



# AIRS TO THE THRONE

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8 & 9

ROYAL  
ASCOT

## STAR'S MORNING SPREE

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PULLOUT**

# GIO BLOWS £1,000 ON SLOTS

EXCLUSIVE by AMIR RAZAVI  
 Showbiz News Correspondent

STRICTLY'S Giovanni Pernice blew nearly £1,000 on fruit machines in a dingy amusement arcade.

The dancer, 33, is a regular at one dimly-lit venue, where he was pictured arriving at 9.45am this week — before moving on to a second nearby in West London.

A source said: "Giovanni comes in at all times of day."

Dancer to  
chancer...  
Gio outside  
slots shop  
with ciggy

SEE  
PAGE  
7

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# GIFTS OF ASSETS TARGETED

# LABOUR'S SECRET

# £18BN TAX PLANS



Warning... PM yesterday

**RISHI Sunak warned voters not to "sleepwalk" into a Labour government as a leak revealed Sir Keir Starmer is secretly plotting tax raids worth billions.**

The PM used a speech in North Wales yesterday to urge Brits not to let the Opposition "waltz into office" without scrutiny. Internal Labour documents laid bare their intentions to

By MARTINA BET

fund public services with £18billion in tax hikes.

Increasing capital gains tax on second homes could generate £8billion, while an overhaul of inheritance tax, targeting tax-free gifts and assets, could bring in another £10billion.

The measures were revealed by the left-leaning Guardian.

A senior party source told the paper: "We have to show we are credible when it comes to transforming the country."

Sir Keir has ruled out increasing income tax, national

insurance and VAT, but has been less clear on other ways he might fund public spending.

A Labour spokesperson said: "We have set out fully costed, fully funded plans, with very specific tax loopholes we would close. Nothing in our plans requires any additional tax to be increased."

Yet Chancellor Jeremy Hunt blasted: "Keir Starmer should have the courage and conviction to be honest with the British people about the tax rises Labour are planning."

At the launch of the Tory Welsh manifesto, the PM

acknowledged people's "frustrations" with him and his party. But he warned Brits: "Don't fall into Labour's trap, don't sleepwalk to July 4."

"I know you want to send us a message but this is not a by-election. It will determine who governs our country for the next five years and potentially much longer."

**HARRY** Potter author JK Rowling accused Sir Keir Starmer of "abandoning women" who are worried about trans rights and slammed their "dismissive and often offensive" approach to feminist concerns.



Vow... Mr Hollinrake

## Tory pub aid at the double

By THOMAS GODFREY

THE Tories will slash red tape for Britain's pubs, nightclubs and restaurants in the first 100 days of a new government.

Ministers would end a raft of "disproportionate demands" by council pen-pushers in the hope this would boost the night-time economy.

A review was already promised in the Tory election manifesto, but yesterday business minister Kevin Hollinrake spelled out the urgency. He said: "We'll continue to back our night-time economy."

"Labour would cripple it further with higher taxes and more burdensome regulation."

The measures follow pressure from The Sun's Save Our Supps campaign to back British pubs and bars.

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## Scotch's £108m hit

A RISE in levies on Scotch and spirits in August has seen £108million lost in tax receipts.

The 10.1 per cent increase was the highest in four decades and led to a fall in sales.

Nearly three-quarters of the price of a bottle of Scotch is taken in taxes.

Graeme Littlejohn, of the Scotch Whisky Association, said: "The tax hike has backfired. It slowed the fall of inflation, and has reduced revenue by over £100m."

## Rishi 3rd in ballots cash war

THE Tories were behind both Labour and Reform when it came to fund-raising at the start of the election campaign.

Figures released by the Electoral Commission yesterday showed they only brought in £292,500 in the two weeks after the July 4 date was announced.

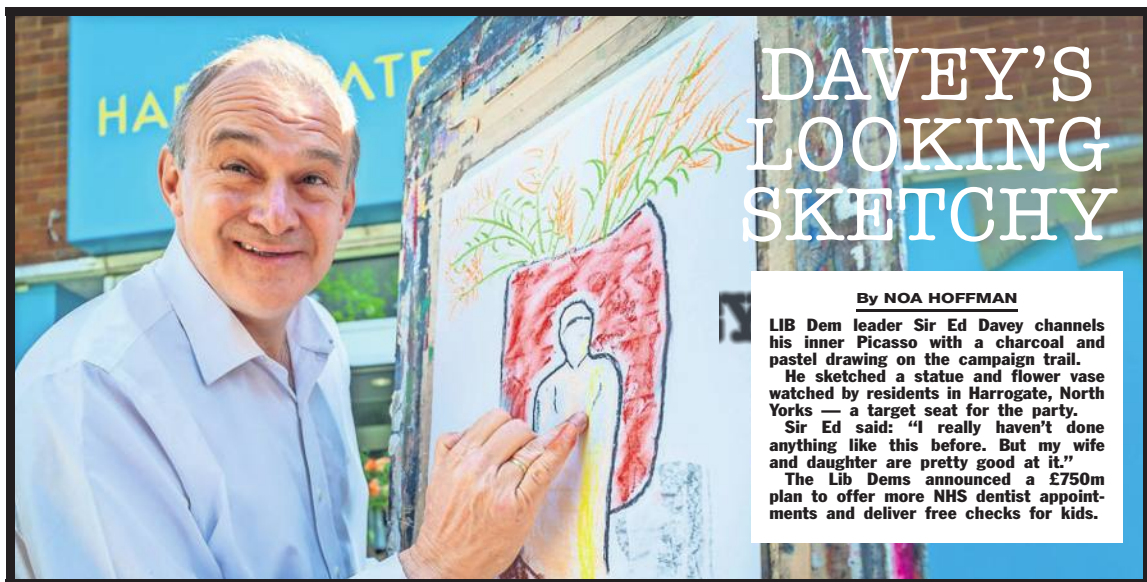
It marks a huge drop from 2019, when the party raised £8.7million in the same time frame.

The Tory coffers are now just £889,000 in all.

Labour raised £5.3million in the first two weeks, helped by unions and wealthy donors.

Reform raised £742,000. Over two thirds of the cash was from ex-leader Richard Tice's firm.

Farage 'appeaser' — Page 11



By NOA HOFFMAN

**LIB Dem leader Sir Ed Davey channels his inner Picasso with a charcoal and pastel drawing on the campaign trail.**

He sketched a statue and flower vase watched by residents in Harrogate, North Yorks — a target seat for the party.

Sir Ed said: "I really haven't done anything like this before. But my wife and daughter are pretty good at it."

The Lib Dems announced a £750m plan to offer more NHS dentist appointments and deliver free checks for kids.

## RAYNER'S OIL DODGE

By NOA HOFFMAN

ANGELA Rayner yesterday refused to reveal whether Labour would give the green light to a major oil field.

Rosebank — one of Britain's largest untapped oil fields — was approved by the Government in September 2023.

But the future of the Shetland Islands field was thrown into doubt after the Supreme

Court sided with eco-activists on Thursday in another case.

They ruled that approval of an oil well near Horse Hill, Surrey, was unlawful.

Judges said town halls must consider potential pollution from drilling and from the oil's uses. When asked about

the implications for Rosebank, the Deputy Labour Chief said: "Oil and gas is part of the mix for the next three decades, that's what we face."

"But we have to have a transition to renewables for our energy security."

Labour has been slammed for vowing not to approve any new oil and gas licenses

in the North Sea. When pushed about Rosebank, Ms Rayner continued: "Licences that have already been approved will carry on."

A Tory spokesman said: "If Labour believe we will need oil and gas for decades, why are they content on shutting down our North Sea oil?"

The Sun Says — Page 12



'Part of the mix'... Labour's Rayner

**TALK TV WEATHER** With NAZANEEN GHAFAR

**TODAY:** A cloudy start for much of the UK, with the small chance of a few light showers at times. Clearer skies are expected in the afternoon.

**TONIGHT:** Clear skies are expected for some, but many areas could see some patches of cloud with the chance of light showers too. Gentle winds.

**OUTLOOK:** A dry day tomorrow with plenty of sunshine, though there will be some patches of cloud in places. Staying sunny and dry on Monday, with little cloud cover.

**SUN 22° MON 23° TUE 27° WED 25°**

**SUJIKO**

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

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**PUZZLES: PAGES 41-43**

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**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS**

**HOLLYWOOD'S MERYL STREEP, 75, left, and KRIS KRISTOFFERSON, 88,** Man City and Spain midfielder **RODRI, 28,** right, singers **CYNDI LAUPER, 71,** and **JIMMY SOMERVILLE, 63,** and Star Trek's **TIM RUSS, 68.**

● **LAST night's Euromillions** winning numbers: 3, 4, 7, 11, 17. Lucky Stars: 3, 12. Health Lottery: 4, 13, 25, 32, 38. Bonus ball: 5.



# KEN'S A KAR SPLASHION



Picture: CALZEDONIA

**KENDALL** Jenner keeps her cool in the pool during a sizzling bikini photoshoot. The model, 28, took a dip as she posed in a brown two-piece for Italian brand Calzedonia. Kendall, who rose to fame with her family in reality show *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*, is the half-sister of social media star Kim, 43. But Kendall is off the market again, having rekindled her romance with Puerto Rican rapper Bad Bunny, 30, six months after splitting up.

By **HOWELL DAVIES**

ans, is the half-sister of social media star Kim, 43. But Kendall is off the market again, having rekindled her romance with Puerto Rican rapper Bad Bunny, 30, six months after splitting up.

## LUXURY BOOZE GETAWAYS



Stage fall... Sir Ian

**Gandalf tumbled on to me**

By **MIKE SULLIVAN**

A WEST End playgoer has revealed Sir Ian McKellen flew head first into her from the stage. Johanna, 30, was left bruised when the Lord of the Rings star took his tumble in a fight scene during *Player Kings*.

She said he tripped on a prop and hit his head on her knee as she sat in the front row.

Johanna, from Leatherhead, Surrey, told the BBC: "Crushed by Gandalf — that's something you don't expect."

Sir Ian, 85, was treated in hospital and has been sidelined since the fall on Wednesday last week.

He will not return to his role at the Noel Coward Theatre as he rests and has physiotherapy.

# SPOON WITH A VIEW

## FANS CAN TOUR PUBS IN BENTLEY

By **LISA MINOT**, Head of Travel

**WETHERSPOONS** fans can get oiled on a grand tour of its best pubs — chauffeur-driven in a Bentley and with their own personal guide.

Organisers say customers will not only be able to sup cheap pints, but drink in the history of architectural gems. But the six-night booze cruise, including hotels but not drink or food, cost upwards of £1,300 per person.

Travel firm MyUKTour has put together one itinerary in the North and one in the South. The North Grand Tour kicks off in Keswick, Cumbria, with a visit to The Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, which began life as a court and police station.

There is a stop at Blackpool's Velvet Coaster pub, one of the largest and recently crowned "the nicest Wetherspoons".

And it takes in the Sir William de Wessington in Washington, Tyne and Wear — named the cheapest Spoons in the



**wetherspoon**

Quaff we go... pub. Bentley, below

North. Highlights in The South include the "poshest Spoons" — the Corn Exchange in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. And there is a visit to former chapel George's Meeting House, round the corner from where the chain's boss Tim Martin lives in Exeter, Devon.

The car crawl will also go to the Rochester Castle, in Stoke Newington, East London. It has been a pub for more than 300 years and been a gig venue for bands including The Police and The Jam.

MyUKTour said the tours will "showcase the very best that Britain has to offer".

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Prison term... Hinduja

## Richest family 4's jail terms over staff

By JOE HADDEN

FOUR members of Britain's richest family have been handed jail time for exploiting their servants. Prakash Hinduja, wife Kamal, their son Ajay and his wife Namrata were accused of seizing workers' passports at their Swiss home and paying them in rupees.

Staff were also barred from leaving the lakeside villa in Geneva and forced to work long hours on low pay and with little or no holiday.

Wages were less than a tenth of the amount required under Swiss law. Staff described a "climate of fear". Prosecutors said the Hinduja family – worth £37billion – spent more on their pet dog.

They were sentenced to between four and four-and-a-half years in jail.

None were present in Swiss court. Lawyers said they would appeal. All were cleared of human trafficking charges.



Not fined... Hajsaaad

## ' Hamas bandana marcher' is let off

By MIKE SULLIVAN

A MAN who was found guilty of wearing a headband in support of Hamas at a pro-Palestine protest has been spared any punishment.

Khaled Hajsaaad, 24, wore the green bandana with the word "Shahada" emblazoned on it to a rally last November.

The word is an Arabic term meaning "faith in God". Hajsaaad previously told police officers it was a "statement of my faith".

But he was found guilty in April of wearing the item "in such a way as to arouse reasonable suspicion" he was supporting Hamas – an illegal act in the UK – at the rally in London's Trafalgar Square.

Hajsaaad, from Birmingham, was given a conditional discharge yesterday at Westminster magistrates' court. He was also spared any fines on account of his "extremely limited budget".

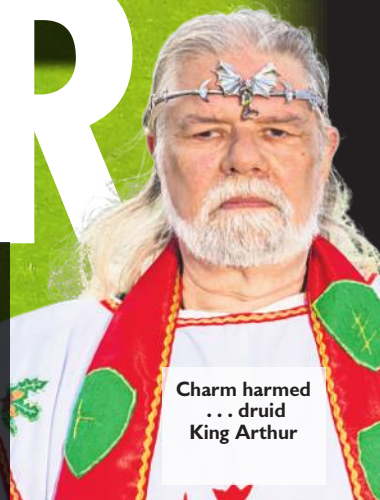


# STONEHENGE STUNT



Monu-ment  
... protest  
throw powder  
and Kane, lo

## Eco idiots ruined druid's 2-0 spell



Charm harmed  
... druid  
King Arthur



Let's rock... Sun front page

EXCLUSIVE by NICK PARKER  
and ROBIN PERRIE in Germany

**ENGLAND'S** dreadful Euros draw was caused by eco idiots vandalising Stonehenge – which ruined the spell cast by The Sun's druid, he insisted last night.

Three Lions fan King Arthur Pendragon used sorcery to summon up the spirits of the ancients to fire up Gareth Southgate's Three Lions.

But Just Stop Oil protesters sprayed at least three of the sacred stones with orange powder on Wednesday, hours before King Arthur directed the circle's mystic power to Germany.

The desecration of the 5,000-year-old monument led directly to the awful 1-1 draw with Denmark, he reckoned – and blew our chances of qualifying as winners of our Euro 2024 group on Thursday.

White-bearded wise man King Arthur – who performed an ancient rite with his followers before kick-off – seethed yesterday:

"These fools meddled with something more powerful than they could ever understand and reversed my spell.

"Their orange powder upset the natural balance of the stones and turned our lions into pussycats.

"The protesters disturbed the peaceful majesty of the sacred place.

"They made it more difficult for our powerful thoughts to reach the England team. The powder not only defaces the stones but affected their mystic powers – it was heresy!"

England took the lead after 18 minutes with a goal from captain Harry Kane and were on their way to grabbing the 2-0 win which King Arthur had predicted.

But stars including Jude Bellingham failed to shine and the Danes equalised minutes later – with England going on to struggle to hold on to the draw in Frankfurt.

King Arthur, 69, added: "The crazy thing is that the protesters were acting against their natural allies as we pagans share concerns about the natural environment.

"We're livid, but we keep the faith and believe Gareth and the team can recover and win the Euros.

"Once the stones have been cleaned I can re-cast the spell for the Slovenia game – this time without the eco-idiots spoiling it."

Wiltshire Police arrested and bailed a man in his 70s and woman in her 20s on suspicion of criminal damage and damaging an ancient monument.

The druid king – an ex-soldier – changed his name from John Timothy Rothwell 37 years ago. He believes he is the reincarnation of the mythical monarch and has led solstice celebrations since the Eighties.

Around 15,000 people greeted the sun with cheers, drumming and chanting as it rose over Stonehenge for the solstice on Thursday.

● **ENGLAND'S** draw against Denmark was watched by more than 11 million people, up from 10.5 million for their first Euro 2024 match against Serbia.

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# WRECKED 3 LIONS' MOJO



Pictures: PAUL EDWARDS



Support . . . Saka and Walker's partners Tolami and Annie at England v Denmark game

## WAGS' 3,200 MILE TREK

EXCLUSIVE by ROBIN PERRIE, NICK PARKER and PAUL SIMS

WAG Megan Davison lifts a cup – which is more than her fella and his England teammates look capable of after the dismal draw with Denmark.

Megan, 28, wife of 30-year-old goalie Jordan Pickford, was pictured cheering on her man at Thursday's game in Frankfurt.

And yesterday she joined the other Wags, including Bukayo Saka's girlfriend Tolami Benson, in a visit to the England team's base at a remote resort in eastern Germany.

Their journey to Blankenhain means the Wags will have travelled around 3,200 miles during the tournament – including flying to and from Germany.

A source said: "The fact that they have to do so much travelling to see the players shows how supportive they all are. The players really appreciate it."

"The Wags and families got to enjoy a relaxed lunch with the players, then spent a few hours with them through the afternoon and early evening."

"It's all aimed at giving them a morale boost and they needed it after the opening two matches."

"They rely heavily on the Wags and their families for support."

"This is a huge deal to them and they feel the pressure and the weight of expectation on their shoulders."

"A bit of time with their partners and kids will ease the tension and give them a huge lift. Everyone was



@kairowalker honestly had the best day. That's all that matters 🙏

Ex-mistress . . . Lauryn, with son Kairo

together and that's important for the team going forward."

The only frosty atmosphere at England's base at the 350-acre Weimar Golf Hotel and Spa is likely to have been between Kyle Walker, 34, and his missus Annie Kilner, 30.

They had a bitter bust-up earlier this year when it was revealed he had fathered a second child with ex-mistress Lauryn Goodman.

Annie has attended both matches so far. Lauryn was also at the Denmark game with Kairo, her first son with Walker. She said on Instagram that Kairo "had the best day".



Up for the cup . . Megan, wife of goalie Pickford

## TEAM'S OM THE BALL

By HENRY TOMLINSON

ENGLAND stars hope for a longer stretch at the Euros — as they do some yoga at their five-star team hotel in Germany.

Arsenal forward Bukayo Saka, 22, was limbering up yesterday with Kyle Walker, Kieran Trippier and Jordan Pickford.

Players tried out the chair pose, tadasana and the warrior pose in a session led by NHS doctor and DJ Rebekah Jade.

The squad tried out a similar routine in Qatar back in 2022.



Man of the mat . . . Arsenal's Saka



Guru for the game . . . NHS doctor leads England players at hotel





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# STAR VISITS DINGY SLOT SHOPS

**SLOTS STOP 1**  
**09:45AM**

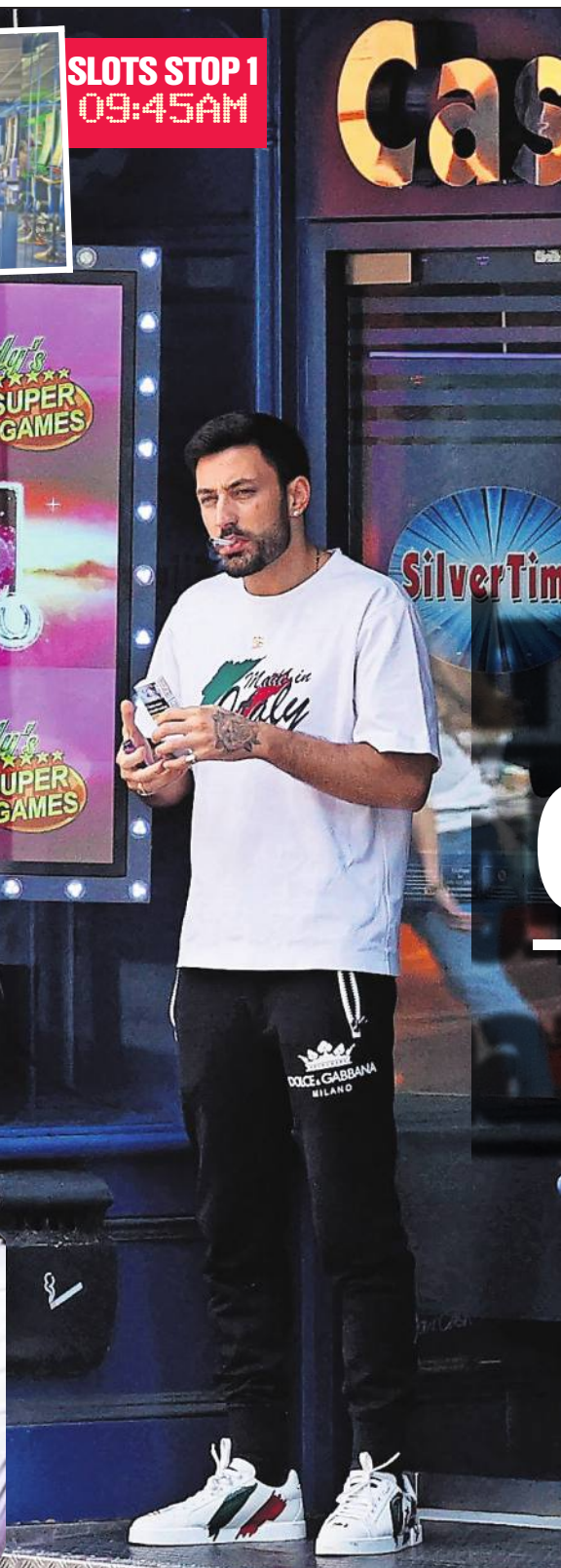
Games of cha-chance  
... Gio in casual wear  
with cig outside  
Silver Time. Inset  
row of slot machines

## Strictly glum chancing

Pictures: CLICK NEWS



Sharp dresser ...  
Strictly's Giovanni



**SLOTS STOP 2**  
**12:00PM**

Tangoing in ... dancer a few doors down in West London high street

## GIO BLOWS £1,000 ON FRUIT MACHINES

**UNDER-FIRE** Strictly star Giovanni Pernice cut a forlorn figure on his morning visit to two dingy fruit machine arcades.

The professional dancer, 33, was seen leaving dimly-lit Silver Time, where he is a regular punter, on Monday.

He arrived at 9.45am and spent nearly an hour inside, pumping cash into his favourite gambling machines, before heading a few doors down to Admiral Casino.

Sources told The Sun that Gio, who is at the centre of a bullying

**EXCLUSIVE by AMIR RAZAVI**  
Showbiz News Correspondent

probe on the BBC dance show, spends hundreds of pounds in Silver Time in West London, and that he popped in three times last week. He is thought to have lost £1,000 during his recent visits.

An insider said: "Giovanni comes in quite often and at all times of the day, not just the morning."

"He'd not been seen for a while but came in three times last week. He was spending up to £300 a time and he always plays on the same four fruit machines, betting £2 a spin. Sometimes he loses, but

he wins too. He never gets angry when he's gambling and he's always perfectly polite. Sometimes he'll just come in to have a coffee and a quick bet, then go."

Gio was snapped wearing casual Dolce & Gabbana jogging bottoms and a white top with the logo "Made in Italy" across it as he emerged from Silver Time.

At one point, he popped outside for a cig break before heading to the other slots shop, Admiral Casino, at 12 noon. He was later seen eating a pastry bought from bakery chain Paul.

Gio vehemently denies the bullying allegations against him and has vowed to clear his name.

Former dance partner, actress Amanda Abbington, 50, said she was diagnosed with PTSD after she was paired with him last year.

Ex-Love Island host Laura Whitmore, 39, is also contributing to the probe.

Two ex-Met cops are helping the BBC investigate the claims.

Gio has been backed by the show's head judge Shirley Ballas, 63. She revealed he was attending a party of hers tomorrow and said: "I have known Giovanni for ten years. He has always been, to me - and I will make that clear - a perfect gentleman."

Shirley added: "My feeling for Giovanni is, let them do this

investigation and the truth will come out. So we don't judge anybody until I know absolutely, 100 per cent."

A rep for Gio was approached for comment about the visits to the amusement centres.

It came as the pro dancer was said to be in advanced talks to join Dancing With The Stars, the Italian version of Strictly.

Show bosses reportedly want him to appear as a judge - but are also open to him signing up as a dancer.

He would start in August after finishing his live dance tour with Strictly judge pal Anton Du Beke.

amir.razavi@the-sun.co.uk



# HOODIE PRINCE FUN WITH



Leading the Royal Ascot carriage procession yesterday... Charles and Camilla

## PETER'S NEW FAVOURITE..

By ANDY ROBINSON

THE King and Queen led the Royal Ascot carriage procession yesterday — but the arrival of nephew Peter Phillips' latest girlfriend put a spring in their step.

Charles had no luck on the track as his runner, Hard to Resist, flopped on the fourth day of the meeting. But he was all smiles, however, when Peter, 46, introduced him to NHS nurse Harriet Sperling.

The couple appeared to take their fledgling romance to another level — chatting to the King and Queen on a balcony for more than ten minutes.

It was their highest profile public outing since The Sun revealed the couple were an item in May after a romantic weekend at the Badminton Horse Trials.

The late Queen's eldest grandson, in top hat and tails, was also seen introducing his new love, in a dusty pink dress and matching hat, to Princess Beatrice at the Berkshire race meeting.



Loved up... Peter and Harriet

Hats amazing... Ascot racegoers in stylish headwear



Hot shot... Kate loves taking pictures

By RYAN PARRY

**PRINCE William excitedly leaps from a sand dune with his three children in an uplifting photo taken by wife Kate to celebrate his birthday yesterday.**

And the heir to the throne again shows why he is the future of the Royal Family — looking super-relaxed in a hoodie and shorts.

Kate took the fun pic during a day at the beach.

And in a heart-warming caption to mark his 42nd, she wrote: "Happy birthday Papa, we all love you so much! C x".

The happy snap was put on the official Instagram page of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

It underlines that, despite her cancer diagnosis, Kate's doting commitment to family is stronger than ever.

The Waleses are all dressed casually for her spectacular shot on dunes in Norfolk where the family has a country home.

Wills and his young children — who are thought to have celebrated his birthday by watching Taylor Swift at Wembley — are seen as the bedrock of a more relaxed, approachable and modern monarchy.

And this photo epitomises why the nation seems to adore them.

Daughter Charlotte, nine, is seen in a striped top and shorts as she lifts one arm in the air and, with the other, holds on to her dad in delight during the spontaneous leap. Louis, six, wearing a light blue T-shirt, looks a little more apprehensive as he looks down while clutching his father's hand.

But on his left is thrilled big brother George, ten, in a blue Nike top and beaming with excitement as he waves at the camera.

It's easy to imagine photographer Kate, also 42, smiling back at them as they share the joyous moment.

The beach backdrop looks similar to the spot where she took a Father's Day photo for her husband, shared on Sunday.

Kate has stepped away from the public eye since her cancer diagnosis. While opening up about her illness and preventative chemotherapy, she has focused on rest and spending quality time with her family.

After months away, the nation was buoyed by her triumphant return to public life with her appearance at the Trooping the Colour parade.

And according to body language expert Judi James, this family photo sends a heart-warming message. She said: "It would be near-impossible to create an image that sends out such emphatic signals of joy, exhilaration, unity and freedom."

Judi believes the photo also shows a body language signal known as pinging laughter.

She explained: "They're laughing at Kate and she's laughing at them — that's the image we have of her, even though we can't see her."

Royal fans were delighted with the photo. One said: "You can feel the love and joy in this family."

And in reference to how cool Wills looked, another described him as the "chillest Prince". The Royal Family also marked his big day by sharing a baby photo of him in dad King Charles's arms, right, taken in 1983.

ryan.parry@thesun.co.uk

The Sun Says — Page 12

Happy Birthday Papa, we all love you so much! C x

— PRINCESS OF WALES, YESTERDAY

Picture: PRINCESS OF WALES





# THE KIDS AS HE TURNS 42



Kate pic's  
just great



By  
**ARTHUR  
EDWARDS**  
Sun Royal Photographer

**CATHERINE** has always loved photography but she is now pulling off shots even professionals would struggle with.

Getting that moment of all four in the air and smiling is so hard, and she's got it just perfect. By the looks of things, the family is going from strength to strength.

Cancer can knock you back, but she had good days and bad days.

When she took that picture she was certainly having a great day.

She clearly is still very in love with William as he turns 42.

When he got engaged, he told me: "I want this marriage to last forever." By the looks of this smashing photo, it will.

KATE'S B'DAY SNAP  
OF RELAXED ROYAL

**Will is so  
dune to earth**



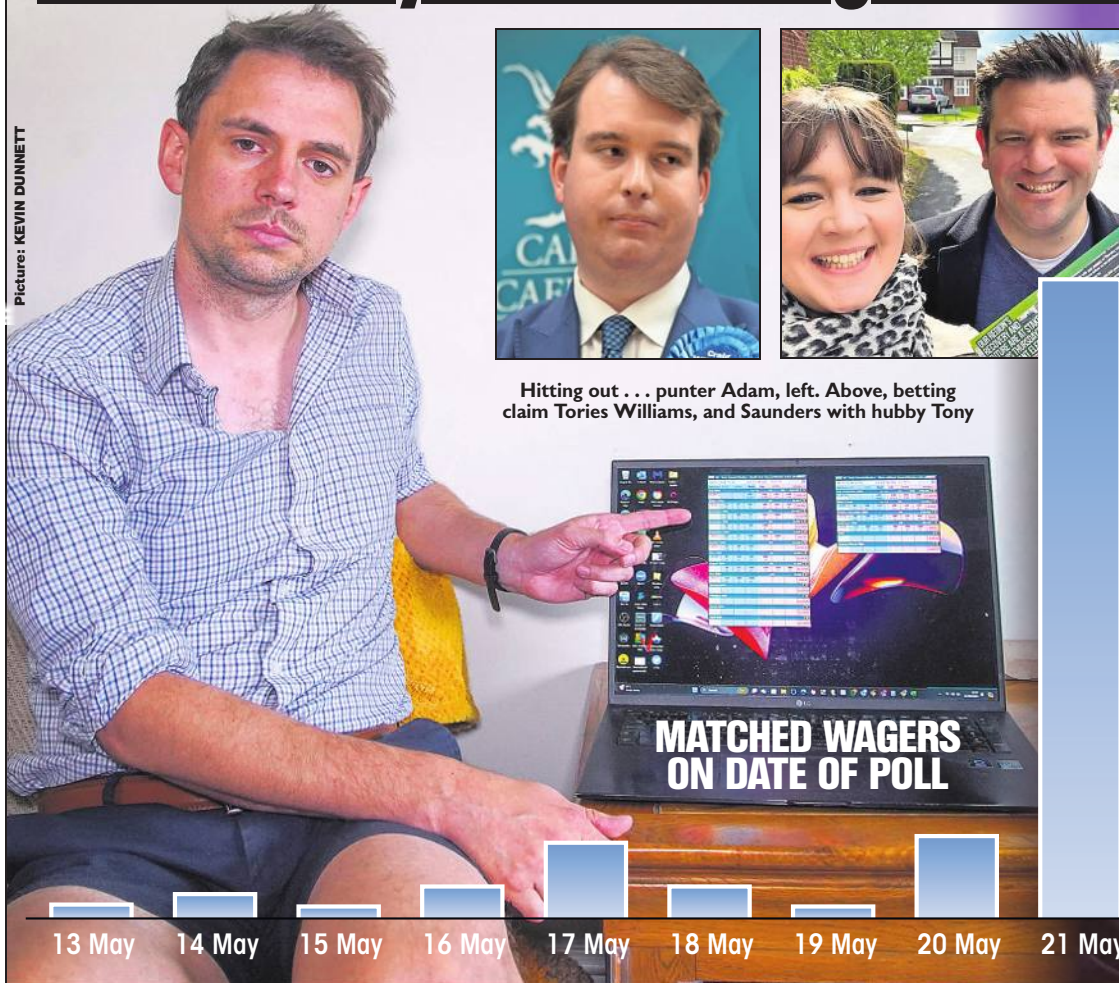
**ELECTION 2024**

**PM QUIZZED OVER**

# TORY HQ BETS LOST ME £2K

## Punter fury at 'insider gamblers'

Picture: KEVIN DUNNETT



**EXCLUSIVE by RYAN SABEY**  
Deputy Political Editor

**A PUNTER is furious at "insider trading" Tories who used secret information to gamble on the election date — as a flurry of bets left him £2,000 out of pocket.**

Adam Pickering lost out on a betting exchange after pitting his cash against others backing an early July 4 polling day.

He had spotted a significant spike in bets placed on the summer date the day before the election was called.

It turns out that — far from being genuine punts, based on a hunch — some of those gambling may have been top Tories with knowledge of Rishi Sunak's secret snap poll plan.

The PM refused to be drawn yesterday on whether more Tories could be dragged into the flutter row — dodging a question on whether a Cabinet minister is involved.

The row has already engulfed the party as several figures all face a Gambling Commission probe.

Adam, 36, from Chelmsford, Essex, said: "I have been betting honestly here and I've been betting against people who are allegedly cheating the system to line their own pocket."

"The day before the election was called, a load of bets were placed for no rhyme nor reason. There had been very little speculation about an election coming."

He is now calling on politicians to bring in stricter controls.

Semi-pro gambler Adam regularly monitors the betting markets, taking a keen interest in politics and cricket.

The married dad of one noticed on the evening of Monday, May 20, and the following day an increase in bets offered on the Betfair Exchange saying the election would be on July 4.

Analysis now shows several thousands of pounds in bets were placed



Questions . . . Mr Sunak

on the day before it was called. Adam follows political figures and commentators on social media and none had mentioned the surprise date.

It led him to bet against the July 4 polling day, staking a total of £2,250.

He added: "I noticed a rise in the number of bets being placed. I thought that this didn't feel right so I 'matched' the bets immediately."

"It now turns out some of these people may have been at the heart of government or had connections to Whitehall and if they had insider information that would be cheating the system — and me."

"I put on more than £2,000 on the basis of winning back £500. It was the equivalent of backing Manchester City when they play Southend. You expect Manchester City to win but winning £500 in that bet was good in my eyes."

Anyone betting using inside information could find themselves in breach of the Gambling Act, carrying a penalty of up to two years' jail.

Four individuals have so far been caught up in the row including Mr Sunak's parliamentary aide Craig Williams — alleged to have placed a £100 bet on the July election — and a cop in the PM's bodyguard division.

Tory candidate Laura Saunders is being investigated by the regulator for an alleged bet on the date. She is married to Tony Lee, the party's director of campaigns who has now taken a leave of absence.

In a statement on Thursday, she said she will be "cooperating with the Gambling Commission" investigation.

Shadow science minister Peter Kyle told The Sun's Never Mind the Ballots show: "The police officer has been suspended instantly. But Rishi Sunak is too weak to remove his people."

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# MINISTER'S INVOLVEMENT



Challenged on Putin support . . . Mr Farage at BBC

**NEVER MIND  
THE BALLOTS  
... HERE'S THE  
GOSS**



**QUOTE  
OF THE DAY**

“The answer is not never, but I cannot remember”

— Sir Keir Starmer on when he last got drunk

**WINNER  
OF THE DAY**

THE lucky Labour campaign staff who have been promised a hefty £1,000 bonus for the extra blood, sweat and tears they have put in.



**LOSER  
OF THE DAY**



INDEPENDENT candidate Faiza Shaheen who says she is set to win 37 per cent of votes in Chingford and Woodford Green — based on her own door-knocking data.

**ELECTION  
WHISPERS**

WILL Tanner, deputy chief of staff to Rishi Sunak and candidate for Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket, was grilled about national service at a sixth form hustings.

He omitted from his answers that he was the brains behind the idea.

Rival Reform candidate Scott Hussey revealed all and Will got booed by pupils. One student told Hussey: “You absolutely rinsed him.”

RISHI Sunak chose an unlikely venue for unveiling the Welsh Tory manifesto — a bathroom warehouse.

The overwhelming smell of fresh paint quickly pervaded the event but attendees embraced it, with more than one quipping: “We are all getting high.”

SIR Ed Davey was hoping to raise a toast to his performance in the Question Time leaders special with a pint at the bar in his plush hotel.

But aides told him at 11:15pm that he had an early start the next day and should run up to bed. The Lib Dem leader told assembled hacks hoping for a chat: “I’m gonna love you and leave you.”

## FARAGE ‘APPEASER’

NIGEL Farage was branded an appeaser for suggesting the West provoked Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine — but a poll shows the Reform boss will storm into Parliament.

Mr Farage cited the expansion of Nato and the European Union eastwards as he declared last night: “We provoked this war.”

But he insisted the blame for the invasion lay with Putin.

Tory ex-Defence Secretary Ben Wallace tore into him over his comments, saying: “Farage constantly lectures everyone about sovereignty but is happy to placate a dictator.”

Despite the row, an exclusive poll for The Sun shows Mr Farage set to win Clacton, Essex, by a landslide.

Mr Farage's comments blaming EU and Nato expansion for the war came in an interview with the BBC's Nick Robinson.

When challenged on previous

By HARRY COLE, Political Editor

comments he made that appeared to suggest he admired Putin, Mr Farage said: “I said I disliked him as a person but admired him as a political operator because he's managed to take control of running Russia.”

He then added: “I’ll tell you what you don’t know. I stood up in the European Parliament in 2014 and I said, and I quote, ‘There will be a war in Ukraine’.”

“It was obvious to me that the ever-eastward expansion of Nato and the European Union was giving this man a reason to his Russian people to say, ‘They’re coming for us again’, and to go to war.”

“We provoked this war. He’s used what we’ve done as an excuse.”

“My judgment has been way ahead of everybody else’s in understanding this.”

But Mr Wallace said: “Farage refuses to see Putin for what he is.

How can Farage express sympathy for a man who deployed nerve agents on the streets of Britain?”

It comes as our exclusive poll reveals Mr Farage has a 27-point lead in the Clacton poll race.

The Reform leader said yesterday the party would win a significant number of seats — starting with his own victory on the Essex coast.

In a painful blow to the Tories, the survey shows three in four of Reform votes will come from disgruntled former Conservative voters.

The survey, conducted this week by JL Partners on behalf of Friderichs Advisory Partners, puts the Brexit firebrand on 48 per cent, on course to unseat the Conservative candidate, former Bread star Giles Watling.

Last night, Daniel Friderichs told The Sun: “What this poll suggests to me is that this momentum might extend beyond this seat and mean other gains for Reform on July 4.”

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‘Farage blind to Putin’ . . . Ben Wallace



# THE Sun SAYS

## Where's justice?

### WHO governs Britain?

Is it our democratically elected leaders making laws in the mother of all Parliaments?

Or is it the judiciary, so empowered by New Labour's Human Rights Act and Equality Act that almost nothing is off limits?

This week the Supreme Court refused permission for an oilfield in Surrey because the local council hadn't taken into account the polluting effects of that oil.

Not in Surrey. Just wherever in the world it was burned.

Their ruling will now make it harder for companies to drill almost anywhere in Britain.

The eco-clowns – who wilfully misunderstand our energy security needs – are cheering away happily.

But is it really for the courts to make policy – and laws – on the hoof like this? We have already seen the European Court of Human Rights declare Switzerland's climate change policies unlawful.

Its ruling suggested actions by democratic governments were by themselves not enough to protect citizens properly.

The implication is that only our learned judges know what is good for us. Democracy does not mean having unelected and unaccountable judges deciding how we should live our lives.

It is for elected leaders to make decisions.

**And if they get it wrong we can at least vote them out.**

## UK needs ideas

**HOW many times have you heard the phrase: "Nothing works in this country?"**

A financial crisis, a pandemic, global mass migration and a war in Europe have wreaked havoc on every aspect of our lives.

Deep-rooted problems exist in work, health and social care, welfare, criminal justice and transport which need radical and fundamental solutions.

Chuckling billions at them and collectively crossing our fingers doesn't work.

As Leo McKinstry argues on pages 24 and 25, the burden of our bloated unreformed public sector is now overbearing.

It is crushing the country while our overpaid civil servants conspire to do less and less.

**So we ask again during this Election campaign: where are the big ideas?**

## Prince Chills

**IN the last couple of years Prince William has had to deal with the kind of stress that would place a heavy burden on most people.**

He's lost his grandmother, got a new job with heavy responsibility and seen his wife diagnosed with cancer – all while caring for a young family.

So how wonderful that at 42, Wills looks so relaxed and happy.

**Perhaps he can pass on a few tips to the England players.**

# PIERS MORGAN



# UNCENSORED

HE'S SAYING  
WHAT WE'RE ALL THINKING



**FOR a moment, I feared the worst.**

Albanian football fans squared up to their Italian rivals on the streets of Dortmund before their two teams were due to play each other in the Euros.

They'd been taunting and hurling jibes at each other for hours as the alcohol flowed and now it threatened to escalate into violence.

**Then an extraordinary thing happened.**

One of the Albanians suddenly produced a packet of uncooked spaghetti, and brandishing it in both hands, he marched fearlessly towards the enemy.

An Italian fan dropped to his knees in front of him and begged him for clemency.

But the merciless Albanian duly snapped the spaghetti into tiny pieces then flung it into the air in a brazen act of desecration towards Italy's most beloved and iconic national foodstuff – to wild cheers from his mates.

And at that point all the fans, on both sides, cheered and fell about laughing, and later they were even seen dancing the traditional Albanian line dance, called the Valle, together.

### Pasta v paella

The hilarious pasta-wrecking moment quickly went viral on social media and sparked an unprecedented food war that has become a joyous antidote to the usual ugly scenes of hooliganism that have blighted most previous European Championships.

When Austria played France, their fans held banners boasting "Schnitzel better than baguette!"

Swiss fans teased Hungarian counterparts with signs screaming "Fondue better than goulash!"

Poles declared "Kielbasa better than Gouda!" when they met the Netherlands.

And the Italians recovered from the spaghetti-snapping to announce "Pasta > Paella" when they played Spain on Thursday night.

So far, I haven't seen any England fans joining in, unless I missed someone waving a "Roast beef better than sarma" flag when we beat Serbia, or "Fish and chips better than stegt flæsk" during our dreary draw with Denmark. But the replacement of thug wars with food wars is delighting the locals.

"Thank God the violence has not been there," Hamburg food stallholder Roland Koch told a

reporter. "Instead, we're seeing a lot of fun and banter between fans like these hilarious food wars. Just don't mess with our currywurst – or else then there will be trouble, I warn you!"

Now, on one level, this may all sound very, very silly. But isn't it a damn sight better than mindless idiots running around trying to kill each other?

So far, aside from a few minor skirmishes, it's been a notably peaceful tournament.

Perhaps we all learned a lesson from the Qatar World Cup, which was astonishingly well behaved, and thoroughly enjoyable as a result?

Or perhaps, as has been reported, the police from multiple countries with hardcore troublemakers deserve credit for collaborating to stop them from travelling to the tournament?

Or perhaps I'm just being naive, and the bad stuff is lurking beneath the surface ready to blow whenever a nation with a hooligan element – of which there are many – gets knocked out?

But for now there's a great atmosphere pervading these Euros and I'm all here for it.

And putting on my United Kingdom hat for a moment, I have to say it's being led by the Scots, who, despite the catastrophically bad performance of their team in their opening game against Germany, have been a fantastically fun and entertaining example of fans from bitter rival club sides coming together as one for the national cause.

When Rangers play Celtic it's one of the most intimidating, vicious and violent places to ever watch a football match. But

the vast 200,000-strong Tartan Army, full of fans from both teams, just seems to be having a great laugh, with no apparent desire to attack either other or rival fans despite consuming quite staggering amounts of booze.

In fact, they've been labelled the "friendliest Army in the world" by German media.

And they've been getting in on the food fight action too, with three-time world's strongest man Tom Stoltman, a highlander known as "The Albatross", menacingly snapping a bar of Toblerone before Scotland's match with Switzerland, as Line Of Duty star Martin Compston cheered him on.

England fans, too, have been getting unusual plaudits for their behaviour.

Yes, there was a punch-up with Serbian fans outside a café, and some of them have understandably irritated their hosts with tediously jingoistic chants of Ten German Bombers, but the authorities have been pleasantly surprised at the lack of any real trouble.

### National dish

Even Denmark fans provocatively singing England, England, it's never coming home to the tune of Yellow Submarine was greeted with laughter, not fists.

And frankly, if we keep playing as badly as we did against the Danes, it never will be. If anything, I think our fans have perhaps been too polite – certainly on the terraces, where our voices were regularly drowned out by the Danes in the Frankfurt Arena.

Can I respectfully suggest the Three Lions fans give us a little more roar against Slovenia in the final group match?

"The vast majority of England fans in Germany for Euro 2024 are behaving extremely well," the UK Football Policing Unit said in a welcome statement.

How nice it would be to look back on the Euros 2024 as the tournament where the only battle was over who had the best national dish.

And given England's is now officially an Indian curry, maybe it's time to unleash "Chicken tikka masala better than Carniolan sausage!" next Tuesday when we play Slovenia.

Not least because I've tried both, and it is!



**EAR WE GO!...**  
England and Scotland fans enjoying the tournament



# EXCLUSIVE

# Er..this is your captain freaking



Shock . . Sun was shown huge crack, circled, in Boeing jet's window

## BOEING JET'S SCREEN CRACKS AT 40,000FT

**A PACKED jumbo jet's windshield cracked at 40,000ft sparking fears of a new flaw at troubled manufacturer Boeing.**

The Sun was shown a shocking snap of the Virgin Atlantic plane window after it returned to the UK.

Alarming the central glass panel appeared to be dented in multiple areas.

The cockpit crew were terrified as the four-layer thick glass smashed three hours into a flight from Heathrow to San Francisco.

Virgin Flight VS41 was between Greenland and Iceland when it was forced to turn back to the UK on May 27.

The jet's altitude meant it was not hit by a bird and has left investigators baffled. Outside

**By STEPHEN MOYES**

temperatures were -50C. The pilots dismissed fears of a decompression of the Boeing Dreamliner 787-9.

The airline apologised to passengers, who were offered accommodation and completed their journeys the next day.

Last month an engine cowl on a Boeing 737-800 fell off during take-off in the US.

The Southwest Airlines flight with 135 passengers and six crew on board returned to Denver after setting off for Houston.

In January a door blew off an Alaska Airlines flight from Portland, Oregon, to California.

Some of the 177 passengers and crew were injured.

Boeing has been trying to repair its reputation since crashes in 2018 and 2019 killed 346 people. The firm was approached for comment.

**By AMIR RAZAVI**

**SINGER** Sabrina Carpenter ticks all the right boxes as she poses for a magazine.

Sabrina, 25, wore a black bodysuit while perched on a white box in a photoshoot for Rolling Stone mag.

She also blew a bubble with gum, *inset below*.

Sabrina has been number one with her hit Espresso — and knows exactly

how catchy it is. She said: "I decided to put that burden on other people."



Picture: THEA TRAFF/ROLLING STONE

## SABRINA BOXED IN



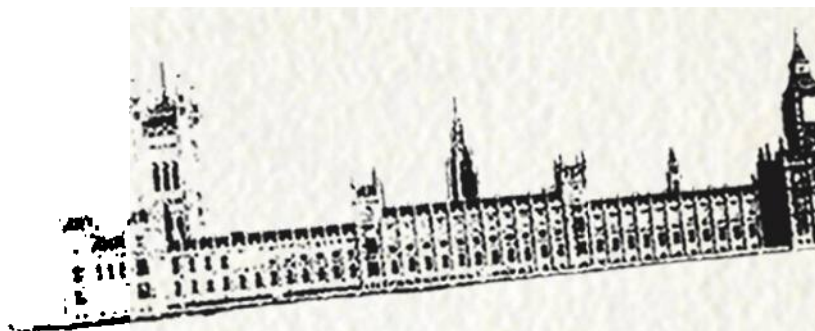
# TAYLS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE



**biZarre**

PAGES 18 & 19



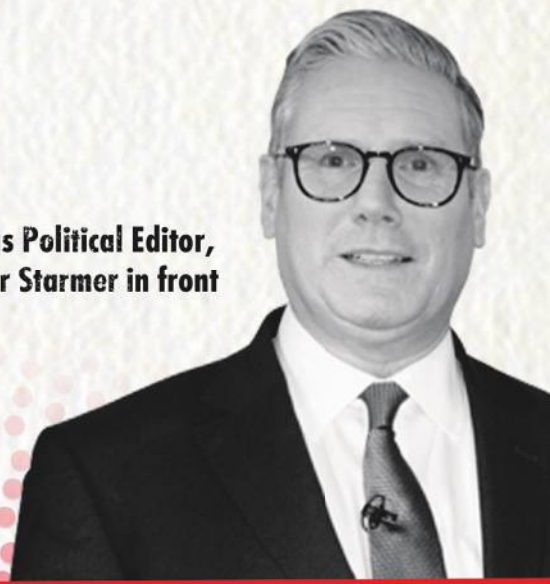


# YOUR CHANCE TO QUIZ THE LEADERS

## **NEVER MIND** **THE BALLOTS** ELECTION SHOWDOWN



Join us for an Election Showdown on Monday, June 24 as Political Editor, Harry Cole, grills Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer in front of a live audience of Sun readers.



**BE THERE, REGISTER TODAY**  
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jeremy.clarkson@the-sun.co.uk

# Jeremy Clarkson



NO-NO... Gary in top

## DON'T GET ALL SHIRTY

IT seems that Gary Lineker has been in trouble for wearing a T-shirt while appearing on television.

At first, I thought this might have something to do with the fact that a man should not be wearing such a garment when he is 63 years old.

But no. It turns out that the T-shirt in question is sold by Next, a brand that Gary advertises.

That's a no-no at the Beeb, and rightly so. But speaking as a 64-year-old man I must confess that sometimes I appear on my farm show wearing a Diddy Squat baseball cap.

This is not because I'm promoting the brand. It's because a cow is stuck, I need to get to her in a hurry, it's raining and I've grabbed whatever headgear was closest to the door.

It was probably the same with Gary. He just needed some threads and that T-shirt was better than appearing topless.

That's how men of our age think, I'm afraid.

"Can you see my genitals?" No. "Well I'm dressed then."

THE authorities in Thailand announced this week that same-sex marriage is to be allowed.

And that puzzles me. I went to Bangkok once and it seemed to be happening on every street corner.

## ON THE BRIGHT TRACK

ON Wednesday evening, the sun was shining and the temperature gauge was where it should be at this time of year, so I grabbed a beer, fired up the Lambo and went off to harrow some of my farm tracks.

It was utter bliss. You don't often hear a farmer say that, and especially not this year, when the weather has been unbelievably bad.

But it really was one of the happiest evenings at work I've ever had.

# I'm very much a Tory Lib Dem Green with a hint of Reform. But I'm NOT Labour

**LIKE almost every normal person in Britain, I'm struggling to work out which way I should vote in the forthcoming election.**

Here in the Cotswolds, many houses are festooned with Lib Dem posters, and I can see why. They've promised to take us back into Europe and, as a Remainer, I can see the appeal of that.

But then we have Reform, and the fact is that when Lee Anderson opens his mouth on TikTok, I often find myself nodding quietly and thinking: "Well, he does have a point."

So what about the Greens? Sure, they have some absolutely mad policies on most things, but they do say, and this appeals to me, that they would like cleaner rivers and better soil.

The Tories? Tricky one this. For the past few years they've been pretty much useless. Cowed by a fear of social media into a state of near paralysis, they've steered us into a world where the trains, the roads, the airports, the NHS and border control just don't work any more. And Mr Rishi leaving the D-Day events in France was incomprehensible.

But their heart's in the right place on taxes and economic stability, and that's important.

So now we arrive at the Labour Party, and I'm sorry, but I cannot find a single redeeming feature. In the entire campaign so far, not a single candidate has said



one word that I agree with. They want open borders, zero growth and everyone living in a bucket of shame because their great great grandad once bought a hairbrush that had possibly been made by slaves.

Their manifesto contains just 87 words

on farming. Which, when translated into English basically say: "We hate you, you meat-eating rural halfwits."

It's even been suggested that inheritance tax will have to be paid on farm land. Which means that in about 20 years' time, there will be no farm land.

And therefore no food, apart from in all the town-centre, nuclear-free, South African peace stores, where you will be able to buy sustainable tofu.

I get, of course, that people are fed up with the Tories, but I'd rather vote for my dog than Sir Starmer's merry bunch of ideological nincompoops.

Half of them don't know what a woman is, and now it transpires Starmer himself can't even define the working class. He thinks it has something to do with people who work. But King Charles works, you idiot.

Working class is a state of mind. It's a community spirit. It has nothing to do with whether you work or not.

What I hate most of all about Labour, though, is that they believe that if you work hard all your life and make some savings to tide you over in your old age, those savings are theirs.

And that they should be given to people who haven't worked at all.

Which is why, come polling day, I'm praying there's a box on the ballot paper which says: "Anyone but Labour."



BEEF... cops tackle calf

## COPS SO HEIFER HANDED

THIS week, a man climbed on to the roof of a house in London and began throwing chimney pots and various other things into the street below.

Naturally, the police donned their riot gear and raced to the scene so they could stand on a nearby street corner and watch him.

This seems to be how the police think these days and explains why, when an idiot has glued himself to the road, they don't cut his hands off at the wrist and throw him into a skip.

However, when a small and completely undangerous calf is on the loose, it's a different story. Because then they arrive at high speed in a two-ton pick-up truck and knock it over.

And then run over it for good measure.



DEFACED... King portrait

## LECCY LOUTS?

EVERY week it seems, a bunch of not very bright people with BLT+ leanings and unpleasant hair wake up and decide that, to stop the world using oil, they should vandalise something.

Last week it was King Charles's portrait and this week they did Stonehenge.

So I'm wondering if maybe it's time for a rival movement that goes around breaking windfarms and EV charging stations in a bid to Just Stop Just Stop Oil.



ATTACK... Stonehenge

## A walkie on the wild side for death-wish dogs

A LABRADOODLE puppy fell off a cliff this week but by clinging on to a narrow ledge 600ft above the beach, it managed to survive until the emergency services could rescue it.

This sort of thing is far from uncommon. Dogs are always falling off cliffs and they always seem to survive.

Only recently, one of my idiot dogs leaped over a dry-stone wall only to discover there was a 40ft drop on the other side. And she ran off like nothing had happened.

Sometimes, though, things don't turn out so well. I was speaking once to someone whose dog chased a seagull off a cliff in the Isle of Man. The poor mutt was found dead on the beach below, but in her mouth were a lot of tail feathers and her face was frozen in an expression which seemed to say: "Got the b\*\*\*\*\*d."



## IN A SORRY STATE

PLENTY of offending has been going on this week.

A London cinema has been forced to withdraw a movie written entirely by artificial intelligence in case it upsets people who write films.

Cat Deeley, right, was forced to apologise on air after people with epilepsy complained about the moment when she said, while dancing, that she was having a seizure.

Then there's my old mucker James May, who sparked fury on Twitter by saying he doesn't like too much bunting.

Still, at least things will be better after Labour win. No, hang on a minute...





# 28C SCORCHER'S HEADING FOR UK

**BRITAIN is braced for a heatwave as the warmest weather of the year so far arrives next week.**

The clouds and rain are expected to roll away as summer finally gets under way. Temperatures are predicted to climb to 27C in the North and 28C in the South by Monday.

And if any spot in the country records temperatures in the 25C to 28C range for three days in a row,

By PAUL SIMS

then it will be officially classified as a heatwave.

Today will start cloudy with patchy rain or drizzle. It will clear to the East with evening temperatures in the low 20s. Sunday will be pleasant for most before the jet stream brings hotter, humid weather. The

Warm... at beach



Met Office's Neil Armstrong said: "By midweek it is possible some areas could reach heatwave thresholds. Whether or not everyone experiences them, the majority of the UK will experience the finest conditions and highest temperatures so far this year."

The Met Office also warned the pollen count will be very high for five days. But thunderstorms are possible from Wednesday.

IN **THE Sun** ON SUNDAY TOMORROW



## RACHEL STEVENS

On divorce & falling for her ice partner



FORMER S Club star Rachel Stevens opens her heart about her marriage split in Fabulous magazine. She says of her break-up with Alex Bourne, the dad to her two daughters: "It was really scary. Everything changed."

But life is back on track for Rachel, loved-up with her Dancing On Ice partner Brendyn Hatfield. Read the fascinating interview tomorrow. And enjoy the best telly gossip and listings with TV Soap, and the Favourite racing pullout, all FREE with The Sun on Sunday.



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Filming change... Jama

## Drama in Love Isle left Maya in a Jam

**EXCLUSIVE**  
by FELICITY CROSS

LOVE Island host Maya Jama was left all dressed up with nowhere to go as drama on the show led to a filming schedule change. Maya, 29, got fully dolled up after jetting to Majorca from Paris Fashion Week to fit in a segment for ITV's dating hit. But bosses cancelled it to focus on goings-on among islanders. Maya had been in France for a shoot with rapper boyfriend Stormzy on Wednesday, then flew to Palma on Thursday. But a source said: "There is so much going on with the islanders that execs decided to just let it all play out. "Throwing Maya in the mix to oversee a dumping felt like we'd be cutting off a load of drama in mid-flow so we ripped up the schedule. The weather was a bit iffy, too. "Maya was in full glam but we decided to give her the night off instead."



At scene... police

## Hammer fiend, 16, tried to kill pupils

By ALEX WEST

A BOARDING school student who attacked two sleeping pupils and a teacher with hammers has been found guilty of their attempted murders. The 16-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, admitted assaulting the boys and a housemaster but claimed he had been sleepwalking. He said he kept hammers by his bed "for protection from the zombie apocalypse" and had no memory of the assault. But the jury heard he armed himself with the hammers and waited for the boys to fall asleep before attacking them on June 9 last year at Blundell's School in Tiverton, Devon. Both boys suffered fractured skulls, broken ribs, injuries to vital organs and internal bleeding. Exeter crown court heard. Sentencing was deferred until October 18 for preparation of reports.

# FALKLANDS GONG SCANDAL

● **Top cop**  
**sacked over**  
**fake medal**

● **Scammer**  
**was exposed**  
**by** **THE Sun**



Fake... Adderley wearing medal and gong, left

# A PACK OF LIES



Revealed... Sun exclusive  
By MIKE SULLIVAN and JEROME STARKEY

**A POLICE chief who wore a Falklands War medal despite taking no part in the conflict has been sacked.**

Nick Adderley, 57, pinned on a bogus gong from the 1982 campaign — despite being 15 when the fighting happened — and lied on his CV about his Royal Navy service. In September, The Sun revealed the chief constable was under investigation by the police watchdog for wearing the South Atlantic Medal. He was suspended on full pay from his £176,550-a-year job soon after our revelations.

And yesterday, an independent disciplinary panel ruled he had committed gross misconduct and banned him from ever working with any police force again.

Mr Adderley had described himself as a naval commander on his CV to become chief constable — yet never saw active service, John Beggs KC, lawyer for Northants police fire and crime commissioner, told the panel.

