21 minutes

RESULTS & FIXTURES

International Matches

BELGIUM (1).....	3	LUXEMBOURG (0).....	0
Lukaku 43 (pen), 57 Trossard 81			
DENMARK (2).....	3	NORWAY (0).....	1
Hojbjerg 12 Vestergaard 21 Poulsen 90			
PORTUGAL (0).....	1	CROATIA (1).....	2
Jota 48 Modric 8 (pen) Budimir 56			
SPAIN (4).....	5	N IRELAND (1).....	1
Gonzalez 12, 30 Morata 19 Fabian 35 Oyarzabal 61			
SWEDEN (0).....	0	SERBIA (1).....	3
Milinkovic-Savic 18 Mitrovic 60 Tadic 70			
SLOVENIA (1).....	1	BULGARIA (1).....	1
Sporar 14 Despodov 4 (pen)			
HUNGARY (3).....	3	ISRAEL (0).....	0
Sallai 11, Varga 19, 22			

CRICKET

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP - GROUP C—Afghanistan v New Zealand (Providence): Afghanistan 159-6 (20 overs; R Gurbaz 80); New Zealand 75 (15.2 overs; F Farooqi 4-17; R A Khan 4-17). Afghanistan (2pts) win by 84 runs.

GROUP D—Sri Lanka v Bangladesh (Dallas): Sri Lanka 124-9 (20 overs; M M Rahman 3-17; M R Hossain 3-22); Bangladesh 125-8 (19 overs; I D N Thushara 4-18). Bangladesh (2pts) win by 2 wickets.

(New York): Netherlands 103-9 (20.0 overs; O E G Baartman 4-11); South Africa 106-6 (18.5 overs; D A Miller 59no). South Africa (2pts) win by 4 wickets.

T20 BLAST - NORTH GROUP—Warwickshire v Durham (Edgbaston): Durham 194-9 (20.0 overs; D G Bedingham 63). Warwickshire 168 (18.4 overs; J Bethell 50; B A Raine 5-21). Durham (2pts) beat Warwickshire by 26 runs.

CYCLING

UCI WOMEN'S WORLD TOUR, TOUR OF BRITAIN WOMEN Stage 3: (Warrington, 106.8 km): 1 L Wiebes (Ned) Team SD Worx-Protime 2hrs 44mins 42secs, 2 C Kool (Ned) Team dsm-firmenich PostNL, 3 G Baker (Aus), 4 R Barbieri (Ita) Team dsm-firmenich PostNL, 5 F Perkins (Gbr) Great Britain all at same time. Overall: 1 L Kopecky (Bel) 10hrs 25mins 49secs, 2 A Henderson (Gbr) +17secs, 3 L Paternoster (Ita) +32s, 4 P Georgi (Gbr) +38s, E Jansen (Ned) +43s.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Challenge Cup Final WARRINGTON.....8 WIGAN.....18
Warrington—T: Duffy. G: J. Thewlis (2). Wigan—T: Eckersley, French, Farrell. G: Smith (3). Att: 64,845

1895 Cup Final SHEFFIELD.....6 WAKEFIELD.....50
Women's Challenge Cup final: Leeds 0 St Helens 22.

RUGBY UNION

Gallagher Premiership Final NORTHAMPTON.....25 BATH.....21
Northampton—T: Freeman, Sleightholme, Mitchell. C: F. Smith, Furbank. P: F. Smith. D: F. Smith.
Bath—T: du Toit, Muir. C: Russell. P: Russell (3).

United Rugby Championship Quarter-Finals BLUE BULLS.....30 BENETTON.....23
GLASGOW.....27 STORMERS.....10
LEINSTER.....43 ULSTER.....20

TENNIS

FRENCH OPEN (Roland Garros, Paris, France)—Women's Singles finals: (1) I Swiatek (Pol) bt (12) J Paolini (Ita) 6-2 6-1.
Men's Doubles finals: (9) M Arevalo (Esa) & M Pavic (Cro) bt (11) S Bolelli (Ita) & A Vavassori (Ita) 7-5 6-3.
Men's Wheelchair Doubles final: (1) A Hewett & G Reid (GB) bt (2) T Miki & T Oda (Jpn) 6-1 6-4.

TODAY'S DIARY

(3pm unless stated)

International Matches Slovakia v Wales (7.45).....
(Live on S4C)
Mexico v Brazil (2pm).....
Italy v Bosnia-Herzegovina (7.45).....
France v Canada (8.15).....

CRICKET

ICC World Twenty20 - Group A: India v Pakistan (New York, 3.30pm). Group B: Oman v Scotland (North Sound, 6pm). t20 Blast - North Group: Leicestershire v Worcestershire (Grace Road, 2.30pm), Nottinghamshire v Lancashire (Trent Bridge, 2.30pm), Yorkshire v Derbyshire (Headingley, 3pm). South Group: Gloucestershire v Sussex (Bristol, 2.30pm), Kent v Middlesex (Canterbury, 3.30pm), Somerset v Hampshire (Taunton, 2.30pm).

NETBALL

Vitality Superleague: Saracens Mavericks v Surrey Storm.

RATINGS by Matt Shaw

WARRINGTON WOLVES

- MATT DUFTY** 7
Harshly sin-binned but strong in the second half and scored
- JOSH THEWLIS** 5
Kicked side into early lead but Liam Marshall got better of him
- TOBY KING** 6
Caught out somewhat for Bevan French's try but held his own
- RODRICK TAI** 4
An impressive start with the Wire – but not so much here
- MATTY ASHTON** 4
Bad error that Wigan would score from proved costly
- GEORGE WILLIAMS** 6
Looked likely to unlock to Wigan defence but never did
- JOSH DRINKWATER** 5
An anonymous figure for the majority of the afternoon
- JAMES HARRISON** 6
Rangy forward grafted away and had some decent moments
- DANNY WALKER** 6
Threatened to spark Wire into life at times but not enough
- PAUL VAUGHAN** 6
Tried to set the tone early and played some big minutes
- MATTY NICHOLSON** 5
NRL-bound forward was one of many guilty of trying too hard
- LACHLAN FITZGIBBON** 5
Excellent pick-up for the Wire but below par due to injury
- BEN CURRIE** 6
Bad cut to head epitomised the toughness of his performance
- REPLACEMENTS:** Crowther (Harrison 25); Bullock (Vaughan 29); Vaughan (Fitzgibbon 42); Powell (Walker 47); Musgrove (Crowther 50); Harrison (Vaughan 54); Walker (Bullock 61); Vaughan (Musgrove 72)

LANCE TODD TROPHY

BEVAN FRENCH



WIGAN WARRIORS

- JAI FIELD** 7
Dangerous as always. Produced a sublime pass for Liam Farrell's try
- ABBAS MISKI** 8
Had a blinder in the backfield with some brilliant carries
- ZACH ECKERSLEY** 8
Rewarded Matt Peet's trust by scoring the opening try
- JAKE WARDLE** 7
The star of last year's Grand Final had quieter role but defended well
- LIAM MARSHALL** 7
Had to wait seven years for Wembley redemption but got it
- BEVAN FRENCH** 9
Super League's superstar scored one and set up another
- HARRY SMITH** 7
Kicked all his goals. A calming presence throughout the game
- LUKE THOMPSON** 7
Stepped up on big occasion to help win battle through the middle
- BRAD O'NEILL** 7
Hooker again showed why he should be in England contention
- MIKE COOPER** 6
Sin-binned inside three minutes, harshly. Contributed well after that
- JUNIOR NSEMBA** 7
Latest rising star didn't look out of place on hallowed Wembley turf
- LIAM FARRELL** 7
Old stalwart scored trademark try as he clinched his 15th trophy
- KAIDE ELLIS** 9
Bossed the middle of the pitch in sublime 80-minute performance
- REPLACEMENTS:** Havard (Cooper 28); Leeming (O'Neill 30); Mago (Thompson 31); Byrne (Mago 43); O'Neill (Byrne 54); Thompson (Leeming 54); Cooper (Havard 65); Havard (Nsemba 75)

CHALLENGE CUP FINAL



FRENCH

BY **DAVE CRAVEN**
Rugby League
Correspondent at Wembley
@DCravenRL



BEVAN FRENCH was reminded of his own mum's fight against motor neurone disease as he helped Wigan wallop Warrington at Wembley.

The Aussie stand-off, 28, claimed the Lance Todd Trophy after inspiring Warriors to yet another Challenge Cup final success.

He created a try for 20 year-old rookie Zach Eckersley, scored himself, had another ruled out and generally caused Warrington chaos.

It means Wigan become the first club since St Helens in 2007 to hold all four trophies of Challenge Cup, Super League, World Club Challenge and League Leaders' Shield.

But it was an emotional afternoon as the sport celebrated Rob Burrow, the ex-Leeds and England scrum-half who died aged just 41 last Sunday, after losing his battle with MND.

And French (above) admitted: "A couple of years ago I lost my mum to the same thing.

"With Rob obviously being such a legend, it has connected to me a bit emotionally.

"It's made this week sweet, especially the fact my mum passed away from it.

Special

"The first trophy I won when I came back to England after she passed away was the Challenge Cup [in 2022], so it makes it even more special."

After a poignant rendition of *Abide With Me* by Katherine Jenkins, with huge Burrow banners unfurled at both ends of Wembley, there was an impeccable minute's silence.

And when the action kicked off, it was the reigning Man of Steel French who came up with the goods in a brilliant team performance as Wigan extended their record haul of final wins to 21.

Boss Matt Peet, who has won everything since taking over three years ago, admitted: "This is the best one.

"I don't want to go into why. "But the momentum was shaping up with Warrington and I was proud of the boys. It's been

an emotional week for everyone. Rob was such a special player and Bevan won't mind me saying it stirred up his emotions.

"It did with me. It makes you look at your own family.

"And to put the fourth [trophy] in the cabinet is very

special. I felt we were always in control." They eventually eased home – even after a chaotic opening three minutes that saw both sides see players sin-binned.

Peet made a bold call by bringing veteran prop Mike

Cooper, 35, in for the banned England front-row Tyler Dupree. Many expected second-row Sam Walters to get the nod.

When Cooper was yellow-carded after just two minutes Peet must have feared he'd got it badly wrong. The ex-

Warrington forward copped Josh Thewlis high with a swinging arm.

But barely 60 seconds later, Wolves were also down to 12 men after Aussie full-back Matt Dufty collared Liam Marshall high prompting a melee. Thewlis

Bevan's Warriors lift trophy on poignant day for him too as Burrow is remembered

WARRINGTON 8 WIGAN 18

LESSON



IT'S ALL OURS
Wigan's Liam Farrell (centre) lifts the trophy as his team-mates celebrate

scored an 11th-minute penalty but that was about all Warrington got right in an error-ridden half.

Wigan got off the mark when Eckersley latched onto French's dabbled kick.

He was only drafted in because Aussie centre Adam Keighran was also suspended. It was only his fifth appearance for the club.

Slick French stepped inside the onrushing Toby King to accelerate over for his own try, Harry Smith's goal giving a 12-2 interval lead. Jai Field slipped

captain Liam Farrell through a gap to score in the 57th minute and it was all but done.

