

SUNDAY

THE HEART OF BRITAIN

# Mirror

Sunday, June 16, 2024

E-EDITION

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



**EXCLUSIVE: HOUSE OF BECKHAM**

Inside couple's marriage crisis

SEE PAGES 8&9

**New book sensation**



**COME ON ENGLAND**

**9 EURO 2024 PULLOUT INSIDE**  
PLUS: SEE PAGES 10&11

## KING'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

# KATE TO HAVE YOU BACK

BY PATRICK HILL

**A DAZZLING Princess of Wales brought sunshine to a rainy Trooping the Colour.**

Kate, 42, beamed at the annual celebration of the sovereign's official birthday yesterday.

And thousands braved wet weather to cheer the mum of three at her first public appearance since her cancer diagnosis.

**FULL STORY: PAGES 3-7**



Radiant Princess' first public appearance since shock cancer diagnosis

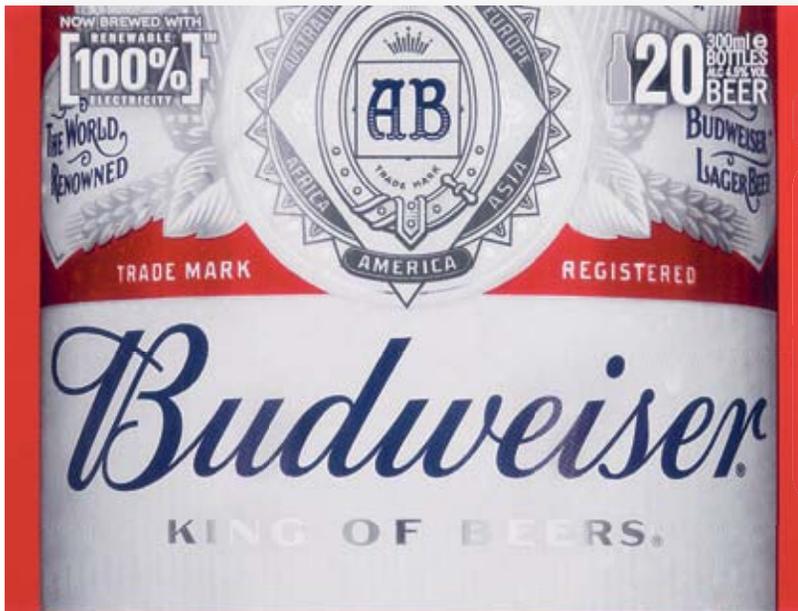
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for the facts [drinkaware.co.uk](http://drinkaware.co.uk) 18+. Tesco Firepit 6 Beef Burgers 730g; regular price £6.44/kg, Tesco Firepit 14 Jumbo Pork Sausages 1.12kg; regular price £4.02/kg, 2 for £8 Clubcard Price on selected Tesco Ready to Cook & BBQ products, excludes NI, ends 22/09. Budweiser 20x300ml Bottle: Clubcard Price £1.67/litre, regular price £2.67/litre, excludes Wales and Scotland, ends 17/06. Coca-Cola Zero Sugar 24x330ml: Clubcard Price £0.08/100ml, regular price £0.14/100ml, ends 18/06. Doritos Tortilla Chips Tangy Cheese Sharing Bag Crisps 180g: Clubcard Price £0.83/100g, regular price £1.39/100g, ends 18/06. Available in the majority of larger stores and online. Excludes Express, Isle of Man and Whoosh. Clubcard/app required. Delivery charges and some exclusions may apply.

# Trooping the Colour

# OUR PRINCESS



“

The cheers said it all: 'We've got our Princess back!'

- Jennie Bond  
SEE PAGES 6&7

## TODAY'S WEATHER

A band of rain will track southwards and eastwards across Scotland during the day into Northern Ireland and northern England and will be heavy at times. Brighter further south with spells of sunshine and a threat of showers, some may be heavy. Showers will clear to leave a largely dry and sunny evening.

**SUN**  
Rises: 4.42am  
Sets: 9.20pm  
**MOON**  
Rises: 3.26pm  
Sets: 1.45am



### 4 DAY OUTLOOK

	MON	TUES	WED	THUR
Birmingham	18c	18c	19c	19c
Cardiff	19c	20c	20c	19c
Edinburgh	17c	16c	16c	18c
Liverpool	17c	16c	18c	19c
London	21c	20c	20c	20c
Manchester	17c	18c	18c	18c
Newcastle	16c	16c	17c	18c
Norwich	20c	19c	18c	19c
Plymouth	18c	19c	19c	18c

### ABROAD YESTERDAY

	C	F		C	F		
Amsterdam	f	16	61	Madrid	s	27	81
Athens	s	30	86	Majorca	s	25	77
Barcelona	s	22	72	Malaga	s	30	86
Benidorm	s	33	91	Malta	s	26	79
Corfu	s	27	81	Marmaris	s	34	93
Crete	s	28	82	Miami	th	32	90
Ibiza	s	26	79	Paris	c	17	63
Larnaca	s	35	95	Sydney	sh	13	55
Las Palmas	s	24	75	Tenerife	s	25	77

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

**FREE MAG INSIDE**



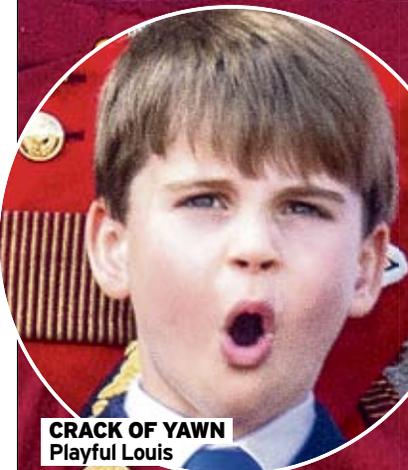
### THE LOTTERY

Last night's numbers:

**LOTTO:** 1, 9, 25, 29, 34, 39. **Bonus:** 22.  
**THUNDERBALL:** 12, 16, 19, 24, 36.  
**Thunderball:** 10. £500k is the top prize.  
**HEALTH LOTTERY:** 4, 9, 10, 12, 20.  
**Bonus:** 23. £100k is top prize.  
**FRIDAY'S EUROMILLIONS:** 2, 13, 16, 24, 32. **Lucky Stars:** 1 & 7.

# Trooping the Colour

**FIT FOR A KING** Prince George, the Prince of Wales, Prince Louis, the Princess of Wales, Princess Charlotte, King Charles III and Queen Camilla on Buckingham Palace balcony for the flypast



**CRACK OF YAWN**  
Playful Louis

# SUPER

BY **PATRICK HILL, SERENA RICHARDS** and **SASKIA ROWLANDS**  
**THE Princess of Wales made a triumphant return to public life yesterday, waving to thousands of well-wishers at the spectacular Trooping the Colour.**

Kate, 42, delighted royal fans as she waved from the Buckingham Palace balcony in what was her first public appearance since she revealed her cancer diagnosis.

While rain initially looked set to spoil the ceremony, the sun came out for the RAF flypast, which started after a 41-gun salute rang out in Green Park.

King Charles and Queen Camilla watched the flypast from the balcony, alongside Kate and William and their children George, 10, Charlotte, nine, and Louis, six.

The magnificent aerial display was rounded off by the

## Thousands brave wild weather to see

Red Arrows. In a symbolic gesture from the monarch, who is also battling cancer, Kate stood next to him on the balcony. Last year, William stood next to Charles.

Kate, wearing a stunning white Jenny Packham dress and a Philip

Treacy hat, leaned in to speak to her father-in-law, making him laugh.

The royals were also joined by the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, who smiled and waved to the crowd and stood proudly for the national anthem. Well-wishers had

started arriving from 8am to get a glimpse of the royals ahead of the traditional ceremony to honour the King's official birthday.

Kate's appearance had been in doubt after she missed the final Trooping rehearsal last weekend.

She only confirmed she would be attending on Friday evening.

But, with the King also suffering from cancer, the spectacle of military pomp and pageantry became a symbolic statement by the monarchy after much uncertainty.

William, Colonel of the Welsh Guards, the Princess Royal, Colonel of the Blues and Royals, and the Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel of the Scots Guards, were all on horseback. But, in a departure from last year, the 75-year-old King rode with



**RIDING IN STYLE** Kate and kids in horse-drawn carriage

# ROYALS REUNITED



**FLYPAST** Red Arrows soar above Palace

# TROOPERS

## family together again

the Queen, 76, in the Scottish State Coach from where he inspected the officers and guardsmen on Horse Guards Parade in Whitehall.

Kate had missed last week's final rehearsal for the ceremony but kept her promise to represent the Irish Guards, as their honorary Colonel.

Her dress also featured an Irish Guards regimental brooch.

But the Princess did not join senior family members on a platform during the ceremony, which started at 10am and ended at approximately 12.25pm.

Instead, she watched the spectacle from the Duke of Wellington's former office with her children.

Louis was pictured yawning, trying to open a window and dancing to military music. Garrison

Sgt Maj Andrew Stokes, who helped plan the Trooping, praised Kate, saying: "I think it's such a nice thing for the Princess of Wales to come and attend today.

"It is probably the only day we see the entire Royal Family together in public.

"I think they really appreciate the day as well - it's the closest thing we get in the United Kingdom to a national day so all of that makes it incredibly special."

Charles looked regal in the tunic of the Guard of Honour Order, the Irish Guards and an array of medals

for his second Trooping the Colour as monarch. He attended his first, aged three, in 1951 when he rode



**SALUTES YOU, SIR** Charles at ceremony

in a carriage with his grandmother, The Queen Mother, and his aunt, Princess Margaret.

The event included more than 1,200 soldiers and musicians, plus 200 horses - including three 'runaway' Household Cavalry

steeds that galloped through London in April. But it was undoubtedly Kate who stole the show. She was admitted to hospital in January for major abdominal surgery and post-operative tests confirmed the presence of cancer.

In an emotional televised statement in March, the Princess confirmed her diagnosis and said it had been "an incredibly tough couple of months for our entire family".

She added that the "kind messages" she had received from members of the public had made a "world of difference to William and me, and helped us both through some of the harder times".

Kate's appearance at Trooping was to mark the family occasion. She is not expected to return to full-time royal duties until she has fully recovered.

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**TAKE A BOW** Smiling Kate and Charlotte



# Trooping the Colour

## Thousands fly the flag for royals

BY SASKIA ROWLANDS, PATRICK HILL and SERENA RICHARDS

THOUSANDS of cheering royal fans expressed their delight at seeing The Firm back together.

Well-wishers draped in the Union Flag braved torrential downpours to get a glimpse of Kate as she travelled along The Mall in a horse-drawn carriage with children George, 10, Charlotte, nine, and Louis, six.

The Princess' last public engagement, before her cancer diagnosis, was in December.

Among those thrilled to see her return was Barbara Bell, 67, who had travelled from Ohio, US, with pals Carol Killen, 73 and Kathy Zibbel, 74.

Barbara said: "We're here to see Kate and the other royals on the balcony. Her appearance today makes us know she's doing OK.

"It's a feeling of hope because if she wasn't well enough, she wouldn't be coming out at all."

Clutching umbrellas, Mia and Isabel Hernandez bagged a front row position on the procession route.

Mia, 43, who flew in from Sacramento, California, to enjoy the pomp and ceremony with her daughter, said: "We watch the Royal Family on the TV in the US so to actually be here is truly amazing.

"Kate's diagnosis is really devastating, particularly after the King's cancer news as well. She is so young. It saddens my heart because she has a young family."

The special educational needs and disability teacher added: "I think about the children, of course, because I'm a mum and just hope they're OK.

"It's a comfort, though, to know Kate is receiving the very best



**HATS OFF** Woman waves flag in sunshine

treatment. Seeing her today looking so beautiful is the glimmer of hope the nation so needed. I hope she makes a full recovery."

Beate Konig, 58, and Heiko Zilz, 59, flew in from Frankfurt, Germany, last Sunday, and planned their trip to the UK around yesterday's event.

Office worker Beate said: "We feel very lucky to be here today and to be able to see Princess Kate.

"We are so glad she is well and healthy and able to spend time with her family on this special day.

"We are grateful to be here. We love

London." Gardener Heiko added: "The Princess's return will mean a great deal to the nation and the rest of the world. It's special to see this as we have nothing of the sort in Germany."

Laura and Steve Crandon also braved the thunder and lightning with kids Zachary, 11, and Willow, seven.

The family, from Gloucestershire, had travelled to the capital to see Matilda: The Musical and stumbled across the royal celebrations.

Laura, 37, said: "We're here to see the festivities and Willow is excited

to see the King. It will be nice to see Kate out and about - I think it's a real boost for the nation to see she's able to be here today. It's good for the kids to experience the pageantry too. They have been looking forward to it."

On Friday, it was announced that Kate would attend Trooping, which celebrates the King's official birthday.

In a personal message to the nation, the mum-of-three, who is

having preventative chemotherapy treatment, revealed that she has "good days and bad days".

She also told how she "hopes to join a few public engagements over the summer" while her treatment continues "for a few months".

It is understood that Kate wanted to take part in Trooping to show her support for her children and the King, who is also having cancer treatment.

Kate last appeared in public on Christmas Day, when she walked to church with other members of the Royal Family in Sandringham, Norfolk.



**EXCITED** The Crandons



**ROYALISTS** Beate & Heiko. Left, a patriotic well-wisher



# Kate is back where



**BOND** Smiles for sick King

BY JENNIE BOND

Royal Commentator



**THE cheers said it all: "We've got our Princess back!"**

Not full-time and not yet fully recovered - but on parade, and looking stunning.

The crowds who had been waiting along the length of The Mall since early morning got their reward when they saw Catherine back where she belongs, immediately behind the King and Queen, and in charge of her little brood.

For George, Charlotte and Louis, this was another marker in what must be a difficult and confusing time.

They are getting used to being on public

show, but to have Mum there to guide them through the protocol of a big occasion must have made life feel almost normal again.

Trooping was the perfect event for Catherine to make an appearance - it combines the grand ceremonial Britain is renowned for, with a family get-together to celebrate the monarch.

And although it is officially the King's day, there is no doubt that Charles was more than delighted to let his "beloved" daughter-in-law share the limelight.

And Catherine was showing her commitment not only to the monarchy, but to her position as Colonel of the Irish Guards.

She was unable to attend their rehearsal for Trooping but sent a telling message saying she hoped to represent them "very soon". It was the

first clue that she might be feeling well enough to take her place at the ceremony itself.

And then the Princess took us all by surprise with her frank statement about her progress.

Far from a brief announcement that she would join the parade, she explained in some detail how hard the past couple of months have been for her.

Aligning herself with other people having chemotherapy, she talked about the good days - and the bad, when you feel weak and tired.

We now know that she has been able to engage with school life when she is feeling well, and has even taken on a limited amount of work from home. But, like other people

# PRIDE OF THE NATION



**ROLE** Kate is Colonel of the Irish Guards, pictured here at yesterday's Trooping

# she belongs

with a cancer diagnosis, she acknowledges that the treatment comes with the uncertainty of not knowing how you will feel from day to day. And, with candour, she says she is not "out of the woods" yet.

Her words will resonate with the hundreds of thousands of people in the UK dealing with cancer, many of whom have been sharing their stories with Catherine.

In all of this, we should not forget that the King is himself still navigating the woods of his own cancer treatment.

Riding in a carriage instead of on horseback – his concession to the disease and, perhaps, to his age – showed that for once, he was "doing as he was told". That is something his long-suffering wife

Camilla has said she has been struggling with.

As the King and Queen – and then Catherine and her family – walked on to the Buckingham Palace balcony, the crowds roared in approval.

Here were the Royals getting back on track after a shockingly alarming start to the year.

The King has remained determinedly visible throughout his treatment and is now taking on a considerable number of engagements.

And the Princess has shown us all that she is "making good progress" and might be able to attend further events in the coming months.

Meanwhile, we too shall have to be patient – just like her – while her body continues to heal and her strength returns.

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**COMMENT: PAGE 14**



**BALCONY** With William, Louis and Charlotte

# DOUBLE KILLER IN BID FOR FREEDOM

EXCLUSIVE BY ISAAC CROWSON

A DOUBLE killer has been allowed to bid for freedom just six years into his second life sentence.

Andrew McVicar was 15 when he murdered Tony Harrington, 20, by slashing his throat with a broken bottle in Dunstable, Beds, on Christmas Eve 1999. Nineteen

years later the musclebound thug got life again for shoving Tim Smith, 57, during a burglary in Hullbridge, Essex.

Grandad Mr Smith died of a brain injury.

McVicar, 40, who has a host of other convictions for violence and theft,

could be released in a few weeks in a parole review.

Tony's angry mother Julie, 65, said she had not been told of his parole bid and asked: "How many times can someone be given a life sentence before they are kept in prison?"



VILE McVicar

# DAY 2: BECKS &

EXCLUSIVE

BY TOM BRYANT  
Head of Showbiz



**GOLDEN couple David and Victoria Beckham lived separate lives as their marriage hit crisis point, an explosive new book claims.**

The couple were allegedly so estranged they barely spoke and instead just maintained a "distant business relationship".

Their animosity was so bad in 2016 that each of their publicists "fed negative stories" about the other, Tom Bower claims.

In an extraordinary twist, Beckham even allegedly accused his wife of "waging a media war" against him.

But the pair ultimately stayed together and worked through their issues, just as they had after their marriage was rocked the first time by Rebecca Loos' claims of a 2003 affair with the footballer.

"Although the Beckhams could not hide their separate lives, they stuck together to support the brand," Bower claims. His book, *The House of Beckham*, paints a vastly different picture to that of the Netflix documentary, which was exec-produced by David's production house.

While the Beckhams alluded to the marriage problems in the wake of Loos' allegations, more recent woes were ignored.

## ACRIMONY

Serious cracks in the marriage began appearing in 2016 when the couple started spending increasing amounts of time apart, with David in Miami and Posh in London.

Bower writes: "During London Fashion Week that year, she asked Beckham to return to London for a dinner in her Dover Street shop.

"By the end of the celebration she must have wished he had stayed in America. Morosely, he sat staring at her guests. Some whispered that the two had been embroiled earlier in a foul-mouthed row."

Later that evening, Beckham was seen at Heathrow taking a late flight to New York.

Two years later, it's claimed the situation hadn't improved and, in many instances, had deteriorated.

By this stage, Bower claims that both Posh and Becks were the subject of negative briefings - by their other half's publicists.

"Reflecting the acrimony between the Beckhams, the two publicists began to compete rather than collaborate to promote their own client. Both fed negative stories about the other side to their favourite tabloid journalists."

One such planted story involved "an extraordinary exchange that had occurred during the Beckhams' summer holidays" in which Victoria reportedly told her children: "Daddy's not a cheat."

"Reading the newspaper report, Beckham raged that Victoria and her publicist were waging a media war against him,"

the book claims. "In reality, he was doing a good job of self-inflicted harm."



**2017**  
Watching Ed Sheeran at Glastonbury after row



**2016**  
At Bafta night during London Fashion Week

Another low point in the marriage came when David gave an interview to an Australian broadcaster in which he admitted that their marriage was "hard work".

Victoria's publicist reportedly leaked to a favoured journalist that she was "overwhelmed by rage and recrimination".

The book claims: "Not warned in advance, Victoria watched Beckham's clip... on her mobile with disbelief. It was like a nuclear bomb had gone off."

"Her husband's disloyalty baffled her. His truthfulness had destroyed her efforts to conjure up an image of happy families. Why, she sobbed,

would David embarrass her? Worse still, why could he not understand the conse-



**BECKS PECK** Pair two days before 1999 wedding

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POSH

MARRIAGE CRISIS



# War.. but they still posed for the cameras

'Pair fed negative stories to press'

2023

Victoria and David at fashion show in France

quence of his own stupidity? Why, she wailed, had he become the enemy of her ambition?

"Without any answers, she fled to a Baden-Baden spa hotel for two days.

"The trip was to recover her 'emotional balance' but she was overwhelmed by rage and recrimination."

Victoria was later seen looking tearful in Australia, increasing speculation the pair were on the rocks.

Bower claims that a publicist acting for the couple devised a plan to throw the media off the scent.

"To deflect the media's attention, a publicist released CCTV footage showing an attempt by masked burglars to break into the Beckhams' home in Great Tew," Bower claims.

The police were reportedly surprised that the CCTV of that

the crime was released. Another flash-point was their appearance together at Glastonbury in 2017.

Beckham and a small group of friends including best pal Dave Gardner had gone to the festival without Victoria, as she was arriving later from New York.

The evening before her arrival, the group – including Lady Mary Charteris and a "glamorous Australian bikini model" – had partied until 5am.

The festivities resumed at lunchtime the next day "until interrupted by a telephone call" informing them that

Victoria had arrived. "There was no hassle and a great mood until she landed", complained one of the group," Bower writes. "With her entourage she headed in a golf buggy through the scruffy campers to the VIP zone.

"She was furious her husband had failed to reply to her calls and had dispatched a search party. Eventually,

David appeared. Within seconds, they were embroiled in a ferocious argument.

"They looked quite miserable," said one eyewitness, "but they managed to pose for the cameras."

Victoria, Bower writes, wasn't keen on Gardner being David's drinking

buddy. The book claims: "Insiders knew about Victoria's opinion of Dave Gardner and his racy lifestyle. 'Dreggy', she called his party crowd.

"In 2003, she had been particularly unhappy about Beckham being best man at Gardner's £2million first wedding to the former Hollyoaks actress Davinia Taylor.

"His presence, she complained, increased the financial value of Gardner's contract with OK! magazine.

"Two years after the wedding, Victoria was irritated by the publicity that surrounded Gardner's 'crisis talks to save his marriage'.

"His wife had become notorious for lesbian affairs with her Primrose Hill neighbours in North London and treatment for alcoholism and drug addiction at The Priory.

"Their separation and eventual

divorce increased the time Gardner and Beckham spent together, especially after Beckham stopped playing professional football.

"Without the demands of a strict training routine, Gardner had helped fill the vacuum by introducing him to glittering parties." The decision to stay

together was in part, the book says, because both realised the importance of being united for their brand.

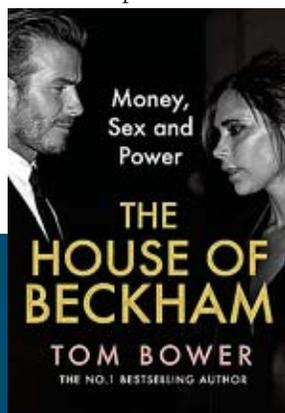
Bower writes: "[David's] status and survival would have been washed away without Victoria's determination to maintain the illusion of a happy family.

"She protected the brand. In return, he continued to finance her vanity business.

"Her tiny fashion house is unlikely ever to be genuinely profitable, but her supporters fully approve her steely ambition."

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**THE HOUSE OF BECKHAM: MONEY, SEX AND POWER**  
by Tom Bower, to be published by HarperCollins on 20th June 2024 at £22.  
Copyright © Tom Bower 2024



In tomorrow's Daily Mirror: More Beckham revelations



# EURO 2024

# TAKING PRIDE



**CHEERS**  
Fans get in the spirit last night



**BEER WE GO** England fans practise lifts in Dusseldorf

BY **PAUL BYRNE** and **ANDY LINES** in Essen

**THE party atmosphere was in full swing last night as thousands of excited Three Lions fans got ready to roar on their heroes.**

They gathered across Germany as manager Gareth Southgate's team arrived in Gelsenkirchen.

Uefa have given England supporters 10,000 tickets for tonight's 8pm clash with Serbia.

But police believe double that number will be in the Arena AufSchalke – with another 30,000 watching on big screens in the city.

Most are staying in nearby cities, including Essen, Dortmund, Dusseldorf and Duisberg. In Essen yesterday,

Andy Preston, 54, son James, 25, and James' pal Mark Harris, all engineers, were soaking up the atmosphere.

Andy, from Preston, Lancashire, said: "I've never been to see England in a tournament before. I'm really looking forward to the match.

"It has been great so far. We watched the Germany and Scotland game in the fan zone and the German fans were great."

James added: "The Germans could not believe we were supporting them over Scotland, so we had to explain the rivalry."

Mark, who lives in the northern German town of Bremen, said the locals were

looking forward to the party atmosphere the England fans will bring.

"They joke about how drunk the English get and find it funny that the stadiums have had to sell low-alcohol beer for the Serbian game," he said.

Engineer Lee Hunt, 50, and his son Tom, 23, from Rotherham, South Yorkshire, arrived in the city on Thursday and were proudly wearing

their England shirts as they supped the local lager. Tom said: "I've seen these games on TV and I wanted to sample it for myself." His dad added: "I really want to experience this."

And he is backing captain Harry Kane to lift the trophy in Berlin on July 14. "I think we have as good as chance as anybody. We need not to sit back, we need to take the game to the oppo-

sition," he said.

The father and son were chatting to taxi driver Peter Udall, 53, from Luton, Beds, who said: "It is not just about the football, it is about the experience.

"A lot of it is after Covid,

I suppose. Life is short, go out and enjoy yourself." He added: "In my eyes, it is a done deal – we are going to win it. This is the one."

Julie Popple, 57, and her son Jack, 24, had flown in from their home in Zug, Switzerland.

Excited Julie said: "We are here for the big game against Serbia and we are hoping for a big win."

Son Jack lives with Serbian girlfriend Tatjana Stalovic, 23, and she is convinced her country will triumph.

But he said: "It will be a tough game but I can't see Serbia beating us."

Kevin Coomer, 38, arrived from Bristol with his dad Gary, 69. The electric company boss admitted it was supposed to be a Father's Day treat for

**I'M IN IT TO WIN IT**  
Captain Harry Kane says England have earned the right to be one of the favourites



“

**Germans joke how drunk the English get and they find it funny that the stadiums have to sell them low alcohol beer for the Serbian game**

# ENGLAND EXPECTS



# IN 3 LIONS

## 40,000 England fans get party started ahead of Serbia match



GET IN! Jude and inset, Lewis Dunk



PRACTICE For England's stars



HOPE Boss Southgate



his dad – but his old man had ended up paying. Kevin laughed: "I did buy him an England hat and a shirt."

The dad and lad pair were with pals Matt Rolles, 54, and Alex Stell, 30. Matt, an insurance broker, said: "It is fabulous. There are a great group of fans here."

History teacher Adam Nixon, 22, had flown to Amsterdam with a group of 10 ex-school pals from Fleetwood, Lancs, before catching a train to Essen. They all have tickets for

tonight's game. Adam said: "This is the best. I'm loving it and I'm loving life."

Company director Jamie Holbook, 49, from Grimsby, North Lincolnshire, said: "I've got tickets for the first two games and can't wait to see what this England team can do."

"I'm sure the atmosphere will build over the next few days and England have a great chance if players like Jude Bellingham are on form."

His pal David Blake, 57, a care manager, said: "Every England fan I've seen here is looking forward to the football and the beer. It's going to be a great party."

Leeds University fashion student Alexia Zamani, 22, of Oxford, said:

"I'm really confident. I reckon it's going to be 3-1 and Harry Kane will be on the score sheet."

"We have definitely got the players to win the whole thing."

In Gelsenkirchen, Bournemouth fan Alan Marsh, 41, a scaffolder, and his son Tommy, 10, were with Arsenal fan Aaron Drayton, 39, a heating engineer, and his son Theo, eight.

Alan said: "We drove over to Gelsenkirchen from Bournemouth. It took 11 hours but it was worth it."

Aaron said: "We haven't got tickets for the match but we wanted the boys to experience being in the fan zone."

"We are all really looking forward to it. Hopefully it will be a memory of a lifetime." Captain Kane echoed their

comments last night, telling reporters: "We are here to win it. There will be nothing better for us, and the nation, if we do that."

"In past tournaments we have done a lot of things well and we've made the country proud."

"I think we have earned the right to be classed as one of the favourites."

Those without tickets are being advised to go to a fan zone at Trabrennbahn racecourse, where organisers have shipped in 80,000 litres of beer, 40,000 bottles of soft

drinks, 7.5 tonnes of chips and 32,000 sausages. German police believe around 10,000 Serbs have tickets for the game, which is designated "high risk" because of the threat of violence from 500 Serbian jobs.

After playing Serbia, England go back to their base near Blankenheim before tackling Denmark next Thursday in Frankfurt. Their final Group C game is against Slovenia, in Cologne on June 25.

Over 10m watched Friday's Euros opener between Germany and Scotland. The match peaked at 10.4m on ITV - the highest audience of any opening match of a major tournament in a decade and the biggest peak audience of any TV show in 2024 - including Eurovision.

# ELECTION 2024

## Rishi dishes cash to posh old school

**EXCLUSIVE BY MIKEY SMITH**

RISHI Sunak found money for a new £40million sports centre at his old posh public school while slashing school rebuilding budgets.

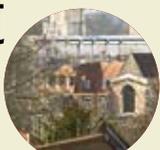
The PM, an annual donor to Winchester College, has given more than £100,000. It announced plans in 2020 for the centre - paid for in part by "the generosity of Old

### But £869m cuts to buildings budget

Wykehamists". Meanwhile, the Education Department's cumulative spending on school building has been cut by £869million since 2019-20.

Four state schools within 15 miles of Winchester College had to shut buildings due to crumbling concrete.

A Labour source said: "Sunak cut money to repair British state schools in the same week he made a massive donation to one of the wealthiest schools in the country."



**ALMA MATER**  
Rishi's college

# We all should get care fit for a king

## Streeting's NHS cancer mission

**EXCLUSIVE**

BY **MIKEY SMITH** Deputy Political Editor

### LABOUR is pledging cancer treatment "fit for a king" for everybody.

Wes Streeting vowed to get the NHS meeting its targets for the disease by the end of the party's first term of office.

The NHS aims to treat cancer patients within two months of an urgent referral.

But the target has not been met since 2015 and around a third wait longer - a total of 102,000 people last year.

And Labour estimates that over 730,000 cancer patients will be waiting too long for ops if the Tories stay in power for another five years.

That is based on a Cancer Research prediction that 2.2 million people will be diagnosed over that period - and the current situation of a third having to wait longer than two months.

Shadow health secretary Mr Streeting has himself survived cancer after an NHS op to remove a kidney caught the disease in time in 2021, when he was 38. He told

us: "As someone who has been through the mill with cancer and come out the other side, I know how important early diagnosis is."

Mr Streeting told of his admiration for the King and Princess of Wales for how they have dealt with the disease.

He said: "I think it's a reminder to all of us that cancer doesn't discriminate. You can be from the poorest family in the land or you can be the king."

"I'm absolutely determined to do everything within my power to make

## Tory vow on

**EXCLUSIVE BY MIKEY SMITH**

ONLY one of the 40 "new" hospitals promised by the Tories has been built and there is little evidence the plan is on track to deliver on time.

Rishi Sunak's manifesto this week repeated the party's 2019 pledge of 40



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# LABOUR HEALTH PLEDGE



**FIT FOR OFFICE**  
Starmer and Streeting on hospital visit yesterday



**PLEDGES** Labour chiefs meet patient yesterday

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



*Mirror Chicken's Diary*  
NEVER let it be said that Rishi Sunak doesn't learn from his mistakes. The PM was on the front row for the Trooping the Colour yesterday - but unlike when he got drenched while calling the General Election, this time he had a nice big umbrella to protect him and wife Akshata Murty from the torrential rain.



A LONDON publican who registered his pub as a political party, with himself as the sole candidate, reckons he'll "definitely get one vote". Asked what would be in his hypothetical manifesto, Chris French, landlord of The Mitre, said: "I don't know. Maybe close down all the other pubs in Richmond?"



THRILLSEEKER Ed Davey is getting plenty of media attention by riding rollercoasters and falling into bodies of water. But it's not the biggest stunt the party ever plotted. Ahead of the 2017 election, plans were made for a trip to Gibraltar, where the Lib Dem bird would have been projected on the Rock. Had the idea not been shelved, who knows? We could be in our seventh year of a Tim Farron premiership.



THERE was a time Ed Miliband couldn't leave the house without being mobbed by fans. But even in his own seat of Doncaster, he's clearly not all that famous. In a local restaurant on Friday, a customer mistook him for a waiter and asked him for some ice. Of course, being Ed Miliband, he went into the kitchen and got her some.



**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](http://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](http://gov.uk/register-to-vote)

**102,000** : **2015**  
Currently waiting longer than two months for treatment after an urgent cancer referral : The last year NHS cancer referral target was met

## hospitals 'desperate lie'

new hospitals by 2030 - but just 30% have planning permission, according to research by the Liberal Democrats. Of 20 NHS trusts that responded to Freedom of Information requests, only six said they had the green light. The National Audit Office previously

said only 11 of 32 sites announced in 2020 are actually "whole new hospitals" - with the remainder being upgrades, rebuilds or refurbishments. Daisy Cooper, Deputy Leader of the Lib Dems, branded the Tories' pledge "a cynical lie from a desperate party".

my life saving the NHS. I feel survivor's guilt about the fact that my outcomes were so much better than Nathaniel and cancer patients like him... through luck. I want to make sure the NHS is there for everyone when they need it."

Yesterday, Mr Streeting toured Bassetlaw Hospital in Worksop, Notts, with party leader Keir Starmer.

He added: "Cancer's the canary in the coalmine. If we can't treat cancer effectively, we aren't treating anything effectively."

"That's the harsh truth. People at the start of their careers have never seen the NHS at its best.

"But there are people at the top of their game who do remember what it was like under Labour.

"And I want to lead the team that achieves something truly historic - taking the NHS from its worst crisis in history, getting it back on its feet and making sure it is fit for the future."

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**COMMENT: PAGE 14**

## Sunak's 'gong for bank pal'

BY MIKEY SMITH

RISHI Sunak put his old banker boss forward for an honour, it is claimed.

Richard Sharp, who worked with him at Goldman Sachs, was forced to quit as chairman of the BBC after his involvement in securing a loan for Boris Johnson was revealed.

Now Mr Sunak, left, is said to have pushed for his friend to get a peerage or knighthood in a future honours list, says The Times.

The PM flew to Switzerland yesterday to take part in a Ukraine summit. Ahead of the trip, he called for countries to unite behind Kyiv to secure "a just and lasting peace".



VOICE OF THE

SUNDAY  
**Mirror**

## It's a happy return for brave Kate

**KATE bravely beaming on her triumphant return to public life is the image the world wanted - and needed - to see.**

Showing her strength of character as she battles cancer and chemotherapy, her radiance cut through the grey-tinged day.

Despite the immense physical toll she is undoubtedly suffering, Kate put her duties as a mother and the future Queen to the fore.

In her element as mum to George, Charlotte and Louis, she guided the youngsters through the King's birthday celebration - one of the most important dates in the Royal calendar.

With moments of tenderness throughout, her presence will have surely been of great comfort to them - from Kate placing a hand on Charlotte's back and lovingly stroking her hair, to her kneeling down to explain moments of the pageantry to Louis.

Standing side-by-side with King Charles on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, both united in their cancer battle, it was a symbolic show of support for each other.

Yet her frank and honest statement released the day before the parade reminds us that she is still not fully recovered.

There are good and bad days, she poignantly said. She's still going through treatment. All the while, she still needs to be a mother to her three young children, a wife to the future King.

Kate says she will make the most of the good days, when she feels strong and well.

And she assures us she hopes to be at other public duties over the summer.

Retreat, rest and recharge, Kate. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

The world is behind you as you so courageously battle the cruel disease so many of us have been touched by.

## End the wait

CANCER does not discriminate, as Kate's and the King's plight demonstrates. So why should the treatment that we get?

We could be set to see 730,000 people wait longer than two months for cancer operations under another five years of Tory rule.

It's scandalous. That can so easily be the difference between life and death.

Just look at the case of Nathaniel Dye. The 38-year-old music teacher waited 15 weeks for bowel cancer treatment. And now, he can't be cured.

That's why Wes Streeting is calling for cancer therapy fit for a king - and to bring the NHS back to its best with Labour.

It's what we all want.

## Roar talent

THE hopes of the country are pinned on Gareth, Harry, Jude and the team as they try to end 58 years of hurt.

We want that Three Lions pride back.

Let's all get behind the boys as they take on Serbia tonight in our Euros 2024 opener.

Come on England!



## ANDY BURNHAM

Mayor of Greater Manchester, guest columnist

## IT'S TIME FOR CARE SERVICE

In recent months, my family has had painful experience of how a broken social care system strains the NHS.

We can't be the only ones who've had to talk domiciliary carers out of ringing 999 during 15-minute visits at the slightest complication. I don't blame them. They are told to

by care firm bosses who want to avoid any liability. But it can't be good for the NHS.

I have always said if social care is allowed to collapse, it will bring down the NHS with it. It is why, as Labour's last Health Secretary in 2010, I had a plan to fix it: a National Care Service run to the same

standards as the NHS. The Tories sabotaged it with scaremongering and, sadly, Labour did the same in 2017 with Theresa May's plan.

Credit to Wes Streeting, right, for getting the idea back in Labour's manifesto. It is different from mine but I urge all parties to back it.



## A model Greater Britain

## Achievements of Manchester show way for economy

This week was all about the tale of two manifestos - and it revealed everything about the choice the country now faces in this election.

One was launched at a racetrack and is full of dangerous manoeuvres. The other was unveiled at the home of the Co-op and, in keeping with the spirit of that fine organisation, has got people at its heart and contains a careful but credible plan to turn things around.

I was proud to host Keir Starmer and his team in Manchester and believe our city was the perfect launchpad for Labour's plan to get the UK's economy growing again.

Over the last decade, Greater Manchester has pioneered a new way of running things.

We have used powers and funding devolved from Westminster to get building. At one point a few years ago, we had more cranes on our city's skyline than anywhere else in the world.

Today, the place I had to leave in the early 1990s because I couldn't find a job is totally transformed. Thousands of new jobs have been brought into our city and we are the fastest-growing digital and tech hub in Europe.

The good news is it's not just the city centre being turned around but some of the proud towns around it.

Right now, thousands of homes are being built in the centre of Stockport, linked to a new



transport interchange. This is because you can't get a growing economy without good public transport.

We recently became the first city-region in England to put buses back under public control after 40 years of Tory deregulation. When Thatcher forced cities like ours to hand over running to private operators in the 1980s, it caused profound damage to our economy.

Routes were cut, fares went up and it became harder to get around.

Finally, we are putting it right. In early 2025, our Bee Network will become the first London-style public transport system outside of the capital to go fully live.

And what is the end result of all the change local Labour leaders have brought? An economy that has been growing faster than the UK's for a number of years - and is predicted to continue to do so. We are proud to be a real Labour growth story. And here's the great

thing about the party's new manifesto: it is promising the same devolution of powers and funding to all parts of England so they can go on the same journey.

If we can do it, I see no reason why everywhere else can't.

This week, I lost count of the number of clever-clogs commentators who questioned whether Sir Keir's plan would actually work.

My answer is simple. Take your heads out of your London bubble and look properly at what is happening in Greater Manchester.



**If we can do it, I see no reason why everywhere else can't**



I was pleased to see two justice campaigners recognised in the King's Birthday Honours.

Alan Bates fought for wronged sub-postmasters and Marie Lyon, right, for families affected by the Primodos pregnancy tests. When

the state honours those it left in the wilderness, it is a gesture of apology to be welcomed. But on its own it is not enough.

That is why Labour vows to introduce a Hillsborough Law, requiring public officials to tell the truth at the first time of asking.



Calling an election now makes no political sense - and things are about to get a whole lot worse for our hapless PM. Respect political activists as I do, as one of millions who want to focus on the Euros, I'd prefer not to hear from them during big matches. I comfort myself with this thought: with every knock at the door in an important game, it will be another vote lost for Rishi!



**PECS APPEAL**  
Towie's Joey

**SHOCK** Car hits cow in road  
**Fury as cops ram runaway cow with car**

BY **KEITH PERRY**

THE Home Secretary has asked for a "full, urgent explanation" after police officers used a patrol car to knock an escaped cow to the ground.

James Cleverly demanded answers after online footage showed the animal being hit twice in a residential street.

The cow gets to its feet after the first strike but stays on the ground when it is rammed again.

Officers later said it suffered a large cut to its leg and was being treated.

In a post on X, Mr Cleverly wrote: "I can think of no reasonable need for this action. I've asked for a full, urgent explanation for this."

"It appears to be unnecessarily heavy-handed."

Surrey Police said it received reports the cow was running loose and at people in Staines-upon-Thames on Friday night.

Chief Inspector Sam Adcock said there will be an investigation.

But wildlife presenter Chris Packham wrote online: "It's surely illegal... what sort of monster rams a calf? Twice?"

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# Joey's acting reem

Movie hopes after Love Island

**EXCLUSIVE**

BY **JANINE YAQOOB**  
TV and Showbiz Editor

**JOEY Essex is hoping his Love Island appearance not only finds him the woman of his dreams but an acting career, too.**

We can reveal the reality star, 33, set up two production companies just before entering the Majorcan villa.

He is described as an actor in documents for Top TT Ltd and Fusey Productions listed with Companies House. Sources close to the Towie favourite say he wants to try his hand at movies – both in front of the camera and behind.

One source said: "Joey's in the villa for both love and loot. He wants to find The One but is also a shrewd businessman and sees the money-making potential. He's tried many things but has yet to make the move into movies and he sees this as his chance."

Joey has set up Top TT Ltd with best pal and fellow Towie star James 'Diags' Bennewith.

But Fusey Productions is a sole venture, taking the name of Joey's former clothing shop in Brentwood, Essex, which closed down in 2016. He also named an aftershave after the store. Joey is

known for his "reem" catchphrase and startling lack of general knowledge. But that has not stopped him amassing a fortune – he has a £1.6million Essex mansion and drives a Lamborghini.

Joey trademarked his name in 2011 to stop others cashing in on his fame, but let it lapse after a decade.

In Love Island, Joey was forced to confront his past this week when ex Grace Jackson entered the villa.

A drinking game stirred things up when Joey was asked to share a three-way kiss with two women – and he chose Grace, 25, and fellow bombshell Tiffany Leighton, 25.

He has also grown close to Scouse make-up artist Samantha Kenny, 26, since arriving as a bombshell on the ITV2 show.

And this week, they took their romance to the next level with a first date, during which Joey tried to impress with his Spanish.

When he asked where the pair would live, Samantha told him she would move to Essex.

But it could be Hollywood if Joey's acting dreams take off.

He would not be the first in the family to make the move. His cousins, including Towie alumna Chloe Sims, are currently in LA where their reality series, House of Sims, is a huge hit.

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**LAUGHS** Date with Samantha



**LA WOMAN** Chloe in hit House of Sims



**NEW VENTURE** Graham

## Chat show king Norton to go behind the camera

**EXCLUSIVE** BY **LAURA ARMSTRONG**  
Assistant Editor, Showbiz

GRAHAM Norton is branching out into the world of movies by co-writing and producing a romantic comedy.

It is understood his So Television company and production firm Tiger Mountain will co-produce the film. And Bridget Jones director Dan

Mazer will shoot the British-Irish movie, which is due to start filming later this year.

A source said: "The film has been financed by Sky and will be shot in Ireland in July and August."

"It has not been an easy road to get to this point, and the team at So, who are learning as they go, have found getting movies made is

much harder than they expected. But this is a really exciting project and everyone has high hopes for it now the ball is really rolling.

"Talks are ongoing with some high-profile actors who would really make the script come alive."

Graham's shift into movies comes after his novel, Holding, was turned into an ITV series in 2022, starring

Conleth Hill and Siobhan McSweeney. The Dublin-born chat show host, 61, did not produce the series but he asked the team to hold back on "overt" Irishness.

At the time, Graham said: "Whenever I felt it was too Irish, I was going, 'No. You've got Irish actors, you're filming in West Cork. It's Irish enough... we get it!'"

DAILY **Mirror**

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# MP'S HEARTBREAK



ATTACKED  
Nigel Farage

## EXCLUSIVE

BY LUCY THORNTON

**IT was eight years ago today that Kim Leadbeater heard the most awful news - that her older sister, the MP Jo Cox, had been murdered outside her constituency surgery.**

Understandably, Kim still feels "a lot of anger" about what happened, but she has tried to turn that anger into something positive.

And that is why the 48-year-old - who took over Jo's parliamentary seat in Batley and Spen, West Yorks - is so concerned politicians are still being attacked.

## ASSAULTS

Condemning the recent assaults on Reform leader Nigel Farage, who had drinks and cups hurled at him on the campaign trail in Barnsley, South Yorks, and Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, Kim says: "There should never be a place for violence, personal insults and abuse.

"And it makes me really sad that eight years on from Jo's murder, we're still seeing some of that totally unacceptable behaviour.

"There's absolutely no place for violence, threats, intimidation and abuse in public life.

"Politics should be a place where we can have robust, passionate debates and discussions on the issues that matter."

Jo's killing in Birstall, West Yorks, in the run-up to the 2016 Brexit referendum rocked the nation. The 41-year-old mum-of-two was shot three times and stabbed 15 times.

Later that year, a reclusive neo-Nazi was jailed for life for her murder. At his trial, the jury were told two extremes of humanity came face to face that day - the killer's hatred and the goodness of Jo and those who tried to help her.

It's clear that goodness lives on in Kim, who won the Batley and Spen seat for Labour in 2021 and was also made an MBE for services to social cohesion.

She says: "There is a lot of anger in society; a lot of frustration. People are struggling in lots of different ways.

"After what happened to my family, I have a lot of anger. But the question is what we do with the anger and how we channel [it]. What I've tried to do is channel it into something positive and try to make a difference.

"The most inspirational people for



STRONG Kim  
Leadbeater MP

Picture: JOHN MATHER

# It's so sad politicians



MURDERED  
Labour MP  
Jo Cox

me are the people who have chosen to take their dreadful experience - people like Rob Burrow. Something really horrible happened to him, but what he and his family chose to do is to create as much positivity as possible.

"So I would say to people, whatever has happened in your life, however angry or frustrated you are, it's always worth taking a moment to think, 'What can I do with these emotions?'"

Despite the horror of Jo's death, Kim insists she feels safe as she pounds the Spen Valley pavements - although on police advice, she always carries personal alarms.

She says: "It's fair to say it's always at the back of your mind. I have to be a realist about the climate we are in. Most MPs deal with a certain level of abuse. Unfortunately, politicians have been dehumanised and considered fair game."

Next weekend marks what would have been Jo's 50th birthday, which Kim knows will be difficult.

"When you lose someone under those circumstances, every day is hard." The worst time, she admits, was when she turned 42 - and

# OVER SISTER'S SENSELESS KILLING



**SISTER SISTER**  
Siblings Jo, left, & Kim as young girls



**CLOSE** Jo, right, tried to persuade Kim to be an MP



**PEAS IN A POD**  
On family outing

# 8 years after Jo's death still face personal attacks

became "older than Jo would ever be". Kim says: "I found that really, really difficult. For Jo to be turning 50, it does feel really emotional and very difficult for Mum and Dad. But we will remember how amazing she was."