He was only in the service for two years — and left as a lowly able seaman.

He had also claimed to have been a military negotiator in Haiti in the 1980s — but had never been there.

Mr Adderley was accused of failing to correct false media reports of his naval record, which had been backed by official press releases by Northamptonshire Police.

He was further alleged to have given false information to a senior member of staff at the crime commissioner's office about his naval service.

Mr Beggs said: "Whichever way you analyse it, lies are flowing from his mouth. It's a pack of lies."

The panel, chaired by Callum Cowx, who served in the Royal Navy, Army and police, found all the allegations proven.

Mr Cowx said the panel found his "audacity to be quite staggering" and said he had lied for many years with "arrogant temerity".

Mr Adderley, an officer for 32 years, yesterday apologised to veterans. To

former police colleagues, he said: "I have failed you, something that I deeply regret."

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Sacked... disgraced Chief Constable



**We test Buddy Oliver's recipes**

See Pages 36 & 37







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### SINGLES

1. Please Please Please – **SABRINA CARPENTER**
2. Espresso – **SABRINA CARPENTER**
3. Houdini – **EMINEM**
4. Birds Of A Feather – **BILLIE EILISH**
5. A Bar Song (Tipsy) – **SHABOOZEY**
6. Stargazing – **MYLES SMITH**
7. Band4Band – **CENTRAL CEE & LIL BABY**
8. I Had Some Help – **POST MALONE ft MORGAN WALLEN**
9. Austin – **DASHA**
10. Fortnight – **TAYLOR SWIFT ft POST MALONE**

### the charts

HIGH-flying **SABRINA CARPENTER** picks up her trophy, *above*, having become the youngest female artist to hold the No1 and No2 spots in the same week, as Please Please Please takes the top spot.

Taylor Swift has a personal best, with seven weeks at No1 in the album charts for The Tortured Poets Department.

### ALBUMS

1. The Tortured Poets Department – **TAYLOR SWIFT**
2. Hit Me Hard And Soft – **BILLIE EILISH**
3. Brat – **CHARLIXCX**
4. The Highlights – **THE WEEKND**
5. Midnight Butterflies – **SEA GIRLS**
6. Curtain Call: The Hits – **EMINEM**
7. Lover – **TAYLOR SWIFT**
8. 1989 (Taylor's Version) – **TAYLOR SWIFT**
9. The Rise And Fall Of A Midwest Princess – **CHAPPELL ROAN**
10. One Hand Clapping – **PAUL McCARTNEY & WINGS**

## CARA'S PAIN OFF BOOZE

**CARA DELEVINGNE** has revealed that after giving up the booze, she actually ended up feeling worse following big nights out.

Launching her new alcohol-free wine Della Vite, the supermodel told me: "Nearly two years ago when I got sober, I thought, 'I probably won't go out as much, my life's probably going to change'."

"And to be honest I went out way more than before, which is great, apart from when you go out, you drink a hell of a lot of sugar. I'd wake up in the morning with a terrible headache,

and I was like, 'What?'. " Cara, *below*, decided to create the brand to fend off the headaches, adding: "I'm sober to be healthy and to be happy. Instead, I feel left with pain. We wanted to make something that was beautiful tasting, great quality but low sugar and low calories."

"I just like having something in my hand. For me, it was never about the alcohol."

"Whether it's a wedding or someone has broken up with someone, you reunite over a glass of something."

"It's not about being sober, it's about being yourself. When I want to go out to have fun, I want to celebrate. I'll raise a glass to that."



CAUGHT  
LIVE  
Foo Fighters  
@ London  
Stadium



## Foos are fighting fit

"THOSE of you who have seen the **FOO FIGHTERS** before know we don't \*\*\*\* around," bellowed **DAVE GROHL** at the first of two nights at the London Stadium.

And \*\*\*\* about they did not, with All My Life, No Son Of Mine and The Pretender sounding absolutely electric.

The band last toured the UK properly six years ago, and more than half of the packed stadium had never seen them live – much to Dave's glee.

Laughing, he told them:

"You newbies, I've got your \*\*\*\*ing a\*\*\*\*s. You're my target demographic."

"My favourite thing is for you all to sing along, even if you don't know the \*\*\*\*ing words... this song is Times Like These."

And sing along they did, like me, with the first half of the show packed with stadium-perfect anthems before Dave and co struck a tender chord with a ten-minute version of The Teacher.

Like most Foo concerts now, it was a family affair, with Dave's daughter Vio-

let coming on and singing for Show Me How.

Meanwhile, late drummer **TAYLOR HAWKINS'** son Shane showed the apple doesn't fall far from the tree as he grabbed the sticks and knocked I'll Stick Around out of the park.

Finishing on Everlong, with a crescendo of fireworks, the Foos proved that 30 years on they are still one of the best live rock bands you'd ever wish to see.

★★★★★  
**ELLIE HENMAN**

## LIAM POOL BID

**LIAM GALLAGHER** is not going to be throwing pool parties at his house anytime soon.

The ex-OASIS singer, *right*, has got his neighbours' backs up after putting in plans to install a pool, plus high-security wall and gates, at his home in Highgate, North London.

The Highgate Society has moaned that Liam's plans would

"create a most unfortunate precedent", and grumbled it may mean they could be "seriously affected by any ground water diversion".

If I was Liam, and the project ever goes ahead, I'd make sure there would be a bar, enormous diving board and maybe a wave machine.

That would really get the Nimbys going.



## A PLUCKY NUMBER FOR GAGA

IT'S normally blokes who spend their time peacocking – but **LADY GAGA** has given it a go too by wearing this feathered headpiece during a gig in Las Vegas.

She kicked off the latest leg of her Lady Gaga Enigma: Jazz & Piano residency in Sin City this week and had a laugh with fans about her return to pop.

There have been recent rumours Gaga will drop new music imminently, as a follow-up to her 2020 album Chromatica.

But she shut down speculation about her making an announcement on stage, when fans started shouting "LG7" as a code for a seventh Lady Gaga album.

Laughing, she replied: "Not tonight."

THE United Kingdom will not take part in the Junior Eurovision Song Contest this year.

We rejoined the competition in 2022 and came fifth, then finished fourth last year with a trio called STAND UNIQUE.

However, the BBC has now confirmed we have pulled out of the event, which will next take place in Madrid in November.

## LAST MEET OF ABBA?

**BJORN ULVAEUS** reckons **ABBA** might have reunited for the final time after coming together to get an honour from Sweden's royal family.

He was joined by **AGNETHA FALTSKOG**, **BENNY ANDERSSON** and **FRIDA LYNGBAD** at last month's event in Stockholm.

On the podcast Rosebud With Gyles Brandreth, Bjorn said: "We stood there quietly, accepting it out of the King's hand and him saying a few words. It was a very quiet and very elegant ceremony."

"All four of us of course were there. In public we see each other very rarely, and Frida said to me, 'This might be the last occasion'. Very sad, and I thought about that afterwards, but we're not getting any younger."



## GOTTA BEAD THERE



## A CUTOUT ABOVE



ELLIE HENMAN'S

# care

With  
**HOWELL  
DAVIES  
& JACK  
HARDWICK**

## ALEXA CROWS FOR IT!

IT turns out **ALEXA CHUNG** is a **SHERYL CROW** super-fan. The model hung out with **ELLE MACPHERSON** and **PIXIE GELDOF** at Broadwick Soho's new monthly London event, Soho Sessions, to see the US singer. Sheryl put on an amazing

show and played some of her best hits in a soulful acoustic set, right, with Alexa singing along throughout. I'll be at the venue next month for sure, but need to warm up my voice to get to Alexa's standards. That woman can sing.



# Taylor wows Wembley...but she stays in £15,000-a-week cosy retreat in the Cotswolds

**LONDON** succumbed to **TAYLOR SWIFT** fever after the superstar's arrival in the capital.

Mayor **SADIQ KHAN** finally did something decent by transforming the Tube into a Swiftie paradise, co-ordinating the Tube lines in tribute to her Eras tour. Each line, below, is named after a different album, and every station takes on the name of a song. I got the train home last night from I Can Do It With A Broken Heart (which is usually called London Bridge station).

But rather than kicking back in the city following her gigs in Cardiff and Liverpool during the

past week, I can reveal that Taylor has been holed up in a £15,000-a-week Cotswolds holiday home.

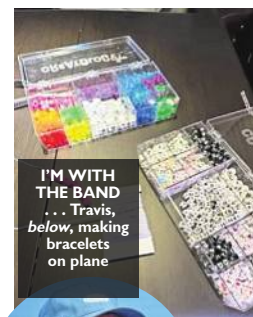
Insiders tell me the Shake It Off singer has had access to an exclusive farmhouse estate in the countryside, a stone's throw from celebrities including **POSH** and **BECKS**, **SIMON COWELL** and **AMANDA HOLDEN**.

The pad comes with its own swimming pool and a tennis court. A source said: "Off stage, Taylor is very low key and likes her home comforts."

"She has rented a lovely place in the Cotswolds for some downtime."

**"TRAVIS KELCE**, her boyfriend, was in London for the first gig last night and their pad near Chipping Norton is the perfect place for them to kick back and relax. Taylor has a place in the capital too but with her family on tour with her, it's nice for them to have some space."

"She has been blown away by the reception from her British fans and is loving her time on tour here. To be back in the UK and to spend some time here has



been a real treat." One of Travis' pals posted a picture of them making friendship bracelets on the flight over.

His brother, fellow NFL footballer **JASON**, has joined him on the trip.

Friends of mine spotted Jason in Soho yesterday afternoon and said he was going in and out of London pubs to try out local beers.

Taylor's parents Scott and Andrea touched down on Taylor's private jet earlier in the week - the one Just Stop Oil missed.

Elsewhere, Bizarre's Jack Hardwick, who was at the gig last night, headed to the Black Dog in Vauxhall, a South London pub that inspired Taylor's song of the same name. He said it was crammed to the rafters with Swifties.

The landlord has cashed in and had themed glasses and a picture of Taylor mocked up as Jesus behind the bar. I think they'll need more than holy water to cure the hangovers, though.

I'm off to the second of eight Wembley Stadium dates tonight and have already packed my ear-plugs to drown out some of the screaming.

Just like Taylor, who spent almost £500 on chicken doner kebabs from the Kentish Delight takeaway in North West London to fuel her team's performance, I'll be stopping off for a lamb shish before heading down.

Wish me luck. I think my ears will need it.



# KARMA TO FARMA





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## DEAL OF DAY



FOR an extra sleeping space, the orange Andy sofa bed from Argos is down from £360 to £180.  
**SAVE: £180**

## CHEAP TREAT



TO mark the store chain's 125th birthday, Morrisons is selling Cadbury's Freddo bars for 10p until Monday night.  
**SAVE: 15p**



### What's new?

GET 25 per cent off Tu clothing until Thursday, including this orange floral print midaxi tea dress, down from £28 to £21.

### SOLAR lighting is good for the planet and your pocket.

You can charge it up during the day and it automatically turns on at night. Plus sun-powered lamps are cheap to buy and won't add to your fuel bill.

Let solar energy light up your life for less.

**BRIGHT IDEA:** Solar-powered garden lights look lovely and are low-cost.

To light a path or the side of a flower bed, inexpensive stake lights are your glow-to.

Look out for deals, such as a set of four bauble lights from Dunelm, now half-price at £10. You can also loop solar lights through trees. For a summer

By MEL HUNTER

party, try the string of ten lights in pretty pastel colours from Matalan, down from £11 to £8.80.

**IN AND OUT:** You can use the power of the sun to light up lamps to use indoors. Some lights have sensors to absorb the sun's rays when put outside.

Dunelm has a solar lantern for £9, and the Tesco solar rattan table lamp is down from £20 to £15 with a Clubcard.

**MAGIC IN A BOTTLE:** For a stunning outdoor display at garden get-togethers, fill empty bottles with solar bottle lights.

This works best if you group a set of bottles together. You can get a pack of six solar bottle lights from The Range for £8.99.

It's a fantastic way to give a new life to an eye-catching gin or wine bottle

that is just too pretty to be thrown away. **GUIDING LIGHTS:** Solar kit really comes into its own when you go camping or to a festival.

Decorate your tent with fairy lights so you can find your way back to it in the dark.

You can get a string of 100 outdoor lights for £9 at Wickes, which charge in the sunlight and then illuminate for six hours. You can also use the power of the sun to keep phones charged while off grid.

One of the most affordable is a Mixx solar powerbank, down from £17 to £12 at Robert Dyas.

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

## LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE THE SUSTAINABLE WAY



# Solar so good

## TOP SWAP



£85

STEP out on a blue stripe indoor/outdoor rug from La Redoute, above, £85, or put your foot down on the one from Asda, below, £10.  
**SAVE: £75**



£10

### Little helper

HAVE your cake and eat it at Farmhouse Inns today. Say the codeword "Farmhouse Birthday" to get a free slice, while supplies last. The giveaway is for the chain's 20th birthday.



## SHOP & SAVE



USE a Tesco Clubcard to get a pack of ten All Shook Up pre-mixed cocktail cans for £10 instead of the usual £14.50.  
**SAVE: £4.50**

### HOT RIGHT NOW

TUCK into a pack of two steaks, a side dish and a sauce for £12 with the "steak night deal" now at M&S.



THE Sun

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# I'VE CAUGHT COD-ZILLA

**PROUD** angler Daniel Pipe shows off his world record catch — a cod big enough to turn into 273 portions for supper.

At 160cm (5ft 2in), it is the longest reeled in. The previous best was 127cm. And it tipped the scales at 102lb 7oz, just 1lb short of the heaviest cod on record.

Daniel, 39, from Pontypool, Torfaen, took 20 minutes to haul the monster aboard a boat off the Norwegian village of Sandland Brygge while on a fishing holiday

By TOM SEAWARD

with two pals. The heavy plant machinery driver, a dad of two, said: "I knew instantly that it was a different class of fish but didn't know just how big it was until it reached the surface."

"We couldn't believe our eyes. There was near silence on the boat for a minute but then it was mayhem trying to lift it. We struggled to pull it over the side."

**273**

portions of cod if the massive catch was served up for dinner

**7 stone**  
monster weighed in at 102lbs 7oz, just 1lb short of record

**5ft 2ins**  
cod was 160cm, beating previous world record of 127cms



Novichok... Sergei

**Skripals 'will give evidence'**

By ALEX WEST

A FORMER spy and his daughter poisoned by nerve agent Novichok are lined up to give evidence in person at an inquiry. Sergei and Yulia Skripal should be put on the witness list, a preliminary hearing was told.

The Russians, who survived the Salisbury attack, should appear as their police statements have not been released, said Michael Mansfield QC.

He added: "We are in less than a Twilight Zone. It's rather dark."

Mr Mansfield represents the family of Dawn Sturgess, 44, who died from Novichok poisoning in the July 2018 incident.

The Skripals fear for their safety if they appear, their lawyers say.

## AGRAZING ESCAPE

A boy on a school trip fell 60ft off a cliff as he had his photo taken but escaped with grazes and cuts in Studland, Dorset.

## TENERIFE TEEN MYSTERY

# MISSING BRIT JAY 'BADLANDS' HUNT



Hunt... rescuers scour barren park

By DAN HAMMOND in Tenerife

**MISSING** Jay Slater is thought to be lost in an area of Tenerife locals call "the badlands", it emerged last night.

The five-day search for the 19-year-old, left, has now homed in on a 2,000ft-deep ravine in a remote, desert-like park.

Helicopters have been seen soaring above, while firefighters, volunteers and police scour the perilous cactus-strewn terrain below.

Jonathan Stones, who moved to Tenerife more than two

## 2,000ft ravine searched

decades ago aged 13, said the Teno Nature Reserve is one of the island's most inhospitable spots.

He told The Sun: "Where Jay was last located is where he stands least chance of survival."

"The desolate landscapes around the island's holiday hot spots are referred to as 'malpais' by locals — a word that translates into English as 'bad land'."

The former journalist, 50, warned comfortable temperatures in the morning turned into roasting highs by 11am.

He added: "With no shade in sight, no water to hand and a deep ravine, the sun becomes an even more fierce adversary."

"And the shadowy respite offered by the hilltops is short-lived. The sun moves around the

mountain sides quickly." Last night, it emerged Lancashire Police had offered to support the search for Jay, but officials in Tenerife turned them down.

The force said: "They are satisfied they have the resources open and they will contact us should that position change."

Jay's last-known location was on a mountain road on the north west side of the island.

The apprentice bricklayer, from Oswaldtwistle, Lancs, had gone to a property in the village of Masca with two pals he met at a party.

The owner of the Airbnb revealed Jay asked about a local bus before attempting the almost 11-hour trek back to his hotel.

dan.hammond@thesun.co.uk



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THERE is still time to join in with our latest Sun Superdays offer to get two London Eye tickets and save up to £78.

You'll get a bird's eye view of London's green spaces – including eight royal parks. The most popular is Hyde Park, famous for its Speaker's Corner and the Serpentine Lake where visitors can enjoy boating.

This year, for Sun Superdays, we have added thousands of weekend and school holiday dates exclusively for Sun readers.

To do this, we have introduced a cost for tickets on more popular dates but these tickets are at the lowest price available in the UK – and that's GUARANTEED. And we still

have tickets available at NO COST, saving you up to £78.

To book your two tickets, follow these simple steps:

- 1 Either download the Sun Savers app or visit [sunsavers.co.uk](https://sunsavers.co.uk).
- 2 Go to the Offers section and click "Start Collecting" on the Sun Superdays – London Eye page.
- 3 Collect FIVE Sun Savers codes. We will print one code daily in the paper until June 27. Today's Sun Savers code is on Page 20. Enter or scan your FIVE Sun Savers codes on the app or website as you collect them.

4 Booking is now open. Click "Redeem booking code" and hit "Book" to be directed to the Sun Superdays London Eye website to book your tickets.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** 16+ UK only (exc. IoM & CIJ). Multiple code collect, June 15–27, 2024. 2 tickets per household, all bookings must be made in pairs. Non-transferable, non-refundable, strictly subject to availability, and daily allocation limits apply (39,948 total tickets available, including 4,420 no cost tickets). Remaining tickets available from £13.50 – for a child – to £20 per ticket). Online access required. Saving against on-the-day walk-up price, varies per date and applies to main season ending on November 3. Dates and periods subject to change without notice. Saving correct at time of print. Full T&Cs including ticket prices and allocation breakdown, see [sunsavers.co.uk](https://sunsavers.co.uk).





Legend... Baggio

## Baggio in hospital after gun raid hell

By GARY STONEHOUSE

ITALIAN football legend Roberto Baggio was rushed to hospital after being hit on the head with a gun during a raid on his home.

Five thugs broke in while he and his family watched Italy lose 1-0 to Spain in the Euros on Thursday.

Baggio, 57, endured a 40 minute "nightmare" at his villa in Altavilla Vicentina, near the northern city of Vicenza.

He and his family were locked in a closet while watches and jewellery was stolen.

The former Juventus ace finally freed himself and called police. He needed stitches.

Thanking well-wishers, he said yesterday: "Now all that remains is to overcome the fear."

Baggio, nicknamed the Divine Ponytail because of his distinctive hairstyle, spent all his career in Italy, including stints at AC Milan and Inter Milan.



Recovered... loot

## Thieves' tools haul valued at over £1m

By ANDY ROBINSON

POLICE have valued a haul of stolen tools at more than £1million.

Kent officers have finally finished cataloguing the 3,500 items they recovered in April.

The Rural Task Force had found drills, saws, and nail guns made by brands including DeWalt, Makita, Milwaukee, Bosch, Hitachi and Stihl.

A stolen quad bike and six caravans were also found at the address in Swatenden, near Tunbridge Wells.

Officers are now hoping to reunite the stolen goods with their owners.

Theft victims are encouraged to get in touch until July 21.

They should provide identifying features, serial numbers or proof of purchase.

Seven people have been arrested and bailed on suspicion of theft offences.

# KATE OFF BISMARCK

By HOWELL DAVIES

**SUPERMODEL** Kate Moss legs it into summer in a shorts suit while at a fashion do with beau Nikolai von Bismarck.

Their Paris Fashion Week date, below, came amid rumours over whether they are still an item.

Also there were Brooklyn Beckham, actor Robert Pattinson and actress Demi Moore, with daughter Scout.



Fashion stars... Brooklyn, Scout, Demi and Robert

## POTTER OF CASH

# JK GIVES £18M TO CHARITY

### TOP CHARITY DONORS

		NET WORTH
1	Elton John	£27m = 5.7%
2	Lewis Hamilton	£11m = 3.2%
3	JK Rowling	£18m = 1.9%
4	Alan Sugar	£7m = 0.7%
5	Richard Branson	£80m = 0.4%

Kind spell... JK Rowling is third in list

## Most generous female star

**JK ROWLING** has been named Britain's most generous female celebrity.

By JACK HARDWICK

The Harry Potter author, 58, has given away £18million – almost two per cent of her total net worth of £945million – in the past 12 months.

But Rowling, known for campaigning for women's rights in the trans debate, is still some way behind Britain's biggest charity giver.

Sir Elton John – who finished his final world tour last year – donated £27million, or 5.7 per cent of net worth. That works out at £3,000 an hour.

The 77-year-old singer, said to be worth £470million, is a vocal supporter of HIV/Aids charities.

He is closely followed by F1 driver Sir Lewis Hamilton, 39, who donated £11million, or 3.2 per cent

of his £350million net worth. Sir Lewis gave the £11million to a range of charities including his own, called Mission 44.

Launched in 2021, it aims to boost diversity in motorsport and education.

The list, compiled by raffle site Raffolux, puts businessman and The Apprentice star Lord Alan Sugar, 77, in fourth place having donated £7million, or 0.7 per cent of his net worth.

Fifth is Virgin tycoon Sir Richard Branson, 73. He handed out £80million, or 0.4 per cent of net worth.

That is the same proportion as 76-year-old Andrew Lloyd Webber, made a baron in 1997, who gave £3.5million to charity.

Tech billionaire James Dyson, 77, is said to have donated £46million – 0.2 per cent of net worth.

jack.hardwick@thesun.co.uk







Victim ... Elle

## First pic of tragic Elle killed by a dog

By JOE HADDEN

THIS is the first picture of seven-month-old Elle Doherty who died after being mauled by her family's dog at home.

Elle suffered serious injuries to her head after being bitten by a Belgian malinois on Sunday.

She died a short time later in hospital.

The dog, not classified as a dangerous breed, was removed from the family home, in Coventry, and humanely destroyed.

Police said following an investigation into the circumstances of the death, detectives were satisfied no criminal offences had taken place.

A spokesman for West Midlands Police said: "We have updated Elle's family, and a file is now being prepared for the Coroner.

"Our thoughts remain with the family at this tragic time, and they have now asked to be left to grieve in private."



Up ... thermostat

## Heating bills rise in cold & wet June

By JADA BAS

MILLIONS of households will be paying big energy bills after June's miserable summer forced Brits to crank up the heating.

The cold weather has seen one in three families put the radiators back on after rain and lows of 13C last week, research shows.

Across the country, 51 per cent of people wore extra jumpers indoors.

Household money-saving tool Nons.co also found half of homes in Newcastle and Edinburgh put the heating on.

Experts said there has been a 22 per cent increase in heating demand from last June.

Greg Marsh, at Nons.co, said: "Record numbers of households now owe money to their energy supplier, with people in debt owing more than £1,000 on average."

But people will soon be able to turn off the heating, as the Met Office has predicted highs of 28C (82F) next week.

# ELECTION 2024

# THE BIG ISSUES

**AT the heart of this election lies a fundamental contradiction about the British state.**

On the one hand, Government spending and therefore the burden of taxation have never been higher. On the other hand, despite these record budgets, our public services have never seemed so badly run or less able to fulfil their essential functions.

So voters feel they are constantly forking out more but receiving less in return. Nothing in the civic realm seems to work properly any more, from the rail network to the ambulance service.

Crimes are neglected by the police, sewage is pumped into our rivers, potholes go unrepaired in our roads, social care is mired in permanent crisis and pupil absences are soaring in our secondary schools.

We live in a land where employers complain bitterly about skill shortages despite half of all our young people going to university; where the NHS waiting list rose in April to a record 7.57million, even though spending on the health service got a substantial increase of £3.3billion in 2023/24 and again in 2024/25; and where we have record numbers of qualified lawyers yet the backlog of cases at the crown courts reached 65,000 last June, up from 41,000 in March 2020.

It is no wonder that public faith in justice is collapsing when, last year, the average time to complete a crown court case hit 382 days.

The paradox of breakdown amid record cash sums has given a surreal quality to the election debate about the public sector.

While the country is crying out for action, the two main parties are paralysed from saying anything constructive or radical because they are so fearful of any policy that might come with a price tag.

### 'No meaningful debate'

So they just jeer at the opposition while proposing nothing themselves except some minor structural tinkering to give the illusion of progress.

Indeed, Labour have taken this practice to an absurd level. Across the airwaves, their representatives continually denounce "Tory cuts", but sink into incoherent timidity when asked about their own spending.

That was the stance taken last week by Shadow Health Secretary Wes Streeting in a BBC interview with Laura Kuenssberg, after she pointed out that, for all his attacks on the Government over the NHS, he was offering no extra money.

In fact, she said, both the Tory and Labour manifestos were promising less cash for the health service than the Tory-led coalition had provided at the height of the austerity programme just over a decade ago.

Predictably, Streeting just fell back on meaningless verbiage.

The debate about public services is not just surreal, it is also sterile, because it is trapped in a false narrative that the only way to improve any state organisation is to pour more taxpayers' money into it.

But that is manifestly untrue. The reality is that much of the public sector is badly run and wasteful, gripped by low productivity, outdated working practices and bloated bureaucracies.

In 2009, ex-trade minister Digby Jones said the civil service could do its job with "half as many staff. It could be more productive, more efficient. It could deliver a lot more value for money for the taxpayer".

For all the whines about lack of resources, the civil service payroll has actually grown by 100,000 in the past eight years.

The absence of commercial competition fuels complacency and sclerosis because the public institutions receive their subsidies regardless of performance.

As Kate Bingham — the brilliant head of the Covid UK Vaccines Taskforce, which had private and public sector involvement recently put it: "The machinery of government is dominated by process, rather than outcome, causing delay and inertia."

There is an obsessive fear of personal error and criticism, a culture



**65,000**  
cases waiting  
to be heard at  
crown courts



**'Govt is dominated  
by process rather  
than outcome,  
causing delay and  
inertia. Groupthink  
and risk-aversion  
stifle initiative'**



By  
**LEO MCKINSTRY**

of groupthink and risk aversion that stifles initiative and encourages foot-dragging."

The culture of groupthink is also shown in the obsession of our public services with woke ideology, as reflected in the employment of around 10,000 state employees in the promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion, with a total estimated bill of £557million a year.

Some of our public bosses appear to be keener on social engineering

and indoctrination than on running effective services, a trend exemplified by the RAF's discrimination in 2020 against the recruitment of white men in the quest to embrace diversity.

The public sector is in desperate need of serious reform, but you will not hear that from the politicians, who cling to the failing status quo because they don't want to offend this workforce, given that state employees tend to be more unionised, more aware of their rights and more prone

**7,570,000**

cases on NHS  
waiting lists



**3.9m**  
days lost  
to strikes

**96%**  
of them in the  
public sector

**£459m**

cost of absenteeism  
in the civil service

to air their grievances than staff from the private sector.

Just 12 per cent of private workers are union members, compared to 49 per cent of state workers.

While Labour are constrained by their ties to the union paymasters, the current Tories have nothing like Margaret Thatcher's courage in dealing with militancy.

So the public sector unions can inflict mayhem without consequences. Incredibly, of the 3.9million days lost to strikes in the year to May 2023, 96 per cent were in the public sector.

A proper election discussion would see proposals to end this endless cycle of disruption, such as banning emergency workers from industrial action or ending the unions' privileged immunity from claims for



# THEY'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT

PART TWO OF A  
4-PART SERIES

**216,000**  
burglaries unsolved  
...that's 592 EVERY DAY

An important  
question

**UNHEALTHY**  
... despite extra  
funding, hospitals  
are still under  
massive pressure

# WHY DOES NOTHING WORK?

**THE  
WOMANIFESTO**  
**FabDAILY** PAGES  
38 & 39

damages. But there is only silence, just as there is no meaningful debate about soft management, molly-coddled staff and the culture of victimhood in the public sector. These are all traits that mean levels of sick leave in the public sector are twice those of the private sector.

In the civil service alone, absenteeism in 2023 cost the taxpayer £459million.

In the absence of robustness, this pattern is likely to worsen, especially given the fashionable fixation with mental health, which has created a climate of learned anxiety and vulnerability within the machinery of government.

Last year, the number of mental health sick days taken by civil servants

increased by 38 per cent. A proper debate would challenge many of the most corrosive features of the public sector, like the neurosis about identity politics and the composition of workforces. Is it really desirable to set a target that women should make up 50 per cent of police forces, given

that crime is not an equal opportunities activity but is largely perpetrated by men?

Where is the honesty to demand that so much of useless officialdom be swept away, like the sprawling hierarchies that are attached to the police commissioners' offices?

At Hampshire, for instance, the Commissioner apparently could not manage in 2022 without a £92,000-a-year chief executive, a deputy chief executive, a head of performance, a head of commissioning, a modern slavery partnership co-ordinator and a head of communications, plus a communications manager, three senior communications officers, three business support officers, two cyber co-

ordinators and a youth engagement officer.

But all the action plans, diversity training initiatives, consultation meetings and awareness-raising programmes do nothing to solve crimes, which is what the public really want.

Last year, a phenomenal 216,000 burglaries went unsolved, the equivalent of, on average, 592 a day.

Where is the bold action? Instead of continuing to cower before the hardline Fire Brigades Union (FBU), why isn't any politician proposing the merger of fire and ambulance services to reduce the strain on the latter?

The incidence of fires is plummeting, down 23 per cent in the past year alone, yet we pointlessly maintain these two

separate operations out of misguided tradition and the FBU's determination to uphold routines that allow many of their members to hold second jobs.

One recent fire inspectorate report stated that "in some stations we visited, almost 25 per cent of the day was taken up with refreshment breaks and stand-down periods".

That sort of nonsense should have no place in modern Britain.

The public sector needs a good shake-up. But sadly there is no sign of such change emerging from this election.

Clock-watching, virtue-signalling and empire-building will remain prime activities of the unreformed public sector.

The Sun Says - Page 12

OPINIONS ... Kate Bingham and Wes Streeting

TOMORROW: DEFENCE OF THE REALM



# HACKERS LEAK PATIENTS' DATA

CYBER criminals have published patient data believed to be stolen from a blood testing company, NHS England said yesterday.

Russian hackers Qilin shared almost 400GB of data including names, birthdates, NHS numbers and descriptions of blood tests — on their darknet site and Telegram channel on Thursday night.

The data is believed to have been stolen from NHS provider Synnovis during a ransomware attack on June 3.

Synnovis is a partnership between Guy's and St Thomas' hospital Trust along with King's College Hospital Trust in London, and diagnostics company Synlab.

By **SAM BLANCHARD**

Hundreds of operations and appointments are still being cancelled because of the attack.

NHS England said: "We understand people may be concerned and are working to determine the content of the files as quickly as possible."

"This includes whether it is data extracted from the Synnovis system and, if so, if it relates to NHS patients."

Last night, NHS England said it could take weeks to complete investigations into the cyber attack. A helpline has been set up for patients affected by the breach.



Hit... St Thomas'

## Burgers battering

A FAMILY restaurant is to change its name after a global burger chain threatened legal action.

Smash & Wings was accused of infringing Smashburger's trademark.

Owner Haroon Khan, 41, says it will cost £10,000 to rebrand and update his shop in Bushey, Herts.

He said: "They didn't invent smash burgers but we can't do much. Our life savings are on the line."

### HOME TRUTH

An agent's listing for a two-bed flat in Portsmouth read: "My wife says I tend to overestimate... but it's frankly enormous."

# FORTY YEARS

2024



**JUDGE REINHOLD, 67**

Beverly Hills Cop trio at new film's premiere

## WE'RE NOT BEVERLY

By **AMIR RAZAVI**

ACTOR Eddie Murphy reunites with his original Beverly Hills Cop co-stars for the premiere of the film's new sequel — 40 years after the first movie.

The 63-year-old appears with Judge Reinhold, 67, and John Ashton, 76, in Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F, which will stream on Netflix on July 3.

They were at a Los Angeles premiere of the film near the real Beverly Hills Police Department, where much of the film's action is set.

The 1984 original was followed by sequels in 1987 and 1994. Eddie, who plays cop Axel Foley, said: "I'm happy the movie worked out right and that it's super-audience friendly. It's always great when you do a good movie."



Reunited... John, Eddie and Judge in scene from new film, out on Netflix next month

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## FESTIVAL DEATH

A MUSIC lover in her 40s has died on the first day of the Isle of Wight Festival.

Police said the woman's sudden death on a campsite was "not being treated as suspicious".

A festival spokeswoman said: "We are deeply saddened by her passing on Thursday morning."

The four-day event, held in Seaclose Park, Newport, is being headlined by The Prodigy, Pet Shop Boys, Green Day and The Pretenders.

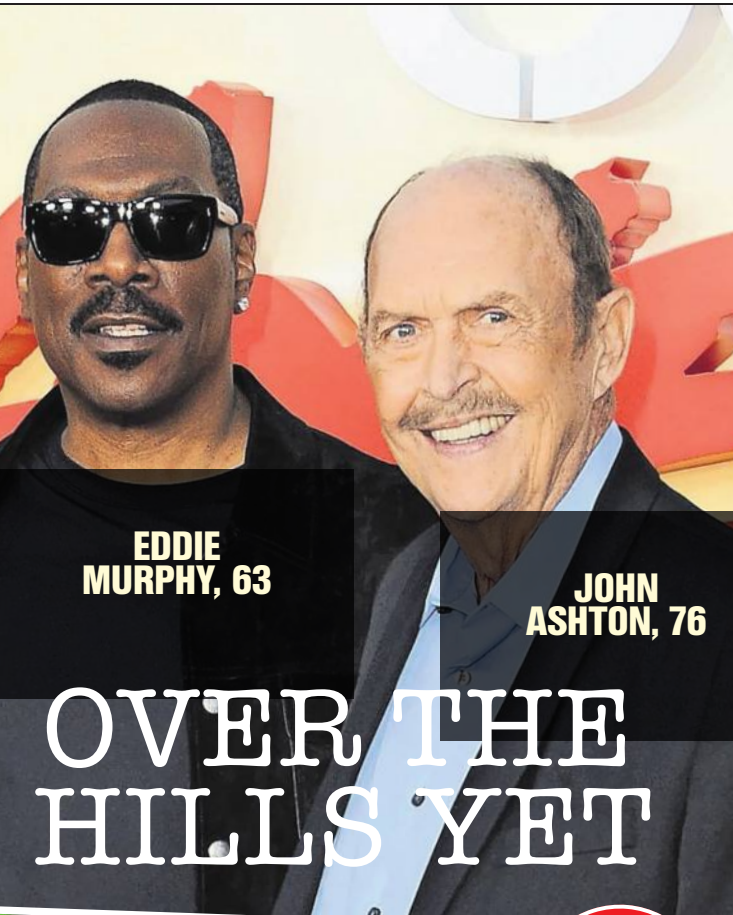
**Sun**

WEST End singer Alfie Boe, 50, has admitted he needs an afternoon nap around 3pm — and puts on old episodes of Dad's Army to help him nod off.

**SPOT**



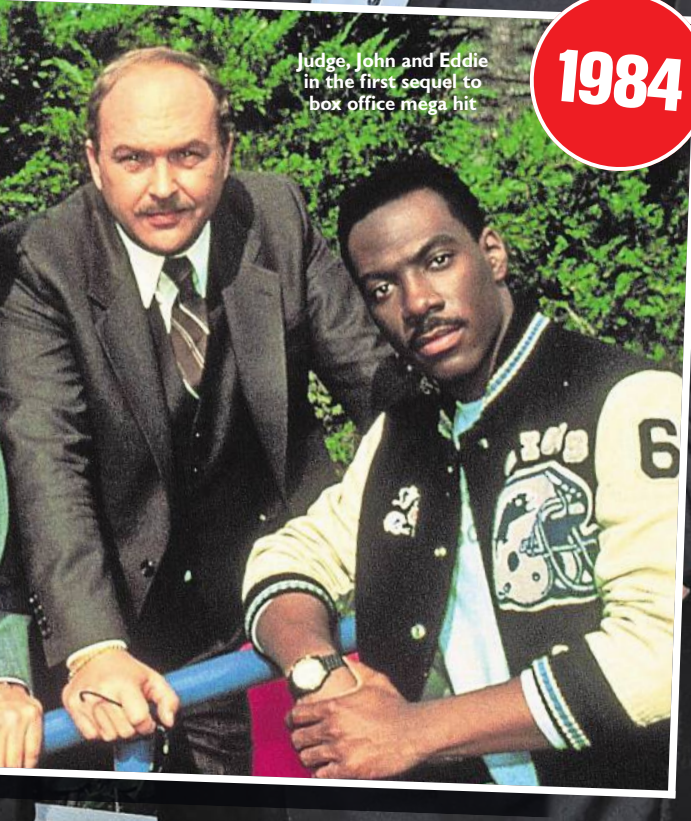
# AFTER BIG HIT



**EDDIE MURPHY, 63**

**JOHN ASHTON, 76**

## OVER THE HILLS YET



Judge, John and Eddie in the first sequel to box office mega hit

**1984**

## TV SET & MATCH

ADULTS will spend 25 hours glued to the TV this summer – as the sporting takeover begins. Thirty seven per cent plan to spend half their indoor free time watching events over June and August. Some 76 per cent will tune into the Euros, 69 per cent hope to view the Paris Olympics, and 56 per cent can't wait to watch Wimbledon this year. But a poll of 2,000 people for Babybel found that only 20 per cent will be playing sport themselves.

**Sun**

A LOTTERY player who won £437million – the largest online jackpot given away in the US – says she is to retire from working as a labourer in Illinois.

**SPOT**

# ALFIE KNIFE KILLER AGED 14 GETS LIFE

**A BOY guilty of the knife murder of a teen was yesterday detained for life.**

Bardia Shojaeifard must serve a minimum 13 years for killing Alfie Lewis.

Alfie, 15, was stabbed in the chest and leg with a 5in knife last November "in full view" of pupils leaving a primary school.

Shojaeifard, then 14, was found guilty at a previous hearing. He told the court he had been

By PAUL SIMS

scared of Alfie following two incidents – one on Halloween when Alfie allegedly told him: "Give me the bag or something, worse than last time will happen."

After that, Shojaeifard said he carried a kitchen knife for protection, in Horsforth, West Yorkshire.

But judge Mr Justice Alfie . . . & Shojaeifard

Cotter said he intended to cause Alfie "really serious harm" in revenge for Halloween.

The judge said Shojaeifard had an obsession with knives, "without which Alfie would be here today".

Alfie's mum Heather told Leeds crown court she was devastated by the loss of her "big-hearted boy". Brother Antony said Alfie was his "loving, caring little mate who never deserved what happened".



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# JET INTRUDER'S AIRPORT CHAOS

**AN airport intruder ran to a jet and danced at the top of its steps — sparking a major security investigation.**

The man spent three hours airside before being cornered by armed police yesterday.

A source said: "It's unacceptable that an intruder can breeze past security officers. He could have had a weapon or explosives. A

**EXCLUSIVE by STEPHEN MOYES**

major investigation has been launched by airport bosses."

The breach at London City Airport came with travel hubs on alert for Just Stop Oil protesters. Police were first notified at 6.45am as the intruder loitered near a security post.

When the gate was lifted for a catering

**Arrest... man is held**

van, the man jogged past officials. He reached an ITA Airways jet due to leave for Milan at 7.40am.

Wearing just shorts, he performed a wild dance by the door. Footage shows police bundling him to the floor in front of startled passengers.

He was stopped by up to ten officers and arrested at 9.45am for breach of security and public nuisance.

The incident caused three hours of delays.



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## SIMPLE REMEDIES

A BAD back is one of our most common health complaints, with 60 to 80 per cent of us suffering regularly.

Yet the secret to reducing symptoms could be as simple as going for a regular stroll.

Walking five times a week for half an hour nearly halves the occurrence of spinal pain, medical journal The Lancet said this week.

And it is not the only daily home hack worth trying. LAURA STOTT brings you the best ways to get your back feeling brilliant.



# Up and pay attention... to back pain

### SUPINE SLEEP

THE way you sleep can impact how your body feels when you wake.

To keep your spine comfy, kip on your back. Snoozing face up, known as the supine position, allows optimal disc alignment, which should help to minimise morning aches.

If you suffer with lower spine pain, placing a pillow under your hips or lower stomach can reduce strains.



### FEET FIRST

YOUR footwear could be affecting your spinal alignment, causing a knock-on effect of aches in your backside.

Experiment with different shoe styles to see what offers the most assistance. Comfy, low-heeled kicks with ample cushioning and good arch support are best for vertebrae. Orthopaedic insoles can also provide back benefits.



### TURN UP THE HEAT

A COMPRESS, hot water bottle, bath, shower or microwavable heat patch is a proven technique to help reduce inflammation.

It eases pain fast by boosting blood flow to the muscles. Moist heat is recommended by physiotherapists for eliminating aches, so a power shower could help with spasms or stiffness. Apply for about ten minutes.



### ROCK A RUCKSACK

WHILE that one-strap bag or shoulder tote might look great with your outfit, lugging all your essentials around on one side of your body can easily trigger backbone aches.

Balance out the load by using a rucksack-style carrier with two wide straps and place the heaviest items at the bottom of your bag. This should eliminate hotspot spinal soreness.



### CHERRY COCKTAIL

CHERRIES could help reduce twinges.

Studies have shown the fruit, rich in antioxidants and anti-inflammatory agents, can help relieve muscle pain and inflammation either caused by arthritis or exercise-induced body fatigues.

Try a glass or cherry juice or chowing on some dried cherries daily, both available from health stores.



### WALK OF LIFE

THIS week's research from Australia shows that heading out just three to five times a week could be the answer to reducing aches.

Just three strolls a week for 30 minutes each time could strengthen and support your frame, boost circulation and increase spinal flexibility. This halves the chances of a recurrence of lower back pain.



### D.I.Y. MASSAGE

A PROFESSIONAL treatment from a qualified physiotherapist or sports masseuse is a great option for spinal pain but it can be costly.

Instead, rolling sore spots over a firm tennis ball, spiked massage ball or foam roller can help to loosen soft tissues, release tension and boost blood flow to help your back. Adjust the pressure to suit.



### SIT UP

SITTING for long periods or with poor posture could be to blame for back aches.

Imbalances in the load on your spine can lead to stiffness, weaknesses and strain. Avoid hunching, which puts pressure between your shoulder blades, and distribute weight evenly on your tail bone to help you sit up tall. Remember to stretch regularly as well.







Love machine . . . bot

## It's robot phwoars with A.I. sex dolls

By ALEX WEST

ROBOT sex dolls that can fall in love with their owners are set to be launched in months, a tech company says.

They will have sensors on what would be erogenous zones in humans, allowing them to recognise when users are trying to stimulate them.

The sexbots will also be able to move on their own and communicate using AI chat software, so they can form an emotional bond.

Starper Technology produces them in male and female forms at a factory in Shenzhen, China.

Boss Evan Lee said: "We are developing a next-generation sex doll that can interact vocally and physically with users, with prototypes expected by August this year."

Starper says it will have "clamping" and "sucking" capabilities.

Mr Lee says there is a huge demand worldwide for intelligent sexbots.



Steamy . . cup of coffee

## Nearly 7 in 10 love the taste of coffee

By JADA BAS

THE top reasons to have a cup of coffee include trying to concentrate and being sociable.

A study found 77 per cent of Brits call themselves coffee drinkers – with most having three cups a day on average.

By far the biggest reason to grab a beany brew is taste, cited by 68 per cent of people.

Taking a break (43 per cent) and being able to feel happy (29) are the second and third most common explanations.

Meanwhile, 20 per cent admitted they had their first drink of coffee so they could feel grown-up.

And 35 per cent say that having a cup is now a habit they cannot break.

Dr Eleanor Bryant, from Bradford University which quizzed 2,000 people, explained: "Essentially, coffee influences the receptors in the brain by making them more open to happiness messengers."

# SHOCKING PHOTO OF DAMAGE



Devastation . . . destroyed terrace and blackened rooms in property

# 1 faulty e-scooter destroys 7 houses

## FIRE CHIEFS' WARNING

### FIRE chiefs have blamed a faulty e-scooter for a devastating blaze that tore through seven houses.

Dozens of people were forced to flee their homes on Wednesday night as the fire devastated a terrace.

The inferno started in a three-storey property before rapidly spreading along the roof of a row of neighbouring homes in Gosport, Hampshire.

Yesterday the fire service issued a stark warning on the safe charging and storing of electric scooters and bikes.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service said: "The initial reports and the preliminary fire investigation has found that an e-scooter is the most likely cause of the fire."

"The main danger occurs when e-bikes and e-scooters are left on charge and unattended in homes or in communal areas such as hallways and stairwells."

"Charging lithium batteries indoors increases the fire risk, especially if charged overnight when occupants are sleeping."

Fire station manager Lacey Plumbley said of the dangers: "E-bikes and e-scooters with lithium-ion batteries can catch fire quickly and with little warning."

"Thankfully everyone managed to evacuate the properties safely, but a number of families have seen their homes severely damaged as a result of this fire."

"We are urging people to keep an eye on their e-scooter and e-bikes when they are charging them and to think carefully about where they store them."

"Ideally they should be stored outside, but if they have to be stored inside avoid blocking emergency escape routes."

Nine adults and four children had to be evacuated from one of the houses after the fire broke out at around 9.40pm.

At the height of the incident, ten fire engines, an aerial ladder platform and specialist vehicles were on the scene with more than

60 firefighters working to control the blaze through the night.

Fiona Taylor, who lives nearby, said: "It was just an inferno and it happened so quickly and it just spread."

"The air was full of smoke, it was acrid, it hit the back of your throat, it was awful."

"It was harrowing and horrific to watch because you knew your neighbours were watching their houses go up one by one."

The fire spread through seven of the eight houses in the terrace. Most of the roofs have since collapsed and the structure is so dangerous that many families cannot return to their homes.

Terri Morgan and Jayson Carter, who fled the blaze in their pyjamas, returned to the property to find a scene of utter devastation."

Terri told the BBC: "I heard this huge bang and went to the front door and I saw the flames."

"We got out through the back way and watched it unfold before we were moved away for our safety. Everything is just gone. I don't know what I was expecting."

ryan.parry1@thesun.co.uk

Risk of fire . . . e-scooter





# RUSSIAN FORCES HIT OWN COPTER

**VLADIMIR Putin suffered a new blow yesterday as his air defence forces shot down one of their own military helicopters.**

The Russian Ka-29 was mistakenly targeted and downed by a missile, according to pro-war channels.

All four crew members were killed, reports claim. The £19million helicopter was hunting for

By **JEROME STARKEY**

Ukrainian sea drones near Black Sea resort Anapa when it was hit by a Russian Pantsir medium-range missile.

Their defence ministry blamed the blast on an error with the "friend or foe" identification system.

Helicopters are seen as the most effective way to attack Ukraine's sea drones —

which have devastated Putin's naval assets during the war.

A total of 113 were unleashed at Russia on Thursday night.

Ukraine said their drones had struck four oil refineries — three in the Krasnodar region and one in Astrakhan — with explosions reported at two other Russian oil depots.

Radar centres were also hit, along with a storage site for Iranian-supplied drones.

*jerome.starkey  
@thesun.co.uk*

Tyrant... Putin



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# AS CRUISE'S GIRL



By **GRANT ROLLINGS**

**HOLDING hands with a young man and laughing with friends, Suri Cruise looks like any other 18-year-old student enjoying her prom.**

But there was no proud dad to send her off to the big night in New York because her movie star father Tom was thousands of miles away in London.

It isn't a matter of geography or work schedules, though, that seem to be keeping the Top Gun actor from witnessing his daughter's milestones.

Insiders say the 61-year-old hasn't seen Suri for 11 years, missed her 18th birthday in April and won't be there when she leaves home for university.

If that is true, the Hollywood actor will also likely not get to see her rumoured romance with budding musician Toby Cohen, the lad on her arm at LaGuardia High School's leavers' ball on Tuesday.

The source of Tom's reported heartbreaking estrangement is said to be his devotion to the Church of Scientology.

Karen De La Carriere — who used to be married to former president Heber Jentzsch — claims the organisation "wants only to break up families".

As soon as Suri's actress mum Katie Holmes, 45, decided to divorce Tom in 2012, and to keep the couple's only child from the secretive organisation's iron grip, their relationship was at risk.

By splitting from Tom, Scientology's most high-profile follower, Katie was considered someone who needed keeping away from other followers.

### 'Enemy of church'

Investigative journalist Tony Ortega, who has been delving into the workings of the church for 29 years, claims: "When Katie split up with Tom, any normal Scientologist would be told she is considered a suppressive person — an enemy of the church."

"And Suri, being connected to Katie, would be considered a PTS — potential trouble source."

"Tom would be expected to disconnect from them and not have anything to do with them."

It was all very different when Suri was born in 2006, and a photo of Tom beaming down at his baby daughter soon featured on the front cover of Vanity Fair magazine.

The little one led an indulged life, with an entire wing of her parents' Los Angeles mansion to herself and a personal chef on call at all times.

For her second birthday, Suri's sole wish was to "wear a butterfly dress".

Her parents took her simple request much further, splashing out £60,000 on a party for just 24 guests which included a four-tier cake and the release of hundreds of live butterflies.

By the age of three, Suri was named Hollywood's Hottest Tot by the respected Forbes magazine and had a designer wardrobe worth £2million.

Tom would often be spotted cuddling and kissing his precious daughter in public.

There was nothing, it seemed, that the Mission: Impossible star would not do for her.

Katie, though, who was brought up as a Christian, is said to have developed increasing doubts about the ways of the Scientology church that she was expected to follow.

She saw Tom's adopted children Connor, 29, and Isabella, 31, from his previous marriage to film star Nicole Kidman, 57, growing up in what some former members say is a highly controlling religious group.

Followers of the church are expected to tell senior figures everything they have done wrong in life — even when they are children.

Investigative journalist





# CELEBRATES PROM, NO SIGN OF HER DAD

CHURCH HQ...  
Scientology base in  
Los Angeles



SWEET MOMENT...  
teen with her prom  
date Toby Cohen



HAVING A  
BALL... a  
beaming Suri  
at her high  
school prom

## Is Tom's devotion to Scientology keeping him apart from Suri?

Tony alleges: "There is an interrogation tailored just for children in Scientology. The very first question is, 'What have you been told not to tell us? What have your parents told you not to tell us?'"

"I think Katie saw that and didn't want it for her child."

It has been claimed children are put through this "confessional auditing" from the age of six.

They are hooked up to equipment similar to a lie detector and their answers recorded on video. The church has insisted that any form of "auditing" does not begin until a member is aged 12.

It is, though, perhaps no coincidence that Katie filed for divorce from Tom after six years as man and wife – around the time Suri turned six. Katie, best known for appearing in the American teen TV series Dawson's Creek, left the family home in California and

moved to the opposite coast in New York. The big Apple is a long way from Scientology's two main bases – the Celebrity Centre in Los Angeles and Clearwater, in Florida.

Katie, who never remarried and has no other children, was granted sole custody of Suri.

The couple's divorce, the terms of which were not made public, included a reported generous £315,000 a year for their daughter's upbringing.

And Katie has tried to make sure those huge sums did not turn the youngster into a spoiled brat.

She said in 2010: "She has to make her bed, she has to take her dishes to the sink, she has to put her clothes in the laundry." Suri has kept herself out of the spotlight, shunning social media and preferring to cycle or walk around New York rather than attend glitzy events. Katie said last year: "What has

been really important for me with my daughter, because she was so visible at a young age, is I really like to protect her."

After Suri graduates LaGuardia High, on which the 1980 movie Fame was based, she is expected to go to Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to study design.

### 'No scruples or loyalty'

Tom has denied cutting his daughter out of his life. In 2013 he sued the publisher of two magazines he felt had implied that he had "abandoned" her. Tom also insisted Scientology was not to blame for the break-up of his marriage to Katie.

Yet while he has not been seen in public with Suri for years, that is not the case with his other two children, who he was pictured with in December. Isabella, who spends

much of her time in London, and Connor, who is believed to reside at a Scientology complex in Florida, were all smiles at a hockey game between Tampa Bay Lightning and Florida Panthers.

They are both said to remain involved with the church, just like their father. Their mum Nicole is no longer a part of Scientology, but she is still in contact with them.

There were suggestions that, these days, Tom is less dedicated to the organisation founded by the late L. Ron Hubbard in 1954. But journalist Tony reports that the actor attended an annual gala at the church's former headquarters in East Grinstead, Surrey, last November.

Fellow Scientologists posted selfies with the film star at the historic Saint Hill Manor.

Tony says: "Tom flew to it in his helicopter. He was pressing his flesh with Scientologists and they allowed

them to post those selfies, which they don't normally do. I don't know what he has to do to prove he is the most devoted Scientologist in the world."

In recent months Tom has been filming Mission: Impossible 8 in the UK, which could have stopped him being there for Suri's birthday and prom. But Karen De La Carriere agrees with Tony that the church would have wanted to keep the star from his daughter.

Karen, a key member for 35 years until she left in 2010, insists: "By strict doctrines, Tom cannot engage or connect with his own daughter. 'Scientology has no scruples or ethics on loyalty to family and wants only to break up families. 'Scientology first, family priorities low down in the order.'"

The Sun contacted the Church of Scientology, which declined to comment.



# KILIMANJARO BID FOR DOWN'S SYNDROME SISTER GRACIE



EXCLUSIVE by  
**ELLIE HENMAN**  
Bizarre Editor

**RAPPER Aitch has vowed to conquer Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for the Down's Syndrome Association – inspired by his little sister.**

The Brit Award winner said gorgeous Gracie, 14, who has the chromosome condition, encouraged him to tackle the massive challenge.

She became a star in her own right after appearing in the Manchester rapper's video for single Round 2 and being the muse for track My G, his Ed Sheeran collab which saw a portion of the budget donated to the DSA.

And in an exclusive chat ahead of climbing Africa's tallest peak in January, Aitch, 24, tells me: "My mates walk past me and go straight to Gracie. She is like the queen in our area."

The star, pictured right performing at the Summertime Ball, said Gracie was at the gig to watch him – and revellers kept asking for her photo.

Aitch, who has nine Top Ten singles and collabs with Stormzy and AJ Tracey under his belt, raised more than £54,000 for the DSA with a 15,000ft skydive in March. And it was Gracie who told him his next challenge had to be "something madder".

Aitch certainly didn't disappoint, signing up for a seven-day trek to the top of the 19,340ft mountain in Tan-

zanias, East Africa. He says with a laugh: "That little woman's never satisfied, so we had to go bigger and better."

Aitch, who has been a DSA ambassador for two years, is bidding to raise £70,000 from the climb with dad Mike and members of his management team.

I tell him I hope his famous pals, including minted Ed, will be donating. "Maybe I can hit the target just with him," he jokes.

Aitch has a run of summer gigs lined up but adds: "In a few weeks we will start our training."

"I'm not scared of heights but this challenge is mental as well as physical."

Aitch says he wants to raise awareness of Down's syndrome and end the stigma attached to it.

"The simplest way of explaining it is that Gracie is just the same as everyone else," he tells me. "She's smart and very funny."

People should know that those with Down's syndrome can live a normal life. They should have the same opportunities other people have. My job is to make people realise."

Much like Imogen, the niece of my second mum Karen, I have found people with Down's syndrome are the most loving, fun and kind people you could meet.

Aitch – who released new single Baddies this month – agrees, tell-

ing me: "Sometimes I just want to get into Gracie's head, because Gracie is happy all the time."

At Christmas she asked Aitch for a Rolex watch in a video which has had 6.7million views.

Did she get it? "Not a chance," says the rapper with a laugh.

Gracie, maybe this is the next challenge for your big brother...

●To support Aitch's fundraiser, visit [downssyndrome.enthuse.com/cf/bigshellsbigsteppaz](https://downssyndrome.enthuse.com/cf/bigshellsbigsteppaz).

## Rapper puts the Aitch in charity



TAKING THE PLUNGE... rapper's skydive



IMPOSING... view of the African peak

Here's to a legendary team  
Britain's elite  
Who give everything  
To make our nation proud  
Every day they break records  
For baking cakes  
Boiling kettles  
And overheating in silly costumes  
All in support of Team GB  
and ParalympicsGB  
And that's why during this summer  
of sport we're proudly...

## Powering home fans







Toffees fan . . . Jacob, 5

## Everton lad goes to school as Dyche

By RICHARD MORIARTY

TEACHERS told kids they could dress as their favourite sports star – but were shocked when a boy of five turned up as Everton boss Sean Dyche. Jacob Walton copied the gruff, shaven-headed manager by donning a Toffees tracksuit and a ginger goatee, and hiding his hair under a cap.

Meanwhile his pals at St Bede's infant school in Widnes, Cheshire, all went as glamorous Premier League players.

Mum Tiah, 25, said: "Jacob loves Everton – both my family and his dad's are Everton supporters, so it was only natural."

"But I was shocked when Jacob said he wanted to go as Sean Dyche for the school's sports week."

"I knew it would be Everton related but I wasn't expecting him to choose the manager. It didn't faze him at all, and his friends loved it."



Brydon . . . as TV Bryn

## Riddle of Bryn trip 'better left a secret'

By AMIR RAZAVI

GAVIN & Stacey star Rob Brydon thinks it would be wrong to tie up one of the show's longest-running mysteries.

The Welsh actor, 59, said he hoped the programme finale would not reveal what happened on the infamous fishing trip.

A recurring joke on the show has Rob's character Bryn repeatedly bring up the unexplained incident.

The fishing trip involved Bryn's gay nephew Jason, played by Robert Wilford.

Viewers know only that the men were close before the trip and the mention of it makes both uneasy.

Rob told Radio 2: "It would be a mistake, because then people will stop asking, won't they?"

He also said he was looking forward to the BBC sitcom's last episode, airing on Christmas Day.

Asked about his hopes, for the ending, Rob said: "Just more of the same, really. I always love it."



The wicker fan . . . revellers, dressed as shrubbery, right



Sun thing old . . . couple in pagan wedding ceremony

# DRUID AWAKENING



By NICK PARKER

DRUIDS enjoy a dawning glory, greeting the first rays of the summer solstice at Stonehenge yesterday.