Duffy sliced through five minutes later as Warrington finally got things right, Thewlis improving.

False

But it only offered false hope. Wolves boss Sam Burgess, whose own father died from MND, rued: "We've a young squad. Twelve of those players today have never played in a

final. I'd like to think they'll be better next time. And me, as a new coach.

"I wouldn't say we froze. Probably the occasion got us a bit early. But we'll be better for it.

"It was disappointing. We just didn't play the way we've played all year. We made nine errors in the first half."

WARRINGTON: Try: Duffy. Goals: Thewlis 2.

WIGAN: Tries: Eckersley, French, Farrell. Goals: Smith 3.



GALE FORCE TOO STRONG FOR EAGLES

Sheffield Eagles 6 Wakefield Trinity 50
1895 Cup Final

WAKEFIELD TRINITY revelled in their first visit to Wembley since 1979, as they thumped Sheffield Eagles to clinch the 1895 Cup for the first time.

The Championship leaders quickly shrugged off the shock of falling behind to respond with nine tries, plus 14 points from the boot of Max Jowitt.

It continued the remarkable resurgence of a club, now under the charge of former Leeds and Castleford boss Daryl Powell, who were relegated from Super League last season.

The Eagles started firm and even snatched the lead when Anthony Thackeray broke the Wakefield line.

Cory Aston booted the Eagles further clear, but Wakefield's Lachlan Walmsley burst 80 metres to level, then a pair of converted tries by Luke Gale (above) and Tom Doyle on the half-time hooter put their side well in control at the interval.

Wakefield pressed on in the second half with Oli Pratt, Josh Griffin and Jermaine McGillvary all crossing twice to confirm a comprehensive victory.



JOY AND PAIN: Wigan's Bevan French is mobbed after scoring his side's second try (top) while Wigan head coach Matt Peet shows the fans the trophy (centre) leaving Warrington's Matt Duffy dejected



FAYE'S ARE SET TO STUNNING!

Leeds Rhinos 0 St Helens 22
Befred Women's Challenge Cup Final

DELIGHTED boss Matty Smith was lost for words after Faye Gaskin's sizzling St Helens made it four straight Challenge Cup Final wins.

Leeds had hoped to break their stranglehold on the trophy as a tribute to the late Rhinos scrum-half Rob Burrow who died a week ago.

But they never clicked and lost the showpiece for a third year running.

England scrum-half Gaskin (above) was outstanding for ruthless Saints and unlucky to be pipped to the player of the match by half-back partner Zoe Harris.

Smith admitted: "I feel speechless at the moment. It's so hard to describe. The resilience we showed in defence at times was huge.

"Our defence won us that game. And we've players who can come up with special plays and execute. It was terrific."

Defeated Leeds boss Lois Forsell conceded: "We just weren't good enough on the day."



SHAKE-UP: Aguerd

Irons put Nayef up for grabs

BY DARREN WITCOOP

WEST HAM have given the green light to Nayef Aguerd's departure, as part of a defensive shake-up.

The Morocco defender is primed to leave West Ham after two years of his five-year deal. Fellow centre-back and Irons skipper Kurt Zouma's future is also up in the air with Julen Lopetegui's arrival as boss.

Aguerd's £30million move from French club Rennes in 2022 was hailed as a huge coup.

But he had struggles with form and fitness under David Moyes and West Ham are now looking to move him on again and recoup their original fee.

Ligue 1 club Lyon are interested in the 41-cap Morocco international, and a number of Saudi Arabian sides are also in the mix for Aguerd's signature.

Former Chelsea star Zouma is sweating over his Hammers future and could be sold. The Frenchman has just one year left on his bumper contract, and West Ham are pushing for bodies to help replace him. Hammers full-back Ben Johnson is on his way out on a free.

Ipswich on Tang's trail

BY DARREN WITCOOP

PREMIER LEAGUE new boys Ipswich are weighing up a move for Tottenham reject Japhet Tanganga.

Once tipped for the top after bursting onto the scene as a teenager, Tanganga, 25, has just been shown the door by Spurs.

The defender (below) impressed during a loan spell with Millwall last season with the Lions keen to strike a permanent deal.

But Tanganga is no rush as he explores all options - with Ipswich considering throwing the former England youth-level player a top-flight lifeline.

Tanganga can play at full-back or in central defence and is available on a free transfer.

Relegated Luton are also interested.



SAUDI MESSAGE TO CITY MEGA STAR

Koulibaly and the gang



HE'S MR RONDERFUL
Al-Nassr's Ronaldo



CHAMPIONS
Koulibaly's Al-Hilal

EX-CHELSEA DEFENDER KALIDOU: HUGE DECISION TO LEAVE THE PREM, BUT RONALDO AND KANTE HELPED ME SETTLE... NOW I'VE WON THE LEAGUE

EXCLUSIVE BY MARK LOMAS

KALIDOU KOULIBALY has given Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne an insight into life in the Saudi League.

De Bruyne's advisers were in Saudi a few weeks ago chatting to clubs about their roster of big-name players, and the Belgian midfielder magician (below) has said he has an "open mind" on his next move.

If he needed any encouragement over making a Saudi switch in the future, Koulibaly is his man.

The 32-year-old France star has no regrets about swapping Chelsea and west London for the Middle East, though he admitted it was a "difficult choice" at the time.

Koulibaly has now won the Saudi Pro League title with Al-Hilal, and the Senegal centre-back says his initial doubts were eased by knowing that stars such as Cristiano Ronaldo, Karim Benzema and N'Golo Kante had made the move.

Koulibaly said: "At the start, nobody really knew much about this league. It was a big decision for me. But when I saw players like Ronaldo, Benzema, Kante - who I was

playing with at Chelsea then - make those moves, I also made my choice.

"I had a difficult year at Chelsea, and I wanted to see something else. "When they called me, I studied up about the club, and I'm really happy to be here today."

Al-Hilal finished 14 points ahead of their nearest rivals - Ronaldo's Al-Nassr - for a record-extending 19th domestic crown.

But Koulibaly, who had eight years at Napoli before a single season at Chelsea, insists Al-Hilal's dominance is no negative reflection on the quality of the league.

He recalled: "When I came, I was thinking this league would be easier than others, but I was surprised about the standard of my team-mates, and surprised at the level of the league.

"Even clubs that don't have big, big-name players are very good - it's difficult to play against them all. "The level is not quite the same as Europe, but over time it will get there because the players will want to come and improve the league."

Al-Hilal were powered to the title by a host of new signings alongside Koulibaly, including Aleksandar

Mitrovic from Fulham, Sergej Milinkovic-Savic from Lazio and Wolves' Ruben Neves.

The most high-profile arrival was Brazil superstar Neymar, though he played only a handful of games before an ACL injury ended his season.

Mitrovic successfully plugged the gap with 40 goals in 43 games all told, but Koulibaly can't wait for the Brazilian superstar to return.

"Neymar is a really important player for us," added Koulibaly. "I call him the 'Magia' - magician - because he has so much magic in his feet. When he touches the ball, he is incredible."

With former Sevilla keeper Bono behind him, Koulibaly and Al-Hilal were rock-solid at the back, and the club won a world-record 34 successive matches between September and April.

Koulibaly admitted: "When we had won 12, we were thinking about that record.

"We wanted to make a world story. I came here to win trophies and make history, and we made it."



SALUTES YOU, SIR!
Koulibaly glad he answered Saudi duty call

ROBLES BIGS UP ROBBIE

BY MARK LOMAS

AL QADSIH goalkeeper Joel Robles has thanked Robbie Fowler for the role he played in the club's promotion to the Saudi Pro League.

Fowler (above) was named Al Qadsih boss last summer, but shockingly axed in October for ex-Real Madrid midfielder Michel, despite being top of the table.

Michel built on Fowler's strong start and Qadsih were confirmed as Saudi First Division champions, with Robles (below) insisting the Englishman gets credit.

The ex-Everton and Leeds No.1, who won the FA Cup with Wigan, said: "It is a strange one for the coach to leave when you are winning the championship. But we in the dressing room have to respect that decision and in football, nothing is surprising any more. "Robbie Fowler is also part of our story. He won a lot of points."

Robles has been inundated with messages from former team-mates who are interested in moving to Saudi Arabia.



EXCLUSIVE NEW CHELSEA BOSS



MAKING OF ENZO FERRARI

Once the engine driving the Juventus midfield, Maresca wants to be the best... former Ascoli star lifts the lid on what makes this Italian tick



BLUES HOPE Jhon Duran

Duran is keen on a Villa exit

BY RYAN TAYLOR

ASTON VILLA striker Jhon Duran has told his agent to sort out a summer transfer to Chelsea.

The Colombia striker, 20, has scored eight goals in 49 appearances for Villa since joining from Chicago Fire in January 2023.

But, despite his potential, he has struggled for game time under Villa boss Unai Emery, due to the consistency of regular frontman Ollie Watkins.

Chelsea retain an interest - after looking at Duran in January - and the attacker wants the move.

Villa started discussions with the Blues over a swoop for Conor Gallagher earlier this week, but Chelsea want straight cash for the England midfielder.

Duran's agent Jonathan Herrera is now assessing his client's options, with Italian club Bologna and other sides from Europe also showing interest.

Bologna, like Villa, will also play Champions League football next season and are poised to lose their star striker Joshua Zirkzee to AC Milan, with Duran one of several targets who could possibly replace him.

Max's on up again

BY JOHN RICHARDSON

WEST HAM and Everton are set to offer Burnley's France defender Maxime Esteve the chance to stay in the Premier League.

Esteve's January loan move from Montpellier has been made permanent.

The 22-year-old (below) has just been called up for France's Olympic Games provisional squad, which also includes Crystal Palace pair Michael Olise and Jean-Philippe Mateta.

Everton see Esteve as a possible replacement for Old Trafford target Jarrad Branthwaite, and if a big top-flight bid comes in, relegated Burnley are unlikely to block a deal.



BY RYAN TAYLOR

IT was a "three-year project" that barely lasted five months.

Chelsea boss Enzo Maresca's managerial baptism of fire with Serie B outfit Ascoli abruptly ended in dismay.

The former Juventus and Sevilla midfielder explained following his shock resignation in November 2017: "Things outside football have become uncontrollable, consequently there are no longer any conditions to continue."

A 4-0 defeat at Parma, which left the team rooted to the foot of the table, proved to be the final straw for obsessive No.2 Maresca.

Ascoli had initially planned to instil the Italian as their manager but he did not hold

the required coaching licence to fulfil the role and therefore worked in tandem with Fulvio Fiorin in the dugout.

Yet although he was technically second in command, the club's players were under no illusions who was in charge.

Ex-Ascoli midfielder Gianluca Carpani (right) revealed: "Enzo was a former player so he was well respected and everyone listened to him because he had a very good career."

"He really liked being in groups, so always organised lunches and dinners with both his fellow staff and players."

"He had a style that I really liked, he certainly needed more time to implement this idea and to bring results."

"Unfortunately the results didn't arrive and it didn't last

too long." Those reflections should serve as a warning to those expecting instant success at Chelsea following Mauricio Pochettino's controversial exit.

However, the standout line from Maresca's Ascoli unveiling indicates he has always strived to work towards a long-term vision - precisely why he was considered the top pick at Stamford Bridge.

