

SUNDAY PEOPLE

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

E-EDITION

JUNE 16, 2024

COME ON ENGLAND

See pages 10&11

FREE INSIDE EURO 2024 PULLOUT



KATE RETURNS FOR KING'S BIRTHDAY

We've got our Princess back

BY SASKIA ROWLANDS

A BEAMING Princess of Wales delighted the nation as she returned to public life to mark the King's official birthday yesterday.

Kate, 42, looked radiant at Trooping the Colour in her first public appearance since her cancer diagnosis. And Royal commentator Jennie Bond said: "The cheers said it all, 'We've got our Princess back'."



See pages 3,4,5,6&7

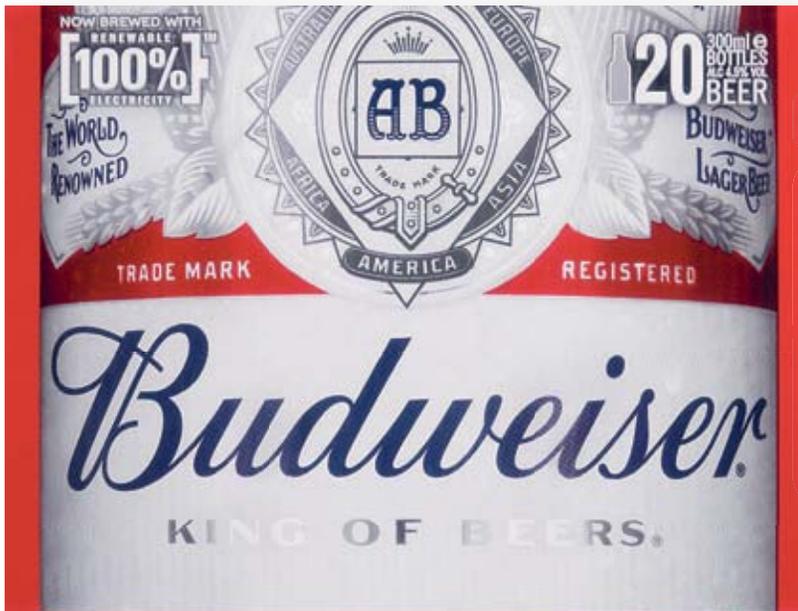
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Trooping the Colour

OUR PRINCESS



Catherine, back where she belongs... To have Mum there to guide George, Charlotte and Louis through the protocol of a big occasion must have made life feel almost normal again.

- 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.



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



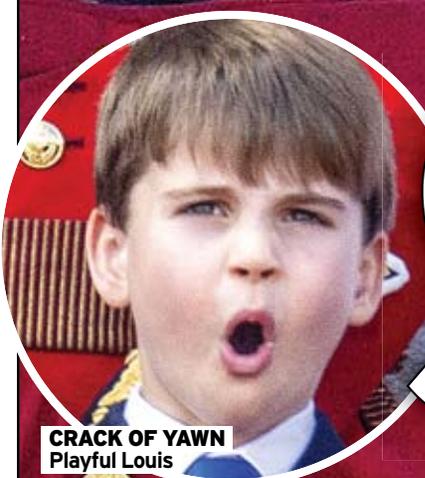
THE LOTTERY

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 the 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 in



SALUTES YOU, SIR Charles at ceremony

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

The event included more than 1,200 soldiers and musicians, plus more than 200 horses. But, despite the pomp and ceremony, it was

undoubtedly Kate who stole the show. The Princess was admitted to hospital on January 16 for major abdominal surgery and post-operative tests confirmed the presence of cancer. She started chemotherapy in February.

The following month, the Princess made an emotional televised statement confirming her diagnosis and said it had been "an incredibly tough couple of months for our entire family".

Kate told how she had been "blown away" by the support from the public and added that the "kind messages" she received had made a "world of difference to William and me, and helped us both through some of the harder times".

The Princess 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



EXCITED The Crandons



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

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.

Kate 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, George, Louis & 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.



VILE McVicar

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?"

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BECKS AND

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

POSH

MARRIAGE CRISIS



2023

Victoria and David at fashion show in France

War... but they still posed for the cameras

‘Pair fed negative stories to press’

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.

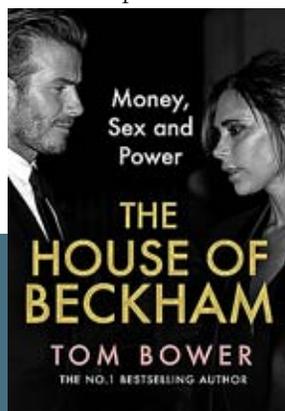
Bower writes: “[David’s] status and survival would have been washed away without Victoria’s determination to maintain the illusion of a happy family.

“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.”

“They could not hide their separate lives but stuck together for the brand”

THE HOUSE OF BECKHAM: MONEY, SEX AND POWER
by Tom Bower, to be published by HarperCollins on 20th June 2024 at £22.
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In tomorrow’s Daily Mirror: More Beckham revelations

tom.bryant@reachplc.com



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 sipped 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



“

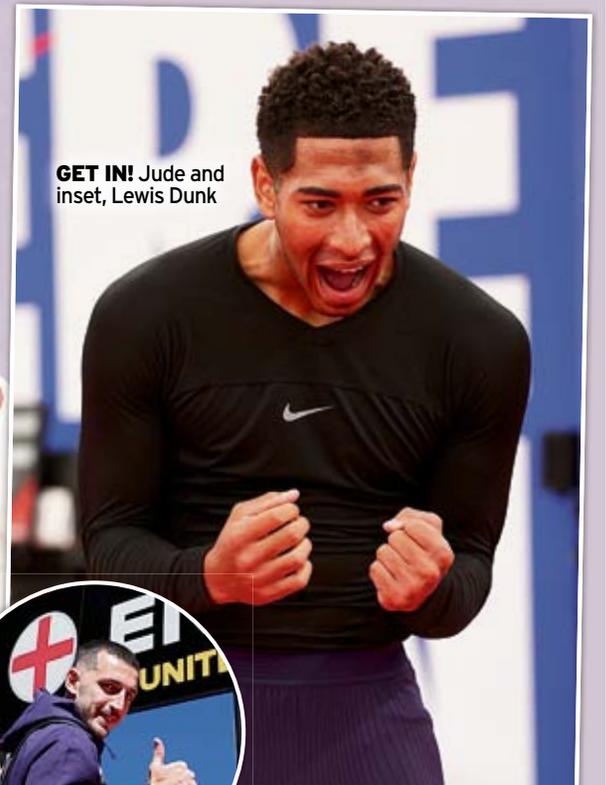
Germans joke how drunk the English get and they find it funny that the stadiums have to sell them low alcohol beer for the Serbian game

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.

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.

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COMMENT: PAGE 14

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



UK Government

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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

SUNDAY PEOPLE
Campaign 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. You must also be registered to vote by 11:59pm on Tuesday, June 18, via gov.uk/register-to-vote

102,000

Currently waiting longer than two months for treatment after an urgent cancer referral

2015

The last year NHS cancer referral target was met

sure that you get cancer treatment fit for a king - no matter who you are, no matter what your background."

The MP for Ilford, in North-East London, also spoke movingly about constituent Nathaniel Dye - who gave a powerful speech about his terminal cancer diagnosis at Labour's manifesto launch on Wednesday. The 38-year-old music teacher told how he had to wait

15 weeks between seeing his GP and starting treatment for what turned out to be stage-four bowel cancer.

Mr Streeting said: "In my case, the NHS was there for me when I needed it. I'm cancer-free and my prognosis is good. In Nathaniel's case, the NHS wasn't there and he's facing a death sentence. For me, this is personal. The NHS saved my life and I want to spend

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
PEOPLEReturn of
Kate is a
joy to see**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.



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

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.

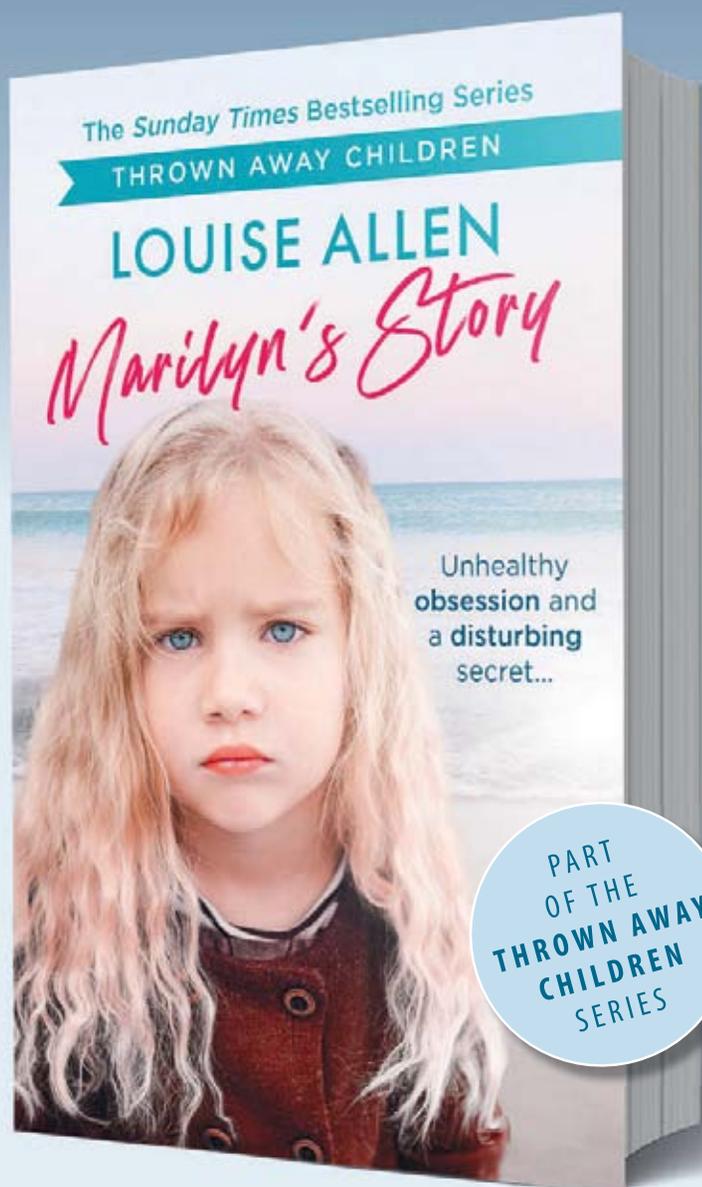
"Talks are ongoing with some high-profile actors who would really make the script come alive."

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!'"

A BRAND NEW BOOK FROM
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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 Spennings, 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 Spennings 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

I feel a death...



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?'"

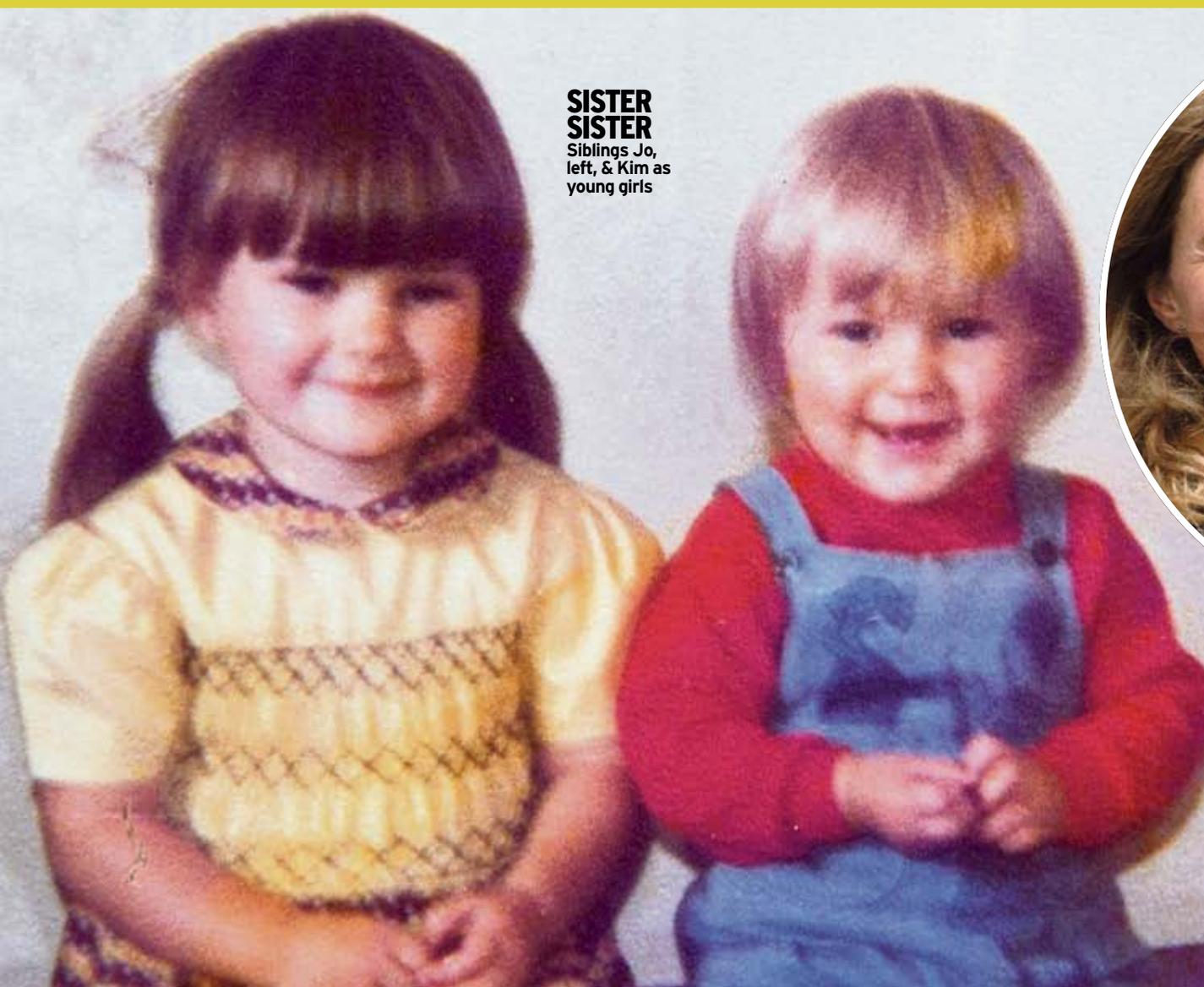
Despite the horror of Jo's death, Kim insists she feels safe as she pounds the Spennings pavements - although on police advice, she always carries personal alarms.