Dressed in robes, with flowers in their hair, they were among 15,000 people to see the sun glint over the horizon at 4.52am on the longest day at the 5,000-year-old Wiltshire monument.

Becky Eade, of English Heritage, said: "This morning was a joyous and peaceful occasion with the most beautiful sunrise. It is fantastic."

Happy hippies . . . robes and flowers in hair at monument

## EX-ACE BANNED FOR YEAR

# BUTT SAYS SORRY TO CRASH VICTIM



Life on painkillers . . . Adam, and Butt, right



FOOTBALL star Nicky Butt issued a "heartfelt" apology yesterday as he was banned from driving after breaking a biker's leg in a crash.

The former England and Manchester United player wrote a letter saying sorry to motorcyclist Adam Fielding who is now addicted to painkillers.

In the letter, read out to the

By RICHARD MORIARTY

court by Butt's lawyer John Dye, the 49-year-old midfielder said: "I have not stopped thinking about the accident and the effect it must have had on you and your family. I am truly sorry."

"I checked and checked and checked again. I can only hope you take this letter for what it is, heartfelt. I don't expect you to forgive me." Butt, now chief exec at Salford City, pulled out in front of Mr Fielding at a junction on October 17, 2022.

Mr Fielding, 30, spent two weeks in hospital where he had two metal rods inserted into his left leg.

He has since developed a blood clot and requires medication for the rest of his life. Blackburn magistrates' court heard. The injury also meant he lost his job at Screwfix.

Butt, of Bowdon, Greater Manchester, was banned from driving for a year and ordered to complete 100 hours' unpaid work after admitting causing serious injury by careless driving at a previous hearing.

richard.moriarty@thesun.co.uk



# BE COOL AS SUMMER FINALLY ARRIVES

## WEAR A LINEN SHIRT

Every man should own a linen shirt for when the sun comes out.

The only rule is to stick to a maximum of three undone buttons. Natural fibres such as linen are breathable so you will stay cool.

A few creases are fine, as it is impossible to keep this material crisp.

However, avoid looking like a crumpled mess – this goes for women too – by teaming one linen item with something more structured like denim.

**do**

## PLUMP FOR DARK T-SHIRTS

If it is hot outside there is no helping it, you are going to sweat.

After lashings of Lynx, try to hide sweat patches by wearing dark-coloured clothes such as navy or black.

Always avoid grey, as that is notoriously bad for showing off sweat patches the most.

GARISH  
... ace  
Erling

## CHOOSE CO-ORDS

Blokes should not attempt to channel their inner Erling Haaland in garish prints and colours or shiny fabrics.

It is male peacocking at its finest and makes you look too try-hard, and even more so when worn open to show off your abs or dad bod.

Leave them for the Man City ace or for when you are at a beach club abroad. Better yet, just save your cash.

## GO TOPLESS

It's not that you can't do it ever – in your own garden is fine. But even if you have got the bod of a god, we don't want to see or smell your half-naked body – or be crammed up against it on public transport.

Vests are pretty much a no-no, too, especially when it is a jersey for a basketball team you're not even a fan of. The park is fair game but certainly not a pub beer garden – you will put everyone off their grub with that much flesh on show.

**don't**

## STICK TO TRAINERS

Sorry lads, but super-hairy toes and unkempt nails are not on many women's lust lists.

Unless you are prepared to take care of your feet before heading outside then stick to your trusty and comfortable trainers or plimsolls.

Just be sure to wear socks to avoid smelly, sticky feet.

There is a time and a place for sandals – in the comfort of your own garden or at the pool or beach.

## CHOOSE CHINO SHORTS

You might think chinos are just for posh blokes polishing their yacht, but they are a style staple for summer.

Shorts, in general, are tricky to get right but for blokes the most important part is the length – they should sit just above the knee, like actor Idris Elba's here.

Longer styles look naff, especially with copious pockets that look like they should be filled with tools.

LONG & SHORTS  
... Idris

## COMBINE SOCKS AND SANDALS

There's no getting away from it, socks and sandals look terrible. It is likely to be a pair of socks that has seen better days and hoisted up mid-shin and you will look like you are taking out the bins or half asleep.

From Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to US tourists, they are just not cool. If you really don't want to wear trainers, then even Crocs would be preferable.

## WEAR SWIM TRUNKS OUT

Look, we get it. Trunks sound like a good option for when it's hot – they are moisture wicking and comfortable. But everything is loose and open for possible wardrobe malfunctions.

It is also risky business to hop on board with the current trend among celebs like actor Paul Mescal, right, to wear ultra-short boxers as outerwear.



Suspect... in reception

## Guest in 'hotel flit to avoid £780 bill'

By ALEX WEST

A SHAMELESS woman did a runner after three days of winning and dining at a hotel has said.

The mystery guest racked up a £780 bill, ordering meals and drinking in the bar earlier this month.

When she walked out without paying, the hotel sent an image of her to the police.

Paul Jenkins, manager of the Diplomat Hotel in Llanelli, South Wales, said: "The reception staff would have treated her like any other person checking in."

"She didn't seem any different to anyone else."

Mr Jenkins added that he had been unable to contact the woman and her card had been declined, despite a small payment going through early in her stay.

The nearby Castle Hotel revealed that they too had been victims of a similar "dine and dash" theft recently.



'Fault'... ticket machine

## Ordeal of iffy train fare fine woman

By MIKE SULLIVAN

A WOMAN prosecuted by a rail company for fare evasion under a controversial procedure said she will "probably never again" get on a train.

Sarah Cook's case is one of six being looked into at court. The hearing heard about 75,000 similar prosecutions could now be quashed.

Since 2016, certain cases can be brought under the single justice procedure, allowing them to be dealt with in private rather than in court. But many were incorrectly prosecuted under the Regulation of Railways Act 1889.

Ms Cook, 40, of Barnsley, said the ticket machine did not accept her card and, as she had not been on a train in decades, she thought she could pay on board.

But she was fined £475 by Northern Rail. Another hearing will take place next month at Westminster magistrates court.

# What's hot and what's not for heatwave look

## WEAR WHITE

White is not the easiest to keep clean but it is the best shade for a heatwave and looks effortlessly chic.

It doesn't absorb sunlight like black, instead it reflects the sun's rays and heat, which in turn keeps you cool and comfortable.

It is also a shade that never goes out of style.

If you do get the odd sunscreen smear on your whites, quickly dab with hand soap and water, rub in with a brush then wash as normal.

**do**

## PREPARE FOR EXTREMES

With our unpredictable weather it's not uncommon to see either someone in hotpants with goose-pimpled legs after an unexpected downpour, or at the other end of the spectrum someone still wearing their black, winter tights in 30C heat.

When you are on the fence, opt for a loose colour that will keep you cool but not expose you to the elements if it rains, like actor Sophie Turner.

## WEAR SHORTS

You can wear shorts at any age, the key is getting the length right.

Luckily, for those of us who do not like to show off too much skin, longer, Bermuda-style shorts are all the rage this year.

Short shorts are, of course, allowed but they won't make you any cooler. If anything, micro-shorts can make you feel hotter.

Plus, hotpants are wedgie inducing and often show off too much bum cheek. Leave them to Kylie Minogue.



MATCHY MATCHY...  
actor Sophie

## SHOW YOUR BRA STRAPS

While vest tops are a staple of summer clothing, there really is nothing classy about your bra straps being on show – especially when they are a different colour to your top, like supermodel Gigi Hadid here.

Stick to a strapless bra underneath.

**don't**

## DON ESPADRILLES

Espadrille wedges were once Princess Kate's go-to summer shoe but they have well and truly fallen off the fashion wagon.

While Noughties ballet flats are back, the espadrille has been relegated to the back of the wardrobe until its next revival. Gen Z have even dubbed them "the granny sandal".

## WEAR CROCHET

The crochet trend is nice enough and, while it looks great on Love Island presenter Maya Jama, it's simply not practical.

If the sun is out you could end up with tragic tan lines that resemble a mosaic. Plus, it is essentially knitwear – hot and itchy.

For men, knitted polos have entered the fashion fold, masquerading as summerwear, but they are made from sweaty synthetic materials. You have been warned.

## ATTEMPT BANDEAU STYLE TOPS

The bandeau, aka boob tube, as worn by Chrissy Teigen, has got to be one of the most unflattering styles.

Yes, you will avoid tan lines, but you will also spend the entire day pulling your top up and trying to keep your boobs in place. Come evening it will be covered in your grubby fingerprints and you will have had the odd "nip slip".





# £190K FLING LIE

## Compo for surveyor fired after false affair claim

**A MARRIED surveyor fired after being falsely accused of having an affair with her boss has won a £109,000 payout.**

Debbie Jacka was humiliated and distressed when told by Peter Ellicock about his jealous girlfriend Emma Rowson's suspicions.

The mother of one, 43, was also told she could no longer go

By ALEX WEST

on appointments with him, talk to him about non-work matters or meet him outside the office.

A few months later she was sacked by Mr Ellicock from her £60,000-a-year job as he told her: "Clearly you and Emma despise each other."

Now, she has won compensation from his firm for sex harassment and victimisation.

Ms Jacka and Mr Ellicock had previously owned an estate

agency in Cornwall and enjoyed a harmonious, professional relationship for about six years.

In April 2021 she became a director at Steren, a surveying firm he had set up in Redruth.

But he soon confided that Ms Rowson – now his wife – was jealous and did not trust him.

In August, she accused Mr Ellicock of having an affair with Ms Jacka, who lives with her husband Owen and five-year-old daughter in St Agnes, Cornwall.

The next day he told Ms Jacka

what his partner said. "He said that Ms Jacka should be extra nice to her," a tribunal heard.

"Ms Jacka felt distressed and humiliated at this accusation."

His behaviour changed, sending her hostile, sexist texts and twice losing his temper with her.

In November, he sacked her saying her work was not good enough. But the tribunal in Exeter awarded the payout, concluding he created an "intimidating, degrading, humiliating and offensive environment".



Debbie . . and hubby Owen

## Griffin 'is not dino'

BOFFINS say they have debunked the theory that dinosaur fossils inspired the myth of a griffin with a huge bird's head and wings on a lion's body.

The legend was thought to date from Mongolian ancient nomads finding fossils of the Protoceratops, which had a beak and wing-like skull frills.

But Portsmouth University experts say nomads would not have spotted fossils or recognised them as a creature's remains.

## SNORE AND ORDER

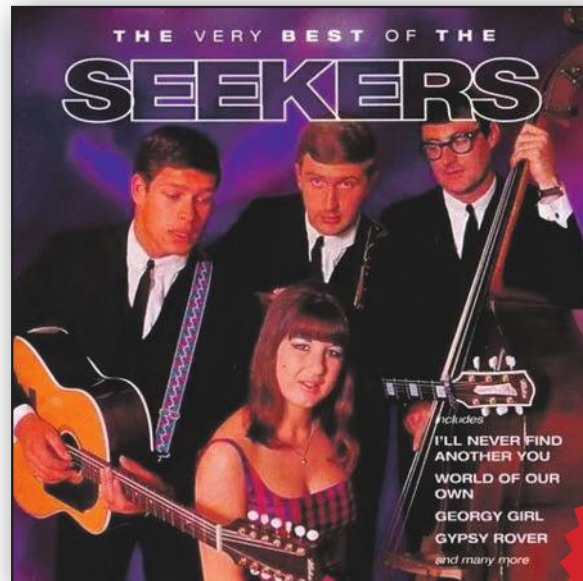
Drug dealer Kriston Marshall, 31, cuffed while pretending to be asleep during a bust in Ashford, Kent, has been jailed.



Picture: CLICK NEWS

## THE VERY BEST OF THE SEEKERS

### PRESENTED BY ALL the MUSIC



ALL the MUSIC are genuinely delighted to offer this No 1, chart-topping **23 track CD collection for just £7.99 including p&p**. THE SEEKERS have sold over 50 million albums worldwide, featuring the bell-like clarity of Judith Durham's vocals, but here's a little-known fact: Dusty Springfield's brother Tom, wrote or co-wrote many of their million-selling recordings which include *I'll Never Find Another You*, *A World Of Our Own*, *The Carnival Is Over*, and *Georgy Girl*, are all included on the CD alongside *Morningtown Ride*. So close was Tom to the group he was widely regarded as the 'Fifth Seeker'. So how did the group first meet him?

After their long boat journey from Australia to the UK, on which the group worked their passage, they arrived in London and were immediately signed by an agent who found them work as a support act in a show being headlined by ... Dusty Springfield, Tom's fabulously gifted Sister. As they say, the rest is history!

#### TRACK LISTING:

1. I'll Never Find Another You
2. A World Of Our Own
3. The Carnival Is Over
4. Someday, One Day
5. Walk With Me
6. Morningtown Ride
7. Georgy Girl
8. When Will The Good Apples Fall
9. Emerald City
10. We Shall Not Be Moved
11. Island Of Dreams
12. Open Up Them Pearly Gates
13. Kumbaya
14. Blowin' In The Wind
15. The Wreck Of The Old 97
16. Lemon Tree
17. Whisky In The Jar
18. Five Hundred Miles
19. The Gypsy Rover (The Whistling Gypsy)
20. South Australia
21. Danny Boy
22. Waltzing Matilda
23. The Water Is Wide

SUN readers can now own this wonderful **23 track CD collection** for the special price of just **£7.99 including p&p**. To order a copy, either for yourself or as a gift for a

## ALL the MUSIC

## MUM FRESH AS A DAISY

By DAN GAIN

MOTHERHOOD looks a stroll for comedy star Daisy May Cooper as she is seen with her new baby boy for the first time.

She and fiancé Ant Huggins walked side by side and pushed little Benji in his pram.

Never Mind The Buzzcocks and This Country favourite Daisy, 37 and artist Ant went to register his birth in Cirencester, Gloucs.

Daisy, who also has two kids with ex Will Weston, joked after having Benji last week, right, her post-birth constipation was so bad she "nearly had to phone the Samaritans".







Driven up... exams

## Number of drive tests hits a record

By **ELLIE HENMAN**

THE number of driving tests being taken has hit a record high after efforts to drive down the backlog from Covid.

A total of 1.9million road tests were taken in the year to the end of March, up from 1.7million in the previous 12 months.

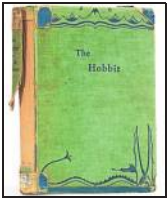
However, the Department for Transport figures show the pass rate fell to 47.9 per cent from 48.4 per cent in 2022/23.

The data also reveals 3,033 new driving instructors were registered – the second highest since 2012.

The RAC's Rod Dennis said: "Waiting time for practical tests is coming down from an average of over five months last August to just over three at the start of this year."

Driving tests were banned during coronavirus lockdowns, leading to a backlog of candidates.

Measures to cut waiting times included getting managers and admin staff to conduct exams.



Rare... signed book

## Hobbit copy for nun sold for £70k

By **JADA BAS**

A COPY of *The Hobbit* signed by JRR Tolkien using his middle name has sold for £70,000.

The 1937 first edition was given by the author to Margaret Wiseman, a Benedictine nun and sister of Tolkien's school pal Christopher Wiseman.

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien went by "Ronald" only to his friends and family and signed most books with his initials.

The book was in a care home – once St Mary's Abbey in Oulton, Staffs, where Ms Wiseman lived.

Experts say the copy is in poor condition and kids from a boarding school at the abbey used it.

The copy was valued at £40,000 but an undisclosed buyer paid £70,250 at the Bonhams auction.

Simon Roberts, from the London auctioneers, said: "Signed first editions of *The Hobbit* don't turn up often but can make an awful lot of money."

# CHEF JAMIE'S SON, 12, HAS DONE

## Savoury breakfast muffins

Makes 12

**You need:**

80g cheddar or Parmesan cheese  
125g baby spinach  
Optional: 1 red chilli  
2 spring onions  
200ml milk  
50ml olive oil  
2 large eggs  
350g wholemeal self-raising flour  
50g feta cheese  
2 tablespoons mixed seeds, such as sesame, sunflower, pumpkin, poppy

**Method:**

1. Preheat the oven to 180C, and line a muffin tin with 12 paper cases.
2. Grate the cheddar or Parmesan and place in a mixing bowl. Finely chop half the spinach and roughly chop the rest, then add to the bowl.
3. Deseed and finely chop the chilli (if using), trim and finely chop the spring onions, then add to the bowl.
4. Pour the milk and olive oil into a separate mixing bowl, crack in the eggs and mix well. Fold through the flour, a pinch of sea salt and all the ingredients from the other bowl.
5. Spoon half the mixture between the 12 paper cases, crumble the feta and



divide between them, then spoon over the rest of the mixture. Sprinkle over your chosen seeds, then bake for 20 minutes, or until golden and cooked through – if you poke a skewer into the middle, it should come out clean.

### Lexi says:

These were fairly easy to make but I wouldn't have put spinach in a muffin. I thought they were a bit bland and my least favourite recipe, but my mum liked them.

★★★

## Quick and easy pizza

Serves 4

**You need:**

2 cloves of garlic  
Olive oil  
1x 400g tin of plum tomatoes  
400g self-raising flour, plus extra for dusting  
80g mozzarella cheese  
Optional: 4 chipolata sausages  
4 handfuls of your favourite vegetables, such as peppers, cherry tomatoes, sweetcorn, broccoli, onion, black olives

**Method:**

1. Peel and finely slice the garlic, then place in a pan on a medium heat with 1 tablespoon of olive oil and fry until golden.
2. Scrunch in the tomatoes (or tip in and break up with a spoon as you go), simmer for 5 minutes, or until thickened slightly, then season to taste with sea salt and black pepper. Remove from the heat.
3. Preheat the oven to 220C and rub the inside of a 25cm x 35cm baking tray with olive oil.
4. Tip the flour into a mixing bowl, add a pinch of salt, then make a well in the middle. Pour in 250ml of water then use a fork to stir and bring in the flour from the outside to form a dough



– when the dough starts to come together, dust your hands with flour and pat it into a ball.

5. Knead on a flour-dusted surface for a few minutes, or until smooth and elastic. Divide the dough into 4, then roll and stretch the pieces into 20cm rounds or ovals.
6. Spread each base generously with the tomato

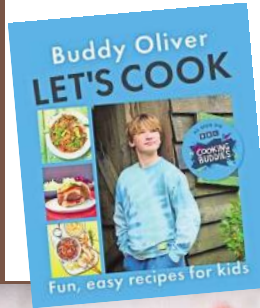
sauce and tear over the mozzarella. Squeeze the sausagemeat (if using) out of the skins and tear over the pizzas, then prep and scatter over your chosen vegetable toppings.

7. Drizzle lightly with olive oil, then cook on the top shelf of the oven for 10 minutes, or until golden and puffed up. Delicious served with a crunchy green salad.

### Lexi says:

I really enjoyed making these, especially the dough. They tasted really good too, and I thought they looked slay. I swapped the mozzarella for grated cheddar as I'm not a fan.

★★★★★



HE looks like any other 12-year-old boy, with a cheeky grin and a boisterous family to keep him on his toes.

But unlike a lot of teens stuck in front of Fortnite and obsessing about the Euros, Buddy Oliver has 133,000 subscribers to his

By NAI

YouTube Buddies youngster simple c

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# E A COOK BOOK...OUR LEXI, 10, TESTS IT

## TASHA HARDING

show Cooking where he teaches us how to rustle up dishes. he also happens to be a very famous chef, TV chef Jamie. Buddy, who lives in sex with his family, said: "Cooking is one of my all-time favourite things to do. It's really fun and a

great skill to learn. Once you know the basics you can give most recipes a try, or even have a go at making your own.

"It doesn't always go to plan but that doesn't matter. I like to cook for my brother and sisters, but I also cook for my friends."

Dad Jamie, 49, said: "There's something so powerful about being able to cook. You could even call it a superpower."

"The key to learning is being curious and having the confidence to give it a go." Buddy is

about to release his first recipe book, aimed at young people and beginner cooks and featuring more than 60 recipes.

But how easy are the recipes for an average Cooking Buddies fan to make?

I asked my daughter Lexi, left, who is ten, to try four at home in Bude, Cornwall, then give her verdict with marks out of five.

●Extracted from *Let's Cook, by Buddy Oliver (Michael Joseph), £20, out on July 4.*

## Buddy's tips for kitchen confidence

RT small and build on the recipes you choose. The more I learnt, the more I wanted to explore, so I will probably be true for you.

First thing I ever made was scrambled eggs, they were really tasty, and actually quite easy to do.

Helping Mum or Dad with odd jobs in the kitchen I pick up new skills, like how to make chopped salami pizza and bread doughs, and it kind of went on.

Things can be unpredictable, and it doesn't always go to plan but that doesn't matter! Sometimes you'll end up with something even better than planned, and other times it'll just give you an idea of what not to do next time. It's all part of the journey.

Cooking for yourself means you can tweak and adjust things to make them exactly how you like them. And if you do that, it'll mean you'll always want to eat it plus, it's good not always having to rely on grown-ups when you're hungry!

Roll up your sleeves, get stuck in, and most importantly... have fun.

STARTER...  
Buddy with his TV chef dad Jamie

## Buddy's bolognese

Serves 6

### You need:

2 pork sausages  
Olive oil  
500g lean minced beef  
2 onions  
2 cloves of garlic  
1 large carrot  
1 celery stick  
1 courgette  
2 tbsps thick balsamic vinegar  
2 x 400g tins of plum tomatoes  
1 heaped tsp tomato purée  
450g your favourite dried pasta  
Parmesan cheese, to serve

### Method:

1. Place a large casserole pan on a medium-high heat to warm up.  
2. Squeeze the sausagemeat out of the skins. Drizzle one tablespoon of olive oil into the pan, add the minced beef and sausagemeat, breaking everything up with a spoon as you go, then cook for five minutes, stirring regularly.



3. Peel the onions and garlic, trim the carrot, celery and courgette, then coarsely grate all the vegetables on a box grater, finely grating the garlic. Scrape into the pan, then reduce the heat to medium-low and cook for ten minutes, or until

soft and sweet, stirring occasionally.

4. Add the balsamic vinegar, then scrunch in the tomatoes (or tip in and break up with a spoon as you go). Half-fill each tin with water, swirl around to pick up the last bits of tomato and pour it

### Lexi says:

The bolognese tastes really good but I found grating the vegetables quite tricky, I haven't used that method before. I would make this again though, and my brother loved it.

★★★★

into the pan.

5. Stir in the tomato purée and a pinch of black pepper, mash everything up with the spoon, then reduce the heat to low and leave to cook for one hour, or until thickened slightly.

6. About 15 minutes before you're ready to serve, cook the pasta in a large pan of boiling salted water according to the packet instructions, then drain, reserving a mugful of starchy cooking water.

7. Carefully add the pasta to the sauce and stir well over the heat, loosening with a splash of pasta water, if needed. Divide between serving bowls, and finish with a good grating of Parmesan.

## Rocky road

Serves 16

### You need:

Olive oil, for greasing  
100g dark chocolate (70%)  
100g quality milk chocolate  
125g unsalted butter  
75g golden syrup  
50g marshmallows  
150g digestive biscuits  
75g unsalted nuts, such as pistachios, toasted hazelnuts  
75g chocolate-covered honeycomb  
75g glace cherries or dried fruit

50g quality white chocolate

### Method:

1. Lightly oil a 25cm x 30cm roasting tray and line it with a sheet of damp greaseproof paper.  
2. Sit a heatproof bowl on top of a pan of lightly simmering water, snap in the dark and milk chocolate, add the butter and golden syrup, and stir occasionally until melted.  
3. Halve the

marshmallows, snap up the biscuits, roughly chop or bash up the nuts, bash up the honeycomb and halve the cherries or dried fruit (if needed), then stir them into the chocolate mixture.

4. Pour into the lined tray and chill in the fridge for at least 4 hours, then carefully turn out.  
5. Snap the white chocolate into a clean heatproof bowl and melt as described in step 2 (or use the microwave, if easier). Drizzle the chocolate over the rocky road, leave to set in the fridge, then slice up and serve.



### Lexi says:

I enjoyed making it although it took a long time to set. It tastes delicious but is very sickly, so you shouldn't have too much in one go.

★★★★

# Buddy Oliver's recipes are cheesy peasy



**FabDAILY**

Edited by  
**LYNSEY CLARKE**  
and **JOEL COOPER**

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**MINISTER FOR SMARTPHONES**

MUM of two Hannah Oertel, 40, from Edinburgh, has two girls aged nine and 11 and wants to delay smartphones for teenagers under 14.

The campaigner and full-time mother says: "If I were in government I would crack down on phone and social media use in under-16s. I love my girls and I want to keep them safe – kids are not safe with smartphones. I'm not a strict parent but I wouldn't let a stranger into their bedroom, that's effectively what we're doing by giving kids smartphones."

"My nine-year-old daughter was shown a beheading video at choir practice by one of her friends. It could have been hugely traumatic for her. She thought it was a fake video, thank goodness, and I wasn't going to correct her."

"Her story is a perfect example of why we need to delay smartphones for all kids. It wasn't even my daughter's phone but she was exposed to social media on another kid's one."

"Staggeringly, 30 per cent of all video content on the internet is porn, and of that, 87 per cent portrays violence against women. All parties claim to care about our youth but only the Tories recommended a ban on smartphones in schools."

"I'd like a retro solution – kids under 14 should only use "brick" phones, like the Nokia, with no internet access. I started a campaign for this, called Delay Smartphones, in Edinburgh last year."

"The Reform UK party has shown care towards kids. Its manifesto states they will impose a rule of no smartphones or social media in schools for under 16s."

**MINISTER FOR SOCIAL CARE**

ELAINE HUGHES from Harringay, North London was born with spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy and lives with her neurodivergent daughter Kemi, 23.

Elaine, 47, a diversity business strategist says: "Putting it simply, the benefits system is not working. I see this through the eyes of a mum to a neurodivergent daughter."

I have also cared for my own mum, who had dementia, and dad who had the lung condition COPD and dementia. I was very isolated and alone with little access to resources. No party gets to the core of the problem of social care in their manifesto."

"Carer's allowance is a pittance, currently around £82 a week – no one can live on that."

"People are having to go without things most would deem 'essential'. The party who makes this a fairer income could get my vote."

"Labour say they are 'committed to reviewing Universal Credit so that it makes work pay and tackles poverty' and the Conservatives say they will save £12billion by making sure working age people on disability benefits have a job. But there is little detail on how they will do this and protect the most vulnerable."

"I've been at the sharp end of this myself, as a sufferer of spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy, which affects my arms and legs. Although

medical professionals agree I need a wheelchair, I don't meet the Government's qualifications for one."

"I am trying to save upward of £5,000 myself to pay for it, simply to be able to move around and be independent. My daughter has to help look after me and has suffered mental health issues as a result, but no party is offering support for young carers like her. They need youth groups and mental health and wellbeing support."

"I can see some rays of light in the manifestos. The Tories say people on personal independence payments (PIP) – a benefit for people under state pension age, who need help with daily activities or getting around because of a long-term illness or disability – could see their payments replaced by vouchers."

"While I don't want that, if vouchers were given on top of benefits it might allow people to pay for equipment such as wheelchairs or adaptable beds instead of spending years saving. Labour is also

talking about more special educational needs and disabilities support in schools, which would be a huge step forward. My daughter never had any support."

**MINISTER FOR CHILDCARE**

GRANDMA and mum-of-two Angela Andrea, 53, from Halstead, Essex, opened her first nursery in Hertfordshire at the age of 21 and sold up 25 years later, in 2018.

She says: "After a quarter of a century as a nursery owner, it's bitterly ironic that my daughter Maddie, 28, is struggling to find a nursery place for my two-year-old grandson, Teddy."

"It's heartbreaking seeing my daughter in tears when all she wants to do is work and be a good mum. Teddy is a happy soul who loves interacting with other children but the three nurseries closest to home are full and it's the

same story with ones outside their area. It's left the family surviving on one wage, as Maddie can now only work as a make-up artist for a few hours in the evenings when her husband, who owns a car valet business, is around to take care of Teddy."

"It's so different to how it was when Maddie and her brother Charlie, 24 were young in the '90s."

"Back then it felt like the mums who wanted to work had better access to childcare. In 2010 the government introduced free childcare places. This has been fraught with problems and needs fixing urgently."

"In my experience, the amount the Government pays towards these places doesn't cover staffing and training costs, maintaining buildings or paying bills."

"I have always been told that nurseries aren't allowed to charge more to cover the shortfall but this is very complicated and changes from council to council."

"If that is the case then they have

to find a way to make cuts which could mean closing down or not paying staff what they deserve."

"I don't see any of the parties addressing these issues."

"The Lib Dems promise all parents will be able to access flexible, fair and affordable childcare but don't explain how they will do it."

"Reform UK talks about offering a higher rate of child benefit when a child is younger in exchange for a lower rate when the child is older, to give parents the choice to stay at home. But how does that help parents like Maddie who want to work?"

"Labour wants primary schools to look after the under-fives but many schools are overcrowded. How will they find the extra room for toddlers?"

"Tories have been saying they will increase funding to help the Early Years Foundation Stage industry employ more staff for over a decade, but nothing has happened."

**The FabDAILY**

Minister for Social Care  
Elaine Hughes, 47

Minister for Smartphones  
Hannah Oertel, 40

FROM banning kids' smartphones to increasing Carers' Allowance and prioritising maternity care, our Fabulous Cabinet tells **NIKKI WATKINS** what ordinary mums want to hear from party leaders before election day on July 4



# WOMANIFESTO



**Minister for  
Childcare**  
Angela  
Andrea, 53

**Minister  
for Maternal  
Care**  
Sandra  
Igwe, 34

**Minister  
for Youth  
Violence**  
Alison  
Cope, 50



## MINISTER FOR YOUTH VIOLENCE

ALISON COPE, 50, from Birmingham lost her son Joshua Ribera, aged 18, when he was knifed through the heart following a fall-out over a girl. He was unarmed.

Alison says: "Joshua was stabbed in the chest by Armani Mitchell, also 18, who was carrying a knife at a nightclub.

"My wonderful, only son left our home saying he loved me and from that day, September 20, 2013, my life was shattered.

"My son had many difficulties growing up. It was only because I'm not the kind of person to ever give up that he managed to turn things around to become a professional rapper, Depzman, tipped to be the next Stormzy — then his life was snuffed out.

"I was determined to stop this senseless killing and started campaigning against youth violence, visiting schools weekly to warn of the dangers.

"But despite my efforts, knife crime is increasing.

"In January, the Office for National Statistics reported that there was a five per cent surge in the past year.

"It feels like, weekly, we hear of another young life being lost in a senseless attack.

"The party that makes young people's lives the priority would get my vote. Not a single party addresses what young people are being exposed to, like the social media sites which some kids use to arrange fights.

"The Lib Dems manifesto is the most positive as they recommend having a qualified mental health worker in every primary school, which is excellent.

"Tories mention social media in relation to mental health but not youth violence and Labour talk about increasing police patrols in town centres, but what about suburbs?

"On the whole, the manifestos fall flat.

"I haven't visited a single school in the UK where all kids tell me they feel safe.

"Many schools have had a student bring in a knife, including primaries. It is so shocking.

"I cannot bring my little boy home, so all the parties need to make it a priority to have enough police and youth services to stop violence in the first place.

"There needs to be a compulsory education around youth violence, from primary age on, so kids are aware of the dangers associated with weapons and the influence of social media."

## MINISTER FOR MATERNAL CARE

SANDRA IGWE, 34, is a married mum of three daughters and wants the next government to fix the maternity ward scandal.

Sandra, from South East London, says: "Half of Britain's maternity wards have been rated as failing, compensation payouts for negligence have more than doubled in the past seven years. An estimated 30,000 women a year in the UK suffer negative experiences giving birth. One in 20 develop post-traumatic stress disorder as a result.

"I had completely inadequate birth experiences with my three daughters. During my first labour in 2016, I was denied pain relief.

"In my second labour, pain relief was delayed.

"With my third daughter, I was in hospital, in labour for six days. I wasn't given food because of staff forgetting I was there, I had more

than 15 different midwives in six days who I had to constantly explain my circumstances to, there was no continuity of care and I was actually told I wasn't 'a priority'.

"As a new mum who had raised concerns over and over as my newborn bawled I know that birthing wards are understaffed. I also believe race had a lot to do with how poorly I was treated.

"Black women are statistically nearly four times more likely than white women to die within six weeks of giving birth.

"Black mums are more likely to have postnatal depression and eight per cent less likely to get pain relief as required.

"Mums I know have described racial stereotyping and assumptions on the labour ward.

"One of the most common experiences was that of black, brown and mixed ethnicity women finding pain relief is denied or delayed because of racist stereotypes, including black women's perceived ability to

tolerate pain. Because of my own traumatic birth experiences I started a national organisation to help other black mums, The Motherhood Group, and I deliver community-based events.

"But what we need is real action from the government that comes into power.

"Labour and the Conservatives have mentioned improving maternity care in their manifestos, while the other main parties mention the NHS but say nothing about maternity. Us mums need to see clear targets to reduce stillbirths, tragic baby deaths, maternal deaths and brain injuries. And the other parties need to hold the Government to account.

"We need plans to tackle midwife shortages, and we need midwives to be better trained in dealing with black and ethnic minority women.

"In years to come, if my precious daughters want to become parents, I need them to have a much more positive maternity experience."

If I was in the Cabinet, the first thing I would do is make sure sensible funding was made available for nurseries.

"If money isn't put into EYFS, there will be no childcare system for the working families.

"It might sound controversial but facilities should be able to charge appropriately if necessary. Those who can afford to pay should be able to get places.

"Maybe financial help for parents who can't afford needs to come from elsewhere.

"I feel, this would be fairer for the parents, and the industry, and enable nurseries to pay staff and offer a better standard of service.

"Parents, like Maddie, would be able to work full-time knowing their children were being properly cared for.

"The people who look after our treasured tots are humans too — I have seen nursery workers at breaking point, exhausted and in tears. The system is broken."



# dear deidre

No matter what the issue, I answer every single problem



Edited by  
**SALLY LAND**

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JANE ALLTON  
HILARY FREEMAN  
KALLY LEWIS  
CATHERINE THOMAS  
CHLOE STRATTON

## stories

deidre's  
photo  
casebook

RUTH'S RUNNING PROBLEM: DAY 6



Clothes by boohoo  
and boohooMAN

CONTINUES TOMORROW

# So tempted to have sex with my sister

Dear Deidre

**I HAVE fallen in love with my sister, and I feel so ashamed.**

We recently met again by chance, after being separated as children, and I felt instantly attracted to her.

She says she feels the same. I'm a 32-year-old man and she's 25. I have a long-term partner and a young son.

When I was a child, my mum died and my alcoholic dad couldn't cope.

My brother, sister and I ended up being taken into care.

I was fostered by one family, and they were fostered by another.

Eventually, we lost touch completely.

A few weeks ago, I went out to a club with some friends to celebrate a birthday.

When it was my turn to get a

## HERE TO HELP YOU



IF YOU are worried about anything please get in touch with my team of counsellors and we will do our best to help you. Every email receives a personal response within one working day.  
[deardeidre@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:deardeidre@the-sun.co.uk)

round, I noticed that the barmaid was very attractive. It was so easy to talk to her – like coming home. I stayed at

the bar chatting for the rest of the night.

When her shift ended, I went back to her place and we kissed. It was amazing – the chemistry was unreal.

Luckily, I stopped short of full sex, because I felt guilty about my partner.

After that, we started messaging. She said it felt like she had known me for ever.

And that's when she told me about her childhood, about her foster parents, and how she had changed her name.

I went cold as I realised she was my sister. I ran into the bathroom to be sick.

For days I avoided talking to her, but then I had to tell her the truth.

She was devastated too. We agreed not to tell anyone.

But neither of us can stop messaging and we both want to meet again. I am sure we'll end up having sex. I know it's

wrong but I feel magnetically drawn to her.

What should I do?

**■ DEIDRE SAYS:** Close relatives who haven't grown up together can feel a strong attraction when they meet as adults.

It's called genetic sexual attraction, and it's not as uncommon as you might think.

But that doesn't mean it's OK to have sex with your sister.

You must agree that this will never happen.

It's against the law because it's regarded as incest. You could both go to prison.

You can never marry. And if you were to have children together, there's a much higher risk of an abnormality.

You should both consider having counselling to help you overcome your feelings.

My support pack about counselling will tell you how to access this.

## THANK YOU FOR...

Dear Deidre

WHEN my troubled partner finally ended our on-off relationship and moved to another city, I was bereft.

Although I understood that he needed a fresh start following mental-health problems and work issues, I found it impossible to get him out of my head.

I'm a 26-year-old guy, and he is 30. We stayed in touch as friends but I couldn't stop thinking about him, and found it very difficult to sleep at night.

I wrote to you for advice, and you were so kind.

You told me that even if it didn't feel like it, my partner moving away was for the best. It would give me

## HELPING ME MOVE ON FROM EX-LOVE

space to heal, and allow me to meet someone else.

You also suggested that I should read your support pack, Moving On.

I slowly started to get over him. I decided not to visit him, when invited, as I knew that it would open up old wounds.

Two years on, I have met someone else.

My ex did come to visit – purely on a platonic basis – and we caught up like good friends.

Now I have a new partner, as well as a great friend.

Thank you.

**■ DEIDRE SAYS:** I'm so pleased you have found the happiness you deserve, and that you and your ex can be friends.

## SICK OF PICKING UP SLACK FOR LOVESICK COLLEAGUE

Dear Deidre

A WOMAN in my team at work is having an affair with another colleague and it's really getting me down.

Not only is it causing problems in the office, but I'm also really worried about her mental health as she seems obsessed with him.

I think he's just using her for sex. I'm a woman of 43 and she is 28. The male colleague involved is 38, and married.

When she joined the team, she seemed nice. But then she and our colleague started flirting very obviously in the office.

It soon became clear they were sleeping together. They would disappear off for hours, and even when she was at her desk, her output declined.

That meant the rest of us had to pick up her work, making us resentful.

I tried talking to her, but she just said she was "in love", as if that made it all OK.

Now it's obvious her lover is getting sick of her. She follows him around like a sick puppy, and messages him non-stop. He clearly has no intention of leaving his wife

and he has started booking lots of off-site meetings to get away from his lover.

He even told one colleague he thought she was "cuckoo". I feel sorry for her and don't want to get her sacked, but I'm also annoyed by her behaviour.

**■ DEIDRE SAYS:** Workplace affairs can cause problems for others in the organisation, which is why many firms frown on them.

Find out your company's policy – it may be in the staff handbook – and talk discreetly to your manager and/or HR.

Stress the effect on your team, but also make it clear that you don't want to get your colleague into trouble.

It sounds like she is vulnerable and may have been taken advantage of by her lover, especially if he's in a senior role. She may need support, which HR might be able to assist with too.

Perhaps it would help if you spoke to her again and said you were worried. Get advice from your union, if you belong to one, or ACAS ([acas.org.uk](http://acas.org.uk), 0300 123 1100) which has a free, confidential helpline.

## TEENAGE TROUBLES

Dear Deidre

AFTER I had sex with my friend, he told his girlfriend that I'd dreamt the whole thing up.

I'm an 18-year-old girl and they are both 19. I can't get over how he lied.

One night, we went out for drinks and ended up at my flat, where we had sex.

The next day, his supposedly ex-girlfriend messaged me to ask if anything had happened.

I told her the truth and apologised, saying I had no idea they were in a relationship. But he convinced her I was lying because I'm so into him.

They're really happy together again. I feel betrayed and angry.

**■ DEIDRE SAYS:** It was cruel of your friend to lie and deny.

His girlfriend has chosen to believe him, but the fact she messaged you suggests she doesn't trust him.

This guy doesn't deserve you, or your friendship. My support pack Mend Your Broken Heart should help.

## hot topic

FEELING guilty about masturbation is common.

The guilt is often caused by religious beliefs, as some faiths warn against it. It may also stem from unsettled issues within your relationship.

However, self-love is an instinctive thing to do and isn't dirty or unnatural.

A recent study found that on average women masturbate once a week, while men do three times as often.

My support pack Worried About Masturbation? has more information.

## GET IN TOUCH

If you are worried about something, my team is here to help. Please contact and follow us.

Online: [thesun.co.uk/deidre](http://thesun.co.uk/deidre) Instagram: @dear.deidre Facebook: @DearDeidreOfficial X: @DearDeidre Post: Dear Deidre, The Sun, 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF







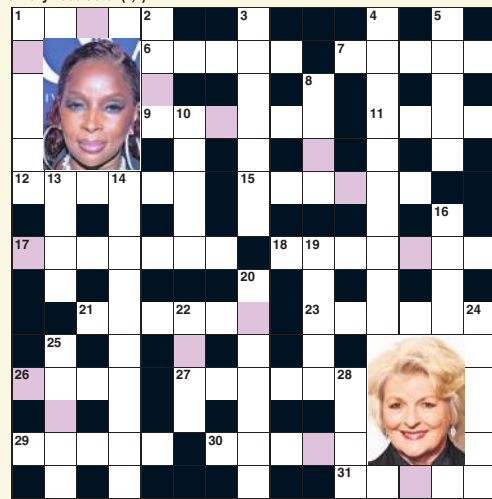
# Sun puzzles

## We've got all your favourite brain teasers

### UP TO £200 CASH TO BE WON!

## Crossword

Complete the clues below and rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to spell out the name of a Hollywood actor (7,7).

**WIN!  
£100****ACROSS**

- Alexander-Arnold, England footballer (5)
- Ripley, main character in the Alien films (5)
- Scott \_\_, TV and radio presenter (5)
- Twain, Canadian country singer (6)
- First name of Wolverine star Mr Jackman (4)
- Gary \_\_, star of the 2011 film Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (6)
- Lewis, English actor (6)
- Beverly \_\_, former Corrie star (7)
- Setting for the Avatar films (7)
- Paul \_\_, Irish actor (6)
- Mackenzie Crook's character in The Office (6)
- Surname of French-Canadian singer Céline (4)
- Self \_\_, stage name of musician and actress Rebecca Lucy Taylor (6)
- Classic Lulu hit (5)
- Surname of US singer Miley (5)
- George, Call The Midwife actress (5)

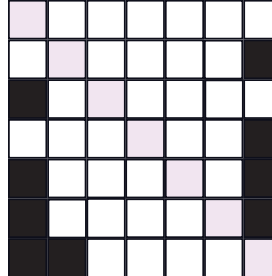
**DOWN**

- 2023 Eurovision-winning song (6)
- Daly, co-host of Strictly Come Dancing (4)
- Karl \_\_, Neighbours doctor (7)
- 1986 action fantasy film and spin-off TV series (10)
- Mary J \_\_, hip-hop and soul singer (5)
- Jon \_\_, actor whose breakthrough role was Don Draper in Mad Men (4)
- Late British actress Ms Blackman (5)
- Ada Nicodemou's character in Home And Away (4)
- 1998 Robbie Williams hit (10)
- Anderson, TV gardener (4)
- Rolling Stones hit (5)
- Surname of Brenda, Vera star (7)
- Female vocalist who sang I Got You Babe with Sonny (4)
- Surname of US socialites Nicky and Paris (6)
- Said Fred, Deeply Dippy group (5)
- 1970s black comedy series set during the Korean War (inits)(4)

## SUNRISER

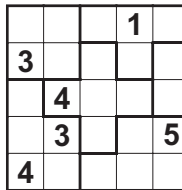
Place these words in the horizontal rows so that the letters in the diagonal staircase spell out another word related to Loose Women.

COLEEN  
DENISE  
LINDA  
LUNCH  
OPEN UP  
PANEL  
TEMPERS



## SUGURU®

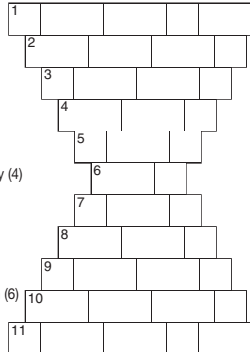
Each cell in an outlined block must contain a digit: a two-cell block contains the digits 1 and 2, a three-cell block contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. The same digit must not appear in neighbouring cells, not even diagonally.



## BRICKWORK

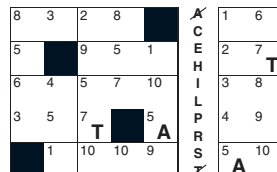
Answer each clue so that every entry contains the same letters as the previous entry, plus or minus one.

- US police district (8)
- Arrived without being heard (5,2)
- Front claw of a crab (6)
- Cost (5)
- Long heroic story (4)
- Delicate mushroom (3)
- Headland (4)
- Inexpensive (5)
- Deliver a sermon (6)
- Illegal hunter (7)
- Tell off (8)



## MINI CODE

Ten letters have been given a number from 1 to 10. Break the code to complete the crossword.



## INITIALS

If T is Troublemaker, what are these other Olly Murs songs?



- DWMT
- DD
- HSAB
- PDLMG
- WU
- U

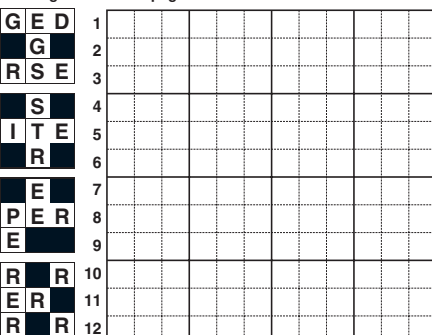
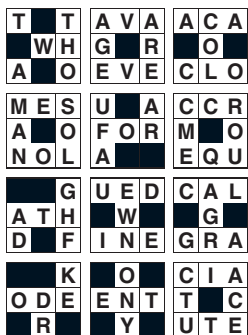
## UNSCRAMBLE

Unscramble these anagrams to spell out six Matthew Macfadyen TV series.

- SO NICE CUSS
- OK SOPS
- PERTER PRIEST
- ALERT HEATH SHOPLIFTER
- TELL DIRT TRIO
- GNAT PREFERS CREST

## PIECEWORD

With the help of the Across clues only, can you fit the pieces into their correct positions in the grid? See next page for solution.

**ACROSS**

- Quietest
- Colour of milk
- Oat breakfast cereal
- Amassed
- Fulfil
- To do with horses
- Tropical shrub
- Negative terminal (of a battery cell)
- Cuffed
- Ruined, devastated
- Go in
- Drive (a car) backwards

## THE NAME GAME

EACH clue leads to a well-known name. Put the initials or stated letters in the appropriate squares to identify a director:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5 & 8	John, Scottish inventor who developed the first successful pneumatic bicycle tyre (second and fifth letters of name)							
3 & 6	Retired cricketer who was winner of Strictly Come Dancing in 2006							
4 & 7	Substance							
1	Mr Courtenay, actor who was nominated for an Academy Award for his role in Doctor Zhivago							
9 & 2	Saint name of the poet from Assisi who was canonised by Pope Gregory IX in 1228 (fourth and sixth letters of name)							

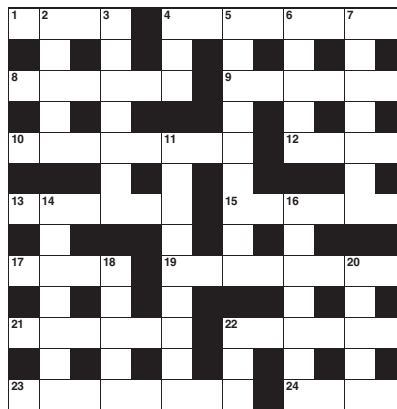
Yesterday: Comedian/writer DAVE GORMAN (Rupert Grint, Mesut Ozil, Rudolph Valentino, (Robert) Bunsen, Adrian Dunbar). Another Name Game in The Sun tomorrow. If you can't wait until tomorrow for the answers, just call 0901 293 6298. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

## BRAINBOXER

Raj was making five-letter words from the letters in a pair of seven-letter words; each seven-letter word contained seven different letters, though they did have some letters in common. By choosing letters only from one seven-letter word or the other, Raj was able to create ACRID, CARDS, DARTS, LAITY, LYCRA, LYRIC, STAIR, TRAIL and TRIAD – though he didn't make a note of which of the original words each one had come from. Can you work out what the two original words were?

Solution tomorrow.

## Two sets of clues but the answers are the same



Check today's answers before midnight by calling 0905 757 0150 for Across and 0905 757 0151 for Down. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

## Cryptic clues

**ACROSS**

- Rigid leader lost argument (4)
- Broadcast range right in A380? (8)
- Desperate fellow's hiding in Greek port (6)
- Religious house in earlier years (6)
- Corrupt salesmen incognito? (8)
- Leftist beginning to talk rubbish (4)
- Huge distance run in space-travelling (6)
- Opening sounds in minor key (6)
- Patient in legal action (4)
- Understood, as text messages are? (8)
- Show Ben-Hur perhaps in empty depot (6)
- Original ally crosses boundary (6)
- Intellectual brother in Rye? (8)
- Desire spoiled Eden (4)

**DOWN**

- Home help in retreat in country I may represent (5)
- Touches fast outfield players, heading away (7)
- Old boat appearing in Omar Khayyam (3)
- Take back revolting espressos (9)
- Fool I spot holding electric current (5)
- Noble award given for organ piece (7)
- Meet in French bar (9)
- Made to suffer in wicked college life (7)
- Involved me too in passion (7)
- English team the French send away (5)
- Lift finally here behind schedule (5)
- Friend from Spalding (3)

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**

ACROSS: 8 Re-lapse (laps), 9 Ran-ch, 10 Scowl, 11 Instead, 12 Briarsire, 14 S-i-t, 16 Roe, 17 Road train, 19 Acrobat, 21 G-lass, 22 Ch-ill, 23 Re-lieve (leave).  
DOWN: 1 Cross-bar, 2 Allo-c-a-t-e, 3 O-p-a-l, 4 De-icid-e, 5 Crescent, 6 Knee, 7 Thud, 13 Scrabble, 14 Seafarer, 15 Tun-gsten, 18 Artery, 19 (m)Arch, 20 Rail, 21 Gulp.

## WORD WORKOUT

THIS is the world's best brain teaser. The Sun's clueless crossword. Here is how to play: Each grid number in our Word Workout game represents a letter. So if you think 4 is the letter A, write A in all the squares with a 4. All the alphabet is used and we have supplied some letters to start you off. We will print the answers tomorrow.

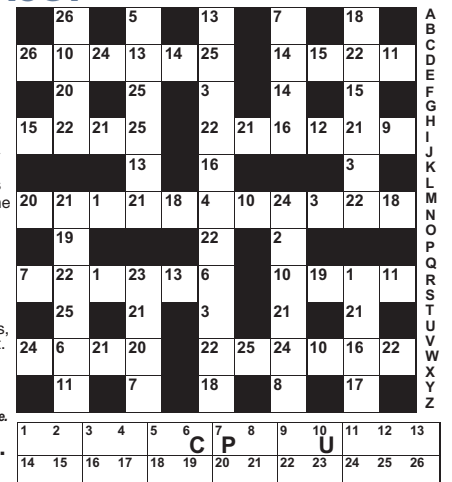
**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**

ACROSS: Debt, Warm, Jug, Whiz, File, Psychotic, Equations, Epic, Free, Fig, Lake, Melt.  
DOWN: Dawn, Bliss, Munch, Alibi, Meet, Pie, You, Two, Cos, Quick, Toxic, Nerve, Veil, Deft.

For 4 Extra Clues Call 0901 293 6299

Calls cost £1 plus network access charge.

or text **SUNWORD** to 64343.  
Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.






# 3 pages of puzzles

## ARROWWORD

Complete the puzzle and rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to spell out an actor (4,3).

**WIN!**  
**£50**

	Hydro town	Handed to you (2,1,5)	Name of the pictured star	Streams
	Gambling card game			
	Whichever			Threaded nail
	Irish dance	Besides		
		Choose		
Serpent which killed Cleopatra	Put in chains	Sty animal	Lazy people	
		Stops briefly	Produced in a theatre	Legal sports position
				Perceives
Pelvic joint			Puts away	
Solid-fuel cooker			PM's door number	Hero
Moves on snow	Global superpower (inits)		Immoral act	
		Networks		
Gambles	Needle-hole		Female deer	
			Fights between two	

## HOW TO ENTER

**CROSSWORD:** Call 0904 043 5001 and leave your answer, name and contact details. Calls cost £1.50 plus network access charge. Or you can text **CROSSWORD**, your answer, name and contact details to 88833. Texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate.

**WORDSEARCH:** Call 0904 043 5002 and leave your answer, name and contact details. Calls cost £1.50 plus network access charge. Or you can text **WORDSEARCH**, your answer, name and contact details to 88833. Texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate.

**ARROWWORD:** Call 0904 043 5006 and leave your answer, name and contact details. Calls cost £1.50 plus network access charge. Or you can text **ARROWWORD**, your answer, name and contact details to 88833. Texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate.

**TERMS:** Open to UK residents aged 18 or over. There will be one winner randomly selected from all correct entries. Competition closes Friday 28 June. Competition is not open to employees of News UK, their families, or anyone connected to this competition. Service Provider: Spoke Interactive Ltd. Helpline: 0333 202 3390

## Solutions

**Miniudoku**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

**Pieceword**

1. Perfect Strangers  
2. Spooks  
3. Ripper Street  
4. The Pillars of the Earth  
5. Little Dorrit  
6. Perfect Strangers

**Mini Code**

1. Succession  
2. Spooks  
3. Ripper Street  
4. The Pillars of the Earth  
5. Little Dorrit  
6. Perfect Strangers

**Brickwork**

1. Precinct 2. Crept in  
3. Piece 4. Price  
5. Piece 6. Price  
8. Cheap 9. Preach  
10. Poacher 11. Reproach

**Sugru**

1. Spelling TOPICAL  
2. Open up, Dense, Tempers, Colours, Lunch, Linda, Panel -  
3. Shall 3 Flow  
4. Shall 3 Flow

**Pathfinder**

1. Dance With Me Tonight  
2. Dear Dartin  
3. Heart Skips A Beat  
4. Please Don't Let Me Go  
5. Wapped Up  
6. Up

**Initials**

1. Succession  
2. Spooks  
3. Ripper Street  
4. The Pillars of the Earth  
5. Little Dorrit  
6. Perfect Strangers

**Sunrise**

1. Precinct 2. Crept in  
3. Piece 4. Price  
5. Piece 6. Price  
8. Cheap 9. Preach  
10. Poacher 11. Reproach

**Mini Anagram**

1. Succession  
2. Spooks  
3. Ripper Street  
4. The Pillars of the Earth  
5. Little Dorrit  
6. Perfect Strangers

**TV Mag Solutions**

**Sudoku**

5	2	3	4	1
3	4	1	6	2
2	6	5	4	1
1	3	2	5	6
4	5	1	6	2
6	1	2	3	4

**Letter Box**

1. DOME  
2. AVID  
3. MEND  
4. PIREY

**Word Ladder**

WASH, WISH, WISE, WINE, LINE.

**Add It Up**

109

**Suko**

432  
918  
756

**Last Saturday's Prize Answers**

**Crossword MICHELLE DOCKERY**

1. FELIX  
2. ALLAN  
3. DOUGLAS  
4. ANGLE  
5. TORVILLE  
6. RICHARD  
7. ERMA  
8. SWAN  
9. CLEAVE  
10. KARL  
11. SNA  
12. N

**Wordsearch LODGE**

1. GEMMA  
2. ATKINSON

**Arrowword**

1. GEMMA  
2. ATKINSON

# Mystic Meg

with **MAGGIE INNES**

## ARIES March 21 - April 20



That song that keeps coming into your mind can be the soundtrack for success – when you fix a set of goals. But this can also be music that's telling you something special about yourself, and when you really listen, you can realise what this is. Love is calm, collected – but with an undercurrent of deep "J" desire.

## TAURUS April 21 - May 21



Venus wants to talk, while the moon prefers to keep secrets – and in between these two opposites, you find personal truth. You may realise you might have used words to cover up feelings, and this can stop. But you also have the ability to express anything in the best possible way, with care plus integrity.

## GEMINI May 22 - June 21



The warrior planet is so strong in your zone of deepest hidden self – so if you have been waiting for the courage to let a mask fall, then the waiting could be over. Maybe you are slow to trust, but this can mean it's all the more precious when it happens. Cash and emotions may not make a good mix today.

## CANCER June 22 - July 22



The sun, Venus and Mercury are all present and correct in your own sign, and as their manager you need to stay strong and focused. Then you can get the very best from every positive planet. Your own wishes matter as much as everyone else's at home, remember that if you feel under pressure.

## LEO July 23 - August 23



Your sector of sacrifice is sun-inspired – so you can see that giving up a little now, in terms of time, freedom or ambition, could lead to a lot of gains later. Your ability to see, and assess, the future is so switched on, so listen to your secret self on this. Mars fires up a health goal – but you are ready for this challenge.

## VIRGO August 24 - September 22



Teamwork comes so naturally to you today and you can find even former rivals are lining up to follow you. You can see through any surface pretence to the genuine skills underneath, and work with these so well. In love terms, too, no matter what a partner may be saying, you see so clearly how they feel.

## LIBRA September 23 - October 23



A family-focused moon advises you to create quiet spaces to reconnect today – as people who once thought so alike may have drifted in different directions. You can correct this, if you start now. Love-wise, with such a powerfully passionate success sector, no one is out of your league, once you decide.

## SCORPIO October 24 - November 22



The spirit of discovery, and curiosity, is strong in your chart and this can lead to you asking lots of questions today. With Saturn guiding your creative zone, this time when you start a project, you will be able to see it through. The luck factor plays a game that includes several languages.

## SAGITTARIUS November 23 - December 21



What matters most to you? This is the question your chart is asking today. The answer may surprise you, especially if your heart has been in denial about certain feelings. A challenge that daunted you first time around, can seem so much simpler when you look at it again, and listen only to your own voice.

## CAPRICORN December 22 - January 20



A brilliant balance between co-operation and independence is your star achievement. It can start when you make time to think through a group's future, and what your part in this will be. If you're in love, you have a strong marriage sector – first or second (or more!) time around. The One is a natural peace-maker.

## AQUARIUS January 21 - February 18



In a day of celebrating the rituals and routines of life and love, you are a gifted leader. Paying attention to the little things makes you an unforgettable lover and friend. Sorting through old documents or pictures can unearth a name you should research. Stick with regular competition times and numbers.

## PISCES February 19 - March 20



The after-effects of the full moon spread through your chart of connections, and you could find yourself suddenly dialling a number you haven't even thought about for months. Or ending a silence that you have never fully understood. Jupiter's gold spins around a house with four floors, surrounded by evergreen trees.

## Minidoku

Using only the numbers 1-4, fill the empty spaces so every row, column and smaller 2x2 grid contains the numbers 1 to 4.