He said upon signing his first-ever coaching contract in central Italy seven years ago: "For the future we are thinking step by step; we want to be part of a three-year project but for the moment we are focused only on tomorrow."

Pep Guardiola's former

Manchester City assistant understands the importance of working within a clear structure and is dedicated to improving players as displayed last season at Leicester, when the Marescalator accelerated at full tilt to win the Championship title.

Maresca's struggles at Ascoli were evidently no skin off his back. In fact, they only ignited the fire and hunger within his belly to reach the very top.

The 44-year-old's principles are centred around possession, manoeuvring the opposition into traps and penetrating space. Carpani continued: "He worked a lot on the positional changes of all players, especially



He tried many new things which made me think he's a great coach



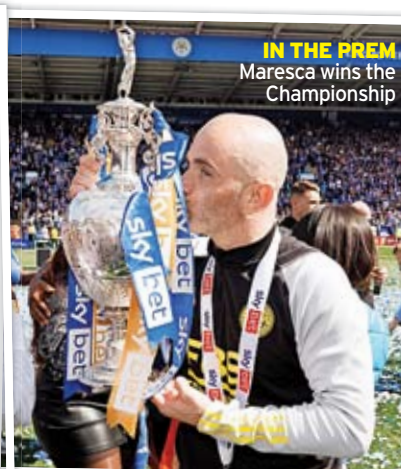
EURO STAR
Playing for Juve in the Champions League



FIRST JOB
Maresca at Ascoli



CITY BOY As No.2 to boss Pep Guardiola



IN THE PREM.
Maresca wins the Championship

PREM NEWS



LEGALSHAVE LANDED



City all ready for new court battle with Premier League... but even win will NOT defuse 115-charge FFP case to come

BY **SIMON MULLOCK**
Chief Football Writer

MANCHESTER CITY'S bid to sue the Premier League will have NO impact on the club's fight to overturn the 115 charges that continue to leave a stain on the reigning champions' record.

There have been suggestions that City's attempt to prove the Associated Party Transaction (APT) rules that define how top-flight clubs negotiate sponsorship deals are illegal is being driven by the hope to have the catalogue of serious fraud allegations made against them thrown out.

But the APT regulations, which deem that any sponsorship agreement linked to club owners must be of fair market value, only came into force in December 2021, before being revised again last January.

The most serious financial charges levelled against City by the Premier League in February 2023 are alleged to have taken place in the period

between 2009 and 2018. So neither case will impact the other.

City have claimed that because they were charged previously by UEFA over Financial Fair Play breaches the "attempt to damage the club's reputation is clear".

They beat a subsequent two-year Champions League ban after an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

The club insist they also have "irrefutable evidence" to prove that the 115 Premier League charges are spurious.

Thirty-five of the allegations relate to non-cooperation with the investigation – an issue that cost City a £10million fine when a similar charge made by UEFA was upheld by CAS.

City felt that UEFA could not be trusted to keep confidential information private – and they may now have similar concerns with the Premier League after details from

their 165-page legal argument about APT were made public.

There is a feeling inside the Etihad that this latest wrangle is being viewed as an attempt to avoid having to answer the allegations in front of an independent commission.

City believe that they have a strong legal argument that proves the APT regulations do not adhere to the law of the land.

The fact that two weeks have now been set aside for an independent arbitration panel to make a judgement on the matter suggests their case has some merit.

City warned in February that they were prepared to take legal action – and it would seem they have had at least one sponsorship deal rejected by the Premier League, given they are also seeking damages.

Club chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak admitted during his annual address to City's supporters

that it is frustrating to have the Premier League case hanging over Pep Guardiola's team after they had made history by winning a fourth successive title.

Last month, City became the first men's team ever in English football to win four top-flight titles in a row, beating Arsenal to the crown by just two points in a thrilling climax to the league season.

It was the club's 10th top-flight title – and amazingly the sixth time in the past seven seasons that City have been crowned champions.

But Khaldoon said: "I feel for our fanbase, and everyone associated with the club, to have these charges constantly referenced."

"I think that we as a club have to respect there is a process we have to go through."

"It's taken longer than what everyone hoped for, but it is what it is – and I have always repeated, let us be judged by the facts and not by claims and counter-claims."

SHOWDOWN
City owner Sheikh Mansour and (inset left) Premier League chief Richard Masters

Foxes up for Long haul play



BY **CLIVE HETHERINGTON**

LEICESTER CITY are preparing a £15million bid for Newcastle United midfielder Sean Longstaff.

The Foxes, promoted back to the Premier League as Championship title winners, have been tracking the Tynesider for several months.

Toon boss Eddie Howe admires 26-year-old Longstaff (above), but with his contract up in a year's time, a deal holds appeal for the Magpies as selling the academy product would count as 'pure profit' in terms of Profit and Sustainability rules.

Newcastle could be interested in Kelechi Iheanacho, 27, after the striker was released by Leicester, who are in talks with midfielder Wilfred Ndidi, 27, over a new deal.

AGONY FOR KOEMAN...

BY **SIMON MULLOCK**

RONALD KOEMAN'S wife has revealed that "my breast cancer is back" – but she's still giving the Holland manager her full blessing to head off to the Euros.

Bartina Koeman, 63, who beat the disease a decade ago, has now received a second cancer diagnosis.

But she insists that she is again up for the fight – and refuses to even contemplate asking Koeman (right) to stay at home.

Bartina said: "I am a strong woman and I can handle this."

"I so hope that Ronald will be rewarded for his hard work and that he will go very far at the Euros. I hope we become the champions. Ronald loves his job. He is a professional nut."



Ortega's Etihad a glow-up

MANCHESTER CITY goalkeeper Stefan Ortega feels "motivated and challenged" after signing a one-year contract extension.

The 31-year-old German, who joined the club in 2022, has extended his stay until 2026 after saying the club "provides players with everything we need to be our best".

Ortega (above) is City's back-up keeper but injury to Ederson meant he made his 20th appearance of the campaign in the FA Cup Final defeat by Manchester United.

"I am delighted to be staying at Manchester City for longer," Ortega said. "I love everything about it here."



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EURO 2024



BACKLASH



WEAKEST LINK...

Waddle (right) fears for the defence when Walker is caught out in attack – like against Holland in the Nations League



BELIEVER: Anderton

'Let them run free... and win it'

EXCLUSIVE
by Richard Edwards

GARETH SOUTHGATE should give his side the freedom to show just how good they are, says former England star Darren Anderton.

"I wouldn't say it was now or never – but this is a really great opportunity," he said.

"Firstly, because this is such a good side and, secondly, because I don't think there's anyone to be scared of.

"If they're given the freedom to go out there and play as they can, then they can beat every other team in Europe.

"You need a little bit of luck in a tournament, I certainly know about that having been involved in Euro '96.

"They should be favourites and I believe if they perform as they can, then they can win the tournament."

Anderton was part of the England side that departed from both the European Championship and World Cup after penalty shoot-outs against Germany at Wembley and Argentina in 1998.

He played alongside Southgate in both.

Now comes perhaps their best chance of glory.

Anderton added: "There are so many big games [during the domestic season] and you have to keep yourself fresh – in your mind as much as anything.

"The Premier League is a really tough league.

"Once a tournament comes around, it's a different dynamic. You're not playing with guys you play with week in, week out. I just think he's got such a settled squad and this means it's a team that know how to play with each other.

"There's a real confidence within that squad and you can tell that this is a squad that enjoys playing with each other.

"It was the same at Euro '96 under Terry Venables. Everyone was playing for the shirt – we were united in one goal.

"I really do believe we can do it. There's no doubt that if these guys play as they can, then they can lift that trophy."

By Neil Goulding

ENGLAND'S defence could be the only thing that stands in the way of them winning Euro 2024, reckons Chris Waddle.

The legendary midfielder believes England have every chance of winning their first major silverware since 1966 in Germany this summer.

But the 63-year-old, capped 62 times, is worried the team's defence could be the only area where they might come unstuck against the best in Europe.

Problem

"My concern with England is the back four," said Waddle, who played in two World Cups.

"I think Jordan Pickford has had a really good season for Everton, I don't think there's a problem there.

"In midfield, we've got

Waddle: I worry our defence could stop us being Euro kings

numerous players who can play in there and, attack-wise, we've got probably the best selection we've ever had for many years.

"But it's who you play at the back. We know Kyle Walker will play. He's very quick, but he likes to join in attack. If he's up the field, it's the pace I worry about at the back.

"I'm sure that's a concern Gareth Southgate knows about.

"We've got a great chance of winning it. We're in the pack of teams who are fancied.

"When you're talking about

teams who can win this tournament, you're talking about England as well."

Waddle reached the World Cup quarter-finals in Mexico with England in 1986.

Embarrassment

And he famously missed the decisive penalty in a heart-breaking shoot-out defeat to Germany at Italia 1990.

But the gifted playmaker, who enjoyed a distinguished career at clubs including Newcastle United, Tottenham

Hotspur, Marseille and Sheffield Wednesday, is confident England can shine with an embarrassment of riches in attack.

"There are so many talented footballers, will Gareth have the faith to go really offensive?" asked Waddle.

"I think that would be great for the first few games, but, as the tournament goes on, and you come up against France – who might be the semi-final – it may be a different game and a change of plan. But I think

England should go out there and play to their strengths.

"Their main strength, at this moment in time, is going forward. We are very good going forward.

"If it means we concede one or two goals and we win 4-2, then you win the match and you keep making progress.

Seasons

"The teams who will be playing England will be looking at us and going, 'They've got Harry Kane, Jude Bellingham and all these top players who have had good seasons'.

"All these teams will respect England and, deep down, I think a lot of people do believe this is the tournament England will win. It's going to be interesting.

"This England team have got that chance of going even further than we did at the 1986 and 1990 World Cups."



By Simon Mullock

BLACKBURN midfielder Arnor Sigurdsson has been shocked by Adam Wharton's meteoric rise – but he still reckons his former team-mate will not be fazed by the prospect of being plunged into the heat of the Euros.

Sigurdsson, 25, was in the Iceland team that humbled Gareth Southgate's side at Wembley on Friday night and later swapped shirts with Wharton (left). The

Ice-cool Wharton won't freeze on the big stage

pair played together until the 20-year-old midfielder's £18million January move to Crystal Palace provided him with the Premier League stage to force his way into England's squad.

Sigurdsson said: "We all knew Adam would get to the Premier League at some time, but six

months from Blackburn to the Euros – I did not expect that.

"I said it to him. It is just crazy but also beautiful, seeing it from the outside and also knowing him.

"I texted Adam when he was named in the training squad and obviously again on Thursday when they announced the Euro squad.

He is an amazing football player and such a humble person. I know he will reach the top.

"Adam is pretty quiet but also such a nice person. He is just the same as he was when he was at Blackburn. I am sure he will keep on being like that because that is how he was raised by his family.

"He could start the first game. He is so calm, he does not get nervous.

"He has that kind of mentality and talent so if he started the first game he could do it."

THE SCOUT

BY RYAN TAYLOR

Who is the next big thing, the new Bellingham, Saka or Foden? Every Sunday, we look at the best kids in the world under 22... and why they will - and should - be on the radar of the biggest clubs.