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

lot of anger over Jo's but try to channel it

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 that 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."



IT'S HARD TO SEE THE SCREEN IN THE PUB

We pay Amazon Prime bill for Tory dud Truss

EXCLUSIVE BY MIKEY SMITH Deputy Political Editor
LIZ Truss had an Amazon Prime account for her office on the taxpayer after quitting as PM. It meant she could watch films such as My Fault and Beautiful Disaster, plus the series Dead in the Water.
The Parliamentary Standards Authority

says the £95-a-year package can be a legitimate expenses claim if an MP uses it primarily for parliamentary purposes.

When we revealed that Ms Truss was one of seven MPs to put a Prime subscription on expenses in 2022 when she was Foreign Secretary, her team said it was unintentional.

STAY IN WITH 2 PIZZAS



2 selected Co-op Stonebaked Pizzas. Subject to availability.

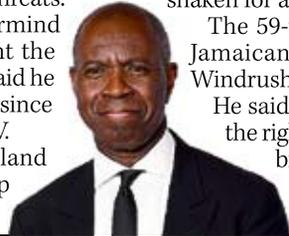
Clive: Threat to shoot me dead shook me up

BY JANINE YAQOOB

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

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

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 after I'd been told."

The 59-year-old, whose parents were Jamaican, also spoke about how the Windrush scandal affected his family.

He said one brother, Lionel, "now has the right to remain here". But his other brother, Peter, died while fighting to stay in the UK. An emotional Clive said: "It's just very sad."

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

£144M FOR KIDS' HOME SURVIVORS



ABUSE At Shirley Oaks children's home

But some risk missing out

down 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,



ORDEAL Raymond Stevenson

61, who was raped at 14, said of a council-appointed psychiatrist: "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 £144m, some £100m went to the victims, while lawyers got £23.7m and the rest was spent on admin, medical and other expenses.

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STAR QUALITY
Adjoa on the red carpet and, right, in Bridgerton



From Bridgerton to horrors of war

EXCLUSIVE

BY **JANINE YAQOOB**
TV and Showbiz Editor

AS Bridgerton's Lady Danbury, she is one of London's most privileged women.

But in real life, Adjoa Andoh, 61, is using her fame for good. On a recent visit to Poland with the International Rescue Committee, for which she is an ambassador, she met Ukrainian women displaced by Russia's invasion.

Adjoa admits weeping at their stories, saying: "The mad schizophrenia of doing the Bridgerton junket in Warsaw, everybody zhuzh-ed up, to a day later sitting with women who have run away with a



SUPPORT
Meeting mums and babies from Ukraine

Star meets Ukraine's victims

suitcase... it's a stark contrast." Adjoa was given a T-shirt made by refugee kids with their handprints on.

She says: "Now I'm carrying the likes of Sophia, Mia, and Eva all next to my heart."

Speaking ahead of Thursday's World Refugee Day, she also praised fellow Bridgertonian Nicola Coughlan (Penelope Featherington) for raising £1.5million for Gaza aid.

janine.yaqoob@reachplc.com

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PO show title 're-write for its hero knight'

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 the campaigner's honour was "fantastic", adding: "I can picture Sir Alan in the new trailer on a white charger with a shield."

She told Times Radio he had earned it for fighting to clear the names of 700 fellow sub-postmasters wrongly prosecuted in the

Horizon IT scandal, many still waiting for payouts. She said: "Who could possibly deserve it more? We might have to change the name to Sir Alan vs The Post Office."

Ms Hughes also said Sir Alan will only have accepted it if he felt it would do his campaign good, adding: "Alan just wants to get his members paid and then he'll go on holiday."

"Go away, have fun, you deserve it after all these years."

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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

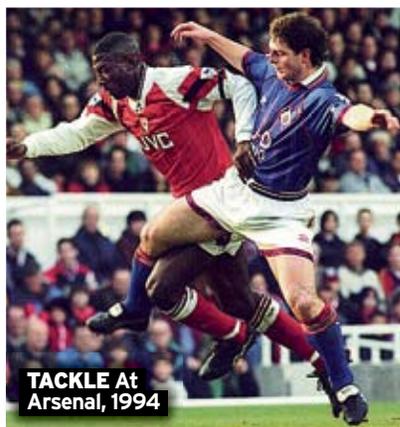
HUNDREDS attended a rally yesterday to mark 40 years since the Battle of Orgreave and to demand an inquiry into the violent 1984 clash between miners and police. Speakers at the Sheffield

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."

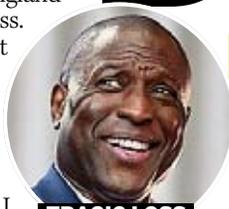
Campbell started out at his boyhood club Arsenal, where he won the FA Cup and League Cup in some 200 appearances. He was also part of the Gunners teams that clinched a First Division title and the European Cup Winners' Cup.

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 AND PREM IDOL DIES AT 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.

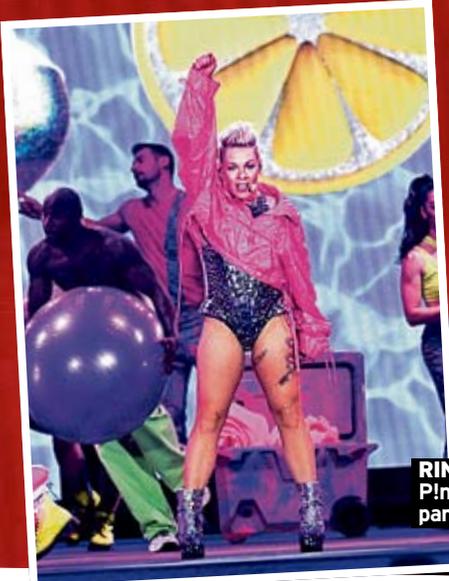
The singer's trademark acrobatics honestly would not be out of place at the Cirque du Soleil.

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

UNIQUE KELLY HOLMES

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



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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...

"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.



CROW-ING Sheryl



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.





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



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 WHSmith, 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."

WHSmith 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



CAMPAIGN Bereaved parents on breakfast TV

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



JOOLS & ELLEN

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

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ON TECH FIRMS OVER KIDS' DEATHS

BRIANNA
& ESTHERLORIN &
BRECKARCHIE
& HOLLIEGEORGE, CHRIS
AND ARETIMOLLY
& IANMARIANO, 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.

scoops@reachplc.com

■ Back Ellen at 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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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



MOP OF THE POPS
The Fab Four

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

“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”

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

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

Pictures: TELL AND SELL STORIES

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

KEEPING MUM
Cordelia, centre,
with daughters
Tink and Carma

CANCER SUFFERER

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



PICNICERLESS 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

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.

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

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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COPS BUST SPEED LAB

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 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."

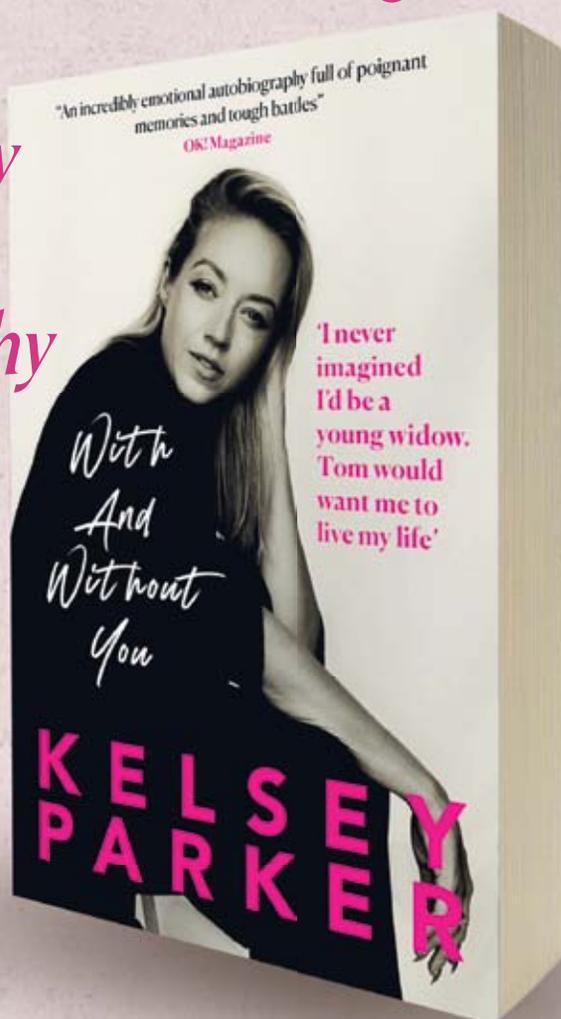
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TRIAL BOOSTS

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

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."

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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.



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.

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Horse trade in knock-offs

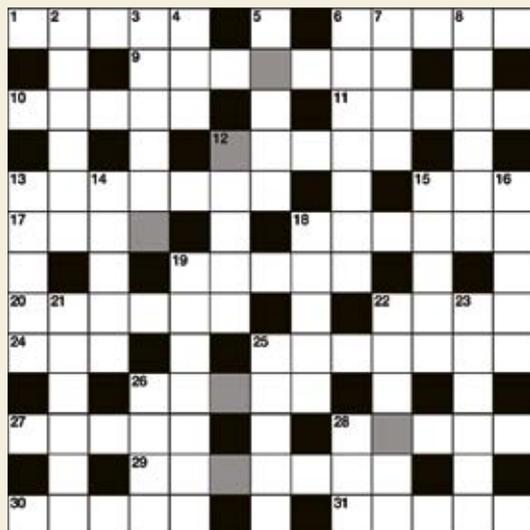
BOGUS goods worth £500,000 were seized at the Appleby Horse Fair.

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."

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Solve the crossword in the normal way and the shaded squares, when read in order, will reveal the solution. Work out what it is and call our entry line below by midnight Saturday, June 22. One winner will be picked at random from all correct entries sent in by the closing date and will receive £50, or for Irish entries, the equivalent in Euros.

ACROSS

- 1 School of fish (5)
6 Strike with the hand (5)
9 Clerical cap (7)
10 Highest point (5)
11 Firearm (5)
12 Man's name (5)
13 Skyline (7)
15 Domestic fuel (3)
17 Spoken (4)
18 Term of office (6)
19 Animal's trail (5)
20 Eatable (6)
22 Eyelid inflammation (4)
24 Colour (3)
25 Garland (7)
26 Escargot (5)
27 Destined (5)
28 Types (5)
29 Imaginary sea creature (7)
30 In motion (5)
31 Rips (5)

DOWN

- 2 Extreme fear (6)
3 Descend by rope (6)
4 Illuminated (3)
5 Citrus fruit (5)
6 Attacking footballer (7)
7 Principal (4)
8 Underground room (6)
12 Style of car (5)
13 Hang in the air (5)
14 Quick (5)
15 Relish (5)
16 Number (5)
18 Cloth for drying (5)
19 Slim (7)
21 Defers (6)
22 Long step (6)
23 Over there (6)
25 Movies (5)
26 Type of house, informally (4)
28 Equipment (3)

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LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS 3 Madam, 8 Habit, 10 Get at, 11 Rat, 12 Pedal, 13 Citadel, 15 Tepid, 18 Peg, 19 Cheese, 21 Panacea, 22 Abut, 23 Ring, 24 Hurtful, 26 Closes, 29 Ail, 31 Henna, 32 Liberal, 34 Organ, 35 Our, 36 Kudos, 37 Pumps, 38 Petty.
DOWN 1 Paris, 2 Pitapat, 4 Abel, 5 Agatha, 6 Melee, 7 Oasis, 9 Bat, 12 Pegasus, 14 Den, 16 Peril, 17 Deign, 19 Certain, 20 Watch, 21 Put on, 23 Rule out, 24 Hearse, 25 Fib, 27 Let up, 28 Snoop, 30 Warps, 32 Last, 33 Rum.