	2		
2		3	
3			
	1		

1			
		1	
	2	3	
3			

## ENTERING OUR PRIZE PUZZLES IS NOW EASIER THAN EVER!

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

TEL \_\_\_\_\_

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Or to pay by credit/debit card call **08000 356 684** or mobile users call **020 7111 6406**

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Calls cost £1.50 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. You must have bill payer's permission. Calls recorded for your protection. Max call duration 19 mins for 0905 numbers. Over 18s only. These services are for entertainment only. SMS cost £1 per received message, max 3 messages per reply. UK only. To opt out of three promo messages call Helpline: 0330 114 0300. SP: Inverak.com, PO Box 10015, CM1 9HH.



GOOD WEEK

BOSS of NVIDIA, Jensen Huang, as his tech firm became the most valuable company at \$3.3trillion on the back of the AI boom.



BAD WEEK

STEVE Hatch, chief executive of polling firm YOUGov, as shares almost halved this week after a profits warning.



Sun business

By ASHLEY ARMSTRONG

ashley.armstrong@the-sun.co.uk @AArmstrong\_says

OH SHOOT, NO DEAL!

Britvic rejects Carlsberg offer

THE maker of FRUIT SHOOT drinks has rejected a £3.1billion takeover from beer giant CARLSBERG.

BRITVIC yesterday revealed it had received two approaches with the last valuing the company at £12.50-a-share.

The firm, which makes ROBINSONS and J20, has rebuffed the Danish bid arguing it "significantly undervalued the company".

But shares jumped by 10 per cent yesterday to £11.50 as investors bet Carlsberg would have a better offer before the July 19 deadline.

Carlsberg is the fourth largest brewer in the UK

Fruit shoot... takeover bid



but it does not make or sell any soft drinks here.

Its bid for Britvic is partly driven by wanting to supply to younger consumers drinking less beer.

Owning Britvic would also mean Carlsberg could supply a full range of soft drinks, alongside its other brands SAN MIGUEL, KRONENBOURG and BROOKLYN, to British boozers.

It is the latest British company being targeted by a foreign firm with others including ANGLO AMERICA, CURRYS and ROYAL MAIL.

But it may not be an opportunistic swoop as Britvic shares are trading higher than pre-pandemic levels. Britvic - which was originally a 1930s vitamin drink - has tried to excite the City with more share buybacks for investors.

SALE REBOUND

WARMER weather last month helped Britain's high streets as sales rebounded from the wet spring.

Retail sales rose 2.9 per cent in May, compared to a 1.8 per cent fall in April. Brick-and-mortar shops saw the largest increase - at 5.9 per cent - as Brits bought spring clothing and garden furniture.

BULB FEE £6M

THE bailout of bust BULB ENERGY will cost the taxpayer £6million, far less than the £6billion forecast by the Office for Budget Responsibility.

OCTOPUS ENERGY, which bought Bulb in 2022, is repaying nearly £3billion of state cash it received.

Falling energy prices have helped bring down the cost of the deal.

WEEKLY SHARE PERFORMANCE

21st Century Fox Inc A	2725 ¼	+	97 ¾
21st Century Fox Inc B	2527 ¾	+	77 ½
Abrdn	1514	+	8 ½
Anglo American	2472 ½	+	84
Asco Br Foods*	2468	-	15
AstraZeneca	12472	-	38
Aviva	479 ¾	+	3
BAE	1339	+	4
BAT	2488	+	96
BP*	471	+	11
BT Group	141 ½	+	2
BSkyB	204 ¼	+	2 ¾
Barrat	474	-	14 ½
Bco Santander	374 ½	+	4
British Land*	443	+	3
Bund*	3014	+	92
Burberry	985	+	4 ¾
Carnival	1126	+	49
Compass*	2259	+	42
Currys plc	76 ¼	+	¼
Diageo	2578	-	1
Drax Group	515 ½	+	26 ½
Esken Limited	3685	-	22
Experian*	15355	-	465
Ferguson*	153	-	1 ¼
FirstGroup	870	+	21 ½
Fraser Group	5	+	5
GSK*	1599	+	3
Greggs	2842	+	32
HSBC*	683 ½	+	6 ¾
IDS	319	+	7
IMI	1786	+	5
ITV	80 ¼	+	4 ½
Imperial Brands	2036	+	36 ½
InterContinental Hotels	8266	+	86
International Airlines	169	+	5
Johnson M*	1569	+	18
Kingfisher*	248 ¼	+	¼
Legal&Gen	231	+	6 ¼
Lloyds Banking Group	55 ½	+	1 ¼
London St Exch	9654	+	220

THE FTSE 100 CLOSED DOWN 35.27 AT 8,237.19			
Man	247	+	1 ½
Marks & Spencer*	298	+	2 ½
Mitch & Butlers	301	+	6
Mitie Gp*	117	-	-
Mobico Group	47 ¼	-	-
Mothercare	4 ½	-	-
NatWest	314 ¾	+	7 ½
National Grid*	898 ¾	+	16 ¾
News Corp A	2124 ½	-	19 ¾
News Corp B	2170 ¼	-	20 ¾
Next	9140	+	132
Pennon	609	+	3 ½
Persimmon*	1355 ½	-	64 ½
Prudential	707	+	7
Rank	71	-	1 ½
Reckittiser	4428	+	35
Rentokil	453 ¾	+	6 ¼
Rio Tinto	5234	+	15
Rolls-Royce	473	+	15 ¼
SSE	1824	+	57
Sage*	1081	+	24 ½
Sainsbury's*	262 ¼	+	3 ½
Segro	893	+	8
Seymour Trent*	2464	-	10
Smith+N	1005	+	5 ¼
Smiths News*	72 ¾	-	-
Stand Chart	223	-	1
Tesco	308 ½	-	1 ½
Tui	563 ½	+	10
Unilever	4434	-	16
United Utilities*	1009 ½	+	27
Vanguard	49	-	2 ½
Vesuvius	476	+	10 ½
Vodafone*	71 ½	+	2 ½
WH Smith	1171	+	15
= ex dividend			
Data by MORNINGSTAR			

Sun money

INTEREST rates have been on the rise for years now, but thousands of us still get a pittance on our savings accounts.

Since December 2021, the Bank of England has raised interest rates 14 times, taking us from a base rate of 0.10 per cent to 5.25 per cent.

As a result, the average savings account now pays a healthy 3.12 per cent return.

Or, if you hunt out the best buys, you could be earning as

much as 5.2 per cent on your spare cash. But there are still zombie accounts out there that are punishing loyalty with a very low interest rate.

Zombie accounts are ones that have closed to new customers and, as a result, have slashed the interest rate.

Loyal customers who have not shifted their money to a new account are usually left earning less than 0.5 per cent.

Anna Bowes, co-founder of SavingsChampion.co.uk, says: "It's shocking to see that even though the base rate has increased, there are many savings accounts that are still paying less than inflation."

"And some have not seen a

single increase for many years. Virgin Money and Saga, for example, are still paying just 0.25 per cent AER on a number of old, closed accounts. In the meantime, you can earn over 5 per cent AER elsewhere.

"On a balance of £1,000, rather than earning just £2.50, by switching you could earn £50 a year instead."

"It's like free money." The worst zombie account pays just 0.05 per cent. On a £10,000 balance, that amounts to a £5 return over 12 months, compared to a £520 return in a best buy account paying 5.2 per cent.

Here, RUTH JACKSON-KIRBY looks at which accounts you should leave - and how to do it.

The rise of savings



HOW TO DITCH A 'DEAD' ACCOUNT

DITCHING a zombie account is simple, but first make sure that you want to.

Check the interest rate on your existing account - it will be on your statement or you can log in to your online banking to see it.

Then compare that rate with the best buy accounts, which you can find at Moneyfacts compare.co.uk or Savings Champion.co.uk.

If your existing account is paying under 4.5 per cent, you can do better elsewhere.

Anna says: "The reluctance to switch accounts often stems from a combination of inertia and lack of awareness."

"Many are unaware of the competitive rates available, while others might find the process of switching accounts daunting."

"However, with the advent of

online banking and websites such as SavingsChampion.co.uk, it's never been easier to find and switch to a better savings account."

Once you've found a better rate elsewhere, apply for the account and move the money from your existing account into the new one.

When you are all set up with your new top-tier savings account, don't become complacent. Check the small print.

Is your new interest rate guaranteed for a set period (often 12 months) or is it variable?

If it is guaranteed, set a reminder in your calendar to shop around for a better rate when that rate ends.

If it is a variable rate, check it every six months or so to see if

it has fallen or if there are better rates available elsewhere.

If you want to get your savings working hard and earning you a decent return, you have to be nimble and ready to move to a better paying account regularly.

One trap to avoid, though, is just staying with the big names.

Anna says: "Lesser-known cash savings providers offer the top rates, but people can be wary because of the 'worry of the unknown'."

"But it's because they are less known that these providers need to work harder to attract new customers, which means they offer the most competitive rates."

"As long as you check that your money will be protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), there is no need to be worried."

DON'T MISS TOMORROW'S SUN MONEY FOR MORE SAVINGS, HELP AND ADVICE



Edited by  
**TARA  
EVANS**



Got money problems? We can help fight for your cash back or challenge the way firms operate  
Email: [money@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:money@the-sun.co.uk)  
Write: **Sun Money, News UK**,  
1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

## FLEE THESE ACCOUNTS

BANK	ACCOUNT	RATE (£10k)
Al Rayan Bank	On Demand Savings	0.05%
Virgin Money	Passbook	0.10%
Al Rayan Bank	Direct Saving	0.15%
Ikano Bank	Easy Saver	0.16%
Yorkshire Bank	Savings Account Plus	0.20%
ICICI Bank UK	HiSAVE Bonus Saver	0.20%
Virgin Money	Virgin Easy Access Saver Issues 1 - 37	0.25%
Virgin Money	Virgin Easy Access E-Saver Issues 1 - 31	0.25%
Virgin Money	Man Utd Red Devil Saver Issue 1 - 4	0.25%
Virgin Money	Man Utd Red Devil E-Saver Issue 1 - 4	0.25%
Virgin Money	Instant Savings	0.25%
Saga	Telephone Saver Stage 2 Issues 1 - 7	0.25%
Saga	Internet Saver Stage 2 Issues 1 - 6	0.25%
Cynergy Bank	Online Easy Access Issue 52	0.30%
Virgin Money	Man Utd Double Take E-Saver Issues 1 - 8	0.35%
Virgin Money	Double Take E-Saver Issues 1 - 17	0.35%

Source: Moneyfacts

## NEW RULES

NEW regulations that oblige banks to offer fair value to customers were introduced last summer.

Meagre interest rates do not represent fair value, but the rule changes only cover new accounts, not old ones. However that will change soon.

James Hyde, from Moneyfactscompare.co.uk, says: "Rules regarding closed (zombie) accounts come into effect this summer, so it remains to be seen if there is more urgency to improve rates going forward."

"As always, customers are encouraged to proactively monitor savings rates. People should be prepared to switch if they feel their loyalty is not being adequately rewarded."

## 'Claims Guys wiped £1,300 debt – but want £625 fee'

**Q** I WAS struggling with debt when I saw an advert for a firm called The Claims Guys that said I could complain about unaffordable lending.

An employee said they could help me make a claim to my credit card provider and they would take a fee from what they won back.

I agreed and they got my provider to wipe £1,303 of debt.

But then the claims firm billed me for £625, which I would have to pay out of my pocket. I can't afford it but they won't back down. Can you help?

**DOM GRACE**, London

**A** CLAIMS companies usually work on a "no-win, no-fee" basis, which means they take a cut from the amount refunded.

But in some cases, such as with claims for unaffordable lending, they are helping you to get debts wiped. This means the fee cannot be taken from a cash payout and you will have to pay directly.

A £625 bill would come as an unpleasant surprise to anyone, let alone someone already in serious financial difficulty.

The Claims Guys said you could turn down the offer from your credit card lender, which you did, as you couldn't afford the bill. But then it said that despite rejecting the offer, you still owed the fees, meaning you were



**LAURA PURKESS**  
Sorts out your money issues

£625 further in debt for nothing. You were then panicked because you had put in other claims too, and you realised that you could end up with thousands of pounds of fees.

You asked the firm to cancel the other claims, but didn't hear back.

In despair, you wrote to me for help. Unfortunately, The Claims Guys does state online in its terms that its fee is 48 per cent of any refund it obtains.

However, since you were in debt and turned down the offer because you couldn't afford the fees, you should never have been charged.

I'm pleased to say The Claims Guys has waived the fees and cancelled your claims.

As this firm is not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, there is little control over such fees.

I feel this should change and I have written to both Keir Starmer and Rishi Sunak to ask, if they get into government, that they extend the remit of the FCA to cover such firms.



# the zombie accounts



## HIGHEST RATES TO SWITCH TO



BETTER INTEREST... with new account

**WANT** to get the best rate on your savings? Be prepared to open an account with a bank you may not have heard of before.

But pay close attention to the terms and conditions.

The best rate right now is 5.2 per cent from Ulster Bank's Loyalty Saver. You will need to maintain a balance of at least £5,000. If you fall below, the rate drops to 2.25 per cent.

Alternatively, Chase pays 5.1 per cent on its Chase Saver Boosted Rate Offer.

Opened and operated via an app, this account is only available to Chase current account customers. But it is a decent current

account that pays 1 per cent cashback on your spending for the first year, so may be worth considering.

Third in the table is Oxbury Bank's Easy Access Account Limited Edition 1. This pays 5.02 per cent, but you must deposit at least £20,000.

For a straightforward easy access savings account with a good rate and no tricks, try Wealthify. Its Instant Access Savings account pays 4.91 per cent on balances from £1.

Your interest is paid monthly and you can access your cash whenever you like. Just keep an eye on the rate as it is variable.

**MILLIONS** of Barclays current account customers are to lose a £5 monthly bonus.

The bank is axing the cashback as part of a wider shake-up of the Blue Rewards account. **OLIVIA MARSHALL** explains all...

### WHAT IS CHANGING?

Barclays Blue Rewards customers currently pay £5 per month for access to high-interest savings accounts and cashback.

They also receive £5 a month back if they have two or more direct debits which, in effect, cancels out the cost.

From September 4, Barclays is removing this £5 monthly reward.

Blue Rewards customers will also be able to receive fixed benefits worth up to £44 per month – an increase from £35.50 currently available.

This includes access to Apple TV+ and an MLS season pass to watch major league soccer matches, as well as getting cashback and interest on savings.

Manuel Baldasano, head of customer and digital at Barclays UK, said: "Our refreshed Blue Rewards proposition, which sits alongside our fee-free account and premier banking, means customers can choose what works best for them."

**SHOULD I MOVE BANK?** The bank said it will carry out reviews to ensure Blue Rewards customers are getting fair value for their £5 monthly fee. In cases where they are not, Blue Rewards and its fee will be removed, leaving customers on

Barclays' standard, fee-free account, it said.

James Hyde from data site Moneyfacts added: "The monthly cash reward effectively paid for the cost of the Barclays Blue Rewards membership."

"With this set to be removed, members may re-evaluate whether the deal is right for them."

"As is often the case with these membership products, the true financial implications of these changes will depend on how exhaustively individuals utilise the rewards, and how much they invest in associated accounts."

### WHAT DO OTHER BANKS OFFER?

Several other banks offer current account customers cashback which could work out as a more lucrative deal than Barclays.

The amount could be calculated as a percentage of what you spend on bills, or be fixed and require you to make a number of

purchases or pay several direct debits. For example, Santander's Edge account gives users one per cent back on their water, energy, council tax, mobile, phone, broadband and paid-for TV bills, as well as one per cent on most supermarket and travel spending.

Each month, customers can earn up to £10 for each, or a maximum of £20.

New Chase bank customers get one per cent cashback, capped at £15 a month, on almost all spending for their first 12 months.



SHAKE-UP... bonus fiver to go



**Stickers and cards**

THIS is the most popular form of footie merchandise, so there is a huge market. But prices can fluctuate wildly, according to demand and the item's condition.

The most expensive card ever sold is the 1958 Alifabolaget Pele Rookie #635, which fetched more than £1million at auction in February 2022.

Completed tournament sticker books are highly sought-after.

You can check prices on get-collectables.co.uk.

Pele card  
**£1m**

**Programmes and tickets**

PROGRAMMES from before the Sixties are the most pricey, with some in good condition fetching thousands of pounds.

Ticket stubs and programmes from modern games are worth less.

Find out what yours could sell for at oldfootballprogrammes.co.uk.

An original 1966 World Cup Final England vs West Germany programme sold for £169.99.

1966 programme  
**£170**



# Footie gear can net you a fortune

SCOUR your attic for old football items and you could score some cash.

The global market for sports memorabilia is worth £21billion a year, and with the Euros in

progress in Germany, now is a great time to sell your soccer collectibles.

Here, JANE HAMILTON brings you some of the top items that could net you a nice little windfall.

**Team scarves**

WHILE not as valuable as shirts, old supporter scarves can sell for three to four times their original value. Try eBay as a good way to sell.

A Leeds United 1974 League Champions scarf is on sale on there for £299.

1974 Leeds scarf  
**£299**

**Replica shirts**

RETRO replica kits from the '80s and '90s are making a comeback, so prices are rising too.

Look at classicfootballshirts.com for an idea of value and then you can sell to them too. A 1988 Netherlands home kit recently sold for £310 on the site.

1988 shirt Netherlands  
**£310**

**Match-worn shirts**

TOPS worn by leading players can be worth up to £5,000 – but you will need to prove the item is genuine.

Auction houses have rigorous verification processes, so gather proof such as photos of the game with the shirt's identifying marks clearly shown.

A David Beckham No. 7 Man Utd shirt recently sold for £4,995.

Beckham United shirt  
**£4,995**

**Rare footie boots**

UNWORN retro footie boots can go for £1,500 – and more. Adidas Predator Accelerators and Nike Mercurial Superfly VI Elite are among the most wanted.

Look on bootsfinder.co.uk. Only 100 pairs of mango Nike Mercurial Vapor IX CR SE FG were ever made.

And a pair recently sold for £5,000.

Mercurial Vapor  
**£5,000**



## THIS SUMMER'S BEST LINE UP

2 FOR **£7**

Diet **Coke**

8x 330ml

**Coca-Cola**  
ZERO SUGAR  
8x330ml



PRICE DROP

~~£2.25~~

**£1.50**

each

**£1**

each



GET MATCH Ready

**ASDA**

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT



# Refresh your kitchen with a simple but stunning makeover

**Joe's Doors** can simply transform your kitchen by replacing the doors, panels and trims.

With a huge range of kitchen styles to choose from, this cost effective, fuss free service, can be completed in under two days and best of all you don't even need to empty the cupboards!

Call now to take advantage of a **free survey**, **free quote** and **free design** service....with no pressure selling.

- ✓ No need to empty cupboards
- ✓ No mess, no fuss
- ✓ Most fitted in a day
- ✓ Made to measure



**FREE SINK**  
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WORTH OVER £229\*

Present this voucher to our Home Consultant on the day of your Quartzize survey.

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## Transform your worktops with Quartzize stone overlays

Why replace your worktops when this unique quartz overlay simply fits over your existing surface. Here are some of the amazing benefits:

- **Timeless** - Looks clean and modern.
- **Hygienic** - A perfectly smooth surface.
- **Easy care** - Wipe with a neutral cleaner.
- **Durable** - Tough and scratch resistant.
- **Easily Installed** - Fitted in less than a day.



## Just three simple steps to transform your existing kitchen:

- 1** We'll pop along and take some measurements...
- 2** You choose from our range of doors and worktops...
- 3** Our fitters will arrange a convenient time to come back and transform your kitchen.

\*Limited period promotional voucher. T and C's apply.

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# AWARD-WINNING **Sun** travel

Edited by LISA MINOT



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3 MORE PAGES



**VOTE** in The Sun Travel Awards 2024 and you could win one of eight fantastic holidays.

Trips away are the top priority for Sun readers, whether at home or abroad. Now we want to reward the firms which have served you best.

Vote for your favourites in our 11 categories and you could win an incredible prize. You could soak up the sunshine in Tobago, cruise to the majestic fjords, hit the beaches of Florida and have

**Sun TRAVEL AWARDS 2024**

family fun in Majorca and the Costa del Sol or luxuriate in a 5★ Turkish hotel.

There's also a stay at a Haven holiday park or a treehouse at Port Lympne Hotel and Reserve in Kent to be won.

This week, we're focusing on our amazing Caribbean prize. Up for grabs is

seven nights' B&B at the beautiful Coco Reef Resort and Spa for two people, courtesy of the Tobago Tourism Agency.

The prize includes two economy return tickets with British Airways plus transfers. The award-winning resort is known for its tranquil feel and private white sand beach. The hotel also has two restaurants and two bars on site.

You have until August 8, 2024, to vote at [thesun.co.uk/travelawards](https://thesun.co.uk/travelawards). Terms and conditions apply.



## PRETTY DEVON TOWN AT BOTTOM OF A GORGE

# Beautiful Lynmouth

## ...steeped in history

### I HAVE read about charming places like Lynmouth in novels.

The quintessential Devonshire village, tucked into a plunging gorge at the edge of the ocean, is breathtakingly beautiful.

And I am lucky enough to have the best view of it.

From the porch window of my living room, I can see pastel-toned buildings protruding from the cliffs, painted in a honey glow from the afternoon sun.

It's everything you would imagine a southwest village bordering a national park to be.

We'd arrived early, so ahead of check in, we took a stroll on the pebble shore where families were perched on large rocks tucking into paper-wrapped fish and chips.

"What a brilliant spot that is," my mum had said, pointing up to Tors Park, which juts out from a high hill in an enviable position. We hadn't realised this would be our home for the next few days.

The seafront retreat boasts luxury apartments of varying shapes and sizes, sleeping from two to eight, all with one thing in common – jaw-dropping views.

We were staying in the four-person Ocean Terrace, so named because of its large decking area facing the sea that comes with a dining table and outdoor furniture, shaded by a huge tree. The marshmallow-like sofa and open kitchen inside had initially inspired us to whip up evening seafood feasts, but the smell of battered cod and mussels marinere from the restaurants below proved too tempting to resist.

We soon discovered that Esplanade Fish Bar is the best spot in town for a chippy tea (a large meal costs around £10 pp). The local tide times are etched onto a chalkboard outside.

The nearby Rising Sun serves strong Devonshire ales alongside its coastal pub grub – fresh mussels or pork tenderloin will both set you back £24.

For a lunchtime pasty, head to The Tuck Box, where slabs of sticky fudge are stacked in the windows.

It's in the Old Town, which is actually just one narrow cobbled street. A stroll down here will take you right back to the Victorian era. Exmoor Sheepskin, which sells rugs, slippers and furry footstools, sits next to The Village Inn which has a roaring log

### GO: LYNMOUTH, DEVON

**STAYING THERE:** A one-bedroom apartment at Tors Park costs from £163 for a minimum two-night stay. A two-night stay in the Ocean Terrace costs from £265. See [torspark.co](https://torspark.co).

burner in cooler months. There's even a Victorian portrait shop where you can pick out your own period outfit and pose for a sepia-tinged photo.

The putting green is just around the corner from here, while the Glen Lyn Gorge sits at the top of the village, not far from the Lyn Model Railway, home to miniature replicas of trains from the early 1900s.

After admiring model locos, you can experience the real thing at The Lynton & Lynmouth Cliff Railway. It claims to be the highest and steepest water-powered railway in the world, carrying passengers up and up to Lynmouth's twin town, Lynton.

The journey itself is

an experience with a conductor winding a ship wheel at the front of the carriage that judders you up the sheer cliff – we were treated to better views of the ocean with each turn of the wheel (adults £3.50, kids £2.20, and dogs £1 each way).

Once you reach Lynton, take advantage of the excellent coastal walks, such as the Valley of Rocks route. Those who would rather skip the funicular ride back down can take the Poet's Walk – so named as the zig-zag path is dotted with plaques featuring handwritten poems about these windswept cliffs.

If you love hiking, the patch of the South West Coast Path that stretches from Ilfracombe to Combe Martin offers stunning vistas of lush green cliffs toppling into a blue sea.

With my dogs Dora and Coco, I wove my way through pathways overgrown with shrubs and up steep cliffs until the families in the bay below looked like little ants.

The Storm In A Teacup cafe couldn't have been more welcome towards the end of our five-and-a-half-mile trek. A perfect pitstop in a prime spot on Watermouth Harbour, it has outdoor tables facing the sailing boats in the sea.

The chalkboard lists fresh crab

LOFTY LOOKOUT  
... Tors Park

HIGH LIFE ... Lynton & Lynmouth cliff railway

RUGGED ... Glen Lyn Gorge

SERENE ... bedroom

### THE OLD COASTGUARD Mousehole, Cornwall

**WHAT'S IT LIKE?** Overlooking the sea in one of Cornwall's prettiest villages, Mousehole, you'll find charming Victorian hotel The Old Coastguard.

The 14-room hotel has unspoilt views of the Atlantic and offers a warm welcome, well-priced drinks and tasty food.

**check in... check it out** **ROOMS ANY GOOD?** We stayed in a Better

Double room on the top floor, which came with adjoining twin and an epic sea view, although my husband did miss having a TV.

Each room comes with Bramley toiletries in the bathrooms and Cornish tea.

**EAT HERE OR GRAB A PIZZA?** On arrival, we took coffee in the garden while a live jazz band played and the waves crashed below.

Dinner in the main dining room was very special. Our prime table overlooked the sea as we tucked into asparagus and organic Fowey mussels, before fresh Cornish sole and succulent pork collar and moreish chocolate mousse for pud.

The kids' menu is great too with veggie sticks, hummus, pasta, sausages and chocolate brownies on offer.

The restaurant is open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner (to residents and non-residents).

**WHAT ELSE?** A path at the back of the hotel leads directly to Mousehole harbour where you'll find quirky shops, seaside galleries, old pubs and cafes.

There's also a natural sea pool at the back of the hotel for a dip, tide permitting.

**SO YOU'D GO BACK?** Yes! With good weather, you would not want to be anywhere else.

**WHAT'S THE DAMAGE?** Rooms start at £197.50 per night on a B&B basis. See [oldcoastguardhotel.co.uk](https://oldcoastguardhotel.co.uk).

NATASHA HARDING

IDYLIC ... Atlantic views

SOPHIE SWIETOWSKI



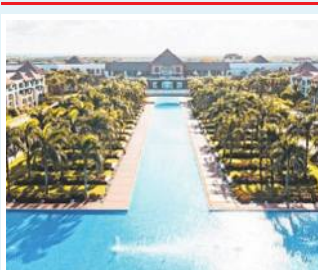
take  
**3**

OUR Take Three column gives a trio of cut-out-and-keep suggestions. This week, with the uncertainty of another British summer, we've gathered up some all-inclusive fly-and-flop holidays in the sunny Dominican Republic, where the weather is a balmy 33C right now.

## DOMINICAN SUNSHINE



**BUDGET – Bahia Principe Grand La Romana:** Drop the little ones off at the kids' club and spend all afternoon at the spa or lounging by the pool or beach, both with excellent bars that will keep you fuelled with ice-cold beers and cocktails for hours. There are five restaurants and three pools, as well as evening entertainment in the form of merengue dancers and singers. Seven nights' all-inclusive at the 5★ Bahia Principe is from £1,093pp, including flights from Gatwick in September. See [tui.co.uk](http://tui.co.uk).



**BARGAIN – Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Punta Cana:** On a seven-mile stretch of golden sandy beach, this hotel and casino overlooks a natural river, sprawling pools and secluded lagoons. You'll have 13 pools and a waterpark to cool off in, plus a luxury spa, golf course and fun-packed facilities like a surf simulator. With 23 bars and lounges, nine dining experiences and even a thumping nightclub, you will never need to leave. Seven nights' all-inclusive at the 5★ resort is from £1,883pp, including flights from Gatwick on selected dates in September. See [ba.com](http://ba.com).



**BLOW-OUT – Casa de Campo Resort & Villas, La Romana:** There's a reason why A-listers like J-Lo, Beyonce and Elton John love the tropical 7,000-acre paradise that is Casa de Campo. Many people know it as the home of the best golf course in the Caribbean, Teeth Of The Dog, but it also has an equestrian and polo centre, 13 top-of-the-range tennis courts and watersports. If you somehow tire of all that, the clay-shooting range, marina and yacht club will keep you well and truly busy. Seven nights' all-inclusive in a Premier Club is from £2,988pp, including Heathrow flights on August 11. See [destination2.co.uk](http://destination2.co.uk).

## AGISTRI PERFECT FOR RELAXATION AFTER



PRIVATE PARADISE...  
sun sets on Skala beach

BLUE SKY THINKING  
... view from Oasis  
Beach Hotel



TRADITIONAL  
... waterfront and  
church in Agina



# The tiny island just off Athens that's really quiet special

**IF you live in the frenetic urban sprawl that is Athens you will probably have strong ideas about what you want from a holiday.**

Somewhere with no noise, perhaps. And no traffic fumes. Oh, and no congestion. And definitely no crowds of foreign tourists.

I suspect you'll have had your fill of ancient monuments, too...

Lucky Athenians, then, that the perfect holiday destination is... just 45 minutes away on the hydrofoil.

Welcome to Agistri, a pretty, forest-covered little island that is a blink-and-you'll-miss-it dot in the Saronic Gulf.

At the height of the summer, Agistri is where Greek families go to escape the stifling heat of Athens.

But visit out of season, as we did early last October, and you will have the place to yourself – and great weather too.

Agistri may be that rare thing, a Greek island that still offers a taste of the much-clichéd "real Greece".

It is small, welcoming and ordinary in the best sense of that word.

There are no millionaires' yachts in the tiny harbours and no airport bringing in thousands of package holidaymakers. The

### GO: AGISTRI

**GETTING/STAYING THERE:** Olympic Holidays offers a twin-centre, seven-night trip to Athens and Agistri from £1,115pp. The package includes three nights' B&B at the 3★ Dave Red Athens and four nights' B&B at the 3★ Oasis Beach Hotel & Spa, Agistri, as well as flights from Gatwick and all transfers. Price based on September 9 departure. See [olympicholidays.com](http://olympicholidays.com).

A private tour of the island with Panagiotis Panos's Greece Private Transfers costs €30pp. Call +30 694 742 5061.

cruise ships that jam Santorini and Mykonos sail straight past it to and from Piraeus, the Greek capital's port.

Agistri, just five square miles, may well be Greece's greenest island, too, thanks to its forest and the abundance of flowers and olive groves, and it is still fairly undeveloped.

It has just three tiny villages with a smattering of hotels and apartments, nice clean beaches (some of them pebbly) with crystal clear waters and, best of all, great restaurants.

And because Agistri is geared towards other Greeks, the few tourists who do stay

are very well catered for. Chilling out is the rule here. Turn your phone off, sip a beer and lie on your sun lounger listening to the waves gently lapping on the beach. Or snorkel and swim in the warm sea. In the evening have a leisurely meal in a taverna.

We stayed at the friendly, family-owned Oasis Beach Hotel & Spa which is right on the sands at Skala.

Skala is the most "touristy" of the island's villages, yet we shared the beach with just a few locals, an English couple and some Scandinavian families.

If you prefer a beach even more out of the way, hike or hire a bike and cycle to Dragonera on the other side of Agistri.

It's pebbly and at the end of summer all but deserted apart from a cafe, but it is a really beautiful spot.

You can discover more such places on an island tour with chauffeur Panagiotis Panos.

Panos is Agistri's unofficial spokesman and cheerleader, someone who came over from Athens as a young man, fell in love with the place and stayed.

He will show you the best bits (pretty Aponisos island, connected to Agistri by a bridge), introduce you to the locals (the priest of the tiny church in sleepy "capital" Megalochori is, bizarrely, an internationally renowned pianist) and recommend places to



# BUSTLE OF GREEK CAPITAL

CROWDS... at the Parthenon



BUSTLING... Plaka area in Athens



SPARKLING JEWEL... the beach at Aponisos on Agistri



STEP CHANGE... guards

eat. We loved Yialos Fish Restaurant and the Toxotis Studios Restaurant, both in Skala, which do very good traditional food.

For a change of scene, visit the nearby island of Aegina, ten minutes away on the ferry. It's bigger, bustling, yachty and a lot more touristy.

Aegina town is good for "foodie" restaurants and upmarket boutiques. And if you do want some history, head out of the port to the 500BC temple dedicated to the goddess Aphaia.

## Incredible view

The best way to enjoy Agistri is to combine it with a few days in Athens first. There is one must-do in Athens – a visit to the Acropolis, the hill that dominates the city. It is home to the Parthenon, the 2,500-year-old temple of the goddess Athena.

The towering Parthenon, with its Doric columns and classical sculptures, is all you expect it to be. But maybe even more incredible is the 360-degree view of the city itself from the top of the Acropolis. It stretches in every direction for what seems like a hundred miles.

Go early to beat the crowds and before it gets too hot. Afterwards, relax in the bars

and restaurants of Plaka, the warren of smart streets in the shade of the Acropolis. Surprisingly, for such a large city, a lot of the places you need to visit are fairly close to each other.

Plaka is next to the Monastiraki, a buzzing flea market with offbeat cafes and shops. Nearby is Syntagma, the heart of the city, full of museums, grand official buildings and many more monuments.

And for a truly wallet-emptying experience in this reasonably affordable European capital, head to Kolonaki and check out the designer stores.

Athens is fun and fascinating. But it is also exhausting and can be overwhelming. It is loud and animated in that typically Greek way – and everybody seems to be moving as if they are in a speeded-up film.

Except for the famous goose-stepping soldiers in skirts who guard the Greek Parliament. They look very calm, relaxed even, as they do their slow-motion John Cleese-esque march for the ceremonial changing of the guard.

Calm? Relaxed? Really? In Athens?! Hm.

Perhaps they've just come back from a week's leave on Agistri.

**SIMON COPELAND**

# REV-ING UP REWARDS

HOLIDAYMAKERS who bank with Revolut can now convert their spending into travel-themed goodies, thanks to a new loyalty programme.

Unlike many schemes that require a credit card, RevPoints will let customers collect points through everyday spending on a debit card.

As well as exclusive discounts on travel, accommodation and experiences, users can transfer their RevPoints to more than 30 airline loyalty programmes including British Airways Executive Club.

Points can also be redeemed for discounts when shopping online at clothing and beauty brands including French Connection and Dermalogica.

Current users can earn up to one point per Pound spent.

New users will get 3,000 points – equivalent to 3,000 air miles – or up to £60 in travel discounts – when they make 150 "eligible" transactions.

Revolut's Christopher Guttridge said: "RevPoints is set to transform everyday spending into things and experiences people love, by converting routine purchases into rewards."

## lates

**CORFU:** Seven nights' all-inclusive at the 4★ St George Palace in Corfu is from £599pp with flights from Manchester on July 27. See [supescapes.co.uk](https://supescapes.co.uk).

**DEVON:** Seven nights' at The Daffodil Shed, Bere Alston is from £638 in total, based on two sharing, arriving July 26. See [sykescottages.co.uk](https://sykescottages.co.uk).

**MAJORCA:** Seven nights' all-inclusive at the 3★ Alueu Cala Antena is from £559pp including flights from Bristol on July 2. See [easyjet.com](https://easyjet.com).

**WHITBY:** Enjoy a two-day coach break to the Whitby Regatta, departing from pick-up points in the North of England on August 18. From £119pp including one night's B&B, excursion to the regatta and free time in Scarborough. See [nationalholidays.com](https://nationalholidays.com).



# BRANSON'S CITY FIRST

SIR Richard Branson will open his first London hotel – featuring an Ibiza-themed rooftop bar, pool and restaurant.

Virgin Hotels London-Shoreditch will be the 17th property in the collection, following sites launched in Edinburgh and New York last year.

Guests will be able to dine on Spanish cuisine at the BiBo restaurant run by Andalusian chef Dani Garcia.

Facilities include a gym, private members' club and treatment rooms run by Ibiza's Blue Marlin.

The hotel will open on August 1 and can be booked from next month.

Sir Richard said: "Since the inception of Virgin Hotels, we've had our sights set on London. It's a place so many of our customers either call home, or name as one of their favourite destinations – and of course it's where Virgin's story started."



GRAPE EXPECTATIONS... rows of vines at Denbies

# WHO NEEDS FRANCE? WE HAVE SURREY

VINEYARDS, ancient tunnels and a new pub owned by Raymond Blanc? Welcome to the Surrey Hills, an area of outstanding natural beauty where wineries blanket rolling valleys.

It could even be considered the UK's answer to France's Champagne region with Denbies' 265-acre wine estate located on Dorking's chalk-rich sandstone hills that have the same geology as the Champagne province.

Foolishly, I had opted to start my Surrey Hills adventure with lunch at the estate's glass-walled Vineyard Restaurant and I soon find myself searching for excuses to swap my winery hike for another glass of rosé.

But I settle on a happy medium – the wine train. Once onboard, I work my way through Denbies' award-winning bestsellers from the comfort of an open-sided trailer towed around the estate by a Land Rover.

Thankfully, it's just a 30-minute walk from the vineyard to my Surrey Hills solrée. In early 2024, one of Surrey's oldest pubs, The White Horse in Dorking, reopened after a £4m investment from Heartwood Inns, founded by Raymond Blanc.

This 13th-century pub's former guests include Charles Dickens, and its wonderfully wonky interior means it takes several attempts to get from my room to the log fire-warmed restaurant – but the Toulouse sausages make it worth the effort.

The next day, I discover another way Surrey's sandy soil sculpted this region.

Locals took advantage of its softness, carrying out subterranean extensions and creating a network of ancient tunnels, some of which are open to guided

tours led by Dorking Museum and Heritage Centre volunteers.

Hard hat in place, I enter a tunnel, descending into the softly-lit depths where I marvel at 17th-century graffiti.

Then I head seven miles west to the Silent Pool gin distillery, just outside Shere – a pretty village used as a backdrop for films including The Holiday.

By the spring-fed pond, which inspired the distillery's name, our tour guide pours generous slugs of its Coronation Gin.

He explains that its hawthorn berry notes honour King Charles's status as Patron of the National Hedgelaying Society (who knew)?

I'm thankful I'm not driving – not just because of the distillery's generosity regarding samples but because the Surrey Hills' lanes aren't cut out for the supercars many locals seem to own. That said the finest examples of these stunning motors aren't on its roads, but at the Brooklands Museum, a petrolheads' heaven in nearby Weybridge.

Exhibits range from vintage Bugattis to the McLaren MP4-6 driven by Ayrton Senna.

A stone's throw from here is Mercedes-Benz World, where visitors can book driving experiences in furiously fast V8s on its test track. Don't drive? Do as I do and swap chicanes for champagne afternoon tea next door, in the glasshouse of Brooklands Hotel's 1907 restaurant.

Life in the fast lane, I decide, can be overrated. GO: Doubles at Dorking's The White Horse start from £100 a night, room only. See [whitehorsedorking.com](https://whitehorsedorking.com).

**TAMARA HINSON**



TUCK IN... Delicious cheese and wine at Denbies



## PROMOTED CONTENT

Rides of a lifetime ...  
make memories the  
whole family will cherish



# THRILL YOUR BOOTS

BY STEPHANIE  
TUI REP

Get the most out of a Florida theme park holiday with these tips for action-packed fun

**FLORIDA is the best place on Earth for theme parks. It boasts an impressive 15 – six at Walt Disney World Resort, plus other big names like Universal Orlando Resort and LEGOLAND.**

On an adventure-filled Florida holiday, you'll find something for every member of the family. And to squeeze every last drop of fun out of your getaway, you need a plan – and we're here to share our best tips and tricks.

It's important to remember it's impossible to do everything as these parks are huge. At over 40 square miles, Walt Disney World Resort is almost the size of San Francisco. And that's just one of the parks! So, when booking your accommodation, opt for somewhere near the parks you want to visit most. For an immersive experience close to the action, you can book a hotel on site at Disney or Universal, or choose somewhere between the two.

It's best to book tickets in advance as the parks are busy all year round but especially over holidays. To make life simple, you can add on park tickets when you book your flights and accommodation with TUI. It also offers fun extras like after-hours passes and multi-day entrance tickets. And now is the perfect time to book, with a brilliant offer on Disney 14-day Magic Tickets for the price of just seven days.\*

It helps to make a list of the attractions and rides you don't want to miss so you have a rough plan each day you're in the parks.

Both Universal and Disney have handy apps with ride waiting times so you can look ahead to see where the queues are. If you're not bothered by the parades, this is a great time to enjoy the rides as they tend to be quieter – or, if you're riding alone, join the single rider line, which always moves the quickest. If you arrive in the morning, head to the back of the park where there are fewer people and start there, moving forward as the day goes on.

Armed with these tips, head to TUI for the best deals on hotels, flights and park entrance now!



Take the plunge ... choose to chill  
or ramp up the adrenaline factor

Book your Florida holiday today



For more information visit [tui.co.uk](http://tui.co.uk)

\*Valid for arrivals from Jan 7-Apr 5, 2025, Apr 23-Oct 2, 2025 and Oct 18-Dec 17, 2025. Customers must stay at a Disney Resort hotel for a minimum of eight nights and book by Nov 7, 2024

# Sun travel

Edited by LISA MINOT

## VISIT BARCELONA'S LITTLE SIBLING



VIBRANT ... Pont de les  
Peixateries Velles bridge



SWEET TREAT  
local Xuxo cakes



GO WITH THE FLOW  
... Onyar River at  
heart of city



HISTORIC ...  
Girona and  
the Cathedral

# Spain here we go... Girona mo!

**WE all remember our firsts in life.**

Our first love, our first kiss, our first house, you name it. And so it is that I will forever remember my first Xuxo.

I was sitting in a quiet cobble street, the morning sun on my face, when an intense explosion of flavour hit me with my first bite. I was instantly hooked.

I hadn't actually come to Girona, known as the "City of the Four Rivers", to discover gastronomic delights such as these delectable croissant-like morsels.

That said, the Spanish city is a hotbed of culinary offerings, and home to El Celler de Can Roca, a two-time winner of the coveted "best restaurant in the world" award.

Given the eatery, which has three Michelin stars has a 12-month waiting list, sadly I couldn't dine there.

But luckily, it's often the unexpected moments that are the most memorable.

Pronounced "choo-cho", Xuxo are deep-fried treats, coated in sugar and traditionally filled with crema catalana, a type of custard flavoured with citrus and cinnamon.

They are as much a part of Girona's identity as any of the historical buildings and ruins from the 1st century BC, when the city was founded by the Romans.

Just take a stroll through the web of streets at the heart of

**GO: GIRONA**

**GETTING THERE:** Ryanair flies from Stansted to Girona from £21.99 each way. See [ryanair.com](http://ryanair.com)

**STAYING THERE:** A double room at the Hotel Nord 1901 is from £120 a night. See [nord1901.com](http://nord1901.com).

the old town and you will see handfuls of places selling Xuxos, although the finest come from Can Castello.

My first foray into the heart of the old town delivers me to the foot of a vast flight of Baroque steps leading up to the city's cathedral, which was used as the Great Sept of Baelor in Game of Thrones.

**Trendy brother**

Entry to the cathedral is €12 but is worth it to see the intricate stonework of fantastical beasts and biblical scenes in the cloisters, as well as a silver altarpiece studded with shimmering gemstones.

My next stop is the city walls, the remains of which stretch almost three kilometres from the Paseo Arqueológico to the Jardines de la Muralla.

I was on my way there when an affable local, Adri, offered me some advice.

Clearly I looked every bit the tourist. "Make sure you cross the river on the red bridge and look for the map of Paris," he told me cryptically. "And of

course, don't forget to enjoy a few Xuxos." So I made my way towards the Onyar River, which cuts through the heart of Girona, in search of the Pont de les Peixateries Velles, to give it its proper name.

Designed by Gustave Eiffel before his famed tower, it is by far one of the most emblematic of the several bridges.

From here, I am treated to excellent views of the colourfully painted houses that flank the river and are synonymous with Girona.

Despite Adri's sage advice, my first Xuxo didn't come until the penultimate morning of my stay.

For lunch, I stumbled upon budget-friendly Zanpanzar, serving a delicious assortment of tapas dishes, the star of which is their homemade beef stew.

Girona feels more like a trendy village, complete with little squares surrounded by chic cafes and boutique shops.

For a great place to stay, the boutique 4★ Hotel Nord 1901 is just a five-minute walk from the Cathedral and the Old Quarter and features a lovely shady garden with a sparkling pool for dips after you've spent the day exploring.

It's easy to see why many travellers are eschewing Barcelona in favour of its little Catalan brother.

As for Adri's "map of Paris", well I will leave that one for you to discover yourself.

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\*UK Market data Jan 2023 - Dec 2023 (by sales volume), tested in boost mode on carpet according to IEC 62885-4:2020 part 5.3. For further information email [claimsinfo@vax.co.uk](mailto:claimsinfo@vax.co.uk) \*\*UK Market data Jan 2023 - Dec 2023 (by sales volume), tested in boost mode on carpets and hard floors according to IEC 62885-2:2021 parts 5.2 and 5.4. For further information email [claimsinfo@vax.co.uk](mailto:claimsinfo@vax.co.uk) †Tested in standard power mode on hard floor, with floor brush switched off. ‡Tested according to EN60312-1:2017 Clause 5.11. \*Maximum suction power, tested in boost mode according to IEC 62885-2:2016 clause 5.8. Orders before 7pm Monday-Friday, next day delivery available. Offer only while stocks last.

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# Sun gardening



BY  
**Veronica Lorraine**



**SAVE!** PRUNE back thicker branches with this ARS CAM24 PRO pruning saw, left, at £47.95 from Amazon, or cut back with Spear and Jackson's Razorsharp 7TPI, right, £7.99 from Screwfix.

**WIN!** BRITISH Garden Centres are offering a chance to win this all weather outdoor seating set worth £299. The Fern Living Stanwick Companion set – two chairs and a table – is perfect for bringing boho chic to your home. To enter visit [thesun.co.uk/STANWICK](https://thesun.co.uk/STANWICK) or write to Sun STANWICK competition, PO Box 3190, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8GP.  
● Include your name, age, email address or phone number. UK residents 18+ only. Entries close 11.59pm, July 6, 2024.



**LEARN!** MY daughter has moved and this is in her new garden. I'd like to know what it is.

**PATRICK**, via email  
A This looks like a pretty Philadelphia Snowbelle. They come into bloom around now and it should be beautifully scented. They can grow in sun or shade, but only bloom in early summer.



THIS is your last chance to grow pumpkins ready for Halloween. They need warm soil and lots of water to flourish.

This week's  
**JOB**

**BAG 15 DIASCIA FOR £9.50**

HAYLOFT Plants is offering Sun readers the chance to buy an Adorable Diascia Collection for better than half price.

You can get 15 plants (one of each) for £9.50 – would usually set you back £21.

And P&P has been reduced to £4.95.

Masses of nectar-rich blooms are perfect for suppressing weeds in open ground or planted in baskets and containers where the flowers will cascade over the edges.

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**THE best new plant at this year's BBC Gardeners' World Live left all the others in its shadow.**

And the winning bloom – hydrangea macrophylla First Editions Eclipse – would have delighted our late, great gardening editor Peter Seabrook.

As Best New Plant, it won the Peter Seabrook Award, which was launched last year in association with the Colegrave Seabrook Foundation, a charity that supports horticultural students.

Plants must be new varieties, colour breaks or have characteristics that improve on an existing variety.

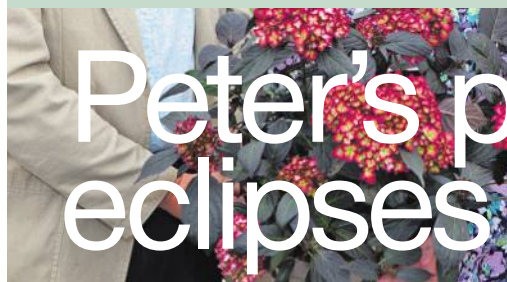
And they can't have been on sale to the public before BBC Gardeners' World Live started last week at Birmingham NEC.

There to see the triumph were Neil Gow and his wife Nicci, both from the Colegrave Seabrook Foundation. The amazing hydrangea, created by Allensmore Nurseries, in Hereford, also won Best Shrub.

The nursery's Geoff Caesar, said: "Hydrangea Eclipse has dark purple almost black leaves and cranberry red flowers."

"It is winter hardy and repeat flowers through the summer. It will be available in garden centres next summer."

Bob Sweet, horticultural director at BBC Gardeners' World Events said: "Develop-



**Peter's prize eclipses rest**



ing new plants is a long and painstaking process, and no one understood that more than Peter, who is much missed.

"This award pays tribute to Peter's passion for new plants, and we are hugely grateful to the breeders and growers that have supported it this year."

Peter, inset, who died in 2022, was

The Sun's Gardening Editor for more than 40 years.

Plant Introductions Panel Chair David Hurrion, the horticultural writer and commentator, said: "It's been great to see such a broad spectrum of plants entered."

"This wonderful new Hydrangea has been ten years in the breeding and is a worthy winner."

"Its fantastic flowers complement the unique foliage and will come back year after year, and is perfect for pots."

## CATEGORY WINNERS

■ **Annuals and bedding:** Plectranthus Skeletal by Hayloft.

■ **Edibles:** Apple Peter's Gold, a seedling discovered by Peter Seabrook and developed by FP Matthews.

■ **Houseplants, conservatory and tender plants:** Aglaonema Grand Blossom by Ansu.

■ **Perennials:** Musa Ever Red by Thompson & Morgan.

## BEDDING IN THE TOP TEN

AT Gardeners' World Live! a panel of experts picked their top annuals and bedding plants:

- Plectranthus Skeletal
- Scaevola Surdiva
- Passion Pink
- Petunia Painted Love
- Argyranthemum
- Grandaisy Big Pink
- Salvia Rockin Red
- Flamingo
- Petunia Yellow Morn
- Catharanthus Soiree White
- Osteospermum Tradewinds Yellow
- = Thunbergia alata
- Sunny Susy Tiger Eye
- = Bidens ferulifolia Taka Tuka M Red Yellow Centre

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This week's  
**TIP**

THE RHS thinks 2024 could be a bumper year for slugs.

Entomologist Hayley Jones said: "A cooler than usual June has led to favourable conditions for these much-maligned molluscs."



## GET IN TOUCH ►

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**REVEALED**

# The Great British Car Finance Rip-off Which Could Reach **'£16 BILLION'** in Refunds.

Millions of British drivers stand on the brink of potentially massive payouts which has been described as 'PPI scale'.

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) launched an investigation into claims of overpriced car finance.

It means the car finance scandal could reach over £16 billion.

The new enquiry centres on allegations that car dealers, incentivised by higher commissions, manipulated interest rates, potentially fleecing consumers by driving up costs on their vehicle loans for cars, vans, motorbikes, caravans and motorhomes.

The average  
claim is  
**£5,318.25\***

This controversial commission model, which was banned by the FCA in 2021, is said to have unjustly enriched dealers at the expense of millions of consumers, costing drivers an estimated £165 million annually.

It's been reported that nine in ten customers pay for new cars on finance in the UK, but people who bought second hand cars on finance agreements, either PCP or HP, can also claim.

One way to check for a car finance claim, and to **see if you're potentially owed £1,000s** is to contact The PCP Experts; find out in as little as 60 seconds.

The **PCP** Experts



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\*This is our average claim value as of 29/05/2024.



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# 80% OF UK BUSINESSES OWED MILLIONS IN MIS-SOLD ENERGY CONTRACTS!

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Mr Brown  
IT Support Business Owner,  
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FROM coffee shops to corporate giants, 80% of UK businesses use brokers to get the best energy deals. With news that 90% of these contracts have been mis-sold, 4 out of 5 businesses are now eligible to claim compensation. Make your claim now at **Business Energy Claim Back** where average payouts exceed £25k with some claims soaring into the millions...

Many UK businesses are currently unaware they're overpaying on their energy bills. The March 2022 OFGEM report reveals that about 80% of UK businesses using energy brokers could be trapped in mis-sold contracts, resulting in inflated bills due to hidden commissions.

#### RECLAIM WHAT'S RIGHTFULLY YOURS

*Business Energy Claim Back* is dedicated to uncovering these issues for businesses that have used brokerage services in the last 10 years. The average claim managed by *Business Energy Claim Back* exceeds £25,000, with some reaching into the millions, highlighting the substantial impact of these undisclosed charges.

*Business Energy Claim Back* offers a no-cost, comprehensive review of your energy contracts—a crucial step as many businesses may not even realise they've been affected. This approach ensures a fast, fair and honest assessment, guiding

businesses towards potential compensation. With an estimated 4.8 million businesses eligible for energy compensation, it's more than likely that your company could be one of them. Don't miss out on what you could rightfully claim back. Initiate your No Win, No Fee claim today with *Business Energy Claim Back*. It's not just about financial recovery; it also ensures fairness and transparency in your company's business energy dealings.

#### MAKE YOUR CLAIM NOW!

Don't miss this opportunity to reclaim what's rightfully yours now! Simply scan the QR code below to start your No Win, No Fee claim or visit [www.beclaimback.co.uk](http://www.beclaimback.co.uk). Making a claim won't cost you a penny, so there's nothing to lose and potentially a lot to reclaim.

“I didn't realise I had been mis-sold until I spoke to Business Energy Claim Back...they checked my contract and I received £21,000 compensation...fantastic service!”

Mr Brown, IT Support Business Owner, Poole.

START YOUR CLAIM HERE



Calling UK Business Directors or Stakeholders

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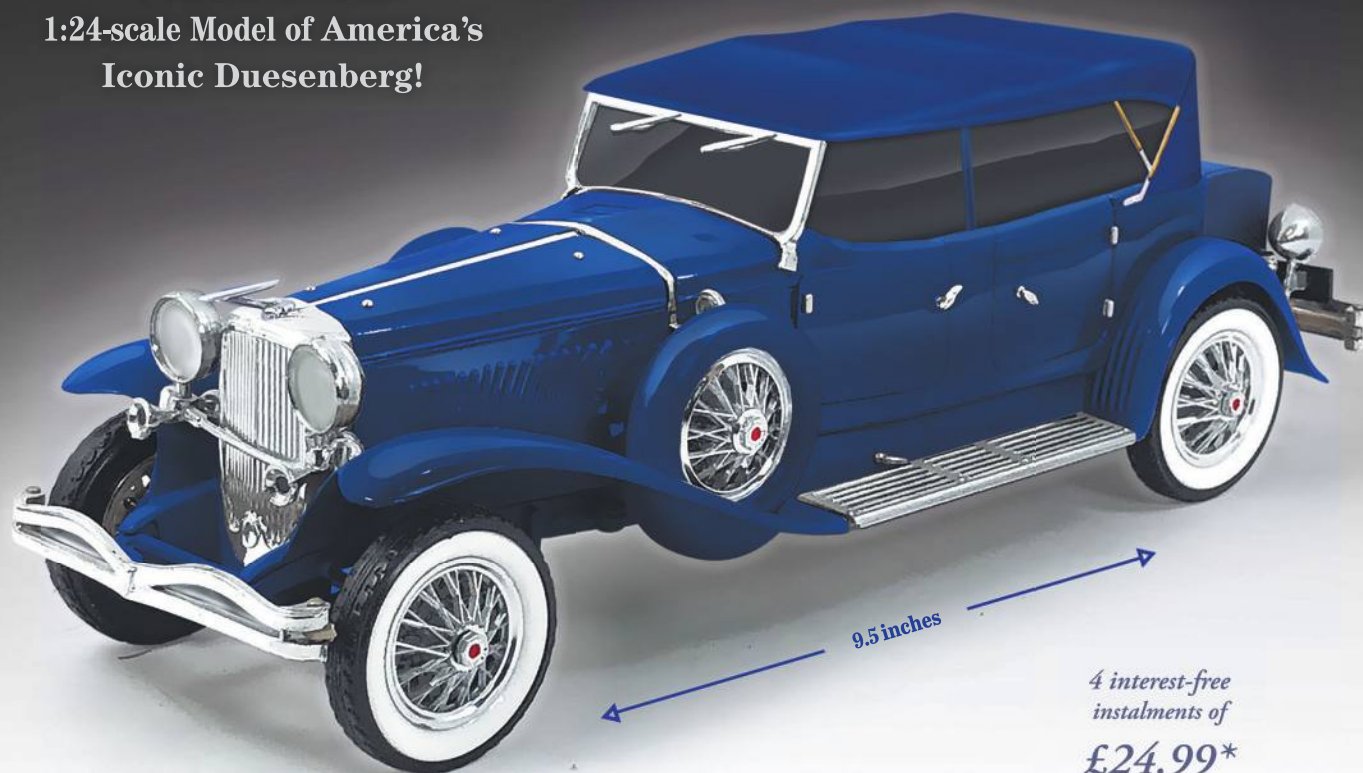
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# Cricket icon Syd told he has MND

**DAVID 'SYD' LAWRENCE**, the ex-England fast bowler, has been diagnosed with motor neurone disease. Lawrence (*right*), 60, was the first British-born black man to play cricket for England and the last bowler to dismiss Viv Richards in Tests. He played five Tests and one ODI between 1988 and 1992.



Lawrence is president of his county, Gloucestershire, a role he insists he will continue in. MND, which claimed the

By **JOHN ETHERIDGE**

life of rugby league star Rob Burrow this month, is a degenerative condition affecting the brain and nerves. There is no cure. Gloucestershire chief executive Will Brown said: "David is an icon of the game. More than that, he is the best of people: kind, loving, considerate and an inspiration to us all." The ECB added: "Syd embodies everything that is great about our game."