» MAXIMILIAN BEIER

ONE to watch at the Euros after forcing his way into Julian Nagelsmann's Germany squad.



AGE: 21 **HEIGHT:** 6ft (1.85m)

NATIONALITY: German

CLUB: Hoffenheim

CONTRACT EXPIRES: June 2027

POSITION: Centre-forward

FOOT: Right

STYLE: Nimble, with eye for goal

TRACKED BY: Bayer Leverkusen and Liverpool.

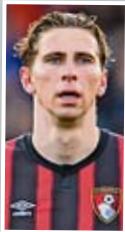
MARKET VALUE: £25million

WHY BUY HIM? Beier's stock is on the rise following a groundbreaking campaign in the Bundesliga. Now is the perfect time for suitors to strike. Unselfish, with great numbers, attributes and world-class potential.

» ILLYA ZABARNYI

ONE of the Prem's best-kept secrets. Spurs wanted to sign him from Dynamo Kyiv before his £24million switch to Bournemouth and he has since made the transition to Premier League football.

He played all but one of the Cherries' 38 top-flight games last season and has been a key figure under boss Andoni Iraola.



AGE: 21 **HEIGHT:** 6ft 2in (1.89m)

NATIONALITY: Ukrainian

CLUB: Bournemouth

CONTRACT EXPIRES: June 2028

POSITION: Centre-back

FOOT: Right

STYLE: Ball-playing defender with aerial prowess

TRACKED BY: Tottenham.

MARKET VALUE: £30million

WHY BUY HIM? An instant success in the Prem and is preparing to feature at Euro 2024. One of the best young centre-backs in Europe and has all the skills to become a world-beater.



EURO 2024 It's the Finals countdown for

No more excuses, Southgate. If the Three Lions are underachievers once again, your time has to be up

NEIL

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MOXLEY

email: neil.moxley@reachplc.com

ENGLAND carry the weight of history on their shoulders this month.

They also take with them the expectations of a nation - and that hasn't always been the case.

Buffeted emotionally by years of sob stories and near-misses, followers of the Three Lions have developed an impenetrable defensive shield.

Glory

The country will turn its eyes on Germany in hope, but never allowing itself to truly believe.

That way you can't get hurt, right?

But England are pre-tournament favourites and the pressure is on them

to deliver. It HAS to be fourth time lucky for Gareth Southgate. There can't be any more excuses.

The cards have been stacked in favour of England's boss for the past six years. This Three Lions team had - and still have - the potential to win tournaments. Appearances in the semi-final, final and quarter-finals are evidence of that.

The fact is that there isn't one outstanding side in international football and there hasn't been for over a decade, possibly longer.

Are England out on their own?

Probably not. But they're up there. In the mix. You can point to France, possibly, and say they have had the ingredients to have been successful.

In 2018, the World Cup tournament in Russia was anyone's. But the Three Lions weren't all that.

Defeated in the group stages by Belgium, it took penalties to get past Colombia and defeating an average Sweden side to reach the last four gave the nation a shot at glory it probably didn't deserve.

Answers

England took the lead against Croatia in the last four, enjoying 24 hours' greater rest than their opponents... and still wilted.

Three years later, with home advantage, Southgate did come up with the right answers, but came up short in the final examination when

it mattered against Italy. To his credit, I'm not sure he trusted his centre-halves, so he plumped for two defensive blockers in Declan Rice and Kalvin Phillips, and we prospered.

But when it called for sharpness of mind to be followed by decisive action in the final against Italy at Wembley, he was found wanting.

It seems almost criminal now, not subjecting ageing twin defensive peaks Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini to trial by pace.

That situation called for him to move deftly, anticipate the script and act accordingly. He didn't. We failed again. And that shield went up.

In Qatar, it was a similar story. The competition was wide open. Harry

PLACE YOUR BETS

The not-so-outsiders have got to be Portugal. World-class is that Roberto Martinez, who failed dismally with Belgium,

boss who has never won silverware



Kane scores that second penalty against France and who knows? Difficult to pin that one on Southgate, but it was another one that got away.

Argentina were no great shakes. Defeated by Saudi Arabia, they twice needed keeper Emi Martinez to bail them out in penalty shoot-outs.

If Didier Deschamps' side had been dispatched, the opportunity was there.

Power

This time, however, it's different. Will any nation be relishing the prospect of playing this England team? They've got quality, pace, power, guile and a world-class goal-getter in Kane. But they don't have defensive solidity and that is an

Achilles heel. They do, however, have experience.

Jordan Pickford, John Stones, Kyle Walker, Kieran Trippier and Kane have lived through that heartache.

It should count for something. That know-how. Has Southgate learned?

Can he adapt to a situation the data analysts haven't prepared him for?

Can he pull off a victory that is against the odds?

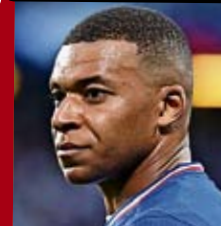
If he can, this could be a glorious summer. And if he can't, he's had enough chances... the pattern has become set with Southgate's England always in the role of consistent underachievers.

It will be time to let someone else have a go.



THE TIME FOR CONSOLATION IS OVER: (From top) Southgate soothes the pain of defeat in Kane, Bellingham and Maguire

WHO'S HOT



FRANCE

Les Bleus are somehow second favourites behind the Three Lions. It's difficult to find many weaknesses. Kylian Mbappe (above) will be the game's next global star. Scheduled to meet in the semi-finals. Ominous.

GERMANY

Julian Nagelsmann has steadied the ship and friendly victories over France and Holland have left the hosts with a far better chance than they thought possible 12 months ago. Tony Kroos's return is a plus, too.

UKRAINE

The fact that Serhiy Rebrov's side is competing at all is remarkable. They played all of their qualification ties on the road, due to the war with Russia. Unlikely to test the big guns, but their presence has to be applauded.

...WHO'S NOT



SCOTLAND

Lyndon Dykes' (above) injury has robbed Steve Clarke of an attacking threat in a team that doesn't score many. Definite upturn, but it's hard to see where goals are coming from.

BELGIUM

The golden generation are now mostly past their best. They fared miserably in Qatar and have to do without Thibaut Courtois in goal. Still, they have always got Kevin De Bruyne and a favourable group draw.

SPAIN

Always among the pre-tournament favourites. Several players – such as Rodri – would walk into most sides. But they're still lacking a bit up front. The absence of an A-list striker cost them in Qatar – and could do again in Germany.

Vardy is still Prem de la Prem

EXCLUSIVE
by Neil Goulding

PREMIER League winner Danny Simpson has no doubts Jamie Vardy can STILL cut the mustard for Leicester in the Premier League.

Simpson and veteran striker Vardy famously played in the history-making side which won the Premier League in 2016.

Ranked 5000-1 outsiders at the start of what proved to be a memorable campaign, former England hitman Vardy inspired a magical maiden top-flight title-winning run with an impressive 24 goals.

And the 37-year-old marksman shows no sign of slowing down having finished top scorer with 18 goals as the Foxes secured a fine promotion back to the big time by winning the Championship crown last season.

Vardy has scored approaching 200 goals in 12 seasons for the club, but his contract is due to run out on June 30 – and a potential new deal could prove complicated with the club currently placed under a transfer embargo for breaching profit and sustainability rules (PSR).

Former boss Enzo Maresca revealed the club were in talks with Vardy over a new deal, but the Italian's move to Chelsea has left contract talks in limbo.

"From a sentimental and friend point of view, I'd love to see him have one more good year with Leicester in the Premier League," said Simpson.

"Even coming off the bench for 20 minutes here or 30 minutes there, you know he's only going to need one chance. He scores goals, that's what he does."

"He's still got that pedigree and he's still got that pace you need in the Premier League."

"I know the Championship is a different level, but he's still got that sharpness and focus, he scored 18 goals last season – and he didn't even start all the games."

"He still gets those scrappy goals in the box, I think he definitely deserves another year."



NET GAINS: Jamie Vardy

operators pepper their squad. It's full of big players who have won big trophies. The only minus point is in charge. They can beat anyone in the competition on their day.



EURO 2024

Boss warns the nation that achieving glory is



GOOD MEMORIES: Stelios

Greece did it... so can England!

EXCLUSIVE
by Richard Edwards

IF DENMARK came off the beach to win Euro 92, then Greece came out of the blue to pull off the greatest shock in the tournament's history 12 years later.

And now one of their heroes from Euro 2004, believes there's no reason England can't finally lift the trophy themselves.

Stelios Giannakopoulos was part of the Greek side that beat Portugal 1-0 in the final in Lisbon, 20 years ago.

"It was crazy – no-one thought it was possible," he says. "What we achieved in that tournament is something that will never be repeated. If we can win it, I'm certain England can."

"This generation have the capacity, they have everything in place to go to Germany and go all the way. It's a good group of players with a manager who knows everyone very well. He has built this side."

"England were excellent in Qatar and now all these players are even more experienced."

"If he manages to get all the players in that dressing room to unite under one cause then I think they have a very strong opportunity for England to win this tournament."

"That Greek team would do anything for each other. You need a togetherness. It's what all great teams have – look at Real Madrid, look at Manchester City."

"Achieving that at a national level is always difficult because of the nature of international football. But when you get that, it's very, very special."

"I can see similarities between the togetherness of this England side and the atmosphere we had in 2004. A lot of that is down to the manager."

Greece had the unsmiling Otto Rehhagel in the dugout as they went from 150-1 outsiders to European Champions. They were not a swashbuckling side but they were effective."

Giannakopoulos's side beat Portugal, twice, France and the Czech Republic on their way to the title with a collective will that England would do well to emulate in Germany.

ALARM BELL

Southgate tells Three Lions fans not to expect Jude to shoulder burden for the whole team

by Simon Mullock

GARETH SOUTHGATE has warned the nation not to expect Jude Bellingham to be England's Euro saviour.

Bellingham will step up his preparations for the opening game against Serbia next Sunday after being given time to rest after playing a pivotal role in Real Madrid's Champions League and La Liga double.

Pressure will be on the 20-year-old to show why he is now being hailed as a Ballon d'Or winner.

But after seeing his team given a huge wake-up call by the minnows of Iceland at Wembley on Friday night, England boss Southgate (right) feels it would be unfair to put the expectation of the country on Bellingham's young shoulders.

Southgate said: "We are not putting everything on Jude. We've got a lot of good players and it is a collective thing to go and try to win this tournament."

Relying

"If we are relying on one person, that isn't going to be a team that wins."

"Jude is, of course, a player with a fabulous mentality – and he will have a big impact on the whole group."

"I'm sure Jude will give the squad a lift but it is not his responsibility to do that. It is for all of us to get the focus right, to make sure individually our

mentality is right – and as a coaching team we will make sure we are working on the areas that need to be better than they were against Iceland."

"We were actually excellent without the ball in our last three matches but we were a long way off that against Iceland."

"It's a good reminder for us as a team. If you are off it as a collective without the ball then you can have problems."

Southgate has defensive issues going into the tournament.

Harry Maguire was deemed unfit to make the squad and his Manchester United team-mate Luke Shaw is battling to be ready for the opening game after being sidelined for four months with hamstring issues.