The family will take comfort in the Jo Cox Foundation's Great Get Together community event, which runs from Friday to Sunday.

It was inspired by Jo's belief – and first speech in Parliament – that "we

are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us". Jo's children Cuillin and Lejla, now 13 and 11, will be attending the event – and the kids have also been helping their aunt leaflet in her election

campaign. "We really work hard to keep them connected to Yorkshire," Kim says. And she believes their mum would be "incredibly proud" that her sister became an MP.

She says: "She always encouraged me to do it. I would always say, 'How do you do this? This job is awful' and she would say, 'Well look... politics needs good people.'"

While many might expect Kim to find it hard returning to Birstall, she often makes a point of going there.

Kim says: "It wasn't Birstall's fault what happened and it wasn't the people of Birstall's fault."

"And Birstall is a lovely little town with a lot to be proud of." She also pays tribute to the late miner Bernard

Kenny, 79, who was stabbed trying to save Jo's life. Kim says he was the sort of man "who did things just because it was the right thing to do".

She adds: "There's not enough of that in the world. I hope that after the General Election, whoever wins, we can almost start again in thinking about the public discourse that we have and how we treat our fellow human beings. Because I do think we need a reset moment."

And if Kim could wish for more of one thing in society, it would be compassion. "Irrespective of our differences," she says. "The thing that Jo said in Parliament – focusing on things that we've got in common."

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## Troll law victory for Zach a 'very powerful moment'

HELPING a 12-year-old boy change the law on online trolls was a "really emotional and powerful" moment in her career, Kim reveals.

Zach Eagling, right, campaigned for a new anti-trolling law after he was targeted by online bullies, who sent him flashing images via social media to trigger his epilepsy. But after the

schoolboy raised awareness, such behaviour was made illegal last year.

Kim found it appalling that Zach, who has cerebral palsy, had been targeted.

And after meeting him and his mum, she worked with a cross-party group of MPs to ensure



Zach's Law was included in the Online Safety Bill.

Kim says: "I was over the moon about it. For him to have changed the law and for me to have been able to help facilitate that... that was a really emotional and powerful moment."



## TRAPPED Rollercoaster Stuck for 1hr on Hyperia rollercoaster

BY KEITH PERRY

THRILL-SEEKERS were trapped for an hour on top of Britain's tallest rollercoaster yesterday.

Thorpe Park's Hyperia ride broke down again just days after reopening.

Last month, thousands attended the opening of the new ride, which is 236ft tall and has a top speed of 81mph.

But it was then closed for two weeks and only reopened on Wednesday.

Yesterday, the theme park near Staines, Surrey, said there were no safety concerns but the ride was closed to allow for checks.

A spokesman said: "Guests were held on the lift hill for approximately one hour before the ride was restarted and the train was brought back into the ride station."



KEY ITEM Disguised blades

## Fashion site slated over 95p knives

BY PHIL CARDY

KNIVES disguised as keys, lipstick and credit cards are on sale on a fast-fashion website.

The banned blades are being sold as "self-defence" items with no age checks for as little as 95p on Shein.

Chartered Trading Standards Institute spokesman Kerry Nicol said: "No responsible retailer sells knives like these to adults or children."

Shein is poised for a £50billion London flotation but has sparked controversy over its links to China and claims sweatshops make its clothes.

A Shein spokesman said: "Thanks for bringing this to our attention. We have strict controls and when we identify a violation, we work quickly to remove the product."

# £144m for victims of kids home from hell

## But some Shirley Oaks survivors are still waiting for compo

ABUSE From paedo staff at Shirley Oaks children's home

### EXCLUSIVE

BY TOM PETTIFOR Crime Editor

**VICTIMS** of one of Britain's worst child abuse scandals have benefited from a record £144million compensation scheme.

The former residents of Shirley Oaks children's home are eligible, but some could miss out on payments of tens of thousands of pounds each when the plan ends in a few weeks.

Before 1980, hundreds were physically, sexually and racially abused by paedophile employees for decades.

So far, 2,240 victims have received more than £100million from Lambeth Council, which ran the home in Croydon, South London.

But one survivor at the forefront of the battle for compensation has accused the council of forcing around 150 people into accepting offers.

Raymond Stevenson said they include a blind man whose case was closed because he did not see the letters.

And Russell Specterman, whose sister Sarah died at the home aged 11 months, is also fighting for justice.

She was found hanging from a harness that staff had used to bind her to a top bunk in 1975.

Russell, 57, said: "Lambeth Council has threatened to close my case down



ORDEALS Russell Specterman and sister Samantha. Right, Raymond Stevenson

because I won't accept their offer for the 15 years of abuse I experienced in their care homes. I also won't accept their offer until they deal with the redress for my sister, who died at their hands."

One man, now 57, who was abused in the 1970s, said the council branded him "retarded" and threatened to throw his case out of court.

And a woman, 61, who was raped at 14, said of a council-appointed psychia-

trist: "He said I would have got over it within six months." Mr Stevenson added: "Lambeth Council's attempt to brush the abuse under the carpet has backfired as there is a growing list of individuals preparing a class action."

Lambeth said the scheme was open for four years to January 2022 and 94% of cases have been settled.

A spokesman said: "As it is now two years past the closure, we are writing to



people who have not accepted or appealed their compensation offers, reminding them of their options.

"Those letters also let people know that their application will be closed down if they do not respond."

Of the £144million, some £100million went to the victims, while lawyers got £23.7million and the rest was spent on admin, medical and other expenses.

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SUBSCRIPTION Ms Truss

## Liz Truss was Amazon Prime minister... and we paid for it

EXCLUSIVE BY MIKEY SMITH  
Deputy Political Editor

FORMER Prime Minister Liz Truss had an Amazon Prime subscription for her office - at taxpayers' expense. The £95 package entitled her to free shipping from the retail

giant, along with access to its range of TV shows, movies and books.

Titles currently available to Prime subscribers include films My Fault and Beautiful Disaster, and Amazon series Dead in the Water. The Kindle edition of Ms Truss'

book, Ten Years to Save the West, is on offer for £4.29, down from £20.

It is not the first time Ms Truss has put a Prime subscription on expenses - but when we revealed she had done so in 2022, her team insisted it was unintentional. The

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, which handles MPs' expense claims, said the subscriptions can be legitimate.

But they added: "The MP will need to justify it is primarily used for parliamentary purposes."



## ABUSED Newsman Myrie Clive: Threat to shoot me shook me up

BY JANINE YAQOOB

CLIVE Myrie has told how he was left "shaken" after receiving death threats.

The newsreader and Mastermind host, who will co-present the BBC's election night coverage, said he has received more racist abuse since he became more "visible".

On BBC Radio 4's Desert Island Discs, Clive said: "One chap issued death threats... and [they] involved talking about the kind of bullet he'd use in the gun to kill me. I was shaken for a while."

The 59-year-old, whose parents were Jamaican, also spoke about how the Windrush scandal affected his family. His brother Peter died while fighting to stay in the UK.

An emotional Clive said: "It's just very, very sad."



## WRITER Gwyneth Hughes PO show title re-write for hero knight

BY LUKE O'REILLY

THE writer of Mr Bates vs The Post Office has joked its title may need changing after the ITV drama's hero got a knighthood.

Gwyneth Hughes said: "I can picture Sir Alan in the new trailer on a white charger with a shield."

She told Times Radio the campaigner's award in the King's Birthday honours was "fantastic".

Ms Hughes said he had earned it for fighting to clear the names of 700 fellow sub-postmasters wrongly prosecuted in the Horizon IT scandal.

"Who could possibly deserve it more?" she said.

"We might have to change the name of the programme to Sir Alan vs The Post Office."

She also said he deserves a holiday after fighting two decades for justice.

# From Bridgerton to the horrors of war



**STAR QUALITY** Adjoa on the red carpet and, inset, in Bridgerton

## Actress Adjoa's quest to help others

**EXCLUSIVE**

BY JANINE YAQOOB  
TV and Showbiz Editor

**AS Bridgerton's Lady Danbury, she is one of the most powerful and privileged women in London.**

But in real-life, actress Adjoa Andoh is determined to use her TV stardom to help those less fortunate.

She recently visited Poland with the International Rescue Committee to meet Ukrainian women displaced by the war with Russia – and Adjoa, who is an ambassador for the IRC, was left in tears by their devastating stories.

She says: "We sat and cried together."

"The sort of mad schizophrenia of doing the Bridgerton junket in Warsaw and everybody being zhuzhed up and fabulous to then, a day later, sitting with women who have run away with a suitcase and a bag of nappies is a stark contrast."

"I will be going away thinking about them and praying for them."

In a touching moment, gran Adjoa, 61, was presented with a T-shirt made by the refugee children with all their handprints on it.

"Now I am carrying the likes of Sophia, Mia, and Eva all next to my heart on my T-shirt," she smiles.

"Being a grandmother has that extra resonance as well."

"It could be my little grandson and those mothers could be my daughters – and

it could have been me, if I had the accident of being born somewhere different." Adjoa is not the only Bridgerton star to use their status for good.

Nicola Coughlan, who plays Penelope Featherington in the show, has raised almost £1.5million for Gaza's aid efforts in the past seven months.

Speaking ahead of World Refugee Day on Thursday, Adjoa said: "Nicola has been amazing. I think many members of the cast are conscious of the great privileges we enjoy."

Sometimes we want to stretch out a helping hand and lend a voice to people whose lives are hard."

Regency romance Bridgerton first appeared on our screens in 2020.

And this week, fans of Shonda Rhimes' opulent drama tuned in to find out the latest twist in the love story between Penelope and Colin Bridgerton (Luke Newton).

Adjoa is just as invested in their relationship as the rest of us.

"A lot of the audience will be rooting for them because they've invested in them for so long, but also because love goes where love goes – and we all need a bit of that right now," she says.

"The show has become a phenomenon but the way I've seen it manifested has always been beautiful."

"It doesn't matter about your gender, your race, your religion, or your sexuality. Everybody is welcome."

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**FUNDRAISER** Co-star Nicola



**SUPPORT** Meeting mums and babies from Ukraine



**BONDING** Enjoying art therapy on IRC trip to Poland

## Laughing gas driver jailed

A MOTORIST who ran a red light while inhaling laughing gas has been jailed for killing a cyclist.

Harry Lock, 24, fatally injured mum-of-three Maria Perez-Gonzalez, 53, as she crossed the road in Exeter, Devon, in 2021.

The healthcare assistant died two days later.

Lock, of Plymouth, admitting causing death by dangerous driving.

He was jailed for three years and four months at Exeter crown court.



CHAMP Rose in 2021's Strictly

# Good signs for Strictly's Rose

## Boost for star's BSL campaign



**BACK ON THE BEEB**  
Rose will front one-off show to promote BSL

# NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN!



SCAN ME TO NOMINATE



BY **LAURA ARMSTRONG**  
Assistant Editor, Showbiz

**STRICTLY Come Dancing winner Rose Ayling-Ellis is set to front a new TV show promoting British Sign Language.**

The actress's campaign for free BSL for families with deaf children was highlighted in her BBC documentary Signs for Change last year.

And now, BBC bosses are keen to follow up on the programme's success, which has led to it being nominated for a National Television Award.

It is hoped the new one-off show will help boost former EastEnders star Rose's crusade, which has been backed by this newspaper.

A source said: "The programme will be a unique experience for Rose and it will make for really interesting television.

"And, of course, it's another chance to raise awareness and to stress the importance of access to BSL across the country."

The documentary is being made by Rogan Productions, which was behind

Signs for Change. A source at the company told how the firm was proud to show support for Rose's BSL campaign once again.

They said: "Rose is so passionate about raising awareness and it is wonderful for us to be a part of programmes like this. It is an opportunity to really do some good."

Rose, 29, has been deaf since birth. She shot to fame playing EastEnders' Frankie Lewis in 2020 and became a household name when she won Strictly in 2021.

Her appearance on the hit BBC dance show warmed fans' hearts and sparked a surge in interest in BSL classes. After one of Rose's performances on Strictly, the BSL website saw the

number of people signing up for its free trial rocket by 2,844%.

Rose later admitted she had been blown away by the reaction, which she described as "totally surreal".

She added: "It took a long time to properly hit me."

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## AMBUSH In war-torn Rafah Hamas kills 8 Israeli troops in Rafah blast

BY PHIL CARDY

THE Israeli army yesterday confirmed eight soldiers died in a blast in Rafah.

It came after Hamas' armed wing, the Qassam Brigades, said they had killed soldiers in a "complex ambush".

An initial Israeli Defence Force investigation found the troops died in an armoured combat vehicle.

The IDF claimed it came after a night offensive that killed 50 Hamas gunmen.

It said a captain and seven soldiers "fell during operational activity".

The deaths bring the IDF death toll to 307.

Its worst loss in one incident was in January when 21 troops died in a blast.

On Friday, Hamas said two Israeli hostages held in Gaza died in an Israeli blitz on Rafah days earlier.



## 'BORN AGAIN' Artist Emin Dame Tracey gets all-clear from cancer

BY JANINE YAQOUB

ARTIST Tracey Emin, who was this week made a Dame, has had even more good news – the all-clear from cancer.

The 60-year-old had major surgery after she was diagnosed with bladder cancer in 2020.

Tracey said: "When you've had cancer to the level that I had, where you really think you're going to die and you're looking at months ahead of you to live, and then suddenly everything turns around, it's like being born again... and all these really amazing things happen."

Turner Prize-winner Tracey, honoured for services to British art, added: "Being made a Dame is, to me, something to be really happy about and celebrate because it's another marker on my life."



WE WANT THE TRUTH  
Orgreave protesters



STILL BATTLING Scargill, 86, gives speech at rally

## Scargill back in the fight

BY KEITH PERRY

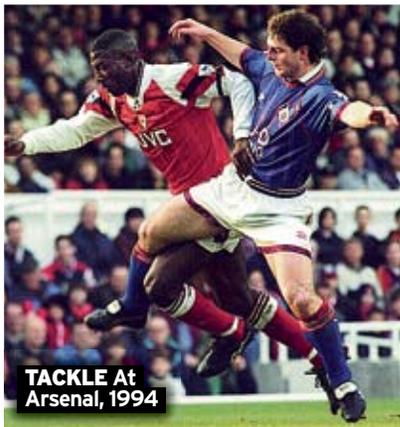
HUNDREDS attended a rally yesterday to mark 40 years since the Battle of Orgreave and to demand an inquiry into the violent 1984 clash between miners and police. Speakers at the Sheffield

event, organised by the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign, included former NUM president Arthur Scargill, 86.

Campaigners have been calling for a probe into the confrontation for years but the Tories have refused. However,

Labour have pledged to investigate if they win the election.

Some 95 pickets at the former coking plant in Orgreave, South Yorks, were charged, only for cases to collapse amid claims police falsified evidence.



TACKLE At Arsenal, 1994

BY PHIL CARDY

FORMER Everton footballer Kevin Campbell was hailed a "hero and icon" of the game yesterday following his death aged 54.

The striker, who also played for Arsenal, Nottingham Forest and England Under 21s, died after a short illness.

His son Tyrese, who spent eight years at Stoke City, paid an emotional tribute to his "irreplaceable" dad, saying: "The pain of this is indescribable. As a son, you look at your dad as invincible."

"He is my idol – the one who I wanted to be when I grew up. He was the life and soul of every party and room he blessed, a one in a million person that was loved by everyone... a special, special person."

Campbell started out at his boyhood club Arsenal, where he won the FA Cup and League Cup in some 200 appearances. He was also part of the Gunners teams that clinched a First Division title and the European Cup Winners' Cup.

He became a Merseyside legend for his heroics at Everton from 1999-2005, scoring 50 goals in 160 appearances.

Campbell's former clubs and teammates yesterday paid their respects and sent good wishes to his family. A spokesman for Everton said: "Everyone

# HERO & ICON.. FOOTIE LEGEND DIES AGED 54

## Tributes pour in for ex-Everton star Kevin Campbell



TRAGIC LOSS Kevin Campbell

at Everton is deeply saddened by the death of our former striker Kevin Campbell at the age of just 54.

"Not just a true Goodison Park hero and icon of the English game but an incredible person as well, as anyone who ever met him will know. RIP, Super Kev."

Arsenal said: "We are devastated. Kevin was adored by everyone at the club. Rest in peace, Kevin."

The England football team said: "We are devastated to learn that Kevin Campbell has passed away. Kevin won four caps for our under-21s and represented our B team in the early 1990s."

Former Everton striker Tony Cottee

said: "I am devastated to hear the news. The nicest man you could wish to meet and a fantastic player."

In total, Campbell scored 107 goals in 394 English top-flight appearances, with spells at West Bromwich Albion, Cardiff City, Leyton Orient and Leicester City. He also played for Trabzonspor in Turkey.

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TRIBUTES Sarkic

## Millwall goalie Matija passes away suddenly at 26

SHOCKED fans have paid tribute to Millwall and Montenegro goalkeeper Matija Sarkic, who died suddenly yesterday aged 26.

He reportedly fell ill in the early hours while away on international duty. Friends called an ambulance

but he passed away in Budva, Montenegro. Matija played for his country against Belgium earlier this week and was named man of the match after making nine saves in the side's 2-0 defeat.

Millwall Supporters' Club said:

"What horrendous news to wake up to. Devastating news for his friends and family and for all of us associated with Millwall."

Grimsby-born Matija played for other UK clubs, including Aston Villa, Wolves and Birmingham.

# Cam's blonde bombshell

We can't wait to hear the new music coming from Camila Cabello - especially as she revealed this week she's been inspired by collaborator Lil Nas X's "F\*\*k it" attitude.

The Havana singer says she is more unfiltered than ever before on her new album, and can't wait to release it to the world.

"It's something really different," she says. "It feels like the most raw and unfiltered I've ever been in my music. I have changed, the world has changed and this album is a reflection of that."

"Lil Nas is a real inspiration for me. He is constantly evolving and is, like, 'F\*\*k it, this is the artist I am, not who you want me to be'."

Camila recently swapped her brunette locks for blonde, which she showcases on her album cover. She explains: "There has been a change in myself as an artist for this album and I wanted there to be a physical change as well to represent a new era."

"People associate me with having dark hair so I wanted to mix things. I love being blonde... I feel like a new woman."



COLLAB Star with Lil Nas X



# NO FILTER

with Laura Armstrong & Janine Yaqoob

## P!nk's Carnival is a circus of delights

P!nk's Summer Carnival rolled into London for the second time last night - and for fans who missed her last year, it was well worth the wait.

Earlier in the week, the US superstar put on an epic show in Cardiff despite having food poisoning (don't ask us how).

But she was back to firing on all cylinders as she took to the stage at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, belting out Get the Party Started while performing a death-defying aerial stunt.

Bad girl anthem Raise Your Glass, Who Knew and Just Like

a Pill quickly followed as the star threw herself into the first of three acts.

But a P!nk show isn't just a vocal show and with Turbulence, she was up in the air again, whirling high above the 62,000-strong crowd.

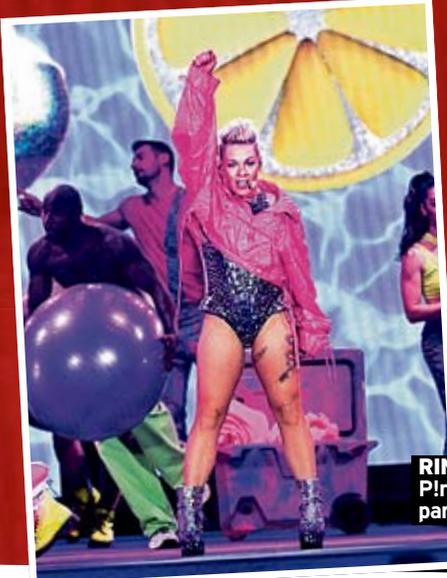
The singer's trademark acrobatics honestly would not be out of place at the Cirque du Soleil.

And she was backed by an army of dancers - all credited by name during the show -

who performed jaw-dropping trampoline stunts to her hit Trustfall.

We've seen quite a few P!nk performances over the years and never fail to be impressed.

This show was no exception.



RINGMASTER P!nk gets the party started

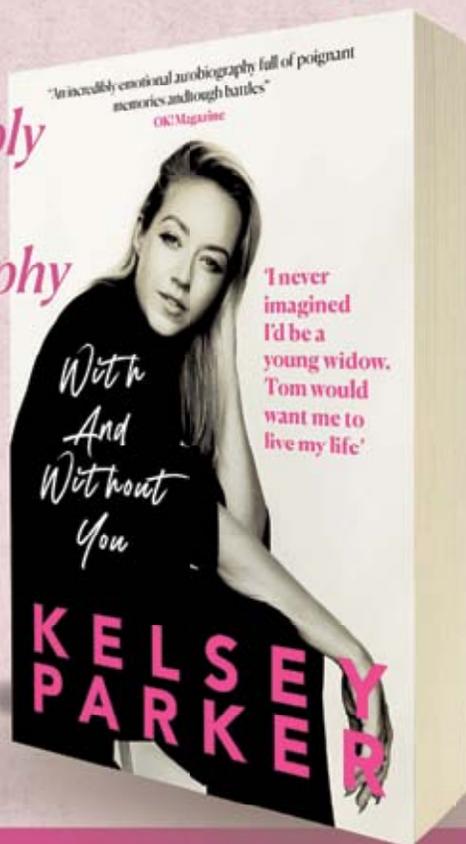
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*With And Without You*

'An incredibly emotional autobiography full of poignant memories and tough battles'

- OK! MAGAZINE



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## Over the Hill, Bec?

Double Brit Award nominee **Becky Hill** has admitted that, despite more than 10 years in the industry, she worries about her shelf life and fears having to get a normal job.

The dance music star, who released album Believe Me Now? in May, says: "I have to remind myself a lot that nothing bad has happened so far and I have no evidence to say that it will go wrong. It is really hard to stay relevant - you are only ever as good as your last record."



DANCE FLAW Becky Hill

"It's scary to think you may have to give it all up and get a different job because no one wants to listen to your music any more."

"I'm thinking about getting married and starting a family and buying a cottage in the countryside."

"But I worry how much of a shelf life a female artist has in the dance world. People like **David Guetta** are in their 50s, have kids and go from strength to strength, but I can't think of a female equivalent in the dance world." Someone's always got to go first, Becky...



If **Paloma Faith** feels like she's everywhere at the moment, it's probably because she is. The Only Love Can Hurt Like This singer is juggling touring - Hampton Court Palace Festival on Thursday and

Glasto the following week - with lots of book and album promo, plus parenting. Paloma said: "I feel exhausted. I don't think I have ever experienced a workload like it before." We reckon she'll be going home to a hell of a laundry load.



CROW-ING Sheryl

"This ain't no discotheque. It ain't no country club either. This is Halifax..."

Nine-time Grammy winner **Sheryl Crow** changed the opening words to her signature song All I Wanna Do when she headlined at TK

Maxx presents Live at The Piece Hall 2024 in the West Yorks town on Thursday.

Timeless hits A Change Would Do You Good, My Favourite Mistake and Everyday Is a Winding Road ensured the crowd had fun (and they're not the only one...) and the singer/songwriter was on great form, especially when singing If It Makes You Happy. Sheryl, it certainly did.





## More than Hear'Say

Myleene Klass wants to use her Hear'Say memories to inspire a gritty documentary about talent shows and being in a band.

Sources close to the star say she's about to approach production companies with the idea.

She kept diaries from when Hear'Say formed in 2001, filled with all the juicy details.

The insider said: "She thinks it would make a fantastic documentary on the likes of Channel 4 or one of the streaming services to show how wild it was in comparison to today's standards."

"It would make cult viewing 20 years on."

The singer found fame on ITV reality show Popstars, which gave contestants the chance to become part of a new pop band.

She eventually became a member of Hear'Say, along with Kym Marsh, Suzanne Shaw, Danny Foster and Noel Sullivan.

And Myleene stood up for bandmate Kym when she was humiliated by judge Nigel Lythgoe over



PURE & SIMPLE Band in 2001

her weight. He was filmed telling her: "You need to lose some weight. Christmas is over and the goose has gotten fat."

Likening Myleene's documentary idea to shows about Jade Goody and Big Brother, the source said the star

wants to explore the wider cultural change in Britain.

Last year, Myleene said of her Hear'Say diaries: "They are under lock and key with a lawyer. They're too libellous. I wrote about everything."



DOCUMENTARY  
Myleene is keen to spill the beans

# James in Bitter Sweet Love split

## It's third time unlucky for X Factor winner Arthur

**James Arthur has split from his long-term girlfriend for the third time.**

The singer, whose album Bitter Sweet Love went to No.1 this year, has been in an on-off relationship with dancer **Jessica Grist** since 2012 and the pair share daughter, Emily.

They initially split for two years from 2015 and again in 2021. But they rekindled their romance in 2022 and welcomed baby Emily in November.

But sources say the couple have decided to separate again after struggling to make the relationship work.

One said: "James and Jessica have a lot of history and really care about each other - that much is clear."

"But they have had some tough times and recently decided to separate for good. They will always be in



NEW LOVE  
Couple in 2014

### EXCLUSIVE

each other's lives and they are united in wanting to be the best parents they can be for their daughter.

"This split has been painful, but amicable. They agree it is the way things have to be."

"In the past, James and Jessica felt their relationship had hit a brick wall, but they have such a lot of affection for each

other that they always wanted to try again. But this time feels different.

"They are both 100% committed to putting their daughter first, whatever happens in their relationship."

James, who recently performed a sold-out home town gig in Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium, met backing dancer Jessica on X Factor, which he won. And in 2014, he cred-

ited Jessica with "helping me to live in the moment". After their first reunion, James described her as "really special".

And the couple were still loved up four years later when James admitted Jessica had inspired much of his upcoming album, It'll All Make Sense in the End, which included tracks such as Medicine.

He said: "She knows she's the muse in a lot of these songs."

"She's so supportive and she's probably sick of hearing my music to be fair, because all she's heard all year is me blasting my songs out."

But just months later, in May 2021, it emerged the pair had split again.

James revealed that November that Jessica had suffered an agonising ectopic pregnancy while he was recording his album.

Yet the couple got back together in 2022 and daughter Emily last year.

James announced her arrival in an adorable black and white snap.

It's sad the couple's relationship has faltered yet again, but good on them for being so mature.

## Amy has a Boll

RINGING CHANGES  
Actress orders room service



Bollywood star **Amy Jackson** brought some va-va-voom to Paris after arriving there for her hen do.

Amy, who is due to wed Gossip Girl actor **Ed Westwick**, flew in on a private jet with pals **Lily Fortescue** and DJ **Zara Martin**.

During their wild weekend, the girls enjoyed a trip to the Palace of Versailles and cooked up a storm with top pastry chef **Angelo Musa**. Sounds sweet.

BRIDE-TO-BE  
Amy dons white dress on hen do

## Exodus fear over Ofsted

NEARLY three-quarters of teachers have considered quitting because of the impact of Ofsted on workload and their mental health.

Of 2,000 staff in England polled by the National Education Union, 98% said their mental health and wellbeing suffered.

And 84% said Ofsted has a negative impact on both teaching and learning.

The union's Daniel Kebede said: "Sadly it's no surprise demoralisation is driving teachers to leave."

# SPANISH DENTISTS DON'T COST A LOT..

Mum jets off to beat NHS wait...and private fees

**RELIEF** Eva had two teeth out at clinic in Malaga



**Mirror Bingo!**

**SCRATCH FOR CASH**

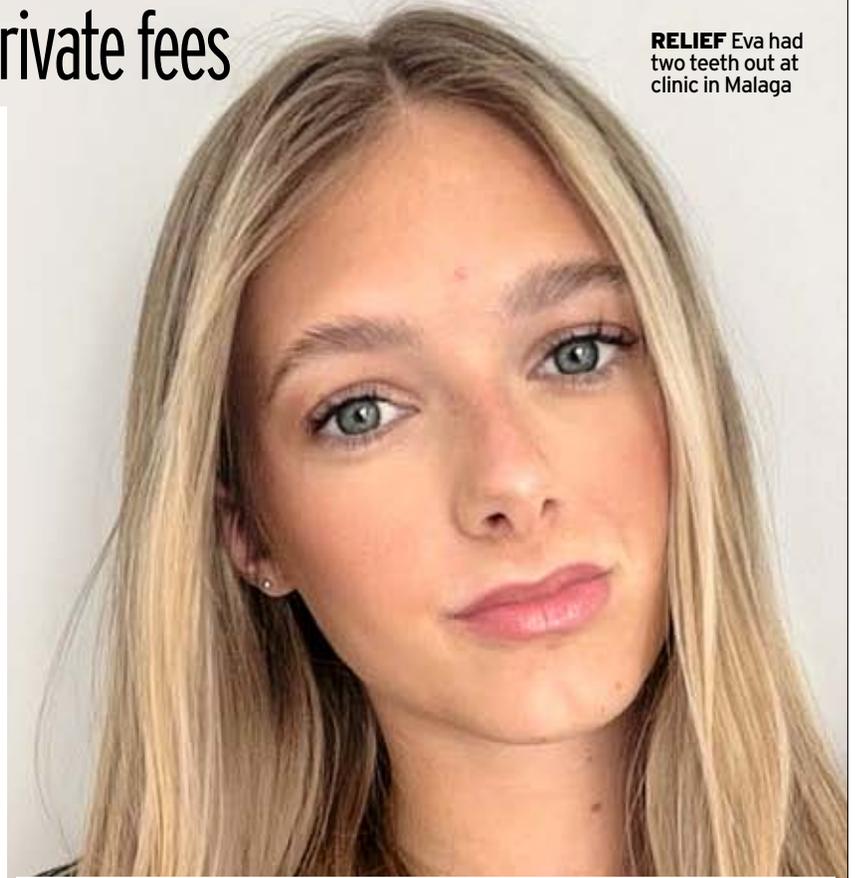
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### EXCLUSIVE

BY PATRICK HILL and MARIO LAGHOS

**A WOMAN who took her daughter to the Costa del Sol for dental treatment says the whole trip cost less than going private here.**

Elena Veysey and Eva, 16, flew from Bristol to Malaga to beat the NHS waiting list. They were warned Eva could have to wait up to two years for two teeth to be taken out unless Elena paid £300 for her to go private.

But instead, a relative recommended a dental clinic that offered an appointment within five days - for £70.

Elena, 45, said: "The Ryanair flight from Bristol to Malaga was about £25 there and £39 for a return and we got an overnight stay on Booking.com for £40. It was fantastic.

"I have recommended it to neighbours and people I have seen through work who are having trouble.

"Eva was so pleased... my teeth are wonky and I didn't want my daughter's to be the same."

School worker Elena, from Exeter, Devon, spoke to the Mirror after we launched our Dentists for All campaign. It found dentistry is the hardest NHS service to access, leaving some pulling out their own teeth.

If Labour win the General Election, they have promised to provide 700,000

extra dentist appointments across England, including 100,000 for children, as well as mental health support in every school.

Elena said it was "bonkers" that it was more convenient and cost-effective to go abroad for treatment - and have a holiday at the same time.

She said: "We only did a 24-hour trip, but people could make it a holiday if they wanted to.

"They do a filling, a scale and a polish for 50 Euros - you can't get that here. The NHS is a complete shambles.

"Because of my daughter's positive experience, I am considering doing it myself.

"I might go there just for a check-up. It's stupid to waste your money going private."

Eva was treated at Crooke & Laguna dental clinic and was accompanied by patient care coordinator Virginia Mombray.

She said: "Approximately 35% of our patients are English speakers.

"They include ex-pats living in Spain and visitors from the UK, USA, and Canada.

"An additional 10% come from other countries, including the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark.

"Although we are not a low-cost clinic, our prices remain affordable for residents of the UK."

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## Trump in 78th birthday brag

DONALD Trump celebrated his 78th birthday by telling 5,000 fans at a rally: "We don't need your vote, we've got so many."

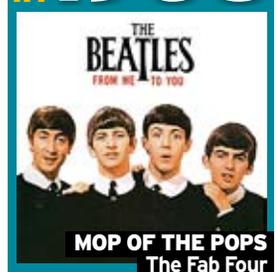
But 'Club 47' supporters did need to fork out \$60 each to hear the speech near his Florida home.

Trump used Friday's event to accuse Joe Biden of "providing support for terrorism", referring to the US arrests of eight people accused of links with ISIS.

He also called for presidential aptitude tests, claiming Mr Biden "doesn't know where the hell he is".

**ON THIS DAY...**  
**JUNE 16**

**in 1963**



### TOP 10 singles

- 1 **From Me to You**  
The Beatles
- 2 **I Like It**  
Gerry and the Pacemakers
- 3 **Do You Want to Know a Secret?**  
Billy J Kramer and The Dakotas
- 4 **When Will You Say I Love You**  
Billy Fury
- 5 **Scarlett O'Hara**  
Jet Harris and Tony Meehan
- 6 **Lucky Lips**  
Cliff Richard
- 7 **If You Gotta Make a Fool of Somebody**  
Freddie and the Dreamers
- 8 **Take These Chains From My Heart**  
Ray Charles
- 9 **Deck of Cards**  
Wink Martindale
- 10 **In Dreams**  
Roy Orbison

## £7k for film oddball's van

THE vehicle featured in The Lady in the Van movie has gone on sale for £7,000.

The vintage motor was home to Dame Maggie Smith's character Miss Shepherd in the 2015 film.

A sales blurb says: "This Commer van is the vehicle provided by Dream Cars for the film. Most scenes were shot in the van."

The comedy-drama, based on a true story by writer Alan Bennett, is about an eccentric who lived in a van on his London driveway for 15 years.

# The Wanted singer's children celebrate him on Father's Day



**HE'S STILL OUR NO.1**  
Bodhi & Aurelia with their cards for dad Tom

# Kids' tributes to Tom



**FAMILY** Tom Kelsey & kids

## EXCLUSIVE

BY **LAURA ARMSTRONG**  
Assistant Editor, Showbiz

**TOM Parker's children show off the Father's Day cards they have made for their dad, two years after The Wanted singer died aged 33.**

The touching picture of Aurelia, four, and three-year-old Bodhi was shared by their proud mum Kelsey.

She said: "Coming up to Father's Day it is hard. Their teachers asked me, 'Are they OK to make cards in class?' and I said, 'Yes, we'll celebrate their dad'."

"We put their Father's Day cards on the side and we look at them, exactly the same as we do on Mother's Day."

Today, the children will be mascots at a charity football match Kelsey organised in tribute to Tom.

Aurelia will even sing Somewhere Out There from Disney's An American Tail at Dorking Wanderers FC.

Kelsey, 33, said of the match, sponsored by Grove Gallery: "We did it last

year and raised £30,000 so it will be great to do it again. Aurelia has got a really good voice and she loves performing. Bodhi likes being on stage but he isn't as confident as Aurelia."

She went on: "The kids are both hilarious at the moment. As they get older, they are more independent and they argue more."

"I do think about what Tom would do in certain situations... I'm sure he would have been the strict one."

Tom died in March 2022, a year-and-a-half after telling fans he had an inoperable brain tumour.

Kelsey, who married Tom in 2018 but was with the singer for 13 years, told how she had also decided to stop wearing her wedding ring.

She said: "In the past two years, my grief hasn't gotten bigger or smaller,

I'm just trying to live with it. Taking my ring off this year felt like a massive moment but it was also the right thing for me, and it doesn't change anything."

"It doesn't change how I feel or what Tom and I had together. At the moment, I am single and I'm happy just doing me. I'm a single mum of two and a workaholic, so it's not like I have a lot of time!"

Last year Kelsey told her story in the book, With and Without You.

She said: "It's been helping people get through the dark times I've been through."

"Lots of people have said thank-you for writing it, and people reach out to me all the time, which helps me."

"I've got the platform, I'm using it for good and helping people – and that's ultimately what I want to do."

[laura.armstrong@reachplc.com](mailto:laura.armstrong@reachplc.com)

**“**  
**We put their Father's Day cards on the side and we look at them, exactly the same as we do on Mother's Day**

# UNFARE PRICES

**EXCLUSIVE**  
BY **GRAHAM HISCOTT**  
Head of Business

SOME shops are charging up to 48% more for snacks and drinks at airports and train stations than at high street stores, research shows.

We compared retailers at Heathrow Airport with their shops elsewhere. A Pret A Manger takeaway tuna, mayo and cucumber baguette was just £3.99 on the high street but £5.90 at Heathrow, up 48%, and

**Snack shops' 48% hike at airports & train stations**

£4.50 at London's Waterloo station. At WH Smith, 750ml of Buxton water cost £2.89 at Heathrow, £2.49 at Waterloo but just £2 in its high street store. Retailers say the price



differences reflect higher operating costs. But Scott Dixon, of thecomplaintsresolver.co.uk, said: "They prey on a captive market. At airports, you have little choice where you buy."

WH Smith said: "Wherever we operate we seek to give good value for that location."

Pret told us: "In transport hubs we face higher rents and labour costs, and extra costs to run our on-site kitchens."

# PARENTS' WAR



**EXCLUSIVE**

BY **MATTHEW BARBOUR**

**A LAW allowing parents access to children's social media is a step closer after 115,000 people signed a mum's petition in just six days.**

Ellen Roome started campaigning for the legislation after the mystery death of 14-year-old son Jools in April 2022.

She believes he died in an online dare that went wrong, as he was "into every single challenge possible".

But all social media firms, including TikTok and Snapchat, have refused her pleas to find out from his data.

Ellen said: "I know I'm far from alone and there'll be many, many more parents like me if this doesn't change."

"If a child died of an illness, you'd conduct a thorough postmortem but with cases like Jools we're prevented from knowing what happened because these companies decide not to help."

"Jools certainly showed no signs of depression so there has to be an answer to why my baby is gone."

At the inquest, the coroner said he did not believe the normally cheerful lad intended to take his own life when he was found unconscious in his room in Cheltenham, Gloucs.

Prompted by the coroner's verdict, Ellen's petition demands that parents have the right to access their children's social media "both when the child is alive and if they are deceased".

Ellen, a financial adviser, used social media to boost her campaign by posting a personal video message which enabled her to get the 100,000 signatures necessary for her petition to be debated in Parliament. The final tally was 126,000 before the May cut-off date and it means MPs should be on the case after the election.

Her crusade is backed by the Bereaved Families for Online Safety group, whose members blame social media for playing a big part in their children's deaths. Ellen joined the parents of 11 other tragic children to discuss online safety with government and Ofcom representatives last month.

The group was set up by Ian Russell, whose daughter Molly, 14, from Harrow, North London, ended her life in 2017

after viewing harmful content online. Ian, who wants a windfall tax on tech giants that "monetise misery", said: "It's time for a reset of the relationship between tech companies and children."

Other members include the parents of Archie Battersbee, who died of a brain injury aged 12 when a "prank or experiment went wrong" at his home in Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

Mum Hollie said: "Archie died six days before Jools. I still have no answers as to why he did what he did. It was a normal day, he was a happy child with so many dreams and goals. All I know is he watched seven minutes of TikTok an hour-and-a-half before he died."

"Privacy for children is important but when it comes to safeguarding, parents should be able to override that. I don't understand how they can drag up every part of Archie's education from five years old, his health records to 2015, but for social media there's nothing."

Another lad who loved challenges was Christoforos Nicolaou, 15, who

joined an online forum to do them. But parents

George and Areti say they became more extreme and threatening, and he was found dead in Cheshunt, Herts, in 2022.

George said: "In the same month we lost Christopher,

four other lives were lost the same

way. Online platforms like eBay monitor for content, like sharing email addresses and phone numbers, as they don't want to lose business. For TikTok and Snapchat to pretend they can't provide that information after we've been robbed of our child is outrageous."

George, who set up online safety charity CCF World, added: "Nobody's looking after our children online, which is why Ellen's petition and our group's message is so important."

His anger at tech giants was echoed by Lorin LaFave. Her son Breck Bednar, 14, was groomed by an older teen he met gaming, who lured him to his flat in Grays, Essex, in 2014 and stabbed him to death. She said: "Nobody's making these companies change and they love the position they're in, making massive profits while pretending they have robust age verification and other

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**“**  
**If one of the social media bosses lost a child like I did, they'd change everything**

# ON TECH FIRMS OVER KIDS' DEATHS



**BRIANNA & ESTHER**



**LORIN & BRECK**



**ARCHIE & HOLLIE**



**GEORGE, CHRIS AND ARETI**



**MOLLY & IAN**



**MARIANO, MIA AND MARISA**

# United in grief but fighting for justice

safeguarding. It's like the Wild West online, with nobody looking after those who are most vulnerable.

"These companies have sophisticated and aggressive algorithms to engage our children, so for them to say they don't have the AI to pinpoint if kids are being groomed or bullied is complete rubbish."

Mariano Janin also told of his agony at living without daughter Mia, 14, who took her own life in March 2021 after being bullied online.

Mariano, of Kenton, North London, who lost wife Marisa four months later, said: "It's almost impossible to describe the pain caused by the death of a child. I will never stop fighting, so no other parent has to go through what I have." Also in the group is

Esther Ghey, whose daughter Brianna, 16, was stabbed to death in Warrington, Cheshire, in February last year after being sent a series of "dehumanising" messages on Snapchat and WhatsApp by her killers.

She said: "The work Ellen is doing to allow parents to access social media data after a tragedy is vital."

The families spoke as Ofcom data shows nearly a quarter of five to seven-year-olds have a smartphone and two in five use WhatsApp, despite its minimum age of 13.

More than half of under-13s go on social media and many admit to lying to get new apps and services. The Online Safety Bill, law since April, lets coroners use regu-

lator Ofcom to access social media and gaming data after a child takes their own life. But it only applies to cases ruled to be suicide, not where they might have been killed by someone they met online – and it does not allow parents to access data.

Requests for information are also often too late as tech companies only retain browsing data for 90 days.

Snapchat has told Ellen it will not give further information unless required to by a court. TikTok also

requires a court order and Instagram told her on June 6 it would get back to her "with haste" but has yet to do so.

Labour says it will give coroners more powers to access data. And Justice Secretary Alex Chalk said he has written to the Attorney General to ask her to apply for a fresh inquest into Jools' death, so his parents can "get the answers they are entitled to".

Ofcom said: "Protecting children is our priority and we're moving quickly so we can enforce the Online Safety Act." But Ellen added: "If one of the social media CEOs lost a child the way I lost Jools, they'd change everything. These parents and I are doing everything we can to turn pain into purpose, to change the current

situation to find the answers we deserve, and to save lives."

We contacted the social media platforms concerned for a right of reply. A spokesperson for TikTok told us there are routes for information to be obtained from online platforms as part of police or coroner probes.

They added TikTok does not allow videos showing or promoting dangerous activity or challenges and proactively removes 99% of content that breaks rules before it is reported.

And they said TikTok has tools to let parents link accounts to those of their teens, enabling a number of content and privacy settings, and makes it clear users must be aged 13.

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■ Back Ellen at [gofundme.com/f/joolslaw](https://gofundme.com/f/joolslaw)

**“**These companies have sophisticated algorithms to engage our children, so for them to say they don't have the AI to protect them is rubbish

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**MUM'S THE WORD** Cordelia, centre, with her husband Bob and their four children

**KEEPING MUM** Cordelia, centre, with daughters Tink and Carma

Pictures: TELL AND SELL STORIES

**EXCLUSIVE**  
BY JULIA SIDWELL

**WHEN these three rock up at a club, other revellers assume they are all sisters on a night out.**

Few realise that youngsters Tink, 19, and Carma, 21, are out partying with their mum Cordelia Simpson who, at 42, is actually twice their age.

And Cordelia – who also has son Sonny, 18, and daughter Lulu, 15 – says the chance to kick back with them all makes up for the scorn she suffered as a young mum-of-four.

Having had all of her children by the time she was 26, she says: "I lost count of the eyerolls I got from older mums in the playground.

**CLOSE**

"People constantly asked me, 'Don't you have a TV?' There was so much stigma in my 20s.

"But now I'm in my 40s, all I get is praise and positive comments.

"We were in Dubai last year, chatting to a group of people, when Carma called me Mum.

"The others looked shocked and one said, 'Oh my God, she's your mum?!' They'd presumed we were sisters. The look of disbelief on their faces was hilarious."

Yoga teacher Cordelia recalls how people told her she had "ruined her life" when she had Carma with her childhood sweetheart at just 21.

But she says: "Unfortunately, things went sour, so I ended up having her on my own."

Then she met Bob Simpson, who she is still happily married to today.

Bob, 49 – who works as a joiner – is the father of her youngest three kids.

Yet even in a strong relationship, Cordelia, from South East London, says she was still criticised for having four children in her 20s.

But she is grateful the smaller age gap means she now has more in common with her children.

"I'm so close to my kids and I think it's partly down to having them young," she says. "If we had a bigger age gap, I don't think we'd share the same interests.

"I certainly don't think I look as young as my kids, though – so it's definitely a compliment when people say I do.

"Carma often gives the odd eyeroll, but I think she doesn't mind too much.

"However, when I was getting ready for



# I go clubbing at 42 with my daughters ...but can you guess which one I am?

a night out recently and asked her if putting my hair up made me look younger, she replied, 'You can look older, you know...' so she might be getting fed up with the comparison!

But I love clubbing with my eldest three, practising yoga with my girls, and clothes shopping with all four kids." Glam Cordelia, who also works as a model and TV presenter, says the relationship she has with her children reflects how she was with her own mum when she was growing up.

Sadly, Cordelia lost her mum to secondary lung cancer when she was 25, following an ovarian cancer diagnosis. She has since discovered she has the PALB2

gene, giving her a higher risk of developing cancer. Cordelia has had a preventative double mastectomy as a result. But she says: "I have the best memories of going out dancing with Mum. I miss her so much."

Cordelia's children love hanging out with her too, including son Sonny. The entrepreneur says: "I recently turned 18 and since then, I've been partying hard with Mum. I feel very protective of her when we're out.

"The two of us always dance together – that's one of my favourite parts of a night out with her." Carma,

an actress who kept her birth name of Hylton, says: "Going out with my mum is honestly the best. From sharing clothes to talking about anything and everything, I wouldn't wish for it any other way."

Yoga teacher Tink adds: "Although we party like besties, it's nice to feel a certain level of protection when I'm out with her."

And Cordelia's youngest, Lulu, reckons she "can't wait" to go out clubbing with her mum. "I'd be proud to be seen out with her," she says.

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**FLEXI-MUM** Cordelia is a yoga teacher

# CANCER SUFFERER

# My naked calendar restored our zest for living

**EXCLUSIVE**

BY **LUCY LAING**

**ADJUSTING** her finery, Sally Smart grinned from ear to ear as she posed for a photo in front of Buckingham Palace.

Being invited to the King's garden party was the icing on the cake for the wedding photographer who has raised thousands for charity.

But as Sally moved amongst the elegant women and men in tails, she couldn't help but wonder if any of the royals would actually recognise her with her clothes on.