## SPORTS ROUND-UP: RESULTS & FIXTURES

### CRICKET

#### ICC T20 WORLD CUP - SUPER EIGHTS

**GROUP 1**  
**Australia v Bangladesh**  
North sound: Bangladesh 140-8 (20 overs). Australia 100-2 (11.2 overs; D A Warner 53no). **Australia (2pts) beat Bangladesh by 28 runs (D/A Method).**

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR
Australia	1	1	0	0	0	2	2.47
India	1	1	0	0	0	2	2.35
Afghanistan	1	0	1	0	0	-2.35	
Bangladesh	1	0	1	0	0	-2.47	

#### GROUP 2

**England v South Africa**  
Gros islet: South Africa 163-6 (20.0 overs; O de Kock 65). England 156-6 (20.0 overs; H O Brook 53). **South Africa (2pts) beat England by 7 runs.**

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR
South Africa	2	2	0	0	0	4	0.62
England	2	1	1	0	0	2	0.41
USA	1	0	1	0	0	-0.90	
West Indies	1	0	1	0	0	-1.34	

#### VITALITY T20 BLAST

##### NORTH GROUP

**Durham v Yorkshire**  
Riverside: Durham 170-6 (20.0 overs). Yorkshire 167-7 (20.0 overs; A Lyth 54). **Durham (2pts) bt Yorkshire by 3 runs.**

##### Northamptonshire v Leicestershire

**Northampton: Northamptonshire** 208-5 (20.0 overs; D J Willey 71). **Leicestershire** 208-7 (20.0 overs; R K Patel 104; R A Weatherall 4-50). **Northamptonshire (1pt) tied with Leicestershire (1pt).**

##### Nottinghamshire v Derbyshire

**Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire** 173-5 (20.0 overs). **Derbyshire** 165-8 (20.0 overs; A H T Donald 52). **Nottinghamshire (2pts) beat Derbyshire by 8 runs.**

##### Worcestershire v Warwickshire

**New Road: Worcestershire** 155-7 (20.0 overs). **Warwickshire** 155-5 (17.5 overs; S R Hain 76; J Bethell 71no). **Warwickshire (2pts) beat Worcestershire by 5 wickets.**

#### SOUTH GROUP

##### Gloucestershire v Somerset

**Bristol: Somerset** 188-4 (20.0 overs; T Banton 79). **Gloucestershire** 190-5 (18.4 overs). **Gloucestershire (2pts) beat Somerset by 5 wickets.**

##### Kent v Essex

**Canterbury: Kent** 156-7 (20.0 overs). **Essex** 157-5 (15.0 overs; M K S Pepper 76). **Essex (2pts) bt Kent by 5 wickets.**

##### Surrey v Glamorgan

**The Oval: Glamorgan** 107-9 (20.0 overs). **Surrey** 108-1 (9.0 overs). **Surrey (2pts) beat Glamorgan by 9 wickets.**

### GOLF

#### KLM OPEN (Amsterdam): 2nd Rnd (Gbr & Irl unless stated) - 132 M Korthorn (Fin) 64 68, 133 S Crocker (USA) 66 67, 134 J Morrison 66 68, R Fisher 67 67, 135 R Hoelgaard (Den) 70 65, E Ferguson 69 66, M Manassero (Ita) 64 71, M Baldwin 69 67, M Schmid (Ger) 68 67, N Galletti (USA) 69 66.

#### TIPSPORT CZECH LADIES OPEN ROYAL (Beroun, Czech Republic): 1st Rnd - 63 C Williams (Wal), 65 C Hedwall (Swe), S Nautinen (Fin), 66 A Swayne (Vir).

### RUGBY LEAGUE

#### BETFRED SUPER LEAGUE

**LEEDS** (12) 18 **LEIGH** (0) 10  
Leeds - Tries: Croft (2), Frawley. Goals: Martin (3).  
Leigh - Tries: Moylan, Ipahe. Goals: Moylan.

#### WIGAN (24) 36 **LONDON BR** (0) 0

Wigan - Tries: Farrimond (2), Marshall, Maki, Wardle (2). Goals: Farrimond (6).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	14	12	0	2	403	164	24
St Helens	14	11	0	3	405	142	22
Hull K.R.	15	11	0	4	385	201	22
Warrington	14	9	0	5	334	195	18
Salford	14	9	0	5	275	270	18
Catalans	14	9	0	5	265	202	16
Leeds	15	8	0	7	274	270	16
Huddersfield	14	6	0	8	280	295	12
Leigh	14	5	1	8	264	226	11
Castleford	15	3	1	11	238	429	7
Hull	14	2	0	12	180	450	4
London Br	15	1	0	14	140	598	2

### SPEEDWAY

#### CHAMPIONSHIP - Glasgow 48 Berwick 41, Redcar 45 Oxford 45 (Redcar win superheat 5-4), Edinburgh 56 Southorpe 34.

### SWIMMING

#### EUROPEAN AQUATICS CH'SHIPS (Belgrade): Finals - Women's 1500M Freestyle: 1 V Jacki (Hun) 16:06.37, 2 C Rieder (Ger) 16:15.98, 3 F Lewis (GB) 16:17.53.

# LEEDS' TOAST TO ROB

By **GARY CARTER**

**THERE** were tears, cheers and cherished memories as Leeds toasted their "bravest and toughest" hero, Rob Burrow.

Headingley was packed for Rhinos' first home match since the icon passed away on June 2, aged 41, after a 4½-year battle with motor neurone disease.

A host of former team-mates were there to pay tribute to the one-club man, who won eight Super League titles as a player and raised millions of pounds to help research a cure for MND.

The ground observed an impeccable minute's silence and Kevin Sinfield - another Leeds legend who undertook many fundraisers

Leeds.....18  
Leigh.....10

alongside his best pal Burrow - sent an emotional video message. Sinfield, in Japan coaching England's rugby union side, said: "We're all hurting. Rob showed how to live and love through the most difficult times.

"To the bravest and toughest man I've ever met, thank you."

Leeds - who saw boss Rohan Smith leave on Wednesday - went on to beat Leigh, with Brodie Croft landing two first-half tries.

Jack Farrimond and Jake Wardle doubles helped **WIGAN WARRIORS** thrash **LONDON BRONCOS** 36-0 to go top of Super League.



FOR YOU, PAL... Croft puts down Rhinos' opener after emotional tributes to Rob Burrow (insets)

## PROP STAR STAYING PUT

# Rock & Cole



DAN DARES... Cole is vowing to play on

## VETERAN HAS NO PLANS TO RETIRE

**PROP** idol Dan Cole laid down the law to England's front-row pretenders, declaring he is going nowhere even at the age of 37.

The Leicester legend's 113th cap against Japan this morning leaves him just one behind Jason Leonard's national record for a forward.

And Old King Cole vowed to keep rolling on - as long as he gets through the back-breaking midweek training sessions - as he makes up for lost time.

Cole had 3½ years in the Red Rose wilderness after a nightmare 2019 World Cup final against South Africa.

But he came back under Steve Borthwick in the 2023 Six Nations and refuses to chuck in the towel - unlike fellow prop Joe Marler, 33, who has hinted this trip to Japan and New Zealand will be his last Test gig.

Cole said: "There are no decisions. It's day to day, really. If I can survive training, I'll carry on."

"I'm loving playing for England, being in this environment and being part of this squad."

"It has been a real honour and privilege to be back in the team since last year's Six Nations."

Cole could overtake Leonard's Red Rose record in the second Test against

From **ADAM HATHAWAY** in Tokyo

the All Blacks on July 13. Counting World Cups, he has been on ten senior tours, including two for the Lions in 2013 and 2017.

And the old stager reckons Borthwick's new regime is extending his career after being flogged under former coaches - including Eddie Jones, who is now in charge of Japan.

He added: "With Steve, there is probably a greater emphasis on being able to switch off."

"Here in Tokyo, we have been allowed to go into town and see stuff and are actively encouraged to get out of the hotel - which previously we probably haven't been."

"To actually go out and enjoy the place gives us the ability to train and relax."

England scrum coach Tom Harrison is charged with making sure a pipeline of young props is coming through to replace the likes of Cole, Marler and Mako Vunipola. But he reckons the Tiger is the last of a breed.

Harrison said: "Dan is unique in what he has done. The ability to perform at the highest stage time and time again is something I'm not sure will ever be achieved again."

**JAPAN v ENGLAND match report (6.50am kick-off) - thesun.co.uk/sport**





FURY... drinking session

## Fury: I'm OK after boozy pub KO

By WALLY DOWNES Jr

**TYSON FURY** has laughed off concerns over his faceplant at the end of a drinking session.

The heavyweight got over his Oleksandr Usyk loss with a session at his local in Morecambe.

Fury was escorted out by bouncers then fell — sparking fears following his past battles with addiction and mental health.

But Fury, 35, said: "I got p\*\*\*\*d up about two weeks ago and fell over on my face. Didn't do any damage though, as you can see I'm still good looking!"

"I have lots of messages and phone calls from people asking me if I am OK."

"I had a drunken night out and suddenly everyone thinks you're going to jump in front of a train."

"Maybe, because of my past history, people are concerned."

"I would still be picking up dog s\*\*t, dropping the kids to school, running and having the odd beer until I fall over — I don't really do much else."

Fury hopes to avenge the split-decision defeat in a December 21 rematch.

He admits his showboating proved costly in Saudi Arabia on May 18.

The former WBC champion added: "My problem in that fight was that it was probably too easy."

"It was like I was in there with a local amateur boxer and I was enjoying it too much."

"I was always told, 'never mix your work with having fun' and I always gave my middle finger up to that — but now it has come back to bite me."

# TENNIS BRIT'S FRUSTRATION

# JACK WHACK

By JAKE SANDERS

**ANGRY** Jack Draper walloped a ball clean out of Queen's Club as he was brought back down to earth by Tommy Paul.

The new British No1's dream week came to a shuddering halt just 24 hours after his stunning win over reigning Wimbledon champ Carlos Alcaraz as he was dumped out 6-3 5-7 6-4 by the American.

Draper's frustrations reached boiling point in a tense quarter-final when he smashed a ball wildly out of Centre Court after failing to break back late in the final set, having just lost his own serve.

Draper, 22, claimed his first ATP Tour title in Stuttgart on Sunday and overtook Cameron Norrie as Britain's top-ranked player.

His run to the last eight at Queen's, including that victory over Alcaraz, means he will climb into

## Draper smashes ball out of ground in Paul defeat

the world's top 30 for the first time when the new ATP rankings are confirmed on Monday.

He now heads to Eastbourne for the final warm-up event ahead of Wimbledon, starting on July 1, where he will carry most of the nation's hopes in the men's draw.

Draper looked leggy at times in his eighth match in the space of 12 days and yelled "energy, energy, energy" to get himself going after saving break points.

But fatigue eventually got the

better of the Brit with a poor service game, including a double-fault, at 3-3 in the final set allowed Paul to break to love.

Draper forced deuce from 40-0 down in the very next game but Paul, 27, managed to escape and held his nerve to seal victory on his first match point.

The world No 13 said: "I'm definitely playing some good tennis."

"I really like the grass but I knew today would

be a battle. It's never easy with Jack, he's been playing such amazing tennis so I'm really happy to get through that one."

"His serve isn't fun to deal with. He plays very aggressive, really takes you off your game."

Draper's exit ended British interest in the Cinch Championships after Billy Harris' 6-3 7-5 defeat to Italian Lorenzo Musetti.

But Harris, 29, scooped £121,000 in prize money for reaching the last-eight in just his second ATP event to go with the £60,000 he is already guaranteed for being handed a wildcard at Wimbledon.

The 6ft 4in right-hander said: "It's expensive getting around in this sport so any money you can get is a massive help."

"Will I treat myself? A new van, maybe. I drive a Mini Cooper at the moment, it's a bit tight. I get in and out of a van a bit easier."



IT'S CURTAINS FOR DRAPER... British No1 Jack Draper shows the strain as his stunning run ends at Queen's yesterday

## MUZZA'S OP

From Back Page

at Queen's on Wednesday before retiring injured. A scan this week has cast serious doubt over a Wimbledon swansong and one final Olympics appearance.

Brother Jamie said: "This was potentially going to be his last Queen's, last Wimbledon and last Olympics and there is a potential that might not happen now."

Asked prior to the scan about missing SW19, Murray said: "Like all tennis players, we have degenerative joints in the back but it's all predominantly been left-sided for me."

"Maybe there is something that can be done between now and then to help the right side."

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WOLFF... investigation

## Toto calls in police over Lew email slur

From ISABELLE BARKER in Barcelona

**TOTO WOLFF** revealed Mercedes have involved police and will use "full force" to find the sender of an email which accused his team of sabotaging Lewis Hamilton's F1 car.

In the wake of the Canadian Grand Prix, where Brit George Russell blew first place, an email was circulated to journalists claiming to be from a Mercedes insider.

It accused the team of preferential treatment towards Russell and "life-threatening" tyre strategy for seven-time world champion Hamilton.

Mercedes have rubbished the email, with a disgruntled superfan the possible culprit.

Wolff, 52, said: "I have instructed to go in with full force and we have the police inquiring about it. We are researching the IP address and the phone."

"Online abuse needs to stop. People can't hide behind their phones or computers and abuse teams or drivers like this."

"I don't know what some of the lunatics and conspiracy theorists think."

"To all the mad people out there, take a shrink."

"Lewis was part of the team for 12 years, we have a friendship and we trust each other."

"We want to celebrate the relationship. If you don't believe that, then believe we want to win the constructors' title."

"It's not from a member of the team."

"We get tons of these emails, it is upsetting, particularly when they are talking about death."

Meanwhile, Flavio Briatore returned to F1 yesterday despite FIXING a crash at the 2008 Singapore Grand Prix — for which he was initially banned for life.

The former Renault team boss has been appointed as an executive adviser to Alpine's team.

The 'cashgate' scandal saw Nelson Piquet deliberately crash to help team-mate Fernando Alonso win the race.

Briatore was kicked out by the FIA indefinitely but he has always denied involvement and in 2010 had the ban overturned.

Wolff said: "We need to give him a chance to recover from the situation. Flavio's an extremely smart businessman."

"He has a lot of know-how in F1. Everyone deserves the opportunity to come back."

Alpine's vice-president Bruno Famin added: "I am always looking to the future at what we can get to make our team better."

# CRICKET T20 WORLD CUP ACTION

# Close.. but all ends in tears

## JOS BOYS' CHASE FALLS SHORT

**ENGLAND managed to lose to South Africa when victory seemed certain — and now their T20 World Cup campaign faces more jeopardy.**

A hurricane partnership of 78 in seven overs between Harry Brook and Liam Livingstone swept them to the brink of a win.

But England could not manage the 25 runs they needed from the final three overs and the Proteas triumphed by seven runs.

Jos Buttler's men should still finish in the top two in Group 2 of the Super Eights and qualify for the semi-finals on net run rate if they beat USA in Barbados tomorrow.

But one-sided matches between other teams in the group or a washout could still punish them.

Certainly, the momentum gained from their thumping win over West Indies in the early hours of Thursday morning has come to a temporary halt.

Captain Buttler insisted: "We lost the game in the powerplays."

"Quinton de Kock came out with a lot of intent and we could not quite match that. So we were probably 20 behind them after six overs."

"It was still a good pitch but a little slower than we expected. Brook and Livingstone had a fantastic partnership to take us close and at one stage looking like favourites."

"But it's never that simple in T20 cricket and credit to South Africa for closing it out."

"We're still very much in the competition. We played well but couldn't quite get over the line."

England did well to restrict South Africa to a modest 163-6 — especially after De Kock flew to a 22-ball fifty and helped his team to 63-0 in six overs.

As the pitch

By **JOHN ETHERIDGE**



slowed, England applied a squeeze with batters struggling to time the ball.

Wrist-spinner Adil Rashid conceded just 20 runs in his four overs, while Jofra Archer ended with 3-40 after his first over went for 21.

England were also superb in the field with Buttler, Brook and Sam Curran taking fine catches and Buttler running out the dangerous Heinrich Klaasen at the bowler's end with a dead-eye throw.

The holders fancied their chances but the run chase faltered in the early overs and, when Moeen Ali was dismissed for nine, they were 61-4 in the 11th over and apparently stuttering towards defeat.

But the next three overs brought 52 runs before Proteas paceman Kagiso Rabada conceded just four in the 18th and had Liam Livingstone caught out deep for 33 from 17 balls.

Brook was brilliantly caught over the shoulder for 53 by Aiden Markram on the first ball of the last over.

Curran clearly reckoned he could hit a six or two because he refused to run a single and give the strike to Jofra Archer. But the final three balls brought just one run.

South Africa have now won six games out of six in the tournament and captain Markram added: "With three overs to go, the odds were heavily against us."

"So for the bowlers to hang in there and have great plans shows a lot of skill."

"But I think it goes deeper than that — it's about fighting spirit."

●PAT CUMMINS took the first hat-trick of this T20 World Cup as Australia beat Bangladesh by 28 runs under the DLS method in their first Super Eights clash.

**TO THE FOUR...** Brook belts a boundary but De Kock (inset) helped South Africa to victory

### SCOREBOARD

T20 World Cup - Super Eights Group 2

England v South Africa  
CROES (WLE) England won the toss.  
South Africa (2pts) beat England by 7 runs.

**SOUTH AFRICA**  
R Hendricks c Brook b Ali 19 (25)  
D de Kock c Buttler b Archer 65 (88)  
H Klaasen not out 8 (13)  
D Miller c Brook b Archer 43 (28)  
A Markram b Rashid 1 (26)  
T Stubbs not out 12 (11)  
M Jansen c Curran b Archer 0 (10)  
K Mairani not out 5 (26)  
Extras (b1, lb3, w6) 10  
Total (6 wickets, 20 overs) 163

Fall: 86, 92, 103, 113, 155, 155.  
Bowling: Topley 4-0-23-0, Ali 3-0-25-1, Archer 4-0-40-3, Curran 3-0-29-0, Rashid 4-0-20-1, Wood 2-0-22-0.

**ENGLAND**  
P Salt c Hendricks b Rabada 11 (86)  
J Buttler c Klaasen b Maharaj 17 (20)  
J Bairstow c Nortje b Maharaj 16 (20)  
M Ali c Maharaj b Bairstow 9 (13)  
H Brook c Markram b Nortje 53 (37)  
L Livingstone c Stubbs b Rabada 33 (17)  
L Livingstone c Stubbs b Rabada 10 (76)  
S Curran not out 1 (26)  
J Archer not out 6  
Extras (b2, w3, nb1) 15  
Total (8 wickets, 20 overs) 156  
Fall: 15, 43, 54, 61, 139, 150.  
Bowling: M Jansen 4-0-31-0, K Rabada 4-0-32-1, Maharaj 4-0-25-2, Bairstow 3-0-27-1, A Nortje 4-0-35-1, Markram 1-0-4-0.  
Umpires: S I Saiti & C M Brown.







LE BRIS ... incoming

## Cats eye Le Bris as boss

By TONY LITTLE

**SUNDERLAND** are close to appointing Frenchman Regis Le Bris as their new manager.

It is understood Black Cats bosses have agreed a compensation figure with Lorient for Le Bris.

The 48-year-old failed to keep the club in Ligue 1 last season, finishing next to bottom following an impressive debut campaign in management, where he guided the club to tenth place.

He was in the running for the Leeds job last summer before Daniel Farke landed it.

Le Bris will succeed Michael Beale — Sunderland's last permanent boss who was axed in February after just 12 games in charge.

Michael Dodds led the Championship club to 16th place as caretaker.

Sunderland also targeted former Reims boss Will Still but the Englishman joined Lens earlier this month.



MARSCH ... Argy-bargy

## It's Jesse not good enough

By ROSS GREGORY

**CANADA** boss Jesse Marsch wants Lionel Messi's Argentina to be fined for emerging late from the dressing room in their Copa America clash.

They came out five minutes later than tournament debutants Canada for the second half in Atlanta, which infuriated the ex-Leeds manager.

He said: "When they were waiting I knew that they were looking at video and they were analysing how they wanted to play against us. I wish the referees would manage that. "If we were five minutes late, we'd get a fine."

"There would be a big problem. I think they have to be fined."

"It was a long time. If we'd have known ahead of time that we could have an extra ten minutes then we could have prepared some things more."

Holders Argentina won the Copa opener 2-0 with goals from Julian Alvarez and Lautaro Martinez.

# DRAMA OVER WALES JOB

# OSIAN'S 11

## He steals march on icons Bellamy, Giggs & Hughes



HOPEFUL ... Burnley interim boss Bellamy



RETURN ... ex-Wales manager Giggs

TOP CONTENDER ...  
Roberts is favourite to  
become new Wales boss



TARGET ... Wales icon Hughes wants job

**OSIAN ROBERTS** is hoping to pip a trio of Welsh legends for the national job after Robert Page was sacked.

Page was dismissed as Wales boss following the failure to qualify for Euro 2024, as well as June's double friendly embarrassment against Gibraltar and Slovakia.

Burnley interim boss Craig Bellamy is a contender with former Dragons managers Ryan Giggs and Mark Hughes keen to get back into the game.

Former Wales forward Bellamy was assistant to Vincent Kompany at Turf Moor before he quit for Bayern Munich and the 44-year-old lost out to Giggs for the Wales job in 2018.

Giggs saw his managerial career put on hold when arrested on suspicion of actual bodily harm and assault against his former partner and her sister in November 2020 — charges he was later acquitted of.

And Hughes, who was Wales boss between 1999 and 2004, would fancy a second stint after leaving Bradford eight months ago.

The ex-Manchester United striker told SunSport: "I'd like to get back in because I have the enthusiasm for a new challenge."

But Roberts is the bookies' favourite after helping Como to win promotion to Serie A. The 58-year-old,

By PHIL CADDEN and KEN LAWRENCE

who is the Italian club's head of development, moved aside for Cesc Fabregas to become manager after he completed his coaching badges.

Roberts was an assistant manager to Gary Speed, Chris Coleman and Giggs and, like Bellamy, disappointed to also miss out in 2018 following an interview.

Previously assistant manager to Patrick Vieira at Crystal Palace, Anglesey-born Roberts would be a popular choice among a section of the Welsh support to replace Page (right).

Page still had two years left on his contract and will receive a significant pay-off.

He took over from Giggs in November 2020 and led Wales at the delayed Euros and guided his country to a first World Cup in 64 years back in 2022.

Prior to that tournament, the 49-year-old was handed a four-year contract by the Welsh FA.

But the Dragons were KO'd from Qatar after a dismal show of just one point from the group stages.

Following talisman Gareth Bale's retirement, Page's men beat Finland

in a Euro play-off semi-final before losing to Poland in a cruel penalty shootout defeat.

Welsh FA president Steve Williams backed Page instantly after the heartbreaking loss in March.

Despite being unbeaten in eight competitive matches, fans turned on Page with boos and chants for him to be axed following a humiliating goalless draw with Euro minnows Gibraltar — then ranked 203rd in the world — and a 4-0 thrashing by Slovakia on June 9.

Page said of the fans: "They want me out, I completely understand."

Those friendlies were used to blood young players but, amid the fierce fan backlash, it is understood the Welsh FA board became impatient.

It proved the final straw for Page, with his bosses expecting the nation to qualify for the 2026 World Cup.

Page still retained support from the players and captain Aaron Ramsey posted a farewell message on X just 17 minutes after the manager's dismissal yesterday.

Ramsey posted: "I personally just want to thank you for all you have done for me."

"You have been a privilege to

work with, a gentleman and true family man.

"Myself and the team will forever be grateful for your guidance."

"These past few years are years we will treasure. Thank you, Rambo."

FAW chief football officer Dave Adams, along with Williams and chief executive Noel Mooney, are set to lead the process for the Dragons' new manager.

But the hierarchy will not rush a decision as Wales' next fixture is not until their Nations League opener with Turkey in Cardiff on September 6.

Adams, with one eye on the World Cup qualifiers which start next March, said: "This experience will support our objective to consistently qualify our men's national team to major tournaments."

Wales, through chief football director Adams and his predecessor Roberts, have tried to develop a group of young coaches in Under-21 boss Matty Jones, Chris Gunter, Neil Taylor, James Rowberry and Eric Ramsay.

But the FAW, financially hit by not qualifying for the Euros, will also keep their options open.

Roberts is the favourite and they have not appointed a non-Welshman as manager since Englishman Bobby Gould left the post in 1999.





## Villa swap shop



**ASTON VILLA** salvaged a swap deal with Juventus after USA midfielder Weston McKennie pulled out. Douglas Luiz will still join Juve but Argentine Enzo Barrenechea (left) takes McKennie's place. Villa now get £25million instead of £17m, plus Barrenechea, 23, and English winger Samuel Iling-Junior. Leeds flop McKennie, 25, could not agree a pay-off at Juve after Villa offered him lower wages.

**ALL THE GOSSIP**  
**ALL THE NEWS**  
**ALL THE DEALS**



## Bayern bag £55m Olise

By CHARLIE WYETT

**MICHAEL OLISE** is heading to Bayern Munich from Crystal Palace for £55million.

The France Under-21 star — currently at his country's Olympic training camp — turned down Chelsea, Newcastle and a huge new offer from Palace to join Vincent Kompany at Bayern.

The German giants have met the South London club's release clause of £55m, while the winger will bank wages of £220,000 a week.

It is the second time Olise (left) has decided against joining Chelsea, while it is understood Palace did everything to keep one of their star players.

But he was keen to move to the Bundesliga, where he will have Harry Kane and Eric Dier as team-mates next season. Olise, 22, has been at Selhurst Park for three years having joined from Reading for £8m.

Although the departure is a blow, boss Oliver Glasner will have funds to bring in new faces.

Olise, also eligible to play for England and Nigeria, made 82 Premier appearances for the Eagles, scoring 14 times.



## NEWS TICKER

**GALATASARAY** are eyeing a swoop for Aaron Wan-Bissaka from Manchester United.

The Red Devils took up the option to extend the full-back's contract by 12 months until 2025. But they may listen to offers for the star, 26, who cost £50million from Crystal Palace in 2019.

**SOUTHAMPTON** are exploring a move for Fulham's Bobby Decordova-Reid.

The Jamaica winger, 31, is out of contract this month but Cottagers have offered a two-year deal. Saints also fancy Villarreal's Ben Brereton Diaz.

**EVERTON** have a keen interest in Manchester City defender Issa Kabore.

The Toffees are rumoured to be ready with an £11million bid for the 40-cap Burkina Faso ace. City would be willing to listen for offers for Kabore, 23, who spent last term at Luton.

## Irons bid for Max

**WEST HAM** have lodged an opening bid of more than £25million for Wolves captain Max Kilman.

The defender is a top target for new boss Julen Lopetegui, who made Kilman, 27, skipper during his spell as Wanderers gaffer.

Wolves are likely to reject the bid for a player they value at £40m and the deal is complicated by a sell-on clause for Kilman's old club Maidenhead.

West Ham have also released defender Angelo Ogbonna, 36, at the end of his contract.

## MAN UTD EXCLUSIVE

# HOL LOT OF TROUBLE FOR ERIK



## Chiefs fume over Ibiza summit leak



**ANGER MANAGEMENT**  
... upset directors Andy O'Boyle (left), Wilcox (centre) and Brailsford

**ERIK TEN HAG** is in hot water with Manchester United's hierarchy after revealing details of their Ibiza summit.

The Red Devils boss was on holiday there (top) when officials from the club turned up on his doorstep to ask him to continue as the club's manager.

They also informed him they had spoken to other candidates, including former Chelsea and Bayern Munich boss Thomas Tuchel, but that they wanted to keep the Dutchman on.

Ten Hag was understandably angry with how he had been treated and the way in which this message was delivered when he was supposed to be on a relaxing break.

But new part-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe and his team are unhappy that what they thought was a private meeting was made public by the manager on Dutch television this week.

The club **DO** want Ten Hag, 54, to sign a new three-year deal but that is

understandably some way from being agreed as yet.

Ratcliffe owns 27.7 per cent of United and has been tasked with looking after all football operations at the club.

He has Sir David Brailsford as his right-hand man and employed Jason Wilcox as technical director.

Meanwhile, incoming football director Dan Ashworth and CEO Omar Berrada are still seeing out gardening leave from their former clubs — Newcastle and Manchester City respectively.

It has not been a great start for the new regime as majority owners, the Glazer family, take a back seat.

Ratcliffe (right) and Co have angered staff behind the scenes with criticisms in emails, while also offering

redundancy packages. They wanted to give Ten Hag one of those, too, after the club finished a record low of eighth in the Premier League last season.

But United's surprise FA Cup final win over champions City saw a wave of support from fans swing behind Ten Hag.

This rattled Ratcliffe and his team and they bought themselves time by claiming a season's review was needed before making a final decision.

Then, after no new suitable candidate wanted the job or could be found, they decided to keep Ten Hag.

It all adds up to a mess with the clock ticking down to United's first pre-season game against Norwegian outfit Rosenborg in Trondheim on July 15.

And the spotlight will be on them at full beam as they get the new Premier season under way at home to Fulham on opening night, August 16.



FRIEDKIN ... close

## DAN DEAL ISN'T FAR OFF

**DAN FRIEDKIN** has moved closer to buying Everton after entering into exclusive negotiations with majority owner Farhad Moshiri.

The American billionaire will now conduct due diligence on the club that owes **£600MILLION** and needs a further £200m to complete their new Bramley-Moore Dock stadium.

That process is likely to take several weeks at least but a deal

By KEN LAWRENCE

with the Roma owner is still expected to be completed.

An Everton statement read: "All parties will now work together to conclude this process."

Friedkin's arrival will still be too late to stop the sale of at least one player — likely Jarrad Branthwaite or Amadou Onana — before the

Toffees' year-end accounts are completed on June 30. They were deducted eight points last season for breaching the Premier League's Profit and Sustainability Rules.

Everton have lost £133.1m over the last two years. More points will be taken in the coming campaign unless cash comes in to prevent the club going over the £105m red-figure limit over a three-year cycle.





TIERNEY... in tears

## Kie man KO but Hungary for more

From **ROBERT GRIEVE**

**KIERAN TIERNEY** jetted out of Germany last night with his Euros dream OVER.

The Scotland defender, 27, was carried off on a stretcher in the 1-1 draw against Switzerland with a hamstring injury.

Tierney, who spent last season on loan at Real Sociedad, has returned to Arsenal to assess the full extent of the damage.

It is the latest blow for the injury-hit left-back who has missed 38 games for club and country over the past three seasons.

Tartan Army assistant boss John Carver said: "He is just so unlucky. I class him as a finely-tuned athlete, most of them are."

"When you are as quick as he is — and you don't realise how quick he is — it is a fine margin."

"He is a young lad, a talented lad and he has plenty of time — but he has got to make sure he is right when he comes back."

Steve Clarke's side must beat Hungary in Stuttgart tomorrow to even stand a realistic chance of reaching the last 16.

And Clarke's No 2 has told the players to not even think about it being their final game at Euro 2024.

Ex-Newcastle coach Carver vowed: "We've not even spoken about packing our bags, don't even worry about that."

"Nobody has spoken about packing our bags, we're not interested in any of that."

"That is mentally important. You don't want the devil on your shoulder saying 'get upstairs and pack your bags'."

"Nobody has even dropped it into the conversation. Nobody has spoken about going home. 'My wife hasn't even spoken about going home, which is a good thing. I am being genuine.'"

"We're just planning for going and getting the right result. Why wouldn't you want to stay here?"

"The players are staying. Everything is staying. We haven't even spoken about it."

"They have put all the work and effort in to get us to where we are — why can't we go one step further and take it to that next level?"

# RIVALS TAKE AIM AT 3 LIONS



ZOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT... HQ is by lion enclosure



REALLY WILD SHOW... Wuppertal FC's home ground



UP FUR IT... star man Sesko

## PAWS FOR THOUGHT

**SLOVENIA** are keeping an eye on more than just Three Lions ahead of their England clash — with an HQ just metres from a ZOO!

The Slovenians are based at Wuppertal, a small city in western Germany, and face Gareth Southgate's men in Cologne on Tuesday.

Benjamin Sesko and Co are training at Wuppertal FC's Stadion am Zoo — or "Stadium at the

From **JORDAN DAVIES**

Zoo" — which is less than 100 metres from a wildlife park and backs on to the biggest lion enclosure in Germany.

It covers 2½ acres, cost near £10million and features feeding demonstrations.

So Slovenia boss Matjaz Kek may be smelling blood when his side face England on Tuesday.



STILL ROAR... Slovenia will bare their teeth with Three Lions struggling

**SUPER SESKO EXCLUSIVE — GOALS PAGES 6,7**

# Shock 'n' flaw

## ERIKSEN GOBSMACKED BY ENGLAND BLUNDER SHOW



BACK FOOT... Eriksen is stopped by England's Jude Bellingham

**CHRISTIAN ERIKSEN** was astonished by the number of England errors.

Eriksen and his Denmark side drew 1-1 with the Three Lions in Frankfurt on Thursday.

But the Manchester United man, 32, believed his nation deserved more.

He said: "They made more mistakes in their build-up play than I expected from England."

"But apart from that we know our qualities. We are also very good on the ball. We are not only a defending team. We were very much on the front foot and had the belief to play out from the back and create chances."

"We were able to hurt them a little bit on the counter but also with possession. We

From **TOM BARCLAY**



had chances and feel we should and could've won."

Denmark took a point from the Group C clash with Morten Hjulmand's stunner chalking off Harry Kane's early strike.

But they could still go home after the group stage if they do not beat Serbia in Munich on Tuesday — having only drawn their opener against Slovenia.

Former Tottenham ace Eriksen added: "We showed the belief we have and the qualities we have as a team."

"But we're not there yet. It all comes down to us getting three points against Serbia. That's our aim."

"Afterwards we can speak about whether we played a nice game against England." Christian Norgaard, who played with Eriksen at Brentford, felt Denmark

were completely dominant against Kane and Co.

The Bees midfielder, 30, added: "We have such a good squad. So for us, even though we fell behind, it was about going for it."

"It's always difficult when you go in front because then the other team can play a little bit more free. That's what happened."

"Overall we were dominant first and second half." Danish No 1 Kasper Schmeichel claimed the game played out as he expected after other close games between the two.

Those include the semi-final at the last Euros, which England won 2-1 after extra-time.

The keeper, 37, said: "Our recent games against England were very evenly matched. Fine margins. This was the same."

"England have world-class players — but we have them as well. We were very disciplined and showed a lot of heart."

**CAN'T KEEP IT**  
ENGLAND'S LOWEST PASS ACCURACY  
(Finals group games only)

Passing accuracy	2020
Czech Republic	83.9%
Croatia	84.1%
Tunisia	86.1%
2024	86.2%
DENMARK	86.2%
2022	87.3%
USA	



**EURO 2024 ANALYSIS OF**

EZE... 'there's no stress'

**Eze feels at ease**From **CHARLIE WYETT**

**EBERECHI EZE** insists England are not in panic mode after their dismal Danish display.

The Crystal Palace forward came on in the second half as Gareth Southgate's team struggled to a 1-1 draw.

They must beat Slovenia on Tuesday to be sure of top spot in Group C.

But Eze, 25, said: "We know the potential we've got and we're building towards the level that we know we can play at."

"There's no stress, we're not panicking."

"Tournament football is a roller-coaster. This is my first one but that's what they're all saying. As long as you stay calm and positive, you'll be fine."

"Of course, we want to put in performances we know we're capable of."

"But this is what happened at the last tournament and no one remembers it when you reach the latter stages."

Eze won his fifth cap as boss Southgate rang the changes — including taking off Harry Kane.

But Eze is backing his skipper to bounce back.

He said: "You don't really need to question him. You know he's going to work for the team, he's going to put in performances and score goals."

**Sport**

MORE fans tuned in to England's bore draw with Denmark than their win over Serbia.

BBC's coverage had an average 11.2million watching on Thursday — compared to 10.5m on ITV on Sunday.

**SHORT****Uefa plan for pitch**

UEFA have promised to improve the awful pitch at the Frankfurt Arena.

The grass was cutting up during England's 1-1 draw with Denmark under the roof on Thursday.

Vice-captain Kyle Walker had to change his boots after just eight minutes, while other players slid on the shocking surface throughout the match.

Following the dire draw, ground staff were spotted filling buckets with loose chunks of turf.

A Uefa statement read: "A maintenance plan is in place to improve quality ahead of the upcoming fixtures at the venue."

Three Lions captain Harry Kane said: "The stadium was really hot and the pitch wasn't great."

# Same old England

## SEEN THIS MOVIE BEFORE

**SUDDENLY** it feels as if the England shirt is weighing heavily again.

Suddenly there is talk of anxiety and fatigue, as well as square pegs in round holes and an England team which is nowhere near as good as the sum of its parts.

Gareth Southgate was supposed to have swept away all of this negativity — and for the previous three tournaments he largely had.

But after Thursday's dismal 1-1 draw with Denmark, it feels like we're back in the bad old days of Sven and the Golden Generation, Steve McClaren, Fabio Capello or Roy Hodgson.

We have seen this movie before — the one where England grind through a group stage and lose to the first good team they play.

If England top the group then see off a third-place team in the last 16, you wouldn't be hugely confident facing the likes of Italy or Switzerland in the quarters.

Or, if we fail to beat Slovenia in our final group game on Tuesday, the greater indignity of losing to Germany in the last 16 next weekend.

Much more of this and there will be a "root-and-branch review" and much yadda-yadda about winter breaks.

Harry Kane, by the way, had a three-week winter break with Bayern Munich and the England skipper looks more knackered than most.

Southgate has picked the wrong squad, that much is clear. But just as worrying is the England boss chose to publicise a team meeting he held



From **DAVE KIDD**

CHIEF SPORTS WRITER



to explain to his players the intense scrutiny they are under.

After that, it's little wonder that England produced such an "anxious" performance against the Danes.

Southgate claimed his players were guilty of "caring too much".

For the last three tournaments, England's players enjoyed themselves on and off the pitch. This one feels different. Now, they seem to think the world is against them.

But unlike many of his predecessors, Southgate is not being pilloried. He is not being turned up.

Indeed, most England fans feel the mainstream media are far too easy on him.

More pertinent is the fact that Southgate's squad is imbalanced and has been shorn of too much tournament experience. His gamble on Luke Shaw's fitness would

not have been such a risk if there'd been a back-up left-back in his 26.

Ben Chilwell, who captained Chelsea at times last season, is not a bad player. But Southgate would rather have no left-back at all. It's weird.

Shaw, sidelined since February, is still not training with the team. It's looking increasingly unlikely he will feature at all in this tournament.

This is a basic error, leaving right-footed Kieran Trippier on the left. And the "experiment" of playing

Trent Alexander-Arnold in midfield always looked doomed to failure. You don't experiment at major tournaments and don't pick an odd-job man when you need a master craftsman.

What's the point in selecting Kobbie Mainoo and Adam Wharton if you don't trust them to start in central midfield in front of a right-back?

Mainoo carried Manchester United for large parts of last season. He should start against Slovenia but it will probably be Conor Gallagher, a decent but basic scuffer.

The absence of experienced back-up wide players is also odd.

Jack Grealish, Marcus Rashford and Raheem Sterling are not in peak form but played well at past tournaments.

Wouldn't Southgate want at least one of them, rather than four players — Jarrod Bowen, Cole Palmer, Anthony Gordon and Eberechi Eze — who have never been this way before?

England were rightly among the favourites to win these Euros but right now it seems unimaginable.

Denmark were inferior man-for-man but collectively far superior.

After the 1-0 win over Serbia, there was concern Phil Foden was struggling in the same team as Jude Bellingham. But against the Danes, Bellingham (left) was almost anonymous himself.

The Real Madrid Galactico was frustrated when a couple of early free-kicks were not awarded in his favour.

He needs to rediscover that energy from the first half against Serbia.

Because England will not progress to the sharp end of this tournament unless Bellingham is at full pelt. And unless they all stop playing like weight of the world is on their shoulders.



**BLOWING HOT AND COLED...**  
Cole Palmer works up a sweat in training yesterday

**HEADING BACK**

ENGLAND'S struggles are laid bare with a series of graphics showing striker Harry Kane's touches, how the whole team retreated after taking the lead and their lack of attacks down the left.

**HARRY KANE'S TOUCHES**

DIRECTION OF PLAY

22 TOUCHES

**114**

ENGLAND'S front four smashed a total of 114 goals for their club sides in all competitions this season — but Harry Kane (44 goals), Jude Bellingham (23), Bukayo Saka (20) and Phil Foden (27) are yet to fire. Saka set up Bellingham's winner against Serbia and Kane netted in the draw with Denmark but, so far, the quartet have managed 11 shots in the two games combined — four of them on target.



# 3 LIONS' TACTICAL

# WOE

# Change it up, Gareth!

## BOSS HAS TO SWITCH SYSTEM



LINEKER... frustrated

**Lineker:**  
We look  
little lost

From CHARLIE WYETT

**GARY LINEKER** urged England to change their tactics as they are a "bit lost" at Euro 2024. The Three Lions legend wants manager Gareth Southgate to adopt a high press, starting against Slovenia on Tuesday.

Lineker, 63, who bagged 48 international goals, said: "It's hard to be critical of Gareth overall in the England role. He's turned around our fortunes.

"He's an amazing leader, great communicator and transformed public opinion of the team and players.

"But they are a little bit lost tactically and that comes from the manager.

"They have to play up the pitch higher as a unit and — at the moment — they are not a unit.

"Spain have a really high press. Why do England not play the high press? Why don't they do it the whole game — are they not coached to do that?"

Lineker believes Harry Kane must improve drastically and be more aggressive without the ball.

On The Rest Is Football podcast, he said: "You have to say to Harry, 'As good as you are, you have got to be the first man of the press'. He needs to stay high.

"You need the press to come from your forward and the midfielders must push behind. That comes from the management."

On Thursday's 1-1 with Denmark, Lineker added: "I found it an infuriating, frustrating watch. God, there was nothing to cheer.

"When you play for England and you make mistakes and don't perform, it matters a lot as it affects the nation's mood."

**GARETH SOUTHGATE** made one of the boldest moves of his reign by taking off skipper **Harry Kane**, **Phil Foden** and **Bukayo Saka** against Denmark.

Yet the England manager must be even braver.

He needs to play with a back three, like he did at the 2018 World Cup.

Southgate's current team is not balanced and needs some major work. It is not a knee-jerk reaction, either.

England have not played particularly well in their last seven matches, starting with a 1-1 draw in North Macedonia last November, followed by the March friendlies against Brazil (0-1), Belgium (2-2) and the Euro 2024 warm-ups against Bosnia & Herzegovina (3-0) and Iceland (0-1).

Out here, England have struggled against Serbia and the Danes, who both played with three-man defences and used the extra man in midfield to good effect.

Slovenia, Tuesday's opponents in Cologne, will play with a back four but to prepare for games against better opposition, England need to make the switch to a back three immediately.

In both of the Three Lions' Group C matches so far, their opponents have had more shots — Serbia 6-5 and Denmark 16-11.

The experiment of playing **Trent Alexander-Arnold** in central midfield has not worked but I would play him at right wing-back.

**Kyle Walker** (right) would play on the right of a three-man defence, which is exactly what he did for England in Russia six years ago.

From **CHARLIE WYETT**



**John Stones** would play in the middle with **Marc Guehi**, England's best player over the two games, on the left of the defence.

At left wing-back, ideally, we would play **Luke Shaw**.

He has clearly suffered a setback, having not played a competitive game since injuring his hamstring for Manchester United in February.

Southgate had hoped Shaw would be on the bench for Thursday's 1-1

draw with Denmark but yesterday, here in Blankenhain, he trained indoors, meaning there is no chance he will feature in the squad against Slovenia.

It is a gamble that has not worked. The obvious candidate to play at left wing-back is **Saka**, who has previously featured in this position.

He is a key player wide right for Southgate but as a wing-back, he would still have the chance to get forward.

In central midfield, the obvious pairing would be **Declan Rice** and **Jude Bellingham**.

As for the front three, **Foden** — who was better against Denmark — would keep his place along with **Kane**.

The England captain has suffered a sluggish start to the Euros in the country he now plays his club football for Bayern Munich but he does need to be given better service.

As for who plays wide right, I would start **Cole Palmer** even though **Jarrod Bowen** was bright when introduced in both games.

**Bowen**, along with **Anthony Gordon**, might be a better impact player than **Palmer** from the bench.

But after an outstanding, breakthrough 25-goal season for Chelsea — I voted for him as my Football Writers' Association Player of the Year — he deserves the chance to continue this form for England but he would need to start a game.

Maybe then, with this formation, England might start to look like a team who could win the Euros.

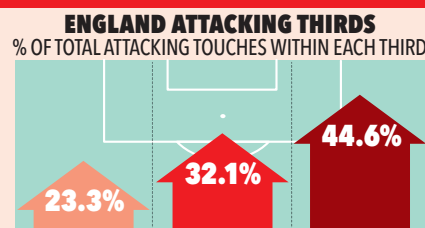
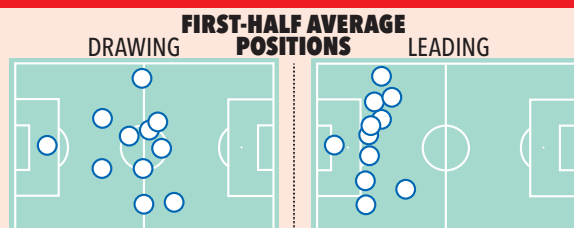
My fear is the only change Southgate will make for Slovenia is **Conor Gallagher** for **Alexander-Arnold**.

### CHARLIE'S XI FOR SLOVENIA



GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ENGLAND	2	1	0	2	1	4	
DENMARK	2	0	2	0	2	2	
SLOVENIA	2	0	2	0	2	2	
SERBIA	2	0	1	1	2	1	

### ENGLAND V DENMARK



### PRESSING ISSUE

IN the era of the high press, a lower number of opposition passes per defensive action (PPDA) is key — but England are toiling.

#### PPDA STANDINGS

Prem 2023-24	
Tottenham	8.8
Liverpool	8.9
Sheffield Utd	17
Nottm Forest	17.7

#### Euro 2024

Germany	8.4
Holland	8.8
England	23.1
Albania	24
Romania	28.5



**EURO 2024 DECLAN RICE OPENS****PRESSURE COOKER****'We are desperate to do well'****'We put too much on ourselves'****DECLAN RICE** puffed out his cheeks when asked to sum up England's Frankfurt fiasco.

The Arsenal midfielder replied: "Pfff... where do I start, really?"

Where, indeed. The performance in the 1-1 draw against Denmark was arguably the worst in a tournament game under Gareth Southgate.

An England side packed with big names proved to be far less than the sum of its parts.

The Danes, with a front-foot approach and clear gameplan, looked like a proper team and outplayed Southgate's men.

And the pressure of being one of the favourites for the tournament – until they actually started playing matches – seems to be one of the factors in the Three Lions' struggles.

Rice, 25, said: "We are all so

**From DAN KING****in FRANKFURT**

desperate to do the country proud. We are all so desperate to win, to be leaders, to go out there and give people memories for lifetimes.

"Sometimes I maybe feel like we put too much pressure on ourselves, where we could just go out there and let it just take care of itself."

England have created high expectations by reaching the last four and quarter-finals of the last two World Cups either side of contesting the Euro final in 2021.

But for the first time in Southgate's eight-year tenure, the burden that weighed down teams of the past is also getting to them.

Players like Bundesliga Golden Boot winner Harry Kane and Premier League Footballer of the Year Phil Foden, 24, had stellar campaigns yet have failed to

deliver so far in Germany. Rice added: "There's probably more pressure now from the outside just because of the seasons some of our players have had."

"If you look at the goals that our front four have scored this year, it's over a hundred between them."

"Of course there is expectation because they are the best players in the world. And that goes for everyone throughout the team."

"There's going to be that pressure. This is England, at a major tournament. But look, this is our job and this is what we have to deal with."

"At the end of the day it's us, we have played in high-pressure games, high-pressure environments."

"Even just speaking then, after [the Denmark game] as a team, we know we can be collectively better."

In modern football, so much depends on how – and how well – teams press.

Kasper Hjulmand's Denmark side did it superbly on Thursday night.

They went after England, pressing high and with purpose. They earned the right

to play further up the field, won the ball back in good positions and forced mistakes, like the poor pass Kane, 30, played out of defence ahead of Morten Hjulmand's spectacular equaliser.

England, meanwhile, were inconsistent in their work off the ball.

As SunSport columnist Jack Wilshere noted, too often Kane and Real Madrid ace Jude Bellingham would press but the midfield would not back them up, leaving the Danes with acres of space to receive the ball and play around them.

Rice said: "It's about getting that balance of when we can press and when we cannot, because, the further it goes on, we are going to play against better opposition, more world-class players."

"If you don't get your press right, which probably is the most important thing on the pitch, you're going to get picked off."

"In football, even at club level, you build everything out of your out-of-possession stuff, then your in-possession stuff, it talks for itself."

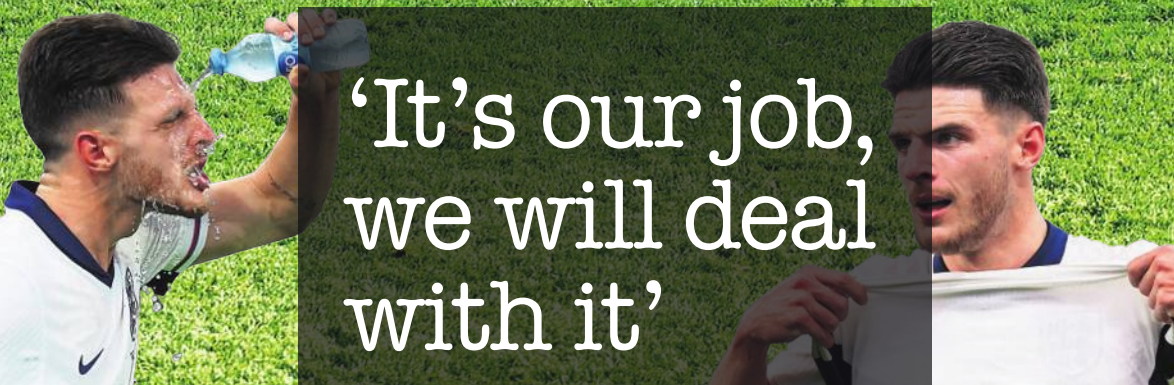
Against both Serbia and Denmark, the Three Lions struggled to break down



# UP ON ENGLAND'S...



**CAST A SHADOW OVER EVENTS...** Declan Rice's reaction after the dismal draw against Denmark



**'It's our job, we will deal with it'**

opponents who defended with a back five. Rice said: "Teams are going to sit off us, try to do everything they can to stop our attacking talent. "So it's down to us on the pitch to go and perform. You need to have your connections. "When you're a back four, like us in a 4-2-3-1, playing against a 5-2-3, the way you press is obviously going to be difficult because they always have an extra player at the back. "We are out-numbered at that end whereas we have our extra man at our end so it's just about getting that balance. "I feel like it's a fluidity thing, we need to keep moving the ball. When we play against those back fives, no one gives you the space. "Everyone expects you to get the ball, straight through the middle. "It's not like that because it's a completely different picture on the pitch. "It's about being patient in the moment, and then the space will open up." But pressing requires high levels of

energy. Former England and Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher, 46, said his biggest fear was that Southgate's team were "knackered". Worryingly, even the usually tireless Rice looked spent in the second half against Denmark. And the Gunners star did not exactly contradict Carragher's observation. Rice said: "It's hard to say, really, you only know yourself. "Someone watching a game, you can tell if a player's tired or not but a player's never going to admit that. "Like I said, it's about getting that balance. It's tournament football. "I watched France the other night - and Portugal changed to a back five. "They are mid-block teams as well, and they are not going out and pressing full throttle." Although most of the criticism is flying in manager Southgate's direction, the players also need to look at themselves. Rice revealed: "I'm honest with my performances now. I'm at a stage where I've played so many games well, and I've

had bad games. Against Denmark, I wasn't probably the best I could be. "It was about keeping my head, trying to still be that middle man in there and be secure." To recap: Southgate's much-changed squad is feeling the pressure, the players may be too tired to do the pressing that is fundamental to their game and big names are not delivering. That is a checklist for a country that is not going to win this tournament. But the fact remains that victory over Slovenia on Tuesday would allow England to top Group C and advance to what would in theory be a very winnable last-16 game. Rice said: "Two games, one win, one draw, and now we go into that last game. Our objective is always to qualify and I'm sure we can still do that. "Look, we know we can be better, for sure, in and out of possession. And there's lots to improve on, which is a positive in a way." But it did not feel like it as the boos rang round Frankfurt Arena.



**BANDHA BROTHERS...** stars and Dr Jade perform yoga

## OMMM

**From Back Page**

is as simple as that. We have to keep the ball better and build with more control. "Then we will be defending less and we'll have more confidence." Kane was subbed on 70 minutes against Denmark and has struggled for sharpness since returning from a back injury at the end of last season. Southgate said: "Harry's only had one 90 minutes in five or six weeks." As for making changes against Slovenia, Southgate said: "We'll have a look at everything. "We'll look at the performance and look at the next opponent and find the best solutions for the next game. "We felt the right thing to do against Denmark was to give confidence to the players we picked in the first game. We had won the previous game." England's players were put through a series of stretches by NHS doctor Jade, who runs wellness retreats. In the gym where they performed exercises like 'downward dog', the wall was emblazoned with motivational messages. One read: "Be brave. Be a leader. Be resilient. Commit. Win." Another said: "Find your greatness." Denmark got yesterday off as boss Kasper Hjulmand aims to create 'hygge' - the Danish word meaning to escape the daily rush and enjoy life's quieter pleasures.

Hjulmand said: "It's the first day off since June 3 and it's important to get away for a bit. "I don't know what they will do. People just need to be, to lick their wounds." Meanwhile, Southgate said he always expected a bumpy road in their bid to win the Euros. He added: "We have to guide the team through the difficult period that is coming but really stay on track and focus on this challenge ahead. "We are trying to do something that has never been done before. So that is going to be a bit of a rollercoaster. "It's not going to go smoothly when you are trying to achieve extraordinary things. They are bloody difficult. "So we have to accept the level of expectations, we have to accept the arena we are in. "And we have to find a better way of playing. "We are in a different situation to the previous tournaments we have been in but, in other ways, exactly the same - with four points after two games. But we know the performance level has to be better. "We've got some strong leaders in the dressing room here who have been in situations like this and will play their part in lifting people. "We have to play better. I'm not going to hide from the realities of that. "I have to find the solutions to doing that."

## PAY-OFF

**From Back Page**  
boss taking another job in England.

Talks over Pochettino's severance package complicated interest from Manchester United, who approached him before sticking with Erik ten Hag. The 52-year-old said he was open to staying in this country when he returned to Stamford Bridge to manage at charity event SoccerAid earlier this month. But with no top Prem jobs currently available, succeeding Southgate may be his best bet. The FA have yet to compile a shortlist for the next England manager. But given Pochettino's experience on these shores and track record of developing young players, including Cole Palmer at Chelsea last season, he is viewed as a leading contender. Poch also remains close to FA technical director

John McDermott after their time together at Spurs.

Chelsea's agreement with Poch takes their bill for managerial changes to over £66m in two years. Thomas Tuchel and Graham Potter both got £13m-plus after being axed during the season. Potter's move to west London also saw Brighton bank £21m in compensation from Chelsea, who have also agreed to pay Leicester City £10m to secure new coach Enzo Maresca (left). Chelsea required some creative accountancy to avoid breaking FFP rules last year following the £1BILLION transfer splurge by new owners Boehly and Clearlake Capital. The club sold two hotels and car parks to a sister company for £76.5m, which enabled them to reduce a projected loss of £166.4m to £89.9m.





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# Sun Sport



## Poch Lions his pockets

EXCLUSIVE by MATT HUGHES

**MAURICIO POCHETTINO** has agreed a £10million Chelsea pay-off that frees him up as a contender for the England job if it becomes available.

The Argentine (left) would be a prime candidate to replace Gareth Southgate should the Three Lions manager go after the Euros.



Poch's talks with Todd Boehly's Blues have finally been settled after they dragged on following his departure on May 21.

And SunSport understands there are no restrictions in the deal to stop the former Southampton and Tottenham

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## OLISE SET FOR BAYERN – P66

## Op hope for Muzza

By JAKE SANDERS

**ANDY MURRAY** will undergo back surgery today in a last-ditch bid to be fit for Wimbledon.

The two-time SW19 champ, 37, is still hoping to make his farewell appearance at the All England Club – despite going under the knife nine days from the start of the tournament.

Muzza lasted just five games in his second-round match with Jordan Thompson

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# Pearce: Drop Kane

**HARRY KANE** should be dropped from the England team, according to former defender Stuart Pearce.

Skipper Kane scored in the 1-1 draw with Denmark but looked off the pace and was subbed by Gareth Southgate.

Ex-England left-back Pearce was asked on talkSPORT whether he

From **CHARLIE WYETT**

would axe Kane and he said: "I think I would. To get more energy in the team, to get someone to run in behind the opposition's defence and then you review it again when you get to the knockout stage."

"Where he (Southgate) goes from here, I don't know. This

is a tough one for Gareth and his coaching staff.

"It might be making some tough calls, it might be leaving the captain out. It might well be, 'how do I solve the left-back issue?'"

"How do we get more delivery from the left-hand side with no natural left-back? Potentially put Bukayo Saka there."

# YOGA TIME AS GARETH SAYS STARS ARE TIRED

**ENGLAND'S** squad were given a lift by a yoga guru after Gareth Southgate admitted his stars are drained.

The under-fire Three Lions boss is considering changing his team and formation for Tuesday's final Group C game against Slovenia.

And Southgate concedes his players, including skipper Harry Kane, were lethargic in Thursday's drab 1-1 draw with Denmark.

Yesterday the players took

From **CHARLIE WYETT**

part in a yoga session hosted by Dr Rebekah Jade at their Blankenhain base.

Southgate said: "We are not pressing well enough, with enough intensity."

"We have limitations in how we can do that with the physical condition."

"We cannot press as high up the pitch as we might have done in the qualifiers, for example. And not keeping the ball well enough. It

Turn to Page 71



# It's still coming Ommmm

IT'S THE FINAL STRETCH... Kieran Trippier and Declan Rice (inset) in their yoga session



2 5 >





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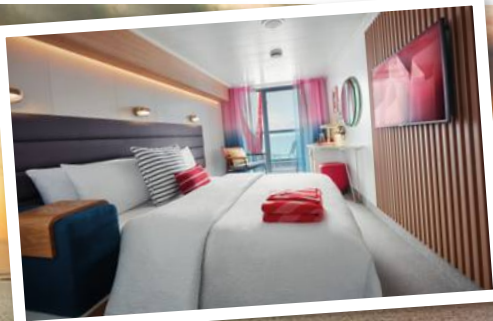
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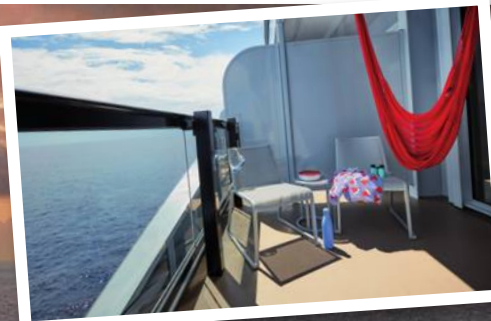
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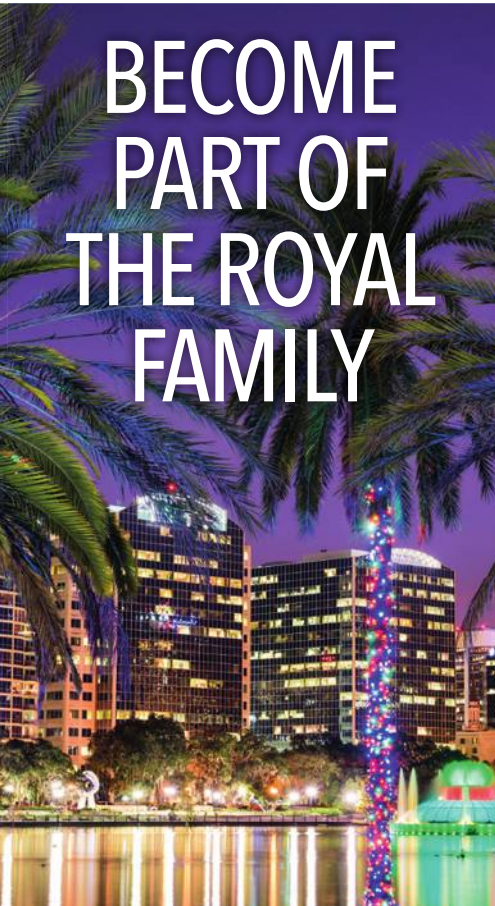
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# It's time for Tiber

RYAN'S RIVER CAN RUN DEEP FOR PUNTERS



TIB TIP... big fancy River Tiber

RIVER TIBER can make waves in the Jersey Stakes (4.25 Royal Ascot, nap).