WINNER FROM June 2

CROSSWORD solution was **LAYERS**. Winner: M Chaplin, Ipswich



Healthy

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 andsotobed.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 and getting good quality sleep after drinking

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Bed times

Natasha Holt reveals which activities you should stop – and when – to maximise the quality of your sleep

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

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.



LOGIC

Can you work out where each delivery should go?

Andy was the caretaker at an office block in an up-market part of town. He was on first name terms with many of the occupants and knew each of their professions.

It was his practice to accept deliveries on their behalf throughout the day and hand them over as they passed by his desk in the foyer. On one particular day he decided that his

new colleague, Adam, should familiarise himself with the building – so he left him a note of the five outstanding deliveries while he went for lunch.

He asked Adam to ensure the deliveries went to the correct occupants. Adam read the note and was able to solve the problem in minutes – even though the writing was smudged in places. Can you?

The parcel of books is expected by the Solicitor, and the urgent letter should be handed to A—the A—below the 8th floor. The case of wine goes to the writer who works on a floor above the accountant, and the dry cleaning belongs to Sheila, who works on the floor below Sam. Remember, Sheila is not the accountant, and Sam doesn't take magazines. Fred's office is on the same floor as the architect, and did you know that Alice is teetotal?

	Fred	Sam	Alice	Sheila	Archie	Magazine	Parcel of books	Case of wine	Urgent letter	Dry cleaning	2nd Floor	3rd Floor	5th Floor (a)	5th Floor (b)	8th Floor
Writer															
Architect															
Solicitor															
Accountant															
Optician															
2nd Floor															
3rd Floor															
5th Floor (a)															
5th Floor (b)															
8th Floor															
Magazine															
Parcel of books															
Case of wine															
Urgent letter															
Dry cleaning															



KEIJO

Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column of the grid.

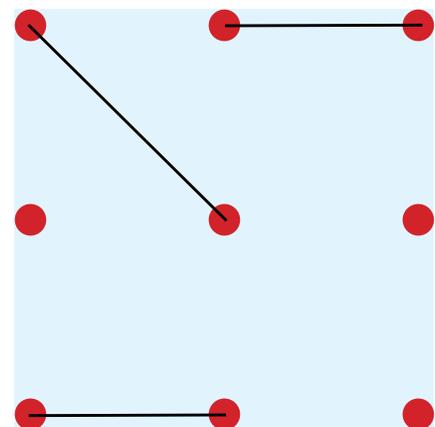
	2		
			4
	4	2	

Tiles available:

- Green triangles: 2, 3, 3
- Yellow squares: 1, 2, 3
- Pink diamonds: 1, 1, 4
- Blue circles: 1, 3, 4

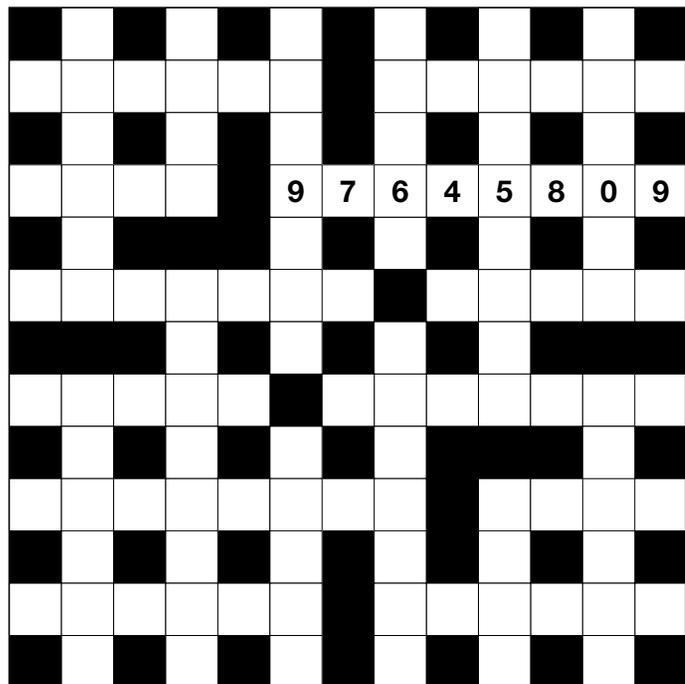
TRIANGLE

Draw 3 straight lines to make 4 triangles. Lines must be drawn from dot-to-dot, either passing through one dot or none at all. Valid triangles must not contain lines running through them, every line segment must form part of a triangle.



NUMBERFIT

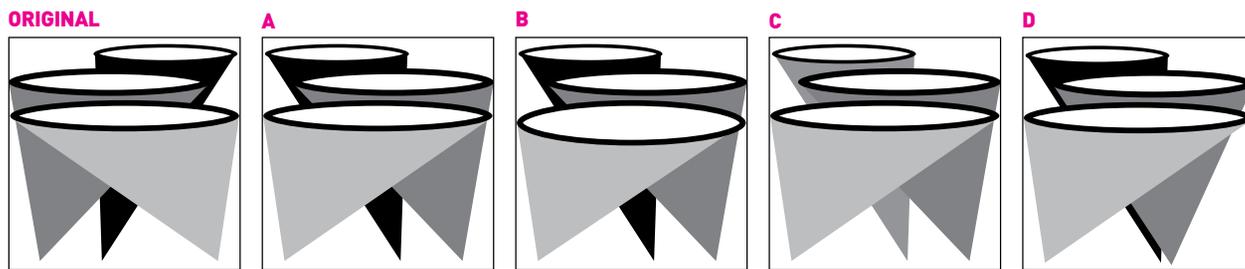
All of the listed numbers fit into the grid and there's only one way to do it. One number has been provided to get you started.



- 4 digits**
2797
3145
3458
7457
- 6 digits**
214560
345751
456494
725052
854568
867027
956743
964754
- 7 digits**
4686890
5683139
7379852
7456354
- 8 digits**
24054506
61704153
85646853
97445809
- 5 digits**
35475
38286
62163
67970

MIRROR IMAGE

Which of the shapes A-D is an exact mirror image of the original?

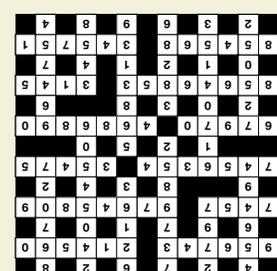


SOLUTIONS

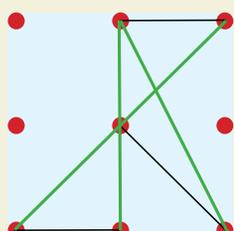
CODEBREAKER
1=T, 2=F, 3=P, 4=W, 5=L, 6=Y, 7=H, 8=D, 9=J, 10=K, 11=A, 12=U, 13=E, 14=R, 15=V, 16=M, 17=L, 18=Q, 19=X, 20=C, 21=O, 22=Z, 23=B, 24=S, 25=G, 26=N

BRAIN TEASERS
1) Adam was with Martha, Frank with Milly, Caleb with Alice and Daniel with Ruth.
2) Ham-let, 3) a), Barney Gumble b) Edna Krabappel, c) 7 Harold Wilson 8 The New Elgar 5 South America 6 Dog 1 Cupid 2 Japan 3 A bird 4 Edward Testament 9 Duke 10 A horse.

PUB QUIZ
101
SUMMIT UP
MIRROR IMAGE
FORGER, MINER, DEMON
NINER



M	A	T	C	H
U	E	S	I	C
R	E	S	I	T
O	S	I	T	E
F	L	A	N	K



Person	Item	Floor	Profession
Fred	Magazine	5th	Accountant
Sam	Parcel of books	3rd	Solicitor
Alice	Urgent letter	5th	Architect
Sheila	Dry cleaning	2nd	Optician
Archie	Case of wine	8th	Writer

LOGIC

TRIANGLE

KEIJO

NUMBERFIT

BIG X SUDOKU

time to Talk Money



with **WARREN SHUTE**

The Smarter Spender £

Getting ahead financially means making some smart money decisions. Here is a snapshot of the key money information you need to know...

Market movements

Index	YTD (%)	10yr (%)
FTSE 100	8.40	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



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.

The **BIG** save

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.

GET in TOUCH

Send your emails to warren.shute@reachplc.com or tweet @warrenshute

STAR RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent
 ★★★★ Good
 ★★★ Worth a look
 ★★ Poor
 ★ Don't bother

Movies



MISSION
 Cage,
 Martell and
 Jenkins
 star

Cage rattled

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

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



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.

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Travel



Edited by
NIGEL THOMPSON
 @TravelEdNigel

Close to The Edge

Rock 'n' roll, rattlesnakes and Joshua trees. **Marion McMullen** embarks on a great American road trip

The stark, alien-looking Joshua trees on the artwork of U2's classic album left a lasting impression on me from the moment I first saw them. The black and white photos looked like the Irish band had landed on another planet and I longed to have my own close encounter with the strange trees one day.

Jump forward 37 years since the album came out and I finally found myself in the Mojave Desert at the Joshua Tree National Park, surrounded by nearly 800,000 acres dominated by the haunting trees.

Surrounded by granite monoliths, and eye-catching rock and boulder formations, I could see mile after mile of Joshua trees, each one casting its own distinctive shadow on the landscape. All it needed was Bono, The Edge and co to turn up to provide a quick burst of With Or Without You or I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For. It's no surprise the Joshua tree proved so inspiring.

The Bungalows at Retreat by Homestead Modern (retreat.homesteadmodern.com) are situated on the grounds of the Joshua

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE



LANDMARK
 U2's Joshua
 Tree album

EERIE
 Joshua
 Tree
 National
 Park

CRUISE NEWS

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

Howzat for a cruise? Ambassador has padded up for a winter no-fly sailing that will bring back the summer joy of leather on willow.

Ambition slips her moorings at Tilbury, Essex, on December 12 for a seven-night Cricketing Legends trip featuring former Essex and England captain, Graham Gooch,

ex-Surrey, Essex and England all-rounder Alex Tudor as well as Test Match Special hosts Jonathan Agnew and Henry Blofeld.

The itinerary covers Amsterdam, Antwerp and Honfleur with Rouen as the final leg before heading back to Tilbury, with talks, quizzes, Q&As and extras from the cricketing guests.

Fares from £611 per person, with a second passenger an appealing half-price if booking before July 10. ambassadorcruiseline.com

BIG DEAL

First World War battlefields from £549pp: Depart by coach from points across England and Wales on May 16, 2025 for a four-day escorted tour to sights including Passchendaele, and Flanders Fields Museum. Stay in Ypres near Menin Gate. legerbattlefields.co.uk

AIR UPDATE

BY VICKY LISSAMAN

As it gears up to celebrate its Ruby Anniversary, Virgin Atlantic has announced its return to Canada - its first route there in more than a decade.

Direct daily flights will link London Heathrow with Toronto from March 30. Fares start at £490.

■ Holidaymakers will be able to take off to Tenerife from London Southend from

next May with the launch of a new route by easyJet.

Package deals from Southend to the largest Canary Island are also now on sale with easyJet holidays.

Marc Taylor, acting CEO for London Southend Airport, said: "Tenerife has been in very high demand across our 8.2m catchment. There are six trains every hour from central London to Southend Airport Station and we offer budget-friendly holidays to more than 15 sought-after locations in Europe."

ACCESS ALL

FOR TRAVELLERS WITH DISABILITIES
BY VICKY LISSAMAN

Warner Bros Studio Tour London: The Making of Harry Potter is sponsoring three guide dog puppies-in-training as part of a year-long partnership with the charity Guide Dogs.

Named after the leading characters in the film series - Harry, Ron and Hermione - the studio tour's contribution will provide vital support for the dogs.

The tour has welcomed guide and assistance dogs since it opened in 2012, with policies and guides in place to support those



with sight loss or visual impairment, such as audio descriptive tours.

Through the partnership, further changes have been made to enhance the visitor experience including a dedicated doggy toilet area outside. The tour is also planning signage iPads which can be held over signs and descriptions to magnify them. wbstudiotour.co.uk/guide-dogs

BUY OF THE WEEK

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

One of the many deeply annoying impacts of Brexit was the widespread loss of free EU roaming on our phones. However, new deals emerge all the time.

For example, iD Mobile, which piggybacks on Three's 5G network, offers UK monthly allowances of minutes, text and data (up to 30GB) in 50 destinations in Europe and beyond. Its 12-month SIM-only deal for 45GB data and unlimited minutes and texts for £8 with the roaming freebie looks a steal to us. idmobile.co.uk



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SCAN ME



TREE ROUTES
Marion's Californian road trip



ON THE TRAIL
Red Jeep Tour



LARGER THAN LIFE
Breceda's sculptures



DESERT VIEW
Homestead bungalow

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Tree Retreat Centre and it has been called one of the top hotels in the world.

They have no televisions because the glass walls open out on spectacular views that rival any TV soap or drama. The bungalows cost from around £158 a night and you can simply sit back and relax and watch the sun rise or set. There's even a handy pair of binoculars so you can look out for local wildlife, such as roadrunners.

It's also worth fitting in a meal at the cheerful Copper Room a short drive away before preparing for a journey into the world of the Joshua trees.