For Sally, 54, had been invited to the illustrious event after she appeared alongside her "breast friends" in a naked calendar.

## GODDESSES

It launched a fundraising initiative that saw her and her breast cancer survivor pals raise £30,000 for the hospital cancer centre where they were treated.

Sally, who attended the garden party with her husband Iwan, 55, says: "We saw Prince William and Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie too. It was fantastic.

"It's lovely that the calendar has been recognised like this - I just wish everyone could have come with us on the day."

Mum-of-two Sally first found a lump when she was in the shower three days after her mum's funeral in November 2021.

Sally, who lost her mum to oesophageal cancer, says: "I heard mum's voice in my head telling me to get it checked out, otherwise I probably would have put it off.

"I went for a mammogram and got called back as they had found two tumours. It was such a shock."

In February 2022, Sally had a mastectomy on her right breast, then 12 sessions of chemotherapy, 18 sessions of immunotherapy and bone



**PICNICKERLESS** Breast friends pose for calendar snap in field



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# ON BARING ALL & MEETING ROYALS

**RECOGNITION**  
Sally at palace garden party



**HAIR'S TO BEATING CANCER**  
Women bravely pose in salon

infusions. She was also given ongoing hormone therapy but decided against reconstructive surgery.

When her chemo finished at the end of 2022, Iwan climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for the cancer unit that saved his wife – and it gave Sally a brainwave.

She had previously photographed two naked calendars for a local environmental project, so why not get the ladies she had met during her treatment to bare all and raise funds for the cancer centre?

Sally, who was treated at the North Wales Cancer Centre at Glan Clwyd

Hospital in Bodelwyddan, Denbighshire, explains: "Some of the women said it would be great to give something back to the hospital, so I asked them if they wanted to do a naked calendar shoot.

"We all have scars and boobs missing, but we wanted to celebrate that. We didn't know if people wanted to look at our bodies after surgery, but we wanted to give it a try – and the response has been phenomenal.

"We've bonded so much doing it," Sally adds. "Some of the husbands have come up to me and said their wives came home like different women after doing the shoot.

"A lot came in petrified and walked

out as goddesses!" The calendar has also helped Sally, who admits she had difficulty coping with her changed appearance. "The treatment was tough, especially losing my hair," she says.

"Every time I looked in the mirror, it was hard to accept that was me.

"The hospital staff were phenomenal, though – they really made our journeys with breast cancer a lot easier to deal with. We all wanted to give something back."

Sally, from Tremeirchion, Denbighshire, and her plucky breast friends



**SUPPORT** With husband Iwan

posed everywhere from cornfields to stables and even golf buggies in nothing but their birthday suits. They even had one picture taken on the

very public Talacre beach in Flintshire, which Sally described as "daunting". She says: "On the day of the shoot, we were all a bit nervous but we soon got into it and used everything from horse saddles to saxophones to cover our modesty.

Everyone walked away at the end of it with huge smiles on their faces."

The ladies' fundraising didn't stop with the calendar – they also organised bingo nights and a 'Boobie Ball' at Prestatyn's Beaches Hotel.

Sadly, Sally has just been told that her cancer has returned, but she knows she will stay positive during her next round of treatment as her breast friends will be there every step of the way.

She says: "Doing the calendar boosted everyone's confidence – and I have every confidence that these wonderful women will be with me as I go through it again."

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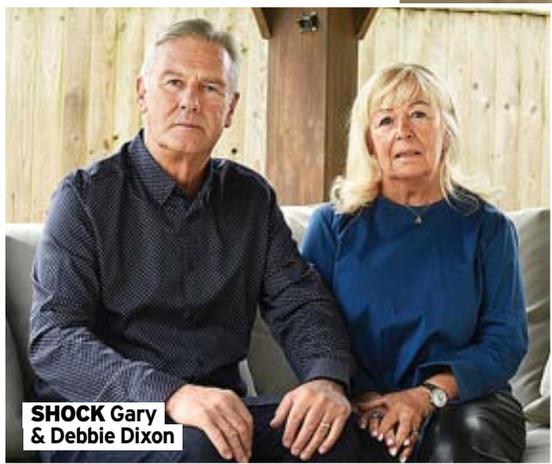
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# GRIEVING MUM'S BID TO SAVE LIVES



**SHOCK** Gary & Debbie Dixon



**GONE TOO SOON** Aaron had an undetected heart defect

Pictures: CHRIS NEIL

## EXCLUSIVE

BY CALLY BROOKS

**A MUM who made it her mission to screen all young people for heart defects after her son's death has been nominated for a Pride of Britain award.**

Debbie Dixon's world was shattered in 2011 when 23-year-old Aaron died suddenly at home.

A coroner later told her that Aaron, a keen footballer and gym-goer, had an undetected genetic heart defect called arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC) that can cause cardiac arrest.

So she went on to launch the Aaron Dixon Memorial Fund in conjunction with the charity Cardiac Risk in the Young to raise money for screening.

In 10 years, Debbie has secured £700,000 – enough to screen more than 8,030 people aged between 18 and 35 for ARVC.

**“I cannot forget Gary's screams the moment he found Aaron in his bedroom”**

Of those, 323 were found to have abnormalities and were referred.

Last year, Debbie, 63, was given a Pride of

Manchester Special Recognition award after reaching the £500,000 milestone – and she is thrilled to now be nominated for a national award.

The mum-of-two, from Manchester, says: “It's amazing. Anyone who knows me knows I don't do this for awards, but it's nice to be recognised.”

The day Aaron died – September 4, 2011 – everything seemed normal.

He had been out the night before with his sister Hollie, now 32, and some pals, and was up in his bedroom while Debbie did some housework.

She says: “I went into his room at around 4.30pm to put some ironing away, we had a chat and I went downstairs to make dinner.”

It was the last time she saw her son alive. When he did not come down for dinner, Debbie sent her husband Gary, 66, upstairs to get him.

Hearing Gary scream, Debbie dashed up to find him doing CPR.

She says: “I cannot forget Gary's screams the moment he found Aaron in his bedroom.”

“I remember running up the stairs and into Aaron's bedroom, grabbing the phone and dialling 999.”

Paramedics arrived, but it was sadly too late. A few months later, a coroner



told Debbie that the undetected condition Aaron had triggers problems with electrical signals in the heart, causing an irregular heartbeat.

Looking back, his mum can recall some warning signs. Aaron blacked out on his first lads' holiday and again in his last year at university.

Doctors diagnosed dehydration and he was put on a drip. “I didn't even think to ask for an ECG or echocar-

diogram,” Debbie says. “But, looking back, that was the first symptom.”

“He also went to the doctors afterwards, saying his heart was racing, but no tests were done.”

The tragedy of losing Aaron has made Debbie determined to improve screening for young people in order to stop other families experiencing the same awful loss.

She says: “It's so important to get

screened. My first screening day was in 2014, so we're set to celebrate our 10-year anniversary this year.

“On October 6, it will be the 100th screening day I've held. I retired early to dedicate my life to this.”

Debbie's family and Aaron's friends have been right behind her every step of the way. She says: “Aaron had a large circle of very close friends who have become like family to us. They

are all instrumental in the fundraising for Aaron's Memorial Fund. They are my link to my precious son.”

Given that ARVC is a genetic heart defect, Debbie and her close family have all been screened.

Thankfully, they were given the all-clear although Hollie will continue to be checked every 18 months.

Now Debbie wants to see mandatory NHS checks for athletes and those competing in sports.

She says: “I want all young people to be screened. But if we can start with athletes and those competing in sports, it could have a knock-on effect.”

“I want to keep Aaron's memory alive and I don't want anyone else to lose a child like we have.”

cally.brooks@reachplc.com



## HOW TO NOMINATE





**RAID** Police arrested four

BY PHIL CARDY

ONE of the largest amphetamine labs ever found in the UK has been raided by police.

Four men, including one aged 77, were arrested and 132lb of drugs were seized following searches at properties in Wigan, Gtr Manchester and Clitheroe, Lancs.

The speed lab in Clitheroe, where chemicals used for making

# COPS BUST SPEED LAB

drugs were found, was dismantled. The 77-year-old was arrested on suspicion of money laundering and allowing premises to be used to produce class B drugs.

Three others, aged 43, 52 and 62, were held on conspiracy to produce

class B drugs and money laundering. The raids were part of Greater Manchester Police's crack down on organised crime.

DI Patrick Wood said: "There is no doubt these drugs would have been sold into communities."

## Mirror GARDEN



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# TRIAL BOOSTS

**LOCHING OUT** Beaver-spotting at Barnluasgan in Argyll



**EXCLUSIVE**  
BY LYDIA VELJANOVSKI

**BEAVERS** back in Britain after more than 400 years are not only surviving, but thriving.

And it is a dam good thing because these industrious rodents help to make the world a better place.

Using their chisel-like teeth, they chew down trees to build lodges for shelters as well as dams.

This helps create wetlands for so many other creatures to set up home and is excellent for biodiversity.

By the 16th century, beavers were hunted to extinction in Britain for their fur. But they were reintroduced in May 2009 and are doing well.

Twelve were shipped over from Norway and, after a six-month quarantine period, they arrived with a splash in three lochs in Knapdale Forest in Argyll.

Since then, they've been as busy as... well, beavers.

## OASIS

Their numbers have now grown to 1,800 and the animals have spread across Scotland.

Stephen Williams, of Argyll Beaver Centre, said: "It was the first reintroduction of beavers, but it was also the first reintroduction of mammals.

"They were released into the wild which is also important."

The £2million Scottish Beaver Trial ran for five years and took place in Knapdale because of its "pristine rainforest environment". And the beavers – which were all named after the Norwegian scientists involved in the trial – seemed to love their rural oasis.

Some are still there, including elderly 19-year-old couple Bjornar and Millie.

Beavers normally live for 10 to 12 years in the wild.

The trial's success has inspired similar projects in some parts of England.

In 2015, the first wild beaver trial took place in Devon, on the River Otter – which is ironic, as otters can kill beavers.

And in 2022, they were officially classed as a native species in England, five years after they were given the same status in Scotland.

They have also been reintroduced in enclosures in areas such as Essex, Derbyshire, Kent, Cornwall and even London, after Mayor Sadiq Khan set some free at a nature reserve in Ealing, West London, in October 2023.

In the past, hats made

**COUNTRY PILE**  
A beaver lodge



**SPLASH DOWN** Beavers enter pond in Scotland

from beavers were hugely sought after. Stephen said: "People like Nelson and Napoleon wore beaver felt hats.

"There were also top hats, bowler hats... there was a long 250 to 300 years worth of industry making beaver felt hats. They were a real status symbol.

"If you had a beaver felt hat, it was like having a Gucci handbag and that, in the end, is why beavers became extinct."

But these hard-working animals were always far more beneficial to human life than they were to the fashion industry.

Stephen says beavers are very good for biodiversity and, potentially, mitigate climate change by helping to manage flooding.

He said: "They are reintroducing beavers in America where they have wildfires because sometimes, having a sort of lush wetland is the only way to stop them.

"The fire then goes around the beaver habitat, rather than through it. They are creating a habitat for lots of different

**EXPERT** Stephen Williams

# ANIMAL POPULATION IN UK

# It's about dam time... beavers are flourishing

## Comeback kids

Beavers are not the only critters making a return. Here are some other animals bouncing back...

### Red kite

This striking bird of prey was nearly persecuted and poisoned to extinction in the UK by the late 19th century. Reintroduction efforts began in the 1980s and the bird is now a common sight across the country. Today there are over 10,000.



### Large blue butterfly

It was extinct in the UK in 1979. But conservationists reintroduced it using populations from Sweden, alongside efforts to restore its specific habitat and food plant requirements. The large blue butterfly is now thriving in several locations.



### Water voles

Once a common sight in British waterways, the water vole suffered a significant decline due to habitat loss and predation by non-native species like American mink. Reintroduction efforts, including habitat restoration and mink control, have been successful in several regions, helping water vole populations rebound.



### Northern pool frog

After disappearing 20 years ago due to wetland destruction, more than 1,000 tadpoles were released at Thompson Common, Norfolk, in 2016. Thanks to restoration of their habitat, England's rarest amphibians are croaking again at the site they were last spotted.



### Golden eagle

The golden eagle was extinct in England and Wales by 1850, surviving only in remote parts of Scotland. Pesticides caused infertility and thinning of their eggshells, meaning numbers dwindled further. But banning this has enabled them to recover in Scotland, although they have not successfully spread across the border yet.



**BUSY BEAVER** By the River Tay in Perthshire

creatures. Lack of biodiversity is one of the great crises in the world." The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, ranked about 190th out of 200 nations for its biodiversity.

However, there have been some reports of beavers causing havoc in Scotland.

Farmers were angered by flood damage to 650ft of road and the Scottish Beaver Trial had to pay out £38,000 as a result.

#### FARMERS

But, as Stephen explains, beavers are farmers too: "Beavers live in lodges made of trees and they build dams so if beavers killed trees, they would be extinct.

"Beavers manage and farm trees. They are essentially rotational farmers."

And now beavers are back, they are paving the way for other struggling animal species to be reintroduced.

Stephen said: "There is a sense of hope you get from the beavers in regards to climate change. You can be optimistic about the future - because if we can introduce beavers, perhaps we can make the world a better place."

lydia.veljanovski@reachplc.com

## Lidl spoof on Wonderwall

LIDL has put up a mock blue plaque after Liam Gallagher said he would play there if his Co-op Live gig didn't happen.

The former Oasis star made the claim when the new venue in Manchester had teething problems, which are now fixed.

The plaque at Newton Heath Lidl says: "Liam Gallagher, legend, almost played here, June 2024."

Liam, whose hits with Oasis include Wonderwall, performs at the Co-op Live tonight and on June 27 and 28.

# WIN £100

## DOUBLE PLAY BINGO

Sun Jun 16 2024  
Game 22 Day 7

89 47 39

Here's an extra chance to win £100 in our great Bingo game. Today it's **DAY 7**, the final day of **GAME 22** 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 People has different numbers for extra chances to win. All 15 numbers on either of your **GAME 22** 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](http://mirror.co.uk/2024bingorules). Full terms as previously published.

## Horse trade in knock-offs

BOGUS goods worth £500,000 were seized at the Appleby Horse Fair.

Sunglasses and perfume, claiming to be brands such as Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Cartier and Dior, were among the items recovered at the event in Cumbria earlier this month.

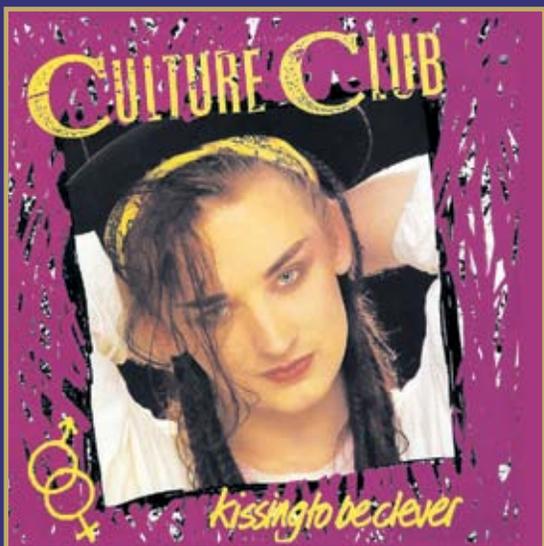
Trading standards' Catherine Hornby warned people against buying and using counterfeit items.

She said: "At best you will waste your money on sub-standard products, at worst you may purchase something that is harmful."

SJM CONCERTS & LIVE NATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH WME PRESENTS

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- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| TUESDAY 03<br>DUBLIN 3 ARENA               | SATURDAY 07<br>NEWCASTLE UTILITA ARENA    | FRIDAY 13<br>GLASGOW OVO HYDRO                      |
| THURSDAY 05<br>LIVERPOOL<br>M&S BANK ARENA | MONDAY 09<br>CARDIFF UTILITA ARENA        | SATURDAY 14<br>BIRMINGHAM<br>RESORTS WORLD<br>ARENA |
| FRIDAY 06<br>LEEDS<br>FIRST DIRECT ARENA   | TUESDAY 10<br>NOTTINGHAM MOTORPOINT ARENA | SUNDAY 15<br>LONDON THE O2                          |
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| Thu 05 Leeds O2 Academy        | Fri 13 London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire                     |
| Fri 06 Manchester Albert Hall  | Extra Date Added<br>Sat 14 London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire |
| Sun 08 Liverpool Olympia       | Sun 15 Bristol Beacon                                       |
| Mon 09 Wolverhampton The Halls | Tue 17 Eastbourne Winter Gardens                            |
| Tue 10 Nottingham Rock City    | Wed 18 Sheffield Octagon                                    |
| Wed 11 Margate Dreamland       | Thu 19 Newcastle O2 City Hall                               |
|                                | Sat 21 Glasgow Ovo Hydro                                    |

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SUNDAY 23 JUNE  
**BRISTOL  
 ASHTON GATE  
 STADIUM**

\* SUNDAY 30 JUNE \*  
 AMERICAN EXPRESS  
 PRESENTS  
**BST  
 HYDE PARK  
 LONDON**

\* TUESDAY 02 JULY \*  
**GLASGOW  
 OVO HYDRO**

THURSDAY 04 JULY  
**THE BRITISH  
 F1 GRAND PRIX  
 SILVERSTONE**

\* SATURDAY 06 JULY \*  
**DUBLIN  
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**BONNIE TYLER**

Thursday 25 July 2024  
 LONDON INDIGO AT THE O2

# time to shine



Live  
your  
best  
life



## Budget Barcelona

explore

See pages 52&53



Key cut-off times  
for quality sleep

See pages 44&45



live well



unwind

All the latest  
movie, music and  
theatre reviews

See page 43

Summer of love for  
our mighty foxglove



dig in

See pages 58&59

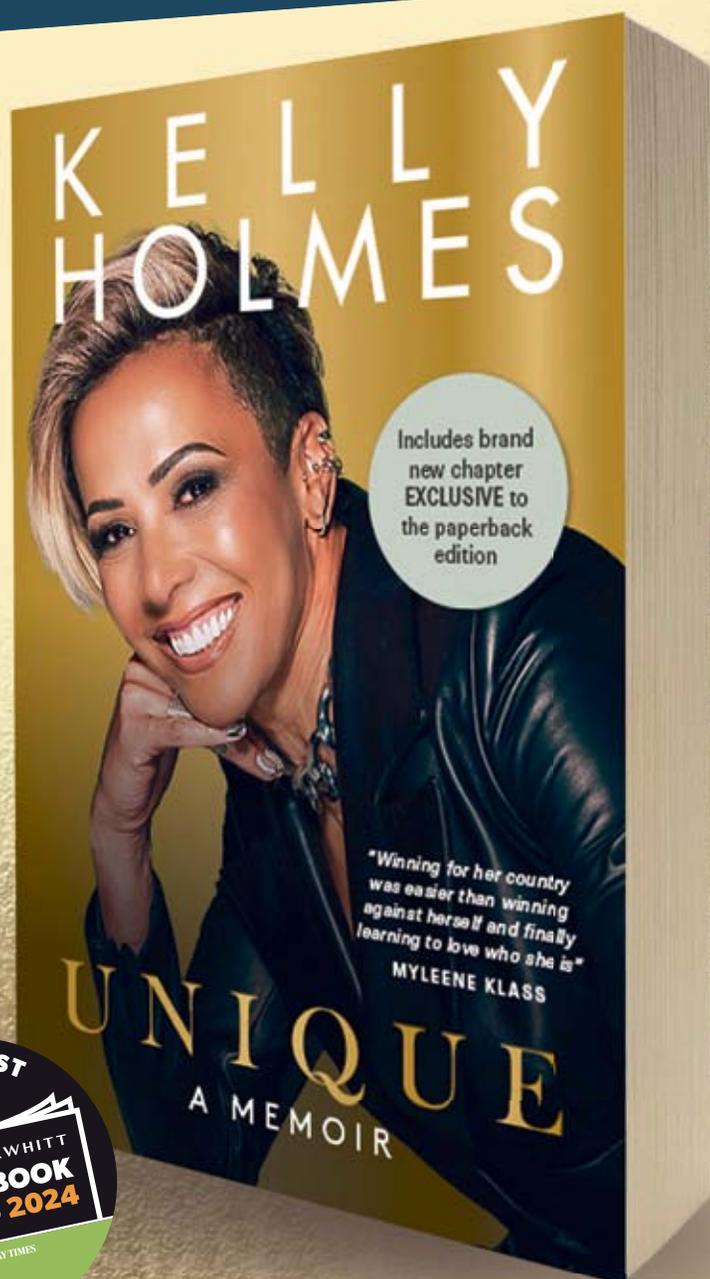
talk money



Playing it safe  
with long-term  
investments

See page 57

# UNIQUE KELLY HOLMES



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

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## MUSIC

with JAMES CABOOTER

### BRU-C Family Only ★★★★★

After a flurry of early releases, drum & bass's finest rapper has been plotting something special since No Excuses went stellar. It's not the only thoughtful highlight here. Epic in scope, Bru-C hits the clubs, just as adept at making brooding, insightful commentary like Rise Up. Fellow scenester Wilkinson's church-like collab Paradise tops off fun for all the family.



### LUKE COMBS

**Fathers & Sons**

★★★★

The purest of the new country stars doesn't need any pop or hip-hop crossovers to cement his rise. Recorded live, the intricate playing and Luke's emotionally open vocals overcome the odd treacly lyric about fatherhood. Plant A Seed and Front Door Famous see Luke now sound like a wise old country great.



### JOHN GRANT

**The Art Of The Lie**

★★★★★

Keeping his audience on its toes, Grant effortlessly morphs from earnestness balladeer to synth pop overlord. This one features his most heartbreaking song yet in Father. Next, he's offering explicit squelchy funk and electronica. It's all done with humour and hooks, meaning John's intense tunes are approachable rather than oddball.



### SEA GIRLS

**Midnight Butterflies**

★★★★

Yes it's album three but Sea Girls deliver the kind of melodic urgency normally reserved for shiny happy debuts here. The title track sounds like peak anthemic Coldplay if they were fronted by John Power, but then they switch to moody atmospherics for Horror Movies. Joyous and definitely ones to catch at a festival this summer.

## STAGE

with STEFAN KYRIAZIS

### ASHTON CELEBRATED

★★★★★ Royal Opera House to June 22, [roh.org.uk](http://roh.org.uk)

This Royal Ballet triple-bill tribute to choreographer Frederick Ashton showcases his trademark flair for fiendishly difficult footwork that delights.

Les Rendezvous from 1933, with elegant new designs by Jasper Conran, is a frothy froufrou of friends merrily mingling in a park. The company was on fabulous form, whirling past in an endless delight of flashing feet.

Rhapsody from 1980, set to Rachmaninoff, was choreographed for Mikhail Baryshnikov and requires showstopping virtuosity from everyone. Solidly danced, it never took flight.

The centrepiece, though, is Ashton's 1964 adaptation of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Trimming Shakespeare down to warring fairies Titania and Oberon (Francesca Hayward and Marcelino Sambe), their court and the humans lost in the woods, it is a storytelling feast. A special note goes to scene-stealing teenager Caspar Lench as a spectacularly springy Puck, and Joshua Junker who magnificently handled both Bottom's huge donkey's head and a rare male role en pointe.

Flawlessly danced and funny, The Dream is exactly that.

### SWAN LAKE IN THE ROUND

★★★★★ Royal Albert Hall to June 23 [ballet.org.uk](http://ballet.org.uk)

Sixty swans flutter en pointe, feet drumming the floor through clouds of

### FLAWLESS Dancers thrill in triple bill



dry ice as Tchaikovsky's heavenly score soars through the Royal Albert Hall.

Staged in the round, Derek Deane's inspired English National Ballet adaptation reconfigures the classic choreography to radiate out from the centre, bulks up the cast (who impress throughout) and creates dazzlingly drilled, massed formations in every direction. You're also thrillingly close in the stalls, able to see the beauty, power and control in every carved calf and extended arm. It's wonderful.

The classic story of lovelorn Prince Siegfried (Gareth Haw) falling for swan queen Odette but deceived by her evil doppelganger Odille (both Sangeun Lee) is nearly swamped by the crowd-pleasing spectacle.

But Act III's black swan shenanigans and climactic pas de deux dazzle, before the showdown with sorcerer Rothbart delivers drama, tender intimate moments and a truly thunderous finale that left my heart pounding and spirits soaring.



### SPECTACLE Gareth Haw & Sangeun Lee

# SUNDAY PUZZLES



**£500**  
to be won!

Feet up... cup of tea... brain in gear

## Quizword & Crossword

Two sets of clues, two different answers - all on the same grid. Choose one or the other.

### Quizword

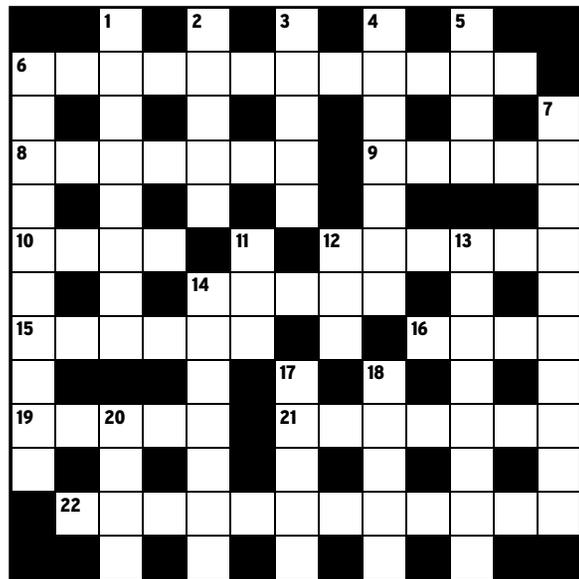
#### ACROSS

- 6 UK 1985 No 1 album by The Smiths (4,2,6)
- 8 Onesmus -, 2003 Dublin Marathon men's race winner (7)
- 9 Hermann -, author of novels The Glass Bead Game and Knulp (5)
- 10 Light-coloured dry sherry (4)
- 12 Book of the Old Testament preceded by the Book of Joshua (6)
- 14 Anna -, actress who starred as Shelley Darlington in 2008 romcom The House Bunny (5)
- 15 Etienne Maurice -, prime minister of France in 1834 who died in 1852 (6)
- 16 The -, one of three ships commanded by Christopher Columbus in 1492 (4)
- 19 Hale -, 1990 US Open golf championship winner (5)
- 21 US R&B singer whose 2000s hits include Foolish and Only U (7)
- 22 Author of novels The Stopped Heart and Laura Blundy (5,7)

#### DOWN

- 1 William -, winner of the 1949 Nobel Prize in Literature (8)
- 2 Renzo -, Italian architect; designer of The Shard, London (5)

- 3 Ancient nation of the Old Testament whose chief city was Rabbah (5)
- 4 Poet in Greek mythology who married Eurydice (7)
- 5 Oscar-winning 1981 biopic starring, directed and co-written by Warren Beatty (4)
- 6 Best Director Oscar nominee for Leaving Las Vegas (4,6)
- 7 Jane Austen novel published posthumously in 1817 whose protagonist is Anne Elliot (10)
- 11 Seventh son of Jacob in the Old Testament (3)
- 12 Dance in 6/8 or 12/8 time that often formed the last movement of an 18th-century suite (3)
- 13 Alec -, Best Actor in a Leading Role Oscar winner for The Bridge on the River Kwai (8)
- 14 1988 film thriller starring Harrison Ford and Betty Buckley (7)
- 17 Port in SW Sweden on the Sound opposite Copenhagen (5)
- 18 2001 animated film starring the voice talent of Mike Myers and Eddie Murphy (5)
- 20 Herman -, author of 1971 novel The Winds of War (4)



### Crossword

#### ACROSS

- 6 Planned in advance (12)
- 8 Spite (7)
- 9 At no time (5)
- 10 Served very cold (4)
- 12 Explode (3,3)
- 14 Cringe in fear (5)
- 15 Remove cargo from (6)
- 16 Mix with a spoon (4)
- 19 Examination of accounts (5)
- 21 Whaler's spear (7)
- 22 Beyond what is expected (4,3,5)

#### DOWN

- 1 Have good intentions (4,4)
- 2 Warehouse (5)
- 3 Person's private book (5)
- 4 Artist (7)
- 5 Diesel oil (4)
- 6 Specific (10)
- 7 Greater liking for one thing over others (10)
- 11 Stick, shaft (3)
- 12 Stitch (3)
- 13 Conforming to established views (8)
- 14 Take prisoner (7)
- 17 Emit light (5)
- 18 Wide (5)
- 20 Plunge into water (4)

Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

## Two-speed coffeebreak

Two sets of clues - but the answers are the same.

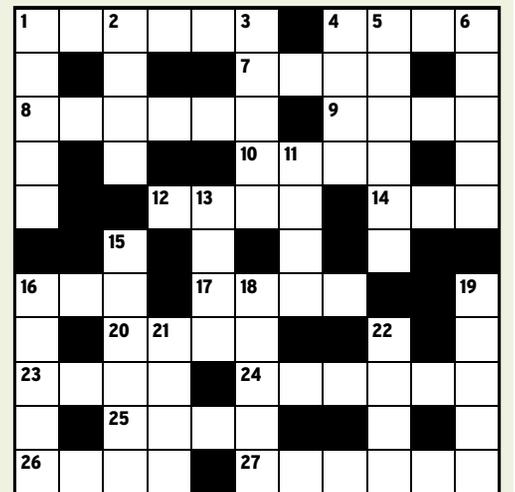
### Cryptic clues

#### ACROSS

- 1 Compassion to get small suit (6)
- 4 Chap gets record assistance (4)
- 7 A victory on river (4)
- 8 Warning the rat off (6)
- 9 The French find Virginia hot stuff (4)
- 10 Time to order something (4)
- 12 Wonderful penalty (4)
- 14 Devour in one attempt (3)
- 16 Hippies' food (3)
- 17 Mile away from fruit (4)
- 20 Regarded as part of play, say (4)
- 23 Lisa managed to travel by sea (4)
- 24 Darren sent off on mission (6)
- 25 Attorney finds politician wet (4)
- 26 Honest old writer (4)
- 27 Listen out for decoration (6)

#### DOWN

- 1 Stolen the Spanish accommodation (5)
- 2 Race round some land (4)
- 3 Unfortunate stain on cloth (5)
- 4 Opening sounds complete (4)
- 5 Fish has turned man - that's hard (6)
- 6 Growth at factory (5)
- 11 Some time in Outer Mongolia (4)
- 13 Lied about being lazy (4)
- 15 Unusual desire to live (6)
- 16 Stop cooking with European sauce (5)
- 18 Unskilled in pet management (5)
- 19 Perfect sitter (5)
- 21 Melanie has style (4)
- 22 Great deal of service (4)



### Quick clues

#### ACROSS

- 1 Card suit (6)
- 4 Aid (4)
- 7 English river (4)
- 8 Menace (6)
- 9 Molten rock (4)
- 10 News piece (4)
- 12 Sunny (4)
- 14 Consume (3)
- 16 Pastry item (3)
- 17 Linden tree (4)
- 20 Spotted (4)
- 23 Go by boat (4)
- 24 Chore (6)
- 25 Moist (4)
- 26 Unwrap (4)
- 27 Christmas 'rope' (6)

#### DOWN

- 1 Boarding house (5)
- 2 Unit of land (4)
- 3 Material (5)
- 4 Gap (4)
- 5 Tooth covering (6)
- 6 Organism (5)
- 11 Expression (4)
- 13 Without any occupation (4)
- 15 Dwell (6)
- 16 Pasta coating (5)
- 18 Useless (5)
- 19 Catwalk star (5)
- 21 Dash (4)
- 22 Large amount (4)

Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

**CHECK THE SOLUTIONS NOW!**

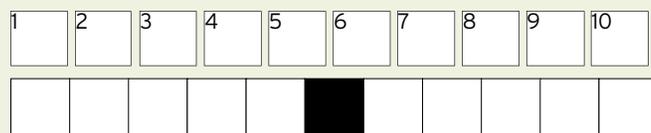
TWO-SPEED COFFEEBREAK 0903 655 6060 (80p/min)

**CHECK THE SOLUTIONS NOW!** Call 0903 659 6060 (80p/min) to hear FULL SOLUTIONS to CROSSWORD and QUIZWORD, and to hear 5 EXTRA CLUES for CROSSWORD and QUIZWORD too! Or text CROSSCLUE or QUIZCLUE to 61011 (£1/text) for 5 clues.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:** Calls cost 80p/min plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1 + 1 standard network rate message. SP Mi Telecom Ltd. Helpdesk 0330 880 6060. Min age 18+. All lines close midnight tonight except where stated. Std Mirror Rules apply, see www.mirror.co.uk/rules.

## The name game

Hidden in the grid is the name of a fashion designer. Answer the questions, then rearrange the letters corresponding to your answers to fill in the name.



Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

**BOX1:** In what century did the Opium Wars take place?

- 17th century (C)
- 18th century (P)
- 19th century (D)

**BOX2:** What was the title of James Blunt's debut album, from 2004?

- All the Lost Souls (L)
- Back to Bedlam (K)
- Some Kind of Trouble (Y)

**BOX3:** Who played the title character in the 1990s TV sitcom Kiss Me Kate?

- Tessa Peake-Jones (Y)
- Lynda Bellingham (Z)
- Caroline Quentin (A)

**BOX4:** If a pizza is calzone, how is it served?

- Deep fried (T)
- Covered with anchovies (U)
- Folded over and stuffed (N)

**BOX5:** Moonrakers is the colloquial name for people from which county?

- Wiltshire (O)
- Essex (R)
- Herefordshire (Z)

**BOX6:** What colour is the natural pigment carmine, also called cochineal?

- Blue (O)
- Red (N)
- Yellow (T)

**BOX7:** Eric Cartman and Stan Marsh are characters from which animated TV series?

- American Dad! (P)
- The Simpsons (U)
- South Park (A)

**BOX8:** Which chemical element has the symbol Pb?

- Potassium (A)
- Sodium (O)
- Lead (N)

**BOX9:** Which actor links the films The Devil's Advocate and The Merchant of Venice?

- Keanu Reeves (L)
- Al Pacino (A)
- Jeremy Irons (Q)



**BOX10:** Lucy Liu (pictured) played crime boss O-Ren Ishii in which Quentin Tarantino film?

- Jackie Brown (S)
- Kill Bill: Volume 1 (R)
- Pulp Fiction (X)

## 30-sec brain teaser

Boost your brain power with our 30-second test. Start with the number on the left and follow the instructions. Beginners should aim to complete the puzzle in 30 seconds. Intermediates should finish their own puzzle and the Beginner's Challenge. Genius players have 30 seconds to complete their own plus the Intermediate. Good luck! Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

<b>BEGINNER</b>	24	3/4 of this	+17	÷5	+5	×6	-26	50% of this	+59	ANSWER
<b>INTERMEDIATE</b>	152	75% of this	-83	Reverse the digits	×11	+153	7/8 of this	+65	2/9 of this	ANSWER
<b>ADVANCED</b>	624	-156	7/12 of this	+142	Increase by 40%	+35	8/11 of this	-87	Take the square root	ANSWER

## Mirrorgram

Solve our ten-letter anagram below



Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

**If you like these...**

...You'll love our jam-packed puzzle pullout every weekday in the Daily Mirror



Su-doku corner

**EASY SU-DOKU**

	6	4				1	7	
8			1	4				3
1		7		8		9		2
	4		2		1		9	
		9			8			
	3		8		6		1	
9		3		6		5		1
5			3		8			9
	2	6				3	8	

The rules for Su-doku couldn't be easier. All you have to do is fill the empty squares so that each row, column and 3x3 block contains all the numbers 1 to 9.

**SU-DOKU TOUGHIE**

7	4	3		9				6
1								
	8		3		2			
9			2					8
		1		6		5		
				8				4
			9		1		4	
								1
1			5		7	3	6	

The rules for Su-doku are easy, but this one's a toughie! Each number from 1 to 9 must appear only once in each horizontal and vertical line, and only once in each 3x3 grid.

**KILLER SU-DOKU**

12			20	7	14	9	9	17	
	4							14	
16			12	8		22		12	
	16			5					
		5	15		24		14		
13								10	
17				8		14		20	
11	12	10	12	20					
									3

Killer Su-doku is based on the traditional grid and every column, every row and every 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 to 9. But the dotted squares must be filled with numbers that add up to that in the left corner.

Solutions for all su-dokus in next week's Sunday Mirror

**FUTOSHIKI**

				<	
∨					3
			1		
					∧
				>	

Insert the numbers one to five in each row and each column, making sure that no number is repeated. The only symbols to guide you are the "greater than" (>) and "less than" (<) signs.

**£500 Star search**

For your chance to win £500 fill in the crossword and the shaded squares will spell out the name of a celebrity – this is your prize answer. Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

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	27
28						29

- ACROSS**
- 8 Wolfhard, Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire actor born in 2002 (4)
  - 9 Draws near to (10)
  - 10 Rufus \_\_, played Prince Andrew in the 2024 film Scoop (6)
  - 11 Wide-brimmed Mexican hat (8)
  - 12 Consequently (4)
  - 13 Intertwine, informally (5-5)
  - 17 Michael \_\_, former England and Liverpool striker (4)
  - 18 Flexible and supple (5)
  - 19 Hard agate (4)
  - 20 Chilly supermarket aisle (6,4)
  - 22 Cut or carve on a surface (4)
  - 23 2024 UK No 1 single by Sabrina Carpenter (8)
  - 27 The \_\_ Cometh, 1946 play by Eugene O'Neill later adapted into a 1973 film starring Lee Marvin (6)
  - 28 City in Ohio, US (10)
  - 29 Row or level (4)
- DOWN**
- 1 Dwight D \_\_, US president nicknamed 'Ike' (10)
  - 2 Wes \_\_, director of films Fantastic Mr Fox and Asteroid City (8)
  - 3 Kyle \_\_, actor whose TV credits include Twin Peaks and Fallout (10)
  - 4 Artistic composition (4)
  - 5 Deep sound (4)
  - 6 One who earns points in a team sport (6)
  - 7 Legal inheritor (4)
  - 14 Beginning (5)
  - 15 Driving regulation (5,5)
  - 16 The Empire State Building, eg (10)
  - 19 Simple egg dish (8)
  - 21 Swiss city (6)
  - 24 Mix with a spoon (4)
  - 25 2016 animated children's film featuring Matthew McConaughey and Reese Witherspoon (4)
  - 26 \_\_ Sharif, Lawrence of Arabia and Doctor Zhivago actor (4)

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**Word Ladder**

	HAUL	
Public room		
Lofty		
Story		
Pacified		
Scholarly book		
	TOTE	

Using the clues provided, fill in each step of the ladder with a new word, changing one letter at a time. Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

**Brickwork**

1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

Enter the solutions to the clues in their numbered layers of the wall. Each word must be an anagram of its neighbours, plus or minus one letter.

- 1 Zero
- 2 African river
- 3 Padded
- 4 Connected
- 5 Compare
- 6 Enjoy
- 7 Fib

Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

LAST SUNDAY'S SOLUTIONS

- QUIZWORD**
- ACROSS:** 6 Shall We Dance, 8 Larceny, 9 Diana, 10 Edam, 12 Biloxi, 14 Duran, 15 Prison, 16 Graf, 19 Galle, 21 Sarkozy, 22 Little Caesar.
- DOWN:** 1 Capriati, 2 Blues, 3 Pepys, 4 Baldwin, 5 UCLA, 6 Silver Pigs, 7 Radio Flyer, 11 Run, 12 Bax, 13 Our House, 14 Doherty, 17 Asher, 18 Break, 20 Loit.
- CROSSWORD**
- ACROSS:** 6 Holidaymaker, 8 Lanolin, 9 Ditto, 10 Clap, 12 Burlap, 14 Go for, 15 Prefer, 16 Roll, 19 Eerie, 21 Avocado, 22 All and sundry.
- DOWN:** 1 Elongate, 2 Addle, 3 Hyena, 4 Candour, 5 Best, 6 Helicopter, 7 Compulsory, 11 Tor, 12 Bog, 13 Leotards, 14 General, 17 Lands, 18 Locum, 20 Rule.

- SPEEDBREAKER**
- 1=H, 2=M, 3=Q, 4=E, 5=R, 6=O, 7=A, 8=G, 9=J, 10=I, 11=F, 12=V, 13=D, 14=L, 15=S, 16=P, 17=C, 18=K, 19=Z, 20=B, 21=U, 22=W, 23=Y, 24=X, 25=N, 26=T.

- JUST A BIT OF FUN**
- 2 To throw sticks

- NAME GAME**
- TAMBOURINE**
- 1A, 2E, 3I, 4N, 5M, 6R, 7O, 8T, 9B, 10U.

- TWO-SPEED COFFEEBREAK**
- ACROSS:** 1 Branch, 4 Spar, 7 Oval, 8 Crater, 9 Gait, 10 Soon, 12 Weed, 14 Err, 16 Gin, 17 Rose, 20 Tint, 23 Emir, 24 Tenure, 25 Rope, 26 Then, 27 Recent.
- DOWN:** 1 Bacon, 2 Away, 3 Horse, 4 Sago, 5 Planet, 6 Rotor, 11 Odds, 13 Earn, 15 Entire, 16 Great, 18 Otter, 19 Cheat, 21 Iron, 22 Sure.

- 30-SEC BRAIN TEASER**
- Beginner 13;  
Intermediate 179;  
Advanced 266.

**MIRRORGRAM**

FALLACIOUS

**ARROW WORD**

	B	F	E		V	G	
S	H	O	A	L	D	R	E
A	L	B	A	N	I	A	N
S	W	E	A	T	F	I	V
A	R	T	B	I	D	S	T
I	O	T	A	C	E	A	S
I	O	B	S	E	R	V	A
L	D	I	A	L		A	W
E	O	R	N	A	M	E	N
O	W	N	D	Y	E	D	U
H	A	L	O	L	I	S	B
S	A	T	A	N	T	E	E
M	E	G	E	R	S	E	L
	U	R	I	K	D	E	S
	R	D	A		T	H	E
	D	I	S	C	O	S	T
S	O	L	D	I	E	R	S
N	E	E	D	L	E	P	A
V	E	S	S	E	L	J	A

**EASY SU-DOKU**

8	7	4	3	2	5	1	6	9
9	2	1	6	7	4	5	3	8
5	6	3	9	1	8	4	7	2
2	9	7	8	5	6	3	1	4
3	4	6	2	9	1	7	8	5
1	5	8	7	4	3	9	2	6
4	8	9	1	3	2	6	5	7
7	1	2	5	6	9	8	4	3
6	3	5	4	8	7	2	9	1

**SU-DOKU TOUGHIE**

6	7	3	1	8	2	9	5	4
2	1	5	3	4	9	7	8	6
8	9	4	7	6	5	1	3	2
3	4	8	5	2	1	6	7	9
1	6	2	9	7	8	3	4	5
7	5	9	4	3	6	8	2	1
9	8	6	2	5	3	4	1	7
5	3	7	6	1	4	2	9	8
4	2	1	8	9	7	5	6	3

**KILLER SU-DOKU**

5	7	6	9	4	3	2	8	1
8	2	3	5	6	1	7	4	9
4	9	1	8	7	2	5	3	6
9	6	7	2	1	8	4	5	3
3	5	4	6	9	7	1	2	8
2	1	8	4	3	5	6	9	7
7	8	2	3	5	6	9	1	4
1	3	9	7	2	4	8	6	5
6	4	5	1	8	9	3	7	2

**FUTOSHIKI**

2	<	3	1	5	4
5	>	2	3	4	1
3	<	4	2	1	5
4	1	5	2	<	3
1	5	4	>	3	>

**WORD LADDER**

Flag, Flat, Feat, Felt, Pelt, Pele, Pole.

**BRICKWORK**

Sea, Base, Beads, Bashed, Shade, Head, Had.

**£500 STAR SEARCH**

- ACROSS:** 6 Denmark, 7 Nadir, 9 Evan, 10 El Salvador, 11 Undersea, 13 Scouts, 15 Esme, 17 Nutty, 18 Dirk, 19 Fasten, 20 Channing, 23 Breastbone, 26 Lars, 27 Wrote, 28 Holy See.
- DOWN:** 1 In any event, 2 Bagels, 3 Skis, 4 Anglesey, 5 Idea, 6 Devon, 8 Rooster, 12 Antic, 14 Old English, 16 Sparrow, 17 Nineteen, 21 Age-old, 22 Norse, 24 Atop, 25 Oche.

**HIDDEN STAR:** Dolly Parton

# ANDY CAPP



# RUSSELL GRANT



**Aries** March 21-April 20

Don't be surprised if you find yourself taking on a leading role in community affairs. Neighbourhood issues will be a microcosm of a far bigger problem. Although some decisions made and actions taken will make a temporary difference, better solutions need to be found.

For more call **0905 789 4171** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21

You should deal with health problems as and when they arise. Don't tell yourself other things are more important because they aren't. Health is the top priority. If you don't feel up to doing some jobs, ask someone else to lend you a helping hand or better still, to do them for you.

For more call **0905 789 4172** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21

Someone who owes you money will yet again come up with an excuse as to why they cannot pay you back. You won't be in such a hurry to help them out next time they ask. Letters and files go missing. You need to check wording as there's some muddle about what actually has been said.

For more call **0905 789 4173** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23

Because you're in desperate need of some peace and quiet you will avoid or withdraw from any crowded and noisy situations. You might believe in the message a demonstration is sending out but you will prefer not to get involved. Leave it to others to take action.

For more call **0905 789 4174** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Leo** July 24 - August 23

You won't need to be asked twice about what you are hoping to do. Such things as romance, entertainment, creativity and spending time with friends will spring to mind. All the pleasures of recreation will help your troubles melt away and the stresses of work and family life disappear.

For more call **0905 789 4175** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Virgo** Aug 24 - Sept 23

If you are in charge of a group project, keep an eye on everything that is going on. If anything goes wrong, you will be the one who gets the blame. Check that everyone you are responsible for knows what they are doing and what is being expected from them.

For more call **0905 789 4176** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Libra** Sept 24-Oct 23

A friend or workmate is quick to remind you of all the favours they have recently done for you. You know instinctively what's coming next. They are about to ask you to do something for them. If you aren't keen on the request, don't feel obliged to agree to it.

For more call **0905 789 4177** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Scorpio** Oct 24 - Nov 22

You're wondering about a relationship or some circumstances that seem slightly mysterious. Unless you voice those questions in your mind, you will never know the answers or find out where you actually stand. Open discussions. You need to discover the truth.

For more call **0905 789 4178** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Sagittarius** Nov 23 - Dec 21

Be gentle with someone who wants more than just a friendship from you. They crave romance while you just see them as a friend. You don't want this relationship to end abruptly but you can't whip up an ardour and passion you don't really feel. Let them down kindly.