He has form at the meeting having won the Coventry Stakes here last year.

Aidan O'Brien's star then went on to more than hold his own at the highest level with top placed efforts at Deauville and Newmarket.

The king of Ballydoyle brought him back from a long break for a crack at the Irish

By TEMPLEGATE (Steve Mullen)

2,000 Guineas. So it was a good effort to finish third, just over a length off the pace.

The O'Brien runners often improve leaps and bounds for their comeback and there'll be no doubting the result if that's the case.

He looks tailor-made for this seven-furlong trip and can break his Group 1 duck.

Haatem finished ahead of him last time and is a worthy foe although this will be his fourth big race of the season

and his Classic efforts may have left their mark.

SHARTASH has plenty of dash for the over-in-a-flash Elizabeth II Jubilee Stakes (3.45, Royal Ascot, nb).

He clocked a really fast time when scooting in at Haydock last time.

That was a Listed race so this is tougher — but there should be a lot more to come from this lightly-raced flyer who has

just joined Wathnan Racing for fortunes.

CONTINUOUS just keeps on going (3.05 Royal Ascot, treble). He was brilliant when winning the St Leger last

season before running a better in the Arc when a close fifth.

He was second in the King Edward VII here last season and is at home on quick ground. Maestro O'Brien will have him ready to go.

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THE 16-PAGE SPECIAL

Saturday,  
June 22, 2024

# Favourite

# HEAD SHERIN

Tom back in  
the big time  
with Kev flyer



PHIL THOMAS at Royal Ascot

**SPEEDSTER Inisherin turned the Commonwealth Cup into a procession to bridge a 16-year gap for Tom Eaves.**

Kevin Ryan's crack colt laid down a strong marker to be champion sprinter with an easy two-and-a-quarter length win over Lake Forest.

But really, it was so effortless the winning margin in the Group 1 could have been doubled.

Jockey Eaves didn't have a second's worry when he hit the front over a furlong out in the £700,000 six-furlong charge.

It will certainly be among the easiest 60 seconds of work Eaves has had to do for his ten per cent of the prize-money.

He said: "Inisherin is a machine and I am very lucky to be on him."

"He's a unit of a horse and you see how long it took me to pull up. He has a lot of class."

"He's quick and when I got off him after the Guineas, before I had even opened my mouth, Kevin said he was a sprinter."

"And he's a horse with a very good mind. He's very relaxed, very uncomplicated, and he showed that in the way he went through the race — he won well."

So well, in fact, he made it look effortless. Trainer Ryan could hardly remember being so relaxed for such a big prize.

Certainly more than in winning Haydock's Sandy Lane Stakes last month, which tempted owner Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum to supplement him for

Turn to Page 2

FIRST IN... joy for Tom Eaves on Inisherin as Kevin Ryan and Sheikh Obaid (left) celebrate big win

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**AFTER a tough three days this column was back with a bang yesterday.**

Finding winners – the hardest game in the world!

That apart, Royal Ascot has lived up to everything we could have hoped for, and more.

It seems a long time ago – but for me the standout winners this week were Charyn and Rosallion on the opening day, the power-packed performance of Auguste Rodin on the Wednesday and, of course, Thursday's incredible Gold Cup win by miracle-horse Kyprios.

Inisherin looked a monster yesterday and Porta Fortuna is rock solid. I can't wait for today though. It's the day the horse I've been waiting for all week will strut his hooves!

Like me you will have all been there. That feeling inside when you really fancy one.

The butterflies are fluttering even as I write this. So here we go.

The horse in question is not yet a household name... but I'm all over **EBEN SHADDAD** (4.25).

He runs in what is a fascinating Group 3 Jersey Stakes and should be a nice price.

My hope was in front of **Haatem** in the Dewhurst and then chased him home in the Craven at Newmarket at the start of the season.

That, though, was over a mile and this drop back to seven furlongs will be ideal for a horse who ran well but then weakened close home when seventh in the French 2,000 Guineas. He will love getting back on fast ground.

Hopefully, he can give Kieran Shoemark a morale-boosting win. Eben Shaddad. Come on, my son.

Well we've made it to Day Five.

On the punting front it may have been tricky for some but, as a spectacle, Royal Ascot has been fantastic in the glorious sunshine.

On the interviewing front I've tried to grab every moment I could on ITV to bring you some humour and insight to this great game.

We get under way with the Chesham for two-year-olds over seven furlongs. Godolphin have to start getting jiggy soon so I will side with **AGE OF GOLD** (2.30) for William Buick and Charlie Appleby. The Frankel colt who cost 625,000 grand looked good but clearly has big tal-

**Don't get mad, get Eben... with Kieran's Shaddad**



**DAD'LL DO...**  
Shoemark can win on Eben Shaddad

ent. He was green as grass on debut at Yarmouth but still won well and will have learnt a lot.

The Group 2 Hardwicke is over a mile and a half. St Leger hero **CONTINUOUS** (3.05) had today's rivals **Desert Hero** and **Middle Earth** well beaten when landing his Classic and a fifth in the Arc suggested he is a fine prospect.

The only negative is this is first time out. But I suspect he will just be too classy for Aidan O'Brien.

The feature race of the day is the Group 1 Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Stakes over six furlongs.

It's very easy to argue that **ART POWER** (3.45) is better over five furlongs, but this is the first time he's had fast ground in this contest and he might just bounce off it.

The Tim Easterby runner landed the Palace Of Holyroodhouse Handicap here in 2020, and was then third in this contest in 2023, eighth in 2022 and 12th last year.

He did bang in the Group 1 Champions Sprint here though when scoring at 40-1 at the end of 2023 and he's the type who can land a shock. The field is a little smaller than is sometimes the case and he might take a bit of catching today.

If you like a competitive handicap sprint then welcome to the Wokingham over six furlongs.

**MUMS TIPPLE** (5.05) was fourth in this contest last year off a mark of 100 and can go close off 96 this time for Richard Hannon.

I suspect that means my selection has a cracking each-way chance.

The Golden Gates Handicap for three-year-olds over a mile and a quarter is no easier but the one I like is **PORTSMOUTH** (5.40) who ran too free when beaten at Epsom but from a low draw can get tucked in and has every chance.

Fellow Favourite columnist Hayley Turner gets on him and I'll be roaring her home again.

Royal Ascot 2024 ends with the marathon Queen Alexandra, the longest Flat race in the calendar. **Dawn Rising** had **RUN FOR OSCAR** (6.15) back in third when landing this last year and there's every chance he goes in again.

But the latter was a little unlucky and he might just reverse the form with a clear run from off the pace. What a week it has been!

Good luck and Yeeehaaa!



From **PHIL THOMAS**  
at Royal Ascot

**THAT'S the thing with these O'Briens... if one of them doesn't get you, it's a pretty safe bet another one will.**

Heavens, occasionally they'll even turn it into their own private family battle and leave the rest scrambling for the scraps.

Like yesterday's Coronation Stakes for example.

Yet for once it wasn't dad Aidan who was stealing the show, but younger son Donnacha who beat his old man to Group 1 glory with **Porta Fortuna**.

The same filly who, 12 months earlier had won the Albany here at the Royal meeting. The same who finished an agonising second in the 1,000 Guineas last month.

And the same who might now start to get the respect and reverence she deserves.

Her young trainer certainly feels it has been lacking thus far. More of that in a second... yet first the man himself.

A man who is something of an Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, as a baby-faced assassin of Flat racing.

And every bit as clinical as Manchester United's famous old supersub when it comes to finding the target.

To be honest, for all the rest of Ascot was making a big thing of it, getting one over his dad garnered little more than a shrug and a 'so what' expression from Donnacha.

But when you're part of such a racing dynasty – older brother Joseph, 31, is also a Classic-winning jockey-turned-trainer – there is no doubt the spotlight is brighter.

Surely, then, there was at least a glimmer of added satisfaction at the way his fabulous filly out-battled Aidan's Opera Singer to put a length between them at the finish.

After all, when it comes to a heads down scrap for the line, there aren't too many who get the better of Ryan Moore, on the runner-up. This time Tom Marquand managed it.

So did it feel any better to beat the best when the best is your own father? And does being part of such a racing dynasty come with an ever greater burden of expectation?

Donnacha gave little away as he smiled: "Well, there's more positives that come with it than negatives, I'll tell you that much."

"Look, we all know how tough it is, and there's a lot of pressure. We all put a lot of hard work in and whenever that pays off, we're always happy for the other person, whoever it is."

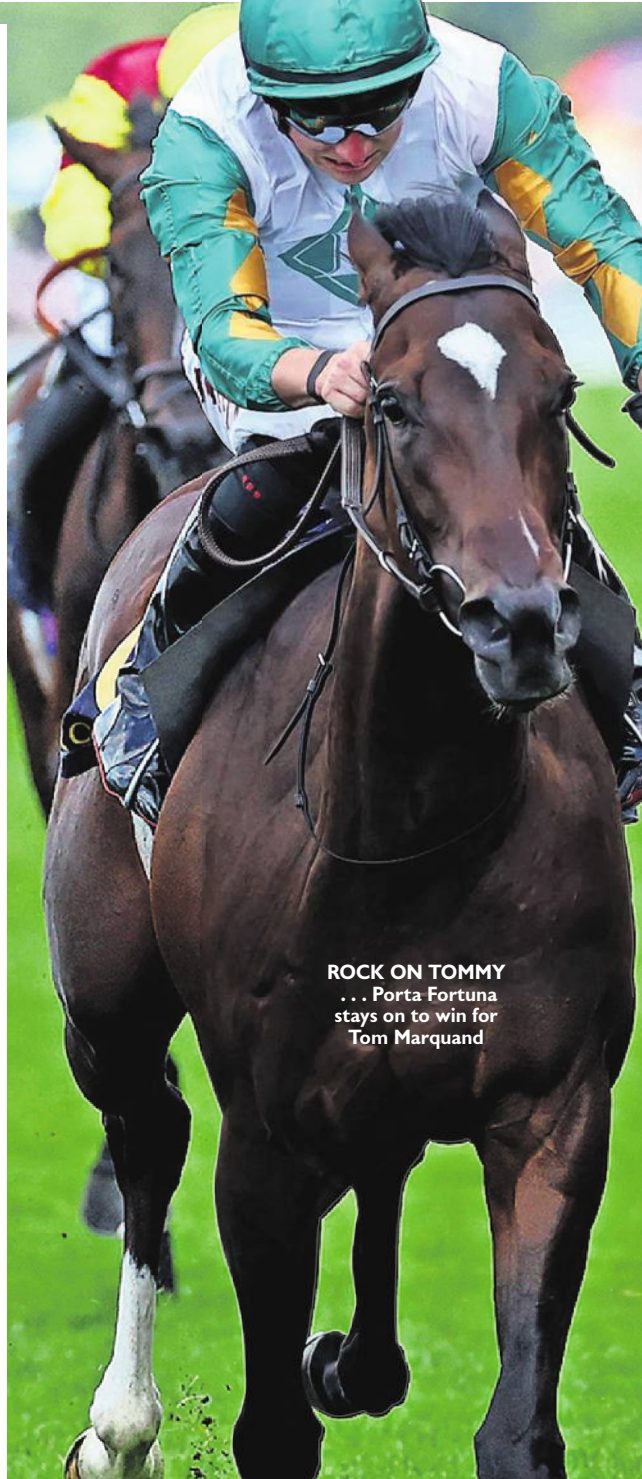
"It's great to get a winner here. It's my favourite meeting in the whole world, and things like this are just so special too."

Since landing the Albany Stakes here on this day a year ago, Porta Fortuna had finished second in three Group 1s – including at the Breeders Cup at Santa Anita – plus that Cheveley Park triumph.

Yet not once in her nine-race career has she been sent off favourite.

So O'Brien jnr is certainly right in claiming his flying filly has gone under the radar amidst some of the other more-lauded equine stars.

He insisted: "I think she's been over-



**ROCK ON TOMMY**  
... Porta Fortuna stays on to win for Tom Marquand

looked her whole career – but maybe now she will finally get the credit she deserves.

"I don't know why that is, but I'd say she's the best we have had."

"For some reason the credit hasn't really come but she has never missed a beat. She won here last year, and has never danced very dance since."

"She's incredibly sound and incredibly tough, and Tom gave her a lovely ride, she was very relaxed and quickens so well."

"It all went to plan and it's not often you can say that – but it did and I am delighted. A mile

is her maximum and, on a turning track like this, you can let her use that turn of foot."

Jockey Marquand (left), breaking his duck for the week, is no stranger to Royal glory.

Last year, he famously rode one of the races of his life to give King Charles his first-ever winner at the meeting with Desert Hero.

Yet it was a visit with then girlfriend and fellow jockey Hollie Doyle – now his wife – as teenage apprentices a decade ago which pinged onto his mobile in a timely memory jog yesterday morning. Marquand revealed:

From Page One  
**£46,000.** Ryan admitted: "Inisherin has improved from Haydock."

"I think he is just going to get quicker and better at this job."

"He's a joy to train, an absolute legend and it was a very easy watch."

"I always thought he'd be capable of winning the race and, when the stalls opened, I knew he would."

The victory put Eaves, 43, back in the Royal Ascot winners' enclosure for the first time in 16 years.

And the Wigan-born pilot couldn't wipe the smile off his face. He said: "It has

## INISHERIN

been a while between drinks – 2008 was my last one when Big Timer won the Wokingham.

"This is a big win for me, no doubt about it."

"It's great to be here, riding a Group 1 winner."

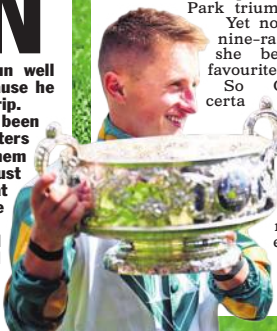
"I think it just shows how hard they are to come by getting on horses like him – well, I'm very thankful to everybody."

Sheikh Obaid said: "We expected Inisherin to win this, because he's a good

horse. He didn't run well in the Guineas because he needed a shorter trip."

"Inisherin had been working with sprinters and passing them standing still. I trust all my trainers, what they say I agree with them."

"I like racing and I want Inisherin and Rosallion to run next year – the press and the TV like it too!"



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# DONNACHA KING

## ... as fab filly Fortuna is queen for O'Brien



"Now I'm here as a jockey – but it flashed up on my Facebook the other day that Hollie and I were here 11 years ago before we'd even ridden in a race."

"We both looked a bit fresher and a bit more baby-faced then! But this, to be here doing this, was always the dream."

"We've both been fortunate to have had a few winners down the years but to go up there and meet the King?"

"It doesn't get much better." You never know, Marquand could do it again this afternoon if Desert Hero follows last year's King George V triumph in the Hardwicke. He added: "It will be

hard, but Desert Hero showed what he could do here 12 months ago, albeit in handicap company. He stepped up in grade and handled it well."

"He wasn't in prime condition last time, as his first run of the season at Sandown knocked him a bit but it's all to play for."

"This place is just so special and I've got such fantastic memories, obviously, of what happened last year."

As for all-conquering Aidan you get the sense he is even happier when one of his sons win a big one – even if it comes at his expense.

That and the fact Porta For-

tuna was bred and raised by his daughter Ana.

He was certainly as proud of Donnacha as he was of his runner-up Opera Singer.

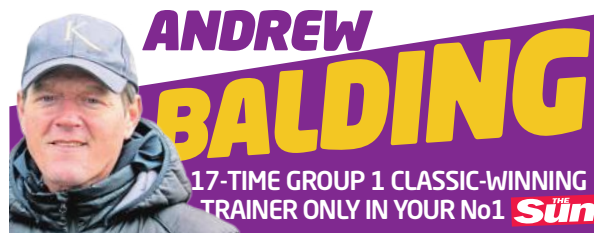
Aidan said: "We're over the moon with Opera Singer, she ran a great race."

"On the day she just came up short but we'll take it."

"Donnacha has done an incredible job with his filly. She is a star for them and it is wonderful that Ana bred her."

"It's very good for them and, of course, marvellous for us as a family. The Royal meeting means so much to us all."

Their reign will go on, and on.



**AS a die-hard Southampton supporter it will feel mighty weird cheering for my runner PORTSMOUTH (5.40).**

I won't be going as far as singing 'Play Up Pompey' in the paddock before the race but I seriously believe my runner can go mighty close to finding the back of the net in the Golden Gates Handicap.

He's been a model of consistency so far this season and ran well in a hot handicap at Epsom last time, and I think he is still open to further progress.

We haven't had a lot to shout about from the terraces this week but the horses have been running well without quite getting their noses in front.

Yes, it's frustrating – but far better than them finishing out the back of the telly!

Hopefully we can finish the week with a bang as we have a decent squad to round off the meeting.

We got our first ever Ascot winner in the Wokingham with Dark Missile many moons ago, and **DESERT COP** (5.05) runs in the same colours of Jeff Smith.

He is a smashing horse and won a nice big pot for the yard at Newmarket earlier in the year.

He hit the line strongly that day

so we stepped him up to seven furlongs last time but it didn't happen for him, so we are back in trip.

Callum Hutchinson takes off 3lb and I'd be hopeful of a big run, so I wouldn't mind a bit of rain overnight to take the sting out of the ground. I'd say he is probably the best chance of our three but it is a wide-open race.

We also run **FIVETHOUSAND-TOONE** who had a tremendous time of things on the all-weather over the winter.

He found Group 2 company a little hot to handle at York last time and will be happier back in a handicap, but he is off a pretty stiff mark these days.

**DAMBUSTER** is the third of our team and he is a horse I've always had plenty of time for. He powered home late to win at Beverley last time and is open to improvement after just three starts, but he would definitely prefer a bit of juice in the ground.

And similar comments apply to **GRAND PROVIDENCE** (6.15) who will be our last roll of the dice in the Queen Alexandra Stakes.

She is a thorough stayer and this race is absolutely perfect for her, but she is at her best when she can get her toe in so I wouldn't mind a thunderstorm or two.

**I'm hoping we can Cop a big win in the Wokingham**

## MOORE WINGS IT AS FAIRY FLIES IN

**RYAN MOORE cast his spell again as Fairy Godmother swooped from out of the clouds in the Albany.**

Aidan O'Brien's filly (*below*) was caught on her heels as the pace quickened and Moore was forced to wait and wait again.

But Moore waved his wand and steered the two-year-old around the entire field in the final furlong.

The 15-8 favourite managed to weave past **Simmering** and stabledmate **Heavens Gate** when it mattered.

She was immediately trimmed into the 5-1 jolly for next season's 1,000 Guineas and as things stand she looks like Ballydoyle's best youngster.

O'Brien, celebrating a fifth win of the week, said: "Ryan gave Fairy Godmother an incredible ride. She's an incredible filly, isn't she?"

"We thought she couldn't get beat the first day, and couldn't believe she got beat."

"What she did there is incredible, and she's only going to get better with every race."

"She will get stronger and will stay. She's very exciting."

Winning part-owner and of Coolmore's 'Lads' Michael Tabor was rumoured to have stuck £100,000 on the nose of his star filly.

Tabor said: "I saw Fairy Godmother run last time and I said to Aidan, when you see that turn of foot, which she obviously

By **CALLUM JAMIESON**

has, you know she's a good animal. Today, she showed how good she is."

"It makes the adrenaline really high. That's what you look forward to."

"We have many horses, we've had some good horses, and some fantastic horses. Hopefully, she's in the category of a fantastic horse, because they are the things you look forward to."

"When you have champions, with Aidan producing them like he does, then it's very exciting. Once it becomes not exciting, then it's over."

The French added some va va voom to the meeting in the King Edward VII. Well-backed **Calandagan** routed them by six lengths for Francis-Henri Graffard and Stephane Pasquier.

Space Legend plugged on for second for Wathnan.

The French came in numbers this year and the likes of Horizon Dore and Ramateulle went close.

But the little-known Calandagan was the one to land the knockout blow.

Graffard said: "I am very impressed. I was so down after my filly Rouhiya finished last in the Coronation, but this horse did it very easily."

"My wife was cheering beside me, we enjoyed that!"

Pasquier said: "Calandagan is a fantastic horse."

"I am just disappointed that he's lost his balls! I think he will travel around the world now, hopefully for lots of money."

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# HAYLEY TURNER

**ROYAL ASCOT AND GROUP 1 WINNING  
JOCKEY ONLY IN YOUR No1** **Sun**

**I'M hoping the Dragon can roar in the Wokingham.**

I was heading to Ascot for just the one ride but got a pleasant surprise yesterday when Hugo Palmer called and asked if I would ride **ROMAN DRAGON** (5.40).

He has snuck in as the first reserve and I would give him a tickle at big odds.

Michael Owen has a leg in him and I rode him before he went out to Bahrain this winter.

If you put a line through his last run he would have a squeak and it's the Wokingham... anything can happen!

If the Dragon is tamed then I'm praying **PORTSMOUTH** (5.40) can hit the back of the net in the Golden Gates Handicap.

He has a great chance of coming home in front. Andrew Balding has hit the crossbar a few times this week and he deserves a winner.

I know Oisín Murphy was keen to ride Portsmouth today, who has run well in both his handicap starts this

season. He's very lightly raced and a good gallop should help him as he can be a bit keen.

It was a bit of a frustrating day yesterday, as I couldn't get out at a crucial time on Fresh in the Buckingham Palace.

He ran a big race considering and it would obviously have been hard to catch the runaway winner, who could be destined for bigger things.

The big race today is the Group 1 Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Stakes and **THE WIZARD OF EYE** (3.45) could be the one to beat.

The yard really fancied him before his win on stable debut in the Victoria Cup. It's a big step up from a handicap but he's very promising.

The opener is the Chesham and **AGE OF GOLD** (2.30) can remain unbeaten. He was green on debut at Yarmouth but still got the job done really well.

It's been a good Royal Ascot for me, with Docklands runner-up in the Queen Anne. I've never been congratulated so much for finishing second! Two more chances today!

**Dragon set to fly after last minute call up**



# THE JUDGE

**THE ROYAL COURT IS IN SESSION  
WITH CALLUM 'JUDGE' JAMIESON**

**THIS five-day jamboree may be coming to an end but today's defendants still require my gavel.**

So, please be upstanding for today's Royal Ascot cases.

## KINROSS

**Jubilee Stakes (3.45)**  
**Case for the defence:** M'Lud, Kinross is one of the most reliable and trustworthy defendants I have ever had the honour of representing.

Frankie may no longer be on him, but in Rossa Ryan he has a more than able deputy.

The stiff six furlongs is up his street as he has demonstrated with a win and a very close second on Champions Day.

The sprinting division is still short of a household name, over both five and six, and Kinross will not need to improve on his rock solid Group 1 form to be right in the mix.

His trainer, the brilliant Ralph Beckett, already has two Royal winners this week and the stable are in red-hot form. Kinross may be seven but these sprinters can go year after year. He will be ready for today.

**Case for the prosecution:** Your honour, my learned friend has brought up his client's Ascot record in his evidence. It is true he has run two massive races at Champions Day over this course and distance.

Yet, unsurprisingly, he failed to mention his two midfield finishes in this race the past two seasons.

Kinross has acted on quick ground but there can be no doubt he is that bit better when there is give underfoot. These sprints are

decided on fine margins and Kinross does not have everything in his favour today. Kinross, will have his day in the sun again, but I do not believe that will be this afternoon.

**JUDGE JAMIESON'S VERDICT:** Two very well made cases and I expected no less given the client and his brilliant track record. Yet, today, I find him guilty. **MILL STREAM** is the coming force in this division and he can land this.

## RIVER TIBER

**Jersey Stakes (4.25)**

**Case for the defence:** My client was a trustworthy two-year-old and proved himself on his return in the Irish Guineas. He was a gallant third at The Curragh and his pilot Ryan Moore was easy on him.

River Tiber showed plenty of speed last season and showed lots of gears on his comeback. The drop to seven is a plus and Aidan O'Brien very rarely gets it wrong.

This straight track, with a stiff finish, will prove perfect. He is much better than a Group 3 animal.

**Case for the prosecution:** I have no idea how River Tiber is favourite.

He was behind Haatem in the Irish Guineas and never looked like getting past him. Further, his two-year-old form has taken knocks.

Mr O'Brien is having a very good week but the Jersey is not a race he does well in. Yes, he won it last year but that was with a 22-1 skinner. This is an afterthought.

**JUDGE JAMIESON'S VERDICT:** I have little against River Tiber, yet the prosecution makes a valid case.

**HAATEM** has a good CV with few blemishes. He looks a brilliant bet!

**Stream to flow as old Kin must pay for his sins**



**STAR-TASH**  
... James Doyle can win big race on Shartash

By **STEVE MULLEN**



**SHARTASH** can grab the cash in today's £1million Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Stakes (3.45 Ascot).

The Wathnan Racing silks have seen plenty of glory this week and this improving four-year-old can add to their tally.

**Kinross** will be a danger even if he usually needs this first run of the season and could do with the ground softer.

This challenge should be ideal for **Believing** who was a cracking fourth in the King Charles III Stakes on Tuesday.

**Mill Stream** has been well backed after hitting the target at York last time and is high on the shortlist. Here's my guide to the field:

## ART POWER ★★

**POWER** needs cut. Was only 12th in this last season on quick ground but showed his class by finishing the season winning the Champions Sprint here on soft. He ran well behind Regional at The Curragh last time but all his best form has come with cut in the ground.

## JUMBY ★★

**PASS** By. Has solid form in lesser company but the pick of it has come over seven furlongs. He won a Group 3 contest this time last year but has largely struggled since including at Haydock last time. Tries blinkers for the first time in his long career and this looks tough.

## KHADEM ★★

**KHAA** rusty. Last win was this race 12 months ago on fast ground and hasn't shown a massive amount since then. Looked rusty from a bad draw at York last time and hard to see him repeating last year's 80-1 shock despite his liking for the track.

## KINROSS ★★★

**ROSS** may boss. High-class over this trip and seven furlongs on any ground. He was just pipped in the Champions Sprint here last time out in October and this trip and track are ideal. The worry is he usually needs his first run of the season and that's the only thing putting me off.

## MILL STREAM ★★

**FAST** Stream. He was held in a couple of Group 1s last season including when not getting the best of runs in the Champions Sprint. He clocked a personal best when just holding on at York in a hot contest last time and his finishing style off a fast pace suits this race. His best has come with some cut so far but it's early days and he could improve again.

## MITBAHY ★★

**BAA** may star. He's been held in a couple of Group 1s but they were over five furlongs and he really enjoyed this trip when

**RIVER TIBER** looks like a watery wonder in the Jersey (4.25).

Aidan O'Brien's jolly nickered a top pot at the Royal Meeting last year, and the heavy hitters are getting stuck in with Hills.

But if you are hunting an each-way earner, there has been crafty cash for Ralph Beckett's **TASK FORCE** (12s to 8-1).

And it's been a roller-coaster week for the bookies according to Hills' Lee Phelps. He said: "We could have done without Kyprios winning the Gold Cup — that was a telling blow."

"We're behind going into the final furlong, but this is a big betting day and it's all to play for."

Meanwhile, a Ryanair regular from Dublin reckons the Coolmore

**ANDY AYRES**  
**TRACKMAN**  
in association with **William HILL**

crew are all over **BEDTIME STORY** in the Chesham (2.30).

Hills have stamped a 'top price guarantee' on that heat, and Aidan's army are itching to make a chunky investment.

And the Ballydoyle boys have got plenty to play with after Fairy Godmother landed some monster

bets in yesterday's opener. Chief chuckle brother Ryan Moore reckons he set this flying filly an "impossible task".

Connections have already got their mince pies on next year's 1,000 Guineas, and you will struggle to beat 5-1 about her collecting that Classic. My mate 'Two-



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# TASH DASH

## Templegate's big-race guide to the Jubilee

coming with a late rattle to strike at The Curragh last time. He was blocked a couple of times so it was a mighty effort. Hold-up horses often do well in this race and Jamie Spencer could time his challenge to perfection again. Shortlisted.

**QUINAULT** ★  
QUIN won't win. Has solid handicap form including when winning here over further. Likes firm ground but struggled in a Haydock Group 3 and this looks too hot.

### SHARTASH

★★★★★  
RED-HOT Ash. The latest expensive Wathnan Racing buy after he tanked to victory in a fast time at Haydock last month. A stiff six furlongs like this should be ideal and he's happy on any ground. He has

only been with Archie Watson (below) for two runs and there's more to come.

### SHOULDVEBEENARING

★ ★  
RING wrung. Yet to win beyond Listed and was only midfield in the Commonwealth Cup last year. Ran well at York two starts ago before a modest effort at The Curragh. Needs more.

### THE WIZARD OF EYE

★ ★  
EYE'LL pass, thanks. Won the Victoria Cup handicap here last time over further and not sure this drop in distance and hike in class is a wise move even with Ryan Moore on board.

### WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

★ ★ ★  
WASH up. Good run at York last time after solid Newbury

success over this trip on fast ground. Is on the upgrade and could nick a place if stepping up further.

### BELIEVING

★ ★ ★ ★  
I'M a Believer. Finished well into fourth in the King Charles II here on Tuesday and this extra furlong looks ideal. This ground is ideal and she'll have more time to hit top gear here as the line came too soon over the minimum trip. She needs to find a bit more but that's more than possible.

### SWINGALONG

★ ★ ★  
IN the Swing. Cracking third in Commonwealth Cup last season and went well from a bad draw in the Champions Sprint. Likes fast ground over this trip and is fit from her York comeback. More needed to win but has place hopes.

### VADREAM

★  
DREAM on. Ran poorly in King Charles III on Tuesday and has yet to win beyond Group 3 level and that was a while ago. Has shown her best here but this looks a very tall order.

## THE TIPSTRESS

SHE'S READY TO GIVE THE BOOKIES A LASHING



**WELL**, it's the last day of Ascers and it was awfully nice of the peeps here to award me the trophy for Best Turned Out Filly at the meeting... again.

Thankfully the cup is big enough to cover up my assets but I thought I'd give all the hunky chaps in the cheap seats a teasing glimpse of just what you are all missing. I have been called a trophy wife a few times so this makes a pleasant change!

But it was another busy day on and off the track for myself and Bunty who – I am happy to report – finally got back from Monte Carlo.

She met a charming chap at the casino and thinks he must have been a secret agent because she was shaken and stirred all night long.

Luckily there was one seat left on the last Lear to Ascers for dear old Bunters – only for it to be delayed by the weight of her Louis Vuitton luggage.

Luckily she was very much on hand to help the pilot ease his load and it eventually took off.

Today is the last chance for me to crack the whip before I toodle-pop off to my chalet in Switzerland and I plan to make the most of it. You never know, I might pick up more than just my winnings!

I'm used to plenty of pillow talk so it has to be **BEDTIME STORY** (2.30) in the opening race. I do like a bit of each-way too – doesn't everyone? – so I must also have a naughty little tinkle on **Hot**

**Like Me** because, girls, I know you wish you were.

The Hardwicke Stakes is my favourite race of the week – can't think why, maybe it's the name? I've had more than my share of fun in sand dunes in my time so **DESERT**

**HERO** (3.05) is the one for me.

It will be hats 'or' for His Majesty if Tom Marquand can wave his magic wand. His wife Hollie Doyle – a lovely rider herself – is such a lucky girl.

I once spent a wild weekend at a castle in **KINROSS** (3.45). I can confirm that nothing is worn under a Scotsman's kilt – although it was getting pretty tired by Sunday night.

Hunky Frankie Dettori isn't around to ride Kinross any more but I'm sure Rossa Ryan will do a good job.

Bunty tells me little Rossa is very much a pocket rocket who loves nothing better than to pump away in a finish.

**TASK FORCE** (4.25) brings back happy memories of my time entertaining the troops in Afghanistan. I was supposed to meet the officers but they ended up showing me their privates instead. A lovely group of lads.

Finally, I like a beast with staying power so I always look forward to the Queen Alexandra (6.15).

It goes on for about six minutes which is the average time most gentlemen last with me. I had a dalliance with an actor who almost missed his awards night after a steamy matinee performance in my Bayswater boudoir. So **RUN FOR OSCAR** it is! Pip, pip.

**I'm here for a good Time, not a long time**

## Eye on the prize

**CHARLIE FELLOWES** hopes 'best in the world' Ryan Moore can work his magic with his Wizard.

Fellowes is hunting for his first Group success at the Royal meeting and reckons **The Wizard Of Eye** could be the one to break his duck in the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Stakes.

He made his debut for Fellowes in the Victoria Cup, where he showcased a devastating turn of foot to get up in the nick of time.

It was a clinical performance to win from such a difficult position and Fellowes knows The Wizard Of Eye (right) will need some more lucky breaks if he's to come out on top.

And he's taken no chances by booking the best in the biz for his best chance of the week – though he thinks he'll need every bit of Moore magic.

Fellowes said: "He's a very talented horse, that's for sure. We're dropping to six for the first time and going into Group 1 company too – there is a lot of unknowns."

"I'm not totally happy with his draw in box 14, as I wanted to be towards the middle."

"Then he could have a bit of cover and had something to aim at. Being

By **OWEN GOULDING**

drawn on the end makes it complicated – but we've got the best jockey in the world on board and if anyone can solve the puzzle, it's Ryan."

However Fellowes has plenty of faith in his unexposed five-year-old and is expecting a big run.

Fellowes said: "Ascot really suits him and I'm not convinced it's the strongest renewal of the race."

"He's only five so if we're going to take the chance, now is definitely the time to do so."

"He has a brilliant turn of foot and there's lots of pace in the race – I can spot at least four confirmed front runners in there."

"It doesn't always work out like you think it will but, if they go hard early and he can stay latched on, I don't think many will be staying on better than he will in the final furlong."

Fellowes has won a trio of handicaps at Royal Ascot, but a Group success would be something extra special.

He added: "Everyone wants to win at Royal Ascot, it's a special place and with how competitive the racing is, every winner here means absolutely everything."

**Oisin will move heaven and Earth for John ace**

Chin Tommy' knows how to spot value. Tom bought a limited-edition bottle of Tippet last week... apparently, it's a correctors item.

Anyway, our man knows plenty of wide-awake Wurzels down Wiltshire way, and they are opening their wallets for Harry Charlton's

**HAND OF GOD** in the 5.40. Hazza's gang were sobbing into their scrumpy when William Buick managed to get King's Gambit chinned here on Thursday.

Wee Willie owes them a favour after that video nasty, and the combine harvester brigade reckon this nag is the bee's knees.

Oisin Murphy (right) hasn't put a size seven wrong all week, and a little birdie tells me the king of Killarney is sweet on John Gosden's **MIDDLE EARTH** (3.05).

Big Johnny G has got this cash converter pencilled in for the Melbourne Cup.

There is plenty of time to pay for a first-class ticket Down Under, and conditions look picture perfect in the Hardwicke.





# Favourite

Your No1 racing pullout

**TIC-TAC:** Right-handed track of 1m 6f, straight mile, stiff uphill finish. **DRAW:** No significant advantage. **FAVOURITES:** (2019-2024): 283 have won out of 880 races (32%). At corresponding meetings, 63 have won out of 247 races (25%). **JACKPOT:** 1-6. **LIVE ON SKY SPORTS RACING**

## HOT 'N NOT

**TRAINERS with best record in last 14 days:** G Boughey 15 wins from 38 runners; A P O'Brien 11 from 30; R Beckett 9 from 42; H Palmer 7 from 34; W Haggas 9 from 47; K Ryan 7 from 39; C Johnston 13 from 80; R Hannan 9 from 57; D O'Meara 7 from 53; K R Burke 7 from 53.

**JOCKEYS with best record in last 14 days:** R L Moore 8 wins from 24 rides; M Guyon 12 from 59; O Murphy 14 from 71 rides; B Loughnane 11 from 56; D Tudhope 9 from 46; R Ryan 11 from 61; T Marquand 10 from 60; W Buick 7 from 52.

**TRAINERS who have had the most winners since last win:** S Kirk 58; O Follows 37; P Charalambous 8; J Clutterbuck 37.

**JOCKEYS who have had the most rides since last win:** D Allan 44; C Lee 37.

## TOP TRAINERS

2019-2024 J & T Gosden 41-274, A Balding 33-315, W Haggas 28-216, R Varian 27-210, C Appleby 24-151, A P O'Brien 20-203, R Hannan 20-264, C Cox 15-149, C Hills 13-107, K R Burke 12-90. **THIS WEEK:** A P O'Brien 5, J & T Gosden 2, K Ryan 2.

## TOP JOCKEYS

2019-2024 R L Moore 34-270, J Crowley 31-213, O Murphy 29-216, W Buick 27-230, T Marquand 21-245, H Doyle 16-170, J Doyle 14-164, R Ryan 13-120, D Tudhope 13-153, D Probert 12-141. **THIS WEEK:** R L Moore 5, O Murphy 3, J Doyle 3, B Loughnane 2.

## TRAINER TRACE

**FIRST RACE FOR NEW YARD:** 5.05 Coacheo G Elliott (Ire) to M Loughnane; Wodao D O'Brien (Ire) to J Osborne; 6.15 Fadol C Ferland (Fr) to P Nicholls; Nachtgeest A Charlton to G & J Moore.

**RELEASED:** R L Moore 12, the 4.25 in 2016 & 2019. A P O'Brien won the 2.30 in 2016, 2017, 2020 & 2021 and 3.05 in 2017 & 2022. G Elliott won the 6.15 in 2016 & 2018.

**LONGEST TRAVELLERS:** Glenfinnan (5:15) won by M Dods, Darlington, round trip of 518 miles; Motawahij (2:30), Swingalong (3:45), Night Raider (4:25), Lethal Levi (5:05), Arabic Legend (5:40) trained by K R Burke, Leyburn, round trip of 504 miles; Expensive Rose (2:30) & Lethal Levi (2:30), C Johnston, Middleham, round trip 486 miles.

## IN THE MONEY

**MONEY TALKS:** Aberama Gold (5.05) opened 15-2 unplaced at 9-2; Boiling Point (4.25) opened 7-4 won at 11-8; Middle Earth (3.05) opened 9-2 won at 10-3; Cover Up (5.05) opened 7-2 unplaced at 11-4; Warrior Brave (6.05) opened 3-1 tied at 5-2.

## TOP EARNERS

6.15 Trueshan .....£1,840,195  
3.45 Kinross .....£1,704,224  
3.45 Khaadem .....£1,152,005  
3.05 Continuous .....£810,272  
3.45 Art Power .....£782,603  
3.05 Isle Of Jura .....£604,706

## UNDER ORDERS

**SEVEN-DAY WINNERS:** None.  
**BLINKERED FIRST TIME:** 3.45 Jumbly.  
**VISORIED FIRST TIME:** None.  
**FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OP:** Indian Run (4.25).

**WEIGHTWATCHER:** 5.05 Chipstead (won off 102, down 4lb to 98).

**JOB JOCKEYS:** D Tudhope rides Defence Missile (2.30) for E J-Houghton, 5 from 10, 50%. S Osborne rides Never So Brave (4.25) & Sir M Stoute, 5 from 12, 42%. O Murphy rides Middle Earth (3.05) for J & T Gosden, 49 from 139, 35%. R L Moore rides Harry Three (5.05) for C Cox, 14 from 42, 33%.

## SCOOP6 RACES

LEG 1 .....2.30 Royal Ascot  
LEG 2 .....3.45 Royal Ascot  
LEG 3 .....4.25 Royal Ascot  
LEG 4 .....5.05 Royal Ascot  
LEG 5 .....5.40 Royal Ascot  
LEG 6 .....6.15 Royal Ascot

# DAY FIVE ACTION STARTS HERE WITH ALL

## 2.30 CHESHAM STAKES (LISTED) (Class 1) 2-Y-O; value to winner £62,381; 7f (18 runners)

1	12	1	AGE OF GOLD 31	48
			C Appleby 9-5 ..... William Buick	£21,600
Runs: 1	Wins: 1 (GS)			
2	15	42	BRIAN 16 (BF)	82
			S Kirk 9-5 ..... Liam Keniry	£4,501
Runs: 2	Places: 1			
3	10	41	CHILLY BREEZE 63	88
			P Evans 9-5 ..... David Probert	£4,125
Runs: 2	Wins: 1 (S)			
4	8	2	DEFENCE MISSILE 36	90
			E J-Houghton 9-5 ..... Daniel Tudhope	£3,042
Runs: 1	Places: 1			
5	6		DUKE OF MONROTH	—
			R Freire 9-5 ..... David Egan	
Runs: 1	Places: 1			
6	7		HARVEY	—
			P Chapelle-Hyam 9-5 ..... Maxime Guyon	
Runs: 1	Places: 1			
7	18	2	LAZY GRIFF 6	92
			C Johnston 9-5 ..... James Doyle	£1,724
Runs: 1	Places: 1			
8	13	2	METRO DUBAI 7 (V)	80
			S & E Crisford 9-5 ..... Oisin Orr	£1,719
Runs: 1	Places: 1			
9	2	62	MOON SNIPER 8	83
			Muir/Grassick 9-5 ..... Lewis Edmunds	£2,535
Runs: 1	Places: 1			
10	5	2	MOTAWAHIJ 20	95
			K R Burke 9-5 ..... Clifford Lee	£5,095
Runs: 1	Places: 1			
11	11	1	PENTLE BAY 18	97
			G Boughey 9-5 ..... Tom Marquand	£3,240
Runs: 1	Wins: 1 (GS)			
12	4	2	SEAPLANE 25 (T*)	94
			P & O Cole 9-5 ..... non-runner	£1,965
Runs: 1	Places: 1			
13	16	72	SHOCKER 24	78
			E J O'Neill (Fr) 9-5 ..... Ben Coen	£2,087
Runs: 2	Places: 1			
14	3	1	BEDTIME STORY 16 (D)	99
			A P O'Brien (Ire) 9-0 ..... Ryan Moore	£9,391
Runs: 1	Wins: 1 (G)			
15	9	21	EXPENSIVE ROSE 12 (D)	89
			C Johnston 9-0 ..... Oisin Murphy	£13,005
Runs: 2	Wins: 1 (G)			
16	14		HOT LIKE ME	—
			R Spencer 9-0 ..... Hollie Doyle	
Runs: 1	Places: 1			
17	1	33	JEWEL OF LONDON 17 (BF)	86
			R Hannan 9-0 ..... Pat Dobbs	£3,316
Runs: 2	Places: 2			
18	17	4	MISS EL FUNDI 17	91
			Sir M Prescott 9-0 ..... Luke Morris	£4,31
Runs: 1	Places: 1			

**BETTING:** 15-8 Bedtime Story, 4 Age Of Gold, 5 Pentle Bay, 12 Expensive Rose, 14 Defence Missile, 16 Duke Of Monroth, Motawahij, 20 Miss El Fundi, Lazy Griff, 25 Metro Dubai

**WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED:** 1 5 2 1 6 2

2023: Snellen 9-0, G Carroll 12-1 (G Cromwell Ire), dr 13, 16 ran.

## BIG-RACE TRENDS

AGE OF GOLD can shine in the Chesham Stakes for Charlie Appleby and William Buick.

Five of the past six Chesham winners who'd seen a racetrack came to Royal Ascot unbeaten but Holloway Boy in 2022 showed that it is possible – if tough – to win this first time out.

It's a bonus if your fancy has won over the trip of seven furlongs but not essential.

Looking at the betting, the past two runnings have seen an upset but before that four of six were won by the market leader.

The other two were taken by the second and third favourite.

None of the past 12 winners had run at Ascot before and, typically, Aidan O'Brien is the trainer with the best record.

He has won this four

## 2.30 Chesham Stakes

times since 2016 so is respected as he is with most races at the meeting. The draw has been a factor too as there has been only one winner drawn lower than six in the past decade.

Given Bedtime Story comes out of stall three, this can go to AGE OF GOLD.

He won well on debut and has more to come with Pentle Bay another with lots of trends ticks.

## TEMPLEGATE

## TOM PEPPER

## SIRIUS

## EAMONN HAMES

## SUNRATINGS

## THE JUDGE

## MATT CHAPMAN

## EACH-WAY THIEF

# ITV: 2.30, 3.05, 3.45, 4.25, 5.05

## Sunracing FORM

**AGE OF GOLD** (9-7) 11-10 fav slow away, in rear, headway 21f out, led 11f out, ran on well, readily, bt Back In Black (9-7) 1/4 (6 ran) (Yarmouth 6f nov stakes (2) £21,600 good to soft).

**BRIAN** (9-7) 10-3 fav led final furlong, headed finish, just held run-in, b/nk by Cool Hoof Luke (9-7) (10 ran) (Chelmsford 6f mdn (5) £4,187 AW).

**CHILLY BREEZE** (9-5) 28-1 raced in third, ridden when disputed lead 11f out, led outright when ran green and drifted led final 10 yards, went clear, ran on well near finish, promising, bt Teej A (8-11) 2/4 (6 ran) (Nottingham 5f mdn (5) £3,725 soft).

**DEFENCE MISSILE** (9-7) 9-1 midfield, ridden 21f out, stayed on final furlong, chased leader close home, b/nk by Mr Chaplin (9-7) (20 ran) (Newbury 6f mdn (4) £6,480 good).

**LAZY GRIFF** (9-7) 8-1 keen and green, handy, led 11f out, stayed on, headed final 110 yards, b/nk 1/4 by Wolf Of Badenoch (9-7) (10 ran) (Doncaster 7f mdn (5) £3,672 good to soft).

**METRO DUBAI** (9-7) 8-1 prominent, pushed along 21f out, ridden to challenge 11f out, stayed on well but held close home, b/nk 1/4 by Celeborn (9-7) (10 ran) (Leicester 7f mdn (5) £3,664 good to soft).

**MOON SNIPER** (9-7) 50-1 led after 11f until 51f out, chased leader until ridden 11f out, went 2nd again final furlong, held by winner, b/nk 21 by Dividend (9-7) (12 ran) (Sandown 7f mdn (4) £5,400 good to firm).

**MOTAWAHIJ** (9-7) 8-1 led 21f out, ridden and headed final furlong, soon held but kept on one pace, b/nk 21 by Catalyse (9-7) (6 ran) (Hamilton 6f nov stakes (4) £10,854 good).

**PENTLE BAY** (9-7) 5-1 rear, pushed along and headway 21f out, ran on strongly, led close home, bt American Style (9-5) hd 14 ran) (Leicester 6f mdn (5) £3,240 good to soft).

**SEAPLANE** (9-7) 5-1 prominent, ridden and every chance final furlong, kept on one pace, b/nk 2/4 by Santa Savana (9-2) (9 ran) (Leicester 6f mdn (4) £4,187 good to soft).

**SHOCKER** (9-2) 50-1 tracked leaders, ridden 11f out, stayed on steadily and led 150 yards out, headed finish, b/nk by Surpass (9-6) (9 ran) (Tipperary 7f mdn auct £7,200 soft).

**BEDTIME STORY** (9-2) 5-1 mid-division, ridden 21f out, stayed on, led final 100 yards, cosily, bt Giselle (9-2) 1/4 (9 ran) (Leopardstown 7f mdn £10,800 good).

**EXPENSIVE ROSE** (9-2) 8-13 fav pressed leader, led 11f out, edged right inside final furlong, stayed on well, readily, bt Li Ban (9-2) 1/4 (7 ran) (Carlisle 7f nov (4) £4,500 good).

**JEWEL OF LONDON** (9-2) 8-4 fav rear of mid-division, ridden 21f out, headway final furlong, not go pace of leaders, stayed on, 3rd of 11 (1/4) to Tales Of The Heart (9-2) **MISS EL FUNDI** (9-2) 16-1 held up behind, pushed along off pace 21f out, some late headway, 4th (b/nk 27/4) Kempton 6f mdn (5) £3,672 AW).

**DUKE OF MONROTH** Street Sense colt. Cost £260,000 at the Arcana Breeze-up sales last month.

**HARVEY** Le Havre colt. Cost £47,000 as a yearling.

**HOT LIKE ME** Ghaiyathi filly. Cost 42,000gns as a yearling.

## TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

**BEDTIME STORY** can maintain the excellent record of Aidan O'Brien (below) in this race. He's won four of the past eight runnings and this Frankel filly gets a handy 5lb from most rivals here. She looked classy when winning on debut at Leopardstown earlier this month. She clocked a good time without her rider going for everything. There's a lot more to come.

**Age Of Gold** looks the main danger after cruising to victory first time out at Yarmouth. He showed plenty of the Frankel class there and should appreciate this extra furlong and quicker conditions.

**Pentle Bay** is another coming here on the back of good win, this time at Leicester 18 days ago. He showed lots of late pace and is will also relish this hike in trip. Karl Burke has lots of success with two-year-olds and his **Motawahij** looked promising when second on debut at Hamilton. He is bred for quick ground and will have learned plenty from that experience.

**Expensive Rose** saw out this trip well when winning at stamina-sapping Carlisle last time. This is clearly a lot tougher but the booking of Oisin Murphy is a plus.

**Duke Of Monroth** is an interesting newcomer after connections forked out around £250,000 for him. He is bred to be speedy and like fast ground so can't be ignored.

## 2.30



## EACH-WAY THIEF

**MISSED THE CUT** (3.05 Royal Ascot) has strong form in America and will be suited by these quick conditions. Have an each-way double with **MITBAAHY** (3.45 Royal Ascot) who was impressive at The Curragh last time and can figure again.

## 2.30 3.05

Bedtime Story	Continuous (treble)
Age Of Gold	MIDDLE EARTH (nap)
Bedtime Story	Continuous (nb)
Bedtime Story	Middle Earth
BEDTIME STORY (nap)	Continuous
Bedtime Story	Continuous
Age Of Gold	Continuous (nb)
Motawahij	Missed The Cut (nb)

## 3.05 HARDWICKE STAKES (GROUP 2); value to the winner £141,775; 1m 4f (9 runners)

1	3125-1	CANDLEFORD 28 (CD)	91
		W Haggas 6-9-3 ..... William Buick	£190,101
Runs: 1	Wins: 5 (3F A.G)		
2	82115-	CONTINUOUS 265 (D)	99
		A P O'Brien (Ire) 4-9-3 ..... Ryan Moore	£810,272
Runs: 3	Wins: 4 (S.F.G)		
3	71/673	CRYPTO FORCE 27	80
		A Murray (Ire) 4-9-3 ..... Rossa Ryan	£113,662
Runs: 6	Wins: 2 (G)		
4	113-25	DESERT HERO 35 (BF,CD)	95
		W Haggas 4-9-3 ..... Tom Marquand	£282,048
Runs: 9	Wins: 4 (SS.G)		
5	12-114	ELEGANT MAN 27	82
		A Murray (Ire) 4-9-3 ..... David Egan	£149,640
Runs: 5	Wins: 3 (3A)		
6	14-214	GOLIATH 20 (D)	92
		F H Giffard (Fr) 4-9-3 ..... Maxime Guyon	£110,713
Runs: 7	Wins: 4 (SS.GS)		
7	2-1111	ISLE OF JURA 29 (D)	97
		G Haggas 4-9-3 ..... C Shepherd	£604,706
Runs: 7	Wins: 7 (FSG)		
8	1171-1	MIDDLE EARTH 35 (C,D)	98
		J & T Gosden 4-9-3 ..... Oisin Murphy	£245,682
Runs: 7	Wins: 4 (FSGS)		
9	02-112	MISSED THE CUT 63 (T*,C,D)	89
		J Sadler (USA) 5-9-3 ..... James Doyle	£204,128
Runs: 16	Wins: 7 (2F 2A.G)		

**BETTING:** 6-4 Continuous, 5-2 Middle Earth, 7 Desert Hero, Missed The Cut, 10 Isle Of Jura, 16 Candleford, 20 Goliath, 33 Elegant Man, 50 Crypto Force

**WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED:** 1 5 2 3 5

2023: Pyleddriver 6-9-3, P J McDonald 7-2 (W Muir), dr 5, 7 ran.

## Sunracing FORM

**CANDLEFORD** (9-10) 11-4 made all, pushed along 21f out, soon ridden, pressed briefly 1/4 out, stayed on strongly under pressure final furlong, bt Sumiha (9-2) 1/4 (8 ran) (Curragh 1/4m Listed (1) £27,000 good).

**CONTINUOUS** (8-12) 11-1 rear midfield, ridden 21f out, driven and stayed on from 11f out, held, 5th of 15 (b/nk 3/4) to Ace Impact (8-12) (Longchamp 1/4m Grp 1 £2,528,318 good to soft).

**CRYPTO FORCE** (9-5) 40-1 held up, kept on one pace, 3rd of 8 (b/nk 11) to White Birch (9-3) **ELEGANT MAN** (9-5) 10-1 led 41f out, headed 21f out, one pace, 4th (b/nk 13) (Curragh 1/4m Grp 1 (1) £300,000 good to yielding).

**MIDDLE EARTH** (9-2) 10-3 slowly away, rear, headway 21f out, ridden and ran

on strongly final furlong, led final strides, bt King Of Conquest (9-2) ns **DESERT HERO** (9-2) evened fav keen tracked leader, pushed along and switched 21f out, ridden 11f out, faded, 5th (b/nk 8/4) (8 ran) (Newbury 1/4m Grp 3 (1) £56,710 good).

**GOLIATH** (8-13) 11-4 held up in rear, ridden 21f out, stayed on from 11f out, not get on terms with leaders, 4th of 7 (b/nk 3/4) to Junko (8-13) (Chantilly 1/4m Grp 2 £264,435 good to soft).

**ISLE OF JURA** (9-6) 6-1 headway 21f out, stayed on to lead finish, bt Mujtaba (9-3) 1/4 (6 ran) (Goodwood 1/4m Listed (1) £34,026 good).

**MISSED THE CUT** (6-5) 4-1 every chance, stayed on one pace, b/nk 1/4 by Silver Knott (8-6) (9 ran) (Keeneland 1/4m Grp 2 £139,134 good).

The Placepot is a bet where you select a horse to be placed in the FIRST SIX races of any meeting. You can pick more than one horse in a race – you just multiply the number of selections in each race to calculate your stake. So for staking it's 2x1x2x2x2x2 which adds up to 32 lines.

You can stake what you want upwards from 5p a line which would cost a total of £1.60. 10p a line is £3.20 and so on. Provided at least one in each race is placed, we get a payout!

# POT LUCK

## TODAY'S PICKS AT ROYAL ASCOT

LEG 1 ..... Bedtime Story, Age Of Gold  
LEG 2 ..... Continuous  
LEG 3 ..... Shartash, Believing  
LEG 4 ..... River Tiber, Haatem  
LEG 5 ..... Rumstar, Dark Trooper  
LEG 6 ..... Hand Of God, Palace Green



## THE COLOURS &amp; TOP TIPS

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

3.45	4.25	5.05	5.40	6.15
Shartash (nb)	RIVER TIBER (nap)	Rumstar	Hand Of God	Queenstown
Art Power	Night Raider (nb)	Mums Tipple	Hand Of God	Nachtgeist
Mill Stream	TASK FORCE (nap)	Orazio	Approval	Postileo
Mitbaahy (nb)	Haatem	Lethal Levi	PRIMO LARA (nap)	Queenstown
Mill Stream	Haatem	Apollo One	Arabic Legend (nb)	Dawn Rising
Mill Stream (nb)	HAATEM (nap)	Harry Three	Primo Lara	Queenstown
Art Power	EBEN SHADDAD (nap)	Mums Tipple	Portsmouth	Run For Oscar
MITBAAHY (nap)	Native American	Albasheer	Palace Green	Tashkhan

## 5.40 &amp; ITV4: 6.15; PLUS LIVE ON SKY SPORTS RACING

## TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

**3.05** **CONTINUOUS** looks hard to beat as he starts his four-year-old career. He got better as last season went on. After a good second to King Of Steel at this meeting, he took the Great Voltigeur at York in style before landing an easy victory in the St Leger. 'The Lads' then supplemented him for the Arc just two weeks later where he was beaten just three lengths into fifth. Given the way he improved through the campaign you would expect him to make a pretty special four-year-old. He handles any ground and should have too much class for these rivals. **Middle Earth** looks his main foe after his battling comeback win at Newbury last month. He was brought along slowly by John Gosden last season and bounced back from a poor Leger run to win a Listed race here. He has few miles on the clock and should give the tip plenty to think about. **Missed The Cut** has some decent form in America where he got close to Silver Knott in a Keeneland Group 2 contest last time out in April. He likes fast ground over this trip and looks solid each-way. The King's **Desert Hero** has shown his best over this trip and won a handicap at this meeting 12 months ago. This is clearly tougher but this will have been the target for William Haggas and it wouldn't be shock if he made the places, while **Isle Of Jura** is improving and deserves this hike in class.