Death Valley

My spot of tree-hugging at the Joshua Tree National Park came slap in the middle of a road trip that took in some of the many attractions of Greater Palm Springs. A night at West June LAX (thehoteljune.com/west-los-angeles) was a great way to get over the flight, with costs from around £143 per night.

Next morning it was time to drive to Death Valley, the hottest place in Earth, where a temperature of 57C was once recorded.

The trip goes through Ridgecrest and, if it looks familiar, it might be because part of Top Gun: Maverick was filmed there. There was no sign of Tom Cruise so it was on to The Ranch at Death Valley, with prices from around £158 per night.

With such high temperatures, you need to take precautions when visiting landmarks with enticing names such as Dante's Peak, Badwater Basin and Devil's Golf Course, so-called because it is said "only the devil could play golf on such rough links".

Headgear and lots of water are essential and you need to splash on the highest sun factor you can, but it's all worth it to experience the amazing area that is home to coyotes, mountain lions and, gulp, rattlesnakes.

Part of the third Star Wars movie was filmed on location here and Nichole Andler, chief of interpretation and education at Furnace Creek Visitors Centre, say they now have many

European visitors coming in July and August because they want to experience how hot Death Valley is.

It's worth setting the alarm clock to see sunrise at Zabriskie Point when the whole mountain range is bathed in colour. Covering nearly 3.2 million acres, there is plenty to explore, from the Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes to the

Artist's Palette rocks and the odd ghost town.

Borrego Springs

If you are looking for quirky, charming and unique then head to Borrego Springs.

As you drive into town, you spot dinosaurs, giant scorpions and even a serpent decorating the surrounding areas.

There are more than 130 figures in the Anza Borrego and Galleta Meadows, created by Ricardo Breceda. He apparently started with a dinosaur because his daughter had just seen Jurassic Park and wanted her own dino.

The desert will come alive with flowers too, if you time your visit right.

“
Surrounded by monoliths, I could see mile after mile of Joshua trees
”



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Snake, rattle & roll



HOT ROCKS
Death Valley

HOT SPOT
The Ranch at Death Valley



It is also a dark skies area and if it's not too cloudy you can enjoy the stars at night on a guided walk with knowledgeable expert Mike McElhatton, from the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Society.

There are hummingbirds in the gardens and you can enjoy a bite at Big Horn Burgers & Shakes.

Borrego Valley Inn has prices from around £207 a night and offers breakfast delivered to your door in the morning.

Palm Springs

The Kardashians are among today's famous Palm Springs residents, but the area has also been home to the likes of Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Liberace and Elvis.

Ace Hotel & Swim Club costs from around £165 a night and is a good starting point for exploring the area.

Local entertainment includes drag bingo and a pub quiz with Bella Da Ball, while a Red Jeep Tour offers hikes around the Indian Canyons. It costs from around £159 per person (four people minimum) and Darrell, aka Black Feather, is quick to warn you about not going off the trail because – yep, you guessed it – there are rattlesnakes out there.

Thousands of tarantulas also appear during mating season. You've been warned. Darrell, who is full of fascinating facts and stories, shrugs off mention of the area's earthquakes, saying: "It's rock 'n' roll all the time here."

A good way to end the day is a meal at Boozehounds bar and restaurant, which lets people bring their pets along to the outdoor area via a doggy door.



HOME TO THE STARS
Palm Springs

Coachella

The best part of a road trip is you can stop off to take in so many sights – see the world's tallest thermometer in Baker, visit Route 66 landmarks such as Roy's Motel & Cafe, or spend time at Amboy Crater.

It's also worth paying a visit to Coachella to see the setting of the world-famous

GET THERE

Norse Atlantic Airways flies from Gatwick to Los Angeles starting at £361 return, £992 in Premium. flynorse.com

BOOK IT

Entry to Death Valley costs around £23 per private vehicle. Camping reservations must be made at least two days beforehand and can be made up to six months in advance.

■ Entry to Joshua Tree National Park costs around £23 per private vehicle. Camping reservations can be made the same day or up to six months in advance.

■ Car hire costs from around £74 a day.

MORE INFO

visitgreaterpalmsprings.com

music and arts festival. Palm Springs Surf Club is another top destination where you can catch gnarly waves in the middle of the Sonoran Desert. Admission is around £16 for ages five and above booked in advance, or around £19 at the gate.

After all that driving, ease your muscles at The Spa at Sec-he. A day pass is around £115 and includes the Taking of the Waters experience and entry to all the onsite amenities. Or you can book a bathing experience on its own for around £47.

As for the Joshua trees beloved by Bono and U2, Death Valley's Nichole Andler broke the news to me gently.

"They were on the highway to Las Vegas but they died," she said. "They're not there any more."

Seems like I still haven't found what I'm looking for.

“Thousands of tarantulas also appear during mating season”



Must-see cities on Germany's Euro 2024 trail

FOOTBALLMANIA is kicking off with the Euro 2024 tournament now under way in Germany.

Over the course of a month, teams will do battle in 10 host cities – but there's a great deal more to see.

If you're planning on heading out to soak up the atmosphere, make the most of a trip by exploring what else is on offer. Whatever the outcome, these German cities are real winners.

MUNICH

Within easy reach of the Alps and several lakes, Germany's third largest city has earned a reputation for being laidback and calm.

The centre of the action is Marienplatz square, with buildings constructed in the 12th century. The Neo-Gothic New Town Hall is a highlight.

Celebrate wins and commiserate losses on shared tables in the Hofbrauhaus, the city's famous beer hall,

commissioned as a state brewery in the 16th century. **BOOK IT: Doubles at Ruby Rosi hotel start from £100 per night with breakfast.** ruby-hotels.com

COLOGNE

Set along the Rhine river, this scenic city is the place to indulge cultural pursuits. There are more than 100 museums, while Museum Ludwig has one of the world's largest Picasso displays. For a more indulgent day out, the Chocolate Museum is an easy contender.

Cologne cathedral is a showstopper and lauded as Germany's most popular landmark. A must see. **BOOK IT: Doubles at Mercure Hotel Koeln Belfortstrasse start from £190 with breakfast.** mercure-hotel-koeln-belfortstrasse.de/en

FRANKFURT

Don't let its connection with stocks, shares and banking lead you to believe Frankfurt is boring.

For a view of the buzzy "Mainhattan" skyline – up there with New York City – visit the Eiserner Steg footbridge built in 1869 and used by more than 10,000 pedestrians every day. Head to the top of the glass-fronted Main Tower (the first high-rise building in Europe) or a rooftop bar to watch the sunset.

For cramming several exhibitions into one afternoon, aim for Museum Embankment. Displays are hosted in a collection of historic villas and purpose-built spaces, covering art, architecture, film and even comic books. **BOOK IT: Doubles at Avani Frankfurt City Hotel start from £149, including breakfast.** avanihotels.com

LEIPZIG

A hub for alternative subcultures, this city in Saxony has been fondly nicknamed "hypezig".

Priced out of Berlin, artists and DJs have found more affordable former industrial spaces here, creating one of the buzziest underground scenes in Europe. Street art decorates many neighbourhoods, a reflection of the city's rebellious spirit.

A former cotton mill, the Spinnerei hosts art galleries, studios and theatres, while the former machine material testing hall, WERK 2, offers concerts and events. Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse is a destination for vegan cafes and indie shops. **BOOK IT: Capri By Fraser Leipzig aparthotel has studios from £128 per night.** frasershospitality.com

SARAH MARSHALL



A summer jaunt to a Greek island is the stuff holiday dreams are made of. Here's our guide to picking the perfect escape. By **Vicky Lissaman**

Best for Families – Crete

The island favourite offers a blend of natural beauty, outdoor activities, family-friendly amenities and food that everyone will love.

Pick from the many hotels geared up for families with kids' clubs and water slides like the Stella Palace Resort & Spa in Analipsi.

When you feel like venturing out there are animal attractions such as Aquaworld Aquarium and Reptile Rescue Centre in Hersonissos and Cretaquarium near Gournes.

Head into the White Mountains and hike the dream-like Samaria Gorge which, according to legend, is the birthplace of Zeus. Try crowd-pleasing Cretan snacks such as kalitsounia – cheese pies drizzled with honey – and gamopilafo, an indulgent buttery risotto.

Couples – Milos

Part of the Cyclades and sitting serenely between the islands of Sifnos and Kimolos, Milos is known for its volcanic landscape, 75 beautiful beaches and geological formations.

Its villages are a maze of narrow streets and whitewashed buildings adorned with colourful flowers. Exploring by boat is a fun way to discover the island's sea caves and beaches.

Its close proximity to Santorini, Mykonos, Paros and Naxos make it an excellent base for island hopping.

And there's an array of boutique hotels across the island – perfect for a romantic getaway.

Foodies – Agistri

On the island of Agistri, in the Saronic Gulf, the waterside tavernas serving fresh-off-the-boat seafood, prepared in traditional Greek styles, are a highlight.

Island specialties include bourdeto, a spicy fish stew, kakavia, a fisherman's soup, and ladena, a flatbread topped with tomatoes, onions, oregano and olive oil.

Breakfast is a real treat – simple yet hearty with Greek yogurt, honey, nuts, fresh bread, cheese pies and pastries. The beaches are dreamy too, from the secluded bay of Skliri and the picture perfect Mikri Dragonera,



AWESOME
St Paul's Bay in Rhodes

to the family friendly Skala and pebbled shores of Megalochori.

History and Culture – Aegina

Not far from Athens and part of the Saronic islands, Aegina is easily accessible by ferry from the port of Piraeus making it a great spot for day trips or weekend getaways. It's bursting with cultural and historical attractions including ancient archaeological sites,

Byzantine churches and museums. You can while away the days strolling through the narrow streets of Aegina Town, around its harbour filled with colourful boats, or marvel at the well-preserved 28-column temple, dedicated to the goddess Athena, which is older than the Parthenon in Athens.

Great Value – Zante

There's a huge variety of accommodation options on Zante – or Zakynthos – and package deals to suit all budgets. Olympic Holidays offers amazing deals, with seven nights at the Athina Studios, Tsilivi, from £379 in June including flights.

Zante is known for its local produce such as olive oil, wine, honey, and its traditional sweets such as mandolato and pasteli, which are both inexpensive.

There are plenty of reasonably priced restaurants and tavernas, as well as bakeries and street food stalls.



CLASSIC
Traditional street in Milos

Watersports – Kefalonia

If you're keen to hit the water, the Ionian island of Kefalonia is the one for you. There's a mix of calm bays, sheltered coves and waves which make it an excellent destination for some wet and wild adventures, whatever your skill level.

Lassi Beach and Makris Gialos Beach are popular for windsurfing and kitesurfing, while Kefalonia's underwater world is teeming with marine life and dive sites.

Stand-up paddleboarding and sea kayaking are hugely popular here and are great ways to explore the coastline and access secluded beaches and sea caves.

Nightlife – Ios

Ios is renowned for its vibrant nighttime scene and attracts visitors from around the world.

Clubs and bars in caves and on clifftops offer unforgettable nights in spectacular locations or you can head to the parties on the beaches, at the poolsides, or in the main square in Ios Town, also

known as Chora, which comes alive as the sun goes down.

Mylopotas and Koumbara beaches are two popular spots for dancing and drinking after-dark. By day, you can fill up your insta-feed with shots of the island's dazzling white houses, blue-domed churches, steep hills and sheer cliffs.

Hiking and Cycling – Andros

The northernmost island in the Cyclades, Andros offers outdoor adventures and cultural experiences. Hiking enthusiasts will revel in the diverse landscape with its mountainous villages, fertile valleys, waterfalls and gorges, leading to secluded beaches and abandoned chapels.

The Andros Routes network of trails allows visitors to explore nature paths and stone-paved paths. Cycling is also a great way to explore the island with an extensive network of cycling routes featuring undulating trails, coastal paths and scenic lanes.

Island Hopping – Skiathos, Skopelos and Alonnisos

Island hopping in Greece is a great way to pack in the sights and the Sporades is perfect for this. Set your sights on Skiathos and Alonnisos for an idyllic island-hopping holiday, with a pause at picturesque Skopelos, the island that was catapulted to fame as the backdrop for the movie Mamma Mia! along the way.

Each island has its own character, from the dazzling beaches and bustling Old Town of Skiathos to the tranquil appeal of Alonnisos with its mountain of greenery and aquamarine bays.



STUNNING
Kayaks in Kefalonia

Getting away from it all – Halki

This island in the Dodecanese has a land area of just 11 square miles. Close to Rhodes, it is characterised by its simple charm and chilled vibes.

Car-free Nimborio has a pretty harbour and is the island's only inhabited village, featuring Venetian-style houses and tiny alleyways. Its horseshoe shaped bay is lined by waterfront tavernas.

Discover some of the 360 churches, remnants of a medieval castle and Chorio, the island's ancient capital.

Off-season – Rhodes

Visit in spring or autumn for a more tranquil escape. Rhodes basks in 300 days of sun per year and you can take advantage of the milder weather if you're into walking or cycling, when the landscape is lush. Make your money go further in shoulder season as hotel prices drop significantly.