For more call **0905 789 4179** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Capricorn** Dec 22 - Jan 20

Even though you are working on or trying something you have had no experience in before, there is no reason why you shouldn't succeed. Believe in yourself. Recently you have been putting yourself out to help a friend who is now acting as if they don't want to know.

For more call **0905 789 4180** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Aquarius** Jan 21 - Feb 19

A family financial matter should be settled swiftly if you keep a cool head. A partner or close friend will frustrate you when they can only seem to see the world from their own perspective and will fail to admit that there are other ways of looking at things.

For more call **0905 789 4181** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Pisces** Feb 20 - Mar 20

A loved one has something important to say. They aren't certain about how to broach the subject and it will take time for them to get to the point. Once you hear what they are thinking, you will be grateful about their sensitivity towards your own and other people's feelings.

For more call **0905 789 4182** (80p/min + network access charge)

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# time to UNWIND

STAR RATINGS

- ★★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★★ Good
- ★★★ Worth a look
- ★★ Poor ★ Don't bother



FILMS

**MISSION**  
Cage,  
Martell and  
Jenkins  
star

**SASQUATCH SUNSET**

Cert 15 ★★★  
In cinemas now

Sir David Attenborough has been the soothing voice of the natural history world for decades. The veteran broadcaster has witnessed many extraordinary sights on land, in the sea and the air but it's unlikely he will have ever seen a tribe of bigfoots urinating, lactating and defecating with wild delirium to mark their territory.

Bodily fluids overflow in filmmaking brothers David and Nathan Zellner's hypnotic hike through the mist-cloaked forests of North America in the company of a ragtag tribe of human-like creatures.

Over the course of four seasons, lovingly captured by cinematographer Mike Gioulakis as if this were a documentary, a mated couple (Jesse Eisenberg, Riley Keough), an elder male (Nathan Zellner) and an energetic youngster (Christophe Zajac-Denek) contend with a predatory mountain lion, poisonous mushrooms and the ferocity of the elements.

In amusing vignettes, one bigfoot gets high by sniffing the fur of a skunk while another creates an imaginary friend from his balled-up fist. Gentle laughs are frequently undercut by stunned silence. Death comes quickly and matter of factly.

Exemplary full-body foam latex suits fashioned by creature and prosthetics designer Steve Newburn allow the cast to vanish beneath pungent pelts matted with every conceivable excretion. Answering the call of the wild is clearly exceedingly messy.



**WILD**  
Following  
bigfoot  
tribe

**ARCADIAN**

Cert 15 ★★★  
In cinemas now

Conceived by screenwriter Michael Nilon during the pandemic, Arcadian is a post-apocalyptic survival thriller that imagines a deadly virus knocking humans off their pedestals, eventually giving birth to gnarled, nocturnal beasts that hunt our ravaged species under a cloak of darkness.

Director Benjamin Brewer's picture unfolds through the eyes of a stricken, close-knit family rallying together against the otherworldly predators from a fortified farmhouse stronghold.

The claustrophobic set-up is eerily reminiscent of the 2017 psychological horror It Comes At Night starring Joel

Egerton, and the climactic scenes in A Quiet Place. However, Brewer stages his slick set pieces with the volume up and suspense dialled down.

Creature design is original, melding cartoonish and grotesque elements with staccato bursts of sound created when the beasts rapidly clack their jaws before they coalesce into a giant wheel and roll en masse after fugitive prey.

A creepy centrepiece involving one digitally rendered interloper relies too heavily on crazy good fortune to withstand scrutiny of logic and plausibility.

Nicolas Cage's performances are usually the craziest element on screen but in Arcadian, the Oscar-winner is surprisingly

**The Oscar winner is understated as a father sacrificing everything**

understated and effective as a father willing to sacrifice everything to protect his offspring.

He allows young co-stars Jaeden Martell and Maxwell Jenkins to shine although the script lumbers them with occasionally clunky dialogue.

Filmed on location in Ireland, Arcadian doesn't reveal the creatures in full until we're well into the opening hour. From that point, Brewer escalates the bloodshed, shooting predominantly on twitchy, handheld cameras to stay close to the characters.

Unfortunately, that stylistic choice reduces some fight sequences to an unintelligible blur. The aching inevitability of a final stand diminishes any deliberate plucking of heartstrings to a tickle.

**ULTRAMAN: RISING**

Cert PG ★★★  
On Netflix now

Writer-director Shannon Tindle's high-octane computer-animated adventure adds a lustrous sheen to the superpowered Japanese character dating back to the mid-1960s. Los Angeles Dodgers baseball star Ken Sato (voiced by Christopher Sean) flies home to Japan to join the ranks of the Yomiuri Giants under hard-nosed coach Shimura (Artt Butler).

Secretly, the prodigal son has begrudgingly returned to Tokyo to take up the mantle as superhero Ultraman from his injured father (Gedde Watanabe).

During a fight between Gigantron and the Kaiju Defence Force led by scheming Dr Onda

(Keone Young), Ultraman inherits Gigantron's newly hatched baby kaiju and embraces surrogate parenthood with fervour.

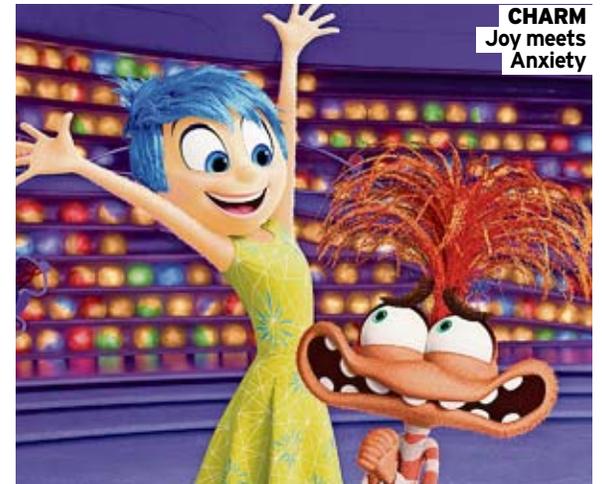
Writer and director Tindle and co-writer Marc Haimes - who previously worked together on the Oscar nominated stop motion fantasy Kubo And The Two Strings - evoke the wondrous film version of The Iron Giant with striking imagery of a giant robot protector towering over a wide-eyed child.

The Incredibles is another reference point with comical intergenerational angst punctuated by thunderous action-oriented set pieces.

Stylised visuals are crisply rendered and a tragedy laden storyline isn't overstuffed, setting up, somewhat predictably, a teaser in the end credits for a sequel.



**CHILD'S PLAY**  
Ultraman inherits a little monster



**CHARM**  
Joy meets Anxiety

**INSIDE OUT 2**

Cert U ★★★★★  
In cinemas now

Riley, the protagonist in Pixar's 2015 film Inside Out, returns for its sequel as a 13 year old on the brink of puberty, and we watch as her existing Emotions - Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear and Disgust - get usurped by four new, more complex feelings that wreak havoc on Headquarters.

Anxiety, played by Stranger Things' Maya Hawke, is joined by Envy, played by The Bear's Ayo Edebiri; Embarrassment, played by Black Bird's Paul Walter Hauser; and Ennui (Blue Is The Warmest Colour star Adele Exarchopoulos). Together they banish Riley's childhood Emotions and take control.

Young fans of Inside Out, now almost a decade older, will be similarly dealing with the complicated emotions that teenagehood brings, and this is a brilliant way to continue the story.

The inclusion of new emotions makes things more nuanced without sacrificing charm, and never pokes fun at Riley and her teenage confusion. Instead, it's a respectful and relatable exploration of puberty's psychological impact with some cracking jokes to boot, complete with the adventurous scale of animation that makes Pixar so beloved.

The entire film drips with charisma, immediately hooking you into its premise and keeping your attention with its glorious colours and charming characters.

# LIVE FOR TODAY

Running with terminal cancer  
By Kevin Webber

**NEW MEMORIES**  
Great time with my family at baseball match in London



## Check risk today - for your family's sake

This weekend and last I had the chance to spend more time than usual with my three children. As it's Father's Day I've also been reflecting on how much I have managed to do and see with my children since my advanced prostate cancer diagnosis over nine years ago - the doctor's expectations then were more like three years.

The outlook was bleak - I never thought I'd be here to see my children finish school, get jobs and become the fantastic young adults they are.

Just this last week we managed to belly laugh in The Comedy Store, watch baseball The London Stadium after having a go at batting in a cage, and play darts at Flight Club - new memories made and great times had. All the fun and experiences I've had with my family makes me forget the worry when I was being diagnosed.

I remember having various tests, scans and biopsies but perhaps the most off-putting was what I refer to as "the doctor's special handshake" or finger up the botty, as part of the initial diagnosis. Fortunately today there is a risk checker at

prostatecanceruk.org/risk-checker to help you identify if you should have a test. And because it's anonymous it can be done on behalf of a loved one. Should you be in the higher risk bracket, the good news is things have moved on since I was diagnosed and you no longer need the "special handshake", a major reason why men won't go to the GP when they may be at risk.

Nowadays, it's just a blood test that will either put your mind at rest or, less likely, be the start of a journey but one that has better outcomes the earlier you begin it. So as Men's Health Week comes to a close on Father's Day, why not do the online risk checker to do your bit to help yourself be here for years to come. For you, your kids and anyone else who cares about you. I think men and their families are worth it, don't you?

Until next week Kev

“  
Nine years ago I didn't think I'd be here to see my children finish school

justgiving.com/fundraising/kevin-webber9

# time to

Watching TV, drinking coffee, doomscrolling on our phones and even sipping water can all have a negative effect on our sleep. Here the experts tell us what time we need to stop each habit in order to achieve the best quality kip.

## Drinking water

**Cut off o'clock: One to two hours before bed**

Staying hydrated is essential but according to the experts it's a good idea to drink most of your fluids early in the day as too much water before bedtime can cause nocturia, the need to urinate at night. One study showed that 76% of women and 69% of men in the UK, US and Sweden have nocturia episodes that wake them up at night.

"Aim to stop drinking fluids one to two hours before bedtime," advises Dr Hana Patel (time4sleep.co.uk). "However, if you find yourself waking up in the night due to thirst or dehydration, a small sip of water will help."

## Using our phones

**Cut off o'clock: One hour before bed**

Surprisingly, one recent study, published in Sleep Medicine Reviews, shows that being on your phone at bedtime isn't quite as bad as originally thought but, even so, the blue light your phone emits mimics daylight and can throw off your natural body clock.

Dr Lindsay Browning, sleep expert for andsobed.co.uk, recommends switching off an hour before you try to sleep.

"Our brains need to be calm to fall asleep and if we spend the hour before bed on our phones there will be too much adrenaline and cortisol pumping through our bodies and keeping us awake," she says.

"An hour's gap allows our brains and bodies to calm down, so falling asleep is easier."

## Having sex

**Cut off o'clock: Never**

"For a good night's sleep, have as much sex before bedtime as you like," says Dr Deborah Lee (doctorfox.co.uk). That's because research published in the Journal of Sleep Research has shown that having sex that leads to orgasm at night not only improves sleep quality but also reduces the time it takes to fall asleep.

"At orgasm, hormones such as oxytocin and prolactin are released, making you feel relaxed and in a pleasurable state," explains Dr Lee. "Levels of the stress hormone cortisol are also reduced. All of this is conducive to good sleep."

## Eating

**Cut off o'clock: Three hours before bed**

"Food and sleep have a very complex relationship, with poor sleep affecting food choices. Also, what and when we eat affects sleep," says Dr Browning.

"When we should stop eating before bed is also complex, depending on how much food we eat, and what we are eating. Eating a large meal right before bed can cause indigestion which disrupts sleep, so studies show you shouldn't eat your evening meal within three hours of bedtime.

"However, a light snack, especially those high in protein, tryptophan or melatonin, can promote sleep by reducing hunger and preventing low blood sugar."



## Caffeine

**Cut off o'clock: 2pm**

Research in the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine shows that even if you stop your caffeine intake six hours before you go to bed, it can still reduce sleep by more than an hour. "That's because caffeine has an average half-life of six hours which means that six hours after your cup of coffee, half of the caffeine is still in your system," explains Dr Browning.

"Caffeine is not only found in tea and coffee, but also in chocolate and some soft drinks. A 2pm cut off is a helpful guideline as it's just after lunch and helps people remember to stop for the rest of the day."

## Listening to music

**Cut off o'clock: Just before you doze off**

You might think listening to music would keep you wide awake but research shows it can actually help you nod off. One study

published in the Journal of Community Health Nursing asked women with insomnia to listen to their own playlist in bed for 10 nights and the results showed that doing so reduced the time they took to fall asleep from 27-69 minutes to just 6-13 minutes.

"This may be because listening to music causes the release of dopamine, the feelgood hormone, and also lowers cortisol levels," says Dr Fox. "Music dampens down the autonomic (involuntary) nervous system, resulting in a lower heart rate, slower breathing rate and lower blood pressure."

## Alcohol

**Cut off o'clock: Three hours before bed**

Drinking alcohol can make you fall asleep more quickly but studies show that no matter how little of it you drink, it still reduces the amount of NREM (non-rapid eye movement) sleep, or lighter sleep, you get. It also increases your chance of suffering from sleep apnoea, which also disrupts sleep.

"Many people have issues staying asleep

# LIVE WELL



With  
AMY PACKER



# Bed times

**Natasha Holt** reveals which activities you should stop - and when - to maximise the quality of your sleep

and getting good quality sleep after drinking so it's always best to avoid alcohol three to four hours before bed," says Dr Patel. "This is so your body has plenty of time to metabolise the alcohol and get it out of your system before you sleep."

## Chatting

**Cut off o'clock: One to two hours before bed**

It's tempting to enjoy some pillow talk at bedtime but while this may help strengthen your relationship, sadly it could also be the reason you're struggling to sleep.

"You need verbal and social media silence 1-2 hours before bedtime," insists Dr Fox.

"You can only drift off to sleep when your



brain is in a relaxed and peaceful state. This means winding down for sleep a couple of hours before bed."

## Exercise

**Cut off o'clock: One hour before bed**

"Research shows we should avoid vigorous activity for at least one hour before bedtime as it can lead to us taking longer to fall asleep, while also diminishing our overall sleep quality," says Dr Patel.

One Harvard study suggests this is because intense exercise leads to physiological excitement and it then takes our brains and bodies time to

settle back down. "High intensity workouts in particular should ideally be earlier in the day," advises Dr Patel.

## Being outside

**Cut off o'clock: Two hours before bed**

As summer finally sets in most of us can't wait to enjoy those long, warmer evenings. But, according to Dr Fox, we should head inside long before bedtime.

"Wait at least two hours to go to bed after being outside in daylight," she advises. "Your brain needs to take note of the arrival of darkness, or the absence of daylight, and become aware of a drop in air temperature. Darkness stimulates the production of the sleep hormone melatonin, which is vital for your body's natural clock which governs your sleep-wake cycle. It takes around

“Even a small alcoholic drink can reduce the amount of NREM sleep”

two hours to produce enough melatonin to give your body the correct signals it's time for sleep."

## Watching TV

**Cut off o'clock: One hour before bed**

It's common to watch TV to unwind in the evenings but, as with our phones, the blue light emitted can leave us feeling wide awake.

US research shows that binge watching in particular had an adverse effect as viewers took longer to switch off.

"Always aim to stop watching TV at least one hour before bedtime as this will help encourage REM sleep which is important for our overall health and immune systems," advises Dr Patel. "When we're in the REM part of our sleep cycle, our brains are truly resting and repairing themselves, while also processing any emotions from the day."

## RETAIL THERAPIES

■ Want a smoothie with your lunch but don't want all the goodness to turn to sugar while it sits in your bag? Make yours on the go instead with the cordless and rechargeable Nutribullet Portable Blender (£39.99; nutribullet.co.uk). Light enough to carry around but still a whizz at blitzing using a six-point stainless steel blade.



■ In fun prints and vibrant colour, Step One boxers (from £19; John Lewis) are made from eco-friendly and ultra-soft bamboo, making them super comfy for your nether regions... Whether you like boxer briefs or trunks, there's something for every man, including the Boxer Brief Plus, designed with extra support to keep you secure while playing sports.

■ Keep your eye health tip-top with MacuShield Original+ Omega 3 (£28.99; Boots). With three quarters of Brits lacking vital fatty acids, it's never been more important to boost your intake - and these are ideal even if you're vegetarian, as the supplement's omegas are sourced from natural algae, a sustainable alternative to fish oil.



■ We've known for a long time olive oil brings heart health and anti-cancer benefits, but did you know bones could get a boost too, with rates of osteoporosis lower in the Mediterranean than elsewhere in Europe?

Benefit the tasty way with Uneathed Olives With Chilli (£4.75; Waitrose) which come in a Calabrian chilli marinade.



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The brushless motor, controlled by VAX Core™ technology, continuously monitors and ensures optimal cleaning performance, whilst 3-stage filtration captures up to 99.8% of particles and fine dust down to 0.3 microns in size.<sup>A</sup> The dirt bin is also easily removed for simple and hygienic emptying, and with a removable brushbar and filter, maintenance of a VAX Blade 4 is made simple.

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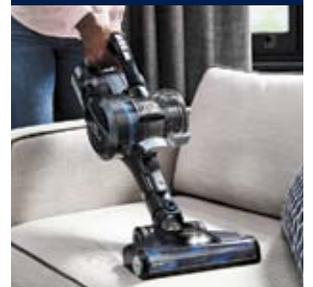
Weighing just 3.1kg, it's lightweight, balanced and easy to use. It features our DustTracker headlights, leaving nowhere for dirt to hide, and with the removable ONEPWR battery, charging can be done separately with the handy charging dock.

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Fingertip controls allow you to choose the right mode for the job – select having the brushbar on or off and boost mode gives you up to three times the power to tackle tougher jobs.\* Easily turn the VAX Blade 4 into a handheld, perfect for cleaning stairs, pet beds, cars and upholstery. Plus, when you buy direct from Vax, get an additional free toolkit worth over £50.



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Really happy with my new vacuum cleaner. It's lightweight, with fantastic suction. Easy to use as a handheld cleaner. The tools are great, and I like the light too.

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\*UK Market data Jan 2023 - Dec 2023 (by sales volume), tested in boost mode on carpet according to IEC 62885-4:2020 part 5.3. For further information email [claimsinfo@vax.co.uk](mailto:claimsinfo@vax.co.uk) \*\*UK Market data Jan 2023 - Dec 2023 (by sales volume), tested in boost mode on carpets and hard floors according to IEC 62885-2:2021 parts 5.2 and 5.4. For further information email [claimsinfo@vax.co.uk](mailto:claimsinfo@vax.co.uk) †Tested in standard power mode on hard floor, with floor brush switched off. ‡Tested according to EN60312-1:2017 Clause 5.11. \*Maximum suction power, tested in boost mode according to IEC 62885-2:2016 clause 5.8. Orders before 7pm Monday-Friday, next day delivery available. Offer only while stocks last.

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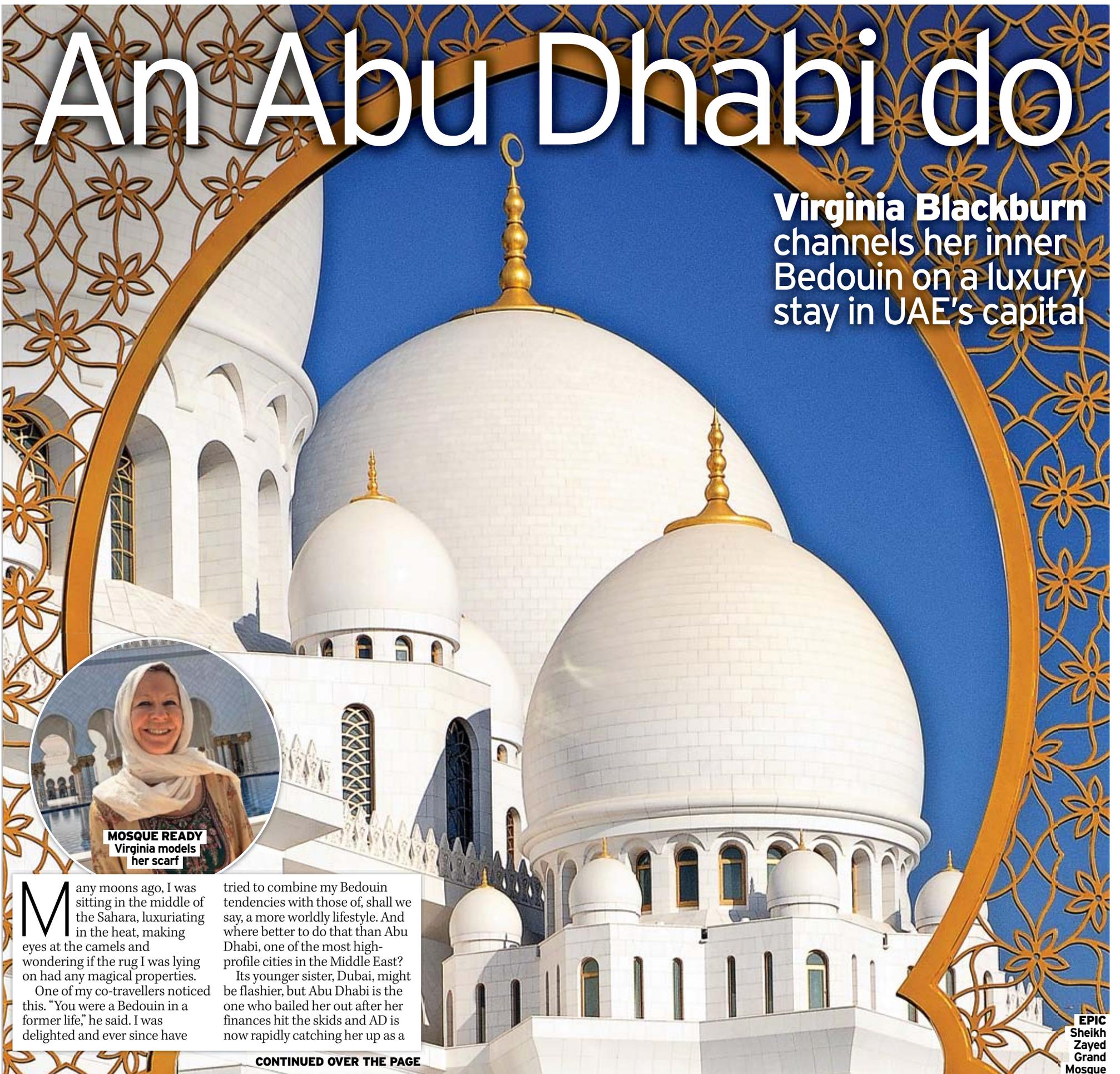
time to **EXPLORE**



Edited by  
**NIGEL THOMPSON**

# An Abu Dhabi do

**Virginia Blackburn** channels her inner Bedouin on a luxury stay in UAE's capital



**MOSQUE READY**  
Virginia models her scarf

**M**any moons ago, I was sitting in the middle of the Sahara, luxuriating in the heat, making eyes at the camels and wondering if the rug I was lying on had any magical properties. One of my co-travellers noticed this. "You were a Bedouin in a former life," he said. I was delighted and ever since have

tried to combine my Bedouin tendencies with those of, shall we say, a more worldly lifestyle. And where better to do that than Abu Dhabi, one of the most high-profile cities in the Middle East? Its younger sister, Dubai, might be flashier, but Abu Dhabi is the one who bailed her out after her finances hit the skids and AD is now rapidly catching her up as a

**CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE**

**EPIC**  
Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque

**Budget**  
long-haul airline  
Norse Atlantic Airways is celebrating its second anniversary with cut-priced fares from Gatwick. Return flights to New York, LA, Miami, Orlando, and Las Vegas are from £279. For travel between September and March. Book by June 18. flynorse.com

**Cruise news**  
BY **VICKY LISSAMAN**  
Game of Thrones prequel House of the Dragon season two hits our screens tomorrow - and fans can live the fantasy on Marella Cruises with excursions to filming locations in Croatia and Spain. Jump aboard Marella 2 for the seven-night Adriatic Delights round-trip from Dubrovnik including a King's Landing Game of

Thrones Location Tour of the city. Departing July 25, with flights from Bristol, the all-inclusive cruise calls at Zadar and Split in Croatia, Trieste and Ancona in Italy, and Kotor, Montenegro. From £1132pp.  
And Marella 2's all-inclusive seven-night Sights and Delights round-trip cruise from Malaga, Spain, features the Explore Granada Tour visiting 14th century Castillo de La Calahorra in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada which is mythical city Pentos. From £931pp, the

cruise includes return flights from Bournemouth on November 14, and calls at Cadiz, Casablanca, Gibraltar, Motril (for Granada). [tui.co.uk/cruise](http://tui.co.uk/cruise)  
■ MSC Cruises' new Southern Caribbean winter itineraries offer seven nights aboard MSC Virtuosa from £699pp. Fly-cruises are available from Heathrow to Bridgetown, Barbados, for the 2024/25 season.  
Stop-offs include Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe, and Fort de France, Martinique. [msccruises.co.uk](http://msccruises.co.uk)

Warner Hotels is offering £1 million-worth of discounts on its adults-only breaks spanning two or more nights. Book before midnight on June 24 to get 25% off selected breaks at 15 locations taken until December 31. [warnerhotels.co.uk/drop](http://warnerhotels.co.uk/drop)

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# time to

## Hotel of the week

BY DAVID McDONNELL



### Titanic Spa, Huddersfield, West Yorks

#### WHERE AND WHY

Set in a restored 20th century textile mill, Titanic Spa is the perfect place to unwind. With a wide range of treatments and luxurious apartments, it is perfect for stepping off the treadmill of your daily routine.

It's situated in the village of Linthwaite in the Yorkshire Pennines a few miles from Huddersfield, and you feel a sense of relaxation as soon as you walk through the doors.

My wife and I were booked in for an overnight stay, with spa packages starting at £184 per person which includes a one-course light lunch and a two-course evening meal in a bistro serving locally sourced produce.

The package also includes access to steam and sauna rooms, an outdoor hot tub and a 15-metre, salt-regulated swimming pool. There is also a breakfast hamper.

#### ON THE MENU

For lunch, I chose the chicken penne pasta, served with wild mushrooms and Yorkshire blue cheese, while my wife went for porcini mushroom, cashew nut and spinach penne pasta. We both had a dessert of chocolate cheesecake. My evening main course was braised ox cheek with creamy mash with a red wine jus, while my wife chose baked hake, topped with a black olive tapenade. The food was outstanding.

#### WHILE YOU'RE THERE

The 55-minute Elemis men's high performance skin energiser facial (£99) pledges to revitalise dehydrated skin and tired eyes - ideal for a jaded, middle-aged father of two. My wife chose the 55-minute deep tissue massage (£104), her masseuse tailoring the treatment to her specific needs, focusing on muscle pain and stress relief. Both of us felt revitalised and energised afterwards.

After stints in the steam room, hot tub and a swim in the pool, we returned to our room, an impressive split-level apartment that sleeps up to six people. Equipped with a kitchen, lounge, two bathrooms and a balcony overlooking the River Colne, it had everything we needed.

The spa also houses the Heat and Ice Experience, which includes an aromatherapy room, crystal steam bath, sauna cabin, foot bath, ice room and plunge pool, while there is also a mud chamber, which costs £35pp.

#### WAKE UP CALL

Spa packages start at £184pp for an overnight stay, which includes a one-course lunch, two-course dinner and full use of the spa facilities. Treatments are extra.

Call the Titanic Spa reservations team on 01484 843544, [titanicspa.com](http://titanicspa.com)

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**IMPOSING**  
 Yas Marina  
 in stunning  
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**AMAZING**  
 Inside the  
 Grand  
 Mosque

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

tourist destination in its own right. A more sophisticated destination, too, for while Dubai (which I like) is all about the tallest building and the biggest mall, Abu Dhabi is shaping itself as the cultural hub of the UAE, understandably as it is also its capital.

But we Bedouin like our shopping and good hotels, or at least, this one does, and there's no shortage of those too. We also do not just travel by camel these days, and so it was British Airways that stood in for the magic carpet on its newly reopened route to AD, a route that had been closed for some years due to Covid.

The very welcome sunshine and heat hit you as you get off the plane. Escaping from the dreary British spring into the vibrant Middle Eastern one, which is hot but entirely manageable, makes it one of the very best times of the year to go.

Our first stop was the glamorous Jumeirah hotel at Saadiyat Island, which meant enjoying lunch overlooking the beach before heading off to the Louvre. Yes, the Louvre. Saadiyat Island is a manmade construction which will be home to some of the biggest names in museums in the world.

The Louvre, which is already up and running, and houses a collection of objects as well as paintings, designed to showcase the history of mankind, is dominated by a huge silvery dome, constructed of geometric shapes and designed to reflect the night

# EXPLORE

# It's a Yas from me



**CULTURE**  
Stunning  
Louvre  
Abu  
Dhabi

sky. Many more museums are already there or scheduled to be opening, and one in particular will lure this traveller back to see it alone – the Guggenheim, designed by the extraordinary American architect Frank Gehry. If the designs are anything to go by, it will be even more spectacular than the Guggenheim in Bilbao, and is due to open next year, nearly 20 years after plans were first unveiled.

But it wouldn't be the UAE without a bit of fun and so the following morning it was off to Yas Island, another manmade construction that is ideal for visiting families. It houses the Yas Marina Circuit, which hosts the Formula One Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, Ferrari World, Waterworld and Warner Bros, the world's largest indoor theme park – clearly, AD is not allowing Dubai to get away with all of the 'world's largest' around here.

It features various gut-churning rides, but plunging rollercoasters aren't my thing so I headed off to nearby Yas Mall.

There you will find western shops alongside locals, including Ether, a department store that specialises in brands from the region. I am a shopaholic and bought a maxi dress and scarf, perfect for visiting mosques.

But it was that afternoon that my inner Bedouin really came to the fore, because it was out into the desert, for a spot of dune bashing, namely



**SPEEDY**  
A 4x4  
in the  
desert

making like a Formula One driver in the middle of the sand. About an hour out of the city, our driver stopped at a camel farm to let some of the air out of his tyres before we started our adventure, where we spotted a flock of baby camels, prompting some revolting gushing from the females present and yes, I do mean me. Show me a baby furry anything and I'm done for, although these ones were quite as capable as their parents at looking down their noses at us with undisguised contempt. Did you know that another collective noun for camels is a "scorn"? There's a reason for that.

We weren't racing camels that afternoon, but 4x4s. "I'm going to start now," said our driver and it was as well he gave us notice because the speed at which we raced up and down those dunes would

have put the rides on Yas Island to shame.

A certain amount of screaming ensued. I was praised for my British reserve but the fact is that I was so

paralysed with fear not even a squeak could come out. But it's a great way to have fun in the desert, followed up by climbing a dune to watch the sun set, an open air feast and a show that included belly dancing and fire eating.

Not sure that these are entirely Bedouin pursuits (belly dancing comes from Egypt), but my Bedouin heart swelled.

The next day we moved to the incredibly glamorous Emirates Palace, Mandarin Oriental, a building so spectacular it's listed as a sightseeing destination in itself. It is in a huge site right at the heart of the city, beside the Qasr Al Watan, the presidential palace that opened nearly a decade ago. Made of white granite and sandstone, it is so big you may well be able to see it from space and has interiors that are, to be honest, pretty bling.

That is OK by me, because I might

be a Bedouin, but I do like my bling – think gold, everywhere, and chandeliers the size of battleships. It is open to the public, but is still used for the official purposes for which it was built. And then it was on to that other must-see, the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, which can hold more than 40,000 worshippers.

Nothing is done on a small scale in this place.

About 30 years old, its inspiration was various bits of Islamic architecture around the world and indeed, with its curving shapes and pietra dura decoration, it was slightly reminiscent of the Taj Mahal. Remember to dress modestly (my Yas Mall purchase was just the thing) and cover your head with a scarf.

All too soon it was time to go home. The final evening started with drinks at the Emirates Palace Broadway bar. "I have one serious complaint about this place," I informed our host.

He was alarmed.

## BOOK IT

British Airways Holidays offers five nights' B&B at the five-star Jumeirah Saadiyat Island resort in Abu Dhabi from £1,049pp, departing from Heathrow on selected dates in September with 23kg baggage; or five nights' room-only at the five-star Emirates Palace, Mandarin Oriental Abu Dhabi from £1,499pp. Book by June 26. [britishairways.com/abu-dhabi](http://britishairways.com/abu-dhabi)

## MORE INFO

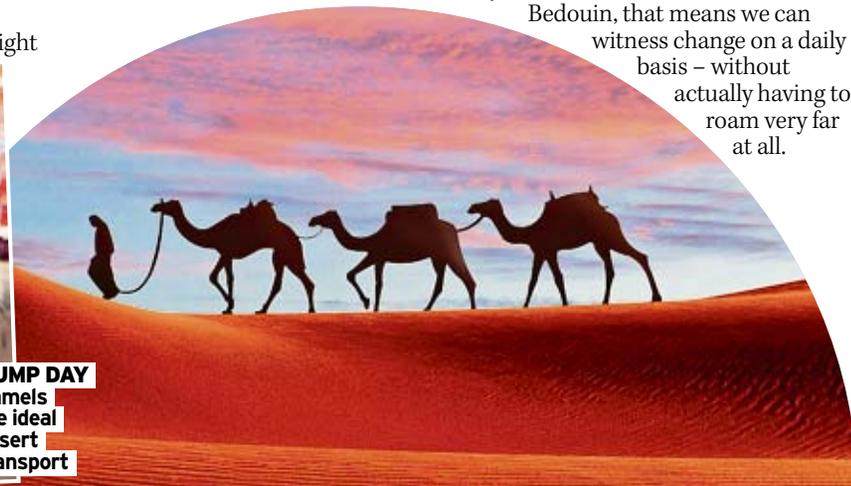
[visitabudhabi.ae](http://visitabudhabi.ae)

"What's that?" "We're only staying one night!" There are many restaurants to choose from: we opted for Talea, a Michelin-starred Italian eatery. Reader, it was sublime. Would I go back? Yes, especially when the Guggenheim opens.

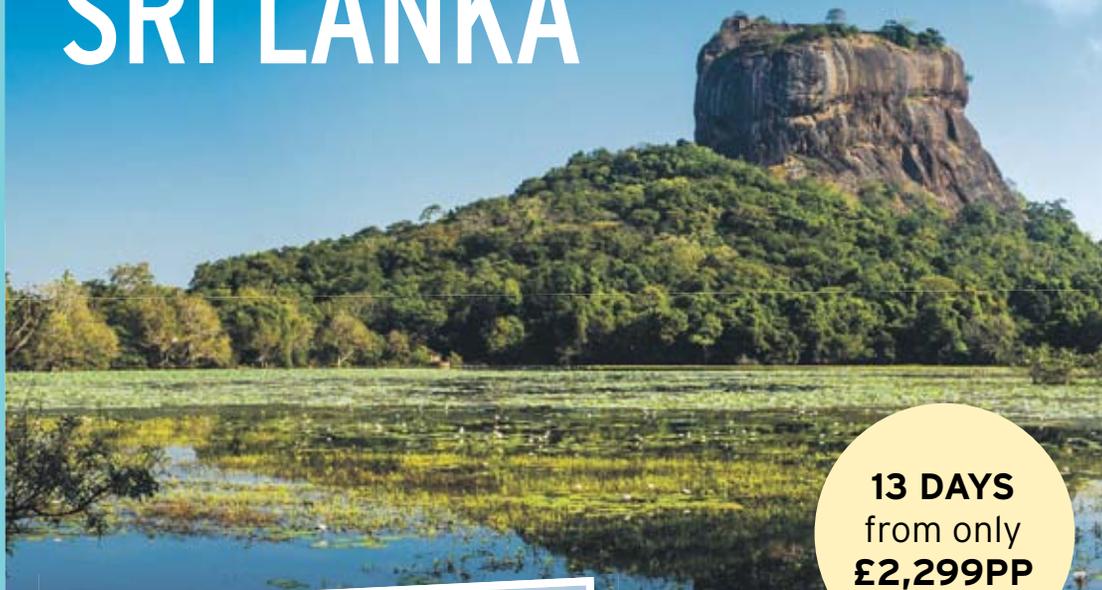
Like Dubai, Abu Dhabi is changing by the hour. For nomads like we Bedouin, that means we can witness change on a daily basis – without actually having to roam very far at all.



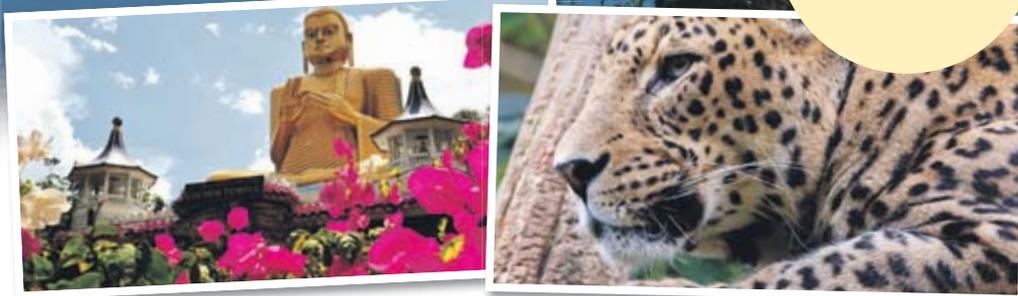
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## time to

### Deals of the week

BY VICKY LISSAMAN

#### LONG HAUL

**Thailand from £1,060pp:** Save up to 31% on a seven-night B&B stay at The Slate, a five-star hotel in Phuket. Includes return flights with Qatar Airways, departing from Manchester on September 29. kenwoodtravel.co.uk

**Malaysia from £1,435pp:** Save 43% on a seven-night stay in a spa villa at the five-star Pangkor Laut Resort. Includes flights from Heathrow, breakfast, and airport and island transfers. Selected departures up to June 30 or from September 1-November 30. Book by June 30. turquoiseholidays.co.uk

#### SHORT HAUL

**Portugal from £821pp:** Save 34% on a week on all-inclusive at the four-star-plus Pestana Blue Alvor Beach, on the Algarve. Price includes return flights from Manchester on July 11, transfers, and 20kg of hold luggage. tui.co.uk

**Turkey from £869pp:** Go all-inclusive for a week at the four-star Parkim Ayaz, Bodrum. Includes flights from Bristol departing July 4, 22kg baggage allowance and transfers. jet2holidays.com

**France for £1,815:** Save £202 on a seven-night stay for a family of four in a one-bedroom apartment at Premium Residence de la Plage, Côte d'Opale. Includes return Dover to Calais crossing with Irish Ferries on Aug 7. irishferries.com

#### CRUISE

**France taster cruise from £219pp:** Test the waters on a two-night, round-trip, taster cruise leaving from Southampton on July 4 on board MSC Virtuosa calling at Le Havre for Paris with MSC Cruises, saving £110. Includes all meals, theatre shows, and children's clubs. cruise.co.uk

**Malta & Aegean Jewels from £499pp:** Save £250pp on a seven-day cruise departing Civitavecchia (Rome) on September 1, calling at Messina, Valletta overnight, Rhodes, Kusadasi and Piraeus. Includes all meals afternoon tea, theatre shows, onboard gym and children's clubs. Flights extra. hollandamerica.com

#### CITY BREAK

**Madrid from £316pp:** Jet away for two nights' room only at the Easyhotel Madrid Centro Atocha just minutes from the city centre. Includes return flights from Gatwick on July 23. Hand luggage only included. firstchoice.co.uk

#### STAYCATION

**Great Scottish Highland Railways from £719pp:** Depart on September 15 for a scenic tour of the Highlands through picturesque railway journeys. Includes coach travel from the north of England, five nights' half-board, heritage train journeys. justgoholidays.com

**Wales for £990:** Save £551 on a week's stay at Welford House, Newport, Pembrokeshire, close to the golden sands of Parrog Beach, shops, pubs and restaurants. Sleeps six. Arrive June 22 or 29. coastalcottages.co.uk

#### STAR BUY

**Istanbul from £279pp:** Jet off to this fascinating Turkish city for three nights' B&B at the three-star Lampa Design Hotel with return flights departing from Gatwick on August 4, 6, 12, 20 or 30. superescapes.co.uk

■ All prices correct at time of publication, based on two sharing, unless stated otherwise.



**HISTORIC**  
Noonday  
Gun fired  
at Castle  
Cornet



**LUXURIOUS**  
La Fregate  
Hotel in St  
Peter Port

## Lucy Marshall goes Channel hopping to the elegant island of Guernsey

Often compared to the Caribbean, Guernsey has soft sand beaches, secluded coves and dreamy turquoise waters. However, experiencing life on this small island doesn't require a long-haul flight or a lengthy queue at passport control.

In under 45 minutes, you can be sipping cocktails on the harbour or sampling the local seafood on beautiful Guernsey, which sits just 27 miles off the coast of France.

With a gripping history, luxurious hotels and an exceptional dining scene added to the mix, this is an island escape which is so much more than a beach holiday.

After stepping off the first flight of the day from London City Airport, I simply picked up my luggage and strolled out of the airport. A quick three-mile taxi ride away is the island's capital, St Peter Port, an ideal location to start your trip.

First, lunch on The Quay, at a hotspot called Balthazar. Order a glass of something chilled while browsing the menu. Oysters or crispy pig cheek make lovely appetisers, and the monkfish tempura with chips and mushy peas is standout perfection.

While you're there do excuse yourself to go to the bathroom. Here you'll discover the "Balthazar boogie button". Dare to press it and the loo morphs into a mini disco. Your holiday has started!

Then enjoy a walk along the port and through the town centre to take advantage of the tax-free shopping at the independent stores and boutiques. Or stop off for an ice cream or cake at Crepe Maison, which brings a little bit of Paris to this island.

For history buffs, the royal fortress of Castle Cornet, which has stood guard

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# EXPLORE

# St Peter perfect



**FIVE-STAR**  
The Old Government



**CLASSY**  
Room at the Old Government

over the island for more than 800 years, is a must.

Providing a spectacular backdrop to the town and views over neighbouring Channel Islands, Alderney, Sark, Herm and Jersey, visitors can gen up on centuries of history in its four museums and stroll around its pristine period gardens.

There are reenactments of stories from Guernsey's past by the History In Action Company, a free guided tour at 10.30am, and at midday the Noonday Gun is fired by gunners in 19th-century costume.

For a luxurious stopover, book into the Old Government House Hotel. The only five-star hotel on Guernsey, it has been open for 167 years. Its three restaurants, two bars, seaview suites, spa, gym and heated pool are all beautifully styled.

After a restful night's sleep, I had a lovely breakfast in the all-green retro-style restaurant with outstanding service.

If you fancy a night out in the capital, Le Nautique in St Peter Port is Guernsey's oldest restaurant and occupies vaults used in the 18th century by

shipowners. From both of its floors, there are fantastic views over the harbour. Renowned for its seafood, try the scallops and shellfish ragout, grilled lobster or seafood platter with a fruity Sauvignon Blanc.

If you're one of Britain's many wild swimmers, or if you simply want to cool off in the summer sunshine, visit the free bathing pools at Vive La Vallette – a spot on Guernsey's east coast where locals have enjoyed seawater bathing for 150 years – including Les Miserables writer Victor Hugo and Renaissance painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir. The place has had a recent revamp with a new cafe and there's a wonderful sun terrace. The

coastline is the crown jewel of Guernsey, so a rib ride adventure is a great way to see it. With Island Rib Voyages you get to speed through the waves before stopping to admire some of the coves and you might spot puffins, dolphins and seals.

Plus you will see plenty of Second World War history including defences built by the occupying German forces between 1940 and 1945. The tour also takes in Batterie Strassburg on the Jerbourg peninsula and the site of the first commando landing of the war. Tours range between £22.50 and £32.50 per person.

If you want to make the most of your time on the island, Amanda Johns, an accredited tour guide of Guernsey, is superb for walking and vehicle tours and will take you through some of the island's most fascinating Second World War history, including the War History Museum, the German Underground Hospital, and one man's life's work creating the German Occupation Museum. I then joined Amanda on a tour of the Batterie Mirus – where you will see the largest gun emplacement and arguably the most fascinating war site in Guernsey.

I also stayed at La Fregate hotel. Situated at the top of St Peter's Port with panoramic views of the harbour, the rooms are modern and spacious and I absolutely loved my sea-view balcony.



**IMPOSING**  
Castle  
Cornet guards  
the harbour

**“**  
Guernsey proves that you don't have to go far for a fabulous island escape

## GET THERE

Aurigny flies from London City to Guernsey starting at £120 return. [aurigny.com](http://aurigny.com)

## BOOK IT

Rooms at The Old Government House Hotel in St Peter Port, Guernsey, start at £252 a night B&B. [theogh.com](http://theogh.com)

■ Rooms at La Fregate Hotel in St Peter Port start at £202.50 a night B&B. [lafregatehotel.com](http://lafregatehotel.com)

**MORE INFO**  
[visitguernsey.com](http://visitguernsey.com)

The a la carte menu is very well thought out, from steak tartare to seafood platters, plus a set of mini desserts. Another excellent dining option on Guernsey is Copenhagen. There's a Scandi feel to the decor and the menu features a daytime smorgasbord option.

If you fancy getting out into the country, you'll find Fleur Du Jardin Hotel and Restaurant in the lanes of Castel. It has a crowd-pleasing menu, real ales served at the bar, with highlights including Guernsey crab cakes, Guernsey beef and tasty west coast scallops.

I toasted the end of my trip with a cosmopolitan on La Fregate's garden patio while watching the Liberation Day fireworks. This is celebrated annually on May 9 to mark the island's freedom from the German Occupation in the Second World War, with events on the beaches, music and a parade.

With top quality hospitality, fascinating history and a beautiful coastline, Guernsey proves that you don't have to go far for a fabulous island escape.

Newmarket Holidays has expanded its range of African safaris. The escorted tours specialist is offering its first tours in Tanzania, its first dedicated tour in Botswana, and two new luxurious South African tours. [newmarketholidays.co.uk](http://newmarketholidays.co.uk)

## Families get adventurous

BY VICKY LISSAMAN

More families are looking for holiday excitement in new places this summer, according to research by booking.com.

Kissimmee in Florida – famous for its outdoor experiences off the beaten track and nearness to theme parks, is top trending for those ready for a big family trip.

And Agadir in Morocco, renowned for its seven-mile stretch of golden sands, souks and nightlife, is the second most searched holiday spot for tourists with children. Next is cultural melting pot Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with its dramatic skyline of minarets and skyscrapers.

Around 45% of holidaymakers in the poll said their main summer motivation is exploring new places, with searches for Africa up by 10% and Asia up 13% from last year.

It found spending quality time together is the main reason for 59% of families travelling this year, with 53% looking for value for money.