## 3.45 QUEEN ELIZABETH II JUBILEE STAKES (GRP 1); winner £567,100; 6f (14 runners)

1	01-054	ART POWER 28 (BF,CD)	95
(7)	T Easterby 7-9-5	David Allan	95
Runs: 34	Wins: 9 (3S,A,GS,2G)	Places: 3	£782,603
2	59-900	JUMBY 14 (B*,C,D)	80
(4)	E J-Houghton 6-9-5	Charles Bishop	80
Runs: 29	Wins: 6 (3F,3G)	Places: 6	£225,437
3	1575-0	KHADEM 38 (CD)	88
(12)	C Hills 8-9-5	Oisín Murphy	88
Runs: 34	Wins: 8 (4F,GS,3G)	Places: 5	£152,005
4	31122	KINROSS 245 (BF,CD)	97
(13)	R Beckett 7-9-5	Ross Ryan	97
Runs: 28	Wins: 10 (2F,3S,A,4GS)	Places: 6	£1704,224
5	168-21	MILL STREAM 38 (D)	99
(8)	J Chapple-Hyam 4-9-5	William Buick	99
Runs: 12	Wins: 4 (F,2S,G)	Places: 4	£220,525
6	81-471	MITBAAHY 28 (D)	98
(1)	C Hills 5-9-5	Jamie Spencer	98
Runs: 20	Wins: 6 (S,GS,4G)	Places: 4	£229,299
7	310-86	QUINALT 14 (T,C,D)	82
(9)	S Williams 4-9-5	Richard Kingscote	82
Runs: 14	Wins: 7 (4F,A,2G)	Places: 2	£192,390
8	406-11	SHARTASH 42 (D)	96
(2)	A Watson 4-9-5	James Doyle	96
Runs: 13	Wins: 4 (S,F,G)	Places: 1	£202,468
9	3-3026	SHOULDVEBEENARING 28 (D)	90
(11)	R Hannon 4-9-5	Sean Levey	90
Runs: 23	Wins: 5 (F,A,3G)	Places: 7	£450,404
10	6657-1	THE WIZARD OF EYE 42 (C,D)	95
(14)	C Fellows 5-9-5	Ryan Moore	95
Runs: 22	Wins: 3 (A,GS,G)	Places: 3	£147,097
11	441-14	WASHINGTON HEIGHTS 38 (D)	93
(10)	K Ryan 4-9-5	Tom Eaves	93
Runs: 14	Wins: 3 (F,2G)	Places: 7	£221,418
12	30-914	BELIEVING 4 (T,D)	94
(5)	G Boughey 4-9-2	Daniel Tudhope	94
Runs: 18	Wins: 5 (F,2A,G)	Places: 5	£277,194
13	3144-8	SWINGALONG 38 (D)	87
(3)	K R Burke 4-9-2	Clifford Lee	87
Runs: 12	Wins: 3 (GS,2G)	Places: 3	£344,575
14	7-3280	VADREAM 4 (CD)	78
(6)	C Fellows 6-9-2	Kieran Shoemark	78
Runs: 32	Wins: 4 (3S,A)	Places: 7	£242,964

**BETTING:** 4 Mill Stream, 6 Kinross, Shartash, 7 Mitbaahy, 8 Believing, 10 The Wizard Of Eye, Shouldvebeenaring, 12 Art Power  
**WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED:** 1 3 1 0 3  
2023: Khaadem 7-9-5, J P Spencer 80-1 (C Hills), dr 2, 16 ran.

## YOUR KEY TO THE COLOUR CARD

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
7	4432-1	HE'S A GOOD THING 28 (BF,CD;T*)	94						
M	Dickinson 11-11-10	John Francone	94						
Runs: 24	Wins: 9 (4S,A,3GS,G)	Places: 3	£829,1345						
Great attitude, game win latest, battles, top jockey booked, solid each-way shot									
A	.....	Runner number							
B	.....	Form figures (most recent run on right)							
C	.....	Trainer							
D	.....	Age							
E	.....	Weight horse must carry							
F	.....	Days since last race							
G	.....	(BF) Beaten favourite on last run							
H	.....	(CD) Course and distance winner							
I	.....	(T) Wears a tongue-tie							

ALSO: (C) Course winner, (D) Distance winner, (B) wears blinkers, (F) Wears cheekpieces, (H) Wears hood, (V) Wears vest, \* Horse is wearing it for the first time in a race  
M ..... Sunrating handicap (99 is top-rated)  
K ..... Prize-money won L ..... Jockey  
N ..... Ground the horse has won on  
(F - Firm ground, S - Soft ground, G - Good ground, GS - Good to soft ground, A - All-weather surface)

## Sun FORM

**MITBAAHY** (9-5) 9-1, in rear, last 2f out, good headway final furlong, led close home, bt Regional (9-8) 7/4 **ART POWER** (9-8) 7-2 fav prominent, led 2f out, joined final furlong, headed soon after, no extra, 4th (bt 11) **SHOULDVEBEENARING** (9-5) 4-1 midfield, ridden 2f out, no extra, 8th (bt 47/4) (12 ran) (Curragh 6f Grp 2 (1) £72,000 good).  
**QUINALT** (9-2) 9-1 led, ridden 1f out, headed final furlong, one pace, 8th of 11 (bt 31) to Tiber Flow (9-2) **JUMBY** (9-2) 16-1, held up, not much room 1f out, weakened final furlong, 5th (bt 7/4) (Haydock 7f Grp 3 (1) £48,204 good).  
**MILL STREAM** (9-10) 4-1 fav in touch, pushed along and headway 1f out, ridden and ran on to lead final strides, bt **SHOULDVEBEENARING** (9-10) 12-1 towards rear, headway 1f out, ran on well final furlong, edged out final strides ns **WASHINGTON HEIGHTS** (9-10) 14-1 tracked leaders, pushed along to lead 2f out, ridden and headed final furlong, 8th (bt 47/4) **KHADEM** (9-10) 25-1 in touch, ridden 2f out, weakened final furlong, 13th (bt 7/4) (14 ran) (York 6f Grp 2 (1) £85,065 good).  
**ART POWER** (9-4) 40-1 raced alone far side, led centre group 1f out, ridden and headed final furlong, rallied to lead again final strides, bt **KINROSS** (9-4) 5-4 fav in touch, headway to track leaders 2f out, ridden to lead final furlong, headed final strides, nk **SWINGALONG** (9-10) 25-1 led centre group, ridden and headed 1f out, stayed on one pace, 4th (bt 21/4) **VADREAM** (9-1) 20-1 tracked leaders, ridden and every chance 2f out, weakened final furlong, 7th of 8 (4/4) **MILL STREAM** (9-3) 15-2 in rear, pushed along and headway 1f out, weakened final furlong, 8th (bt 9/4) **BELIEVING** (9-4) 21-1 in touch, headway to track leaders halfway, ridden 1f out, weakened final furlong, 11th (bt 11/4) (15 ran) (Ascot 6f Grp 1 (1) £293,094 soft).  
**SHARTASH** (9-10) 6-1 tracked leader, going well 3f out, ridden to lead 2f out, kept on final furlong, gamely, bt Pogo (9-10) nk (6 ran) (Haydock 7f Listed (1) £28,355 good to firm).  
**THE WIZARD OF EYE** (9-2) 7-1 held up, headway final furlong, ran on to lead final strides, bt Ramazan (9-3) hd **JUMBY** (9-10) 18-1 in touch, headway 3f out, ridden and every chance 1f out, weakened final furlong, 18th (bt 9/4) (21 ran) (Ascot 7f hcap (2) £51,540 good).  
**BELIEVING** (9-4) 9-1, towards rear, ridden 2f out, ran on final furlong, never nearer, 4th of 17 (bt 17/4) to Astora (9-4) **VADREAM** (9-4) 100-1, chased leaders, outpaced 2f out, well beaten, 16th (bt 11/4) (Ascot 5f Grp 1 (1) £390,094 good to firm).

## TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

**3.45** **SHARTASH** has taken his form to a new level since joining Archie Watson and he looked capable of performing in this company when bounding home to score at Haydock last time. The drop back to a stiff six furlongs should be ideal on his favoured fast ground and there's more to come. **Believing** finished strongly when a good fourth in the King's Stand Stakes over the minimum trip here on Tuesday. He will appreciate this extra furlong and will be competitive again. **Kinross** enjoys this course and distance and is proven at Group 1 level. Fast ground suits him best and he'll have every chance provided he's fit enough as he's tended to need his first run each season. **Mill Stream** is an improving sprinter who came from off the pace to score right on the line at York. He should get the strong gallop he needs to aim at here and has every chance of following up. **Mitbaahy** ran his best race for a long time when winning at The Curragh thanks to a perfect Jamie Spencer weaving ride. He will need luck in running but will try to pick his way through again and could make his presence felt again. **Art Power** won the Group 1 Champions Sprint here on soft ground in October and was less than a length away at The Curragh last time. The quicker conditions are a worry but he should run another decent race.

Yr	G	Ran	Winner	Age	Jockey	Trainer	SP	Wt	OR	Stall	Days	Form
23	GF	7	PYLEDRIIVER	6	McDonald, Muir, W	7/2	9-3	124	5	336	372121	
22	GF	7	BROOME	6	Moore, R	O'Brien, A P	6/1	9-3	117	7	27	112245
21	St	10	WONDERFUL TONIGHT	4	Buick, W	Menuisier, D	5/1	8-12	117	11	245	341
20	St	9	FANNY LOGAN	4	Dettori, L	Gosden, J	17/2	8-12	109	8	12	391112
19	Gd	8	DEFOE	5	Atzeni, A	Varian, R	11/4	9-1	118	7	22	13421
18	GF	5	CRYSTAL OCEAN	4	Moore, R	Stoute, Sir M	4/7	9-1	122	4	35	133121
17	GF	12	IDAH0	4	Hefferman, S	O'Brien, A P	9/2	9-1	117	7	22	332116
16	GS	9	DARTMOUTH	4	Peslier, O	Stoute, Sir M	10/1	9-1	114	4	43	615311
15	GF	7	SNOW SKY	4	Smullen, P J	Stoute, Sir M	12/1	9-1	115	2	36	214231
14	GF	10	TELESCOPE	4	Moore, R	Stoute, Sir M	7/4	9-1	114	8	44	212122
13	GF	8	THOMAS CHIPPENDALE	4	Murtagh, J	Cecil, Lady	8/1	9-0	111	8	42	515822
12	GS	12	SEA MOON	4	Moore, R	Stoute, Sir M	3/1	9-0	121	3	28	21131

## BIG RACE TRENDS

**MIDDLE EARTH** looks out of this world in the Hardwicke Stakes.

The stranglehold of four-year-olds was broken by a pair of horses aged six in 2022 and 2023 but that age group still has much the strongest record.

Finishing in the first two last time out has been an important pointer with a win in your last three another major box to tick.

All of the past 12 had scored in at least one Group contest and they had at least three wins on their CV.

Two of the past three were making their seasonal comeback but that's unusual too as most had been on the track within the past month or so.

Last year's winner Pyle-driver was the highest rated winner in recent memory on 124. Generally you need to be higher than 114 in the eyes of the official assessor.

Seven of the past eight were in the first three of the betting with 12-1 the

## 3.05 Hardwicke Stakes

longest price since 2003. Sometimes you end up with a shortlist longer than your arm with the trends - but not this time. There is only one four-year-old who won last time, is at the right end of the official ratings and isn't too long in the betting.

That's **MIDDLE EARTH** for John Gosden who last won this prize four years ago.

## BIG RACE TRENDS

**SEEING IS BELIEVING** in the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Stakes.

Older sprinters have struck a blow with seven-year-olds winning two of the past three runnings. That was breaking a long run of horses aged four and five coming out on top.

They past two winners have blown the odds stats out of the water too with 80-1 and 33-1 shots coming out on top. Before that, this had been a good race for runners at the head of the market.

There has been a wide mix of official ratings with 108 the lowest and the great Black Caviar on 132 at the top.

The Duke Of York Stakes is a good pointer as is the King's Stand - now King Charles III - that is run on the first day of the Royal meeting.

There has been a good spread in the draw too

## 3.45 Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee

although stalls two and three have a strong record with five of the past eight between them.

Winning last time out isn't an issue as only four of the past ten managed that.

**BELIEVING** is from stall five and ran a cracker in the King Charles III on Tuesday and should go close again.

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## 4.25 JERSEY STAKES (GROUP 3) 3-Y-O; value to the winner £85,065; 7f (20 runners)

1	55-132	<b>HAATEM 28 (D)</b>	James Doyle	99
(15)	R Hannon 9-6	Runs: 12 Wins: 3 (GS,2G) Places: 5	£348,779	
2	312-21	<b>BOILING POINT 50 (D)</b>	Tom Marquand	95
(17)	R Varian 9-3	Runs: 6 Wins: 2 (2G) Places: 3	£61,321	
3	31-361	<b>CHICAGO CRITIC 34</b>	Ben Coen	90
(18)	J Murtagh (Ire) 9-3	Runs: 5 Wins: 2 (G) Places: 1	£23,929	
4	62-3	<b>DARK TORNADO 36</b>	John Egan	75
(20)	J Horton 9-3	Runs: 3 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 1	£12,441	
5	133-27	<b>EBEN SHADDAD 41</b>	Kieran Shoemark	93
(16)	J & T Gosden 9-3	Runs: 5 Wins: 1 (F) Places: 3	£85,945	
6	21-29	<b>EL BODON 52</b>	David Egan	88
(4)	J Chapple-Hyam 9-3	Runs: 4 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 2	£21,884	
7	3118-6	<b>INDIAN RUN 42 (C,D)</b>	Charles Bishop	93
(10)	E J-Houghton 9-3	Runs: 5 Wins: 2 (F,G) Places: 1	£122,515	
8	2-12	<b>KIKKULI 30 (D)</b>	Oisín Murphy	91
(14)	H Charlton 9-3	Runs: 3 Wins: 1 (G) Places: 2	£16,857	
9	4-3231	<b>KORTEZ BAY 15 (D)</b>	Robbie Colgan	84
(3)	S Lavery (Ire) 9-3	Runs: 9 Wins: 1 (G) Places: 3	£29,021	
10	4412-7	<b>MOUNTAIN BEAR 28 (D)</b>	Wayne Lordan	96
(19)	A P O'Brien (Ire) 9-3	Runs: 9 Wins: 2 (A,G) Places: 2	£210,234	
11	116-82	<b>NATIVE AMERICAN 22</b>	William Buick	94
(13)	R Fahey 9-3	Runs: 5 Wins: 2 (F) Places: 1	£159,668	
12	22-11	<b>NEVER SO BRAVE 44 (D)</b>	Saffie Osborne	96
(11)	Sir M Stoute 9-3	Runs: 4 Wins: 2 (S,G) Places: 2	£31,040	
13	1-10	<b>NIGHT RAIDER 49 (D)</b>	Daniel Tudhope	95
(1)	K R Burke 9-3	Runs: 3 Wins: 2 (A) Places: 1	£9,720	
14	1133-3	<b>RIVER TIBER 28 (C)</b>	Ryan Moore	98
(7)	A P O'Brien (Ire) 9-3	Runs: 6 Wins: 3 (S,2G) Places: 3	£225,196	
15	535-46	<b>SON 30 (D)</b>	Pat Dobbs	85
(2)	R Hannon 9-3	Runs: 8 Wins: 1 (F) Places: 1	£27,798	
16	1-1145	<b>TAKE ME TO CHURCH 28 (D)</b>	Ronan Whelan	90
(6)	J Davison (Ire) 9-3	Runs: 8 Wins: 3 (S,2A) Places: 1	£60,948	
17	112-7	<b>TASK FORCE 49</b>	Rossa Ryan	96
(8)	R Beckett 9-3	Runs: 4 Wins: 2 (2G) Places: 1	£90,564	
18	111-24	<b>ZOOM ZOOM 22 (BF,D)</b>	Hector Crouch	87
(12)	R Beckett 9-3	Runs: 5 Wins: 3 (2S,A) Places: 1	£53,078	
19	2582-0	<b>PEARLS AND RUBIES 27</b>	Dylan McMonagle	84
(9)	A P O'Brien (Ire) 9-0	Runs: 7 Wins: 1 (G) Places: 3	£102,306	
20	81-141	<b>ZIGGY'S DREAM 35 (D)</b>	Sean Levey	82
(5)	A Haynes 9-0	Runs: 14 Wins: 5 (2S,3A) Places: 1	£31,512	

**BETTING:** 7-4 River Tiber, 5-2 Haatem, 10 Eben Shaddad, 12 Task Force, Never So Brave, Kikkuli, 14 Night Raider, Native American, 16 Boiling Point, 25 Mountain Bear, Indian Run, 33 El Bodon, Zoom Zoom, 50 Son, Take Me To Church, Pearls And Rubies

**WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED:** 2 6 1-2 1 9

**2023:** Age Of Kings 9-3, W Lordan 22-1 (A P O'Brien (Ire), dr, 8, 15, ran.

## Sunracing FORM

**HAATEM** (9-2) 6-1 tracked leaders in 3rd, headway to dispute lead 2f out, pushed along and led 11/4 out, soon ridden clear, strongly pressed final furlong, headed and held last strides, bdn hd by Rosalicio (9-2) **RIVER TIBER** (9-2) 3-1 tracked leaders in 4th, pushed along in 4th 2f out, soon ridden, 2nd briefly 1f out, kept on same pace final furlong, 3rd (bfn 11/4) **TAKE ME TO CHURCH** (9-2) 4-1 led, ridden and joined 21/4 out, headed 2f out, dropped to 5th 1f out, one pace, 5th (bfn 81/4) **MOUNTAIN BEAR** (9-2) 22-1 rear, ridden and slightly closer in 6th 2f out, faded, 7th (bfn 91/4) (Curragh 1m Irish 2,000 Guineas Grp 1) (£290,000 good).

**BOILING POINT** (9-2) 11-8 fav close 3rd, ridden to challenge 1f out, carried ridden briefly and went 2nd, stayed on well to lead final 100 yards, bt Bold Style (9-5) 7/4 (4 ran) (Newmarket 7f Listed 1) (£31,190 good).

**CHICAGO CRITIC** (9-3) 7-1 rear, closer in 6th 2f out, hard ridden 1f out, stayed on well to lead close home, bt Sharinay (9-12) 1/4 (10 ran) (Naas 1m hcap £13,200 good).

**DARK TORNADO** (9-2) 10-1 in touch in rear, wide and headway over 1f out, soon disputed 2nd, ridden and kept on one pace, no extra close home, 3rd of 6 (bfn 51/4) to Lead Artist (9-4) (York 1m nov mdn (2) £20,616 good).

**EBEN SHADDAD** (9-2) 11-1 prominent, pushed along and effort 2f out, limited response, ridden run-in, kept on, 7th of 13 (bfn 17/4) to Metropolitan (9-2) (Longchamp 1m French 1,000 Guineas Grp 1 £322,965 good).

**EL BODON** (9-3) 9-1 raced wide, never closer than mid-distance, 9th of 10 (bfn 9) to Jasour (9-3) (Ascot 6f Grp 3) (£45,368 good to soft).

**INDIAN RUN** (8-12) 8-1 held up towards rear, ridden over 2f out, no telling impression, last of 6 (bfn 171) to

Shartash (9-10) (Haydock 7f Listed 1) (£28,355 good to firm).

**KIKKULI** (9-2) 4-1 held up behind leaders, closed 4f out, went 2nd f out, no impression on winner, kept on, bfn 31/4 by Almaqam (9-2) **SON** (9-2) 16-1 led, hung left and ran wide 5f out, headed over 4f out, soon behind, last (bfn 171) (6 ran) (Sandown 1m Listed 1) (£25,520 soft).

**KORTEZ BAY** (9-8) 5-4 fav tracked leaders, 3rd straight, 2nd and pushed along 2f out, ridden and led 1f out, stayed on well inside final 150 yards, bt Shamsuddin (9-8) 4/4 (15 ran) (Fairhouse 7f mdn £7,500 good).

**NATIVE AMERICAN** (9-2) 10-3 tracked leaders, challenged 2f out, every chance, stayed on, just held, bfn sh hd by Evade (9-2) **ZOOM ZOOM** (9-5) 15-8 fav slowly into stride, raced in last pair, effort 2f out, kept on one pace, 4th (bfn 101) (6 ran) (Epsom 7f Listed 1) (£42,532 led to soft).

**NEVER SO BRAVE** (9-6) evens fav led

## TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

**RIVER TIBER** can give Ryan Moore (below) yet another Royal Ascot winner. He was on board when this Wootton Bassett colt won the Coventry Stakes here 12 months ago and he has since more than held his own in some of the hottest races around. He has been third in three Group 1 contests including the Irish 2,000 Guineas last time when trainer Aidan O'Brien said he'd need the run. It was a good effort to be just over a length off the pace and he'll take a big step forward with that under his belt. **Haatem** is the main danger after two cracking efforts in the Newmarket and Curragh 2,000 Guineas. It's interesting to see him dropped back to this shorter trip as he led in both Classics and this may yet to prove his best trip. It would be a surprise if one of the big two don't oblige but **Native American** could be best of the rest. He ran well over this trip in a French Group 1 last season and clocked a personal best when second at Epsom last time. He should have learned from that. **Never So Brave** is taking a fair hike in class for Sir Michael Stoute but he had plenty in hand when winning a Chester handicap last month. That was just his fourth run so there should be more to come. **Night Raider** looked inexperienced in the Guineas and pulled his chance away but trainer Karl Burke is adamant he's worthy of this level, while **Eben Shaddad** went well in the French Guineas and is another to consider each-way.

Yr	G	Ran	Winner	Age	Jockey	Trainer	SP	Wt	OR	Stall	Days	Form
23	GF	15	AGE OF KINGS	3	Lordan, W.M.	O'Brien, A.P.	22/1	9-3	99	8	28	217430
22	GF	15	NOBLE TRUTH	3	Buick, W.	Appleby, C.	4/1	9-3	112	14	50	314141
21	Sht	16	CREATIVE FORCE	3	Doyle, J.	Appleby, C.	5/1	9-1	101	4	35	10111
20	Sht	13	MOLATHAM	3	Crowley, J.	Varian, R.	11/2	9-1	102	5	250	2114
19	Gd	18	SPACE TRAVELLER	3	Tudhope, D.	Fahey, R.A.	25/1	9-1	102	8	35	117823
18	GF	21	EXPERT EYE	3	McDonald, J.	Stoute, Sir M.	8/1	9-1	111	8	46	11920
17	GF	20	LE BRIVIDO	3	Boudot, P.	Fabre, A.	2/1	9-1	121	10	38	112
16	Sht	19	RIBCHESTER	3	Buick, W.	Fahey, R.A.	7/1	9-6	113	7	46	2213
15	GF	16	DUTCH CONNECTION	3	Crowley, J.	Hillis, C.	14/1	9-1	111	9	46	321137
14	Gd	23	MUSTAJEEB	3	Smullen, P.J.	Weld, D.K.	9/2	9-4	114	19	25	41213
13	GF	21	GALE FORCE TEN	3	O'Brien, J.P.	O'Brien, A.P.	9/2	9-1	114	4	25	1246312
12	Gd	22	ISHVANA	3	Heffernan, S.	O'Brien, A.P.	20/1	8-12	108	6	24	423132

## BIG-RACE TRENDS

**HATS off for HAATEM** in the Jersey Stakes. The past 12 winners of this had all scored at least once in their career but it doesn't have to be last time out.

Age Of Kings last year was the first to score from a double-figure official rating with eight of the past 12 north of 110.

Despite this usually being run with a big field, only three of the past 12 scorers came from a double-figure stall.

Don't worry if your fancy is a tasty price because we've had four winners at long odds since 2012. Aside from that five of the past 12 were either fav or joint favourite.

The best pointers to this have been the Newmarket and Curragh 2,000 Guineas though none of them won the Classic.

A placed effort in one of those contests is something to look out for.

All but one of the past 12 winners had been on the racetrack four times or more and had won at least twice.

Thanks to that Guineas trend, the pair to look at are River Tiber and Haatem.

The former was third in the Irish 1,000 Guineas last time while **HAATEM** was second at The Curragh after finishing third in the Newmarket Classic.

He is just ahead on the official ratings and that gives the Richard Hannon runner the edge over Ryan Moore's mount.

## 5.05 WOKINGHAM STAKES (value to winner £90,000)

1	011-26	<b>VAFORTIN</b>	K P De Foy 6-9-12	25	Wins: 6 (GS,4G)	Best form is on the AW, plenty of weight
2	2-2119	<b>FIVETHOUS</b>	A Balding 6-9-10	26	Wins: 4 (3A,GS)	
3	15-405	<b>COACHEL</b>	M Loughnane 6-9-9	14	Wins: 8 (4A,GS)	Left Gordon Elliott after pair of poor runs
4	707-00	<b>FLAMING</b>	H Palmer 5-9-9	16	Wins: 7 (S,F,GS,4G)	Fair run on return but run to handicaps
5	1106/4	<b>HARRY TH</b>	C Cox 5-9-9	23	Wins: 5 (F,2A,GS,4G)	Not totally disgraced in Listed company
6	U07-02	<b>RUMSTAR</b>	J Portman 4-9-9	25	Wins: 3 (F,2G)	Bounced back to form with a big effort
7	90-070	<b>SAINT LAW</b>	A Watson 6-9-8	17	Wins: 3 (F,GS,G)	Won this race last year, 6lb lower this time
8	230-23	<b>APOLLO O</b>	Ch'lamb/C'back 6-9-7	2	Wins: 4 (S,F,2A)	Runner-up last year, goes on any ground
9	014-15	<b>UNEQUAL</b>	W Haggas 4-9-7	1	Wins: 5 (S,F,GS,2G)	Ran well for a long way in a Grp 3 at T
10	116-61	<b>DARK TOR</b>	A De Mieuille (Fr) 4-9	24	Wins: 16 (W,GS,2A,GS,G)	Loves Ascot, won four times over this
11	51-110	<b>COVER UP</b>	J & T Gosden 4-9-6	9	Wins: 4 (3A,G)	Failed to perform last time, best form is
12	28976	<b>JUAN LES</b>	M Appleby 7-9-6	45	Wins: 4 (4F,2A,G)	Third in this race last year off a 7lb low
13	26897	<b>WODAO 27</b>	J Osborne 4-9-5	14	Wins: 2 (G)	Moved from Ireland in April, been keep
14	600-30	<b>ORAZIO 66</b>	C Hills 5-9-5	22	Wins: 1 (W,GS,G)	Down to a generous mark and is well s
15	01-D00	<b>ROCKET R</b>	G Scott 4-9-5	13	Wins: 17 (W,GS)	Badly out of form, struggled at Epsom
16	3-1179	<b>ALBASHEE</b>	A Watson 6-9-5	31	Wins: 19 (W,GS,2A)	On the right side of the happier, rider
17	06-010	<b>DESERT C</b>	A Balding 4-9-4	8	Wins: 14 (W,GS,2A)	Struggled over 7f, won over 6f at Newm
18	313796	<b>CHIPSTEE</b>	R Teal 6-9-3	21	Wins: 36 (W,GS,2A,3F,2G)	Very pacey, could be high in int
19	6616-3	<b>TORIVEGA</b>	S Lavery (Ire) 4-9-3	20	Wins: 1 (G)	Strong traveller, not given hard time at
20	59-113	<b>FERROUS</b>	J Channon 4-9-3	18	Wins: 11 (W,GS,2A)	In cracking form this season, trainer k
21	94-801	<b>LETHAL LE</b>	R K Burke 5-9-2	6	Wins: 31 (W,GS,2G)	Big performance at Newbury latest, w

## ARCHIE: S

**TRAINER Archie Watson** has Albashaer is worth the wait the Wokingham.

Lambourn-based Watson also targets this race and had three runners in it 12 months ago when S Lawrence won with any amount of hand. That speedball is back more this afternoon, as is Albashaer who could only finish 11th last year.

But Watson believes those pings could be reversed this year with Saint Lawrence out of the way and abandoned by stable jockey Hollie Doyle in favour of Albashaer. Watson said: "Albashaer is a



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## WITH COLOURS AND SUNFORM

**HANDICAP (2)**  
 95; 6f (28 runners)

**112 (C)**

 ... Jim Crowley 95  
 Places: 7 £287,367  
 ns to hcaps off big weight, e-w  
**ANDTOONE 38 (V;D)**  
 ... Oisin Murphy 85  
 Places: 7 £163,268  
 to carry and others appeal more

**LO 54 (P;D)**  
 ... Billy Loughnane 82  
 Places: 2 £182,243  
 ns, headgear added, pass over

**RIB 21 (D)**  
 ... Kieran Shoemark 88  
 Places: 4 £455,258  
 at Epsom was modest, doubts

**REE 28 (D)**  
 ... Ryan Moore 92  
 Places: 2 £131,674  
 y return, not fully exposed, e-w

**35 (D)**  
 ... Trevor Whelan 97  
 Places: 2 £104,226  
 at Newbury, can get involved

**RENCE 35 (B;D)**  
 ... Luke Morris 95  
 Places: 5 £189,229  
 ne, leading contender

**NE 21 (BF,D)**  
 ... Richard Kingscote 99  
 Places: 10 £289,865  
 nd and big run expected

**LOVE 28 (D)**  
 ... Tom Marquand 97  
 £72,451  
 e Curragh, improving, fancied

**OPER 28 (CD)**  
 ... James Doyle 98  
 Places: 1 £116,049  
 distance last season, go close

**85 (BF,D)**  
 ... William Buick 89  
 Places: 1 £28,959  
 over 5f and others appeal more

**PINS 35 (P;D)**  
 ... Alistair Rawlinson 90  
 Places: 12 £152,783  
 r, arrives in poor form, risky

**2**  
 ... Jamie Spencer 85  
 Places: 4 £62,540  
 ing good company, e-w claims

**(BF,CD)**  
 ... Saffie Osborne 93  
 Places: 1 £46,831  
 uted by a race like this places

**ODNEY 21 (P;D)**  
 ... Callum Shepherd 90  
 Places: 5 £139,623  
 latest, others appeal more

**ER 20 (B;D)**  
 ... Hollie Doyle 98  
 Places: 3 £122,483  
 rainer comes always feared

**OP 35 (D)**  
 ... Iulium Hutchinson 96  
 Places: 2 £154,003  
 market on previous start, fancied

**D 21 (P;D)**  
 ... Jack Doughty 95  
 Places: 7 £188,551  
 e weights, check betting

**29 (T;D)**  
 ... Robbie Colgan 90  
 Places: 1 £12,718  
 The Curragh latest, do better

**35 (D)**  
 ... David Probert 92  
 Places: 4 £59,143  
 ews the time of day, e-w claims

**LO 35 (B;D)**  
 ... Clifford Lee 97  
 Places: 9 £189,737  
 ill blast off in front, dangerous

## SHEER WE GO

By OWEN GOULDING

talented sprinter, but he has a slight mind of his own.

The handicapper took the view the horses' progress was due to the all-weather over the winter, but I'm not certain he is correct.

"He is rated 108 on the all-weather so when they left his turf mark on 98 we decided to give it a shot in the Wokingham.

"He should go well. I've also been very pleased with Saint Lawrence's last couple of runs. The track will suit him and he's got a chance of going back to back."

22	-19145	<b>THE BELL CONDUCTOR 21</b>	(5)	C Lidster 7-9-2	William Pyle (5)	84
				Runs: 25 Wins: 7 (5,5A,GS)	Places: 4	£81,593
				Fifth at Epsom latest, not crying out for an extra furlong, hard to fancy		
23	6-3010	<b>ALEEZDANCER 21 (B;D)</b>	(3)	K Ryan 5-9-2	Tom Eaves	97
				Runs: 28 Wins: 6 (2S,3GS,G)	Places: 4	£80,761
				Won well at York but not in the same mood since, can bounce back		
24	721-05	<b>STRIKE RED 21 (D)</b>	(12)	R Fahey 6-9-2	Oisin Orr	93
				Runs: 31 Wins: 7 (2S,3A,GS,G)	Places: 4	£196,649
				Shaped better than the bare form at Epsom latest, can hit the frame		
25	090-420	<b>GORAK 2 (P)</b>	(C)	Fellows 5-9-1	non-runner	89
				Runs: 25 Wins: 3 (S,2F)	Places: 6	£79,170
				Struggled here over on Thursday, best form is over shorter, ruled out		
26	-86248	<b>MUMS TIPPLE 21 (CD)</b>	(11)	R Hannan 7-9-1	Sean Levey	93
				Runs: 43 Wins: 6 (2F,3A,G)	Places: 8	£244,556
				Lots of good form at Ascot, love the ground but hard to predict, in mix		
27	69-013	<b>GLENFINNAN 16 (BF,CD)</b>	(4)	M Dods 4-9-0	Connor Beasley	95
				Runs: 12 Wins: 3 (3G)	Places: 2	£55,180
				Won here in May, not beaten far last time, bags of pace, respected		
28	330-03	<b>WARRIOR BRAVE 15 (B;D)</b>	(9)	R O'Sullivan (Ire) 6-9-0	Dylan McMonagle	96
				Runs: 31 Wins: 6 (S,F,2A,2G)	Places: 4	£71,585
				Goes on any ground, but may lack the pace of some, best watched		
29	0-1249	<b>ROMAN DRAGON 16 (D)</b>	(12)	H Palmer 5-9-0	Hayley Turner	84
				Runs: 31 Wins: 6 (S,F,GS,3G)	Places: 5	£132,272
				Struggled in a lesser race at Hamilton latest, best form is over 5f, avoid		

**BETTING:** 7 Dark Trooper, 8 Albasheer, 10 Unequal Love, 12 Saint Lawrence, Apollo One, 14 Rumstar, Lethal Levi, Orazio, Harry Three, 16 Aleezdancer, Mums Tipple, Fivethousandtoone, Cover Up, Desert Cop

**WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED:** 1 0 3 9 6

**2023:** Saint Lawrence 5-9-2, H Doyle 22-4 (A Watson), dr 30, 27 ran.

### Sunracing FORM

**VAFORTINO** (9-0) 13-8 tracked leaders, not clear run, ridden when found room 1f out, kept on one pace, 6th of 16 (bfn 2/4) to Fort Payne (9-0) (Meydan 7 Grp 3 £189,616 fast).

**FIVETHOUSANDTOONE** (9-10) 28-1 in rear, pushed along 2f out, hard ridden 1f out, never on terms, 9th of 14 (bfn 5/4) to Mill Stream (9-10) (York 6f Grp 2 £85,655 good).

**COACHELLO** (9-9) 28-1 rear, ridden 1f out, kept on one pace, 5th of 10 (bfn 5/4) to Moss Tucker (10-0) (Naas 5f Listed (1) £24,000 yielding).

**APOLLO ONE** (9-7) 11-4 fav led, ridden 2f out, headed final furlong, 3rd and held finish, 3rd of 13 (bfn 1) to Misty Grey (9-9) **STRIKE RED** (9-2) 22-1 held up in mid-division, headway 1f out, stayed on, not trouble leaders, 5th (bfn 2/4) **MUMS TIPPLE** (9-1) 17-2 slowly into stride, rear never dangerous, 8th (bfn 5) **FLAMING RIB** (9-9) 6-1 held up in touch, lost place 2f out, well beaten 1f out, 10th (bfn 5/4) **ROCKET RODNEY** (9-0) 50-1 chased leaders, lost place 2f out, 11th (bfn 6) **ALEEZDANCER** (9-2) 11-2 slowly away, behind, ridden 2f out, 12th (bfn 6/4) (13 ran) (Epsom 6f hcap) (2) £38,655 good to soft).

**HARRY THREE** (8-1) held up in last pair, headway final 2f, one pace, 4th of 6 (bfn 3/4) to Raquia (8-7) (Salisbury 6f Listed (1) £28,355 good).

**LETHAL LEVI** (8-12) 15-2 made all, ridden 2f out, driven out, ran on, but **RUMSTAR** (9-9) 20-1 tracked winner, pushed along 2f out, ridden 1f out, stayed on, 1/4f **FERROUS** (9-5) 4-1 in touch, headway 1f out, kept on, 3rd (bfn 2/4) **JUAN LES PINS** (9-7) 12-1 tracked winner until ridden 1f out, weakened, 6th (bfn 4/7) (11 ran) (Newbury 6f hcap) (2) £38,655 good).

**SAINT LAWRENCE** (9-12) 12-1 bumped and carried right start, close 3rd in centre, went 2nd in group final 2f, ridden 1f out, 10th of 15 (bfn 4/4) to Carrythorne (9-6) **DESERT COP** (9-3) 11-1 headway chasing leaders 4f out, every chance, ridden final 2f, faded, 11th (bfn 5/4) (15 ran) (Newmarket 7f hcap) (2) £51,540 good).

**UNEQUAL LOVE** (9-2) 5-1 mid-division, closer in 5th and pushed along 2f out, ridden 1f out, one pace, 5th of 12 (bfn 2/4) to Mibbaaby (9-5) (Curragh 6f Grp 2 (1) £72,000 good).

**DARK TROOPER** (8-13) 11-4 fav held up in rear, smooth progress 2f out, ridden 1f out, ran on well and led final furlong, came clear, comfortably bt

**SHEER CLASS...**  
 Hollie Doyle and  
 Albasheer at York

### TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

**RUMSTAR** could be the answer to a typically tough renewal of the Wokingham. He showed his true colours back in a handicap over this trip at Newbury last time. He enjoyed the fast ground and finished well just behind **Lethal Levi** - who has solid place claims in this race too. He spent much of last season in Group races so could be ahead of the handicapper and can give Trevor Whelan (below) a good spin from stall 25. The way Wathnan Racing have been going in sprints this week you can't ignore the claims of their **Dark Trooper** who cost £500,000 after winning over this trip in France last time. He ran well over course and distance in October and should handle the ground. **Apollo One** looks to have a solid each-way shout given he rarely finished out of the first three. He is 5lb higher than his second in this last season but ran well at Epsom last time and won't be far away. **Saint Lawrence** won this 12 months ago and is only 3lb lower thanks to some in and out form since. He has his ideal conditions here and could show his true colours again. **Albasheer** hated the soft ground when held in France last time and was in fine form on the sand earlier this year. He was only midfield in this last year but can make his presence felt. **Orazio** was a good sixth in this 12 months ago and his last run at Newmarket should be ignored as he stumbled out of the stalls. The ground may be a little quick but he could figure in the extra places. **Unequal Love** kicked off this season with a Listed win over this trip at Newmarket. She was a solid two lengths off the pace at Group 2 level in Ireland last time and should find this a bit easier. **Cover Up** comes from powerful connections with William Buick riding for John Gosden. He has spent most of his career so far on the all-weather where he's a regular winner. If he was able to repeat that form on turf he could run well despite being 13lb higher than his last success at Newcastle. **Strike Red** was second the only time he tackled this course and distance and he wasn't beaten far at Epsom last time. He likes this trip and prefers to come from off a strong pace which is guaranteed here. He won a 20-runner contest at The Curragh last season and is only 2lb higher here. He looks interesting for Richard Fahey at huge odds.



Yr	R	Gan	Winner	Sire	Age	Jockey	Trainer	SP	Wt	OR	Stall	Days	Form
23	GF	27	<b>SAINT LAWRENCE</b>	Al Kazeem	5	Doyle, H	Watson, A	22/1	9-2	100	30	49	3360080
22	GF	26	<b>ROHAAN</b>	Mayson	4	Moore, R	Evans, P D	16/1	9-2	109	19	38	1105088
21	SR	21	<b>ROHAAN</b>	Mayson	3	Kelly, S	Evans, P D	8/1	9-8	112	10	28	252111
20	Gd	22	<b>HEY JONESY</b>	Excelebration	5	Stott, K	Ryan, K A	18/1	9-3	99	10	4	5920000
19	GF	26	<b>CAPE BYRON</b>	Shamardal	5	Atzeni, A	Varian, R	7/2	9-9	107	10	42	4042271
18	GF	28	<b>BACCHUS</b>	Kheleyf	4	Crowley, J	Meehan, B	33/1	9-6	105	16	260	1395314
17	GF	27	<b>OUT DO</b>	Exceed And Excel	8	Tudhope, D	O'Meara, D	25/1	8-13	99	1	14	707304
16	GS	28	<b>OUTBACK TRAVELLER</b>	Bushranger	5	Harley, M	Cowell, R	10/1	9-1	100	28	42	5304070
15	GF	25	<b>INTERCEPTION</b>	Ravens Pass	5	Baker, G	Lanigan, D	10/1	9-3	102	21	28	5324132
14	GF	28	<b>BACCARAT</b>	Dutch Art	5	Chaloner, G	Fahey, R A	9/1	9-2	105	27	38	9615022
13	GF	26	<b>YORK GLORY</b>	Five Star Day	5	Spencer, J	Ryan, K A	14/1	9-2	100	22	28	2456142
12	Gd	28	<b>DANDY BOY</b>	Danetime	6	Dobbs, P	Marnane, D	33/1	8-8	106	15	28	326072
11	SR	25	<b>DEACON BLUES</b>	Compton Place	4	Murtagh, J	Fanshawe, J	15/2	8-13	98	11	42	1822302
10	GF	27	<b>LADDIES POKER TWO</b>	Cholsir	5	Murtagh, J	Nosedaj, J	9/2	8-11	95	30	610	1316
9	GF	26	<b>HIGH STANDING</b>	High Yield	4	Moore, R	Haggas, W	6/1	8-12	96	4	21	1122211

### BIG-RACE TRENDS

**DARK TROOPER** looks a bright bet for Wathnan Racing in another red-hot Wokingham.

Horses aged four and five have the strongest record with nine of the past 12 winners. Six-year-olds and over have generally struggled in this cavalry charge.

It's really not important to have won last time - it's surprisingly rare for such a classy contest - but most winners were in the first six on their latest outing.

We have only had two winners drawn in single figures since 2009 but it's not vital to be especially high either.

Only two favourites have won on our long table so don't fret if your fancy is going off at long odds.

Looking at the official ratings, you can win this in the high 90s but 100 to 109 seems to be the ideal range.

This has been won carrying 9st 12lb with between 9st 2lb and 9st 8lb seeming ideal.

The Victoria Cup has been

#### 5.05 The Wokingham

a good pointer as has the six-furlong handicap at Epsom's Derby meeting.

Most Wokingham winners had run once or twice earlier in the campaign.

As you might expect, it's a little tough to find horses that tick the boxes perfectly.

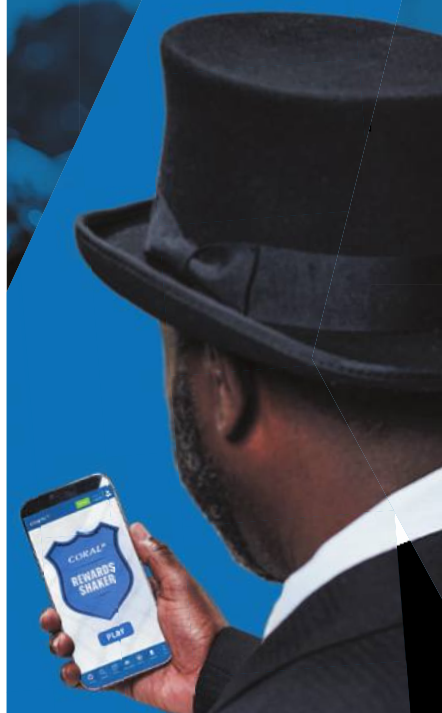
At huge prices, Rocket Rodney, Ferrous and Torivega are worth little nibbles each-way.

But **DARK TROOPER** at around the 9-1 mark looks very interesting although he may end up as favourite.

He fits plenty of the other trends and Wathnan Racing has done well this week - especially with their sprinters.

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### REST OF TODAY'S ASCOT ACTION



Favourite

ROYAL

## HERE'S THE REST OF YOUR DAY FIVE LINE-UP



DAWN CRACKER  
... Dawn Rising a  
banker for Swinger

### TEMPLEGATE'S WORLD POOL TIPS By STEVE MULLEN

**PUNTERS** have been making the most of the World Pool all week at another brilliant Royal Ascot meeting.

And it has certainly lived up to its billing as the international tote that gives punters more value for their winners.

On Thursday for example, five of the seven winners would have brought you a bigger return had you backed them on the World Pool – which is operated by the tote in the uk.

You can play at [www.tote.co.uk](http://www.tote.co.uk) or on their app along with the windows if you're at the races.

As well as the usual win and each-way bets, I've been getting into a bet called a Swinger this week.

You have to pick two horses to finish in the first three of your chosen race in any order. Or you can

## Joseph has a Rising force

boost your chances with a third selection for £3 but you can stake as much as you like.

### POOL PLAYS

SWINGER (3.45)

Shartash, Khaadem

and Believing

SWINGER (6.15)

Dawn Rising,

Queenstown and

Tashkhan

If Jubilee Stakes where I think **SHARTASH** looks the one to beat. I am throwing in **BELIEVING** who ran well earlier this week into the bet along with big-price **KHADEM** who won the race last year and gets his favoured rattling fast ground.

I am not crazy enough to tackle the Wokingham so we'll go for the stayers in the closing Queen Alexandra Stakes. Joseph O'Brien's **DAWN RISING** is solid and let's complete the three with **QUEENSTOWN** and **TASHKHAN**.

### 5.40 GOLDEN GATES STAKES (HANDICAP) (2) 3-Y-O; £56,694; 1m 2f (16 runners)

1	312-44	CAMBRIDGE 37	(18)	A O'Brien (Ire) 9-9	Wayne Lordan	92
			Runs: 5	Wins: 1 (F)	Places: 2	£30,877
			Shapes like a stayer, outclassed in the Dante at York, this is easier			
2	31-619	BLACK RUN 35 (T;D)	(8)	P & O Cole 9-7	Jamie Spencer	86
			Runs: 5	Wins: 2 (S,G)	Places: 1	£50,111
			Tough pacepusher, never showed up in the London Gold Cup latest, e-w			
3	126-48	ARABIC LEGEND 42	(15)	K Burke 9-7	Clifford Lee	99
			Runs: 5	Wins: 1 (GS)	Places: 1	£20,190
			Highly tried, takes a drop in class and bred to relish fast ground, go well			
4	1-40	TREASURE 22 (P+)	(9)	R Beckett 9-4	Rossa Ryan	89
			Runs: 3	Wins: 1 (S)	Places: 2	£7,050
			Royal runner, got upset and struggled in Oaks, this easier but bit to prove			
5	3-113	BALMACARA 22 (H+)	(5)	E J-Houghton 9-3	Charles Bishop	95
			Runs: 4	Wins: 2 (2S)	Places: 1	£19,236
			Big step up in trip after struggling over 7f at Epsom, can race keenly			
6	3-125	NERANO 28 (T)	(10)	J O'Brien (Ire) 9-1	Dylan McMonagle	94
			Runs: 4	Wins: 1 (A)	Places: 1	£16,202
			Still green when fifth at The Curragh latest, bred to stay, check betting			
7	42-811	PRIMO LARA 28 (D)	(4)	J Chapple-Hyam 9-0	David Egan	97
			Runs: 5	Wins: 2 (A,GS)	Places: 1	£22,906
			Improving, smooth win at Yarmouth, up in the weights but more to come			
8	451-1	HAND OF GOD 57	(17)	H Charlton 9-0	William Buick	98
			Runs: 4	Wins: 2 (F,GS)	Places: 1	£29,011
			Lightly raced, only worklike at Sandown, this trip will suit better			
9	U35-13	PALACE GREEN 37 (D)	(2)	R Hughes 8-13	Oliver Murphy	92
			Runs: 5	Wins: 1 (A)	Places: 2	£9,339
			Shaped like a non stayer over 12f at York latest, that form is strong, e-w			
10	9-221	APPROVAL 12 (D)	(6)	A Haggas 8-13	Tom Marquand	95
			Runs: 4	Wins: 1 (F)	Places: 2	£9,060
			Progressive, form nothing special about Windsor novice win, bit to find			
11	14-1	DAMBUSTER 58 (D)	(11)	A Balding 8-13	David Probert	97
			Runs: 3	Wins: 2 (S,GS)	Places: 1	£13,542
			Well regarded, still looked raw when winning at Beverley, fancied			
12	5-81	MILETUS 47	(14)	C Hills 8-12	James Doyle	95
			Runs: 3	Wins: 1 (S)	Places: 1	£4,320
			Broke his maiden at Windsor latest, shapes as if there is more to come			
13	25-311	OLD FAITHFUL 14 (D)	(13)	A O'Brien (Ire) 8-12	Ryan Moore	96
			Runs: 7	Wins: 2 (2G)	Places: 4	£42,659
			Improving with racing, did well to win at Navan latest, fast pace will suit			
14	83-165	GREY CUBAN 21	(1)	H Palmer 8-11	Hollie Doyle	88
			Runs: 8	Wins: 1 (A)	Places: 3	£35,870
			Disappointing since impressive win at Wolves in April, hard to fancy			
15	331-P7	WHISKEY PETE 21	(19)	R Beckett 8-11	Hector Crouch	90
			Runs: 6	Wins: 1 (S)	Places: 3	£20,026
			Decent form last season, yet to click this year and others appeal more			
16	54-122	PORTSMOUTH 21 (BF)	(3)	A Balding 8-10	Hayley Turner	96
			Runs: 6	Wins: 1 (G)	Places: 2	£27,886
			Improving, ran well when second at Epsom, can be a weak finisher			

**BETTING:** 3 Hand Of God, 7 Old Faithful, 8 Approval, Portsmouth, 10 Primo Lara, Palace Green, 12 Miletus, Treasure, Cambridge, 14 Arabic Legend, 16 Dambuster, 20 Whiskey Pete, Nerano, 25 Balmacara, Black Run, 50 Grey Cuban

**WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED:** 3 4 1 2 3-PU  
2023: Burdett Road 8-13, Neil Callan 20-1 (M Bell), drawn 9, 15 ran.

### Sunracing FORM

**CAMBRIDGE** (9-2) 10-1 ridden leaders, closer in 3rd over 3f out, traced final 2f, weakened over 1f out, 4th of 7 (btm 8/4) to Economics (9-2) (York 1/4m Grp 2 (1) £108,997 good).

**BLACK RUN** (9-1) 9-1 in touch, pushed along and weakened 2f out, 9th of 13 (12) to King's Gambit (9-3) (Newbury 1/4m hcap (2) £51,540 good).

**ARABIC LEGEND** (9-2) 2-1 held up, driven 2f out, beaten 1f out, 3rd of 9 (14) to Ambiente Friendly (9-2) (Lingfield 1/4m Listed (1) £34,488 good).

**TREASURE** (9-2) 2-1 chased leaders, driven 3f out, soon lost place, 11th of 12 (well btm) to Ezzeily (9-2) (Epsom 1/4m Grp 1 (1) £31,905 good to soft).

**BALMACARA** (9-2) 2-1 soon led, headed over 2f out, held 1f out, 3rd of 6 (btm 9) to Evade (9-2) (Epsom 7f Listed (1) £42,532 good to soft).

**NERANO** (9-1) 8-1 tracked leaders in 2nd, led 2 1/4f out, ridden and headed under 2f out, no extra final furlong, 5th of 13 (btm 2/4) to Follow Me (9-1) (Curragh 7f hcap £14,999 good).

**PRIMO LARA** (8-1) 2-1 fav mid-division, headway 3f out, shaken up and led 1f out, pushed out, readily, bt Midnite Storm (8-13) 2/4 (7 ran) (York 1/4m hcap (2) £12,885 good to soft).

**HAND OF GOD** (8-12) evens fav made all, strongly pressed 1f out, gamely, bt Blue Lemons (9-3) nk (5 ran) (Sandown 10hcap (2) £23,353 good).

**PALACE GREEN** (9-5) 9-2 held up in last pair, good headway 3f out, led

inside final 2f, headed inside final furlong, no extra in 3rd, 3rd of 8 (btm 4) to London City (9-5) **WHISKEY PETE** (9-5) 7-2 fav pulled hard, led until 8f out, pushed along 3f out, weakened 2f out, soon pulled up, (York 1/4m hcap (3) £12,385 good).

**APPROVAL** (9-3) 10-3 made all, 2 lengths clear 2f out, found extra when pressed towards finish, bt Lord Of Love (9-3) 1/4 (15 ran) (Windsor 1/4m nov mdn (5) £4,320 good).

**DAMBUSTER** (9-1) 5-4 fav close up, stayed on inside final furlong, led final 100 yards, bt Stay In The Game (9-4) 3/4 (6 ran) (Beverley 1/4m nov stks (5) £4,320 good to soft).

**MILETUS** (9-3) 16-1 made all, ridden entering final furlong ran on, gamely, bt Haya (8-12) 1/4 (13 ran) (Windsor 1m nov stks (5) £4,320 good).

**OLD FAITHFUL** (9-8) 9-4 fav close up, headway 1f out, led 100 yards out, kept on well under hands and heels, bt Going Remote (8-13) nk (7 ran) (Navan 1/4m hcap £27,000 good).

**PORTSMOUTH** (9-0) 5-2 fav held up, took keen hold, headway 2f out until unable to quicken final furlong, no impression on winner, btm 2/4 by Persica (9-9) **GREY CUBAN** (9-5) 10-1 chased leaders, stayed on same pace final furlong, 5th (btm 6) **WHISKEY PETE** (9-8) 15-2 held up in touch, driven 2f out, weakened final furlong, 7th (btm 7/4) (12 ran) (Epsom 1/4m hcap (2) £38,655 good to soft).



**WARRIOR BRAVE** (5.05 Royal Ascot) caught the eye when third at Fairyhouse last time and has plenty of decent form over this trip. He could nick a place at massive odds.

### TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

**HAND OF GOD** looked to be crying out for this trip when winning over a mile at Sandown back in April. Trainer Harry Charlton identified this race then as his target and he should be open to lots of improvement with just four runs on his CV. He ended last season winning on fast ground at Newmarket so these conditions should be fine. **Primo Lara** scooted in over this trip at York last month and can improve past a 9lb rise in the weights. He kept pulling out more when needed and should take another step forward here. **Palace Green** didn't quite get home over 1m4f on the Knavesmire after winning a Kempton maiden at this trip. Dropping back should help and he looks on a fair enough mark. **Aidan O'Brien** runs **Old Faithful** who overcame a tardy start to win on handicap debut over this trip at Navan 14 days ago. A 4lb rise looks lenient and he should make his presence felt. **Approval** has his first crack at a handicap for William Haggas on the back for a smooth novice win over this trip at Windsor earlier this month. He should be open to plenty of improvement. **Portsmouth** scored at Epsom on comeback and has gone close twice since including back at the Classic track on Derby day. He sees out this trip well and handles quick ground. He has an each-way shout under Hayley Turner. **Cambridge** is another Ballydoyle runner who has his sights lowered after some solid efforts in Group contests. His opening mark of 100 isn't the easiest but he was last seen in the Dante so connections obviously think a lot of him.

### 6.15 QUEEN ALEXANDRA CONDITIONS STAKES (2) winner £59,400; 2m 6f (14 runners)

1	114-43	TRUESHAN 30 (C)	(10)	A King 8-10-0	Hollie Doyle	96
			Runs: 28	Wins: 15 (5S,2A,6GS,2G)	Places: 5	£1,840,195
			Staying king in prime, on downgrade but drops in grade, needs rain			
2	233-75	DAWN RISING 36 (CD)	(7)	J O'Brien (Ire) 7-9-7	William Buick	99
			Runs: 11	Wins: 2 (F,G)	Places: 3	£202,698
			Tough win last year, solid effort in the Saval Beg latest, strong fancy			
3	41392-	FASOL J47 (T+)	(9)	P Nicholls 5-9-4	Rossa Ryan	93
			Runs: 12	Wins: 2	Places: 5	£78,011
			Not really made the grade over timber, decent form in France, e-w			
4	301-10	MAGELLAN STRAIT 43 (B)	(2)	J O'Brien (Ire) 5-9-4	Hugh Horgan	97
			Runs: 12	Wins: 4 (S,A,G)	Places: 1	£321,459
			150-1 winner of the Irish Cesarewitch, stamina will not be an issue			
5	6013-4	POSTILEO 56 (P)	(5)	E Mullins (Ire) 5-9-3	James Doyle	86
			Runs: 15	Wins: 4 (S,3GS)	Places: 4	£110,826
			Best form is over 12f, not sure if he'll stay this extreme distance, ignore			
6	453-57	RUN FOR OSCAR 28 (V)	(11)	C Byrnes (Ire) 9-9-4	Maxime Guyon	98
			Runs: 14	Wins: 3 (3G)	Places: 2	£182,971
			Stout stayer, given poor ride when third last year, can make amends			
7	80133-	TASHKHAN 237 (BF)	(12)	B Ellison 6-9-4	Ben Robinson	94
			Runs: 25	Wins: 4 (4S)	Places: 5	£378,900
			Smart hcapper, all about stamina but best form is on softer ground			
8	4212-1	UXMAL 39 (P)	(6)	J O'Brien (Ire) 5-9-4	Dylan McMonagle	96
			Runs: 7	Wins: 2 (S,G)	Places: 3	£28,774
			Unexposed, bred to stay and lots to like about Killarney, more to come			
9	6414-6	DRAWN TO DREAM 4	(3)	J Osborne 4-9-3	Saffie Osborne	86
			Runs: 10	Wins: 2 (S)	Places: 2	£36,273
			Did not run too badly here on Wednesday, can race keenly, up against it			
10	47-236	MAXIDENT 29	(10)	D F Davis 4-9-3	David Egan	88
			Runs: 8	Wins: 1 (S)	Places: 1	£22,101
			Plenty to find on the figures, but all he does is gallop and stay, e-w			
11	3031-3	NACHTGEIST J105	(8)	G & J Moore 4-9-3	Hector Crouch	90
			Runs: 8	Wins: 1 (GS)	Places: 3	£15,129
			Modest hurdler, but fair staying form when racing in Germany, big price			
12	605-7	NDAAWI 4	(13)	G Elliott (Ire) 4-9-3	Jamie Spencer	85
			Runs: 8	Wins: 2 (GS,G)	Places: 1	£19,473
			Shaped like a non stayer in the Ascot Stakes on Tuesday, best watched			
13	21-322	QUEENSTOWN 36 (B)	(14)	A O'Brien (Ire) 4-9-3	Ryan Moore	99
			Runs: 6	Wins: 1 (S)	Places: 3	£34,600
			Improving filly, kept Kyprios honest on last two starts, huge chance			
14	210-35	GRAND PROVIDENCE 43	(1)	A Balding 4-8-12	Oliver Murphy	93
			Runs: 11	Wins: 3 (F,A,G)	Places: 4	£68,822
			Tough filly, ran a big race in the Chester Cup, stays well, dangerous			

**BETTING:** 7-2 Dawn Rising, 4 Queenstown, 6 Run For Oscar, 7 Postileo, Trueshan, 8 Uxmal, 10 Tashkhan, 14 Grand Providence  
**WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED:** 3 1 9 7 1  
2023: Pro Rising 6-9-4, R Moore 2-1 Fav (J P O'Brien, Ire), dr 10, 9 ran.

### PROBETS

**EYECATCHER:** MIDDLE EARTH (3.05) and KIKKULI (4.25) are in Templegate's 12 to follow for 2024  
**SUPER SPEED:** CONTINUOUS (3.05) was speedy at

Doncaster in the St Leger.  
**ROYAL ASCOT WINNERS:** CANDLEFORD, DESERT HERO, MISSED THE CUT (3.05); ART POWER, KHADEM (3.45); RIVER TIBER (4.25); SAINT LAWRENCE (5.05); DAWN RISING (6.15).

### CORAL TRADING FLOOR

IT'S been a case of Ryan mighty at Royal Ascot all week – and the bookies have had enough.

Mighty Moore has been booting in winners galore and has some more fantastic chances as the meeting comes to a close today.

Coral's Andy Lobo said: "We have had quite enough of Ryan Moore for one week thanks very much!"

"The problem is he has another fantastic book of rides today which could end up costing us a packet."

"We're almost pining for the good old days of Frankie Dettori!"

Bedtime Story could be a nightmare in the opener with Moore and O'Brien teaming up with the rock solid 15-8 shot in the Chesham Stakes.