Olympic Holidays feature island-hopping itineraries and more than 40 Greek islands.

olympicholidays.com



PLAYTIME
Families love Crete



DELICACY
Cheese and spinach pies

“Exploring by boat is a fun way to discover the sea caves and beaches”



TRAILS
Andros is a hiker's paradise



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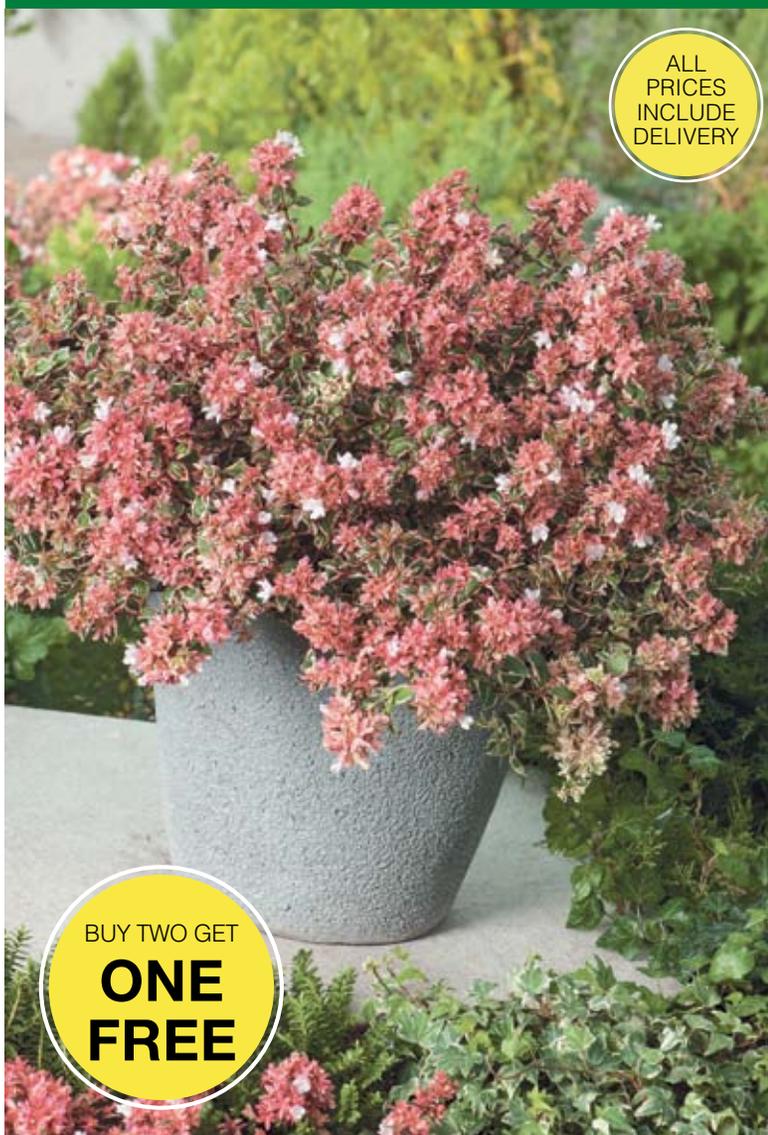
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WINTER'S WILDLIFE

with **STUART WINTER**



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. 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**

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



With
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gardening@people.co.uk
Sorry, Diarmuid cannot reply personally



Gloves are a perfect fit



PASTEL
Digitalis lutea



VIBRANT
Digitalis illumination pink

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

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.

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



Pets



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Does cat have to be chipped?

Q It is now compulsory for all cats to be microchipped, but does this apply to indoor cats that never go out? Our seven-year-old neutered male cat is always indoors and we question the need for him to be microchipped.

A New regulations to introduce compulsory microchipping for cats came into force last Monday.

All cats must now be microchipped before 20 weeks of age, along with others not previously microchipped. The regulations apply whether a cat goes out or is always indoors, and non-compliance can result in a substantial fine.

The charity Cats Protection estimates that 24 per cent of owned cats are not microchipped, with thousands of owners not sure whether it has been done.

The cat rescue centres are flooded with cats that are either abandoned or have got lost. A microchip is the best way lost cats can be reunited with their owners. Similar regulations in 2015 for dogs resulted in over 90 per cent being microchipped, up from 75 per cent. It's a great benefit to rescue societies and for those many dogs that were subsequently reunited with their owners.

The procedure is no different from a routine injection, with a small chip injected under the skin. It contains all the cat's details stored on a government-approved database.

These details can be retrieved by vets or charities by using a scanner. It's important, and part of the regulations, to keep details up to date.

For further detailed information go to the Cats Protection website at cats.org.uk and check out their 'microchipping your cat' section.

Q We have a nine-month-old poodle cross male neutered dog. He was a rescue and has settled in nicely. His only problem is dandruff along his back. We have tried some human anti-dandruff shampoos without success. Can you recommend a suitable shampoo?

A You also mention that there are so many recommended shampoos online for the problem that you don't know where to start.

Although the internet is useful in some respects, it cannot make a diagnosis for a pet ailment. For that you need a vet.

Dandruff in dogs is something that does require an accurate diagnosis because some of the causes can lead to skin problems in their owners. Human shampoos are not formulated for dogs and are unsuitable.

An important cause of dandruff is the mite Cheyletiella. This is usually in young dogs or puppies, particularly those from a poor environment.

Initially there is dandruff, which without specific treatment becomes very noticeable. Later, allergy to the mites develops causing the dog to continually scratch.

Close contact between dog and owner allows the mites to transfer. Allergy to the bites often results in owners developing a rash. Once diagnosed, veterinary prescribed anti-parasitic treatment is highly effective.

There are many other possible causes, for example other parasites, dietary deficiencies, allergies and yeast infections.

Further investigation would be required and there are veterinary formulated shampoos your vet can prescribe.

● David Grant has been a vet for more than 50 years. Email questions to him at pamperedpets@people.co.uk. He cannot enter into individual correspondence.

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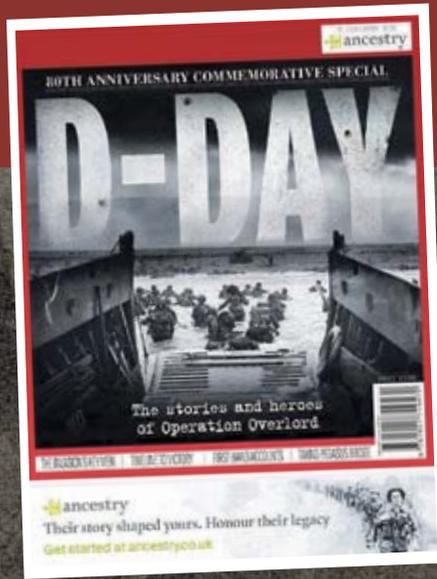
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RESULTS

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, 11. (G Boughyeh). 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 LADY (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 Boughyeh). Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £1.60. Tote Exacta: £3.50. Tricast: £12.80. 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 Boughyeh). Tote: £2.88; £1.40, £3.90, £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 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 (1-2) 2; THECOFFEEPODDO (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 3/4, 3/4. (T Eastbery). Tote: £5.00; £1.70, £2.50, £2.40. Tote Exacta: £34.10. Trifecta: £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 (1-1) 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. Trifecta: £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 Eastbery). Tote: £34.20; £8.80, £1.50, £2.40. Tote Exacta: £330.20. Trifecta: £680.18. Trifecta: £1174.90. CSF: £113.93. NRS: Indian Creek, Precious 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, £1.20, £1.20. Tote Exacta: £16.90. Tricast: £53.77. Trifecta: £69.20. CSF: £18.88. NR: Richard P Smith.

5.35: EYETRAP (P Peate 9-1) 1; GORDON GREY (100-30) 2; OMAN (4-1) 3. 7 ran. 3-1f Sax Appeal, 1 1/4, 7/1. (J Chapple-Hyem). 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: £2270.90. CSF: £187.89. NR: Hirochimi.

2.40: ADAAY IN DEVON (S De Sousa 11-8f) 1; FLORA OF BERMUDE (5-1) 2; NIGHTEYES (5-1) 3. 7 ran. hd, 11. (B Millman). Tote: £2.30; £1.30, £1.30. 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, 11. (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 (5-4) 3. 13 ran. 4 1/2, 1/2. (D Cunha). Tote: £41.00; £7.60, £2.70, £1.20. Tote Exacta: £705.70. CSF: £303.00. 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: £1.30; £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; BARYSHNIKOV (25-1) 4. 18 ran. 2 1/4, 1 1/4, 7/8. (R Becker). Tote: £5.50; £1.90, £2.20, £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 Corona, 2 1/4, 1 1/4. (C Cox). Tote: £11.90; £1.90, £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 (9-4) 3. 11 ran. 2 1/4, 1 1/2. (K Ryan). Tote: £9.00; £2.70, £1.50, £1.30. Tote Exacta: £143.20. Trifecta: £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, 11, nk. (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, Utillis.

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.

DONCASTER

OUR TIP Al Muqadd



GOING: GOOD WEATHER: SHOWERS NEWSBOY'S TIPS: 2.10 AL MUQADD (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

1.05: FEMME MAGNIFIQUE (K Callaghan 11-4) 1; SHARP OBJECT (2-1) 2; DISCO DANCER (13-2) 3. 13 ran. 3 1/4, shd. (W P Mulins). 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, Mountvillers 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. 16-5f Tell Us This, 8 1/2, 3/4. (Miss K Brown). Tote: £4.70; £2.20, £4.90, £2.40. Tote Exacta: £57.20. Tricast: £326.34. Trifecta: £214.10. CSF: £56.94.

2.15: CULLENWAINE (Miss P Elvin 100-30f) 1; PETTIGO (9-1) 2; DEAR RYTA (14-1) 3. 14 ran. 100-30f+1f 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: £93.42. 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, 1/2. (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, 1/2. (R P Cody). Tote: £5.70; £2.50, £1.60. Tote Exacta: £15.30. Trifecta: £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+1f 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. 16 1/2, 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, £2.70, £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: £4.09; £2.00, £2.80, £3.50. Tote Exacta: £50.00. Tricast: £512.18. Trifecta: £469.20. 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, 14 1/2, shd. (W Colthard). Tote: £28.10; £5.00, £6.50, £18.80. Tote Exacta: £622.00. Tricast: £35178.70. Trifecta not won. CSF: £439.73. NR: Goodoldhill.

6.00: STYLISH RECRUIT (R Mania 20-1) 1; FAMOUS LISS (16-1) 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. Trifecta: £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, 16 1/2. (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; MINNICOUM (4-1) 3. 10 ran. 5-2f Swallows Song, 10 1/2, 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: CELEBRON (Billy Loughnane 5-4f) 1; METRO DUBAI (8-1) 2; BAYLANDO (33-1) 3. 10 ran. 1 1/2, 1/2. (G Boughyeh). Tote: £2.25; £1.10, £2.40, £6.00. Tote Exacta: £13.20. Trifecta: £221.30. CSF: £11.91. NR: Corriama.

5.48: FEARLESS FREDDY (L Edmunds 4-6f) 1; TIMEFALL (2-1) 2; JACK ANDREA (33-1) 3. 8 ran. 2 1/4, 4 1/2. (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 (81-0) 3. 8 ran. 1 1/4, 1/2. (D & C Kubler). Tote: £4.50; £1.60, £1.30, £2.00. Tote Exacta: £12.30. 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. 9 ran. 3-1f+1f Basileite, 3-1f+1f Camacho Man, 1 1/4, 1/4. (A Carroll). Tote: £7.90; £2.20, £3.00, £1.10. 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; STASH THE CASH (5-2) 3. 5 ran. nk, 2 1/2. (G Boughyeh). 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, 2 1/4. (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, Wonder 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. 11 ran. 6 1/2, 1 1/4. (Harry Derham). Tote: £3.77; £1.10, £2.20, £1.30. Tote Exacta: £6.70. Trifecta: £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, 3 1/2, 6 1/2. (B Pauling). Tote: £5.50; £1.70, £5.10, £4.40. Tote Exacta: £104.70. Tricast: £1307.11. Trifecta: £1642.30. CSF: £103.17. NR: Milan Echo.

6.40: BARRAKHOV (K Woods 9-4f) 1; JEAN GENIE (8-1) 2; OUR ZEBO (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; £1.60, £2.80. Tote Exacta: £32.20. Tricast: £24.73. Trifecta: £39.30. CSF: £5.48. NRS: Caughnianspell, 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. 4 ran. 1 1/4, 6 1/2. (G Hamner). Tote: £2.50; Tote Exacta: £39.50. Trifecta: £126.30. CSF: £4.43. NRS: Duke Of Luckley, Limezero Boy.

8.15: MR TAMBORNE MAN (U Tudor 6-1) 1; MY MONTY (9-2) 2; UBETYA (11-2) 3. 9 ran. 7 1/4, 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 Sunbird, Mamoon Star, Nora The Explorer, Rocero Rocero, 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, 3/4. (F O'Brien). NRS: Jo Jo Binks, Neeps And Patties, She's Our World.

Placepot: £40.30. Quadpot: £8.10.