Ryan Pearson, UK and Ireland regional manager at Booking.com, said: "Family travel is evolving as more are seeking meaningful and new experiences, whether that's exploring new cultures, spending quality time together or trying out new activities. It's interesting to see the rise in travel further afield to countries outside of Europe, as more families look to discover new places while seeking good value for money." [booking.com](http://booking.com)

## Buy of the week

BY VICKY LISSAMAN

The ultimate travel hack, packing cubes are the perfect way to organise your suitcase.

The Antler Chelsea packing cubes come with an extra-strong compression zip so you can pack more in.

Use them to separate your tops from your socks, and simply lift them straight out of your suitcase on arrival.

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■ Antler packing cubes, £50 for a set of four, [antler.co.uk](http://antler.co.uk)



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# time to



## Genius idea or barking?

BY MILO BOYD

An airline designed specifically for dogs has taken off.

BARK Air, which calls itself "the world's first air travel experience designed specifically for dogs", is offering a high-end, near-first class experience to pooches and their owners.

The airline is initially linking London and New York, and New York with Los Angeles. A seat aboard a flight between Biggin Hill in South London and the Big Apple will set you back \$8,000 (£6,300) one way. That includes space for a person and a dog.

Plus it has just also announced seven new routes including flights from London to LA which will launch in October.

A promotional video on BARK Air's website shows a long-tongued hound slobbering up some fizz as it is poured into a bowl, while a pack of pups jumps around an obstacle course set up in the cabin.

It is not completely clear how true the advert is to the actual reality, but the website assures BARK Air is "a 100% totally real airline for dogs".

Dogs are given free rein when on board and are allowed to make the most of seats, beds, laps and any other part of the plane they can clamber upon.

Much like seat-belt rules on any standard flight, dogs must remain on leads while the plane is taxiing, taking off, landing, or if any turbulence is expected.

Following booking, flyers will be contacted by a concierge to collect information about their dog. A custom travel plan to ensure the best possible flight experience will then be created.

During the flight, dogs will be served treats, beverages and other surprises "with the intent of pampering furry passengers and their humans".

air.bark.co

To help drivers plan ahead, Airport Parking and Hotels (APH.com) has released a guide to EV charging points around Gatwick Airport giving details such as distance from the airport, range of devices, charging power, number of connectors and costs.

**BARGAIN  
BLOWOUT**  
Tapas bar  
Perikete



**DIVINE**  
La Sagrada  
Familia



## Perfecting the art of a budget stay in Barcelona is a joy for **Claire Spreadbury**

When I break my gaze, I settle on my children's two young faces mesmerised as they stare agog at an architectural icon, which is everything I need to see.

La Sagrada Familia, the cathedral which is still being built more than 140 years after construction started, and showcases the work of Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi, for which Barcelona is well known, has to be seen to be believed.

Every element of its design is different from the next, and my daughters, Rosie, 14, and Poppy, 11, appear to be lost for words – a very rare thing indeed.

We inch our way around every bit of the building; spellbinding spires stretch up into the clear blue sky with pyramids of fruit perching atop.

This is the landmark everyone says you have to see if you come to Barcelona – and with good reason. Ageless beauty sits beside the majestic and modern with pride. Weird and wonderful – every inch of the architecture is like nothing we've ever seen before.

The fact that we're even here is a welcome surprise to us all, let alone gawping at Gaudi in 20C sunshine when it feels like it hasn't stopped raining at home for months.

We've managed to escape for the Easter

# EXPLORE

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# On Familia ground



**ART OF THE CITY**  
 Beautiful Barcelona seen from Park Güell



**BARCELONA FANS**  
 Claire and family

holidays after deciding a trip abroad was off the cards this year. With bills going up year upon year, sunny getaways are becoming less affordable.

But when we unexpectedly managed to bag four days in Spain's artiest city for £792 for the four of us, we all let out excited squeals.

I thought the days of bargain flights were over. Even if you book with a value airline, by the time you've added on baggage, it seems to be a fortune. But booking three months ahead, we secured four flights with Vueling for £234.77. Baggage is extra (though if you're savvy and only going for a couple of nights, I would argue you could all pack an under-seat rucksack for free) and you can opt for cabin or hold, which starts from £8.50.

We were less organised with the hotel, but by booking weeks before we secured a basic family apartment at Atenea Calabria, in a relatively central

location, for three nights, for £557. And that included a big old breakfast spread every morning which pleased the kids no end (9am doughnut, anyone?).

Once you get to Barcelona, of course, things can be as cheap or expensive as you like. When it comes to food and drink, after a big morning feast, we opt for a small snack or ice cream around lunchtime, then plump for an early sitting of tapas.

After pounding pavements all the way to the port, where we ogle yachts and people-watch while basking in the warmth, we stumble across the small but perfectly formed Perikete tapas bar.

We scoff patatas bravas, cod croquettes, Spanish tortilla, Serrano ham, padron peppers, broken fried eggs and Manchego as we sit on giant Estrella kegs upcycled into bar tables. A jug of deliciously fruity sangria, half a

litre of Keller beer and a couple of Fanta Limons, and the damage is just £61 – a figure we can only dream our dinner bill amounts to when we eat out at home.

Arriving early means getting a table is easy too (by 7pm long queues are forming outside).

Another night, our weary legs fall into La Guapa & La Mala Tapas, where we order a similarly delicious array of treats. Repurposed

SodaStream bottles are made into lights, black and white photographs of celebrities adorn the walls, tins are transformed into lampshades, bills come in sardine cans and 90s music blasts out of the speakers. It's wonderful, £76 covers everything, including beer, Aperol spritz and soft

drinks, and the portions are so big, we can't eat everything.

Barcelona is also renowned for its food markets. The beautiful La Boqueria is the oldest and most famous, but with sweetie stalls replacing traditional food stands, we wander through Mercat de Santa Caterina and Mercat de Sant Antoni instead – an assault on the senses by anyone's standards.

While food and drink is very much affordable in Barcelona, the big attractions can be expensive.

The beach, however, is completely free. Walking from city sights to sandy surf never fails to make me smile. Sporty types dig and smash their way to beach volleyball victory,

friends sit and laze on the stony sands, while savvy folk keep walking to avoid the myriad beach sellers flogging towels, braids, drinks and massages every few minutes.

We walk the length and breadth of Barcelona, Gaudi-spotting where we can. We snap La Pedrera from the street, before falling completely in love with Casa Batllo. Stained glass, mosaic, sumptuous textures, quirky balconies and more skyward sculptures. It's colourful yet classy. But it's expensive to go inside.

Basic entry costs €43 (£37) or it's £45 for everything (including queue skipping, which is important for teens and tired parents alike). If you're organised, you can save money by booking ahead online. But as we're not, we decide not to spend over £150 for an hour and split up. I pay for the "gold" (queue jumping) entry for me and take Poppy as, delightfully, under-13s are free.

Park Güell is another must-see, but tickets are likely to sell out on the day, so it's worth getting organised (€10/£8.50 for adults; £6 for children aged seven to 12; free for kids under seven). Families can spend hours inside – we take a picnic and spend the day among extroverted parakeets, squawking and squealing as they

## GET THERE

Vueling flies to Barcelona from Birmingham, Edinburgh, Gatwick, Heathrow and Manchester from £35 one way. [vueling.com](http://vueling.com)

## BOOK IT

Accommodation at the Atenea Calabria Apartaments in Barcelona can be booked at [cityhotels.es](http://cityhotels.es)

## MORE INFO

[barcelonaturisme.com](http://barcelonaturisme.com)

zoom from the palm trees, vying for everyone's attention.

Inside, it's another mind-blowing Gaudi phenomenon. Bougainvillea and wisteria thread themselves around the undulating stone walls, with greenery sprouting from cobblestone-like top hats.

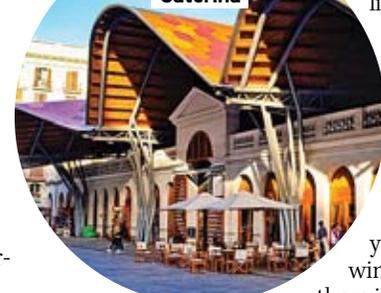
Visitors rest on mosaic benches, beneath which lies an underworld of picturesque pillars. Look up to punched out domes, circles of colourful art created from the teeniest of shards. Every corner you turn, stony staircase you step down or winding ramp you climb, there is something new.

Tourists queue for snaps next to the mosaic iguana, but there is art literally everywhere you look.

Indeed, Barcelona is full of creations you can immerse yourself in. As we pack our bags for the plane ride home, the girls decide the best bit was La Sagrada Familia – and vow to return in 2026 when the building is scheduled to finally be complete.

**“**  
**The bill was £61 – a figure we can only dream our dinner comes to at home**

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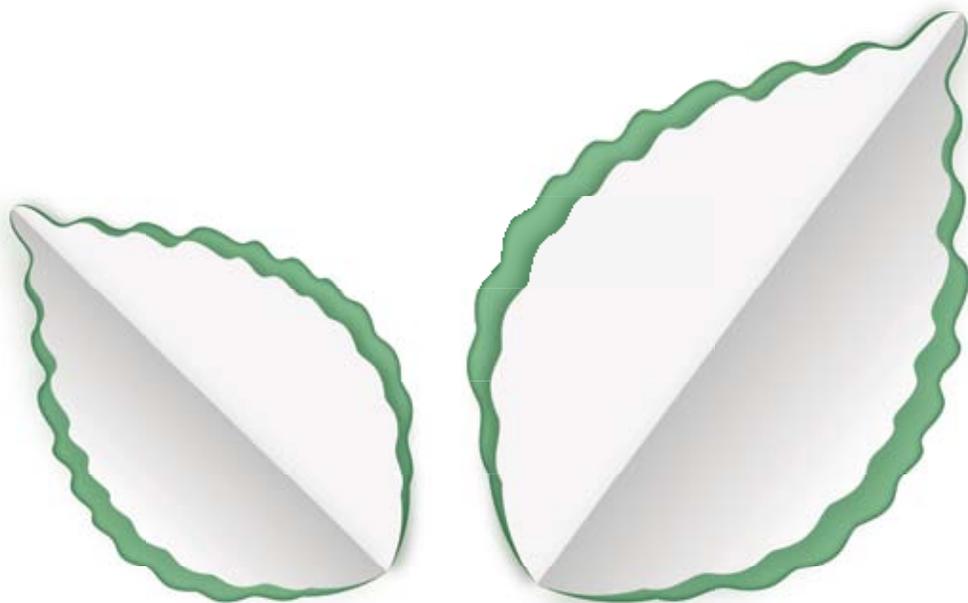
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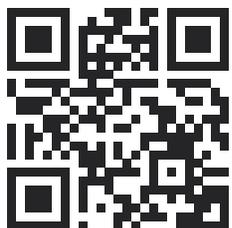
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# time to TALK MONEY



## 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	8.40	5.83
S&P 500	13.56	16.06
MSCI World	11.28	12.88
MSCI Emerging Market	4.88	5.80
Gold Price	11.51	9.21
UK Property market proxy	0.73	3.18
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.
- Vanquis Bank is offering a one-year fixed rate of 5.21% pa.
- Isbank Raisin UK is offering a three-year fixed rate of 4.75% pa.
- Atom Bank is offering a five-year fixed rate of 4.60% 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:**
- NatWest is offering a 4.32% 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:**
- Santander is offering a 4.28% fixed rate until 02/11/2029 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 5.15% 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.

# Find certainty in uncertain times

## Long-term investing is almost always a safe bet

### Imagine if you'd put cash into shares 25 years ago...

Against the backdrop of recent high inflation and interest rates, we have wars, AI technology disruption, the cost-of-living crisis and economic hardship and elections both in the UK and America.

It's natural to wonder what effect these world events will have on our long-term investment performance.

While these challenges certainly warrant our attention and deep concern, they don't have to be a reason to panic about markets when you're focused on long-term investing.

Imagine it's 25 years ago and the year is 1999:

- The Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly have just been established.
- The Millennium Dome has been built to mark the turn of the millennium.
- The US Dow Jones industrial average index closes above 11,000 for the first time in history.
- Tony Blair is the PM.
- The internet is in its infancy, Y2K looms and everyone is worried about the Russian financial crisis.

A stranger offers to tell you what's going to happen over the course of the next 25 years. But here's the big question – would you invest in the stock market knowing the following events were going to happen? And could you stay invested?

- Asian contagion
- Russian default
- Tech collapse
- 9/11
- Stocks' "lost decade"
- Recession
- Global pandemic
- Second Russian default
- Ukraine invasion

With everything I just mentioned, what would you have done? Gotten into the market or gotten out? Increased your equity holdings or decreased them? Well, let's look at



“From 1999, the world stock market returned over 10% a year on average”

what happened. From 1999 to now, the world stock market returned, on average, over 10% a year. A pound invested at the start of the period would be worth over £6 now. These returns are very much in line with what returns have been over the

history of the stock market.

How can that be? The market is doing its job. It's science.

Investing in stock markets is always uncertain. But the role of markets is to price in that uncertainty.

Yes, there were a lot of negative surprises over the past 25 years, but there were a lot of positive ones as well. The net result was a stock market return that seems very reasonable – even generous.

It's a tribute to human ingenuity that when negative forces pop up, people and companies respond and mobilise to get things back on track.

Human ingenuity created incredible innovations over the past 25 years. Plenty of things went wrong, but plenty of things went right. There's always opportunity out there.

Think about how different life is from the way it was in 1999: the way we work, the way we communicate

and the way we live. For example, the gross domestic product of the US in 1999 was \$9.27trillion and it grew to over \$27.36trillion in 2023.

In 1999, few would have forecast a 10% average return for the stock market. But that return was available to anyone who could open an investment account, buy a broad-market portfolio and let the market do its job.

In my opinion, reaping the benefits of the stock market requires being a long-term investor.

By investing in a market portfolio, you're not trying to figure out which stocks are going to thrive and which aren't – you're betting on human ingenuity to solve problems.

The pandemic was a big blow to the economy, but people, companies and markets adapt.

And whatever the next blow we face, I have faith that we will meet the challenge in ways we can't forecast.

I would never try to predict what might happen in the next 25 years.

But I do believe the best investment strategy going forward is to keep in mind the lesson learned from that stranger back in 1999: Don't panic. Invest for the long term.

■ For more investing insights, search for my Finance Geeks Podcast

The BIG save



## Stock market: 5 things you should know

Here are a few facts and figures about the stock market...

- 1 The Amsterdam Stock Exchange, established in 1602, was the first in the world.
- 2 The most expensive stock in the world is Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway at over \$622,291 (£489,973) per share.
- 3 The largest company on the stock market is Microsoft, valued at over \$3.15trillion.
- 4 Historically, the stock market has delivered a positive return in three out of four years.
- 5 More than 80% of the stock market is now automated.

## Q&A

My teenage son wants to invest in the stock market. Do you think it's a good idea?

**WARREN:** Investing in the stock market always comes with risks but arguably, it's a good time to start looking when you're young. An investment fund that follows a world index is a good place to start – but don't try to outsmart the stock market by timing your investments. You can protect the investment from paying any tax by using a Junior Individual Savings Account, or JISA, which has an annual limit of £9,000.

I'm 35 and have worked in the NHS for five years. I am part of the NHS pension scheme,

but should I also look to start a private pension plan?

**WARREN:** Have you repaid all your debts and saved three to six months of expenditure in an emergency fund? If yes, then split any additional savings you have between mortgage overpayments and pension investments. Ensure you don't exceed the maximum funding amounts – the normal annual allowance to put into a pension and still receive tax relief is capped at £60,000 for 2024/25.

# Nvidia shakes Apple to core

Nvidia briefly overtook Apple to become the world's second largest company last week.

The US software company, which specialises in AI, has seen huge growth in recent months.

So far this year, its stock price has more than doubled, helping the firm's market value rise to over \$3trillion.



GameStop has become part of the "meme stock" phenomenon. Keith Gill, one of the architects behind the craze, encouraged traders to buy GameStop shares, causing prices to surge. A photo on Reddit showed Gill holds five million shares and 120,000 call options, valued at \$260million.

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**EXOTIC  
Mandarin  
duck**Foreign visitors  
flourishing here

Joni Mitchell sang about the trees being uprooted and put in a museum so people could pay a dollar and half to see them.

In reality, things are the other way round. Exotic birds that should be behind the wire in zoos and wildfowl collections are flourishing in the British countryside.

Mandarin ducks from China, Egyptian Geese from the African savannah and spectacular Indian peafowl are some of the non-native species that escaped captivity and are now firmly established as official breeding birds.

Undoubtedly the most successful colonist from the tropics is the ring-necked parakeet whose screeching cries ring out today from the grounds of Buckingham Palace to gardens in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Sadly, while non-native species are spreading their wings, many of our iconic birds of field and forest have a teetering perch-hold on existence.

**“  
For sheer  
beauty the  
Drake  
Mandarin  
really  
stands out**

Numbers of nesting turtle doves have crashed by 97% since I began writing my newspaper nature column in 1994. Willow tits have declined by

90% and there are 81% fewer breeding wood warblers.

Over the same period, ring-necked parakeet numbers have soared by 2,154% and Egyptian Geese by 1,835%.

Scanning the data set from the recently published UK Breeding Bird Survey Report 2023 provides an insight into the success foreign interlopers are enjoying in an environment increasingly impacted by human influences.

One look at the 119 species monitored by the BBS's small army of British Trust for Ornithology volunteers shows 42 have declined since surveying began in 1994 while 35 have increased.

You have to accept non-native species do add a dash of colour to the countryside. The brilliant greens and crimsons of the ring-necked parakeet and the smorgasbord of browns, cinnamons, greys and reds of the Egyptian goose make them stand out birds.

Yet for sheer beauty, the drake mandarin with its fluffy whiskers and orange 'sails' ranks as the fanciest duck on the water. Since the BBS began, its numbers have risen by 600% to today's estimated population of more than 4,400 pairs.

FOLLOW STUART ON TWITTER:  
**@BIRDERMAN**

## time to

**GRACEFUL  
Foxgloves  
are a  
wonderful  
addition to  
any garden****BRIGHT  
Digitalis  
var albiflora**With their striking shape  
and choice of colours,  
foxgloves look stunning

One of my favourite sights in June is that of a bee burrowing deeply into a purple spotted foxglove flower.

It epitomises the start of summer and the grace and beauty of this native wildflower is a joy to be savoured. A staple of cottage garden planting with its romantic and rustic appearance, it also can hold its own in the contemporary garden.

If you're planning a white area, then Digitalis var

albiflora, will add a statuesque glamour and are also a great way to brighten up a shady corner.

The native foxglove Digitalis purpurea is a biennial, meaning it takes two years to complete its lifecycle. In the first year it puts energy into root formation and a rosette of leaves. In the second year it diverts energy into sending up a spike of flowers and setting seed. The seed is fine and will blow around, settling and growing in expected spaces

# DIG IN



with DIARMUID GAVIN

gardening@mirror.co.uk

Sorry, Diarmuid cannot reply personally



## Gloves are a perfect fit

where you would never have thought to plant them.

But did you know that there are also perennial foxgloves? These you plant in one spot and they will reappear there year after year. One such is *Digitalis ferruginea*, the rusty foxglove. It looks similar to the classic foxglove with its rosette of leaves and flower spike, but has much smaller flowers which are a rusty brown in appearance.

While perennial foxgloves can be relatively short lived, say up to four years, I have found *ferruginea* flowered for me under the birch trees for many a year and is starting to spread a little as well. 'Gelber Herod' is a more dramatic cultivar of this, with bigger and more orchid-like flowers which are yellow with brown veining.

*Digitalis lutea* is also a perennial and



**RUSTY**  
*Digitalis ferruginea*

has pretty pastel yellow flowers. Also known as the Small or Straw Foxglove, it's more compact and delicate than the traditional version, growing to around two feet in height and the flowers are like narrow trumpets.

Like their cousins, they like to grow in a humus rich soil, one that is moist but well drained.

Dappled shade is best for all foxgloves and they mingle well with other shade lovers such as hostas, hellebores and ferns.

For something a bit more showy and really good as a central "thriller" plant for your summer pots, look no further than the perennial *Digitalis* 'Illumination Pink'. The trumpet flowers are a zingy combination of orange pink on the



**PASTEL**  
*Digitalis lutea*



**VIBRANT**  
*Digitalis illumination pink*

outside with a coral interior dotted with orange. It's a sterile cultivar which means it doesn't produce seed but keeps producing flowers.

It's still a bee magnet for nectar and its branch habit will produce more flowers through the summer.

Finally, there are the Dalmatian foxgloves – these are notable for flowering in their first year and they come in a range of beautiful colours from a very soft peach, cream, white, purple and rosy pink. As the name suggests, the throats of the flowers are strongly spotted. So if you like growing from seed, this would be a good variety for quick results.

A word of caution with foxgloves – they contain digoxin which is used to treat heart conditions but should never be ingested, so bear that in mind with children and pets.

“  
**Dalmatian foxgloves, as the name suggests, are strongly spotted**”

## JOBS for the week

- Most houseplants are in active growth now so need regular watering and fortnightly feeding.
- Check your cabbages for butterflies laying their eggs - often you will find them on the underside of leaves. Remove by hand as their baby caterpillars can completely denude your plant.
- Fruit bushes need lots of water in dry periods to allow fruit to swell. Plums, pears and apples can be thinned out this month. This happens naturally as well - it's called June drop - but if you want bigger fruit, remove some of the smaller fruitlets.
- Ornamental lemon trees can vacation outdoors for the summer.
- Plant some seeds - nasturtiums are easy to grow and can go straight in the ground now or into pots for a



cascade of flowers in late summer.

- Continue successional sowing of salads and sow outdoors cucumber, sweetcorn, squash, French, runner and broad beans.
- Earth up your spuds. New potatoes may be ready to harvest, depending on when planted.
- Prune spring flowering deciduous shrubs such as kerria, forsythia, ribes and weigela as soon as they finish flowering.

## PLANT of the week



### Verbascum Dark Eyes

This is a compact *Verbascum*, growing to around one foot in height. It has a central spike of cream yellow flowers with a maroon-red centre, held above crinkly green foliage. It has a long flowering period from early to late summer and is easy to maintain.

Plant in full sun and well-drained soil - *Verbascum* is quite drought tolerant and suitable for a dry gravel garden. It's ideal in mixed and perennial borders, or in pots and containers.

## YOU ASK

**Hi Diarmuid**

I have a three-year-old oak tree living in a pot at the moment. I don't have space to plant it out yet but it's sentimental and I'd like to keep it going. Any tips for me?

**Thanks, Emily**

**Hi Emily**

An oak sapling will be fine in a pot for a couple of years. You will need to

move into a bigger pot as it grows - preferably a deeper one so it can develop its root system.

However, in a couple of years as growth increases, you will need to consider getting it into its final position as it will become too big to manoeuvre.

In the meantime, keep it watered, particularly during the summer as it could easily dry out in a small pot in hot weather.

**Diarmuid**



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RESULTS

BATH: Good

1.45: AL SAYAH (C Hutchinson 5-4f) 1; THAHAB IFRAJ (40-1) 2; UTHER PENDRAGON (20-1) 3. 8 ran. 8 1/2, 3 1/2. (N Mullholland). Tote: £2.25; £1.20, £7.50, £3.30. Tote Exacta: £52.30. Tricast: £696.39. Trifecta: £584.20. CSF: £67.03.

(2)-2: VIOLET LOVE (P Cosgrave 4-5f) 1; MISS SHOW DOWN (10-1) 2; HAVANA DANCE (7-2) 3. 8 ran. 11, 11, (G Boughy). Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £2.50, £1.10. Tote Exacta: £10.10. Trifecta: £28.90. CSF: £11.00. NRS: Blue Point Express, Kalahari Blue, Lift Lady, Skellig Isle.

2.55: ACCRUAL (P Cosgrave 33-1) 1; BALMORAL FLY (5-4) 2; FELICITY (9-4) 3. 5 ran. shd, 1/2. (D & C Kubler). Tote: £35.40; £9.80, £1.30. Tote Exacta: £98.20. Trifecta: £245.50. CSF: £75.86. NRS: Capo Vaticano, Caribbean Wind.

3.30: FRANK THE SPARK (K O'Neill 11-4f) 1; MEDIA GUEST (11-4) 2; HAVECHATMA (12-1) 3. 9 ran. 3 1/4, nk. (P Midgley). Tote: £3.62; £1.20, £1.40, £3.30. Tote Exacta: £10.00. Tricast: £61.70. Trifecta: £82.30. CSF: £8.45. NRS: Battle Point, Kafar, Liberty Bay, Liberty Bay/Rule 4 applies to All bets, deduct 5p in the pound.

4.05: ORGANIC (P Cosgrave events) 1; ALVESTA (5-2) 2; TIDAL STORM (7-1) 3. 7 ran. 4 1/2, 1/2. (G Boughy). Tote: £2.00; £1.30, £1.60. Tote Exacta: £3.50. Tricast: £9.62. Trifecta: £10.80. CSF: £3.55. NRS: Niooufar, Precision Storm.

4.40: LENNON (P Cosgrave 15-8f) 1; BRAMBLE JELLY (10-1) 2; MEET ME IN MERAKI (6-1) 3. 11 ran. 3/4, nk. (G Boughy). Tote: £2.88; £1.30, £1.90. Tote Exacta: £37.50. Tricast: £180.96. Trifecta: £187.40. CSF: £36.26.

5.15: LOCAL BAY (Jack Doughty 16-5) 1; ANDROMEDAS KINGDOM (3-1) 2; OWER STARLIGHT (20-1) 3. 11 ran. 3/4, 1 1/4. (A Carroll). Tote: £4.20; £1.50, £1.60, £5.80. Tote Exacta: £13.40. Tricast: £164.94. Trifecta: £251.70. CSF: £13.12. NRS: Ceallidh, Rival.

Placepot: £8.60. Quadpot: £4.10.

CHESTER: Soft-heavy in places

1.35: ASKTHEBOY (H Doyle 100-30f) 1; THE FLYING SEAGULL (4-1) 2; THECOFFEEPODDOTCO (4-1) 3. 10 ran. 1 1/4, shd. (A Keatley). Tote: £4.34; £1.60, £1.40, £1.40. Tote Exacta: £15.70. Trifecta: £52.60. CSF: £15.80. NRS: Stapleford Park, Tactical Plan.

2.10: COPPER KNIGHT (S B Kirrane 4-1f) 1; DICKIEBURD (15-2) 2; CURIOUS ROVER (6-1) 3. 11 ran. 1 1/4, 1/2. (T Eastery). Tote: £5.00; £1.70, £2.50, £2.40. Tote Exacta: £34.10. Tricast: £184.14. Trifecta: £237.60. CSF: £34.64.

2.45: LOVAL TOUCH (J Fanning 10-1) 1; BOX TO BOX (9-2) 2; HOSANNA POWER (6-4) 3. 8 ran. 11, 3/4. (C Johnston). Tote: £11.00; £2.50, £1.40, £1.20. Tote Exacta: £61.10. Tricast: £107.23. Trifecta: £173.80. CSF: £56.10. NRS: City Street, Desert Emperor, United Front.

3.20: LOVE BILLY BOY (F Norton 13-2) 1; PITNEY (16-1) 2; BLUE PRINCE (6-1) 3. 13 ran. 9-2f Monfrid, nk 1/4. (R Hamon). Tote: £8.30; £2.10, £5.40, £2.40. Tote Exacta: £127.90. Tricast: £678.44. Trifecta: £874.10. CSF: £94.98. NR: Burdett.

3.55: RICH BELIEF (R Colgan 7-2f) 1; WIND YOUR NECK IN (6-1) 2; PERCY JONES (15-2) 3. 10 ran. nk, 6 1/2. (K Thornton (IRE)). Tote: £4.50; £1.60, £2.30, £2.20. Tote Exacta: £18.90. Tricast: £148.54. Trifecta: £162.50. CSF: £24.40. NRS: Byzantine Empire, Haveyoumissedme, Teqany.

4.30: HYPERFOCUS (S B Kirrane 33-1) 1; MYTHICAL PHOENIX (5-2) 2; EVOCATIVE SPARK (7-1) 3. 10 ran. nk, 11. (T Eastery). Tote: £34.20; £8.80, £1.50, £2.40. Tote Exacta: £333.20. Trifecta: £680.18. Trifecta: £1174.90. CSF: £113.93. NRS: Indian Creek, Princess Shabnam.

5.04: DREAMS ADOZEN (J Fanning 5-2f) 1; GREY FABLE (13-2) 2; TIME TELLS ALL (100-30) 3. 9 ran. 11, 1/4. (C Johnston). Tote: £3.50; £1.40, £2.10, £1.20. Tote Exacta: £16.90. Tricast: £53.77. Trifecta: £69.20. CSF: £18.88. NR: Richard P Smith.

5.35: EYETRAP (P Peate 9-2) 1; GORDON GREY (100-30) 2; OMAN (4-1) 3. 7 ran. 3-1f Sax Appeal, 1 1/4, 7/1. (C Chapple-Hyam). Tote: £5.50; £2.30, £1.90. Tote Exacta: £19.80. Tricast: £62.55. Trifecta: £64.40. CSF: £18.91. NRS: Polar Princess, She's A Novelly.

Placepot: £92.90. Quadpot: £25.60.

SANDOWN: Good to soft

1.30: PRINCE ERIC (W Buick 9-1) 1; MR MONACO (18-5) 2; INTO BATTLE (2-1) 3. 7 ran. 11, shd. (J Ferguson). Tote: £10.00; £4.00, £2.30. Tote Exacta: £38.60. Tricast: £90.72. Trifecta: £130.07. CSF: £40.73. NRS: Jayysh, Von Baer.

2.05: TWO TEMPTING (David Egan 12-1) 1; CLASSIC (16-1) 2; DUAL IDENTITY (9-2) 3. 15 ran. nk, (J Portman). Tote: £14.20; £3.80, £5.20, £2.20. Tote Exacta: £248.50. Tricast: £1030.88. Trifecta: £2270.90. CSF: £187.89. NR: Hirochimi.

2.40: ADAAY IN DEVON (S De Sousa 11-8f) 1; FLORA OF BERMUDE (5-1) 2; NIGHTYES (5-1) 3. 7 ran. hd, 11. (B Millman). Tote: £2.00; £1.30, £1.70. Tote Exacta: £8.40. Trifecta: £31.70. CSF: £7.66. NR: Graceful Thunder.

3.15: SPANISH BLAZE (K Shoemark 9-1) 1; QUATRE BRAS (18-1) 2; MOUNT TEIDE (6-5) 3. 9 ran. 11, 1/2. (M Trengoni). Tote: £10.40; £2.60, £4.90, £1.10. Tote Exacta: £197.60. Tricast: £333.79. Trifecta: £570.10. CSF: £156.02. NRS: Robbo, Swindon.

3.50: PRAGUE (J Gilligan 40-1) 1; MUTAAWID (12-1) 2; CHORUS (6-4) 3. 13 ran. 4, 1/2. (D Cumha). Tote: £41.00; £7.60, £2.70, £1.20. Tote Exacta: £705.70. Trifecta: £3031.00. CSF: £449.03. NRS: Desperate Dan, Kingdom Of Stars.

4.25: ASTEVERDI (T Marquand 6-1) 1; ZIGGY'S PHOENIX (7-2) 2; IMPERIAL EXPRESS (9-1) 3. 7 ran. 5-2f Hot Fashion, 3/4, 3/4. (Alice Haynes). Tote: £7.00; £3.30, £3.60. Tote Exacta: £50.30. Tricast: £453.13. Trifecta: £304.70. CSF: £53.06. NR: Get The Music On.

5.00: COCO ROYALE (T Marquand 2-1f) 1; SALIGO BAY (11-1) 2; DUKE OF VERONA (5-2) 3. 8 ran. 5 1/2, nk. (W Haggas). Tote: £3.00; £1.30, £2.70, £1.40. Tote Exacta: £22.70. Tricast: £57.03. Trifecta: £65.40. CSF: £25.39. NRS: Blindedbylights, Dancing In Paris, Rhythmic Intent.

Placepot: £656.80. Quadpot: £63.80.

YORK: Good to soft

1.50: LORD MELBOURNE (Miss Serena Brotherton) 9-2f 1; WHIMSY (7-1) 2; GIBSIDE (17-2) 3; BARYSHKINOV (25-1) 4. 18 ran. 2 1/4, 1 1/4, 7/8. (R Eckert). Tote: £5.50; £2.90, £2.30, £5.70. Tote Exacta: £36.90. Tricast: £268.41. Trifecta: £296.40. CSF: £33.06.

2.25: TOLSTOY (R Robinson 100-30f) 1; QUEST FOR FUN (14-1) 2; NEW IMAGE (11-2) 3; STONE SOLDIER (25-1) 4. 17 ran. 1/2, nk. (B Ellison). Tote: £4.34; £1.70, £3.30, £1.60, £6.30. Tote Exacta: £62.90. Tricast: £273.42. Trifecta: £395.20. CSF: £49.73. NRS: Bear Force One, Diamondthelhit, Mudamer.

3.00: KLONDIKE (R L Moore 3-1) 1; SALT BAY (100-30) 2; RELENTLESS VOYAGER (3-1) 3. 5 ran. 3-1f Real Dream, shd, 2 1/4. (W Haggas). Tote: £4.00; £1.70, £2.00. Tote Exacta: £13.10. Trifecta: £36.60. CSF: £12.59. NR: Chesapeake.

3.35: JAMES'S DELIGHT (R L Moore) 6-1 1; ALMARADA PRINCE (16-1) 2; ELMONJED (4-1f) 3; MEDIA SHOOTER (66-1) 4. 17 ran. 4-1f Ziggy's Concord, 2 1/4, 1 1/4. (C Cox). Tote: £11.90; £3.10, £1.70, £1.90. Tote Exacta: £96.70. Tricast: £352.43. Trifecta: £631.20. CSF: £91.55. NRS: Pocklington, Woodhay Winder.

4.10: THE STRIKIN VIKING (T Eaves 8-1) 1; TIGER MASK (3-1) 2; U SURE DO (9-2) 3. 11 ran. 2 1/4, 1 1/2. (K Ryan). Tote: £9.00; £2.70, £1.50, £1.30. Tote Exacta: £43.20. Tricast: £143.50. CSF: £31.97.

4.45: PISANELLO (Mark Winn 18-1) 1; BOY DOUGLAS (9-2) 2; MOSTAWMA (10-1) 3. 14 ran. 9-2f+1 Theme Park, nk, 11. (D O'Meara). Tote: £22.60; £5.30, £2.00, £3.80. Tote Exacta: £140.10. Tricast: £907.37. Trifecta: £1793.50. CSF: £94.14. NRS: Dingle, Hale End, Utills.

5.20: HOLKHAM BAY (Brandon Willkie) 11-2 1; DARK SIDE THUNDER (8-1) 2; TRIARC (100-30) 3; ROUNDHAY PARK (28-1) 4. 20 ran. 11, nk, 3/4. (W Knight). Tote: £6.60; £2.00, £1.80, £6.50. Tote Exacta: £57.40. Tricast: £180.17. Trifecta: £177.50. CSF: £47.44. NRS: Abate, Rock Opera.

Jackpot: Not won, pool of £10,944.23 carried over. Placepot: £60.40. Quadpot: £15.60.

DOWNPATRICK: Good-good to yielding in places

1.05: FEMME MAGNIFIQUE (K Callaghan 11-4) 1; SHARP OBJECT (2-1) 2; DISCO DANCER (13-2) 3. 13 ran. 3 1/4, hd. (W P Mullins). Tote: £3.75; £1.40, £1.40, £1.90. Tote Exacta: £9.40. Trifecta: £35.80. CSF: £9.04. NRS: Ash Court, Fix It For Me, Mountrovers Lass, Pasquetta, Slim Marvel.

1.40: PETROL HEAD (S O'Callaghan 7-2) 1; ONLY ONE PLAN (16-1) 2; MATER MATUTA (6-1) 3. 10 ran. 5-2f Tell Us This, 8 1/2, 3/4. (Miss K Brown). Tote: £4.70; £2.20, £4.90, £2.40. Tote Exacta: £57.20. Trifecta: £214.10. CSF: £56.94.

2.15: CULLENWAINE (Miss P Ehin 100-30f) 1; PETTIGO (9-1) 2; DEAR RYTA (14-1) 3. 14 ran. 100-30f+1 Moneybabe, 5 1/2, 11. (P J Rothwell). Tote: £4.34; £1.80, £3.80, £5.70. Tote Exacta: £35.60. Tricast: £393.83. Trifecta: £346.50. CSF: £33.46. NRS: Falvio, Fernhill Fling, Meadow Soprano, Noriska De La Mare.

2.50: KALSAMAN (Mr J H Williamson 16-1) 1; GHUMAMA (80-1) 2; SPRINGBOARD (12-1) 3. 15 ran. 16-5f O'Faolains Glory, 6 1/2, 2 1/4. (L Lennon). Tote: £21.00; £3.10, £3.60, £4.00. Tote Exacta: £1477.99. Trifecta: £288.10. CSF: £963.42. NRS: Little Hero, Mabel In May, Tropical Speed.

3.25: ROBIN DE ROOST (Allen O'Sullivan 40-1) 1; GAME AND GLORY (11-2) 2; BENNY SILVER (3-1) 3. 11 ran. 4 1/2, 1 1/2. (T Gibney). Tote: £61.00; £9.70, £2.80, £1.60. Tote Exacta: £584.60. Tricast: £887.65. Trifecta not won. CSF: £254.35. NRS: Blenheim Belle, Nephin Beg.

4.00: TULLYVEERY LAD (Paddy Hanlon 4-1) 1; STOCKDALE (11-4) 2; TOWNHILL PENNY (17-2) 3. 6 ran. 5 1/2, 16l. (R P Cody). Tote: £5.70; £2.50, £1.60. Tote Exacta: £15.30. Tricast: £87.60. CSF: £16.10. NR: Natural Breeze.

4.35: CHAINOFCONSEQUENCE (P K Donovan 11-1) 1; OCEAN LEGACY (9-1) 2; CENTURION STEEL (5-1) 3. 13 ran. 5-1f+1 Ocdango Boy, 11, shd. (M J McDonagh). Tote: £13.90; £4.10, £3.20, £2.00. Tote Exacta: £100.20. Tricast: £573.03. Trifecta: £659.60. CSF: £112.49. NRS: Danesfort Mayfly, Mooney Boy.

5.10: JACKSON LAMB (A Harvey 5-2) 1; AUGUSTA GEORGE (33-1) 2; STARCROSSED LOVER (11-10) 3. 9 ran. 16l, 6 1/2. (A McConnell). Tote: £3.50; £1.50, £5.40, £1.10. Tote Exacta: £89.40. Trifecta: £265.80. CSF: £82.17. NRS: Beaufort Scale, Eoin's Charm.

Placepot: £335.90.

HEXHAM: Good-good to soft in places

4.17: HUIT REFLECTS (T Midgley 15-8f) 1; KOPA KILANA (9-1) 2; FOXWOOD (11-1) 3. 10 ran. hd, 11. (M Walford). Tote: £2.88; £1.30, £1.70, £3.30. Tote Exacta: £20.10. Tricast: £147.72. Trifecta: £175.90. CSF: £19.14. NRS: Monty Nevett, Toscan Genius.

4.52: GOING MOBILE (J England 5-1) 1; DREAM JET (9-1) 2; KICKSAFTERSIX (12-1) 3. 10 ran. 100-30f Jet Patrol, 5 1/2, 2 1/4. (S England). Tote: £5.00; £4.00, £2.40, £3.50. Tote Exacta: £50.00. Tricast: £512.18. Trifecta: £409.20. CSF: £46.71.

5.27: BREAKDANCE KID (S Colthard 25-1) 1; SO BE IT (22-1) 2; MUROO (80-1) 3. 13 ran. 16-5f Ribsey, 14l, shd. (W Colthard). Tote: £28.10; £6.00, £6.50, £18.80. Tote Exacta: £622.00. Tricast: £3578.70. Trifecta not won. CSF: £439.73. NR: Goodoldhill.

6.00: STYLISH RECRUIT (R Mania 20-1) 1; FAMOUS LISS (6-1) 2; IF YOU LET ME (4-6) 3. 14 ran. nk, 2 1/4. (A M Thomson). Tote: £21.20; £3.40, £3.80, £1.10. Tote Exacta: £356.70. Tricast: £1088.20. CSF: £289.95.

6.30: KINGSTON BRIDGE (Craig Nichol 5-1) 1; IMPERIAL DATA (7-2) 2; ACCIDENTAL REBEL (50-1) 3. 9 ran. 7-4f Hartur D'oudaires, nk, 16l. (Evan Whillans). Tote: £6.40; £1.90, £1.60, £1.20. Tote Exacta: £27.30. Tricast: £784.46. Trifecta: £942.40. CSF: £23.28.

7.00: DINONS (Craig Nichol 16-1) 1; SHANTOU MOON (9-1) 2; MINIMOO (4-1) 3. 10 ran. 5-2f Swallows Song, 10l, 3/4. (B Ellison). Tote: £17.00; £4.00, £2.40, £1.80. Tote Exacta: £175.80. Tricast: £689.99. Trifecta: £669.50. CSF: £144.81. NR: Cooper's Cross.

Placepot: £55,276.70. Quadpot: £1,446.10.

LEICESTER: Good to soft-good in places

5.17: CELEBRN (Billy Loughnane 5-4f) 1; METRO DUBAI (8-1) 2; BAYLANDO (33-1) 3. 10 ran. 1 1/2, 1/2. (G Boughy). Tote: £2.25; £1.10, £2.40, £6.00. Tote Exacta: £13.20. Trifecta: £221.30. CSF: £11.91.

5.48: FEARLESS FREDDY (L Edmunds 4-6f) 1; TIMEFALL (2-1) 2; JACK ANDREA (33-1) 3. 8 ran. 2 1/4, 4l. (W Muir & C Grassick). Tote: £1.67; £1.10, £1.20, £4.70. Tote Exacta: £2.40. Trifecta: £22.30. CSF: £2.12. NR: Corriama.

6.18: SIEMPRE ARTURO (Dylan Hogan 7-2) 1; GISELLES DEFENCE (2-1) 2; ROYAL DREAM (8-1) 3. 8 ran. 1 1/4, 1/2. (D & C Kubler). Tote: £4.50; £1.60, £1.30, £2.00. Tote Exacta: £12.00. Tricast: £50.45. Trifecta: £74.60. CSF: £10.95. NR: Tiger Beetle.

6.53: THREE DONS (Molly Gunn 13-2) 1; CHICAGO GAL (10-1) 2; DUBAI IMMO (4-1) 3. 5 ran. 3-1f+1 Basileite, 3-1f+1 Camacho Man, 1 1/4, 1 1/4. (A Carroll). Tote: £7.90; £2.20, £3.00, £1.00. Tote Exacta: £63.80. Tricast: £297.51. Trifecta: £336.90. CSF: £70.11. NR: Ship To Shore.

7.25: MUTAMANNI (Billy Loughnane 2-1f) 1; WINGED MESSENGER (7-2) 2; STAMH THE CASH (5-2) 3. 5 ran. nk, 2 1/2. (G Boughy). Tote: £3.00; £1.50, £1.90. Tote Exacta: £8.30. Trifecta: £16.70. CSF: £8.78. NR: Master Of My Fate.

8.00: SUB THIRTEEN (W Carson 11-2) 1; CARLTON AND CO (9-1) 2; GENTLE ELLEN (6-1) 3. 11 ran. 3-1f Shark Two One, 1/2, nk. (A Carroll). Tote: £6.50; £2.10, £2.50, £2.10. Tote Exacta: £49.40. Tricast: £251.77. Trifecta: £309.70. CSF: £54.33. NRS: El Montejean, Rusheen Bay, The Cola Kid.

8.30: VOLTAIC (Molly Gunn 6-1) 1; KONDRATIEV VAE (9-4) 2; KODEBREAKER (4-1) 3. 9 ran. 9-1, 2l. (A Carroll). Tote: £7.00; £1.80, £1.40, £1.50. Tote Exacta: £20.70. Trifecta: £85.30. CSF: £19.73. NR: Gonzaga.

9.00: ENPASSANT (D Muscitt 7-1) 1; MOON MAN (8-1) 2; INDIVAR (2-1) 3. 7 ran. nk, 11. (J Fanshawe). Tote: £8.00; £2.90, £3.00. Tote Exacta: £52.20. Tricast: £151.92. Trifecta: £156.80. CSF: £58.32. NRS: Indication Court, Swordplay, Windsor Smile.

Placepot: £31.50. Quadpot: £20.00.

UTTOXETER: Good-good to soft in places

5.07: BASKERVILLE (T Bellamy 9-2) 1; DON RAFAEL (7-2) 2; NEAR DARK (10-1) 3. 9 ran. 4-6f Jamfingso, 2 1/2, shd. (A King). Tote: £6.20; £1.60, £1.10, £1.50. Tote Exacta: £23.30. Trifecta: £122.80. CSF: £22.03. NRS: Hard As Nails, Reach For The Moon.

5.40: VALSAD (Paul O'Brien 4-1f) 1; COUNTRY PARK (12-1) 2; FASHIONELLE (11-2) 3. 10 ran. 6 1/2, 14l. (Harry Derham). Tote: £3.77; £1.10, £2.20, £1.30. Tote Exacta: £6.70. Tricast: £20.10. CSF: £6.94.

6.20: JUST CHASING MAY (B R Jones 9-2) 1; STATE OF HONOR (22-1) 2; RENEGADE ARROW (14-1) 3. 13 ran. 13-8f We Gotta Betaway, 3l, 6l. (B Pauling). Tote: £5.50; £1.70, £5.10, £4.40. Tote Exacta: £10.70. Tricast: £1642.30. CSF: £103.17. NR: Milan Echo.

6.40: BARRAKHOV (K Woods 9-4f) 1; JEAN GENIE (8-1) 2; OUR ZEBEO (5-1) 3. 9 ran. 1 1/2, 4 1/2. (D Killahane & G McPherson). Tote: £2.35; £1.40, £3.50, £2.40. Tote Exacta: £36.60. Tricast: £189.26. Trifecta: £270.60. CSF: £39.97. NRS: Gamalou D'Alene, Methodofchoice, Unwanted Attention.

7.10: GIULIETTA (H Skelton 8-15f) 1; FAHA BELLE (15-2) 2; TURKEY AND HAM (10-1) 3. 11 ran. 6 1/2, 2 1/4. (Skelton). Tote: £15.4; £1.10, £2.80, £2.80. Tote Exacta: £55.50. Tricast: £24.73. Trifecta: £39.30. CSF: £5.48. NRS: Caughnaspell, Milanese Rose, Of Course You Can, Shibuya Song, Stargazer Belle.

7.45: OVER MILK WOOD (J Hogan 6-4f) 1; RAJJAMATAZ (13-8) 2; ROLL WITH IT (11-2) 3. 10 ran. 1 1/4, 6l. (G Luckley). Tote: £2.50; Tote Exacta: £39.90. Trifecta: £16.90. CSF: £4.43. NRS: Duke Of Humfrey, Limezero Boy.