John Stones (below right) left Wembley on Friday night with his ankle heavily strapped after being substituted at half-time – and the Manchester City centre-back also has a poor injury record.

Southgate is reluctant to return to a back-three, even though that would allow him to push Kyle Walker inside and find a place for the creative Trent Alexander-Arnold at wing-back.

He said: "A back-three is not something we've talked about. It's not a route we have been looking to go down for sure."

"Availability of players changes what you may do and what profile of player you may play in certain positions. But

we have been on a good path without the ball against top-level opponents in Belgium and Brazil. Against Iceland, we didn't get that right."

"There are still players we are finding out about and so it really sharpens the focus of what we need to do leading into the game against Serbia."

Better

"We spoke after the game about what needs to be better and we will be working through the details of those things. A display like that can really sharpen the focus, sharpen the attention to the fundamentals of the game that have to be right."

"Maybe in the last few weeks we've talked a little bit too much about what we want to be with the ball."

"If you're not bright without the ball, which we weren't, then you can have problems against any side."

"When you're one game away from a tournament there is also a little bit of not wanting to get injured."

"So I understand some of the reasons for the performance, but it is a jolt at a good time for us because we'll have to get that preparation next week spot on. It means we'll have an edge to things, which we need."



not a one-man job... but must be a collective effort



Luke being ready to face Serbia in opener is not a Shaw thing

by **Simon Mullock**

LUKE SHAW has admitted he faces a fight to be fit for England's opening game of the Euros after Gareth Southgate decided he had to take a chance on the Manchester United defender.

Shaw has been sidelined for four months by a hamstring injury made worse by his desperation not to miss United's FA Cup Final victory over Manchester City last month.

The 28-year-old still is not back in full training and insists he is unwilling to take any more chances with his health after suffering a string of setbacks.

But Southgate is so short of left-backs that he felt compelled to take Shaw to Germany even if he might not be available for the early matches.

Shaw (below), who reported for duty early in a bid to prove he was on the road to recovery, said: "Of course, I would love to make the first game, I can't lie."

"But it's not really down to me. At the moment we just go day by day, see how I react, see how I'm feeling in training."

"I don't want to be in one of those situations where I rush back too quickly because realistically I've only got one chance."

"If I feel something, then that's it, and I don't want that to happen."

"Obviously I've had a tough few months, really. But things are looking much more positive now and I'm feeling good."

"I am definitely progressing much better than they thought I would, and me, too."

"But I don't want to look too far ahead. Obviously, I'm very grateful to Gareth for picking me and showing the faith he has in me."

"For me, it's about repaying that and doing everything I can to get fit and try and help the team win this Euros."

Shaw fired England ahead in the final of Euro 2020 before Southgate's men ended up losing on penalties to Italy. The Three

Lions are overwhelming favourites to win the nation's first major trophy since 1966 when they go to Germany.

A 1-0 defeat to minnows Iceland at Wembley on Friday night was the worst possible preparation for a team that opens their campaign against Serbia in Gelsenkirchen next Sunday.

Shaw revealed that Southgate told his players in no uncertain terms that it was an unacceptable performance.

The defender believes there may have been a hangover from the squad cull that saw senior players like Jack Grealish, Harry Maguire and James Maddison told they had not made the cut.

And he also reckons it could be the perfect wake-up call before the tournament kicks-off. He said: "Gareth made it very clear in the changing room what he felt."

"I'm not going to repeat what was said but we know we need to be better. The mentality needs to be better, attitude, performance – everything."

"It's been a tough couple of days in camp, with the decisions. It's never an easy one to deal with."

"I'm not saying that had a massive effect, but it could have made a little difference. We weren't shocked by what the manager said."

You look in that changing room and see the players, the quality and the experience, we know we should be better."

"This could have been the best thing to happen to us. It made us realise that going to Germany is not going to be an easy ride."

"It's going to be very hard and it's going to take a lot of determination from the team to do well."



Carry on starring

There is only so much expectation Jude Bellingham can carry... his England team-mates must also pull their weight at the Euros

'UNITED PUT MY EUROS IN JEOPARDY'

From Back Page

half-time. I didn't train the whole week and when the scan came back, there wasn't too much there."

"I then trained the day before the game [at Luton] – and if the manager asks me to play, I'm never going to say 'no.'"

"But I shouldn't have played. It's kind of everyone's fault. Partly my fault, partly the medical staff. I think everyone

would admit that." Ten Hag (right) has argued that a catalogue of injuries were behind a dreadful season which saw United finish eighth.

The Dutchman is yet to hear whether beating City at Wembley has saved his job, but co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe has ordered an investigation into why the casualty list was so crippling.

But to add insult to injury, Shaw was devastated when fans questioned his

commitment to the club when it became clear there was a chance he would make the plane for the Euros.

He said: "I got a few people coming up to me, saying 'how can you not be fit for United but fit for England?'"

"No one knew the situation. I was actually very close to returning to team training."

"I was pushing to try and get back for the games and the final, and I think I pushed too hard. I came back too quickly

and ended up getting another injury in my hamstring."

"It was three weeks from the Final and they (the doctors) said it was a six-week injury."

"It's been disappointing for me, but I want to do everything I can, first and foremost, for United."

"I have always said that the United team comes before everything for me"

"And that will never change."



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Wigan's awesome foursome



Warrington 8 Wigan 18

BEVAN FRENCH was the hero as Wigan wrapped up a record-extending 21st Challenge Cup title with victory over Warrington at Wembley. French made one try before going over himself as Warriors became the first team since 2007 to hold all four of the game's major honours at once.

Full story: See Pages 54 & 55

EURO 2024 5 DAYS UNTIL THE BIG KICK-OFF

UNITED PUT MY EUROS IN JEOPARDY

by **Simon Mullock**

LUKE SHAW has revealed how Manchester United forced him to take a gamble with his fitness that could have cost him his place at the Euros.

The England defender is also gutted that United fans have questioned his commitment to the club after breaking down in his desperation to make the FA Cup Final.

Shaw (right), who celebrates 10 years at United this month, believes some of the blame lies with boss Erik ten Hag and the Old Trafford medical staff.

He was asked to play against Luton by Ten Hag after being forced off with a hamstring injury at Aston Villa the previous week.

Shaw said: "I felt something against Villa and came off at

Turn to Page 63



INSIDE
FREE GLOSSY
A2 WALLCHART

EURO 2024 WALLCHART
 Your essential guide to all the games, dates and venues for this summer's European Championship

Shaw: I was forced into a fitness gamble

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EURO 2024

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**YOUR EIGHT
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TO THIS
SUMMER'S
FESTIVAL OF
FOOTBALL**



D-DAY

It's time for Southgate and England to deliver



GROUP C

SLOVENIA, DENMARK, ENGLAND, SERBIA

SLOVENIA

Coach: Matjaz Kek
Star man: Jan Oblak
One to watch: Benjamin Sesko - RB Leipzig striker who is currently being tracked by top-flight heavyweights Arsenal, Chelsea and Man United.
Previous best: Group Stage (2000)
Verdict: Won seven of their 10 qualification matches but getting out of Group C will prove difficult. Having quality at both ends of pitch in Oblak and Sesko will give them confidence.
Odds to win: 250/1

DENMARK

Coach: Kasper Hjulmand
Star man: Rasmus Hojlund
One to watch: Matt O'Riley - Celtic midfielder has had a real stellar season, with clubs circling.
Previous best: Winners (1992)
Verdict: Organised unit with quality in all areas of the pitch. Denmark will be eyeing revenge against England after their Euro 2020 semi-final defeat but they're well equipped to perform.
Odds to win: 40/1

ENGLAND

Coach: Gareth Southgate
Star man: Jude Bellingham
One to watch: Phil Foden - Comes into tournament off back of a best-ever season at club level and firing on all cylinders for Pep Guardiola and Man City.
Previous best: Runners-up (2020)
Verdict: England are the favourites heading into the tournament and now is the time to deliver. They have world-class superstars, experience and now they have to make it count.
Odds to win: 3/1

SERBIA

Coach: Dragan Stojkovic
Star man: Aleksandar Mitrovic
One to watch: Dusan Vlahovic - Prolific Juventus striker will want to make a point.
Previous best: Runners-up as Yugoslavia (1960, 1968)
Verdict: Tough nut to crack with goals in attack. Serbia are always tipped as the tournament dark horses but very rarely live up to that billing. However, they will represent difficult opponents for anyone.
Odds to win: 80/1



YOUR BRILLIANT EIGHT-PAGE GUIDE TO EURO 2024: EVERY TEAM,

Bring on the SOUTHGATE HAS FEARSOME



REAL DEAL: Bellingham has shone in Madrid



FIRE POWER: Clockwise from above Toney, Watkins, Eze, Bowen and Gordon



GARETH SOUTHGATE can lay claim to being the most attacking England manager ever - and he has the goals to prove it.

But the key to Euro glory in the coming weeks will be to fully unleash what is arguably the most potent armoury of striking talent that this country has ever sent into a tournament.

Harry Kane, Jude Bellingham, Phil Foden, Bukayo Saka, Cole Palmer and Ollie Watkins are all master takers - as well as makers - of goals.

Throw Jarrod Bowen, Eberechi Eze, Anthony

Simon Mullock
ENGLAND VERDICT

Gordon and Ivan Toney into the mix and the weapons at Southgate's disposal really are explosive.

And that's without thinking about the passing brilliance of Trent Alexander-Arnold that so often elicits comparisons to Kevin De Bruyne.

Southgate will know better than anyone what he's been blessed with.

But his England side haven't been slow in going forward during his eight-year

reign - according to the stats, at least.

His 95 matches have produced 217 goals at an average of 2.28 goals per game.

Only Sir Alf Ramsey's England scored more. But at 224 goals in 113 matches, their strike-rate was not as prolific.

Fabio Capello, whose team scored 89 goals in 42 internationals, is the only England manager since Ramsey who gets close to Southgate in that respect.

Maybe it's the near misses that make the 53-year-old's critics complain that the side

he has so painstakingly created are capable of even more.

Defeats like the World Cup semi-final loss to Croatia in 2018 and the cruel penalty shootout agony against Italy at the last Euros leave lasting scars.

Two years ago, only a late penalty miss by Kane prevented England from taking their World Cup quarter-final against France into extra time when Didier Deschamps' side looked there for the taking.

After so many broken dreams over the past 58 years, this has already been a

Golden Generation. But for Southgate's team to put themselves up alongside Ramsey's Boys of 1966, they have to take that final step.

Problems with form, fitness and inexperience elsewhere in the team suggest that England must play with the brakes off and trust themselves to do what now comes naturally.

Kane's move to Bayern Munich may not have brought him the medals he craved, but he did claim the European Golden Shoe after scoring 36 Bundesliga goals, during a season which saw

GROUP C FIXTURES - SUNDAY, JUNE 16: Slovenia v Denmark (5pm, ITV), Serbia v England (8pm, BBC). **THURSDAY,** v Slovenia (8pm, ITV), Denmark v Serbia (8pm, ITV).