2.10 SAM HAY HANDICAP (DIV 1) (5) 7f Winner £4,397 (10 run) 1 (4) -52 PRISCILLA'S WISH (25) P McBride 6 9-11 (D6), A Farragher 2 (8) -84 RED MAIDS (25) M Rimell 4 9-9 (D2), David Egan 3 (7) 341 AL MUQADD (13) D O'Meara 4 9-8 (D2), D Nolan 4 (9) 00 DEPUTY (232) M Dods 6 9-7 (CD), P Mulreman 5 (1) 417 CHARENCEY (12) I Williams 4 9-7 (BF, D), Josephine Gordon 6 (5) 900 ZU RUN (36) M Loughnane 4 9-6 (D), F Marsh 7 (3) 9-3 ALBSEINGOYER (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 Muqadd, 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

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."

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

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 Truempelmann	0
J Bairstow c Green b Scholtz	31
H Brook not out	47
M Ali c Davin b Truempelmann	16
L Livingstone run out	13
B2 lb1 w1	4
Total (5 wkts., 10 overs)	122

Fall: 2, 13, 69, 107, 122.

Bowling: Wiese 2-0-6-1, Truempelmann 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 nb1	5
Total (3 wkts., 10 overs)	84

Fall: 44, 80, 82.

Bowling: 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.

Umpires: 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."



GOLF: US OPEN

FINAL ROUND
TODAY, SKY SPORTS GOLF



ROUGH WEEK: Woods hacking out en route to missing the cut

WOODS: 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."

RAI RIGHT IN THE MIX

Englishman eyes final-day top 10 after brilliant 68 as gutsy Lowry fires 'best level par round of my life'



ON HIS A-GAME
Aaron Rai laps it up after a 68 yesterday

FROM ANDREW GAMBLE at Pinehurst

AARON RAI used moving day to put himself in the perfect position for a final-day top-10 push at the US Open.

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.

His two under 68 puts him in position to make another a major final-day push.

The Englishman's performance 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.

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 days. It's way windier.

"The wind is in a different direction so some of the par fours are really long.

"You really just have to manage your way well around there and I did a great job today"

Meanwhile, former champion Matt Fitzpatrick wilted in the North Carolina

heat, carding a frustrating nine-over 79. Two years on from his dramatic win at Brookline, Fitzpatrick could not tame the greens. But it

was his erratic ball-striking and inability to hit the fairways that truly derailed his efforts.

He struggled from the first tee of his third round, carding back-to-back bogeys on the opening two holes, to set the tone for a dismal day.

The Sheffield native then posted successive double-bogeys at five and six and

added another bogey before the turn, while the back nine featured another two – including a three-putt at 15.

The birdie-less third-round nightmare left Fitzpatrick at 14 over, the 29-year-old sat last among the 74 players remaining.

Tommy Fleetwood finished his third round with 70 and, like Lowry, is five over, while Northern Ireland's Tom McKibbin shot 71 for six over.

Fitzpatrick wasn't the only former US Open winner to struggle.

Brooks Koepka also found it difficult to navigate the conditions, the five-time Major champion posting a one-over 71 to sit six over ahead of the final 18 holes.

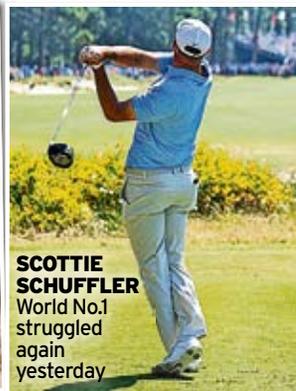
World No.1 Scottie Scheffler also failed to get going on moving day.

The American barely made the cut, despite entering the tournament as the overwhelming favourite, and could not buy a putt en route to a one-over 71 that leaves him five over.

Even when you hit a good shot the putts you have, it's brutal



BLOWN OFF COURSE
Shane Lowry



SCOTTIE SCHUFFLER
World No.1 struggled again yesterday



MATT FINISHED
Fitzpatrick starts today 14 over par



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."



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

FROM 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.

RUGBY LEAGUE



RESULTS & FIXTURES



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' Agnatiu 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."



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

Momirovski was penalised for swearing, Hull were in again on 45 minutes.

Carlos Tuimavave, returning from a three-month lay-off, slipped Ash Handley and got Cam Scott over.

The visitors got off the mark when Handley pounced on Brodie Croft's grubber in the 55th minute. And when Tom Briscoe was sin-binned for a professional foul in the 71st minute, Harry Newman also got over, Rhyse Martin converting.

But it was too little, too late to stop interim Hull head coach Simon Grix from finally getting his first victory.

Grix said: "The main feeling is relief. The losses haven't been through a lack of trying, but to get a win is pleasing. It's really big for the boys."

HULL: Tries: Martin, Balmforth, Scott; Cons: Reynolds (3)
LEEDS RHINOS: Tries: Handley, Newman; Con: 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 KR	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



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 McIlorum 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.

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

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	1	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	2	0	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 (Nlr) 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—G: 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 KR	14	10	0	4	370	189	20
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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, Sheffield v Featherstone, Swinton v Batley, Whitehaven v Bradford, Widnes v Wakefield.

United play hard ball for Jarrad

FROM BACK PAGE 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 this summer.

Bayern are likely to drive a hard bargain, however, and United are operating with a tight budget after missing out on Champions League qualification.



Sporting's centre-back Goncalo Inacio has also been heavily scouted, though his release clause is worth £50m.

Everton insist they will not 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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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.

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 Kluivert 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

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



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.



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."

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EURO 2024

SERBIA v ENGLAND

SLOVENIA v DENMARK

TODAY 5PM GROUP C (ITV)

by **Richard Edwards**

RASMUS HOJLUND can help the Danes continue their Euros love affair – and remind Manchester United fans just how far he has come this season.

That is the message from former Old Trafford favourite Jesper Olsen, as Gareth Southgate's side prepare to take on Denmark next Thursday in Frankfurt in a Group C clash that could decide the Euros fate of both countries.

Olsen said: "Hojlund (right) will be looking forward to getting away with Denmark after an interesting first season at United. It hasn't been the easiest team for him to be part of, but the FA Cup will have given him a lift.

"We don't have the depth of the bigger countries. We need everyone to be pulling in one direction and you need your big players, like Hojlund, to be at their best.

"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

Jesper backs Ras... but tips Three Lions

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.

Despite this being a far from vintage Danish side. "Expectations are probably fairly low but this is the Euros – anything can happen, we've shown that time and again in the past," he said.

Olsen reckons it will be England, not Denmark, battling to be crowned Euro Kings in Germany. He added: "There are so many good young players in that side... Saka, Foden, Bellingham. There aren't too many countries in the world that can match that."



KING KANE

A relaxed Harry Kane insists he is full of confidence



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» TODAY, KICK-OFF 8PM, LIVE ON BBC1



GOLD IN BAG NOW KANE'S AFTER SILVER

I'm at my peak but I need trophies, says Harry

From **Simon Mullock** in Gelsenkirchen

HARRY KANE feels he is finally being recognised as one of the best strikers in the world – but he desperately wants to be known as a winner.

Kane's move to Bayern Munich last year may not have realised the glut of trophies everyone expected when he quit Tottenham. 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 is tough enough to take on the cynics who have revelled in his failure to lift a cup in Bavaria and feels at the peak of his powers.

He 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.

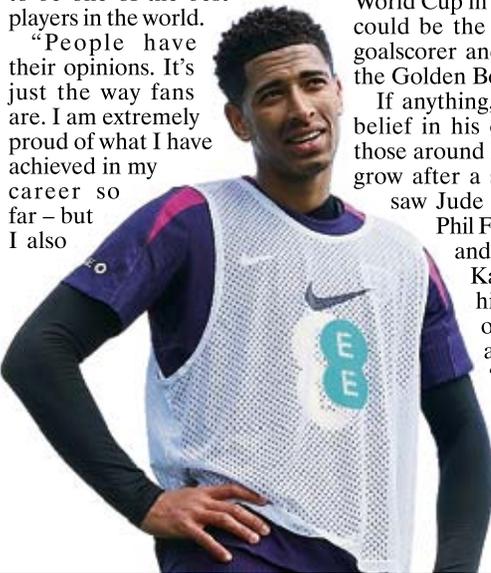
"Maybe I now have a different

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.

Profile

"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 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 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 has a record 63 goals for his country. If he continues to find the back of the net 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 goalscorer 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 (left), Phil Foden, Bukayo Saka and Cole Palmer excel.

Kane, who will lead his country in their 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 at this

tournament. 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 of what I am capable of – but as always I will be judged on goals. So hopefully I will get a few."

Proud

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 definitely had talented squads throughout my time as an England player.

"But what separates this one is how good 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 for me. We all just want to get out there and get started now."

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 need to keep a watchful eye on Bellingham when they open their Euro campaign.

And he reckons the 20-year-old is typical of the kind of talented technicians Gareth Southgate has in such abundance 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

Dragan: We're facing trial by fire with Jude

impressive in what he has already shown in a Real Madrid jersey.

"He's young but so powerful. We have to be careful not to give him too much space. Bellingham is already a very important player for England. It's very impressive how he plays. He is very, very young, but he has shown some unbelievable performances."

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 they are strong.

"The team has changed compared to two years ago, but this is a new generation of players who proved their quality in the Premier League and during qualification."



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

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.

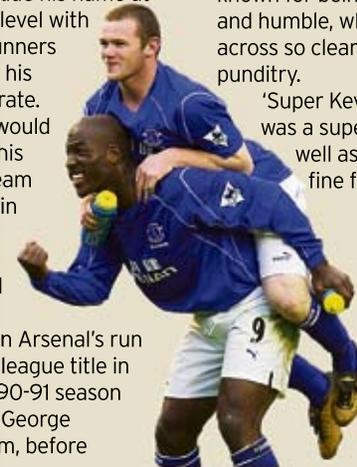
Campbell also had spells at West Brom, and Cardiff where he retired in 2007.

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.

EURO 2024



SERBIA V



GUTTED: Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka with Gareth

NEIL MOXLEY

email: neil.moxley@reachplc.com

JUDGING by the atmosphere, you'd think England were five minutes away from becoming European champions for the first time.

Pundits are queuing up - forecasting glory for a 'world-class' Three Lions side whose time is now.

A few are warning about the prospect of playing France in the semi-finals, but, yes, say we have an evens chance against Les Bleus.

Right now it's party central. And there's one problem with that - there's nothing yet to celebrate.

First of all, Gareth Southgate's patched-up and untried XI need to pick their way through a tricky opener against Serbia in Gelsenkirchen.

This evening will be the first time this group has played together.

We don't know who is going to turn out at the back or who is going to anchor the midfield alongside Declan Rice.

In fact, we don't even know which system Southgate will use.

Gloom

And England are somehow favourites.

Now, it's not all doom and gloom. I don't want to be the negative Nelly in the corner.

The good news is that there are players in England's line-up who would walk into almost any side on the planet, never mind Europe.

Supreme goal-getter Harry Kane and newly-crowned Champions League winner Jude Bellingham are two of them.

Cases can be made for six-time Premier League winner Phil Foden, captain-in-waiting Rice - and Kyle Walker would have to be in a conversation about any World XI right-back spot.

We ooze menace and promise goals.

But it seems like everyone has fallen into the trap of just shrugging their shoulders at the strength of the opposition.

I honestly thought those days were behind us - or at least they were supposed to be.

The times when we thumbed our noses at the competition and arrogantly believed that because we invented the world's greatest sport, we were entitled to win tournaments ad infinitum.

Danger

The problem is that, of the four tournaments that Southgate has led us into, this one looks the toughest to crack.

The Germans have beaten France and Holland in friendlies, and hammered the Scots - after 10 years in the wilderness Die Mannschaft are getting their act together.

And they have home advantage.

The production line in Spain shows no sign of slowing down and they are an A-list forward away from being a major danger.

France's record under Didier Deschamps speaks for itself.

And Portugal are jam-packed with experienced Premier League



CALM CALM

Hold the party poppers

stars who have won international tournaments.

None of the above addresses the threat from within England's group - Denmark gave us a mighty scare in the semi-finals three years ago and they'll fancy their chances again.

So, let's press the reset button now before everyone gets upset in 10 days because the burden of expectation has led to people getting carried away. Southgate's men don't

need to 'send a statement' tonight. The Three Lions don't need to roar.

And they don't need a goals avalanche - very few teams hit top gear in the first match of any tournament.