8.15: MR TAMBOURNE MAN (U Tudor 6-1) 1; MY MONTY (9-2) 2; UBETYA (11-2) 3. 9 ran. 7/1, 1/4. (D Pipe). Tote: £7.00; £2.00, £1.80, £2.20. Tote Exacta: £32.20. Tricast: £157.71. Trifecta: £194.90. CSF: £33.70. NRS: Bright Sundird, Mamoon Star, Nora The Explorer, Rocco Royale, Topkapi Star.

8.45: THAT'LL DO MOSS (J J Burke 4-1) 1; O'GRADY'S HILL (13-8) 2; ALL INN HAND (17-2) 3. 7 ran. 4, 1/4. (F O'Brien). NRS: Jo Jo Binks, Neeps And Patties, She's Our World.

Placepot: £40.30. Quadpot: £8.10.

DONCASTER



OUR TIP Al Muqaddad GOING: GOOD WEATHER: SHOWERS NEWSBOY'S TIPS: 2.10 AL MUQADDAD (NAP), 2.40 BUCKSHAW VILLAGE, 3.10 CABELLERO, 3.40 OXFORD COMMA, 4.10 ARDBRACCAN, 4.40 EAGLE LANDED, 5.10 BORDERLINE BOSS, 5.40 SHOWBOATED

2.10 SAM HAY HANDICAP (DIV 1) (5) 7f Winner £4,397 (10 run) 1 (4) -52 PRISCILLA'S WISH (25) P McBride 6 9-1 (D6), A Farragher 2 (8) -84 RED MAIDS (25) M Rimell 4 9-9 (D2), David Egan 3 (7) 341 AL MUQADDAD (13) D O'Meara 4 9-8 (D2), D Nolan 4 (9) 00 DEPUTY (23) M Dods 6 9-7 (CD), P Mulrennan 5 (1) 417 CHARENCEY (12) I Williams 4 9-7 (BF, D), Josephine Gordon 6 (5) 900 ZUK RUM (36) M Loughnane 4 9-6 (D), F Marsh 7 (3) 9-3 ALBESSEINGYER (18) S Hollinshead 5 9-4 (CD), D Costello 8 (10) 70 FINBAR'S LAD (29) J & S Quinn 5 9-4 (D), J Hart 9 (6) 733 STREAK LIGHTNING (12) R Carr 7 9-2 (D3), JP Sullivan 10 (2) 53 FALCON (235) Oly Williams 4 8-13, C Hardie

BETTING: 3 Al Muqaddad, 5 Streak Lightning, 11-2 Priscilla's Wish, 7 Others. 2.40 SAM HAY HANDICAP (DIV 2) (5) 7f Winner £4,397 (10 run) 1 (9) 172 COLD STARE (18) D O'Meara 9 9-10 (D6), D Nolan 2 (4) 905 SNAZZY JAZZY (33) S Spencer 9 9-9, Dale Swift 3 (5) 705 LAHAB (8) G Tuer 4 9-8 (D), H Shaw 4 (10) 246 ALGHEED (7) M Loughnane 6 9-7 (D3), F Marsh 5 (2) 886 EPIC EXPRESS (11) C Dwyer 6 9-7 (D), S De Sousa 6 (7) 715 CUE'S BEAU

# DAYS TO THE START OF ROYAL ASCOT



# OISIN COLOUR SCENE

EXCLUSIVE  
BY DAVID YATES

**OISIN MURPHY is much more than a Frankie Dettori tribute act.**

For the first time in decades, Royal Ascot will not have the world's most famous jockey at its front and centre.

The Italian, who left Britain last Christmas to continue his riding career in America, will have a presence at the five-day fixture – but not on horseback.

Murphy knows the void created by Dettori's departure needs to be filled as British racing struggles to keep its foothold in the public mind. "When I was born, there was less competition with different sports – and racing got more attention," says Murphy. "Because it has less

attention now, it's harder for people to have an interest in it."

Murphy's social media videos spell out what went right – or wrong – for his big-race mounts.

"Not everyone is able to ride a horse and 99.5 percent of people have never ridden a thoroughbred," Murphy (right) says.

"If I can explain to 200,000 people in two minutes, it's much easier than typing out a message that isn't descriptive enough to give people an insight."

Murphy, nephew of Best Mate's three-time Cheltenham Gold Cup-

winning jockey Jim Culloty, left Ireland to join Andrew Balding's Kingsclere stable in 2012.

Two years later, he was crowned champion apprentice, adding three senior titles to his CV in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

But his first 10 years in Britain were not without turbulence – Murphy received a three-month cocaine ban in December 2020 and he missed the

whole of 2023 due to a 14-month suspension for Covid breaches and two failed breath tests.

Murphy confessed to dealing with the pressures "in entirely the wrong way".

Now, 16 months on from his return, he has a double-figure lead at the top of the jockeys' championship table.

The 43 successes have come at a win rate of 22 percent. "I feel I can get into a good zone, ride off instinct and ride well," he explains before turning to his chances of adding to 11 Royal Ascot victories next week.

His best prospect is Middle Earth, on whom he will carry the silks of his Qatar Racing bosses in Saturday's Group 2 Hardwicke Stakes.

"I can't wait to ride him," says the 28-year-old. "He shouldn't have been able to win [the Aston Park Stakes] from his position at Newbury and he will have sharpened up for that race."

Murphy rides French filly and 1,000 Guineas third Ramatuelle in the Group 1 Coronation Stakes on Friday and Australian sprinter Afsoor in Tuesday's top-level King Charles III Stakes.

"We're used to Frankie being centre stage, so it's going to be different," reflects Murphy.

"But it's still ultra-competitive. It takes time and luck to collect a number of horses for each day. I need to make the most of them."

Murphy is not Dettori, but fans' favourite Murphy is more than ready to fill the King's boots this week



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**MURPHY'S LAW**  
Oisín Murphy has a good book of rides this week

## ONE A DAY

By David Yates  
AL MUQDAD is fancied to follow up his recent victory at Ayr with a win in the Sam Hay Handicap (Div 1) (2.10) at Doncaster today.

**AL MUQDAD**  
2.10 Doncaster, Today  
**RACING DEMON**  
2.48 Chepstow, Tomorrow  
**NOTABLE SPEECH**  
4.25 Royal Ascot, Tuesday  
**WHITE BIRCH**  
4.25 Royal Ascot, Wednesday

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## OLYMPICS



IT'S JUST  
**40**  
days to go to  
the start of the  
Paris Games

# Put your house on Reid

BRIT QUIT DUE TO INJURY, AND WAS THEN A MORTGAGE ADVISER ... NOW SHE'S BACK AND ADMITS: I'M GOING TO PARIS TO GET GOLD



**AGONY & ECSTASY**  
Chantelle has got over her back pain and is on glory trail

**EXCLUSIVE BY ALAN SMITH**  
**CHANTELLE REID**  
thought her boxing career was finished.

Not long after winning bronze at the 2015 world youth championships, the middleweight was diagnosed with degenerative disc disease, a debilitating back injury that meant doctors warned her to put the gloves away.

Reid, who had been kick-boxing from the age of five, had twice been a European junior champion and looked destined to follow in the footsteps of her hero Chantelle Cameron.

But, at its worst, the pain meant she could barely sleep and medics were emphatic that she had to quit. Boxing,

however, remained a core part of her life. Both parents and her grandad run gyms in the East Midlands, meaning the natural course was to begin coaching as well.

But being in the corner for her younger brother Duane Jr provided too much temptation and after a six-year break she could not watch outside the ring.

So Reid embarked on a stunning return, ditching the desk job she hated, and in 18 months she has gone from sparring to becoming an Olympic gold-medal hopeful.

"I was working at a mortgage advice centre in Derby and then teaching

kids boxing in the evenings," she said. "Going from boxing all my life to sitting in an office was a very different life. I didn't enjoy it at all.

"Boxing is for me. I couldn't really imagine going back to that career."

Teaching the next generation brought some fulfilment, but not enough.

"Being in my brother's corner meant all the adrenaline came back and then it was a conversation with my family that I'm not in agony any more, I'm able to sleep and not on any medication, I was able to

run." In January 2023, she entered the British championships.

"It was about easing back in," she said. But she was put on the England team "straightaway" and it was not long before she was at the Olympic qualifiers and, crucially, receiving National Lottery funding - boxing has received more than £100million from the organisation since 1994.

"That was massive," she said. "I wouldn't be able to train full-time if it wasn't for funding. I'd have to work. I

train three times a day, so I need income support.

"Even buying supplements or equipment, being able to afford petrol to drive to Sheffield [where the boxing programme is based]. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for their support."

She is determined to reward the faith shown in her. Unabashedly, her focus is on nothing less than gold.

"I can't wait to get to Paris," she added. "The environment will be like a different world. Those two weeks of settling in will help me focus on what I'm there to do - get a gold medal.

"I don't really think I've any challengers, they're all beatable. It's just about getting the tactics right."

## 'FIGHTING BEATS SCAFFOLDING!'

BY ALAN SMITH

PAT BROWN says an eye-opening stint on building sites across Manchester was the motivation for his assault on the Olympics.

The heavyweight contender, 24, spent two years scaffolding by day and sparring by night, having also worked as a gardener.

But the physical toll was "so gruesome" it left him with a choice - concentrate on

his boxing or say goodbye to his dream. He chose the former and has been fast-tracked through the British podium system since 2022 while fighting out of Nigel Travis's Moss Side Fire Station gym.

"Lifting tubes all day and boxing after work was quite difficult," said Brown (right).

"But my goal was always boxing. I knew I'd get to the level required, so these jobs

were a bit of money to bide my time. With the scaffolding, I was around people trying to feed their families. That job made me realise a lot, it gave me more hunger to chase my boxing dream because I didn't want to do scaffolding forever.

"To fast-track my way through has been surreal. It gives out a message to kids that anything is possible."



## FORMULA ONE



**IN TUNE:** Hamilton's mechanics do their final preparations for Montreal last Sunday

# LEW IS ALL SET TO WIPE THE FLOOR

**Spanish Grand Prix**  
Next Sunday, Barcelona, 2pm  
BY HARRY SMITH

LEWIS HAMILTON and Mercedes are ready to take the fight to Red Bull at the Spanish Grand Prix next week.

The Silver Arrows will debut a new floor at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya as they look to build on the success of their recent front-wing upgrade at the Canadian Grand Prix.

Heading into the race in Montreal, the Brackley-based outfit were nothing more than also-rans in the fight for victories.

But at the end of Friday's running at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, it was clear that this was no longer the case.

Mercedes' promise carried over into the rest of the weekend, too.

Hamilton was quicker than the next fastest driver in FP3 and George Russell claimed his second career pole position later in the day.

Then, on race day, Russell fought bravely against reigning champion Max Verstappen and McLaren's Lando Norris before eventually finishing third, just ahead of his team-mate.



Despite disappointment emanating from the Mercedes camp, their progress was clear.

Assessing the state of his team, Toto Wolff said: "I think definitely, since

Imola, we've taken the right steps and put parts on the car that are working, something we were struggling to do in the past couple of years.

"Now, directionally we seem to be adding performance every weekend and we have new stuff coming also, new parts coming in Barcelona that should help us."

Hamilton (above) could also see the progress made by the Silver Arrows.

"On a positive note, a big, big thank you to everyone back at the factory, because it is becoming a car we can fight with," he said.

"I know we'll have hopefully some more upgrades coming, so it's going to be a close battle and if I get my head on right, I'll get better results."

Wolff will be delighted to leave Canada with proof that his technical team are finally understanding what it takes to unlock performances.

And Hamilton will now be rubbing his hands at the prospect of testing out the car's new floor at a track that has served him well in recent years.

Mercedes had both of their cars on the podium in Barcelona last season, and Hamilton is a six-time winner of the event.

But Red Bull are expected to return to form after a difficult run at some of F1's most unique street circuits.

# CRICKET



## T20 WORLD CUP WEST INDIES AND UNITED STATES



**NAMIBIA BROOKEN THANKS TO HARRY**  
Bustling Brook fires away another fine boundary in his 37-minute spell last night

England batter smashes 47 in 20 balls for a second straight quickfire win

# BROOK IN A HARRY

### SCOREBOARD

#### Namibia v England

**NORTH SOUND:** England (2pts) beat Namibia by 41 runs (D/L Method)

**ENGLAND**

P Salt c Green b Wiese	11
J Buttler b Trumpelmann	0
J Bairstow c Green b Scholtz	31
H Brook not out	47
M Ali c Davin b Trumpelmann	16
L Livingstone run out	13
B2 lbi wI	4
Total (5 wkts., 10 overs)	122
Fall: 2, 13, 69, 107, 122.	
<b>Bowling:</b> Wiese 2-0-6-1, Trumpelmann 2-0-31-2, Scholtz 2-0-24-1, Erasmus 2-0-26-0, Brassell 2-0-32-0.	

**NAMIBIA**

M van Lingen c Brook b Jordan	33
N Davin ret out	18
D Wiese c Brook b Archer	27
M Erasmus not out	1
J Smit not out	0
Lb2 w2 nbl	5
Total (3 wkts., 10 overs)	84
Fall: 44, 80, 82.	
<b>Bowling:</b> Topley 2-0-6-0, Archer 2-0-15-1, Curran 2-0-13-0, Jordan 2-0-19-1, Rashid 2-0-29-0.	
<b>Umpires:</b> A Holdstock & L Rusere.	

BY GARY FITZGERALD

**HARRY BROOK went on the rampage in rainy Antigua to ensure England picked up a 41-run victory in the T20 World Cup last night.**

The 25-year-old Yorkie showed off his outstanding batting skills with a flashing 47 to help Jos Buttler's side make 122-5 in a contest reduced to ten overs due to heavy downpours.

Namibia's target was revised to 126 under DLS. And even though the minnows tried hard with big-hitting David Wiese dishing out some punishment, England's bowlers were always on top and restricted them to 84-3.

Brook was on fire, and his partnership with fellow Tyke Jonny

Bairstow was key after England had made a bad start losing both openers cheaply once put into bat.

Brook admitted: "There were a few nerves when it was raining, but thankfully we got going.

"I was trying to hit boundaries, but kept finding gaps for twos and I was a bit knackered at the end."

Bairstow, who hit a crucial 31, insisted: "We just wanted to get the game going. It was frustrating. When it rains as hard as it did you start getting a bit concerned.

"Luckily the outfield dries out quickly here although it was still damp. It was tough going as they bowled very well in difficult conditions for batting."

Heavy rain delayed the start for three hours. The ground was

saturated and it looked bleak for a start with Buttler and his players looking out forlornly at the rain.

At that stage England were cursing their abandoned game with Scotland and loss to Australia. They had crushed minnows Oman and needed to get stuck into Namibia.

Namibia won the toss and inserted England they made two quick inroads with Buttler bowled by Reuben Truempelmann for a three-ball duck, and Phil Salt caught behind off David Wiese for 11.

Bairstow and Brook joined ranks in a fierce counter attack, smashing the ball around the ground..

Bairstow struck spinners Bernard Scholtz and Gerhard Erasmus for sixes while Brook opened his arms impressively. Another short rain

delayed after Bairstow fell skying a big hit for 31 saw the game reduced from 11 to ten overs.

Brook went on the attack in style, hitting the ball all around the ground. He struck Brassell for 19 runs off one over

Some late big hits too from Moeen Ali (16) and Liam Livingstone (13) swept the score to 122-5 at the end.

That total was revised up four runs for the Namibians.

Namibia's openers Michael van Lingen and Niko Davin got their side going strongly before Wiese dished out some hefty punishment hitting Adil Rashid for two sixes and a four.

Chris Jordan removed van Lingen for 33 and when Wiese (27) fell to Jofra Archer, England had completed the victory.

## PIF BOWLED OVER

**EXCLUSIVE BY RICHARD EDWARDS**  
THE success of the T20 World Cup in the USA could spark massive new financial investment in cricket.

Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund might even switch its main focus from football - according to Simon Chadwick, an expert in the geopolitical economy of sport at global business school SKEMA.

He said: "We hear that the Saudi Arabian PIF is contemplating large-scale investment in cricket. We know about mature sports like football,

but it costs a lot of money to get involved in them, there are barriers to entry and you could argue that the market is saturated. Cricket doesn't have that saturation and the global footprint is still there.

"Crucially, the sport is going to appear at the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

"It's going to get more TV coverage, it's going to get greater exposure to audiences, it's going to draw in more sponsors and commercial partners."



## ARCHER X-RATED

**BY GARY FITZGERALD**  
JOFRA ARCHER'S impressive return to the England white-ball firing line bodes well for a hot and fiery Test summer from the fit-again speedster.

That's the verdict from former England captain Michael Vaughan.

Jos Buttler and his men have huffed and puffed as defending champions at this T20 World Cup.

But Archer (left) sending down rapid missiles, mixed with real accuracy and penetration, has at least

given the management and supporters a reason to smile, and be optimistic for the red-ball months to come.

Vaughan said: "Archer is the X-factor, no matter what form of cricket England are playing. We've seen that here.

"It may have only been Oman, but you could see just how tough he makes it for batsmen. He's not lost any pace, clearly, and I'm impressed with his consistency.

"We know a bowler like him, who has just returned from a lengthy injury and is still building up his match fitness, will only improve."

## SPORTS SHORTS

### Leinster gutted in semi thriller



#### RUGBY UNION

**JAMES RYAN** said his Leinster side were left "gutted" after losing a thrilling United Rugby Championship semi-final in Pretoria.

Two tries from Sergeal Petersen (above, right) and another from Johan Goosen, who contributed 15 points, saw the Bulls through to their second final in three years in a pulsating 25-20 win.

Leinster responded with tries from James Lowe (below) and Caelan Doris, but their bid for a ninth title and a first URC trophy since 2021 fell just short.

Leinster had trailed 17-7 but twice pulled level in the final quarter only to finally be beaten with a try 13 minutes from time.

Captain Ryan said: "It was Test-match intensity and we are gutted coming off on the bad side of the result.



"But all credit to the Bulls, I thought that they were exceptional and best of luck to them in the final. In knockout rugby it is all about small margins."



### De Minaur shows SW19 credentials

#### TENNIS

**ALEX DE MINAUR** warmed up for Wimbledon by booking a place in today's Libema Open final in Holland, with a straight sets win over Ugo Humbert.

The Australian top seed (above) took one hour and 46 minutes on the Dutch grass to win 7-6 6-3.

He raced to a 4-0 in the first set before being pegged back and forced to take it in a nervy tie-break.

The second set was a tight affair and he needed to raise his game on serve to secure victory.

De Minaur will take on Sebastian Korda in the final after the American ended Tallon Griekspoor's title defence with a 6-2 6-4 win in their semi-final.

#### SUPERBIKES

**TOPRAK RAZGATLIOGLU** targeted two more wins today after racing to victory in yesterday's race one in Misano, Italy.

The stunning success also saw the Turkish rider go top of the World Superbikes standings, the first BMW rider to head the table in 12 years.

He said: "It was a very hard race for everyone with the hot conditions, as there was less grip from the track.

"But it's not over, we have two more races tomorrow."

## TENNIS



**GROUNDS FOR CONCERN** Raducanu and match official

## EMMA ALL SET TO TRY AGAIN

BY NEIL SQUIRES

EMMA RADUCANU will have to come back to finish what she started today after her Nottingham nailbiter with Katie Boulter was suspended last night.

Raducanu will take a one-set lead into the rain-delayed semi-final after edging the defending champion 15-13 in a gripping opening set tie-break at the Rothesay Open.

The 21-year-old, aiming for her first title since the 2021 US Open, showed her fighting qualities after saving three set points.

But Boulter, playing the best tennis of her career this season, is unlikely to go quietly.

The umpire called time for the players' safety just before 8pm after Raducanu slipped twice on the same spot.

On the first occasion she twisted her knee and the physio was called.

But before medical attention arrived she was back up again after a restorative drink to a huge ovation from the relieved crowd to continue the match.

Whatever happens today in the rest of the semi-final and a possible final against either Karolina Pliskova or

Diane Parry, Raducanu's run has lifted her back into the world's top 200.

Her decision to skip French Open qualifying may have been a contentious one but her explanation - that it allowed her to put in the physical preparation she wanted for the grass-court season - has been vindicated by her strong performances in her first tournament in six weeks.

Although she won through by virtue of a walkover against fellow Brit Fran Jones, who pulled out of their scheduled quarter-final with a shoulder injury, the wildcard had looked a lot more like her old self in the earlier rounds.

There was plenty of punch to her groundstrokes and power in her serve in wins over Ena Shibahara and Daria Snigur.

Boulter, as the world No.30, represented a step up in class.

Having watched boyfriend Alex de Minaur reach the final of the Libema Open during the rain break, she was eager to match him.

But a double fault in the tie-break as she served for the set let Raducanu off the hook and she cashed in with her sixth set point.



## No.1 BRIT DRAPER IN TODAY'S FINAL

BY NEIL SQUIRES

JACK DRAPER is set to be a Wimbledon seed for the first time after powering through to the Stuttgart Open final.

The 22-year-old (above), bidding to win the first ATP Tour event of his career, brushed aside America's Brandon Nakashima 6-3 6-3 in 72 minutes in the semi-final.

It moved him up to a provisional career-high No.32 in the world

rankings, the last spot for a Wimbledon seeding. He will be confirmed as Britain's No.1 tomorrow.

"I have always wanted to be British No.1 and it is an honour to be in that position and, hopefully, I can carry the flag forward," said Draper.

"If I come out playing the way I have been I will give myself a good shot."

Draper will be facing Italian Matteo Berrettini in the final today.

# RUGBY UNION



ENGLAND SUMMER TOUR  
JAPAN AND NEW ZEALAND

# THE BBC

» That's **Borthwick** Broadcasting Corporation after TV blackout sees fans forced to watch online

» England boss: We must grow the game... this is our chance to reach next generation

**JAPAN v ENGLAND**  
SAT JUNE 22  
KO 6.50AM (UK)

**N ZEALAND v ENGLAND**  
SAT JULY 6  
KO 8.05AM (UK)

**N ZEALAND v ENGLAND**  
SAT JULY 13  
KO 8.05AM (UK)



**TWEET AS A NUT!**  
Borthwick is backing social media push

BY ADAM HATHAWAY  
in Tokyo

**STEVE BORTHWICK has urged his England side to connect with the kids online after seeing his side's clash with Japan this Saturday blanked by regular TV firms.**

Borthwick is set for a Tokyo head-to-head with coaching mentor and former England boss Eddie Jones, who is now in charge of the Brave Blossoms.

It should be a box-office hit - with Jones wanting to get one over on the country that axed him in 2022 and Borthwick aiming to build on third place in the last World Cup.

But, amazingly, the game will only be shown on a website and app owned by World Rugby - and that has left fans scrambling to work out how to watch.

Sky Sports ARE covering the Tests in New Zealand, on July 6

and 13, but they will be commenting from back home off the box.

Last week, the BBC were staging a last-ditch attempt to secure radio rights for the games against the All Blacks, but they have written off sending a broadcasting team to Japan.

This nosedive in coverage has alarmed England boss Borthwick, who has encouraged his squad to interact with rugby's next generation of fans over social media - with Jamie George (right) and Ben Earl leading the charge.

Borthwick said: "I spoke with a group of players a short time ago and we want to make sure that we help rugby grow in

this country. One challenge we have is in younger groups and attention on rugby.

"The players are the ones who are going to connect with that younger age group, so I am encouraging the players and have been trying to find different ways they can connect with those age groups.

"We have got some great role models in this squad, so the more exposure we can have of these players the better.

"The No.1 thing we can do is build a successful England team - while, at the same time, having a positive impact on the people we meet and being positive role models. That's really important to me.

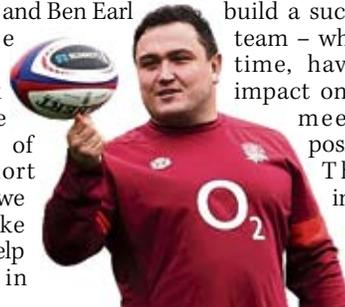
"In Jamie, we have a captain who is a really

positive role model." The RFU have helped players engage with fans by setting up an app for the squad to put clips of stars online - and Earl, George, Joe Marler and Maro Itoje can cherry-pick it for their own social-media channels.

Borthwick would stick pins in his eyes rather than go on TikTok or Twitter, but he sees the way the media have changed since his playing days.

Borthwick added: "We are looking to increase the eyes on the team and also increase the influence of the players and the way they are able to connect with people.

"This is a very diverse and young England team that has an ability to connect with people who follow media in different ways - we have got to be able to make sure that our players are able to connect."



## CARPENTER IS LOOKING TO NAIL HIS RED ROSE PLACE



BY ADAM HATHAWAY

**JOE CARPENTER** plays for Sale, but he's flying the flag for the opposite side of the Pennines on England's tour of Japan and New Zealand.

Yorkshireman Carpenter (left), who started out at Stuart Lancaster's old club,

West Park Leeds RUFC, was in the Leeds academy when his world fell apart. The club went down the tubes and Carpenter thought rugby was done for him before he was rescued by the Sharks in 2020.

And the full-back admits he was one of the lucky ones as many of his contemporaries

were forced out of the game while he is challenging for an England cap.

The 22-year-old said: "It's quite sad for me. I grew up there and came through the academy and my transition into the first team was kiboshed by the fact that they went under. Luckily, I landed

on my feet at Sale, though there are a lot of boys I know who had the potential, but didn't get anywhere and are not playing the rugby they could have been."

For England, Carpenter will be competing for the full-back spot with Freddie Stewart and George Furbank.

## IT'S A TASH 'N' GRAB RAID AT TWICKENHAM

GET ready for a battle of the giants at Twickenham today with Hampshire, led by captain Natasha Bullock, facing Durham in the Gill Burns Division Two Final. This is the third year running that powerhouse Hampshire have made it to the finale, easing past Eastern Counties 42-0 in the semis. Durham saw off Cornwall 25-17 to earn their place at HQ. Entry is free and kick-off is 3pm for what is expected to be a thrilling afternoon at the home of rugby.



**HORROR INJURY** Iggy Paasi is back for St Helens

# Iggy glad KO tackle got chop

**London Broncos v St Helens**  
Today, 3pm

**EXCLUSIVE BY DAVE CRAVEN**

ST HELENS' Agnatius Paasi has spoken of his emotional return - and delight at seeing the controversial tackle technique that clobbered him finally binned.

Big Tonga prop 'Iggy' faces London today, having made his comeback against Catalans on May 31 after enduring 10 months out of action.

He suffered major knee and ankle injuries after a tackle from Leigh captain John Asiata in last July's Challenge Cup semi-final.

Although not illegal then, that 'chop below the knee' style of tackle has since been outlawed and Paasi, 32, said: "I'm just happy they are banned now. Those kinds of tackles can end careers. "Unfortunately, I was one of those who had a long spell out of the game due to it. But I don't hold any grudges.

"And it's great to be back. With the standing ovation I received when I got on the field, I had a teardrop in my eye. It was overwhelming. It still gives me goosebumps. I'll cherish that forever.

"I was always confident I'd return, but for the first couple of months I couldn't really do anything after the operation and that gets in your head a bit.

"Now, I'm looking forward to putting my best foot forward - and hopefully winning that Super League trophy again at the end of the year."

# RUGBY LEAGUE



# RESULTS & FIXTURES

## European Championships

**Group A**  
HUNGARY (0).....1 SWITZERLAND (2) 3  
Varga 66 Duah 12, Aebischer 45, Embolo 90

**Group B**  
ITALY (2).....2 ALBANIA (1).....1  
Bastoni 11 Bajrami 1  
Barella 16

**Group C**  
SPAIN (3).....3 CROATIA (0).....0  
Morata 29, Fabian 32  
Carvajal 45

## CRICKET

**Group A: Lauderhill: India v Canada.** Match abandoned without a ball bowled (1pt each).

**Group C: Tarouba: Uganda 40** (18.4 overs; T G Southee 3-4); **New Zealand 41-1** (5.2 overs). New Zealand win by 9 wickets.

**Group D: St Vincent: South Africa 115-7** (D S Airee 3-21; K Bhurtel 4-19); **Nepal 114-7** (T Shamsi 4-19). South Africa win by 1 run.

**T20 BLAST - NORTH GROUP—Nottinghamshire v Durham** (Trent Bridge): Durham 58-0 (5 overs). Nottinghamshire. No result. Nottinghamshire (1pts) Durham (1pts).

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	Rr
Lancashire	6	5	1	0	0	10	1.69
Yorkshire	5	3	2	0	0	6	0.50
Derbyshire	6	3	3	0	0	6	0.48
Warwickshire	5	3	2	0	0	6	0.43
Leicestershire	6	3	3	0	0	6	0.23
Northamptonshire	5	3	2	0	0	6	0.17
Durham	6	2	3	0	1	5	-1.09
Worcestershire	6	2	4	0	0	4	-0.47
Nottinghamshire	7	1	5	0	1	3	-1.84

**T20 BLAST - SOUTH GROUP—Sussex v Surrey** (Hove): Surrey 184-8 (20.0 overs). Sussex 130 (18.1 overs). Surrey (2pts) beat Sussex by 54 runs.

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	Rr
Surrey	6	4	1	0	0	9	0.84
Somerset	6	4	2	0	0	8	0.92
Sussex	6	4	2	0	0	8	0.41
Essex	6	3	3	0	0	6	-0.28
Hampshire	6	2	2	0	2	6	-0.47
Glamorgan	5	2	2	0	1	5	0.14
Kent	5	2	3	0	0	4	0.92
Gloucestershire	5	1	3	1	0	3	-0.55
Middlesex	7	1	5	0	1	3	-2.15

## GOLF

**U.S. OPEN** (North Carolina)—**early 3rd rnd scores** (US unless stated): **210** C Morikawa 70 74 66, **211** A Rai (Eng) 69 74 68, **213** D Puig (Spa) 76 68 69, **214** (a) Luke Clanton 76 69 69, (a) Neal Shipley 70 73 71, **215** W Clark 73 71 71, T Fleetwood (Eng) 70 75 70, S Lowry (Irl) 74 71 70, J. T. Poston 73 71 71, C Smith (Aus) 71 72 72, **216** D Berger 73 70 73, K Bradley 74 70 72, B Koepka 70 75 71, T McKibbin (Nrl) 74 71 71, S Scheffler 71 74 71, **217** M Greysenman 71 74 72, Si-Woo Kim (Kor) 71 72 74, S Theegala 77 68 72.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

### Betfred Super League

**CATALANS D**.....**2 LEIGH**.....**10**  
Catalans Dragons—6: Mourgue.  
Leigh—T. Amone, G: Moylan (3).

**HULL**.....**18 LEEDS**.....**10**  
Hull—T. Martin, Balmforth, Scott, G: Reynolds (3).

**Leeds**—T: Handley, Newman, G: Martin.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	13	11	0	2	367	164	22
St Helens	13	10	0	3	353	136	20
Hull K R	14	10	0	4	370	189	20
Warrington	14	9	0	5	334	195	18
Salford	14	9	0	5	275	270	18
Catalans D	14	8	0	6	266	202	16
Leeds	14	7	0	7	256	260	14
Huddersfield	14	6	0	8	280	295	12
Leigh	13	5	1	7	254	208	11
Castleford	14	3	1	10	226	416	7
Hull	14	2	0	12	180	450	4
London B	13	1	0	12	134	510	2

**Betfred Ch'ship**—Barrow 28 Halifax 38, Toulouse 52 Doncaster 0.

## RUGBY UNION

### United Championship

**Semi-Finals**

**BLUE BULLS**.....**25 LEINSTER**.....**20**

**MUNSTER**.....**10 GLASGOW**.....**17**

## TENNIS

**ATP BOSS OPEN** (Stuttgart)—**Semi**

**Finals: J Draper** (Gbr) bt B Nakashima (USA) 6-3 6-3; **M Berrettini** (Ita) bt L Musetti (Ita) 6-4 6-0.

## TODAY'S DIARY

**Group C**

Serbia v England (8pm, Live on BBC 1)

Slovenia v Denmark (5pm, Live on ITV 1)

**Group D**

Poland v Netherlands (2pm, Live on BBC 1)

## CRICKET

**ICC World Twenty20 - Group B:**

Pakistan v Ireland (Lauderhill, 3.30pm). **t20 Blast - North Group:**

Derbyshire v Warwickshire (Derby, 4pm). Durham v Lancashire

(Riverside, 2.30pm). Worcester-

shire v Northant's (New Road, 2.30pm). Yorkshire v Leicestershire

(Headingley, 3pm). **South Group:** Kent v Gloucestershire

(Canterbury, 3.30pm). Somerset v Glamorgan (Taunton, 3pm).

## RUGBY LEAGUE

**Betfred Super League** (3pm):

London Broncos v St Helens.

**Betfred Ch'ship** (3pm): Dewsbury v York, Shefffield v Featherstone,

Swinton v Batley, Whitehaven v Bradford, Widnes v Wakefield.



# LEW BEAUTY!

...but 'sad' Rhinos are a tribute flop

## MAKING A POINT

Lewis Martin, 19, got Hull going on a day Leeds (right) were under the cosh



## Hull FC 18 Leeds 10

BY DAVE CRAVEN  
Rugby League Correspondent  
@DCravenRL

### FRUSTRATED Leeds boss Rohan Smith admitted that his players were saddened at losing on a day when they hoped to honour Rob Burrow.

The Rhinos aimed to put on a show in their first game since the death of their legendary former player from motor neurone disease.

But they spluttered horribly with their worst display of the season, falling against a Hull side on an 11-game losing streak.

Smith (right) admitted: "They're sad, frustrated, disappointed... all those negative emotions.

"It's a common place to be when you know you haven't performed.

"We started really strongly but overall we lacked care with the

ball and really needed to be more clinical."

Asked if some of his players may have been affected by the emotions following Burrow's death, Smith replied: "Emotions are a difficult thing - you can't measure where people are individually.

"Some people didn't know Rob, but admired him for what he did on and off the field, and his battles.

"Others were very close to him, and for all those that have lost people they're close to, there is an emotional cost to that.

"Sometimes you really benefit from that, but we won't ever know what impact it has.

"It's been tough for them. They treasured their time with Rob and I'm sure they wish they could have got a win for him

today. We have the opportunity

to reset and look forward to next week against Leigh Leopards which will be a special occasion."

Leeds were a mess, with mistakes, no cohesion and little attacking quality.

Hull were joint-bottom, had only won once in Super League all season and had picked up a dozen defeats. But they didn't even have to be half-decent to win this, in torrential rain.

Both sides made a catalogue of errors in a shambolic first half. Hull, though, emerged with a 12-0 lead.

Jake Trueman smuggled a long pass out for teenage winger Lewis Martin to dive over on 36 minutes. And with the final play of the half, young hooker Denive Balmforth exposed awful goalline defence to get in for their second.

Ben Reynolds converted both and, when Leeds centre Paul



## Catalans 2 Leigh 10

LEIGH LEOPARDS are "back in the game", says coach Adrian Lam after Tom Amone scored the only try of the match in Perpignan.

"We had a tough start to the season but we're working hard to turn it around and performances like this show that we can match anyone," said Lam (left) in front of a record number of travelling Leigh fans in the south of France. "The wins will come soon."

It was a scrappy opening quarter but Dragons full-back Arthur Mourgue

# LEOPARDS GET CLAWS BACK...

got the scoreboard clicking with a 17th-minute penalty. Matt Moylan levelled the scores when Dragons' hooker Michael McClorum was penalised for a high tackle.

And Leigh took the lead moments later when prop Amone forced his way over from short range, Moylan tagging

on the conversion for 8-2 at half-time. Leigh went further ahead with a 54th-minute penalty, Moylan converting for 10-2.

Centre Arthur Romano had Catalans fans hoping for a late resurgence but he lost the ball in the act of scoring three minutes from the end.

For Catalans, the fifth defeat in six games gave coach Steve McNamara food for thought - his decision to rest Jordan Abdull in favour of young France international Cesar Rouge failed to solve his half-back dilemma.



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	13	11	0	2	367	164	22
St Helens	13	10	0	3	353	136	20
Hull K R	14	10	0	4	370	189	20
Warrington	14	9	0	5	334	195	18
Salford	14	9	0	5	275	270	18
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Castleford	14	3	1	10	226	416	7
Hull	14	2	0	12	180	450	4
London B	13	1	0	12	134	510	2

## GOLF: US OPEN

FINAL ROUND  
TODAY, SKY SPORTS GOLFROUGH  
WEEK:  
Woods  
hacking  
out en  
route to  
missing  
the cutWOODS: AN  
OPEN AND  
SHUT CASE

BY ANDREW GAMBLE

TIGER WOODS will make his final appearance of 2024 at The Open next month after the 15-time Major champion missed the cut at the US Open.

The former world No.1 failed to get any breaks around an unforgiving Pinehurst No. 2 on Friday.

After starting the round four over par, Woods could only muster three over 73 to finish seven over and miss the cut for a second successive Major.

Woods admitted that his next competitive round will be at Royal Troon. He said: "I've only got one more tournament this season. Even if I win The Open I don't think I'll be in the [FedEx Cup] Playoffs.

"Just one more event and then I'll come back whenever I come back."

Woods warned that facing the infamous Pinehurst greens would be a "war of attrition". It was a war the three-time US Open champion lost.

While he landed the first blow with a birdie to open his round on Thursday, any hopes of challenging faded.

One of the sport's most revered figures, Woods battled to the end but couldn't deliver on a sweltering day.

He admitted: "Well, it was probably the highest score I could have possibly shot. I hit a lot of good shots that just didn't quite go my way, or I hit good putts, and then I put myself in a couple [of] bad spots with some bad lag putts.

"I thought I played well enough to be up there. It just didn't work out."

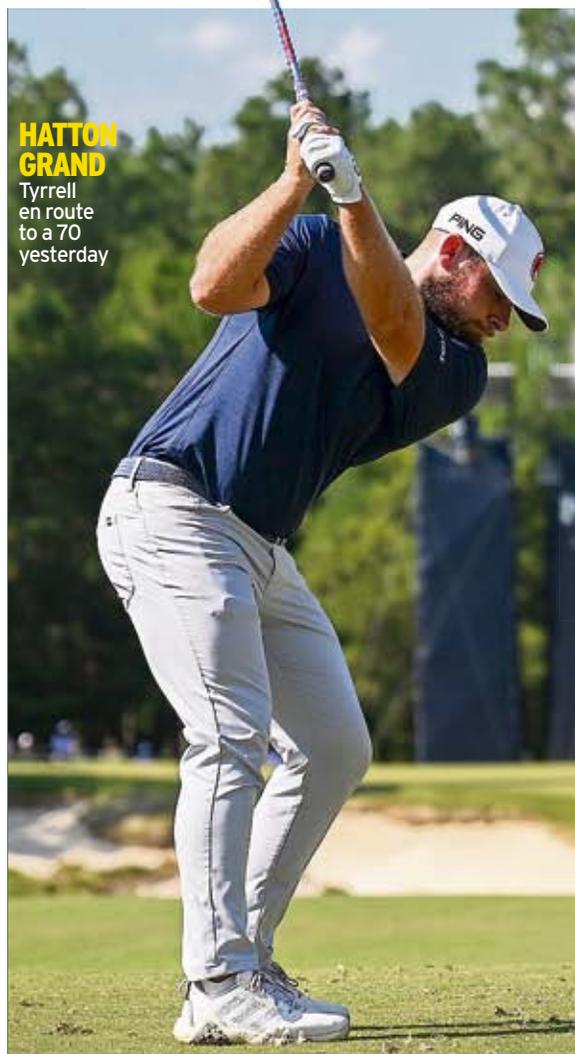
Woods has now missed the cut four times in his past five starts at the US Open. After navigating through 14 holes in two-over par, Woods eyed a birdie on 15 to claw back to the projected cut line. Instead, his putt agonisingly lipped out.

"Yeah, 15 hurt," he admitted. "That was a sweet little 7-iron in there and a good putt, high-side lip. If I make that putt, it flips the momentum, and I'm looking pretty good on the last three holes."

Until he tees it up for the last time, the 48-year-old's future will always be a topic of conversation.

Woods remained vague when quizzed over his participation at the Major going forward, given he needed a special exemption from the USGA.

"As far as my last Open Championship or US Open, I don't know what that is," he said. "It may or may not be."

HATTON  
GRANDTyrrell  
en route  
to a 70  
yesterdayHATT IN  
THE RING

Titanic Tyrrell keeps his cool to stay in sight of the leaders

FROM ANDREW GAMBLE  
at Pinehurst

**TYRRELL HATTON** reined in his fiery temper to put himself right into contention for today's final round.

The LIV Golf star began in style yesterday, scoring a birdie at the second before adding a sublime eagle on the fifth.

It was the very same hole that derailed Rory McIlroy, Xander Schauffele and Scottie Scheffler on Friday.

But Hatton spectacularly finished the Par 5 in three, only for the notoriously difficult course to hit back.

He stuttered the rest of the way, bogeying the sixth before adding two more on the back nine.

Renowned for his ranting and raving, the 32-year-old Buckinghamshire native kept his composure and now finds himself in the mix to win a maiden major title.

His level par round of 70 yesterday puts keeps him one under and within sight of the leaders. But Hatton was

not the only Englishman to post a fine result yesterday.

Aaron Rai used moving day to put himself in the perfect position for a final-day top-10 push.

Conditions in round three at Pinehurst No.2 proved just as brutal as the first two days, with even former Open champion Shane Lowry labelling it "torture".

Teeing off yesterday at three over, Rai started with a bogey, but went on to post three birdies as the Wolverhampton-born golfer enjoyed one of the better outings across the round.

BLOWN  
OFF  
COURSE  
Shane  
Lowry

His two under 68 certainly earned the respect of Lowry.

Like Rai, the 2019 Open champion started with a three-putt bogey, but battled to finish even par, leaving him on five over.

A shattered Lowry admitted: "It's torture out there, honestly it's mental torture. That's the best level par I've ever shot in my life."

"Every single shot you have - even when you hit a good shot - the putts you have, it's brutally difficult."

"You're standing in the

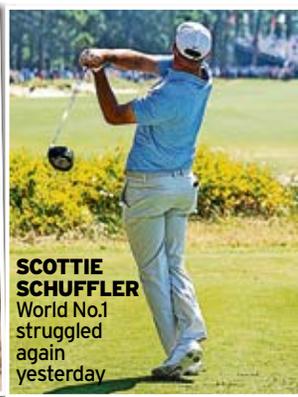
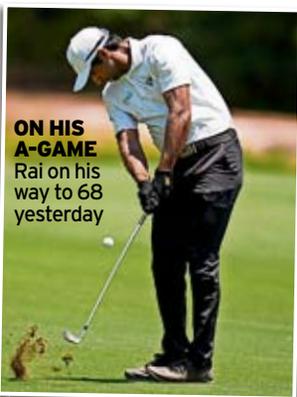
middle of the fairway on par fours with an eight iron in hand and you're like 'Right, where will I miss this?' instead of thinking, 'Where will I hit it?'"

Despite all the talk surrounding the unforgiving and sun-beaten turtleback greens, Lowry lamented the uptick in wind.

The 37-year-old reiterated his delight with his score, which highlights how well Rai fared.

He added: "It's obviously firmer than it was last few

Even when you hit a good shot the putts you have, it's brutal

SCOTTIE  
SCHEFFLER  
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struggled  
again  
yesterdayON HIS  
A-GAME  
Rai on his  
way to 68  
yesterday

## MOLINARI PICKS ACE TIME FOR A HOLE IN ONE

BY ANDREW GAMBLE

RYDER CUP hero Francesco Molinari struck a sublime hole-in-one at the last to make the cut at the US Open.

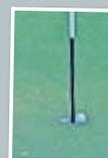
Having carded a single birdie alongside five bogeys on Friday, Molinari stepped up to the Par 3 ninth needing an ace to make the halfway cut.

Incredibly, the Italian delivered, ensuring

he will tee off at Pinehurst No. 2 this weekend. The 41-year-old laced a 7-iron that landed on the green's left-middle side, where the ball enjoyed a favourable break and sloped toward the hole (right). The crowd erupted when it dropped, leaving Molinari (left) in disbelief.

"From where we were standing, it

looked like it just carried the bunker, plus the greens are getting firm, so it was the ideal shot," said the 2018 Open champion. "Then it started tracking, was going to break left to right at the hole. We were joking how it looked on a great line the whole way, but what are the chances? I don't even know what to say. Just incredible."





**US SAY** Liverpool owner John W Henry and Werner

## Prem gold rush as US move in...

BY **JOHN RICHARDSON**

THE Premier League has become the new gold rush to Americans as they buy up clubs.

Manchester United, Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool and Ipswich have all succumbed to the Yankee dollar.

One Premier League executive said: "Nothing is off limits in the future. With yet more US ownership, it wouldn't surprise me if there was a move to make the Prem a closed shop to end relegation."

There have been rumours of Liverpool chairman Tom Werner welcoming FIFA's decision to lift a ban on playing games abroad.

"I am determined one day to stage a Premier League match in New York City," he said.

But the Spirit of Shankly fan group said: "Anyone determined to play competitive LFC Premier games abroad should remember that we, as fans, are determined they don't."

A Premier League source said: "American owners are beginning to flex their muscles."

## Nuno bid on goalie

BY **RYAN TAYLOR**

NOTTINGHAM FOREST are closing in on a first signing of the summer transfer window.

Nuno Espirito Santo's side are poised to trigger the £3.4million release clause of Corinthians keeper Carlos Miguel, 25.

Forest have yet to complete club-to-club formalities in the deal.

Miguel is expected to play his final match for Corinthians when they host Sao Paulo tonight.

City Ground chiefs now consider keeper Matt Turner for sale, with fellow shot-stopper Odysseas Vlachodimos also poised to depart.

# MOURINHO'S NEWEST PROTECT

# From Milan to Margate, ...it's Ben a Special journey



**GREEN FOR GO!**  
Ben Greenhalgh in action for Margate



**EXCLUSIVE**  
BY **RYAN TAYLOR**

### JOSE MOURINHO is inspiring a new dawn on the sands of the Kentish coast.

Fourteen years ago, Ben Greenhalgh reigned supreme on reality TV show Football's Next Star to earn a life-changing six-month professional deal with Inter Milan.

Now he is using the expert advice and guidance he got from the Special One to kick-start a new era at non-League sleeping giant Margate as he gears up for his first crack at management.

"There are not many people that when they talk, you listen," said the 32-year-old after being unveiled as The Gate's new player-manager.

"But, with Jose, the room would always go quiet.

"Luckily, I had a few interactions with Jose, he told me, 'Your passion can never drop, things will always happen in football, but it doesn't matter – as long as you keep your passion'. And I've always carried that with me."

Greenhalgh never featured for Inter, despite penning a fresh one-year contract extension, training with the first team and hitting eight goals in 12 appearances on loan at Como in Serie C.