EVERY GAME, EVERY KICK AND FLICK FROM GERMANY



big guns

WEAPONS TO DEPLOY

PRIDE OF LIONS:
Kane, Saka and Palmer

HOT SHOT:
Foden hit 19 goals

NET BUSTERS

AVERAGE ENGLAND GOALS PER GAME SINCE 1966 (Min 10 matches)

SOUTHGATE	2.28
CAPELLO	2.12
RAMSEY	1.98
HODGSON	1.94
ERIKSSON	1.91

him hit the net 44 times in all competitions.

The goal chart incorporating Europe's top five leagues includes another three Englishman in the top 10.

Palmer scored 22 times in his debut season at Chelsea, while Foden was named FWA Footballer of the Year after finding the net 19 times as he helped his club win a fourth successive Premier League title, and Watkins matched that tally as Aston Villa qualified for the Champions League.

Then there's Bellingham, who marked his debut season for Real Madrid with 23 goals and is already in the frame for the

Ballon d'Or after winning both La Liga and the Champions League.

Defensively, Southgate has some big issues to solve.

Harry Maguire is missing, while Luke Shaw will have not played a competitive game for four months by the time England face Serbia in Gelsenkirchen in their opening group game next Sunday.

John Stones is also a worry. Pep Guardiola was furious with Southgate for starting the defender in successive friendlies in March before sending him back to Manchester City injured.

The chances of Stones staying fit in Germany will hinge on the England manager nursing him

carefully through the tournament. So almost five years after Kyle Walker's international career appeared over when he was dropped by England, the 34-year-old is now Southgate's go-to defender.

Kieran Trippier, another 30-something, may have to play out of position on the left if Shaw isn't ready in time.

Joe Gomez, Lewis Dunk, Marc Guehi and Ezri Konsa offer versatility but have a combined total of 36 caps between them.

Declan Rice will have to replicate his outstanding debut season at Arsenal by protecting the weakness in England's team.

Southgate may even be forced

to deploy Alexander-Arnold at right-back and ask Walker to play inside as he has done previously.

The England manager has not played it safe with his squad selection.

Teenager Kobbie Mainoo's form at Old Trafford made him a compelling contender, and he has also been brave enough to recognise the talents of Crystal Palace midfielder Adam Wharton, less than six months after the 20-year-old was playing in a struggling Blackburn team in the Championship.

But to go all the way, Southgate will likely have to rely most on those up top to fire the Three Lions to glory once again.

EURO RECORDS BY THE NUMBERS

MOST FINALS APPEARANCES

25: Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) 19: Joao Moutinho (Portugal) 19: Pepe (Portugal) 18: Leonardo Bonucci (Italy) 18: Bastian Schweinsteiger (Germany)

MOST FINALS GOALS

14: Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) 9: Michel Platini (France) 7: Antoine Griezmann (France), Alan Shearer (England)

MOST GOALS IN A SINGLE FINALS GAME

3: Dieter Muller (West Germany 4-2 Yugoslavia, 1976)
3: Klaus Allofs (West Germany 3-2 Holland, 1980)
3: Michel Platini (France 5-0 Belgium, 1984)
3: Michel Platini (France 3-2 Yugoslavia, 1984)
3: Marco van Basten (Holland 3-1 England, 1988)
3: Sergio Conceicao (Portugal 3-0 Germany, 2000)
3: Patrick Kluivert (Holland 6-1 Yugoslavia, 2000)
3: David Villa (Spain 4-1 Russia, 2008)

MOST GOALS IN A SINGLE FINAL TOURNAMENT

9: Michel Platini (France, 1984)

FASTEST GOAL

1min 7secs: Dmitri Kirichenko (Russia 2-1 Greece, 2004)

FASTEST HAT-TRICK

18 mins: Michel Platini (France 3-2 Yugoslavia, 1984)

YOUNGEST PLAYER

17 years 246 days: Kacper Kozlowski (Spain 1-1 Poland, 2021)

YOUNGEST SCORER

18 years 141 days: Johan Vonlanthen (Switzerland 1-3 France, 2004)

OLDEST PLAYER

40 years 86 days: Gabor Kiraly (Hungary 0-4 Belgium, 2016)

OLDEST SCORER

38 years 257 days: Ivica Vastic (Austria 1-1 Poland, 2008)

MOST FINALS

5: Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020)

MOST FINAL WINS

3: Spain (1964, 2008, 2012), Germany/West Germany (1972, 1980, 1996)

MOST FINAL TOURNAMENTS

13: Germany/West Germany

MOST GOALS IN A SINGLE FINAL TOURNAMENT

14: France (1984)

MOST GOALS SCORED IN A SINGLE GROUP STAGE

9: France (1984), Holland (2008)

• Berti Vogts is the only man to have won a EURO as a player (West Germany, 1972) and a coach (Germany, 1996)

• 10 players have won the European Cup/UEFA Champions League and a EURO in the same summer: Luis Suarez (Inter Milan and Spain, 1964), Ronald Koeman (PSV and Holland, 1988), Barry van Aerle (PSV and Holland, 1988), Hans van Breucklen (PSV and Holland, 1988), Gerald Vanenburg (PSV and Holland, 1988), Juan Mata (Chelsea and Spain, 2012), Fernando Torres (Chelsea and Spain, 2012), Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid and Portugal, 2016), Pepe (Real Madrid and Portugal, 2016), Jorginho (Chelsea and Italy, 2020)

HOST CITIES

Berlin	Gelsenkirchen
Cologne	Hamburg
Dortmund	Leipzig
Dusseldorf	Munich
Frankfurt	Stuttgart

REFEREES

Artur Soares Dias (Portugal)
Jesus Gil Manzano (Spain)
Marco Guida (Italy)
Istvan Kovacs (Romania)
Ivan Kruzliak (Slovakia)
Francois Letexier (France)
Danny Makkelie (Holland)
Szymon Marciniak (Poland)
Halil Umut Meler (Turkey)
Glenn Nyberg (Sweden)
Michael Oliver (England)
Daniele Orsato (Italy)
Sandro Scharer (Switzerland)
Daniel Siebert (Germany)
Anthony Taylor (England)
Clement Turpin (France)
Slavko Vincic (Slovenia)
Felix Zwayer (Germany)

KNOCKOUT ROUNDS

Last 16: Sat, June 29 - Tues, July 2
Quarters: Fri, July 5 - Sat, July 6
Semis: Tues, July 9 - Weds, July 10
Final: Sunday, July 14

JUNE 20: Slovenia v Serbia (2pm, ITV), Denmark v England (5pm, BBC). TUESDAY, JUNE 25: England



GROUP D

POLAND, HOLLAND, AUSTRIA, FRANCE

POLAND

Coach: Michał Probierz

Star man: Robert Lewandowski

One to watch: Jakub Kiwior - The Arsenal left-back is reliable in defence and useful in going forward as well.

Previous best:

Quarter-finals (2016)

Verdict: In a difficult group, maybe, but expect Poland to qualify for the latter stages - albeit via a best third-place slot. Experience makes them dangerous, their history suggests a last-16 finish at best.

Odds to win: 200/1



HOLLAND

Coach: Ronald Koeman

Star man: Virgil van Dijk

One to watch: Xavi Simons - Paris Saint-Germain winger, 21, is fresh from a brilliant loan season at RB Leipzig.

Previous best:

Winners (1988)

Verdict: They reached the last-four at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and have continued to improve as a team. Are more than dark horses this summer, and quite possibly genuine contenders for the title.

Odds to win: 18/1



AUSTRIA

Coach: Ralf Rangnick

Star man: Marcel Sabitzer

One to watch: Konrad Laimer - Midfielder looking to impress after debut season at Bayern Munich.

Previous best:

Last 16 (2020)

Verdict: Former Man United boss Rangnick ignored the Bayern Munich job to remain with Austria this summer - underlining their potential. But they face a massive scrap to get out of this group with such heavyweights.

Odds to win: 80/1



FRANCE

Coach: Didier Deschamps

Star man: Kylian Mbappe

One to watch: Eduardo Camavinga - Real Madrid ace can dictate a game like very few.

Previous best:

Winners (1984, 2000)

Verdict: Joint-favourites and rightly so - despite failing to retain their global supremacy since winning 2018 World Cup. Runners-up in Qatar, they need Mbappe back to his best to go one better here.

Odds to win: 3/1



BART TO THE Koeman knows he is in safe hands

BRIGHTON keeper Bart Verbruggen is looking forward to living up to his nickname of 'Penalty Killer' after being told he will be Holland's No.1 at the Euros.

The 21-year-old was given the perfect pre-tournament boost this week when Dutch coach Ronald Koeman (below) assured him he would be his main man in Germany.

Now the £16.3million signing from Anderlecht has set his sights on being his nation's shootout king when he is put on the spot this summer.

"Penalty Killer is a title by which other people label me," said Verbruggen, who is set to become the youngest-ever keeper to represent Holland at a major tournament when Oranje kick-off against Poland on Sunday.

"I have faced many penalties in the past. Some have gone in - but I feel comfortable. I have confidence in myself.

"When it comes to the tournament I feel I'm ready.

"I wouldn't say what the coach has said is a surprise - but it's always nice to get that confirmation.

"The Euros are really something. When I got the message I was super happy - and I still am.

"I'm so looking forward to it. It's a boyhood dream for me. I didn't do a dance, I didn't stand on a table, but I had a grin from ear to ear.

"I really can't wait. We are going to have a great summer."

Verbruggen grew up in Zwolle in the north east of Holland.

He impressed his parents at such a young age with his goalkeeping skills that they paid for him to attend a coaching school which helped him develop further.

He went on to join WDS 19, an amateur club in Breda that had also been a stepping stone for Virgil van Dijk.



GLOVE-LY JUBBLY: Verbruggen is ready to show his class at the Euros

Simon Mullock
REPORTING

Verbruggen's one big regret is that his father Coen died suddenly three years ago when he was making his name at Belgian giants Anderlecht and

did not get to see his son play for Holland.

"It's just super sad that my father didn't get to experience this," said Verbruggen.

"He should have been able to see this in the stadium or at home in front of the TV.

"I know he would have been

very proud." Verbruggen shared goalkeeping duties with Luke Steele at the Amex Stadium last season.

He was given his Anderlecht debut by Vincent Kompany - and when the former Manchester City defender became boss of Burnley he wanted to bring the

young keeper with him. Brighton beat the Clarets 2-1, Steele signed his signature and now he has a chance to enhance his reputation further after a huge confidence from Koeman.

Holland's coach had no doubts about naming his first-choice keeper ahead of the Euros.

GROUP D FIXTURES - SUNDAY, JUNE 16: Poland v Holland (2pm, BBC). **MONDAY, JUNE 17:** Austria v France (8pm, ITV). **JUNE 25:** France v Poland (5pm, BBC), Holland v Austria (5pm, BBC).

EVERY GAME, EVERY KICK AND FLICK FROM GERMANY



THE FUTURE

with exciting young stopper



Gakpo to show Dutch of class

CODY GAKPO believes Liverpool's injury crisis last season has made him a better player.

Gakpo was used in a variety of positions by Jurgen Klopp when the Reds' squad was hit by the loss of several top performers.

The Dutchman's versatility enabled Klopp to still guide Liverpool to the Carabao Cup and a third-place finish in his final season at Anfield.