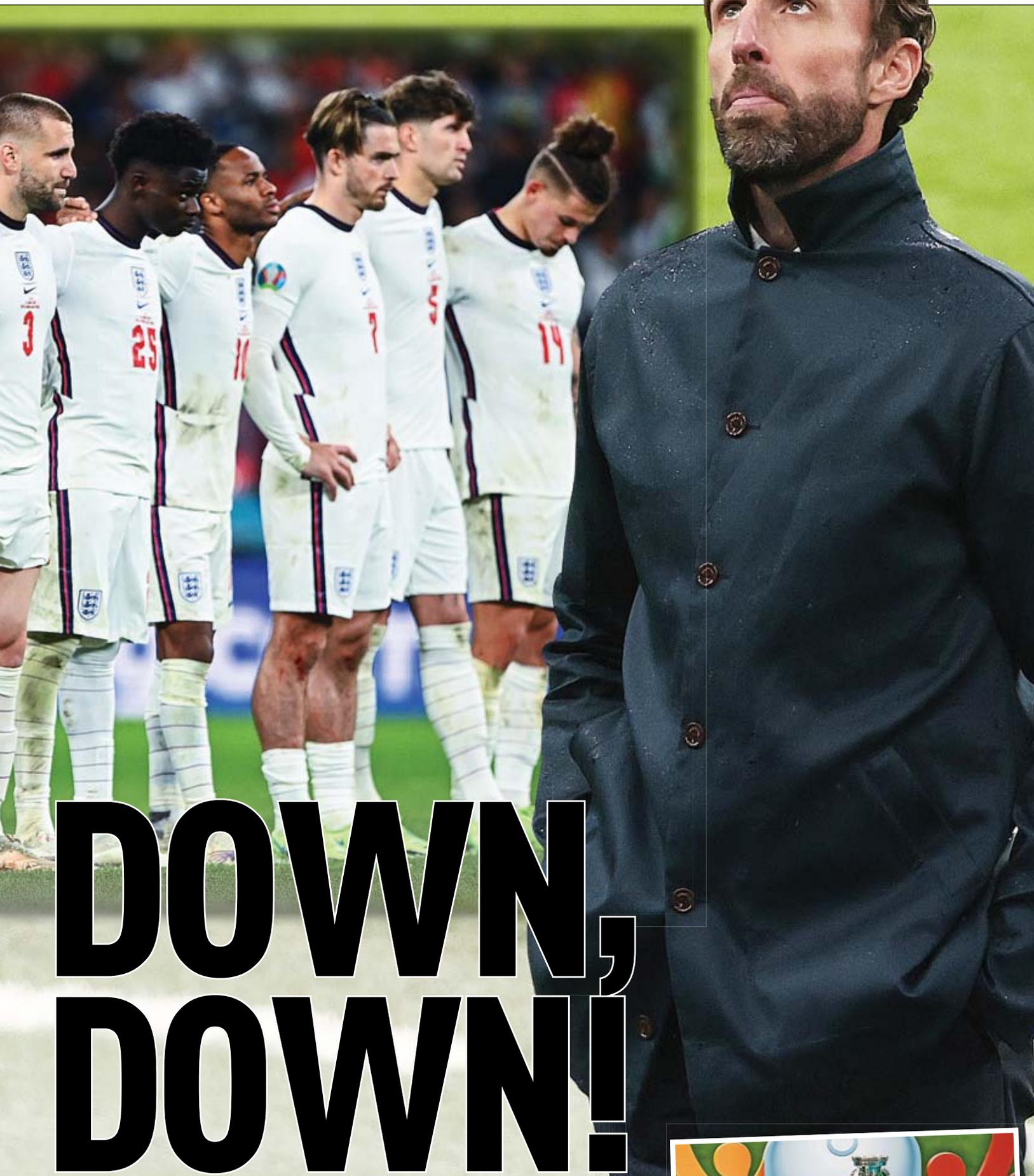
Humility

If you remember, Argentina lost to Cameroon in the 1990 World Cup and reached the final.

The same country lost to Saudi

ENGLAND

» TODAY, 8PM, LIVE ON BBC1



DOWN, DOWN!

– this is no Three Lions formality

Arabia 32 years later and were crowned champions. Let's not count any chickens.

England can do well. They COULD win the thing.

But let's show a bit of humility, play the long game and see where it takes us – like we did at the last Euros.

A repeat of that – excepting the final – would be most welcome.

Overconfidence and a smidgeon

“Tonight will be the first time this group has played together. We don't even know which system Southgate will use

of arrogance are not great ingredients at international football tournaments.

The recipe for success at the last European Championships involved playing the game at hand and not looking too far forward – while building a coherent team structure that grows through the competition.

So let's do the same, eh, and see where it takes us...



FINAL STRAW: Harry Kane walks past the trophy at the last Euros final, and (above) boss Gareth Southgate



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

Alexander the great can deliver goods and be Lions' pride and joy

by **Simon Mullock**

GARETH SOUTHGATE has confirmed that Trent Alexander-Arnold will start England's Euro opener against Serbia.

The Three Lions boss is set to ignore a warning from former striker 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.

And 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. I spoke to Trent about playing in this role over a year ago. It's something he's been really keen to do. He's been really receptive to feedback and every bit of information.

"We know he can be a really 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 I think 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 being used as an inverted full-back by Jurgen Klopp 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 (above) will start wide on the left despite impressing for Manchester City in a more central role, with Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham operating behind skipper Harry Kane.

And skipper Kane cannot wait for Alexander-Arnold to demonstrate his eye for a pass.

Kane insisted: "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 I think 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 always 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.

The manager 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.

"I think if you speak with any individual player, that's 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 on the pitch, so we are trying to find the best balance."



THE PASS MASTER
Trent Alexander-Arnold is expected to start in midfield

From **Simon Mullock**
in Gelsenkirchen

GARETH SOUTHGATE believes 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 will be the only player in the starting line-up in England's opening group game against Serbia who has not experienced a World Cup or European Championship.

But Southgate believes injecting new blood into his squad for Germany will give his team an irresistible energy as the competition progresses.

Southgate 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, I think, are adding to the group.

Bonus

"At the World Cup in Russia (in 2018), we were one of the youngest teams and one of the least experienced teams, so I don't think it is essential that 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, despite the end, I had a good tournament and I only went in with three or four caps.

"So I think 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.

Belief

"I don't think there is any question that there is strong belief in the group.

"Equally, I said to them last night, when we had a meeting about tournaments and lessons we can take from the past, that there are things from that past we should discard.

"To have the experiences we've had is really, really important – and irrelevant

"We have got a balance of players but innocence is a bonus"



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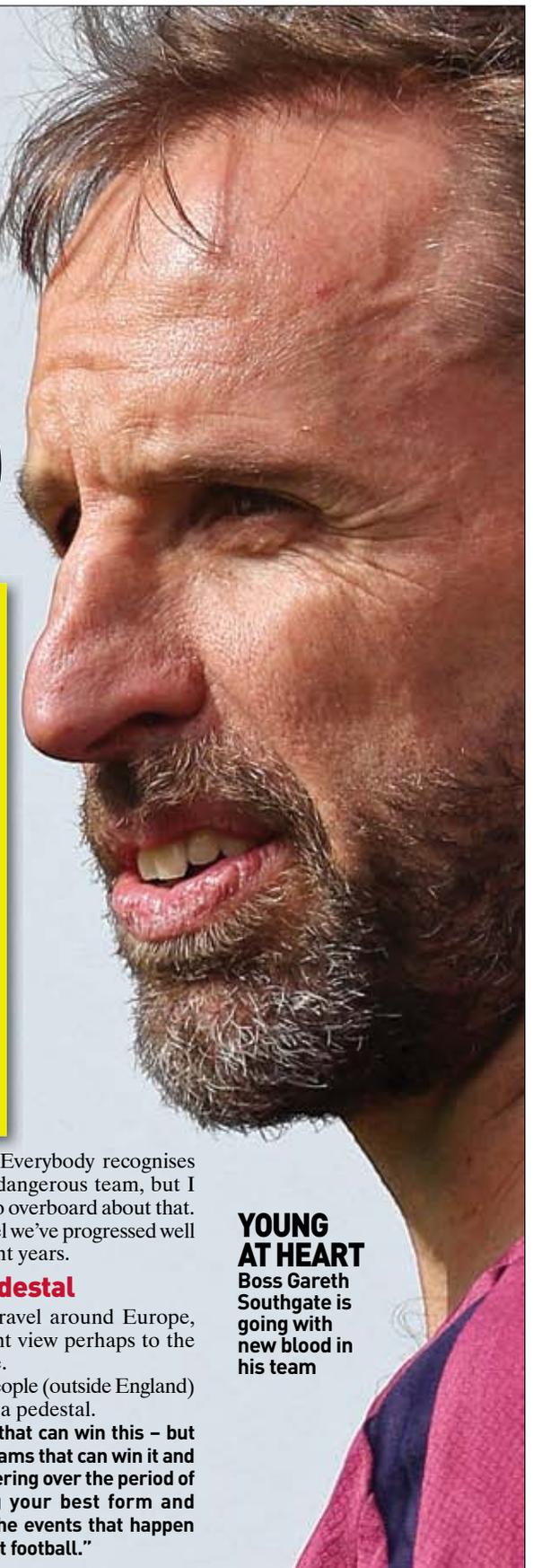
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ENGLAND

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MY ROOKIE MONSTERS



Southgate: England newbies will help old guard ditch baggage of past failure

in equal measure. We have to go and play and get it right tomorrow.”

England have been installed as the Euro favourites by the bookmakers – but they were unable to make the advantage of playing at Wembley count three years ago when they were beaten by Italy in the final on penalties.

And hosts Germany gave a stark

illustration of their power as they conjured up a 5-1 demolition of Scotland in Munich in the opening game of the tournament 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 deliver and we will be judged by what we do in this period and not

anything before. Everybody recognises that we’ve got a dangerous team, but I don’t think they go overboard about that. “I think they feel we’ve progressed well over seven or eight years.

Pedestal

“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 the events that happen within tournament football.”

YOUNG AT HEART
Boss Gareth Southgate is going with new blood in his team



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FROM RAW...

DOWNER: The penalties agony of the Euro 2020



TO ROAR!

Southgate: Our chance to make up for agonies



UPBEAT: Skipper Harry Kane

by **Simon Mullock** in Gelsenkirchen

GARETH SOUTHGATE last night urged his England players 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 said: "There is an opportunity for people to make a name for themselves. This is a moment in time for them and we have picked players who are in good form.

"There is no question that there is strong belief in the group."

Full story: Pages 62 & 63

TOP TARGET: Branthwaite



United threat over Jarrad

EXCLUSIVE by **Ryan Taylor**

MANCHESTER UNITED are threatening to walk away from a deal for Jarrad Branthwaite after Everton rejected their opening bid of £43million including add-ons.

While the Toffees centre-back is United's top transfer target INEOS also have several alternative names on their radar. These include Jean-Clair Todibo of sister club Nice, Juventus' Gleison Bremer and Lille's 18-year-old Leny Yoro.

Real Madrid are currently leading the race for highly-rated teenager Yoro, though Liverpool are also at the table for the

Turn to Page 56

INSIDE Your No.1 pullout

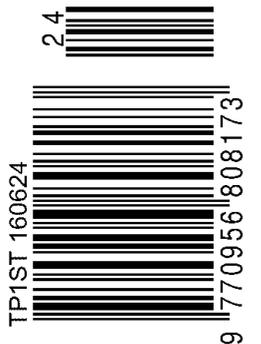


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TOTAL

EURO 2024

JUNE 16, 2024



SUNDAY PEOPLE SPORT

IN ASSOCIATION WITH *William* HILL

JUST DANAMITE



Carvajal and Spain too hot for Croatia to handle

PLENTY TO CRO ABOUT
Dani Carvajal celebrates with teenager Lamine Yamal

SPAIN 3
CROATIA 0
REPORT: PAGE 3



GOALDEN BOYS Alvaro Morata and Fabian Ruiz celebrate the goals that helped Spain win

ITALY 2 ALBANIA 1 RELIEVED DEFENDING CHAMPIONS OVER FIRST HURDLE

REPORT: PAGE 2

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ENGLAND TO BEAT SERBIA



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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.

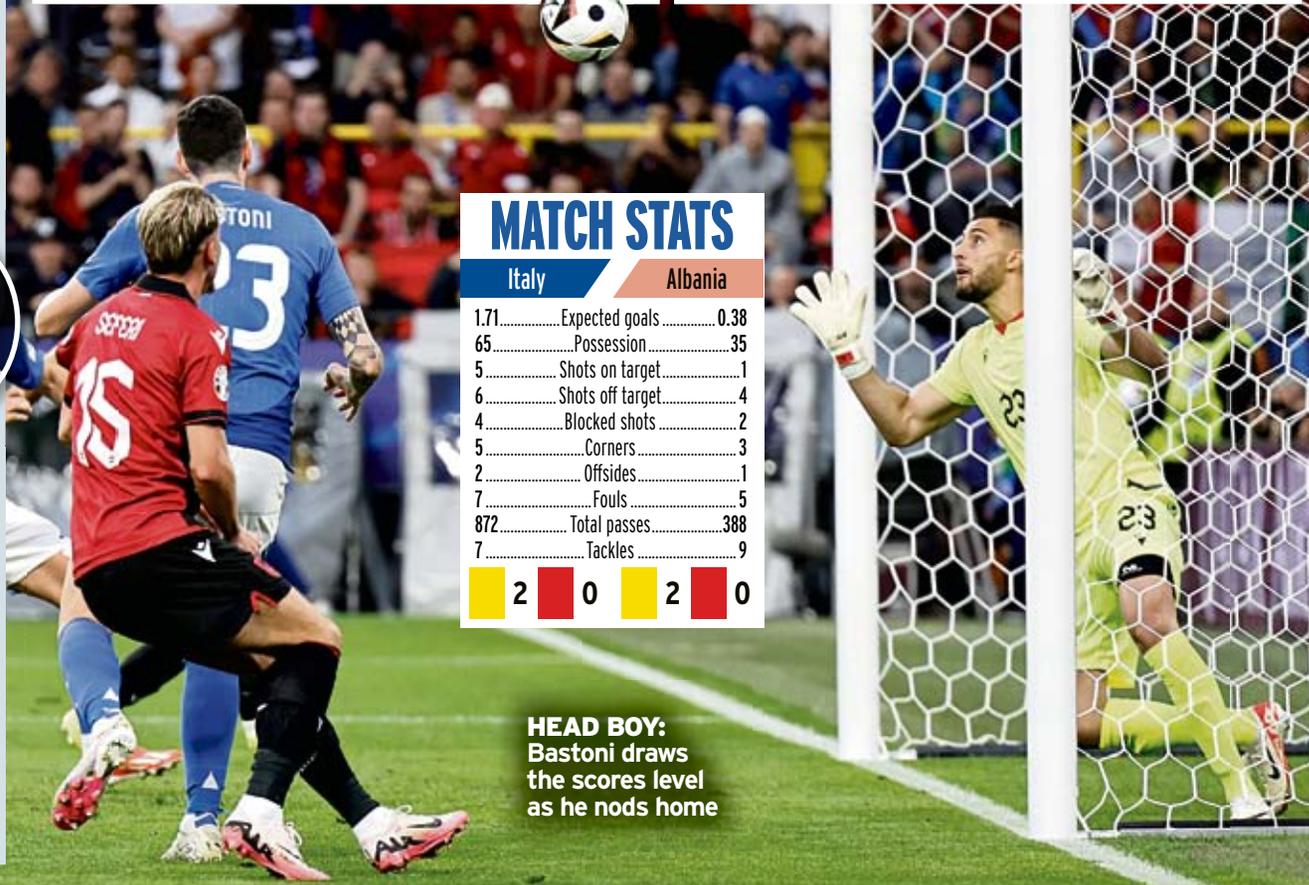
"Sometimes we were too comfortable."