But the unforgettable,



**DONE IT** With Inter Milan technical director Piero Ausilio after winning the Next Star



**RON TO TREASURE** Ben meets Cristiano



**2010** Mourinho wins the Champions League with Inter

whirlwind experience of travelling with Mourinho's squad to Madrid for their 2010 Champions League Final triumph over Bayern Munich proved invaluable.

He even bagged a winner's medal before forging a successful non-League career, which also included a stint in the Scottish Premiership with Inverness Caledonian Thistle.

The attacking midfielder said: "Because I wasn't playing at the time, it probably wasn't ideal, but it was incredible just to be part of it all.

"It will stick with me forever and I can take that into the world of football I'm now going into.

"I'll always be known as the

guy that's got a Champions League medal and I'm fine by that, but I also have aspirations of my own to fulfil."

A high turnover of players saw Margate relegated from the Isthmian League Premier Division last season, but Greenhalgh refuses to turn his back on the club –

**Jose said, 'Things will happen, but never let your passion drop'**

even though he does not belong at this level.

Instead, he intends to channel his inner Mourinho by assembling a smaller, tight-knit squad that is prepared to move mountains for their manager in the quest for promotion.

"Every single player would play for Mourinho, he was the best manager in the world at the time," added Greenhalgh.

"The aura that he had around the training ground, changing room and football club was remarkable, he just had 16 players that would play for him and do everything to win.

"I still don't think Inter had better players than Chelsea, Barcelona and Bayern, who they beat to win the Champions League. That's testament to Mourinho, who squeezed everything he could from the group."

Greenhalgh, who also worked under Gus Poyet at Brighton, the Cowley brothers (Danny and Nicky) at Concord Rangers and Terry Butcher in Scotland, is not fazed by the challenges presented by juggling playing and managerial commitments.

He said: "I want to take bits from their managerial styles and implement my own.

"It's down to me to see if I can make it work and get Margate back to winning ways."

## Plan B for Jim if price is not right

FROM BACK PAGE have several alternative names on their radar.

Those include Jean-Clair Todibo of sister club Nice, Juventus' Gleison Bremer and Lille's Leny Yoro.

Real Madrid are leading the race for highly-rated teenager Yoro, though Liverpool are also at the table for the Frenchman.

Meanwhile, Erik ten Hag is also thought to be keen on a reunion with his former Ajax captain Matthijs de Ligt, who could leave Bayern Munich for the right price.

Sporting's Goncalo Inacio has also been heavily scouted, though his release clause is worth £50m.

Everton insist they won't be bullied into selling Branthwaite on the cheap despite needing to raise cash before they submit their financial records on June 30.



LIGA DREAM Greenwood

## Valencia in for Mason

BY CLIVE HETHERINGTON MASON GREENWOOD is clinging to the hope of a permanent move to Spain after Valencia made a £25million bid for the Manchester United striker.

Juventus have been tipped to land the 22-year-old, capped once by England, in a deal said to be worth up to £40m.

That is nearer United's valuation, but a source close to Greenwood's camp confirmed Valencia's "concrete offer" and insisted "his priority is Spain" after a season-long loan with Getafe.

They were keen to keep Greenwood, who scored 10 goals in 36 games, but can't afford him. Barcelona and Atletico Madrid have also shown interest in him.



# REBUILDING OF OLD TRAFFORD

# UNITED WE STAND

## Ten Hag agrees to work with new OT bigwigs but ONLY as equal partners ...and he has final say on playing style



NEW BOY United's chief executive Omar Berrada

BY SIMON MULLOCK

**ERIK TEN HAG has given assurances to Sir Jim Ratcliffe that he can work with Manchester United's new chief executive and technical director - but only as equal partners.**

Ten Hag told Ratcliffe and his INEOS Group that he must be allowed to help shape the club's playing style and transfer policy alongside Omar Berrada and Jason Wilcox after being informed last week that his job is safe.

The Dutchman was unimpressed to hear that United had spoken to several potential successors in the weeks since he had guided the Reds to a shock FA Cup Final triumph over Manchester City.

But after being told by Ratcliffe that he would not be sacked during a face-to-face meeting in Ibiza, the 54-year-

old made it clear that he is not prepared to relinquish control when it comes to identifying potential transfer targets and making decisions on how his team will play.

Ten Hag then described to the Oldham-born billionaire how he worked so successfully with Marc Overmars and Edwin van der Sar at Ajax after building a relationship with the pair that was based on mutual respect and trust.

He insisted that he can build similar relationships with Berrada and Wilcox - if they treat him as an equal.

Overmars was the director of football who recruited names like Frankie de Jong, Mohammed Kudus, Andre Onana, Dusan Tadic and Davinson Sanchez

during his time as director of football at Ajax.

Van der Sar, United's former Champions League-winning goalkeeper who was employed as chief executive of the Amsterdam club, generated a fortune by selling the likes of De Jong, Sanchez and Matthijs de Ligt for premium fees.

Ten Hag was briefed on every aspect of the club's transfer policy and was given

substantial input into decisions. When he was negotiating with United about taking over at Old Trafford two years ago, he insisted that a clause giving him the final decision on transfers was included in his contract.

Ten Hag recently spoke on Dutch TV about how his relationship with Overmars worked.

He said: "Overmars was the one who set out the strategy and vision of Ajax. He was bright, he had cleverness, strategic insight and he knew so much about football at top level.

"He never wrote anything down, not even two lines on a piece of paper. But he made his vision very clear and everything was in place.

"When he was forced to leave,

everything fell to pieces and there was anarchy in the entire organisation.

"For me it is very clear that if you have a guy like that he can be the bonding factor from the top management of a club to the football side of a club."

United have told Ten Hag they are ready to offer him a contract extension - but he will not accept any attempt to take out the clause that gives him a say in the club's transfer dealings.

Ten Hag blames United's eighth-placed Premier League finish last season on a crippling injury list that stripped him of key players.

But he has told INEOS that if they can deliver three top-class signings to address weaknesses in defence, midfield and at centre-forward position this summer, the team will have what it takes to challenge for the top four.



TOP TEAM Van der Sar and Overmars



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# ANDY DUNN

Britain's best columnist

## FIRST-CLASS POST

**Klopp: "I guess I am officially a Swiftie"**

Only Jurgen Klopp could get away with not looking silly wearing a pink cowboy hat at a Taylor Swift concert. That is what he did last week - an early reminder that the Premier League is really going to miss this guy.



## Dunny's Hairdryer



IN AN interview with Italian newspaper Il Giornale, Carlo Ancelotti was quoted as saying: "Players and clubs will not participate in that tournament [the expanded Club World Cup]. "A single Real Madrid match is worth 20million euros and FIFA want to give us that amount for the entire cup. Like us, other clubs will refuse the invitation." If only they would.

It turns out Real Madrid are not only going to compete in the month-long tournament in the summer of 2025, they are going to do so, according to a club statement, "with pride and with the utmost enthusiasm to make our millions of fans around the world dream again with a new title".

And Ancelotti (above) took to social media to say his words had "not been interpreted in the way I expected".

He did not say that he did not say them.

But whatever he said, what a shame he did not say that he does not want to take a team to the tournament because it is a needless, pointless threat to player welfare and public interest.

Now, that needs no interpretation. That is the truth.

**VIRGIL VAN DIJK** often looks like he could play in the Premier League in second gear, which means he could operate in the Saudi Pro League in neutral.

Apparently, Al-Nassr want to make him the world's best-paid defender. Hopefully, even the most obscene wage will not tempt the classiest of players (left). At 32, he is too young to effectively retire.



## Coleman's always cut the mustard

THERE is not always something for Everton fans to smile about, but the snippet that Seamus Coleman (left) has signed for a 16th season with the club - a season that will be the last at Goodison Park - surely raised the spirits, for a moment at least. Everton have not had a finer modern-day servant than Coleman, who cost £60,000 from Sligo Rovers. There has not been a better-value buy in the Premier League.



## WE'LL SEE PICK OF THE BUNCH

IF THERE is one player in Gareth Southgate's squad who is consistently undervalued, it is Jordan Pickford. In fact, outside Everton's support, few acknowledge exactly how good Pickford (above) is.

Yes, he has been prone to the odd rush of blood, but don't forget that, at 30, he is still maturing as a keeper.

And, with so many doubts surrounding the England defence at Euro 2024, we are about to see just how good Pickford can be.

**PS:** SENIORITY was clearly the main factor in Gareth Southgate officially making Kyle Walker the vice-captain of this England squad. And he is a good choice. But I would have given the nod to Declan Rice. The more you see him, the more you know he is a future England skipper.

# ENGLAND, UNITED... TIME TO THINK WHAT DOES BOTHER YOU, MARCUS

**ACCORDING to one onlooker - quoted in a report a few days ago - not making the England squad for Euro 2024 did not seem to 'bother' Marcus Rashford.**

And exactly how did the onlooker deduce this? He or she had spotted Rashford relaxing in an expensive restaurant in Cannes.

Ah, right. Come on, Marcus. You should be at home, not daring to crack a smile, eating only bread and drinking water, self-flagellating.

How dare you take a holiday on your time off.

Like the rest of us, Rashford is, of course, entitled to a break from work and, hopefully, enjoys his vacation.

But if he is watching England's game against Serbia tonight, not being in Gareth Southgate's squad should 'bother' him.

If you'd said a year ago that, despite being fully fit, this Euros would take place without Rashford, you would have been laughed out of town.

He is in the prime of his athletic life and one of the most exciting players of

recent Premier League times. It is still a touch difficult to understand how he did not make a 26-strong England squad - but his absence is a damning indictment of his contribution to Manchester United's cause last season.

Had Erik ten Hag not been spared, Rashford would have been culpable.

That co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe seems to have sounded out other coaches suggests that Ten Hag - new deal or not - is still just a bad start to the season away from being replaced.

Rashford can help avert the danger for the Dutchman.

There have been suggestions the relationship between the two is 'strained'.

If it is, it needs to be sorted. And wherever it may be - whether the south of France or the south of Manchester - Rashford (right), 26, needs to have a rethink.

He can brush off nonsense about him not looking bothered on holiday, obviously.

But consistently being told he does not work hard enough in games has

to hurt. Being ditched by Southgate after 60 caps and three tournaments has to hurt.

Being made aware that your beloved boyhood club might be open to offers for you must hurt.

Being repeatedly reminded about the alarming statistical contrast between the period leading up to signing a new contract in July 2023 and the period after, must hurt.

In the 2022-23 season, 35 Premier League appearances brought Rashford 17 goals and five assists.

In the 2023-24 season, he scored seven times and had two assists.

He had more successful take-ons in the 2022-23 campaign than he had in 2023-24, and more key passes.

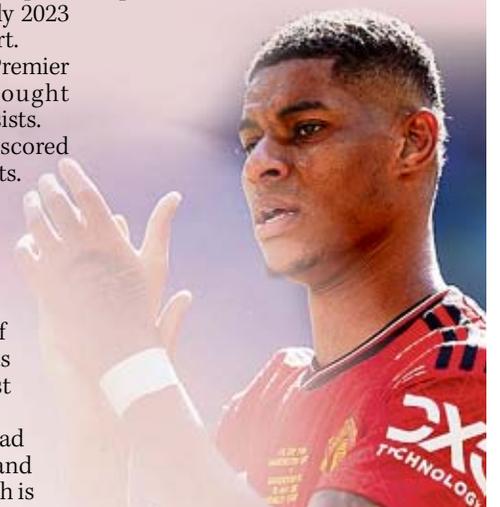
If you are into this sort of thing, in 2022-23, his xG was twice the number it was last season.

Apparently, Rashford has had talks with Ratcliffe's right-hand man, Sir Dave Brailsford, which is

positive. But the most important talks will be with Ten Hag.

Wherever he is tonight, if Rashford does watch England, hopefully he will be bothered.

Because Rashford is so brilliant, he should be an important player for his country - and an even more important one for his club.



## Jose's in for £20m Hojbjerg



EXCLUSIVE BY DARREN WITCOOP

TOTTENHAM have given Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg the green light to leave for £20million in the summer – paving the way for a reunion with former Spurs boss Jose Mourinho.

New Fenerbahce manager Mourinho wants to lure the Danish midfielder to Turkey ahead of rival interest from Atletico Madrid.

Hojbjerg saw a move to the Spanish side collapse last summer and Atletico are keen on reviving the deal. But Mourinho (above) identifies the midfielder as a top target.

The emergence of top teen talent Tyrese Hall, 18, at Tottenham could see the 28-year-old Hojbjerg leave.

Defender Ben Davies and midfielder Oliver Skipp also face uncertain futures in north London with Spurs ready to listen to offers.

## FAB NEW BRIGHTON BOSS IS 31

FABIAN HURZELER says Brighton's ambition was the clinching factor as he became the Premier League's youngest-ever permanent manager.

The 31-year-old American German will swap St Pauli for the south coast this summer after being appointed last night to take over from Roberto De Zerbi.

He has agreed a deal through to 2027 and will start once a work permit has been granted.

"I am thrilled to be the new head coach of Brighton & Hove Albion," Hurzeler (left) said. "They are highly ambitious. I'm relishing the opportunity and can't wait to meet the players, staff and the fans."

Owner Tony Bloom said: "Fabian had caught our attention with his exceptional work at St Pauli over the past 18 months."

"He has a style of play that aligns with how we want to play and I'm confident it is one our supporters will appreciate."



## Thor now a hot tip for Prem



EXCLUSIVE BY RICHARD EDWARDS

NEWCASTLE, West Ham and Leicester are in hot pursuit of Iceland's Wembley hero, Jon Dagur Thorsteinsson.

The 25-year-old wide man (above) scored the winner as the minnows pulled off a shock win against England on the eve of the Euros.

The Fulham academy graduate could be returning to England. "He has always dreamed of playing in the Premier League," said a source close to the player, who has a year left on his deal with Belgian side OH Leuven. "I think he showed at Wembley that he's capable of playing at the highest level in England."

Leicester will be confident of landing the player ahead of their rivals, with the Belgian club and the Foxes sharing owners.

# EURO 2024



SCOTLAND v SWITZERLAND  
GROUP A, NEXT WED, 8PM, BBC1

# The worst crime in football

## McCOIST: SCOTLAND LET THEMSELVES DOWN BADLY

BY SIMON MULLOCK

**ALLY McCOIST reckons Scotland's players committed the worst sin in football against Germany - they disgraced themselves.**

But the striker, who suffered his own share of heartbreak playing in front of the Tartan Army, reckons Steve Clarke's men still have a shot at Euro redemption.

McCoist, now a co-commentator for ITV, admits he could not really take in the Scots' 5-1 humiliation at the hands of the tournament hosts in Munich on Friday.

But with games coming up against Switzerland and Hungary, he is certain there will be a positive reaction.

McCoist, who is one of ITV's team of expert pundits at the tournament, said: "I couldn't believe what I saw against the Germans."

"But I don't agree with the suggestion that Scotland's players let the country down, let the manager down

and let the fans down. It was actually more serious than that. They let themselves down – and I can tell you that is the worst thing any player can do.

"If you can't look at yourself in the mirror after the game, you've got a problem. No one expected Scotland to win. No one expected them to have a lot of the ball and a load of chances.

"But what you do expect from any team representing their country is a bit of fight and a bit of resistance.

"There wasn't any. They lost without laying a glove on anyone.

Everybody is raving about how brilliant Germany are. But Scotland were so poor that I do not know whether Germany are good or bad.

"They only had to turn up to win.

"The only positive is that it doesn't really change anything. Scotland's fate was always going to come down to their last two games, and the one thing I can guarantee is that there will be a reaction."

Scotland now travel to Cologne on Wednesday night to face a Switzerland team that beat Hungary 3-1.

McCoist (below) has bittersweet memories of scoring the goal that beat the Swiss at Villa Park at Euro 96. It appeared enough

to put Scotland in the quarter-finals until a late Patrick Kluyvert strike in Holland's defeat to England

sent the Dutch through on goal difference.

He added: "Glorious failure seems to be part of

Scotland's DNA. There was the World Cups of 74, 78, 82 and 86. During my time, we went out of Italia 90 when we conceded a goal to Brazil with just six minutes left. And, of course, Euro 96.

"One minute I had scored the goal that had sent us through, the next we were out. But that's the beauty of tournament football. It can turn in a split second."

He added: "As soon as I saw the team I thought it was a mistake not starting with Billy Gilmour. Little Billy is the only player in the squad who protects the ball like it's a bar of gold bullion.

"We've had so many disappointments. Maybe this is the tournament when something turns in our favour.

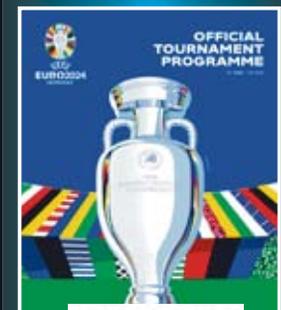
"The one thing I can predict with absolute certainty is that you will see a very different Scotland team in terms of aggression in the next two games."

■ Slovenia v Denmark is on ITV1 from 4.10pm

NOWHERE TO HIDE Captain Andy Robertson looks to the heavens



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## VIRGIL'S DIET IS FOOD FOR THOUGHT

VIRGIL VAN DIJK has left his Dutch team-mates speechless with his staggering Euros diet.

The Liverpool captain's 68 caps make him one of the team leaders in the Netherlands camp. And according to Ajax striker Brian Brobbey, seeing what he eats helps to explain his incredible physique.

"When it come to the biggest

eater in our squad, I go straight for Virgil," said Brobbey as Ronald Koeman's players prepared to open their Group D campaign today against Poland in Hamburg.

"If you see how he piles the food on his plate! He starts with an absolute mountain of salad.

"I also scoop my plate well

full, because we train hard and need nutrients.

"Then again, have you seen what Virgil looks like? You don't get tall and strong overnight. Virgil is a boss."

But when it comes to the nicest guy on the squad, Brobbey says Van Dijk (left) has to take a back seat to a Premier League rival from

Manchester City. Brobbey added: "Nathan Ake is fabulous, really an incredibly sweet boy. He doesn't hurt a fly and I've never really seen him get angry either.

"He talks to everyone all evening long. And the way he talks, you know everything is genuine. I'm sure all the Dutch players like him tremendously."

# EURO 2024: SLOVENIA v DENMARK



GROUP C  
TODAY, 5PM, ITV

**RAS-ING THE BAR**  
Rasmus Hojlund is in with a shout

# LUND OF HOPE & GLORY



## Hjulmand Ras faith

DENMARK boss Kasper Hjulmand is backing Rasmus Hojlund to upstage Benjamin Sesko against Slovenia.

The two highly rated young strikers are set to go head-to-head in their Group C clash in Stuttgart.

And Manchester United forward Hojlund has a point to prove having scored just one goal in his last eight for Denmark.

However Hjulmand said: "It comes in phases as a striker.

"But Rasmus always makes a big impression in all of the games so it's not a concern and I am sure the goals will come."



## Sesko Kek of a talent

SLOVENIA boss Matjaz Kek says he always knew Benjamin Sesko was destined for the top.

The RB Leipzig star comes into Euro 2024 off the back of seven goals in his last seven Bundesliga matches and also penning a bumper new deal.

But Kek gave Sesko his debut long before the 21-year-old (below) became the nation's poster boy.

Kek said: "When he joined the national team aged 17 he showed he has the quality and attitude and positive energy that makes him deserve his place.

"He is one of the big pieces of the mosaic."

## Legend Olsen loves Rasmus but is backing England's young stars

EXCLUSIVE BY RICHARD EDWARDS

**RASMUS HOJLUND can help the Danes continue their Euros love affair in Frankfurt - and remind Manchester United fans just how far he has come this season.**

That's the message from former Old Trafford favourite Jesper Olsen as Gareth Southgate's side prepare to take on Denmark in a Group C clash that could decide the Euros fate of both countries.

"Hojlund will be looking forward to getting away with Denmark after an interesting first season at Manchester United," said Olsen (below).

"It hasn't been the easiest team for him to be part of but the FA Cup will have given him a lift, as it has everyone at the club.

"We don't have the depth of the bigger countries. We need everyone pulling in one direction and you need your big players, like Hojlund, to be at their best.

"He's still so young and when you come to a huge club like United, you often have more experienced players helping you fit in.

"He hasn't really had that this season. He has had to come in and really hit the ground running straight away. That's never easy but he's a good player. A goalscorer. Hopefully he can show that against England too." Olsen was part of the Denmark side that



reached the last four of the tournament 40 years ago.

And after reaching the semi-finals last time out - drawing inspiration from their talisman Christian Eriksen, who collapsed in their tournament opener against Finland - Olsen has warned England that the 1992 winners should not be taken lightly.

"Expectations are probably fairly low at the moment but this is the Euros - anything can happen, we've shown that time and again in the past," he said.

"A game against England is as big as it comes. It's one of the biggest games any Danish player plays in. Football can be a funny game. Denmark are certainly not favourites but that's not a bad thing.

"Look at the last Euros. To reach the last four after everything that had happened in the first match with Christian Eriksen was incredible."

But regardless of the score in their Group C showdown, Olsen reckons it will be England, not Denmark, battling to be crowned Euro kings in Germany.

"You look at the players they have, and they have a real chance," he added. "There are so many good young players in that side... Bukayo Saka, Phil Foden and Jude Bellingham.

"There aren't too many countries in the world that can match that."

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## EUROS TRASH

A BIT LEFT-FIELD FROM RYAN TAYLOR IN GERMANY

### LUK OUT AS ROM'S ABOUT

ROMELU LUKAKU (below) is arguably the top marksman at Euro 2024.

His 85 goals in 115 caps for Belgium makes his strike rate of 0.74 goals per game the best on show in Germany. For punters seeking the Golden Boot winner, Lukaku will love facing Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine in Group E.

Harry Kane is next in the rankings with a strike rate of 0.69, from 63 goals in 91 games. Group C opponent Aleksandar Mitrovic (0.64) has hit 58 goals in 91 games for Serbia.

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (0.64) holds the record for most international goals (130) and is a popular shout for the Boot - but France's Kylian Mbappe (0.59) is also well fancied.



**AUSTRIA** boss Ralf Rangnick organised tickets for all his squad to watch Scotland fan and music legend Rod Stewart's gig in Berlin yesterday as a final team-bonding exercise before their opener against France in Group D tomorrow.



**TAKING THE MICKEY** Manchester United transfer target Joshua Zirkzee (above) was at Disneyland in Florida when he got a late Holland call-up. Now Disneyland Paris have invited him to finish his holidays after these Euros.

**CONOR COADY** is getting his eye in for a pundit's gig here with Radio 5 Live. The 31-year-old Leicester defender is warming up for 'Part 2' of his life in football, having been part of England's squads for the past two major tournaments.

### Dirtiest player: Pav a go at Lions



ENGLAND are set to face the 'dirtiest player' at Euro 2024 this evening when they clash with Serbia.

Versatile Red Bull Salzburg defender Strahinja Pavlovic (above) has publicly ordered his team-mates to "attack" the Three Lions in Gelsenkirchen.

And, after receiving 11 bookings in 25 matches this season, his yellow-card-per-game ratio of 0.44 is the highest of any player at the tournament.

# EURO 2024: SERBIA v ENGLAND

# LEAVE THE BAGGAGE AT HOME AND WE CAN WIN

## England boss Southgate tells Three Lions to seize moment ... and forget our past failures

BY **SIMON MULLOCK**  
Chief Football Writer  
in Gelsenkirchen

**GARETH SOUTHGATE** believes that the innocence of youth can drive England to Euro glory.

Southgate insists the inclusion of 12 tournament rookies will help his old guard leave the baggage of past disappointments at home, as the Three Lions look to end 58 years of hurt.

Crystal Palace's Marc Guehi (right) will be the only player in England's starting line-up

in the opening group game against Serbia this evening who hasn't experienced a World Cup or European Championship before.

But Southgate believes injecting new blood into his squad for Germany will give his team an irresistible energy as the competition progresses.

He said: "We have got a balance of players who have had some really big nights together, and others who have a rawness, an energy and an excitement about

them, being in their first tournament. Both things are adding to the group.

"At the World Cup in Russia in 2018, we were one of the youngest teams and one of the least experienced groups, so I don't think that it is essential you have experience throughout.

"Equally, we

have enough players who have played on the big nights, either with us or their clubs, and they are able to deliver in those moments. But innocence is a bonus.

"When I went into Euro 96, I only had three or four caps, and despite the way it

ended [a penalty shootout miss in England's semi-final exit against Germany], I had a good tournament.

"So there is an opportunity for people to make a name for themselves. This is a moment in time for them and we have picked some players who are in good form and showing that on the training pitch.

"I don't think there is any question that there is strong belief in the group.

"Equally, I said to them when we had a meeting

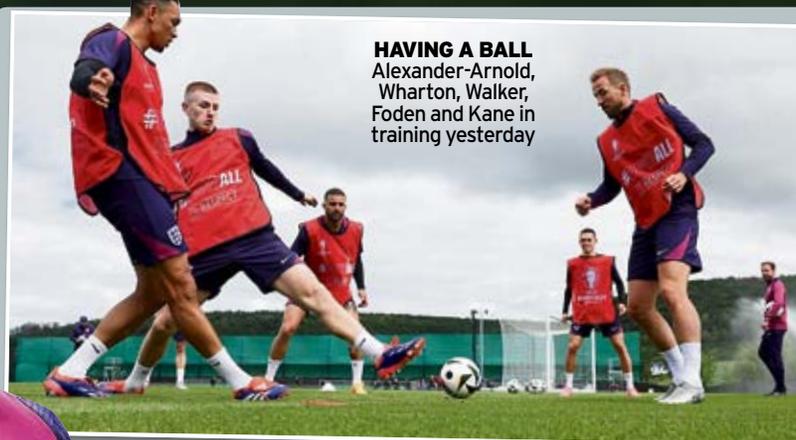




**GROUP C, GELSENKIRCHEN**  
TONIGHT, 8PM, LIVE ON BBC1

**SMILING ASSASSINS**

Alexander-Arnold and Bellingham are looking lethal



**HAVING A BALL**  
Alexander-Arnold, Wharton, Walker, Foden and Kane in training yesterday

# 'AMAZING' TRENT WILL MAKE 'EM ROO THE DAY

BY **SIMON MULLOCK**  
in Gelsenkirchen

GARETH SOUTHGATE has confirmed that Trent Alexander-Arnold will start England's Euro opener against Serbia.

The Three Lions boss is set to ignore the stinging verdict in midweek from Wayne Rooney, that Alexander-Arnold's defensive flaws will make him a liability against the best teams in the tournament if Southgate opts to deploy the Liverpool star in midfield.

Southgate said: "Everybody's more than entitled to their opinion.

"That's our world and we have to accept it - but then we have to go and show what we can do.

"I'm really happy with the situation. I spoke to Trent about playing in this role over a year ago. It's something that he's been keen to do.

"He's been receptive to feedback and every bit of information. We know he can be a special player.

"Equally we know it's not something he's been doing for the last five years. There is an element of the unknown to it. But it's an opportunity that's worth grasping because he could be something incredibly special."

Alexander-Arnold is likely to start next to midfield anchor Declan Rice - after having been used as an inverted full-back by Jurgen Klopp at Liverpool last season.

The 25-year-old's passing accuracy and excellence in dead-ball situations appears to have convinced Southgate that his inclusion is a risk worth taking. That means Phil Foden will start wide

on the left despite impressing for Manchester City in a more central role, with Jude Bellingham operating behind skipper Harry Kane.

Kane can't wait for Alexander-Arnold to demonstrate his eye for a pass.

Kane said: "Trent has shown his abilities over many seasons now. That's from right-back or dropping into that midfield role.

"He's got amazing delivery from wide areas, amazing vision with his passes - and as a striker you can only love that. If you are making runs there is someone there looking for you.

"You might not always get the ball but it's important that the midfielders and the strikers have that connection where you are willing to make the runs because they have the ability to put the ball in behind."

Southgate believes he has got the balance right and that both Bellingham and Foden will have a stage to shine this evening.

He added: "It's less about where they start or where they defend. It's about where they end up with the ball, about them having the freedom to go where they want with the ball in the areas where they can do the most damage and be at their most productive.

"If you speak with any individual player, that has always been the messaging from us to the team. They've always had the freedom to be where they like to operate.

"We've got some exciting players but we can't get them all out on the pitch at once, so we are trying to find the best balance."

**LIKELY TEAMS**

**SERBIA:**  
V. Milinkovic-Savic, Veljkovic, Milenkovic, Pavlovic, Zivkovic, Maksimovic, Lukic, Kostic, S. Milinkovic-Savic, Tadic, Mitrovic

**ENGLAND:**  
Pickford, Walker, Stones, Guehi, Trippier, Alexander-Arnold, Rice, Saka, Bellingham, Foden, Kane

about past tournaments and lessons we can take, that there are things from that past we should discard.

"To have the experiences we've had is both really important and irrelevant, in equal measure. We have to go and play and get it right."

England have been installed as Euro favourites by the bookies.

But they were unable to make the advantage of playing at Wembley count

three years ago, when they were beaten in the final on penalties by Italy.

And hosts Germany gave an illustration of their power by demolishing Scotland in the opening game on Friday night.

Southgate believes England must earn the right to be recognised as one of Europe's elite teams over the next four weeks.

He said: "When you watch European football and other leagues, you become aware of

how many good players there are. What we have done up to this point, having a reputation, doesn't really matter.

"It gives us confidence and it gives us evidence that we can play well, but we have to be judged by what we do in this period, not anything before.

"Everybody recognises that we've got a dangerous team, but I don't think they go overboard about that. They feel we've progressed well over seven or eight years. Whenever I travel around

Europe, you get a different view perhaps to the one I get at home. I don't think people outside England are putting us on a pedestal.

"We're a team that can win this, but there are other teams that can win it and so it's about delivering over the period of a month, finding your best form and dealing with all of those events that will happen within tournament football."



**REPUTATION WON'T COUNT**  
Southgate says it's up for grabs

**KEVIN CAMPBELL** 1970-2024



1993: Campbell (far right) after Arsenal won the FA Cup

# FINE PLAYER & A SUPER MAN

BY **CHRIS MCKENNA**

IT was a few years ago that Kevin Campbell was reminiscing about his famous winner at Anfield for Everton.

"I remember seeing the Blues in the Kop end celebrating the goal," said the former Toffees striker.

"I will take that memory to my grave."

It is with great sadness that day has come all too soon for 'Super Kev' but it is one of the great memories that will also stay with Blues fans forever, too.

He has left a lot with them and every club he played for will remember him with great fondness.

The news that the ex-Arsenal and Everton front man passed away at the age of just 54 stunned football.

It had emerged recently that he was seriously ill but it still hit hard when his death was confirmed by the clubs he had starred for.

It was a career which began at Arsenal. The Lambeth-born goalscorer had made his name at youth level with the Gunners due to his strike rate.

He would make his first-team debut in 1988 and scored eight goals in Arsenal's run to the league title in the 1990-91 season under George Graham, before

Graham, before

claiming a League Cup, FA Cup and Cup Winners' Cup for the Gunners.

When he left north London in 1995, he had amassed 55 goals in 210 appearances.

Campbell moved to Nottingham Forest before heading to Turkish side Trabzonspor in 1998.

There followed an initial loan to Everton in March 1999, where he helped them move away from a relegation battle under Walter Smith, and his move was made permanent that summer.

Then came that moment in September 1999 when he scored an early goal in a heated derby which gave Everton a rare Anfield victory.

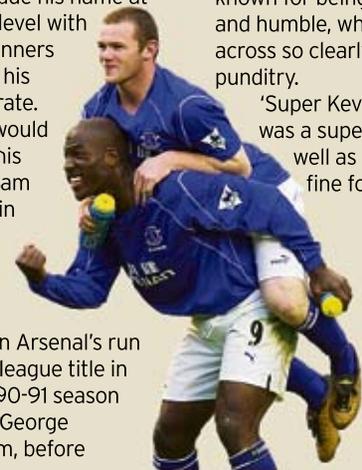
He went on to become Everton's first black captain. They'll never forget him on the blue half of Merseyside, as he left with 51 goals after six years.

Campbell also had spells at West Brom, and Cardiff where he retired in 2007.

Described by many as effervescent, he was also known for being warm and humble, which came across so clearly in his TV punditry.

'Super Kev' really was a super man as well as being a fine footballer.

**EVERTON MINTED**  
Campbell and Wayne Rooney enjoy a golden moment beating Arsenal in 2002



**MATJIA SARKIC** 1997-2024

# Keeper dies at just 26

BY **RYAN TAYLOR**

MILLWALL and Montenegro goalkeeper Matija Sarkic tragically died aged 26 yesterday.

Born in Grimsby, the talented shot-stopper (below) came through the ranks at Anderlecht before joining Aston Villa in 2015. He enjoyed spells at Wigan, Livingston, Wolves, Shrewsbury, Birmingham and Stoke before joining Millwall, where he shone last season.

Sarkic earned his ninth senior cap in a 2-0 friendly defeat by Belgium on June 5.



# THE SCOUT

BY RYAN TAYLOR

Who is the next big thing, the next Bellingham, Mbappe 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.



## » KENAN YILDIZ

■ ONE of Europe's hottest young talents, following an impressive breakthrough campaign at Juventus.

He has forced his way into Vincenzo Montella's Turkey squad for Euro 2024 on merit after netting a stunning goal in a 3-2 win over Germany last November.

The attacker can play in multiple positions and has a powerful shot.

**AGE:** 19 **HEIGHT:** 6ft 1in (1.87m)

**NATIONALITY:** Turkish

**CLUB:** Juventus

**CONTRACT EXPIRES:** June 2027

**POSITION:** Forward

**FOOT:** Good as each other

**STYLE:** Lightning striker with shooting ability

**TRACKED BY:** Real Madrid, Liverpool and Arsenal

**MARKET VALUE:** £25million

**WHY BUY HIM?** An electrifying attacker with world-class potential. Already performing at a very high level for a Euro giant and could grow into a great in the next few years.

## » FRANCISCO CONCEICAO

■ Son of Sergio, the fiery Portuguese boss who recently parted company with Porto.

A tricky winger, Francisco came through the ranks at Porto before Ajax triggered his release clause.

But things did not work out in Amsterdam and Conceicao is back at Porto. Could be one to watch at Euro 2024 after making Portugal's squad.

**AGE:** 21 **HEIGHT:** 5ft 5in (1.70m)

**NATIONALITY:** Portuguese

**CLUB:** Porto

**CONTRACT EXPIRES:** June 2029

**POSITION:** Right winger

**FOOT:** Left

**STYLE:** Nimble dribbler who loves to take on full-backs

**TRACKED BY:** Bayern Munich

**MARKET VALUE:** £20million

**WHY BUY HIM?** Big prospect, with a wealth of top-level experience. Already played for two prestigious clubs in Ajax and Porto. His stock is not that high, though, after a difficult spell in Holland and that means he is a bargain.



# OUR THREE LION ON WHY ENGLAND

# Gareth was inconsolable after missing his penalty against Germany in 1996, and locked himself in his room. But he has walked a mile in their boots, and players respect that... it would be fitting if he won it 28 years on in Berlin

**THIS might just be Gareth Southgate's final shot at Euro redemption.**

Twenty-eight years after his penalty miss in the semi-final shoot-out against Germany at Wembley plunged the nation into mourning, wouldn't it be fitting if England could return from Berlin next month as European champions?

Southgate came so close to glory three years ago, of course, when his team were again cruelly



@Robbie9Fowler @Robbie9Fowler

# ROBBIE FOWLER

Our England legend says what we're all thinking

denied by missed penalties on home soil, this time by Italy.

And, while the sheer strength of Gareth's character has made him a man who can deal with the most bitter disappointments, I'm sure that deep down he still has unfinished business with a tournament that has brought him heartbreak as both a

player and a manager. I was in the same England squad as Southgate when football was supposed to be coming home in 1996.

I still remember how inconsolable he was when German keeper Andreas Kopke plunged to his right to save his penalty before Andreas Moller stepped up to send the eventual

winners through to meet the Czech Republic.

I don't know if Gareth still carries the scars. He shouldn't.

Even the best finishers miss penalties - and it's about having the b\*\*\*\*s to stand up and be counted when the pressure is so agonising that some people can't even bear to

# BOSS DESERVES TO LIFT EUROS



## EVER THOUGHT OF DOING A PIZZA AD?

Keeper David Seaman hugs Southgate after his miss, the subject of which was turned into an amusing skit by Pizza Hut



## Jocky Hansen is a class act

ALAN HANSEN is one of the most graceful footballers to ever play the game.

As I also discovered during my formative years at Liverpool, there is a hard edge to that most elegant exponent of the art of defending.

I suppose there has to be when you share a dressing room with hard-nosed winners such as Graeme Souness, Kenny Dalglish and Jimmy Case.

Back in 1991, when Alan (below) was winding down a career that brought him three European Cups, eight league titles, two FA Cups and four League Cups, I was learning my trade at Anfield on a YTS contract.

I had shown enough potential to spend some time training with the first-team squad when, one bitter winter morning, we were told that, due to frozen pitches at Melwood, we would be put through our paces on the tarmac of the car park in Stanley Park.

Jocky - as Alan is known because of his Scottish roots - was only a few months from retirement. He could have been forgiven for taking it easy.

Instead, he gave a masterclass.

While the rest of us slid around a rock-hard surface made even more treacherous by a coating of ice, he glided across it with all the sure-footedness of an Olympic skater.

Alan's reading of the game that day was as immaculate as it had always been.

But what made me admire the man even more was his readiness to put himself at risk during a training session when he could have easily made his excuses and gone off for an easy session in the gym.

I was so sorry to hear during the week that the great man is seriously ill in hospital. It goes without saying that I wish him well.

Alan isn't just a bona fide Liverpool legend.

He is someone who elicits respect from supporters of every club because he is a class act - both on and off the pitch.



**ALL GONE SOUTH**  
Defender Gareth steps up and misses his crucial penalty in the 1996 shoot-out

watch. Southgate was there when his country needed him.

I am sure one of the reasons he commands so much respect among his players is because they know that he has walked a mile in their boots.

Even so, I would imagine there is a part of him that still needs closure.

Can England win in Germany?

Forget their no-show in the friendly against Iceland, they have quite rightly been installed as one of the favourites and I expect them to beat Serbia in their opening game today.

France are our biggest threat.

If we don't win this tournament, then I've got a feeling that, after more than eight years in the job, there will

be an irresistible clamour for the FA to ask Southgate to hand the reins over to someone else.

Our Euro '96 squad dined out on reaching the semi-final for years.

I don't think any of us believed it was a special achievement to reach the last four. We only won two of our five games - against Scotland and Holland in the group stages.

But what that memorable summer did illustrate was the power of football.

Even in the aftermath of the cruellest of defeats, it felt like the country had fallen back in love with

the game. Boss Terry Venables did his best to isolate his squad from all the hysteria, but it was clear, before a ball had been kicked, that the nation was at fever pitch.

Everyone seemed to be singing Three Lions by Baddiel and Skinner - a song so good that it's still an anthem.

I know other countries use the lyric as a stick to beat English football with, but it was the soundtrack to the tournament.

It still resonates today.

Gazza sang it non-stop. We had it blasting out of the speakers on the bus ride to Wembley as thousands of

people took to the streets to wish us well. That passion carried us through the tournament.

It was a tortuous journey back to the hotel at Burnham Beeches after that semi-final defeat. Some lads decided to drown their sorrows at the bar, others just went to their room to handle their dejection alone.

Gareth just locked himself away. He has done brilliantly guiding us to the semi-finals and final of major tournaments - but England men still haven't won anything since 1966.

If he can take that next step in Germany, he would sit alongside Sir Alf Ramsey.

**Interview: SIMON MULLOCK**

## Euro Rewind



**'DENTIST'S CHAIR'** England give Gazza the treatment after his brilliant strike

## GAZZA'S DRINKING IT ALL IN!

**England 2 Scotland 0**  
Shearer 53  
Gascoigne 79  
European Championship, June 15, 1996  
Att at Wembley: 78,864

BY **MATT BOZEAT**  
THE summer when football came home and Wembley saw one of the goals of the century - and the dentist's chair!

England boss Terry Venables called some of the English Press "traitors" for the way they rounded on his squad after their late-night antics in Hong Kong only weeks before Euro '96 got under way.

Paul Gascoigne and others were pictured strapped to a chair and tipped back before alcohol was poured down their throats, known by drinkers as "the dentist's chair".

The Press were even more outraged after England could only draw their opening match with Switzerland 1-1, while Scotland fought out a goalless draw with Holland.

The nation got behind the Three Lions ahead of the first England-Scotland match for seven years and they saw a goalless first half.

England were ahead eight minutes after the restart, Alan Shearer (below) meeting Gary Neville's cross with a firm header.

England were going to take off Gascoigne after around 77 minutes.

The switch had to wait after Tony Adams brought down Gordon Durie and Scotland had a penalty.

David Seaman kept out Gary McAllister's spot-kick and, seconds later, the ball was in the back of Scotland's net.

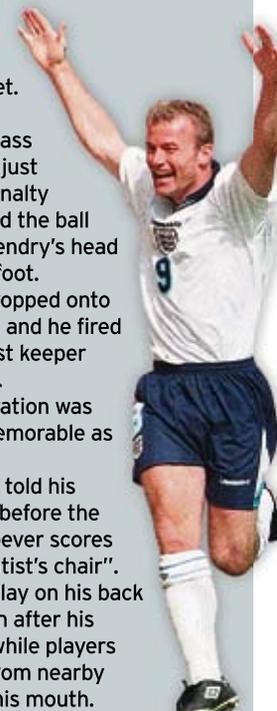
Darren Anderton's pass found Gazza just inside the penalty area. He lifted the ball over Colin Hendry's head with his left foot.

The ball dropped onto his right foot and he fired his volley past keeper Andy Goram.

The celebration was almost as memorable as the goal!

Gazza had told his team-mates before the match, "Whoever scores does the dentist's chair".

And so he lay on his back in celebration after his iconic goal, while players shot water from nearby bottles into his mouth.



# ROSE: I FEAR FOR OUR BLACK PLAYERS



BY DAN BURNHAM

ENGLAND'S black stars will go into these Euros expecting racist abuse if they make a mistake.

That's the fear of former Tottenham and Three Lions left-back Danny Rose.

He foresaw the torrent of abuse suffered by Bukayo Saka, Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho after the penalty shoot-out heartache of three years ago.

Rose has seen it first hand, having been abused (above) by Serbian fans while playing for England Under-21s in 2012.

Speaking on Reach's new Euro Thrash podcast - which you can find on YouTube, Apple and Spotify - Rose said: "Even now, I have group chats with my friends and if something happens at the weekend or whatever, and if it's a black player, the first message will be, 'I bet he gets racially abused in his DMs on Instagram'."

"That is just the mentality these days - that it is the norm and it is to be expected.

"You want the players just to be focused on winning the trophy for their country, not having to worry, 'If I make a mistake, what's waiting for me when I go back to the changing room and go on my phone?'

"We all have to just work together and find a

solution on how to eradicate that."

Rose was one of those targeted by racist chants during a Euro 2020 qualifier in Montenegro.

Seven years earlier, a trip to today's opponents Serbia saw their fans throw stones and make monkey gestures at him - a harrowing experience, particularly for a young player aged just 22.

Rose said: "It was tough. It was away as well, so it was hostile.

"I think that we needed to win to qualify for the U21s Championships.

"That is one of the harshest atmospheres I have ever played in. It was probably the first time I had experienced anything like that.

"It did affect me a little bit. I remember that if there was a 50/50 challenge, I'd try to be a little bit naughty, let my frustration out.

"I didn't ask to come off or complain to the manager at the time, though it was evident what was happening.

"In terms of wanting three points, it didn't affect me that way, but it made me a bit frustrated."



# EURO 2024: SERBIA v ENGLAND

# KANE'S A BIG

## Alarm Bell for Dragan

BY SIMON MULLOCK

SERBIA coach Dragan Stojkovic is running scared of Jude Bellingham after tipping the England midfielder as a future Ballon d'Or winner.

Stojkovic, who was a superstar schemer during his own playing career, warned his team they will have to keep a watchful eye on Bellingham when they open their campaign tonight.

He reckons the 20-year-old is typical of the kind of talented technicians that Southgate has in such abundance that he has been able to leave Marcus Rashford, Jack Grealish and Raheem Sterling at home.

Stojkovic said: "Bellingham is a great boy. He's a future golden ball winner, definitely.

"It's very impressive in what he has already shown in a Real Madrid jersey. He's young but so powerful.

"It is good for England and bad for us. But we will do our best to control this kind of situation."

And Stojkovic (right) is envious that Southgate has been able to overlook several outstanding players.

He added: "This English team is really, really talented, regarding performances of Phil Foden, Bukayo Saka, Jude Bellingham and Harry Kane.

"If you leave Rashford, Sterling and Grealish out of the squad, you can see how strong they are. This is a new generation of players who proved their quality in the Premier League and during qualification."



A CHASE TO GLORY

Kane and Marc Guehi in training yesterday

**SOUTHGATE & FOWLER**  
See Pages 74-77

**LIKELY TEAMS**  
**SERBIA:**  
V. Milinkovic-Savic, Veljkovic, Milenkovic, Pavlovic, Zivkovic, Maksimovic, Vlahovic, Kostic, S. Milinkovic-Savic, Tadic, Mitrovic  
**ENGLAND:**  
Pickford, Walker, Stones, Guehi, Trippier, Alexander-Arnold, Rice, Saka, Bellingham, Foden, Kane



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GROUP C, GELSENKIRCHEN  
TONIGHT, 8PM, LIVE ON BBC1

# GAIN HUNTER

England captain admits: I've not won a trophy, but I get more respect at Bayern for being a world-class striker than I do in the Prem



BY SIMON MULLOCK  
Chief Football Writer  
in Gelsenkirchen

**HARRY KANE feels that he is finally being recognised as one of the best strikers in the world - but he wants to be known as a winner.**

Kane's move to Bayern Munich last year may not have realised the trophies everyone expected when he decided to quit Spurs.

But the England captain still scored 44 goals to claim the European Golden Shoe - and it would be ironic if the first piece of silverware he lifts is the European Championship on German soil next month.

Kane said: "I'd say that, from an outside point of view, I'm probably now respected more as one of the top strikers in the world.

"When you're at a club like Bayern Munich, that comes if you have a great season. It's similar to Real Madrid, Barcelona and all the top clubs around the world.

"Maybe I now have a

different kind of aura. Nothing's really changed in how I prepare, how I go into games, and my confidence is still the same as it's been throughout my whole career.

"But maybe when you play for a club like Bayern, you get looked at in a different light.

"It's good for me because it raises my profile and helps me to really compete to be one of the best players in the world.

"People have their opinions. It's just the way football fans are.

"I am extremely proud of what I have achieved in my career so far, but I also know that I want to have trophies to show for it.