Now Gakpo goes into the Euros aiming to improve on an impressive World Cup two years ago.

He said: "We had an injury crisis at Liverpool that had to be solved in a certain way. You have to just deal with it. Sometimes that went very well and sometimes not so well because of the constant switching.

"But it has been a process from which I eventually gained a lot for myself. In the end, I am grateful that it turned out to be a very instructive season.

"What my role will be in Germany? I haven't thought about that myself yet.

"I have felt my role changing - and maybe others now look at me differently. As you get older yourself and some younger guys come in, then the dynamic changes automatically.

"But I have always had a great sense of responsibility to do my best for the team."

Holland coach Ronaldo Koeman reckons he will be able to use Gakpo in as many as five different roles during the tournament.

And the 25-year-old believes Koeman will also be able to call on a player who has also improved physically. Gakpo said: "My condition has improved in terms of the pace I can handle and also the intensity."

SIMON MULLOCK



ON THE BALL: Gakpo with Nathan Ake (left)

im. But tournament. Koeman said: "If everything goes well and he reaches his true level and stays fit, it could be that he is the goalkeeper for a long time. "In terms of age and considering the level he plays at in the Premier League, I think he will only get better. He has a great future ahead of him. It has been clear to me for several weeks that Bart would be the first-choice. "That also comes from the Autumn period, during which Bart played the internationals. "I made the decision clear with the three goalkeepers in the squad."

GROUP B



SPAIN, CROATIA, ITALY, ALBANIA

SPAIN

Coach: Luis de la Fuente

Star man: Rodri

One to watch: Lamine Yamal - The 16-year-old Barcelona sensation will take some stopping. He looks like he will be around for years to come as well.

Previous best: Winners (1964, 2008, 2012)

Verdict: Spain are in the group of death but have the quality to come out on top of it, though this is their first major tournament under new boss De la Fuente and it could prove challenging to go all the way.

Odds to win: 8/1



CROATIA

Coach: Zlatko Dalic

Star man: Luka Modric

One to watch: Luka Sucic - Could struggle for minutes in star-studded midfield but Salzburg star is a gem.

Previous best: Quarter-finals (1996, 2008)

Verdict: Croatia are always dark horses after reaching the 2018 World Cup final and semi-finals in Qatar. They have experience, quality and winners within their ranks. Don't bet against them to go far in Germany.

Odds to win: 40/1



ITALY

Coach: Luciano Spalletti

Star man: Nicolò Barella

One to watch: Andrea Cambiaso - Juventus full-back has had fine season with Bianconeri and will want to cap it off in style.

Previous best: Winners (1968, 2020)

Verdict: Have their work cut out trying to make knockout stages but the holders from 2020 have experience, a solid defence, attacking talent and a top coach in Spalletti.

Odds to win: 14/1



ALBANIA

Coach: Sylvinho

Star man: Armando Broja

One to watch: Ernest Muci - Scored three times against Aston Villa in the UEFA Conference League this season.

Previous best: Group Stage (2016)

Verdict: Almighty underdogs but that's a tag they'll embrace in Germany. Topped a very tricky qualification group having lost just one of eight matches and will bring huge support with them to the finals.

Odds to win: 500/1



GROUP B FIXTURES - SATURDAY, JUNE 15: Spain v Croatia (5pm, ITV), Italy v Albania (8pm, BBC). **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19:** Croatia v Albania (2pm, ITV). **THURSDAY, JUNE 20:** Spain v Italy (8pm, ITV). **MONDAY, JUNE 24:** Croatia v Italy (8pm, BBC), Albania v Spain (8pm, BBC).

Luis delight as ace Pedri is fighting fit

SPAIN boss Luis de la Fuente could not resist spilling the beans - Pedri is fit and ready to light up the Euros.

The brilliant Barcelona midfielder (below) endured a tricky, injury-interrupted campaign, with a serious hamstring issue proving hard to overcome.

However, having witnessed Pedri's international return last week - when he played for an hour in Spain's 5-0 thumping of Andorra - De la Fuente has delivered the best verdict possible on his young passing supremo.

He said: "I'm going to tell you something secret. I have

to give you the good news - Pedri is back.

"I've seen him with the enthusiasm to work, the desire to show it and the energy. Not that Pedri has to show me anything.

"But he's going to go back to the level of before. I have no doubt. I see him with more confidence and security. It's a sure bet and he's a great talent.

"You always expect the best from him. This is great news for the squad."

Meanwhile, De la Fuente heads into the Euros armed with a new contract that will keep him at the helm until 2026.

HARRY PRATT



FRIDAY, JUNE 21: Poland v Austria (5pm, ITV), Holland v France (8pm, BBC). **TUESDAY,**



GROUP A

GERMANY, SCOTLAND, HUNGARY, SWITZERLAND

GERMANY

Coach: Julian Nagelsmann

Star man: Jamal Musiala

One to watch: Maximilian Beier - Hoffenheim forward hit 16 goals in 33 Bundesliga matches this season

Previous best: Winners (1972, 1980, 1996)

Verdict: Germany were beaten in the last 16 by England at Euro 2020 and exited both the 2018 and 2022 World Cups at the group stage but the hosts have the talent and manager to shine bright once again.

Odds to win: 11/2



SCOTLAND

Coach: Steve Clarke

Star man: Andy Robertson

One to watch: Scott McTominay - The Man United midfielder scored seven goals in eight qualifiers.

Previous best: Group Stage (1992, 1996, 2020)

Verdict: Scotland will believe they have the spirit to reach the knockout stages for the first time in their history, their unity will be key as they target an upset in the opening match.

Odds to win: 100/1



HUNGARY

Coach: Marco Rossi

Star man: Dominik Szoboszlai

One to watch: Milos Kerkez - The 20-year-old Bournemouth full-back has been tracked by Chelsea and could be one of the stars of the tournament.

Previous best: Third (1964)

Verdict: Could be a tough ask making it out of the group but Hungary proved they're no pushovers when they hammered England 4-0 at Molineux back in June 2022 - keep an eye on them.

Odds to win: 80/1



SWITZERLAND

Coach: Murat Yakin

Star man: Granit Xhaka

One to watch: Noah Okafor - Highly-rated AC Milan forward ready to lead the line.

Previous best: Quarter-finals (2020)

Verdict: Switzerland have major tournament experience and will take great belief from dumping France out of Euro 2020. They will be expected to get out of group and into the KO rounds with Germany.

Odds to win: 66/1



YOUR BRILLIANT EIGHT-PAGE GUIDE TO EURO 2024: EVERY TEAM,



FAMILY AFFAIR: Angus Gunn has followed in his father Bryan's footsteps to represent Scotland



BOSSING IT: Scotland manager Steve Clarke during a training session

Gunning for glory

ANGUS HAS SCOT WHAT IT TAKES TO LEAD TARTAN ARMY

BRYAN GUNN has explained his son Angus's major U-turn after the keeper ditched his English allegiances to join the Tartan Army.

James Nursey
EXCLUSIVE

Proud Scotsman Gunn Senior made six appearances for his homeland from 1990-94 while a long-serving, popular goalkeeper at Norwich.

His son Angus, 28, was born in Norfolk and grew up playing for the Three Lions from Under-16s to Under-21s after following his dad into shot-stopping.

But Gunn Junior opted to pledge his allegiance to Scotland last year and has since made nine appearances after impressing with the Canaries.

He now has four clean sheets since his international debut last March and may face hosts Germany in the opening fixture next Friday for Steve Clarke's side. Gunn Senior, 60, said:

"Angus is reaping the benefits from his performances with Norwich.

"The Scotland manager phoned him up and said, 'I want you to be the Scottish goalkeeper'."

"That was a decision he made himself, I am part of a support mechanism where people would phone and say, 'Would Angus play for Scotland?'"

"I would say, 'The best thing to do is speak to Angus himself' - and that is what Steve Clarke did.

"That is why Angus has decided he is Scottish and is probably one of the most proud Scotsmen that is in that squad."

Gunn played five qualifiers to help Scotland to Germany as they came

second in Group A behind Spain. He also helped Norwich into the Championship play-offs after thriving back at the Canaries, having moved to Manchester City before returning.

"I am Angus Gunn's dad now, that is my new name," added Bryan (right).

"He has done it himself in many ways. "He went away to Manchester City and stepped out of his comfort zone, being a Norwich boy and being at school in Norwich and in the academy.

"He was taken out into a very different environment into a tough northern environment.

"It has been the making of him and he has been able to create his own career on the back of it. He has

worked with coaches like Pep Guardiola, Roberto Mancini and Manuel Pellegrini and trained with Joe Hart from a very young age.

"His education finished there and now he is out in the big wide world of professional football doing his own thing"

Scotland's trip to the Euros promises to be a family affair for the Gunn clan, with Angus' sister Mimi flying over from the other side of the world to bolster the ranks of the Tartan Army.

Gunn added: "Our daughter was on a travelling year but she has decided to stop that because she is going to go to Germany.

"I said, 'You had better get a job quick and pay your own flight because I can't afford to!'"



GROUP A FIXTURES - FRIDAY, JUNE 14: Germany v Scotland (8pm, ITV). **SATURDAY, JUNE 15:** Hungary v Switzerland (2pm, ITV). **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19:** Germany v Hungary (5pm, BBC), Scotland v Switzerland (8pm, BBC). **SUNDAY, JUNE 23:** Switzerland v Germany (8pm, BBC), Scotland v Hungary (8pm, BBC).

EVERY GAME, EVERY KICK AND FLICK FROM GERMANY THIS SUMMER



GROUP E

BELGIUM, SLOVAKIA, ROMANIA, UKRAINE

BELGIUM

Coach: Domenico Tedesco

Star man: Kevin De Bruyne

One to watch: Leandro Trossard - Ignored at World Cup, but the Arsenal creator can make amends here.

Previous best: Semi-finals (1980)

Verdict: Belgium have persistently failed to deal with the 'favourites' tag at major tournaments. Perhaps, then, coming into these finals as relative outsiders will suit and allow their massively talented squad to go deep.

Odds to win: 22/1



SLOVAKIA

Coach: Francesco Calzona

Star man: Milan Skriniar

One to watch: David Hancko - Rock-solid Feyenoord central defender who chips in with goals.

Previous best: Round of 16 (2016)

Verdict: The Slovaks have a handful of quality names in their squad, including their skipper and Paris Saint-Germain centre-half Skriniar. But that will not be enough for the big underdogs of the group.

Odds to win: 500/1



ROMANIA

Coach: Edward Iordanescu

Star man: Nicolae Stanciu

One to watch: Radu Dragusin - The fast-improving Tottenham defender can shine in Germany.

Previous best: Quarter-finals (2020)

Verdict: To expect a repeat of their run into the last eight at the previous Euros is far-fetched for a nation who are ranked 47th by FIFA. Reaching the knockout phase will be their ultimate goal - don't bet against them.

Odds to win: 300/1



UKRAINE

Coach: Serhiy Rebrov

Star man: Oleksandr Zinchenko

One to watch: Artem Dovbyk - The Girona striker can enhance his reputation on the world stage.

Previous best: Quarter-finals (2020)

Verdict: Zinchenko & Co will do brilliantly to reach the quarter-finals like last time but the play-off qualifiers have incredible pride and resilience - and those characteristics can take you far.