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
Pasalac (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.

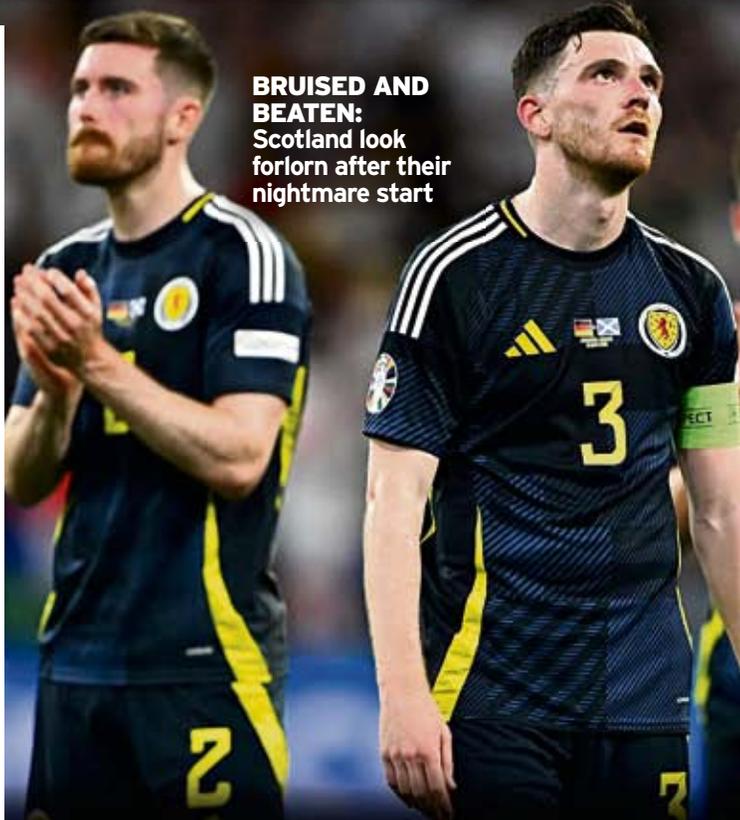
"We know that."

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.

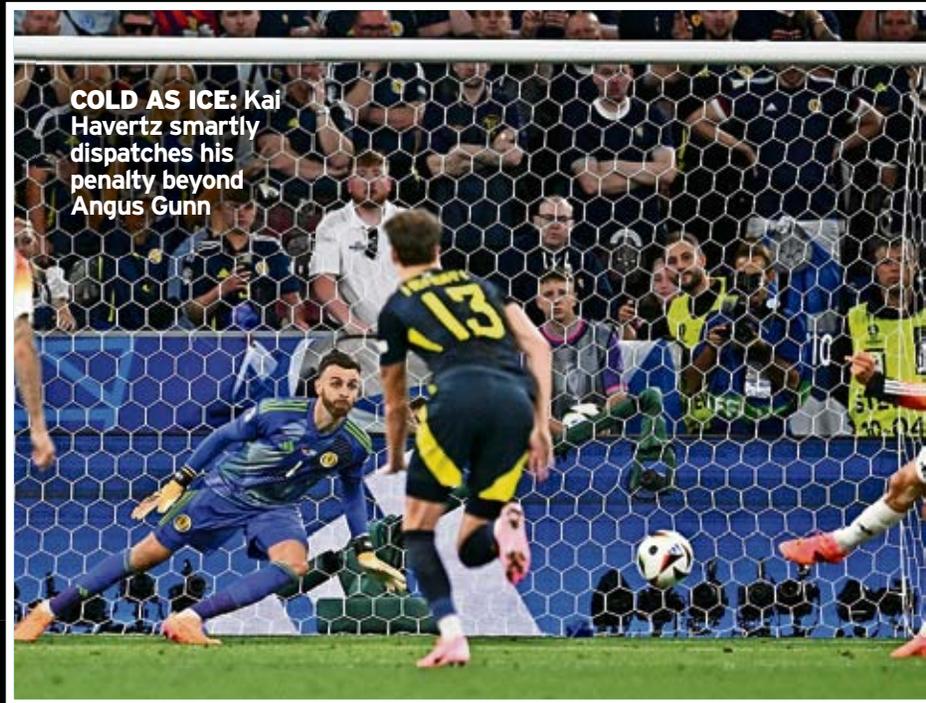
"The older ones in the group have to keep us going and get ready for Wednesday."

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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PLAYED 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
0	2
0	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

GERMANY, SCOTLAND, HUNGARY, SWITZERLAND

GERMANY 5 Wirtz 10, Musiala 19, Havertz 45+1 pen, Fullkrug 68, Can 90+3	HUNGARY 1 Varga 66
SCOTLAND Rudiger 87 og 1	SWITZERLAND 3 Duah 12, Aebischer 45, Embolo 90

GERMANY 0	SCOTLAND 0
HUNGARY 0	SWITZERLAND 0

Stuttgart Arena
WEDNESDAY JUNE 19, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)

Cologne Stadium
WEDNESDAY JUNE 19, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

SWITZERLAND 0	SCOTLAND 0
GERMANY 0	HUNGARY 0

Frankfurt Arena
SUNDAY JUNE 23, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

Stuttgart Arena
SUNDAY JUNE 23, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

GROUP B

SPAIN, CROATIA, ITALY, ALBANIA

SPAIN 3 Morata 29, Fabian 32, Carvajal 45	ITALY 2 Bastoni 11, Barella 16
CROATIA 0 Bajrami 1	ALBANIA 1

CROATIA 0	SPAIN 0
ALBANIA 0	ITALY 0

Volksparkstadion Hamburg
WEDNESDAY JUNE 19, KICK-OFF 2PM (ITV)

Arena AufSchalke
THURSDAY JUNE 20, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)

CROATIA 0	ALBANIA 0
ITALY 0	SPAIN 0

Leipzig Stadium
MONDAY JUNE 24, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

Düsseldorf Arena
MONDAY JUNE 24, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

GROUP C

SLOVENIA, SERBIA, DENMARK, ENGLAND

SLOVENIA 0	SERBIA 0
DENMARK 0	ENGLAND 0

Stuttgart Arena
TODAY, KICK-OFF 5PM (ITV)

Arena AufSchalke
TODAY, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

SLOVENIA 0	DENMARK 0
SERBIA 0	ENGLAND 0

Munich Football Arena
THURSDAY JUNE 20, KICK-OFF 2PM (ITV)

Frankfurt Arena
THURSDAY JUNE 20, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)

ENGLAND 0	DENMARK 0
SLOVENIA 0	SERBIA 0

Cologne Stadium
TUESDAY JUNE 25, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)

Munich Football Arena
TUESDAY JUNE 25, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)

GROUP D

POLAND, HOLLAND, AUSTRIA, FRANCE

POLAND 0	AUSTRIA 0
HOLLAND 0	FRANCE 0

Volksparkstadion Hamburg
TODAY, KICK-OFF 2PM (BBC)

Diüsseldorf Arena
TOMORROW, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)

POLAND 0	HOLLAND 0
AUSTRIA 0	FRANCE 0

Olympiastadion Berlin
FRIDAY JUNE 21, KICK-OFF 5PM (ITV)

Leipzig Stadium
FRIDAY JUNE 21, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

HOLLAND 0	FRANCE 0
AUSTRIA 0	POLAND 0

Olympiastadion Berlin
TUESDAY JUNE 25, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)

BVB Stadion Dortmund
TUESDAY JUNE 25, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)

GROUP E

BELGIUM, SLOVAKIA, ROMANIA, UKRAINE

ROMANIA 0	BELGIUM 0
UKRAINE 0	SLOVAKIA 0

Munich Football Arena
TOMORROW, KICK-OFF 2PM (BBC)

Frankfurt Arena
TOMORROW, KICK-OFF 5PM (ITV)

SLOVAKIA 0	BELGIUM 0
UKRAINE 0	ROMANIA 0

Diüsseldorf Arena
FRIDAY JUNE 21, KICK-OFF 2PM (BBC)

Cologne Stadium
SATURDAY JUNE 22, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)

SLOVAKIA 0	UKRAINE 0
ROMANIA 0	BELGIUM 0

Frankfurt Arena
WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)

Stuttgart Arena
WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)

GROUP F

TURKEY, GEORGIA, PORTUGAL, CZECH REPUBLIC

TURKEY 0	PORTUGAL 0
GEORGIA 0	CZECH REP 0

BVB Stadion Dortmund
TUESDAY JUNE 18, KICK-OFF 5PM (BBC)

Leipzig Stadium
TUESDAY JUNE 18, KICK-OFF 8PM (BBC)

GEORGIA 0	TURKEY 0
CZECH REP 0	PORTUGAL 0

Volksparkstadion Hamburg
SATURDAY JUNE 22, KICK-OFF 2PM (BBC)

BVB Stadion Dortmund
SATURDAY JUNE 22, KICK-OFF 5PM (ITV)

CZECH REP 0	GEORGIA 0
TURKEY 0	PORTUGAL 0

Volksparkstadion Hamburg
WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)

Arena AufSchalke
WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, KICK-OFF 8PM (ITV)

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	1	1	0	0	5	1	3
Switzerland	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Hungary	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Scotland	1	0	0	1	1	5	0

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Italy	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Albania	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Croatia	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denmark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
England	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Austria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Romania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Czech rep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

ROUND OF 16

GAME 37 1A **V** 2C
BVB Stadion Dortmund SATURDAY JUNE 29, KICK-OFF 8PM (Dortmund)

GAME 39 1B **V** 3A/D/E/F
Cologne Stadium SUNDAY JUNE 30, KICK-OFF 8PM (Cologne)

GAME 41 1F **V** 3A/B/C
Frankfurt Arena MONDAY JULY 1, KICK-OFF 8PM (Frankfurt)

GAME 43 1E **V** 3A/B/C/D
Munich Football Arena TUESDAY JULY 2, KICK-OFF 5PM (Munich)

GAME 38 2A **V** 2B
Olympiastadion Berlin SATURDAY JUNE 29, KICK-OFF 5PM (Berlin)

GAME 40 1C **V** 3D/E/F
Arena AufSchalke SUNDAY JUNE 30, KICK-OFF 5PM (Gelsenkirchen)

GAME 42 2D **V** 2E
Diüsseldorf Arena MONDAY JULY 1, KICK-OFF 5PM (Dusseldorf)

GAME 44 1D **V** 2F
Leipzig Stadium TUESDAY JULY 2, KICK-OFF 8PM (Leipzig)

SEMI-FINALS

GAME 49 W45 **V** W46
Munich Football Arena TUESDAY JULY 9, KICK-OFF 8PM (Munich)

GAME 50 W47 **V** W48
BVB Stadion Dortmund WEDNESDAY JULY 10, KICK-OFF 8PM (Dortmund)

FINAL

GAME 51 WINNER 49 **V** WINNER 50
Olympiastadion Berlin SUNDAY JULY 14, KICK-OFF 8PM (Berlin)

QUARTER-FINALS

GAME 45 W39 **V** W37
Stuttgart Arena FRIDAY JULY 5, KICK-OFF 5PM (Stuttgart)

GAME 46 W41 **V** W42
Volksparkstadion Hamburg FRIDAY JULY 5, KICK-OFF 8PM (Hamburg)

GAME 47 W43 **V** W44
Olympiastadion Berlin SATURDAY JULY 6, KICK-OFF 8PM (Berlin)

GAME 48 W40 **V** W38
Diüsseldorf Arena SATURDAY JULY 6, KICK-OFF 5PM (Diüsseldorf)



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