"I feel like I've got many years ahead of me, I feel like I'm at a real

peak in my career and, hopefully, for the next four or five years, that will be the case."

Kane (right) has

a record 63 goals for his country. If he continues to score in Germany, then Gareth Southgate's men will go close.

Six years ago, he went to the World Cup in Russia insisting he could be the tournament's top scorer and went home with the Golden Boot.

If anything, the 30-year-old's belief in his own ability - and those around him - continues to grow after a season which also saw Jude Bellingham, Phil Foden, Bukayo Saka and Cole Palmer excel.

Kane, who will lead his country in today's opening group game against Serbia, said: "I know what I am capable of. I know what I have done year after year. There is no reason why I cannot be the top scorer here.

"If we do well, I expect myself to be up there. To be scoring goals means I will be helping the team. That

confidence is still there. I'm at my peak - not just my physical peak. It's also my mental peak, in terms of understanding the game, tactics and the space to run into.

"I am in a really comfortable place in terms, but, as always in these tournaments, I will be judged on goals. So hopefully I will get a few."

Kane added: "We're all at that stage now where we want to have a great tournament, want to make everyone proud, but we want to win.

"We've had talented squads throughout my time as an England player.

"But what separates this one is how well everyone is playing, leading up to this tournament.

"Phil was player of the year in the Premier League, Jude in La Liga, I had a decent season in the Bundesliga.

"I'm excited with this squad and to be leading them is a pleasure."



## SHEIKH'S MOVE TO KEEP PEP

FROM BACK PAGE

could leave the club when his contract expires next year. But City will not let the six-time Premier League winner walk away without a fight to convince him that he still has more to achieve in Manchester.

Chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak has promised to do all he can to persuade Guardiola to sign an extension to take his reign to beyond a decade.

City hope the prospect of taking his team to the expanded Club World Cup in the United States next summer will be too tantalising to resist.

Guardiola's current deal runs out on June 30 - just two weeks before the 32-team tournament's Final is scheduled to take place.

If the 53-year-old decides to leave, then City would want a new manager in place for the 2025-26 season.

Guardiola's decision will not be decided by money, but City are prepared to offer him a significant rise on his £20million-a-year wages.

There is a feeling inside the club that director of football Txiki Begiristain will also depart when the Catalan decides to leave, so the Blues could be left with two huge roles to fill.

Guardiola made history when City became the first English club to win four successive titles last season.

The club owned by Mansour (below) also lifted the Club World Cup and the European Super Cup for the first time.

Twelve months earlier, City claimed a Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup Treble - and Guardiola admitted that he might find it a struggle to motivate himself after achieving so much during his eight years in Manchester.

City are fighting 115 Premier League allegations of serious fraud charges and a bullish Guardiola vowed last year that he would be more inclined to stay if a guilty verdict was punished by relegation.



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1970-2024  
**KEVIN CAMPBELL,  
GENIUS AND A GENT**  
SPECIAL TRIBUTE: PAGE 75

# BIG CITY MOVE TO KEEP PEP

**EXCLUSIVE**  
BY **SIMON MULLOCK**  
MANCHESTER CITY owner Sheikh Mansour is leading a fierce charm offensive to keep Pep Guardiola at the Etihad. The Abu Dhabi prince welcomed Guardiola into his home last week for a meeting that was planned before his manager said he

TURN TO PAGE 79



**WELCOME**  
Guardiola in Abu Dhabi last week

# REDS' JARRAD QUIT THREAT

**EXCLUSIVE** BY **RYAN TAYLOR**  
MANCHESTER UNITED are threatening to walk away from a deal for Jarrad Braithwaite after Everton rejected their opening bid worth £43million including add-ons. While the centre-back (left) is their top transfer target, INEOS

TURN TO PAGE 70

# EURO 2024: SERBIA v ENGLAND



GROUP C, GELSENKIRCHEN  
TONIGHT, 8PM, LIVE ON BBC1

# FREE LIONS

Boss tells our boys:  
You're good enough...  
this is your moment



**GO AND KANE 'EM**  
Captain Harry Kane is ready to lead his England team, starting tonight against Serbia



BY **SIMON MULLOCK**  
in Gelsenkirchen  
**GARETH SOUTHGATE** urged his England team to grasp the chance to become legends. The Three Lions boss has called on Harry Kane, Jude Bellingham and Co to wipe away the memory of agonising near-misses by returning home from Germany as European champions. Southgate, whose side face Serbia tonight, said: "It's an opportunity for people to make a name for themselves. This is their moment."  
**EURO 2024 SPECIAL: Pages 72-79**

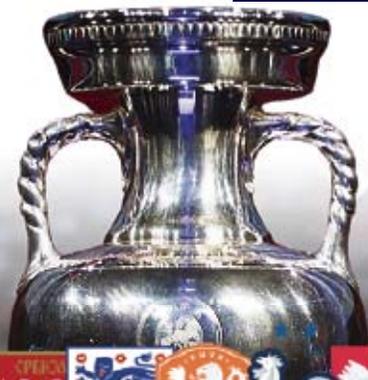
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# EURO 2024



### RAMPANT RUIZ

Fabian Ruiz after scoring Spain's second goal, and (below right) Alvaro Morata laps it up after getting the opener in Berlin



# THAT'S A FAB START

**SPAIN 3**  
**CROATIA 0**  
REPORT: PAGE 3

## Red-hot Spain are off to a flier as they crush Croatia



**ITALY 2 ALBANIA 1 RELIEVED DEFENDING CHAMPIONS OVER FIRST HURDLE**

REPORT: PAGE 2

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# GROUP B

## ITALY.....2 ALBANIA.....1

BASTONI 11, BARELLA 16

BAJRAMI 1

■ Nedim Bajrami's goal after 23 seconds is the fastest goal ever scored at the UEFA European Championship finals.



Donnarumma	6
Di Lorenzo	7
Bastoni	8
Calafiori	7
Dimarco	5
Jorginho	7
Barella	8
Fratesi	6
Pellegrini	8
Chiesa	7
Scamacca	7

### SUBSTITUTES

Cristante (for Pellegrini, 77)	6
Cambiasso (for Chiesa, 77)	5
Retegui (for Scamacca, 83)	5
Darmian (for Dimarco, 83)	6
Folorunsho (for Barella, 90)	5

### NEXT GAME

v Spain (N) ..... **Thurs**

## Albania

Strakosha	6
Hysaj	6
Djimsiti	6
Ajeti	5
Mitaj	6
Asllani	6
Ramadani	6
Bajrami	7
Asani	5
Broja	6
Seferi	5

### SUBSTITUTES

Hoxha (for Asani, 68)	5
Laci (for Seferi, 69)	6
Manaj (for Broja, 77)	5
Muci (for Bajrami, 87)	5

### NEXT GAME

v Croatia (N) ..... **Weds**

REF: Felix Zwayer (Ger) 7



### STAR MAN

**Lorenzo Pellegrini** - Refused to let that shock start rattle the holders and drove side.

# ITALIANS IN TOP NIC

## Barella's 20-yard piledriver turns around a horror start

### SPALLETTI RALLY CRY

ITALY boss Luciano Spalletti praised his side for the way they recovered from conceding the quickest ever goal scored at a European Championships.

"I liked the attitude after conceding a goal," said Spalletti. "We share what happens on the pitch."

Inter Milan midfielder Nicolò Barella proved to be the match winner after being a doubt before the game with the muscle injury which had kept him out of Italy's two warm-up matches.

However, despite the win, the Italy boss (above) knows that his side will have to get better if they are to successfully defend their crown this summer.

"We have seen many good things," he said.

"But they have to lead somewhere because otherwise they lead to nothing, just as an end in themselves.

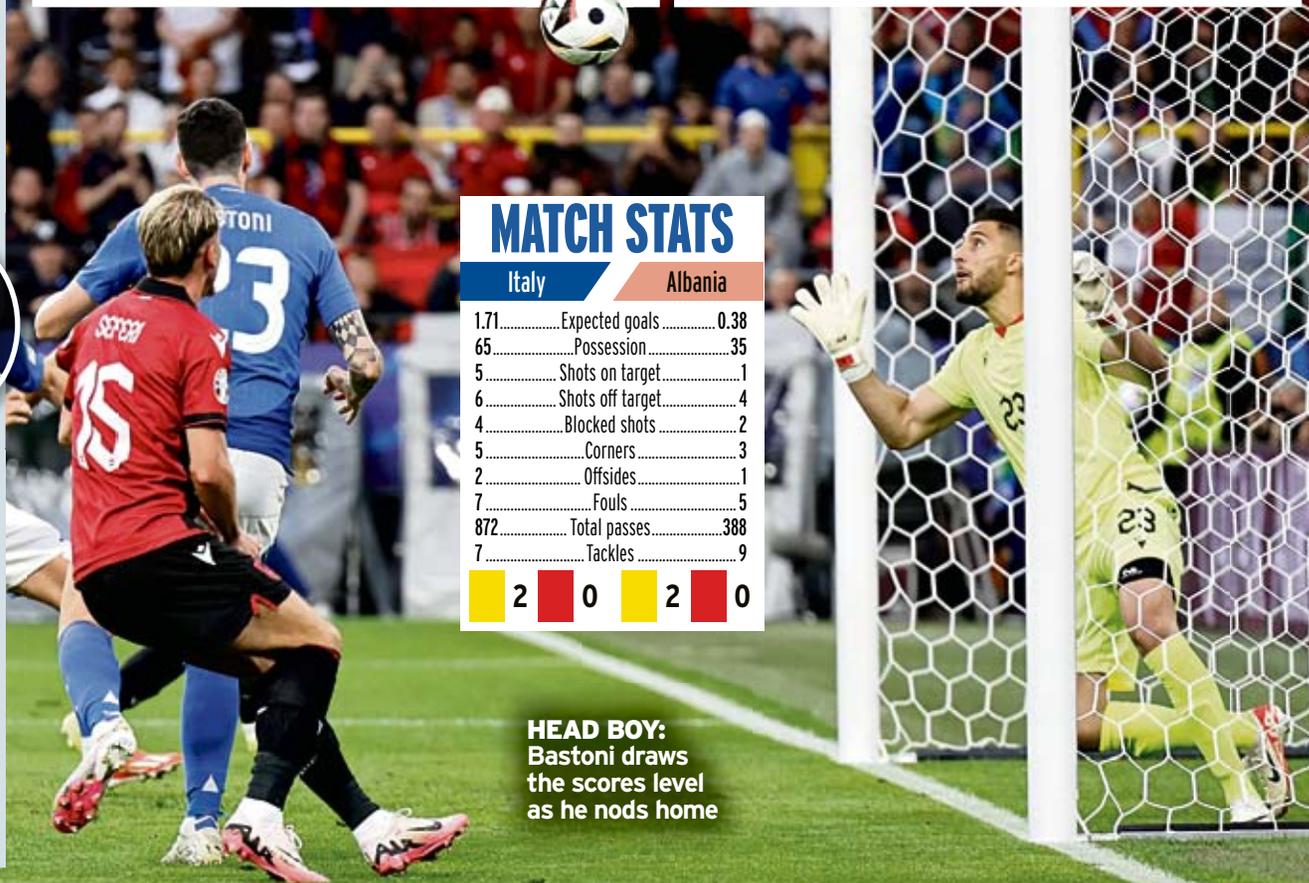
"Sometimes we were too comfortable."



**HEAVY HITTER:** Barella crashes home the winner



**FAST AND FURIOUS:** Bajrami celebrates his 23-second opener



### MATCH STATS

Italy	Albania	
1.71	Expected goals	0.38
65	Possession	35
5	Shots on target	1
6	Shots off target	4
4	Blocked shots	2
5	Corners	3
2	Offsides	1
7	Fouls	5
872	Total passes	388
7	Tackles	9

**HEAD BOY:** Bastoni draws the scores level as he nods home

### TOURNAMENT football is not about how you start, but how you finish.

And if Italy are to successfully defend their European Championship crown this summer then they won't hold on to the memory of being ambushed by Albania inside 23 seconds.

After a day when Dortmund turned red as an estimated 50,000 Albania fans descended upon the city, those supporters were sent into rapture by Nedim Bajrami's record-breaking opener, only for Italy to quickly turn the screw.

Azzurri skipper Gianluigi Donnarumma had spent the build-up to the game praising the decision to appoint goalkeeping legend Gianluigi Buffon into the same support position

held by the late, great Gianluca Vialli when Italy won the Euros three years ago.

But he needed Buffon to be in goal with him if he was going to have any chance of saving Albania's rapid opener which had smoke bombs going off behind the goal.

The dozing Federico Dimarco didn't see the lurking Bajrami when he chose to throw the ball back, and the Albanian nipped in before firing home.

The goal smashed the previous record quickest at a Euros of 67 seconds, but the wild celebrations would only go on for 10 minutes longer

as an angered Italy roared back. Roma's Lorenzo Pellegrini crossed for defender Alessandro Bastoni to head home Italy's equaliser at the back post.

Even better was to follow five minutes later.

Jasir Asani didn't get enough on his clearance when under pressure from Dimarco and when the ball dropped to Nicolò Barella, an injury doubt before the game, the classy Inter Milan midfielder powered in from the edge of the box.

Asani was convinced that he had been fouled by Dimarco when clearing but VAR didn't agree.

A quick-fire third now looked on, and excellent centre-forward play from Gianluca Scamacca played Davide Fratesi in, but his dinked effort got a vital touch from Albania's Thomas

Strakosha, the Brentford No.2 goalkeeper.

After such a ferocious first half the second was always likely to be a little calmer, but Federico Chiesa almost scored a brilliant third for Italy with a curling effort.

The sense that a third goal would be needed began to grow as animated Italy boss Luciano Spalletti grew more and more frustrated on the touchline.

And on three occasions he was thankful for the class of centre-back Bastoni.

Substitute Rey Manaj then almost sent Albania fans into rapture but his 90th-minute effort dropped agonisingly across the goal and wide.

They couldn't quite finish how they started, and Italy were glad for their opening night to end.

By Mark Jones

AT BVB STADION, DORTMUND



# SPAIN.....3 CROATIA.....0

MORATA 29, RUIZ 32, CARVAJAL 45

Spain's Lamine Yamal became the first 16-year-old to play in a men's Euros tournament. He was born on July 13, 2007.

**DAN & DUSTED:**  
Dani Carvajal slots home just before the end of the first half

## MATCH STATS

Spain	Croatia
2.11	Expected goals.....2.27
46	Possession.....54
5	Shots on target.....5
3	Shots off target.....7
4	Blocked shots.....3
5	Corners.....0
2	Offsides.....0
14	Fouls.....13
480	Total passes.....565
10	Tackles.....11

1 0 0 0



## LUIS FIRES A WARNING

SPAIN boss Luis de la Fuente warned their Euro 2024 rivals they have now seen just how dangerous his side can be.

Physically powerful and playing with a directness rarely seen in recent years, La Roja put Croatia to the sword with three goals in 16 first-half minutes as they claimed victory in their opening group fixture in Germany.

And while De La Fuente sought to ensure calmness remains around his side, he made it clear they had laid down a marker.

"We know we can be very dangerous and that's the message we send out," said the Spanish coach.

"Our opponents know we can hurt them with possession, or positional play, and now know we can hurt them on the break too.

"But our target is still far away, so we have to keep our feet on the ground."

Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic apologised to their huge travelling contingent.

He said: "Thank you to the fans for their great support, but I apologise to them."



## MATCH RATINGS

### Spain

Simon	8
Cucurella	7
Le Normand	7
Nacho	6
Carvajal	7
Ruiz	8
Rodri	6
Pedri	7
Williams	6
Morata	7
Yamal	7

### SUBSTITUTES

Olmo (for Pedri, 59)	6
Oyarzabal (for Morata, 67)	5
Merino (for Williams, 68)	6
Zubimendi (for Rodri, 78)	5
Torres (for Yamal, 86)	5

### NEXT GAME

v Italy (N) ..... Thurs

### Croatia

Livakovic	6
Gvardiol	5
Pongracic	5
Sutalo	5
Stanisic	6
Kovacic	5
Brozovic	5
Modric	5
Kramaric	4
Budimir	5
Majer	6

### SUBSTITUTES

Perisic (for Budimir, 56)	5
Sucic (for Kovacic, 65)	5
Pasalic (for Modric, 65)	6
Petkovic (for Kramaric, 72)	4

### NEXT GAME

v Albania (N) ..... Weds

REF: Michael Oliver (Eng) 5



## STAR MAN

Fabian Ruiz - Brilliant pass created the first, superb footwork and finish for the second.

# Tik-ing along nicely

## SPANISH SUBSTANCE OVER STYLE SEES EMPHATIC OPENING WIN

**LONG gone are the days of tiki-taka football in Spain.**

Rodri told his international teammates ahead of their Euro 2024 opener that style no longer mattered and winning was all that was important.

And they duly battered Croatia in Berlin with the kind of physical and direct display rarely seen from them in the past 15 years.

In recent tournaments they have looked like a team clinging onto past glories, still trying to play the same way that brought them such great success with Xavi, Andres Iniesta and Sergio Busquets.

New head coach Luis de la Fuente wants his side to be less predictable, more direct and decisive when key moments present themselves. To aid

By Alex Richards  
AT OLYMPIASTADION BERLIN

that plan he has promoted the unpredictable and thrilling wingers Nico Williams and Lamine Yamal - Barcelona's 16-year-old prodigy, the youngest Euros player ever - into his attack, with another Barca sensation, Pedri, given licence to roam in midfield.

But in the Olympiastadion, it was the old dogs and their new tricks that put Croatia down by half-time. Rodri bullied his way into possession in midfield and fed Fabian Ruiz who, instead of looking to keep it

going wide, took one touch and slipped a cutting pass through the heart of the Croatian defence to send Alvaro Morata racing clear.

Spain captain Morata, now 31, coolly slotted past Dominik Livakovic. Two minutes later, their lead had been doubled. Ruiz started the move with a superb diagonal ball out to Yamal.

And when it was eventually worked back to him on the edge of the penalty area, he showed wonderful footwork before firing low into the corner.

Croatia almost responded immediately but Unai Simon made an excellent stop to deny Marcelo Brozovic, before Lovro Majer fired the follow-up into the side netting. Josko

Gvardiol (left) fizzed an effort just wide too, as this new-look Spain showed that their new-found unpredictability extends to their game management too.

However, in injury time at the end of the first half, they nabbed a third.

Dani Carvajal showed a poacher's instincts, meeting Yamal's inswinging cross to turn the ball in.

Rodri controversially escaped a late red card when referee Michael Oliver gave a penalty but elected to only book the Manchester City man.

Even then, Croatia couldn't take advantage.

Bruno Petkovic's penalty was saved by Simon, and while Ivan Perisic met the rebound and crossed for Petkovic to tap home, it was disallowed for encroachment by Perisic.



GROUP A



GERMANY.....5 SCOTLAND.....1

WIRTZ 10, MUSIALA 19, HAVERTZ 45 (PEN), FULLKRUG 68, CAN 90 ▶ RUDIGER 87 (OG)

# WE'VE LET YOU DOWN



## McGinn: This one hurts

**JOHN MCGINN admits Scotland's players feel like they've let the country down after being mauled by Germany at Euro 2024.**

But the Aston Villa midfielder still thinks Steve Clarke's men can recover their form to reach the knockout stage.

The Scots suffered an embarrassing 5-1 opening night defeat at the Allianz Arena in Munich on Friday.

Clarke's boys must now compose themselves before facing Switzerland in Cologne on Wednesday – where another defeat is unthinkable.

McGinn (above) knows the wave of optimism across the nation pre-tournament has been squashed by a poor display.

But he is convinced they can turn it around against the Swiss.

He said: "You see the massive support, the optimism around the whole country – and we feel like we've burst that bubble a bit."

"But we still have an opportunity to get through this group and we'll do everything we can to achieve it."

"We know we need to find our levels again over the next couple of days."

"But we can talk about it – ultimately there are a lot of us in here who need to up it."

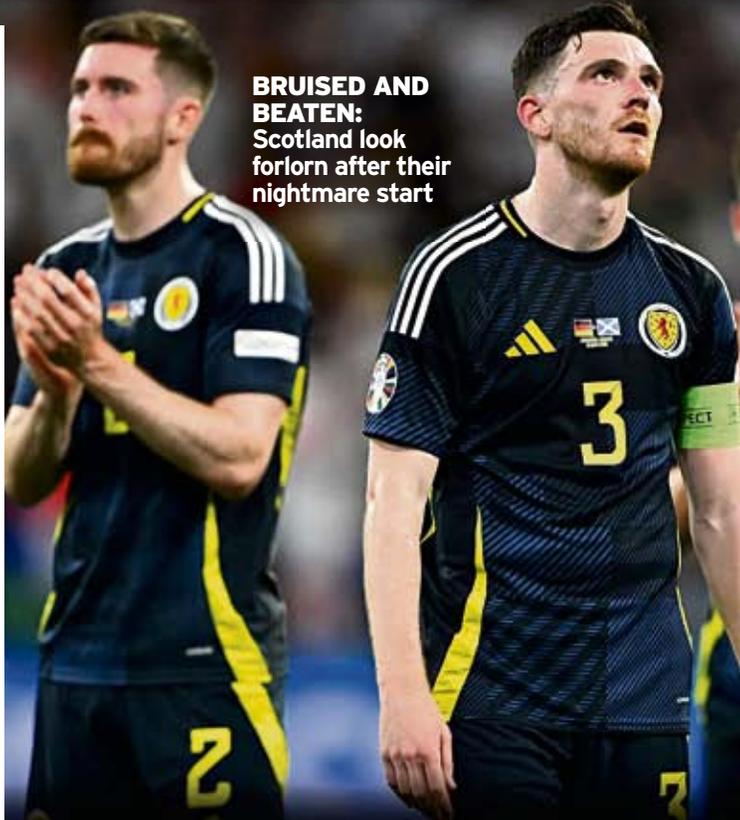
"We know that."

McGinn is well aware Friday night's debacle was nowhere near good enough – and a long way from their quite brilliant qualifying campaign.

Defensively, Clarke's side toiled against an incredibly threatening German attack.

Scotland will now be without Ryan Porteous for the second game after his red card. While their backline will face criticism,

**BRUISED AND BEATEN:** Scotland look forlorn after their nightmare start



By Scott McDermott  
IN MUNICH

McGinn admitted Scotland's forward players must start scoring again.

He said: "It's easy to talk about the goals we're losing but myself and others are now in a massive goal drought. So it kind of works both ways."

"Collectively, you can't point fingers at one or two players."

"As a group, we need to improve. We need to concede less and create more chances."

"I don't think we had a shot on Friday, which is worrying."

"But we know we can compete with these teams. We've gone

toe-to-toe with Spain and Holland recently. For a long time Scotland wasn't on the end of those types of scorelines so we need to get back to what we were doing."

"We have had bumps along the road so it's up to us now."

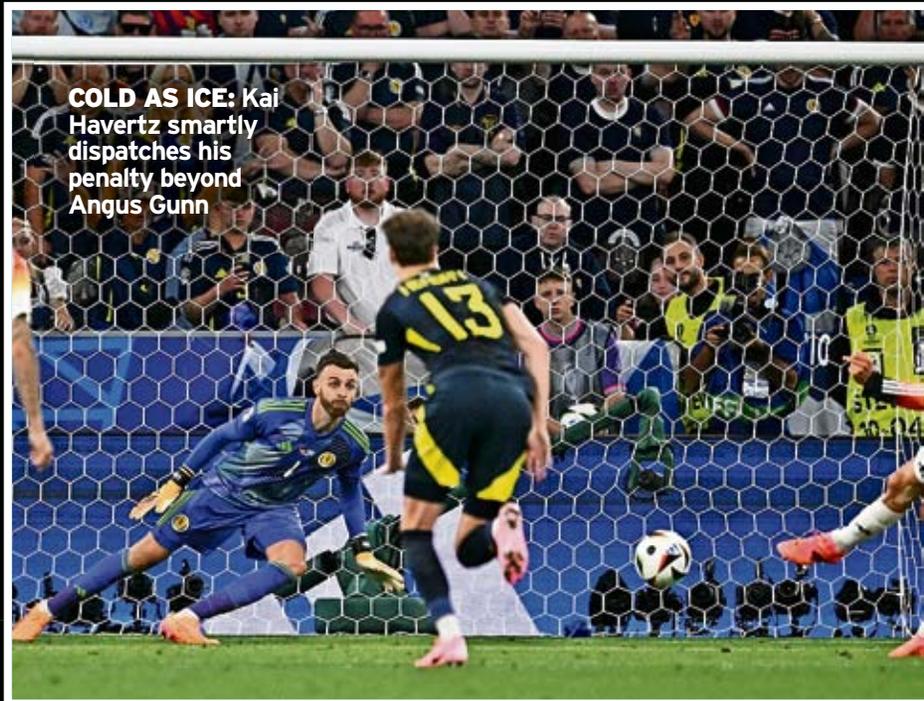
"The older ones in the group have to keep us going and get ready for Wednesday."

As the Scotland midfielder, who has so often been Clarke's talisman, tried to unravel their disastrous Euros start he said: "It's tough to try to speak about it but we have no choice."

"The objective on Friday night was to try to get at least a point."

"So it hurts. It still hurts now. It hurts the way it did when I lost a game like that at St Mirren."

"Your pride is dented."



**COLD AS ICE:** Kai Havertz smartly dispatches his penalty beyond Angus Gunn

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FRIDAY

HUNGARY...1 SWITZ'LAND...3

VARGA 66

DUAH 12, AEBISCHER 45, EMBOLO 90

## McFadden's Scot hope

SCOTLAND still have the quality to make it out of Group A - despite their embarrassing 5-1 collapse against Germany.

That's the view of former assistant manager and forward James McFadden.

The ex-Everton man (below) said: "They now need to show the best version of themselves, there's still hope and expectation that Scotland can get out of the group."

"Because of the players we have there in the squad, an early exit would be a real disappointment.

"I think the players and manager would be really disappointed if we don't make it through. Because of how well



**EXCLUSIVE** by RYAN TAYLOR

the team has done in recent times, certainly in qualifying, they have to find a way of getting through."

Steve Clarke's wounded camp now have to perform against Switzerland on Wednesday in Cologne and against Hungary next Sunday in Stuttgart.

And McFadden believes Hearts striker Lawrence Shankland, 28, could be a secret weapon.

He said: "Shankland's hold-up play and link-up play has been great.

"If you give him chances you know he will score goals."

● Audiences can watch and listen to live coverage of Euro 24 across BBC TV, BBC iPlayer, Radio, BBC Sounds and Online



**SWISS DON'T MISS: Kwadwo Duah celebrates the opening goal**

# Duah leaper

## KWADWO HAS HIS COUNTRY LEVITATING

**KWADWO DUAH** announced himself on the international stage as Switzerland served notice in Scotland's group.

The Ludogorets striker only made his debut for Murat Yakin's team a fortnight ago in a friendly with Estonia.

But he showed the poise of a veteran to open the scoring - even though he was wrongly flagged offside before a VAR intervention.

Michel Aebischer's classy finish gave the Swiss a 2-0 half-time lead they thoroughly deserved.

But Hungary were back in the game through Barnabas Varga on 66 minutes and threatened a second only for Breel Embolo to pounce on a mistake late on and beat Peter Gulacsi with a sublime lob for the clincher.

It was the Monaco forward's first international in 18 months and

By Neil Naismith  
AT COLOGNE STADIUM, COLOGNE

the goal was reward for his hard work during more than a year of horrendous injury problems.

Manager Yakin was delighted for Embolo, and said: "We knew we made the right decision to bring him. He wasn't available for the last two weeks but the decision to call him up was right.

"He makes us very calm holding the ball up." The Swiss boss was just as thrilled for Duah, 27.

He added: "He is a penalty-box player and we have had the situation with Breel, but we knew we could rely on him."

Ex-Arsenal captain Granit Xhaka ran the game and was man of the match as the Swiss got their

campaign up and running in impressive style.

"We have strong competition within the squad," said skipper Xhaka. "Embolo came on and gave us stability and then, of course, scored the killer goal.

"We saw how many Swiss fans were in the stadium today and the atmosphere was fantastic."

With three points in the bag, Yakin turned his attention to their next opponent, Scotland, on Wednesday in Cologne.

He is not fooled by what happened to the Scots on Friday.

Yakin said: "It's not easy to play against Germany. Wednesday is a completely different game.

"It's important we won our first game but I wasn't so happy with our second half, so we have to play better next week."

Hungary coach Marco Rossi was bitterly disappointed and claimed his team shot themselves in the foot.

He said: "It's hard to correct the kind of mistakes that we made.

"Our players do not make mistakes like this every day."

REF: Slavko Vincic (SV)

### MATCH STATS

Hungary	Switzerland
1.34.....	Expected goals.....2.50
46.....	Possession.....54
2.....	Shots on target.....7
3.....	Shots off target.....3
1.....	Blocked shots.....5
2.....	Corners.....6
3.....	Offsides.....2
9.....	Fouls.....13
448.....	Total passes.....459
12.....	Tackles.....12
2	0
2	0



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## GROUP D



## POLAND v HOLLAND

VOLKSPARKSTADION, HAMBURG › TODAY, KO 2PM › BBC ONE

■ Poland have not beaten Holland in their last 12 meetings, with their last win back in May 1979.



IT'S UP TO YOU: Mbappe with manager Deschamps

## Magic Mbappe's in for the Kyl with Euros glory target

AS France faces an uncertain future after president Emmanuel Macron's call for a snap election, the future of Les Bleus has never been more certain.

This is Kylian Mbappe's team now.

At 25, the man widely considered to be the best player on the planet is comfortable in his role as captain, his long-protracted move from Paris Saint-Germain to Real Madrid is finally done and dusted - and in Germany he has only one goal.

"I want to win the Euros," he said.

"I won the World Cup. I won the Nations League. This is the only one that missed me."

After long-time leader Hugo Lloris retired from international football in the wake of the 2022 World Cup, Didier Deschamps ignored the likes of Antoine Griezmann to hand Mbappe the armband.

Some, Griezmann in particular, weren't overly happy. But the move made sense.

A once rocky relationship with some of his teammates - highlighted after their Euros failure against

### AUSTRIA v FRANCE

► Dusseldorf Arena, Dusseldorf  
Tomorrow, KO 8pm, ITV1

By ALEX RICHARDS

Switzerland in 2021, with Mbappe missing the crucial penalty in the last-16 shootout - has been smoothed over.

In the years since the team has increasingly been built to get the best out of its undoubted superstar.

What is asked of Mbappe in return is that, in the big moments when his country needs him, he steps up.

Just like he did in the World Cup Final in Qatar when he became only the second man - after Geoff Hurst - to score a hat-trick in football's biggest game.

He doesn't, however, look back on that day with any particular fondness - Deschamps' side having been denied successive triumphs by Lionel Messi and Argentina.

"Of course we were hurt, to see that you're close to something," said Mbappe. "Close to the back-to-back. Something amazing.

"Everybody loved the game except for us. We didn't like that but it's part of the game."

## KOEMAN'S CALL-UPS CRUCIAL TO SUCCESS

From CHARLIE GORDON in Hamburg

RONALD KOEMAN insists Holland will need their nation's support at Euro 2024 after losing Frenkie de Jong and Teun Koopmeiners to injury.

The Dutch are in a tough group with France, Austria and today's opponents Poland.

"I'm really looking forward to it," said Koeman. "It's a great tournament. We'll have a lot of support and we'll need it."

The Netherlands boss (above) took a pop at his former club, Barcelona in the lead-up to the Euros for "taking a risk" by playing De Jong in April's El Clasico.

The midfielder suffered an ankle injury in the game against Real Madrid and hasn't played since.

Koopmeiners then sustained a tournament-ending muscle injury while warming up for a friendly against Iceland on Monday.

There was hope De Jong would make it back in time to feature in Germany but Koeman pulled the plug in time to bring two replacements on board.

Ian Maatsen was one of the players selected and the Holland boss is confident he can plug the gaps.

"Ian is a multifunctional player," he said. "We can fill all positions.

"We play with three midfielders and we have five in the squad.

"All the other players have already been on holiday for three weeks."

Maatsen, 22, is on the books at Chelsea but he spent the end of last season on loan at Borussia Dortmund, where he started in the Champions League final defeat to Real Madrid.

He was on holiday with his girlfriend when he discovered Koeman needed his services.

"I suddenly received a call and I just had to pack my stuff as quickly as possible and come," said Maatsen.



# Trouble Dutch!

## MANCHESTER'S STILL HOME FOR FRIMPONG

Simon Mullock  
REPORTING

JEREMIE FRIMPONG is the flying Dutchman with a Mancunian accent.

His family feel so at home in the north west of England they have never returned to the Bijlmer district of Amsterdam, where Frimpong and three of his six siblings were born.

But you can still be sure that the 23-year-old Bayer Leverkusen winger, who learned his trade in a decade spent at Manchester City's highly-rated academy, is still pure Oranje.

After playing a key role in Leverkusen's spectacular Bundesliga and German Cup double this season, Frimpong is ready to explode at the Euros when Holland face Poland in Hamburg in their opening group game today.

Frimpong said: "You could call my life turbulent.

"I have moved a lot - but it has just made my life richer.

"My mother is like every mother. She was always cautious and worrying about us. I have three brothers and three sisters and I am the middle child.

"Some were born in the Netherlands, others in Ghana.

"My youngest sister plays basketball and my brother Wesley plays in the youth team at Bolton Wanderers.

"Our father was a sprinter in Ghana who now loves tennis - and every single one of us can run fast."

Frimpong was aged eight when his family decided life would be better in the city

famous for football, music and Coronation Street rather than the high tower blocks of Bijlmer.

Then he started to play the game seriously in local parks before being snapped up by the Blues. Frimpong needed some convincing to join Celtic when the Scottish giants came calling in 2019.

It was only when his agent brother Jeffrey Lemmert told him moving to Scotland would

POLAND boss Michal Probiez believes his side have what it takes to go all the way.

The 51-year-old has told his players "anything is possible" ahead of their clash with Holland, which they will go into without star player

be good for business in the long-term that he made the £300,000 switch.

He soon won the SPL title and the club's Young Player of the Year award before Leverkusen secured his signature for £10million. Frimpong said: "Glasgow seemed so far for a young player like me but I still went. When we moved to England, I soon settled in.

"The same for Scotland and now Germany. I am a strong believer in God and I am grateful for the talent I have been given."

Robert Lewandowski who has reportedly torn a leg muscle.

Probiez (below) said: "When you coach a team, anything is possible in football, so this is not just a statement. We will do everything we can to play well."



## RALF: WE CAN MIX IT

RALF RANGNICK has high hopes for his Austria side at Euro 2024 - despite their daunting opener against Kylian Mbappe & Co.

The ex-Manchester United chief, 65, takes charge at his first major international tournament and insists his side have what it takes to mix it with the best.

"With France we might have the strongest opponents of all right at the start," said Rangnick (right). "The first match will be a huge challenge.

"But if we're complete then we're a team that is very hard to beat."



AIMING HIGH: Jeremie jumps for joy after scoring

GROUP E



BELGIUM v SLOVAKIA

FRANKFURT ARENA, FRANKFURT › TOMORROW, KO 5PM › ITV1

■ Belgium and Slovakia are facing each other in a competitive fixture for the first time.

# GENERATION GAME

## Belgians ready to put 'Golden' past behind them now

**LAST DANCE:** Kevin De Bruyne, Romelu Lukaku and Jeremy Doku are all smiles



Mark Jones  
REPORTING

**THEIRS** was supposed to be the 'Golden' Belgium generation that won it all.

From Manchester City icons to Chelsea greats, and from multi-million pound transfers to countless Champions League and Premier League titles, Belgian players have lit up the club game over the past decade. But at international level it has been a different story.



And as Kevin De Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku line up for their sixth and potentially final international tournament when they face Slovakia in Frankfurt, they might be wondering where all their old pals have gone. The answers vary.

After his playing career Vincent Kompany has been relegated with Burnley but promoted to Bayern Munich. Eden Hazard got his dream move to Real Madrid but barely stepped foot on the Bernabeu pitch.

Even Thibaut Courtois is not in Germany despite his Champions League final appearance two weeks ago, having been deemed not fit enough to play by Belgium boss Domenico Tedesco (above).

These are players who were there when Belgium froze in defeat to Wales in the quarter-finals at Euro 2016, flattered to deceive against France in the semis of the 2018 World Cup and barely laid a glove on Italy at Wembley in the final eight of the last Euros.

Throw in a dismal group stage exit at the Qatar World Cup and it feels more olden than golden generation.

And while Belgium have been relying on Lukaku's goals, boss Tedesco says he has another important part to play.

"He plays an incredibly important role both on and off the pitch," the former Schalke boss said. "On the pitch, his goals speak for themselves but there's more to him than that.

"His importance off the pitch is undoubted because he knows lots of young players who he can become a sort of mentor to. He concerns himself with many things like this, which makes him extremely important."

Is there potentially a new golden generation on the cards? They would want to be called anything but, given what happened to the last one.

## HERO HANSIK CAN INSPIRE NEW BOYS

MAREK HANSIK is still pulling the strings for Slovakia despite retiring from football a year ago.

The instantly recognisable midfielder with the spiky hair - his country's all-time leading goalscorer and appearance-maker - was the key creative force in a side which reached the last-16 at the 2010 World Cup and Euro 2016. The former

Napoli star called time on his career at the age of 35 last summer after two years with Trabzonspor.

But such is the trust Slovakia boss Francesco Calzona has in him after they worked together at Napoli, he's with the squad in Germany in a support role.

"If I had a son I would want him to be someone like Marek

because he is very humble despite his career as a champion," said Calzona.

"He is straightforward, and everyone loves him."

On the pitch Slovakia look short on creativity but centre-backs Milan Skriniar and David Hancko could prove tough barriers to pass.

MARK JONES



**ALL OVER:** Hamsik played in Euro qualifying



**MOTIVATION:** Zinchenko

Olek: We will do it for our country

### ROMANIA v UKRAINE

► Munich Football Arena, Munich  
Tomorrow, KO 2pm, BBC One

By ADRIAN STILES

OLEKSANDR ZINCHENKO says his Ukraine team-mates will stand tall for their country as it continues to suffer due to the war against Russia.

The Arsenal left-back is one of the leaders in a squad that continues to defy the odds by staying competitive at the highest level.

They kick off Group E in Munich tomorrow against Romania, with Zinchenko promising they're ready to go.

He said: "We don't need extra motivation because we all understand this is the most challenging time for our country.

"We have fans not only watching us on TV or in the stadium but also those risking their lives to defend our freedom.

"Every time we wear the jersey with the Ukrainian emblem it is double or even triple the motivation for us."

With motivation accounted for, Zinchenko says they now have to be ready for what lies ahead in a group that will also see them play Slovakia and Belgium.

"First and foremost, we need to focus on our game and deliver our best performance, both individually and as a team," he said.

"We'll treat Romania with the same respect as we do Slovakia or Belgium.

"Everyone knows how crucial the first game is - it provides a psychological and physical boost.

"At tournaments like these you cannot afford to make too many mistakes because here we have the best national teams, the best players in Europe. They will punish you immediately.

"So we need to stay focused, show our best performance and use every opportunity to score goals."

GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C	
GERMANY, SCOTLAND, HUNGARY, SWITZERLAND		SPAIN, CROATIA, ITALY, ALBANIA		SLOVENIA, SERBIA, DENMARK, ENGLAND	
<b>GERMANY</b> 5 Wirtz 10, Musiala 19, Havertz 45+1 pen, Fullkrug 68, Can 90+3	<b>HUNGARY</b> 1 Varga 66	<b>SPAIN</b> 3 Morata 29, Fabian 32, Carvajal 45	<b>ITALY</b> 2 Bastoni 11, Barella 16	<b>SLOVENIA</b> 0	<b>SERBIA</b> 0
<b>SCOTLAND</b> 1 Rudiger 87 og...	<b>SWITZERLAND</b> 3 Duah 12, Aebischer 45, Embolo 90	<b>CROATIA</b> 0	<b>ALBANIA</b> 1 Bajrami 1	<b>DENMARK</b> 0	<b>ENGLAND</b> 0
GERMANY vs HUNGARY	SCOTLAND vs SWITZERLAND	CROATIA vs ALBANIA	SPAIN vs ITALY	SLOVENIA vs SERBIA	DENMARK vs ENGLAND
Stuttgart Arena WEDNESDAY JUNE 19, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)	Cologne Stadium WEDNESDAY JUNE 19, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)	Volksparkstadion Hamburg WEDNESDAY JUNE 19, KICK-OFF 2PM (ITV)	Arena AufSchalke THURSDAY JUNE 20, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)	Munich Football Arena THURSDAY JUNE 20, KICK-OFF 2PM (ITV)	Frankfurt Arena THURSDAY JUNE 20, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)
SWITZERLAND vs SCOTLAND	SCOTLAND vs HUNGARY	CROATIA vs ITALY	ALBANIA vs SPAIN	ENGLAND vs SLOVENIA	DENMARK vs SERBIA
Frankfurt Arena SUNDAY JUNE 23, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)	Stuttgart Arena SUNDAY JUNE 23, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)	Leipzig Stadium MONDAY JUNE 24, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)	Düsseldorf Arena MONDAY JUNE 24, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)	Cologne Stadium TUESDAY JUNE 25, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)	Munich Football Arena TUESDAY JUNE 25, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)

GROUP D		GROUP E		GROUP F	
POLAND, HOLLAND, AUSTRIA, FRANCE		BELGIUM, SLOVAKIA, ROMANIA, UKRAINE		TURKEY, GEORGIA, PORTUGAL, CZECH REPUBLIC	
<b>POLAND</b> 0	<b>AUSTRIA</b> 0	<b>ROMANIA</b> 0	<b>BELGIUM</b> 0	<b>TURKEY</b> 0	<b>PORTUGAL</b> 0
<b>HOLLAND</b> 0	<b>FRANCE</b> 0	<b>UKRAINE</b> 0	<b>SLOVAKIA</b> 0	<b>GEORGIA</b> 0	<b>CZECH REP</b> 0
Volksparkstadion Hamburg TODAY, KICK-OFF 2PM (BBC)	Diüsseldorf Arena TOMORROW, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)	Munich Football Arena TOMORROW, KICK-OFF 2PM (BBC)	Frankfurt Arena TOMORROW, KICK-OFF 5PM (ITV)	BVB Stadion Dortmund TUESDAY JUNE 18, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)	Leipzig Stadium TUESDAY JUNE 18, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)
POLAND vs AUSTRIA	HOLLAND vs FRANCE	SLOVAKIA vs UKRAINE	BELGIUM vs ROMANIA	GEORGIA vs CZECH REP	TURKEY vs PORTUGAL
Olympiastadion Berlin FRIDAY JUNE 21, KICK-OFF 5PM (ITV)	Leipzig Stadium FRIDAY JUNE 21, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)	Diüsseldorf Arena FRIDAY JUNE 21, KICK-OFF 2PM (BBC)	Cologne Stadium SATURDAY JUNE 22, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)	Volksparkstadion Hamburg SATURDAY JUNE 22, KICK-OFF 2PM (BBC)	BVB Stadion Dortmund SATURDAY JUNE 22, KICK-OFF 5PM (ITV)
HOLLAND vs AUSTRIA	FRANCE vs POLAND	SLOVAKIA vs ROMANIA	UKRAINE vs BELGIUM	CZECH REP vs TURKEY	GEORGIA vs PORTUGAL
Olympiastadion Berlin TUESDAY JUNE 25, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)	BVB Stadion Dortmund TUESDAY JUNE 25, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)	Frankfurt Arena WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)	Stuttgart Arena WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)	Volksparkstadion Hamburg WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)	Arena AufSchalke WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D	GROUP E	GROUP F
P W D L F A Pts	P W D L F A Pts	P W D L F A Pts	P W D L F A Pts	P W D L F A Pts	P W D L F A Pts
Germany 1 1 0 0 5 1 3	Spain 1 1 0 0 3 0 3	Slovenia 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Poland 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Belgium 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Turkey 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Switzerland 1 1 0 0 3 1 3	Italy 1 1 0 0 2 1 3	Serbia 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Holland 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Slovakia 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Georgia 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Hungary 1 0 0 1 1 3 0	Albania 1 0 0 1 1 2 0	Denmark 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Austria 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Romania 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Portugal 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Scotland 1 0 0 1 1 5 0	Croatia 1 0 0 1 0 3 0	England 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	France 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Ukraine 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Czech rep 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

## ROUND OF 16

<b>GAME 37</b> 1A vs 2C BVB Stadion Dortmund <b>SATURDAY JUNE 29, KICK-OFF 8PM</b> (Dortmund)	<b>GAME 38</b> 2A vs 2B Olympiastadion Berlin <b>SATURDAY JUNE 29, KICK-OFF 5PM</b> (Berlin)
<b>GAME 39</b> 1B vs 3A/D/E/F Cologne Stadium <b>SUNDAY JUNE 30, KICK-OFF 8PM</b> (Cologne)	<b>GAME 40</b> 1C vs 3D/E/F Arena AufSchalke <b>SUNDAY JUNE 30, KICK-OFF 5PM</b> (Gelsenkirchen)
<b>GAME 41</b> 1F vs 3A/B/C Frankfurt Arena <b>MONDAY JULY 1, KICK-OFF 8PM</b> (Frankfurt)	<b>GAME 42</b> 2D vs 2E Diüsseldorf Arena <b>MONDAY JULY 1, KICK-OFF 5PM</b> (Dusseldorf)
<b>GAME 43</b> 1E vs 3A/B/C/D Munich Football Arena <b>TUESDAY JULY 2, KICK-OFF 5PM</b> (Munich)	<b>GAME 44</b> 1D vs 2F Leipzig Stadium <b>TUESDAY JULY 2, KICK-OFF 8PM</b> (Leipzig)

## SEMI-FINALS

<b>GAME 49</b> W45 vs W46 Munich Football Arena <b>TUESDAY JULY 9, KICK-OFF 8PM</b> (Munich)
<b>GAME 50</b> W47 vs W48 BVB Stadion Dortmund <b>WEDNESDAY JULY 10, KICK-OFF 8PM</b> (Dortmund)

## QUARTER-FINALS

<b>GAME 45</b> W39 vs W37 Stuttgart Arena <b>FRIDAY JULY 5, KICK-OFF 5PM</b> (Stuttgart)	<b>GAME 46</b> W41 vs W42 Volksparkstadion Hamburg <b>FRIDAY JULY 5, KICK-OFF 8PM</b> (Hamburg)
<b>GAME 47</b> W43 vs W44 Olympiastadion Berlin <b>SATURDAY JULY 6, KICK-OFF 8PM</b> (Berlin)	<b>GAME 48</b> W40 vs W38 Diüsseldorf Arena <b>SATURDAY JULY 6, KICK-OFF 5PM</b> (Diüsseldorf)



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