Odds to win: 100/1



BACK IN BUSINESS

Albert tips Red Devils to shake off former pressures

IT'S NOT just the Three Lions who are proving there is life after the Golden Generation.

Belgium may not have the household names who dominated their squad a few years ago.

But under the shrewd stewardship of head coach Domenico Tedesco (right), the Red Devils are on the march again after their disastrous performances at the World Cup in Qatar.

And according to Belgian legend Philippe Albert, despite the retirement of several big names, there can be a silver lining for his countrymen in the weeks ahead.

"Of course on paper, we don't look as strong without players such as Eden Hazard, Toby Alderweireld and Dries Mertens," said the former Newcastle defender.

"For the last 10 years, we have gone into the major tournaments as one of the favourites.

"But England know only too well that offers no guarantees.

"Like us, they had their own golden generation and like us, they came up short."

Albert, a key cog in Kevin Keegan's Entertainers at St James' Park during the 1990s, isn't predicting Euro glory for today's Belgium this summer.

But he's convinced they will fare much better than they did at the World Cup when they failed to reach the knockout stages.

"Everything went wrong out there," Albert said.

"Kevin De Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku struggled for fitness and Hazard was badly out of sorts.

"In the end, we got what we deserved and went home early.

"Hazard is no longer playing but both De Bruyne and Lukaku are fit and in good form.

"Kevin won his 100th cap and scored in the 2-0 win over Montenegro last week and put in a superb performance.

"And English fans know how influential a fit and firing De Bruyne can be." While Albert has

Ian Murtagh
EXCLUSIVE

reservations about the Belgian defence, he believes that as an attacking force, they will be one of the best at Euro 2024.

"Out wide, Jeremy Doku is coming off a fine season with Manchester City while PSV's Johan Bakayoko will catch the eye," he said.

"They will provide good service for Lukaku, who's a handful for any backline when he's in the mood.

"The defence is a concern.

"Everyone will point to the omission of Thibaut Courtois from the squad, though I'm right behind Tedesco's decision to leave him out for disciplinary reasons.

"He failed to turn up for a squad session last year and has never apologised. No individual is bigger than the team.

"Matz Sels has been the regular keeper but Koen Casteels of Wolfsburg has been given his chance and done well."

And Albert's message to the doubters is clear.

He said: "Don't write off Belgium. No one is tipping us to do well but so there is less pressure on the players.

"It's a long time since we were among the also-rans and that could yet work for us."



LEADING THE LINE: Striker Romelu Lukaku will be one of Belgium's main men in Germany

King Kev will be looking for Belgium's young guns to ascend to power

A REFOCUSED Kevin De Bruyne is looking to a younger Belgium to end the Red Devils' reputation as perennial big-tournament chokers.

For 1,239 days between September 2, 2018, and February 10, 2022, Roberto Martinez's side reigned supreme at No.1 in the FIFA rankings. It was a so-called

By **JOHN RICHARDSON**
Golden Generation packed with household-name stars.

But when the heat was on in World Cup and European Championship finals Belgium simply melted and never justified their top ranking.

Even before a ball had been kicked in the last World Cup finals in Qatar, De Bruyne had

written off his country's chances of success, insisting: "We've got no chance, we're too old. I think we had more of a chance in 2018."

That's when they reached the semi-finals, beaten by France but overcoming England in the third-place final. His doom-laden prophecy for Qatar came true, Belgium even failing to get

out of their qualifying group. In the last Euros finals they were knocked out in the quarter-finals by Italy.

This time around - with Martinez gone and Domenico Tedesco in charge - there is less expectation illustrated by odds of 22/1 to be crowned Euro 2024 kings.

But at least for 32-year-old De Bruyne there will be some

younger legs around him. Emerging stars like his Etihad team-mate Jeremy Doku and Atletico Madrid midfielder Arthur Vermeeren, 19, will be roaring De Bruyne on.

He said: "I don't feel like the outside puts more pressure on me than myself. I still want to perform for my country as well and that is more the motivation within myself."

GROUP E FIXTURES - MONDAY, JUNE 17: Romania v Ukraine (2pm, BBC), Belgium v Slovakia (5pm, ITV). **FRIDAY, JUNE 21:** Slovakia v Ukraine (2pm, BBC). **SATURDAY, JUNE 22:** Belgium v Romania (8pm, ITV). **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26:** Ukraine v Belgium (5pm, BBC), Slovakia v Romania (5pm, BBC).



GROUP F

TURKEY, GEORGIA, PORTUGAL, CZECH REP

TURKEY

Coach: Vincenzo Montella
Star man: Hakan Calhanoglu
One to watch: Kenan Yildiz - Juventus teenage striker, 19, is already a Serie A regular and has a very bright future.
Previous best: Semi-finals (2008)
Verdict: Lack of goals could be a problem for Turkey, who have scored twice in four winless outings since qualification and shipped six against Austria in March. But a win against Georgia and they should progress to the next round.
Odds to win: 80/1



GEORGIA

Coach: Willy Sagnol
Star man: Giorgi Mamardashvili
One to watch: Khvicha Kvaratskhelia - lethal Napoli playmaker with 15 goals in 29 internationals.
Previous best: N/A
Verdict: In reaching their first major finals, the debutants underlined they are no pushovers. They held Scotland to make the play-offs, then toppled Greece. Their opening clash with Turkey is critical for their chances of progression.
Odds to win: 750/1



PORTUGAL

Coach: Roberto Martinez
Star man: Cristiano Ronaldo
One to watch: Rafael Leao - £80million-rated AC Milan left-winger enjoyed sizzling campaign in Italy this season.
Previous best: Winners (2016)
Verdict: Ronaldo may not carry the same threat but a squad jammed with top talent from Europe's top teams means they are serious contenders for glory. Whether boss Martinez helps or hinders is key.
Odds to win: 8/1



CZECH REPUBLIC

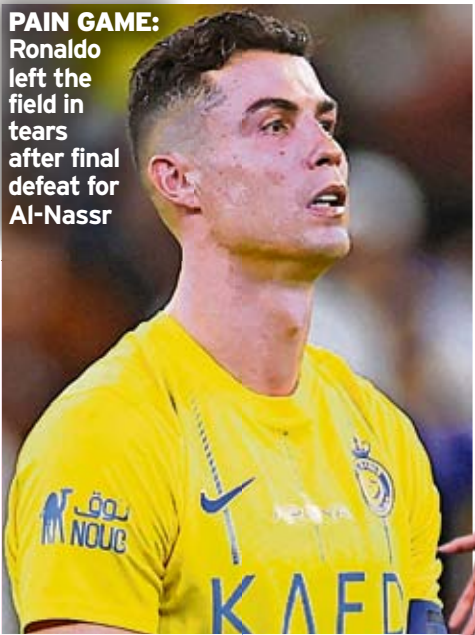
Coach: Ivan Hasek
Star man: Tomas Soucek
One to watch: Adam Hlozek - Bayer Leverkusen forward, 21, has an eye for goals and assists.
Previous best: Runners-up (1996)
Verdict: The Czechs have been involved in every single European Championship but gone are the days when they would be considered one of the favourites to win it. A decent shout to qualify for the KO phase.
Odds to win: 175/1



YOUR EIGHT-PAGE GUIDE TO EURO 2024: EVERY TEAM, EVERY GAME

PAIN GAME:

Ronaldo left the field in tears after final defeat for Al-Nassr



RON ON HIS OWN: Portugal's main man Cristiano Ronaldo



PAIR OF ACES:

Martinez and Ronaldo



CKR: TURKEY SHOOT'S OFF

COLIN KAZIM-RICHARDS insists Turkey can upset the odds at Euro 2024.

They underwhelmed at Euro 2020 and lost all three of their group matches.

But to qualify for this year's summer showpiece Turkey performed impressively.

They topped a tricky-looking Group D, winning five, drawing two and losing one, beating Wales and Croatia along the way.

Former AC Milan and Sevilla boss Vincenzo Montella will now be determined to hit top gear in Germany - and he also has some well-established stars at his disposal.

The Turkey squad boasts players from Inter Milan, Real Madrid, Borussia Dortmund, Ajax and the Turkish Super Lig's elite sides.

However, Kazim-Richards - who was born in east London but was capped 37 times for Turkey - reckons it's Germany's big community of fans with Turkish heritage that could be the game changer.

"I definitely believe Turkey will qualify from their group," he said. "I know Germany is playing at home, but Turkey is also playing at home, believe me! In Germany it'll be like playing at home."

"And the fans will make a difference. Not just in the stadium but when you're around and on your way to the stadium, whatever it might be."

Kazim-Richards (above) was also a member of Turkey's Euro 2008 squad, playing in all five matches as the side reached the semi-finals. "I kind of turned down England Under-21s when I got called up for the Turkey national team, so for me the adaptation with the fans was easy."

● Kazim-Richards was speaking to OLBG. Visit [OLBG.com](https://www.olbg.com) for the best betting sites and latest offers.



CR7's last dance?

CRISTIANO CONTINUES FOR SILVERWARE HUNT AT AGE OF 39

PROOF that his Middle East riches come second to a burning passion for football silverware came with Cristiano Ronaldo's tears in Saudi Arabia.

He cut a disconsolate figure as his Al-Nassr lost to the already crowned Saudi Pro League champions Al-Hilal in a penalty shoot-out climax to the Kings Cup of Champions final.

Safe to say the former Manchester United and Real Madrid star had scored his but ex-United player Alex Telles missed, which meant a second season in the sun without a trophy for Ronaldo.

And with Portugal imploding in the Qatar World Cup losing to Morocco in the quarter-finals, at the age of 39 instead of counting the

mountains of Saudi riyals he is a man on a mission in possibly the last dance for his country.

Knowing Ronaldo it won't be a slow waltz in Germany, more a quickstep complete with hops and skips.

He is a glorious freak of nature. His first international goal was 20 years ago during Euro 2004 - a tournament on home soil which ended in a surprise defeat in the final to Greece.

Roberto Martinez, who has switched from Belgium to become Portugal head coach, is delighted he

inherited a footballing legend. "Cristiano brings that experience," he said. "But more than anything probably the biggest surprise is that he approaches every day as a new way to be the best, a new way to continue to impress."

Incredibly this will be Ronaldo's record breaking sixth European Championship finals, while five World Cup finals have also been negotiated.

The last World Cup saw his huge rival Lionel Messi lead Argentina to victory - something which would have really impacted on a still hugely ambitious Portuguese.

He would love to follow suit in the Euros and although there was no team silverware in Saudi Arabia there

were still plenty of goals, assists and a personal gong. He received the league's top scorer award in recognition of 35 in 31 games. He also ran up 11 assists.

"It's probably one of the best seasons I've had in terms of goals and assists," he said. "It's about being the same Cristiano that you have seen season after season. I want to maintain the same high level with Al-Nassr and Portugal."

Already a European Championship winner in 2016 and part of the 2019 Nations League triumph, Ronaldo can't wait for the latest big tournament. "Vamos Equipa" ('Let's go team') he recently messaged on social media.

The last dance? Don't bet on it!

John Richardson
REPORTING

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