It's no better in the Hardwicke Stakes as the money has been pouring in for Moore's mount.

Lobo said: "St Leger winner Continuous would be a painful result for us. He's into 13-8 from 9-4 and is very popular indeed."

There should be some respite in the Jubilee where Moore's mount The Wizard Of Eye is 10-1. Lobo confirmed: "The gamble on Mill Stream has dried up a little and we're 5-1 from 9-2."

"Mitbaahy is the one

for support into 6-1 from

9s while Believing was a

12-1 pokie but we've cut

him to 15-2 thanks to

the each-way thievery."

It's Moore watch again

in the Jersey Stakes.

Lobo said: "He's on

River Tiber who we've

had to trim into 7-4 but

we're hopeful Haatem

will save our bacon

at 3-1 but he was 9-4

so we're getting a bit

twitchy!"

The Wokingham is

the big betting heat and

even then Moore is caus-

ing panic.

Lobo admitted: "His

Harry Three for Clive



# ASCOT

## PLUS MORE OF TODAY'S RUNNERS AND RIDERS

 in association with  
**CORAL**

### Sunracing FORM

**TRUESHAN** (9-11) 5-1 chased leaders, led 3f out, headed 1f out, 3rd and no extra inside final furlong, 3rd of 6 (b/n 6/4) to Sweet William (9-4) (Sandown 2m Grp 3 (1) £45,368 soft).

**QUEENSTOWN** (9-5) 20-1 dwelt, chased leader, pushed along straight, led and ridden 2f out, headed 1 1/4 out, kept on same pace, b/n 11 by Kyprios (9-5) **DAWN RISING** (9-5) 28-1 held up in last, pushed along 2f out, no impression if out, 5th (b/n 5/4) (Leopardstown 1 1/4m Grp 3 (1) £31,500 good to soft).

**FASOL** (9-1) 12-1 in touch, shaken up 3f out, ran on to go 2nd 1 1/2f out, no impression final furlong, b/n 21 by Lastochka (8-11) (7 ran) (Longchamp 1m 7f Grp 3 £44,602 good to soft).

**GRAND PROVIDENCE** (8-6) 15-2 prominent, pushed along 2f out, kept on same pace final furlong, 5th of 16 (b/n 3/4) to Bellocchio (8-7) (Ascot 1 1/4m hcap (2) £56,694 good to firm).

**MAXIDENT** (9-4) 5-1 led, pushed along and headed 3f out, weakened final furlong, 6th of 7 (b/n 5/4) to Pledgeofalliance (9-8) (Goodwood 2m hcap (3) £10,308 good).

**NACHTGEIST** (9-6) 4-5 fav tracked leader, weakened 3f out, behind last of 3 to Postmark (8-11) (Saint Moritz 1m 4fyo stks £5,851 fast).

**NDAAWI** (9-4) 28-1 mid-division, headed 2f out, not much room, no impression if out, 7th of 20 (b/n 12) to Pledgeofalliance (8-13) (Ascot 2 1/4m hcap (2) £56,694 good to firm).

a factor, last (b/n 15) (7 ran) (Navan 1 1/4m Listed (1) £31,500 yielding).

**RUN FOR OSCAR** (9-7) 25-1 slowly away, in rear, no impression 3f out, late progress final furlong, 7th of 9 (b/n 11) to Candleford (9-10) (Curragh 1 1/4m Listed (1) £27,000 good).

**TASHKHAN** (9-4) 9-2 co fav tracked leader, ridden 3f out, lost place 2f out, kept on same pace, 3rd of 11 (8/4) to Double Major (8-10) (Longchamp 1 1/4m Grp 1 £176,982 heavy).

**UXMAL** (8-12) 11-8 made all, pressed 4f out, ridden to assert 2f out, kept on strongly final furlong, bt Enjoy The Dream (9-2) 4/4 (4 ran) (Killearnie 1 1/4m stks £9,000 good to soft).

**DRAWN TO DREAM** (9-12) 66-1 led 1f out, headed 3f out, stayed on same pace final furlong, 6th of 16 (b/n 3/4) to Bellocchio (8-7) (Ascot 1 1/4m hcap (2) £56,694 good to firm).

**MAXIDENT** (9-4) 5-1 led, pushed along and headed 3f out, weakened final furlong, 6th of 7 (b/n 5/4) to Pledgeofalliance (9-8) (Goodwood 2m hcap (3) £10,308 good).

**NACHTGEIST** (9-6) 4-5 fav tracked leader, weakened 3f out, behind last of 3 to Postmark (8-11) (Saint Moritz 1m 4fyo stks £5,851 fast).

**NDAAWI** (9-4) 28-1 mid-division, headed 2f out, not much room, no impression if out, 7th of 20 (b/n 12) to Pledgeofalliance (8-13) (Ascot 2 1/4m hcap (2) £56,694 good to firm).

## NEWMARKET

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM)

### TEMPLEGATE

1.35 Kynsa  
2.10 Ancient Truth  
2.45 Miss Bodacious  
3.20 Completely Random  
4.00 Jungle Mac  
4.35 Expressionless  
5.15

### TOM PEPPER

1.35 Kynsa  
2.10 Hidden Secret  
2.45 Miss Bodacious  
3.20 Ombudsman  
4.00 Many A Star  
4.35 Sonmarg  
5.15 Lunar Shadow

**TIC-TAC:** July course is an undulating galloping track of 2m. All races up to a mile are on the straight course.

**DRAW:** None.  
**FAVOURITES:** (2019-2024): 259 have won out of 787 races (33%). At the previous corresponding meetings, nine have won out of 24 races (38%).

### LIVE ON RACING TV

### HOT 'N NOT

**TRAINERS with best record in last 14 days:** G Boughey 15 wins from 38 runners; A Carroll 11 from 45; R Varian 6 from 25; H Palmer 7 from 34; W Haggas 9 from 47; C Cox 5 from 28; C Johnston 13 from 80.

**JOCKEYS with best record in last 14 days:** P Cosgrave 7 wins from 20 rides; S De Sousa 9 from 47; C Fallon 5 from 30; R Coakley 2 from 13; J Mitchell 4 from 26; D Muscatt 7 from 46; E Greatrex 2 from 16.

**TRAINERS who have had the most runners since last win:** D Holland 42; M Murphy & M Keary 39; K P De Foy 27.

**JOCKEYS who have had the most rides since last win:** B Sayette 39; K S McHugh 34; T Heard 21; R Clutterbuck 20.

### TOP TRAINERS

2019-2024 C Appleby 80-244, J & T Gosden 55-239, R Hannion 36-320, W Haggas 26-169, A Balding 22-127, R Varian 19-150, H Palmer 13-84, S C Williams 11-44, K R Burke 10-54, M Botti 10-58.

### TOP JOCKEYS

2019-2024 R Havlin 19-140, J Mitchell 15-88, M Ghiani 13-77, P Cosgrave 10-61, C Fallon 9-110, S De Sousa 8-78, K Stott 7-37, B Sayette 6-26, H Davies 5-39, D Muscatt 4-53.

### TRAINER TRACE

**FIRST RACE FOR NEW YARD:** 2.45 Umino M Botti to Gordon; 3.20 Margeanne I Williams to J Jones; Midnight Ravens F Brennan to T Dascombe; 4.00 Bulldog Drummond G Boughey to P Werns.

**RACEFAK:** C Appleby won the 2.10 in 2022 & 2023 and 3.20 in 2022 & 2023.

**LONGEST TRAVELLERS:** How Impressive (4.00) & Wonder Smile (4.35) trained by H Palmer, Malpas, round trip of 414 miles; Thunder Wonder (2.10) trained by C Johnston, Middleham, round trip of 400 miles; Miss Bodacious (2.45) & Hiya Honey (4.35), K R Burke, Leyburn, round trip 394 miles.

### IN THE MONEY

**TOP EARNERS**  
4.00 Many A Star £127,168  
4.00 Tiger Crusade £116,180  
4.00 Abate £99,445

### UNDER ORDERS

**SEVEN-DAY WINNERS:** None.  
**BLINKERED FIRST TIME:** 2.45 Royal Elysian.  
**VISORED FIRST TIME:** None.  
**FIRST RUN SINCE WIN OP:** Bulldog Drummond (4.00).

**WEIGHTWATCHER:** 1.35 At Liberty (won off 70 down 3lb to 67).

**FOUR JOCKEYS:** C Fallon rides Hidden Secret (2.10) for C Appleby, 3 from 10, 30%, S De Sousa rides Dosman (3.20) for R Varian, 42 from 169, 25%, P Cosgrave rides Royal Alliance (2.45) for G Boughey, 15 from 62, 24%.

### 1.35 JOIN RACING TV NOW APPRENTICE HANDICAP (Class 5): value to the winner £5,154; 1m. (8 runners)

1 (1) 113-239 RED HAT EAGLE 10 (D) W Knight 4-10-1 ..... Brandon Wilkie 97  
2 (2) 267-347 BERNADINE 20 (P-D) J Fanshawe 4-10-0 ..... Oscar Palmer 53 89  
3 (3) 316-1462 MUMMAY 15 (T-D) A Carroll 5-9-1 ..... Owen Lewis 31 98  
4 (4) 162-6074 AT LIBERTY 12 (P) M Appleby 5-9-1 ..... Sam Feilden 31 86  
5 (5) 621-431 KYNSA 24 (P-D) K De Foy 4-11 ..... Dominique Van Der Kraats 53 99  
6 (6) 902-7 DARING GREATLY 155 (T+1) G Leveque 4-9-0 ..... Kaiya Fraser 82  
7 (7) 471-307 TIO MIO 14 M Chapman 6-9-0 ..... Millie Wonnacott 82  
8 (8) 311133 CHORLATAN 15 (D) D Simcock 4-8-1 ..... Kyle McHugh 51 90  
9 (9) 15-8 KYNSA, 7-2 Red Hat Eagle, A Murnayaz, 11-2 At Liberty, 15-2 Bernadine

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 8 2 4

2023: Crystal Casque 8-10 Oliver Searle 13-2 (B Millman) drawn 6, 11 ran.

### 2.10 BRITISH EBF NOVICE STAKES (4): 2-y-o; value to the winner £5,154; 7f. (8 runners)

1 (1) ANCELL TRUTH 34 C Appleby 9-10 ..... Daniel Muscatt 99  
2 (2) DOLINGHAM 11 J Owen 9-4 ..... Robert Havlin 72  
3 (3) HIDDEN SECRET C Appleby 9-4 ..... Cieren Fallon 92  
4 (4) 317-337 R Hannon 9-4 ..... Jack Mitchell 97  
5 (5) MARVELMAN A Balding 9-4 ..... Kevin Stott 99  
6 (6) ROYAL ALLIANCE G Boughey 9-4 ..... Pat Cosgrave 92  
7 (7) THUNDER WONDER C Johnston 9-4 ..... Silvestre De Sousa 92  
8 (8) 6-1 EYE PUZZLE 8 D Holland 9-13 ..... Benoit Sayette 71

BETTING: 6-4 AnceLL Truth, 9-2 Invited, 5 Hidden Secret, 13-2 Royal Alliance

### 2.45 BURWELL FILLIES' HANDICAP (5): 3-y-o; value to the winner £5,154; 6f. (10 runners)

1 (7) 5-33 BODACIOUS 28 H Eustace 9-10 ..... Pat Cosgrave 98  
2 (2) 221-3 CUBAN MELODY 15 (BF-D) A Balding 9-4 ..... Kevin Stott 99  
3 (3) 241-354 ROYAL ELYSIAN 15 (B-D) J Ferguson 9-9 ..... Daniel Muscatt 97  
4 (4) 31 MISS BODACIOUS 142 (D) K Burke 9-8 ..... Silvestre De Sousa 97  
5 (5) 624-9 GILTIERELLA 28 C Cox 9-4 ..... John Fahy 84  
6 (6) 52-1172 MISS KANYA 14 (P) R Hughes 9-6 ..... Finley Marsh 96  
7 (7) 6-70733 ONIGIRI 8 (D) M Botti 9-6 ..... Marco Ghiani 91  
8 (8) 3111632 GOGO YUBARI 8 (D) D Cunha 9-4 ..... Rhys Clutterbuck 96  
9 (9) 65-394 UNICO 60 (D) C Gordon 9-3 ..... Robert Havlin 97  
10 (10) 4-2445 MADMOISELLE CANCAN 25 (P) T Dascombe 8-10 ..... Cieren Fallon 98

BETTING: 7-2 Bodacious, 9-2 Cuban Melody, 5 Gogo Yubari, 11-2 Miss Bodacious

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2 9 1

2023: Sophia's Starlight 9-8 Oliver Stammers 7-4 Fav (G Tuer) drawn 11, 10 ran.

### 3.20 NATIONAL STUD EBF NOVICE STAKES (4): 3-y-o; value to the winner £5,154; 1m. (14 runners)

1 (7) 4-1 DOSTAR 17 R Varian 9-10 ..... Silvestre De Sousa 97  
2 (2) 41 FIRST CONQUEST 38 (D) C Appleby 9-10 ..... Pat Cosgrave 98  
3 (3) 3-1 KLT 30 W Haggas 9-10 ..... Cieren Fallon 99  
4 (4) ARABIAN LIGHT C Appleby 9-4 ..... Daniel Muscatt 97  
5 (5) 86 CABALLO DE MAR 12 G Scott 9-4 ..... Finley Marsh 78  
6 (6) 52 MIDWINTER RABBIT 182 T Dascombe 9-4 ..... Ross Coakley 83  
7 (7) 60-3518 OMOSMAN J & T Gosden 9-4 ..... Benoit Sayette 94  
8 (8) 31 PROPHET'S PATH 0 Burrows 9-4 ..... Harry Davies 96  
9 (9) 5-31 KIPPER 37 C Glover 9-4 ..... Jack Mitchell 88  
10 (10) 4-3 SWORD 22 J & T Gosden 9-4 ..... Robert Havlin 94  
11 (11) 6-1 TIME TO RULE 25 R Hannion 9-4 ..... Kevin Stott 99  
12 (12) URBAN LION J Channon 9-4 ..... Edward Greatrex 92  
13 (13) VELVET VORTEX M Murphy & M Keary 9-4 ..... Shane W Kelly 94  
14 (14) 70 MARYANNE 36 J Jones 8-13 ..... John Fahy 70

BETTING: 9-4 Sword, 4 Skipper, 5 First Conquest, 11-2 Kilt, 7 Dostar, 8 Ombudsman

### 4.00 EVERY RACE ON RACING TV HANDICAP (3) winner £12,885; 6f. (13 runners)

1 (2) 2/1-00 WALLOP 49 (D) R Hannon 4-10-4 ..... Pat Cosgrave 84  
Runs: 6 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 2 £12,130  
Tough task on both starts this season, slowly dropping in the weights

2 (11) /2026- AL SIMMO 268 (CD) Steph Hollinshead 7-10-2 ..... Cieren Fallon 92  
Runs: 24 Wins: 7 (5F,2G) Places: 7 £81,935  
Can go well when fresh, loves quick ground, leading contender

3 (12) -77515 RHYTHM N HOOVES 13 (B-D) A Watson 4-10-2 ..... Joshua Bryan 97  
Runs: 13 Wins: 4 (F,2A,GS) Places: 1 £77,284  
Won well at Donny, things did not pan out at Goodwood, to better

4 (13) 112522 MANY A STAR 5 (T,D) J Osborne 7-10-0 ..... William Carver 31 99  
Runs: 4 Wins: 7 (S,3F,2A,G) Places: 13 £127,168  
Consistent, big effort despite not settling at Windsor, strong fancy

5 (6) 3-0465 TIGER CRUSADE 22 (CD) D Simcock 7-9-11 ..... Silvestre De Sousa 89  
Runs: 33 Wins: 7 (4A,3G) Places: 5 £116,180  
Slowly dropping in the weights, not a bad effort at Donny, do better

6 (7) 40-962 EMINENCY 13 (T,D) S Williams 4-9-11 ..... Marco Ghiani 97  
Runs: 12 Wins: 1 (F) Places: 5 £35,818  
Needs a fast pace to chase and will get that here, the one to beat

7 (2) 2-6752 ABATE 17 (BF,CD) A Nicholls 8-9-10 ..... Mia Nicholls 51 94  
Runs: 60 Wins: 10 (S,2F,GS,6G) Places: 14 £99,445  
Goes best from the front, paces of pace and this track will suit, fancied

8 (3) 621-62 COMPLETELY RANDOM 34 (D) H Charlton 3-9-6 ..... Daniel Muscatt 97  
Runs: 5 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 2 £25,077  
Huge effort when just held in a valuable contest here latest, go good

9 (5) 61-146 BULLDOG DRUMMOND 154 (D) P Owens 3-9-5 ..... Benoit Sayette 85  
Runs: 13 Wins: 2 (2A) Places: 5 £19,178  
Happer looks in charge after two wins on the a-w, hard to fancy

10 (9) 836044 HOW IMPRESSIVE 10 (T,D) H Palmer 5-9-5 ..... Harry Davies 90  
Runs: 27 Wins: 5 (4A,G) Places: 8 £50,473  
Showed more on last two starts, might need more help from the happer

11 (10) 51-463 GOAL EXCEEDED 17 (D) J O'Donoghue (Ire) 3-9-4 ..... Jack Mitchell 92  
Runs: 6 Wins: 1 (S) Places: 1 £15,208  
Irish raider, finished well for third at The Curragh latest, lots to like

12 (8) 46-241 TREFOR 19 (D) C Hills 3-9-1 ..... Robert Havlin 97  
Runs: 7 Wins: 2 (2F) Places: 1 £29,038  
Progressive, well on top at Windsor latest, 3lb rise is fair, go close

13 (1) 17854- DASHING DICK 228 (P,CD) W Stone 6-9-0 ..... Kaiya Fraser 51 90  
Runs: 40 Wins: 3 (F,GS,G) Places: 15 £52,226  
Won here last year, seems best with cut in the ground, more needed

**BETTING:** 4 Completely Random, 6 Many A Star, Al Simmo, 13-2 Eminency, 8 Trefor, Abate, 10 Goal Exceeded, 12 Rhythm N Hoooves

**WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED:** 1-9 8 3

2023: Temple Bruer 5-9-9, C Shepherd 16-1 (Murphy/Keady), dr 6, 8 ran.

### Sunracing FORM

**ABATE** (7-12) 28-1 led, headed over 1f out, weakened, 7th of 15 (b/n 15) to Desert Cop (8-12) **WALLOP** (8-13) 18-1 weakened, 10th (b/n 6) (15 ran) (Newmarket 6f (2) £51,540 good).

**AL SIMMO** (9-3) 3-1 handy, chance 1f out, faded final 10 miles, 6th of 10 (2) to Kinta (9-8) (Newmarket 6f hcap (2) £25,770 good to firm).

**EMINENCY** (7-7) 5-1 rear, bent 2nd final furlong, just held, wnt ns by Haymaker (9-9) **RHYTHM N HOOVES** (10-1) 11-2 never on terms, 5th (b/n 4/4) (8 ran) (Goodwood 6f hcap (4) £5,808 good to firm).

**MANY A STAR** (9-7) 7-1 mid-division, went 2nd final furlong, not reach winner, 7/4 by Get It (9-7) (14 ran) (Windsor 6f hcap (3) £9,936 good).

**RHYTHM N HOOVES** (9-11) 11-2 tracked leader, ridden to lead 1f out, extra finish, bt Another Investment (9-1) 7/4 **HOW IMPRESSIVE** (9-0) 8-1 led, headed 1f out, weakened inside final furlong, 4th (b/n 2/4) **TIGER CRUSADE** (9-1) 6-1 one pace, 5th (b/n 3/4) (9 ran) (Doncaster 6f hcap (4) £5,653 good to soft).

**ABATE** (9-2) 4-1 co fav led, headed over 1f out, weakened 3f out, b/n 1/4 by International Girl (9-5) (9 ran) (Ripon 6f hcap (4) £5,185 good).

**COMPLETELY RANDOM** (8-7) 7-2 held up, headway 2f out, strong challenge final furlong, just held, b/n nk by Woodhay Wonder (9-3) (7 ran) (Newmarket 6f hcap (2) £38,655 good).

**BULLDOG DRUMMOND** (9-3) 10-1 no impression inside final furlong, 6th of 7 (b/n 3/4) to Photosynthesis (9-4) (Lingfield 6f hcap (4) £7,851 AW).

**HOW IMPRESSIVE** (9-4) 6-1 tracked winner, pushed along 2f out, weakened final furlong, 4th of 6 (2/4) to Jordan Elysian (9-7) (Hamilton 6f hcap (4) £5,286 good to firm).

**GOAL EXCEEDED** (9-5) 17-2 kept on without threatening, 3rd of 11 (b/n 2/4) to Kendall Roy (9-0) (Curragh 5f hcap £30,000 good to firm).

**TREFOR** (8-9) 7-2 pressed leader, ridden to lead final furlong, hung left towards finish, held on, bt Matters Most (9-9) nk (7 ran) (Windsor 6f hcap (3) £9,631 good to firm).

**HOW IMPRESSIVE** (9-6) 9-2 led, pushed along 2f out, joined 1f out, kept on, headed final strides, b/n 1/4 by Sir Oliver (9-13) **DASHING DICK** (8-6) 8-1 mid-division, headway 1f out, not pace to challenge, 4th (b/n 1/2) (12 ran) (Lingfield 7f hcap (4) £5,129 AW).

### 4.35 RACING TV HANDICAP (4) 3-Y-O; value to the winner £7,731; 7f. (10 runners)

1 (10) 32-14 RASCAL RECKNELL 17 (D) K De Foy 9-9 ..... Benoit Sayette 92  
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 2 £11,027  
Not disgraced on hcap debut at Kempton latest, scope to progress

2 (9) 2-1343 JUNGLE MAC 22 J Channon 9-8 ..... Edward Greatrex 97  
Runs: 8 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 5 £21,521  
Ran well in a strong contest at Donny latest, still improving, fancied

3 (8) 21-042 NORTH VIEW 17 (P) P Chapple-Hyam 9-7 ..... Daniel Muscatt 98  
Runs: 6 Wins: 1 (F) Places: 3 £15,595  
Bounced back to best when second at Kempton, more to come

4 (5) 122855 ROMAN EMPEROR 85 J Ryan 9-7 ..... Jack Mitchell 83  
Runs: 8 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 4 £22,515  
Stamina to prove of 7f, not really running as if he wants it, ignore

5 (1) 313-37 MISS INFORMATION 17 (BF) A Balding 9-7 ..... Silvestre De Sousa 90  
Runs: 7 Wins: 1 (G) Places: 3 £20,565  
Never showed up at Kempton latest, earlier form was very solid, go close

6 (6) 92-45 TREASURE TIME 8 (BF) W Haggas 9-6 ..... Cieren Fallon 98  
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 Places: 1 £3,916  
Bred to be decent, no luck in running at Chester latest, better expected

7 (7) 72-2 HIYA HONEY 28 K Burke 9-2 ..... Shane W Kelly 86  
Runs: 3 Wins: 1 Places: 1 £8,688  
Disappointing when beaten 20l at Chester latest, plenty to prove

8 (3) 0-5442 SONMARG 15 (T) S Woods 9-1 ..... Robert Havlin 94  
Runs: 8 Wins: 1 (G) Places: 2 £9,720  
Went down fighting when runner-up at Goodwood latest, in the mix

9 (7) 723-82 WONDER SMILE 28 (T) H Palmer 8-13 ..... Harry Davies 96  
Runs: 5 Wins: 3 Places: 3 £4,773  
Ran better when second at Salisbury, can hang under pressure, e-w

10 (2) 90-331 MISTER MOJITO 70 (D) T Kent 8-8 ..... Tyler Heard 31 99  
Runs: 6 Wins: 1 (F) Places: 2 £6,446  
Relished fast ground when hacking up at Yarmouth, strong fancy

**BETTING:** 10-3 Treasure Time, 9-2 Jungle Mac, 11-2 North View, Mister Mojito, Rascal Recknell, 7 Wonder Smile, 8 Miss Information

**WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED:** 5

2023: Ararat 9-4, P Cosgrave 17-2 (D M Simcock), dr 6, 8 ran.

### Sunracing FORM

**NORTH VIEW** (9-1) 25-1 held up, stayed on well and went 2nd inside final furlong, b/n 1/4 by Local Hero (9-9) **RASCAL RECKNELL** (9-4) 5-1 held up, stayed on, gradually inside final furlong, not quite enough pace to reach leaders, 4th (b/n 2/4) (10 ran) (Kempton 7f hcap (4) £5,757 AW).

**JUNGLE MAC** (9-3) 7-1 overall leader, headed 1f out, soon jinked right, well held inside final furlong, 3rd of 8 (b/n 1/4) to Mickley (9-7) (Doncaster 7f hcap (4) £5,654 good to firm).

**ROMAN EMPEROR** (8-5) 25-1 chased leaders, ridden 2f out, no extra finish, 5th of 11 (b/n 4/4) to Fire Demon (8-12) (Newcastle 6f hcap £7,730 good).

**MISS INFORMATION** (9-1) 11-4 fav chasing leaders, pushed along and lost 2nd 2f out, weakened 1f out, 7th of 8 (b/n 7/4) to Elieethra (9-3) (Kempton 4f (4) £5,757 AW).

**TREASURE TIME** (9-6) 9-2 co fav rear of midfield, chased leaders 2f out, ran on final furlong, 5th of 11 (b/n 4/4) to Native King (9-7) (Chester 1m hcap (4) £7,844 good to soft).

**HIYA HONEY** (9-2) 11-2 chased leader, outpaced 3f out, rallied for 2nd inside final furlong, well b/n by Fair Point (9-4) (4 ran) (Chester 7f hcap (4) £7,844 good to soft).

**SONMARG** (8-6) 10-1 rear of mid-division, headway over 1f out, stayed on, went 2nd towards finish, b/n 1/4 by Never Dream (8-9) (10 ran) (Goodwood 7f app hcap (5) £5,574 good).

**WONDER SMILE** (9-0) 7-1 held up, steady headway 2f out, hung right final furlong, went 2nd final 100 yd, by Test Of Love (8-6) (10 ran) (Salisbury 7f hcap (5) £4,580 good).

**MISTER MOJITO** (9-1) 10-3 3f fav chasing leader, smooth headway 2f out, led 1f out, ran on well, at Kurru (9-2) 3l (8 ran) (Yarmouth 7f hcap (6) £3,768 good to firm).

### 5.15 NATIONAL STUD HANDICAP (4); value to the winner £7,731; 1m 6f. (7 runners)

1 (4) 46052-5 MOUNTAIN ROAD 14 (H,D) D Simcock 5-9-10 ..... Silvestre De Sousa 97  
2 (6) 55445-1 SINGLE 17 (CD) J Channon 7-9-1 ..... Daniel Muscatt 98  
3 (1) 3115-21 LUNAR SHADOW 18 (D) A King 6-9-1 ..... Robert Havlin 99  
4 (2) 7-08844 EXPRESSIONLESS 20 (P,D) D Cunha 4-9-0 ..... Rhys Clutterbuck 83  
5 (5) 01-8346 SWISS MONEY 15 (P+T) H Dickin 8-8-3 ..... Robert Hall 88  
6 (3) 05-3936 STAR LEGEND 115 (P) J Owen 5-8-10 ..... Benoit Sayette 85  
7 (7) 21-1573 MERRIJJ 20 (D) J Berry 6-8-8 ..... Gina Mangan 31 93

**BETTING:** 5-2 Mountain Road, 4 Lunar Shadow, Single, 6 Expressionless, Merrijj, Star Legend, 25 Swiss Money

**WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED:** 1-5-6 2 1 5 1

2023: King Eagle 4-9-1 Adam Farragher 8-5-40 (N Henderson) drawn 7, 7 ran.

6.15

## BRIAN'S TASH FOR THE CASH

**BRIAN ELLISON** has a horse who Khan



**Favourite**  
Your No1 racing pullout

**ROYAL**

# MORE OF TODAY'S RUNNERS AND RIDERS

## HAYDOCK

**GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)**

### TEMPLEGATE

6.05	My Dream World
6.40	Thunder Star
7.10	Intusively
7.45	Dora Milaje
8.15	Blue Collar
8.45	Hat Toss

### TOM PEPPER

6.05	Catalan King
6.40	Miss Attitude
7.10	Canvas
7.45	Strong Impact
8.15	Middlesex
8.45	Evocative Spark

■TIC-TAC: L-H oval track of 1m 5f with a 4f straight. 5f & 6f races are run on the straight. ■DRAW: In 5f & 6f races on soft ground high have an advantage. ■LEADING TRAINERS (2019-2024): W Haggas 47-182, R Hannan 28-177, T Dascombe 26-206, D O'Meara 23-212. THIS SEASON: D O'Meara 4, R Palmer 3, E Bethell 2. ■TOP JOCKEYS (2019-2024): C Rodriguez 12-61, F Norton 12-67, P L Jamin 7-34, J Garrity 6-35. THIS SEASON: P L Jamin 3, C Rodriguez 2, F Norton 1. ■LONGEST TRAVELLER: Graignes (7.45). Round trip of 436 miles. ■FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OP: None. ■LIVE ON RACING TV

### MAIDEN STAKES (Class 5): 3-y-o; winner £5,400; 1m 4f. (7 runners)

1 (6)	220 ACROSS EARTH 57 M Botti 9-5	J Gordon
2 (6)	MAKE ACLAIM 6 Tuer 9-5	H Shaw
3 (7)	7-2 MY DREAM WORLD 15 B Brookhouse 9-5 J Gilligan	A Farragher
4 (6)	CATALAN KING E Bethell 9-3	A Farragher
5 (7)	6 CLOUDSIDE ROCK 25 D Simcock 9-3	G Wood
6 (5)	4 BAYARDER 14 M Bell 9-2	D Hogan
7 (1)	43 EDNA E MODE 14 H Charlton 9-2	C Rodriguez

My Dream World 9:59, Across Earth 9:7, Edna E Mode 9:55

### FILLIES HANDICAP (4): winner £5,201; 5f. (9 runners)

1 (5)	0-47 THE BIG BOARD 34 (D) R Hannan 4-10 J Leavy (5)
2 (1)	1855 STAR OF LADY M 8 (V/D) D O'Meara 4-10 M Winn (3)
3 (8)	8503 LIL GUFF 8 (B,F,C,D) D C & C Kubler 5-9-9
4 (7)	3-42 THUNDER STAR 16 (B,F,C,D) J Macay 4-9-9
5 (9)	59/5 MISS ATTITUDE 33 (D) J Channon 4-9-9
6 (4)	401 DOLLY GRAY 28 (D) D Loughnane 5-9-5
7 (2)	6-41 PROFITABLE EDGE 15 (D) D & N Barron 4-9-7
8 (6)	8-34 VADAMIAH 14 (B,F,D) P Midgley 5-9-5
9 (1)	1-5 LOVE WARS 29 (D) J & S Quinn 5-9-10

Lil Guff 9:59, Star Of Lady M 9:58, Dolly Gray 9:7

### MAIDEN STAKES (2): 2-y-o; winner £15,452; 7f. (10 runners)

1 (5)	CALIBOS R Fahey 9-7	E Tindall
2 (8)	6 CANVAS 11 H Hart 9-7	S Hitchcock
3 (1)	GLENRIDING D & C Kubler 9-7	D Hogan

4 (2)	23 HIGH ON HOPE 18 T Dascombe 9-7	P Jamin
5 (10)	2 INTRUSIVELY 9 E Bethell 9-7	C Rodriguez
6 (9)	43 KING OF ANGELS 28 (B,F) H Palmer 9-7	J Leavy
7 (4)	TIME MAY TELL 9 J O'Keefe 9-7	J Garrity
8 (6)	5 VICTORY SOUND 13 C Hills 9-7	F Norton
9 (8)	BRASIAS D O'Meara 9-5	M Winn
10 (3)	MASTER OF ZEST P Owens 9-5	A Farragher

High On Hope 9:59, Intrusively 9:98, King Of Angels 9:5, 15-8 Intrusively, 5-2 High On Hope, 13-2 King Of Angels

### HANDICAP (4); winner £6,281; 1m 2f. (8 runners)

1 (7)	8043 TO CATCH A THIEF 26 (T,D) W Haggas 4-9-11	A Farragher
2 (8)	0-50 GRAIGES 127 (T,D) G Baker 8-9-9	C Rodriguez
3 (4)	3-52 DORA MILAJE 19 D O'Meara 4-9-8	M Winn (3)
4 (2)	4-52 STRONG IMPACT 20 (D) R Varian 4-9-6	A Keesley (3)
5 (6)	601 BODORGAN 19 (T,D) C Hills 4-9-6	F Norton
6 (1)	1-30 LADY OF ARABIA 52 (C,D) E Houghton 4-9-2	G Downing
7 (6)	45-4 SAVROLA 19 (P,C) D Sayer 5-8-13	H Shaw
8 (3)	0-25 NO RECOLLECTION 20 (T,D) S England 6-8-7	J Gordon

Strong Impact 9:59, To Catch A Thief 9:8, Dora Milaje 9:7

### Sun FORM

TO CATCH A THIEF (9-6) 8-1 stayed on, 3rd of 10 (4/7) to Arthur's Realm (9-6) (Redcar 1/1m hcup (2) £21,600 soft), GRAIGES (9-1) 4-01 always behind, 10th of 13 (btt 14) to Parliando (9-0) (Bahrain 1/1m hcup £100,000 good).

DORA MILAJE (9-10) 10-1 kept on, btt 4-1 by Loughnane (9-1) (16 ran) (Wetherby 1/1m hcup (4) £5,234 good to firm).

STRONG IMPACT (9-7) 9-2 ran on 1st out, held, shd by Fiver Friday (9-7) (7 ran) (Hamilton 1/1m hcup (3) £14,947 good).

BODORGAN (9-3) 12-1 made all, stayed on well, bit Aerospac (9-11) 7/4 (7 ran) (Windsor 1/1m hcup (4) £5,653 good).

LADY OF ARABIA (9-7) 6-1 weakened, 12th of 14 (16) to Whitcombe Rockstar (9-2) (Kempton 1m hcup (4) £5,757 AW).

SAVROLA (9-4) 16-1 stayed on inside final furlong, 4th of 10 (btt 2) to Boy Douglas (9-3) (Ayr 1m hcup (4) £4,711 good).

NO RECOLLECTION (9-1) 22-1 no extra finish, 5th of 10 (3/7) to Naztor (9-3) (Newcastle 1/1m hcup (4) £10,468 AW).

### HANDICAP (5); 3-y-o; winner £4,187; 1m 2f. (6 runners)

1 (6)	6-02 BLUE COLLAR 8 (B) R Hannan 9-12	J Leavy (5)
2 (3)	4-45 STRAIGHT A 39 (B,F) H Eustace 9-11	G Wood
3 (1)	26-3 MIDDLESEX 25 C Johnston 9-7	F Norton
4 (7)	4-23 HAT TOSS 14 (B,F) J Owen 4-9-6	C Rodriguez
5 (5)	7-5 EMPIRE OF LIGHT 67 G Tuer 9-5	H Shaw
6 (4)	7-86 GAME MANAGEMENT 39 K Ryan 9-2	J Gordon

Blue Collar 9:59, Middlesex 9:58, Straight A 9:7

### HANDICAP (4); winner £6,281; 1m. (7 runners)

1 (5)	7153 TROPEZ POWER 14 (D) J & S Quinn 5-9-10	J Leavy (5)
2 (2)	1959 ERNIE'S VALENTINE 14 (T,D) D Loughnane 5-8-8	L Pearson
3 (7)	4-23 HAT TOSS 14 (B,F) J Owen 4-9-6	C Rodriguez
4 (1)	8-91 SIAM FOX 19 (D) K Frost 6-9-8	J Gilligan
5 (3)	0-280 HE'S A GENTLEMAN 21 (V,D) H Palmer 5-9-5	M Winn (3)
6 (4)	7-323 EVOCATIVE SPARK 7 D Holland 5-9-3	F Norton
7 (6)	3857 EAGLE DAY 14 P Evans 4-9-0	D Hogan

Siam Fox 9:59, Hat Toss 9:58, Evocative Spark 9:7

11-4 Siam Fox, 7-2 Hat Toss, Tropez Power, 4 Evocative Spark

## REDCAR

### TEMPLEGATE

1.45	Rogue Endeavour
2.20	Airspeed
2.55	Young Fire
3.30	Gultari
4.15	Tatterstall
4.55	Kings Merchant
5.30	Sam Sarphati

### TOM PEPPER

1.45	Hurricane Bea
2.20	Mr Lightside
2.55	Admiral Nelson
3.30	Zaman Daar
4.15	Good Earth
4.55	Kings Merchant
5.30	Carlton

■TIC-TAC: Left-handed galloping, oval track of 1m 6f, round course joins the straight just over 5f from the finish. ■DRAW: Middle to high numbers have a decided advantage on the straight course. ■LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS (2019-2024): T Easterly 47-546, D O'Meara 36-253, M Dods 26-248, R Fahey 22-221. THIS SEASON: T Easterly 4, D O'Meara 3, M Dods 2. ■TOP JOCKEYS WITH RIDES (2019-2024): J Hart 22-181, S James 12-111, R Scott 11-135, D Fentiman 8-150. THIS SEASON: J Hart 2, C Hardie 1, H Russell 1. ■LONGEST TRAVELLER: Sonic Blue (1-45) trained at Lambourn. Round trip of 514 miles. ■FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OP: None. ■LIVE ON RACING TV

### JOIN RACING TV EBF NOVICE STAKES (Class 5): 2-y-o; value to the winner £3,780; 6f. (10 runners)

1 (7)	16 SONIC BLUE 17 T Dascombe 9-11	Jason Watson 9:99
2 (1)	30 EIGHTEEN FOURTEEN 29 O Pears 9-5	Cam Hardie 9:3
3 (6)	HURRICANE BEA T Waggett 9-4	Dale Swift 9:7
4 (3)	80 LOVE GAMES 23 K Ryan 9-4	Shane Gray 9:70
5 (1)	MANAGING DIRECTOR 8 Smart 9-4	Harry Russell 9:7
6 (10)	PENINSULA POWER R Fahey 9-4	Joanna Mason 9:7
7 (8)	70A SEEM 16 K Burke 9-4	Sam James 9:0
8 (2)	40 QUEEN ENDEAVOUR 25 A Haynes 9-4	Ray Dawson 9:0
9 (4)	01 CAN BOOBY 63 N Tinkler 8-13	Faye McManoman 9:0
10 (1)	COPELY M Appleby 9-4	Sean Kirrane 9:0

BETTING: 3 Rogue Endeavour, 4 Sonic Blue, 11-2 Managing Director, 6 Qaseem

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 2 1 1

2023: Brave Empire 9-11 David Egan 6-5 Fav (R Varian) drawn 12, 13 ran.

### FREE RACING TV RACING TV COM/FREETRIAL NOVICE STAKES (5): 2-y-o; winner £3,780; 5f. (9 runners)

1 (9)	731 AL HUSSAR 35 (D) G Tuer 9-8	Sam James 9:99
2 (3)	1 KINETIC FORCE 12 (D) D Donovan 9-8	Ray Dawson 9:7
3 (5)	1A SPEED 22 (K) Burke 9-4	Shane Gray 9:7
4 (1)	4 EAST LEA 17 P Mokin 9-4	Joanna Mason 9:7
5 (6)	0 MR LIGHTSIDE 18 M Appleby 9-4	Andrew Breslin (3) 88
6 (7)	28 STATION X 38 B Smart 9-4	Rowan Scott 88
7 (8)	336 GO ON ROSIE 28 N Tinkler 8-13	Rowan Scott 88
8 (4)	42 LADY LUZON 12 D O'Meara 8-13	Jason Watson 9:5
9 (4)	ROSIE GREY M Dods 8-13	Sean Kirrane 9:0

BETTING: 9-4 Kinetic Force, 7-2 Al Hussar, Station X, 13-2 Airspeed, 15-2 Lady Luzon

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2023: No corresponding race.

### WOODSMITH CONSTRUCTION STRAIGHT MILE 'CONFINED' HANDICAP (C); winner £3,140; 1m. (15 runners)

1 (11)	233-774 MAN OF 'A' N 23 L Bailey 4-10-3	Harry Russell 8:5
2 (8)	391-774 END ZONE 19 (D) R Felli & S Murray 7-10-0	Joanna Mason 7:0
3 (1)	999-403 YOUNG FIRE 19 (B,F,C,D) D O'Meara 9-10-0	Jason Watson 9:5
4 (1)	351-403 STRANGER ON SHORE 12 (B,D) N Tinkler 6-9-2	Rowan Scott 88
5 (10)	1054-924 ADMIRAL NELSON 25 (T) P Niven 6-9-12	Cam Hardie 9:1
6 (2)	73-53 CHATTY 11 T Easterly 3-9-8	Sean Kirrane 9:99
7 (15)	808-760 JURYMAN 14 J Coward 4-9-6	Joanna Mason 7:0
8 (6)	356 RED SCOTCH 86 M Appleby 3-9-6	Ray Dawson 8:8
9 (1)	45-45 KING'S SCHOOL 15 (T) G Tully 3-9-6	Shane Gray 9:2
10 (9)	0524-038 BITS AND BOBS 25 (M) M Walford 3-9-5	Jason Hart 9:7
11 (3)	435688 JUMEIRA VISION 12 K Scott 4-9-3	Sam James 9:0
12 (5)	779-852 TACTUS 50 (T,B,C,D) T Collier 6-9-3	Dale Swift 9:7
13 (3)	2-20552 DUE CONSIDERATION 17 (D) A Nicholls 3-9-2	Patrick Mathers 9:8
14 (1)	8326253 CODEBREAKER 7 (P,C,D) M Herrington 5-8-13	Ben Sanderson 9:7
15 (4)	767-527 CURIOUS MRS FOX 17 J Davies 3-8-4	Connor Planas (3) 91

BETTING: 5 Due Consideration, Young Fire, 13-2 Tacitus, 15-2 Chatty, 8 Kodebreaker

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 6

2023: Tacitus 5-9-1 Dale Swift 10-4 (T Collier) drawn 8, 8 ran.

### MARKET CROSS JEWELLERS HANDICAP (C); 3-y-o; value to the winner £3,140; 6f. (14 runners)

1 (3)	9522055 SOUL SINGER 6 T Easterly 9-9	Duran Fentiman 9:0
2 (13)	695-46 ZAMAN DAAR 283 (T) I Mohammed 9-9	Cam Hardie 8:5
3 (9)	976-6 GULTARI 16 (H) M J Jones 9-9	Joanna Mason 9:0
4 (1)	3-58-4 JESMOND DAWN 23 G Tuer 9-7	Sam James 9:5
5 (5)	66-089 EIGHTH ARMY 11 (B) A Watson 9-6	Elisha Whittington (3) 74
6 (12)	9-669 HARDMAN 33 D & N Barron 9-6	Rowan Scott 78
7 (8)	23-662 LOUELLA 11 Felli & S Murray 9-6	Jonny Peate (3) 92
8 (1)	8-24-42 YENGA 15 (D) N Tinkler 9-4	Faye McManoman 9:99
9 (4)	8-32-350 FOREVER EIGHTEEN 34 (P) N Tinkler 9-2	Alex Jary (5) 85
10 (10)	06-789 AMAZING WINNIE 6 K Ryan 9-2 (6x)	Louise Akhurst (7) 97
11 (14)	96-9 SCARFO 63 J & S Quinn 9-1	Jason Hart 76
12 (2)	77-771 ARLINGTON 96 (D) B Smart 9-1	Andrew Breslin (3) 95
13 (1)	0-47-7 OUR NEIL 47 B & S Russell 9-0	Harry Russell 9:0
14 (6)	065-768 ASKIM 22 (P) N Tinkler 8-9	Paddy Mathers 78

BETTING: 3 Yengia, 11-2 Amazing Winnie, 8 Soul Singer, 10 Arlington, 12 Gultari

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 3-0 2

2023: Spirit In My Soul 9-4 Dale Swift 5-1 (D Carroll) drawn 5, 13 ran.

### Sunracing FORM

SOUL SINGER (9-4) 15-2 outpaced 2f out, kept on but held, 5th of 10 (btt 17/4) to Kurimu (9-3) (Doncaster 6f hcup (6) £3,768 good to soft).

ZAMAN DAAR (9-7) 6-1 prominent, driven along 2f out, no extra, 8th of 7 (btt 6/4) to She Is A Keeper (9-9) (Kempton 6f hcup (6) £3,140 AW).

GULTARI (9-1) 14-4 weakened final furlong, 5th of 8 (3/4) to Orbital (9-4) (Chelmsford 7f hcup (6) £4,004 AW).

JESMOND DAWN (9-10) 6-1 one pace, 6th of 10 (btt 3) to Naturalia (9-10) (Carlisle 6f hcup (6) £3,402 soft).

EIGHTH ARMY (9-4) 13-1 weakened final furlong, 8th of 10 (btt 5/7) to Miss Stormy Night (9-2) (Salisbury 6f hcup (6) £3,926 good to firm).

JESMOND DAWN (9-10) 10-3 fav headway 2f out, kept on, 3rd of 10 (btt 3/4) to Bluffonthebus (9-4) (HARDMAN (9-8) 11-2 never on terms, 9th (well btt) (10 ran) (Carlisle 6f hcup (6) £3,402 good to firm).

LOUELLA (9-1) 16-1 weakened, 7th of 11 (btt 8/7) to Savvy Warrior (9-11) (Wetherby 7f hcup (6) £3,926 good).

YENGA (8-1) 5-1 led final furlong, ran on well, bit Kurimu (9-7) 1/4 (7 ran) (Brighton 6f hcup (6) £2,883 good).

LOUELLA (9-8) 13-2 chance 1f out, no match for winner, btt 2/1 by Raffles (9-6) 7/1, weakened, 12th (btt 14) (14 ran) (Ripon 6f hcup (6) £3,664 good).

AMAZING WINNIE (9-8) 14-1 led if out, always going enough, bit Forgotten Treasure (9-2) (4) (Doncaster 7f hcup (6) £3,768 good to soft).

SCARFO (9-3) 15-0 no extra, 8th of 12 (well btt) to Never So Brave (9-3) (Thirk 7f mdn (6) £4,320 soft).

ARLINGTON (8-6) 9-1 made all ran on strongly, bit SOUL SINGER (9-5) 9-1 ran on, held, nk AMAZING WINNIE (8-11) 14-1 hung badly right final furlong, last (btt 9/1) (8 ran) (Newcastle 6f hcup (6) £4,292 AW).

OUR NEIL (9-1) 40-1 never a factor, 8th of 10 (8/4) to Brummell (9-2) (Geverley 5f hcup (5) £4,527 good to soft).

ASKIM (9-2) 12-1 weakened 1f out, 8th of 9 (btt 10) to Edgewater Drive (9-0) (Carlisle 6f hcup (6) £3,402 good).

### START RACING TV FREE TRIAL HANDICAP (3) winner £8,100; 5f. (8 runners)

1 (6)	1527-3 R RUSSSET GOLD 43 (C,D)	Ray Dawson 9:99
2 (1)	00-931 TATTERSTALL 14 (D)	Sean Kirrane 9:8

Runs: 14 Wins: 3 (2F) Places: 4 £28,099

Visually impressive at Catterick latest, speed to burn, strong fancy

**GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES)**


0-0006 GOOD EARTH 12 (D) M Harrington 7-8-8

Runs: 69 Wins: 11 (5F,A,G,S,G) Places: 20



# ASCOT

in association with  
**CORAL**

## AYR

**4.10** MAIDEN STAKES (Class 4); 2-y-o; winner £4,590; 6f (5 runners)  
 1 (1) 3 BIG CYRIL 26 A Haynes 9-7 ..... K O'Neill  
 2 (4) CAPTAIN PICKLES 5 Barclay 9-7 ..... D Costello  
 3 (3) 2 EVE'S BOY 23 M Dods 9-7 ..... P Mulrennan  
 4 (5) UNCLE DON R Fahey 9-7 ..... D Nolan  
 5 (2) COPACABANA SANDS D Dias (ire) 9-2 ..... D Sheehy  
 Eve's Boy ●99, Big Cyril 97

5-4 Eve's Boy, 9-4 Big Cyril, 4 Uncle Don, Copacabana Sands  
**4.45** HANDICAP (4); winner £5,051; 5f (7 runners)  
 1 (1) 8699 ALLIGATOR ALLEY 21 (T.V.D) D O'Meara 7-10-2 D Nolan  
 2 (7) 080 CALL ME GINGER 224 (C,D) J Goldie 8-10-2 A Waugh (5)  
 3 (4) 2525 MOON FLIGHT 20 (D) L Perratt 4-9-11 T Jakes (5)  
 4 (3) 1101 JORDAN ELECTRIC 10 (C,D) J Goldie 8-9-11 P Mulrennan  
 5 (6) 8605 POCKLEY 10 (D) L Perratt 6-9-3 ..... D Costello  
 6 (2) 3237 WEE FAT MAC 10 (T.CD) J Jardine 5-8-11 A Mullen  
 7 (5) 1816 SKI ANGEL 10 (BF,CD) R Smith 4-8-11 J Fanning  
 Jordan Electric ●99, Moon Flight 98, Call Me Ginger 97  
 15-8 Jordan Electric, 11-4 Moon Flight, 6 Alligator Alley, 13-2 Ski Angel, Call Me Ginger, 12 Wee Fat Mac, 20 Pockley

**5.25** HANDICAP (5); 3-y-o; winner £4,187; 7f (7 runners)  
 1 (3) 2382 MOON MAN 7 D O'Meara 9-12 ..... D Nolan  
 2 (7) 82-2 GUDGON 16 E Bethell 9-11 ..... P Dennis  
 3 (1) 20-1 EMINENT JEWEL 19 (D) R Fahey 9-9 O McSwenney (3)  
 4 (4) 2311 MERESIDE MADNESS 133 (D) D & N Barron 9-7 J Fanning  
 5 (5) 58-5 WAR MEMORIAL 12 M Dods 9-4 ..... P Mulrennan  
 6 (6) 2197 DANDY LICHIOUS 19 (D) T Davidson 9-1 ..... A Mullen  
 7 (2) 0740 ALLEGRO BRILLANTE 6 (H\*) J Goldie 8-4 ..... A Waugh (5)  
 Eminent Jewel ●99, Mereside Madness 98, Moon Man 97  
 7-4 Mereside Madness, 11-4 Moon Man, 7-2 Eminent Jewel, 4 Gudgong, 14 War Memorial, 50 Allegro Brillante

**5.55** HANDICAP (2); winner £21,600; 4m 5f (10 runners)  
 1 (5) 3161 IRON LION 14 D O'Meara 4-9-9 ..... D Nolan  
 2 (7) 4120 CAPITAL THEORY 20 (CD) C Johnston 5-9-7 R Sexton  
 3 (6) 60-9 WICKY WICKY WHEELS 20 (D) L Russell 6-9-6 A Young (7)  
 4 (4) 2-04 ISLAND BRAVE 34 (CD) H Main 10-9-6 ..... D Costello  
 5 (2) 2-34 DIVINA GRACE 14 (BF) R Guest 4-9-11 ..... K O'Neill  
 6 (3) 0924 EUCHEN GLEN 28 (CD) J Goldie 11-9-4 P Mulrennan  
 7 (8) 2-11 BAILEYS KHELSTAR 41 (C) Johnston 4-8-11 J Fanning  
 8 (10) 3166 BRINGBACKMEMORIES 22 (T) J Jardine 5-8-10 A Mullen  
 9 (9) 0090 SIR CHAUVELIN 13 (CD) J Goldie 12-8-8 J Sullivan  
 10 (1) 5-32 AYT ROY 19 (C) J Goldie 9-8-4 ..... A Waugh (5)  
 Iron Lion ●99, Divina Grace 98, Capital Theory 96  
 5-2 Iron Lion, 7-2 Divina Grace, 4 Baileys Khelestar, 8 Capital Theory, Ayt Roy, 12 Euchen Glen, 14 Bringbackmemories

**6.25** FILLIES LISTED STAKES (1); winner £28,355; 5f (9 runners)  
 1 (5) 6-75 AZURE BLUE 29 (BF) M Dods 5-9-6 ..... P Mulrennan  
 2 (6) -066 CONSERVATIONIST 8 K Ryan 4-9-6 ..... R Sexton  
 3 (6) 0-23 ORIGIN TRAIL 34 B Haslam 5-9-6 ..... A Mullen  
 4 (4) 3151 PEPSI CAT 34 (T.D) Steph Hollinshead 5-9-6 D Costello  
 5 (3) 3-67 SILENT WORDS 21 (B\*) K Ryan 4-9-6 O McSwenney  
 6 (5) 5-438 SO MAJESTIC 9 (H\*) J Goldie (ire) 4-9-6 J Fanning  
 7 (13) BEAUTIFUL DIAMOND 28 (BF,CD) K Burke 3-9-3 D Nolan  
 8 (2) 3224 GAENARI 17 (P\*) D Dias (ire) 3-9-0 ..... D Sheehy  
 9 (1) 36-5 GRACEFUL THUNDER 86 (BF,D) G Boughie 3-9-0 K O'Neill  
 Azure Blue ●99, Beautiful Diamond 97, So Majestic 94  
 6-4 Azure Blue, 7-2 Beautiful Diamond, 6 Graceful Thunder, 8 So Majestic, 10 Pepsi Cat, 12 Silent Words, 16 Origin Trail

**6.55** HANDICAP (5); winner £5,574; 6f (10 runners)  
 1 (3) 6390 BE PROUD 20 (P,CD) J Goldie 8-10-4 P Mulrennan  
 2 (7) 8286 THE CALTONIAN 39 (B,D) L Perratt 5-10-4 D Costello  
 3 (1) 8000 ZAMAN JEMIL 28 (D) J & S Quinn 4-10-2 ..... D Nolan  
 4 (9) 3661 CLASSY AL 31 (CD) J Goldie 6-9-12 ..... A Waugh (5)  
 5 (4) 6-74 CAVALIER APPROACH 48 (B\*,BF,D) E Bethell 4-9-11 P Dennis  
 6 (5) -431 BLACK FRIDAY 24 (CD) R Smith 9-9-8 A Young (7)  
 7 (5) 5081 B ASSOCIATES 12 (C,D) J Jardine 4-9-7 ..... A Mullen

## LINGFIELD

**6.00** HANDICAP (Class 5); winner £3,716; 1m 2f (5 runners)  
 1 (3) 1152 CHARLIE'S CHOICE 14 D Simcock 4-9-9 D Keenan  
 2 (1) 3563 MORCAR 14 (B,D) R Hannan 4-9-8 A Volkshansky (3)  
 3 (2) -0-07 WONDER STARELAAM 19 (D) D Coakley 9-9-8 N Callan  
 4 (5) 3525 TRIBAL WISDOM 43 (H,D) J Williams 5-9-8 B Burns (3)  
 5 (4) 1890 HARBOUR VISION 38 (V) S Dixon 9-9-1 ..... J Haynes  
 Morcar ●99, Charlie's Choice 98, Tribal Wisdom 97  
 6-4 Charlie's Choice, 7-4 Morcar, 7-2 Tribal Wisdom, 12 Wonder Starelaam, 25 Harbour Vision

**6.30** HANDICAP (5); winner £3,716; 1m 4f (8 runners)  
 1 (8) 2-05 STORY HORSE 21 W Knight 4-9-11 ..... N Callan  
 2 (8) 8469 FORGE VALLEY LAD 124 D Simcock 4-9-9 J Haynes  
 3 (4) 2154 HILL STATION 18 (T,D) Dr R Newland & J Insole 5-9-7 W Cox  
 4 (6) 7169 PARTY ISLAND 17 (D) D Coakley 7-9-6 B Burns (3)  
 5 (1) 1737 GRIGIO 20 S Pears 4-9-5 ..... P Bradley  
 6 (1) 8448 MAJOR MAJOR 12 (CD) R Hannan 4-9-4 A Volkshansky (3)  
 7 (5) -882 GALLIMIMUS 15 (B) J Gallagher 4-9-2 ..... D Keenan  
 8 (7) 67-5 PLEDGE OF HONOUR 17 D O'ry 9-9-2 ..... W Carson  
 Pledge Of Honour ●99, Gallimimus 98, Hill Station 97  
 3 Gallimimus, 4 Hill Station, 6 Story Horse, Pledge Of Honour, Major Major, 8 Party Island, 10 Grigio, Forge Valley Lad

**7.00** CLASSIFIED STAKES (6); winner £2,983; 1m 4f (12 runners)  
 1 (6) 0541 THURSDAY 5 S Dow 4-10-0 ..... N Callan  
 2 (9) 4131 THREE DONS 7 (D) A Carroll 5-9-11 ..... M Gunn (7)  
 3 (1) 2274 DAMOISEAU 15 (T,BF) J Williams 4-9-9 S Bowen (5)  
 4 (4) 6447 DELVEY 108 (P) K Jewell 5-9-9 ..... W Cox  
 5 (2) -805 DUKE OF YERNA 15 (P) G O'Meara 4-9-9 T Keenan  
 6 (5) 3570 GILBERT 19 (T) A West 5-9-9 ..... E Jones (7)  
 7 (9) 9090 GOLDEN KEEPER 64 (B,D) B Lund 5-9-9 H Burns (3)  
 8 (11) 0495 HE'S OUR STAR 19 A Carroll 5-9-9 ..... J Haynes  
 9 (7) 30-7 HELLAHEART 15 (D) R Ingram 5-9-9 ..... D Keenan  
 10 (10) 9048 MISS TIKI 16 (D) M Martin 6-9-9 ..... C Howarth (3)  
 11 (2) 0553 RED HOT ROSE 16 (P) J Cooke 4-9-8 ..... G Rooke  
 12 (3) 7-55 TEMUR KHAN 33 (D) A Carroll 9-9-9 L Coughlan (3)  
 Three Dons ●99, Damoiseau 97, Thursday 97

7-4 Three Dons, 5-2 Thursday, 11-2 Damoiseau, 10 Delvey  
**7.30** FILLIES MAIDEN STAKES (5); 2-y-o; winner £3,402; 7f (14 runners)  
 1 (7) ANSHODA D Loughnane 9-2 ..... G Greatrex  
 2 (5) 5 BOLLY 22 (P\*) A Murphy 9-2 ..... S Bowen (5)  
 3 (8) ENCHANTED WAY A Watson 9-2 ..... L Coughlan (3)  
 4 (3) GLAMIS ROAD 9 C Sangster 9-2 ..... G Rooke  
 5 (1) 432 JANE GARFIELD 14 S Kirk 9-2 ..... S Mohd (7)  
 6 (4) KALEIDOSCOPE EYES 25 M Atwater 9-2 H Burns (3)  
 7 (1) MAKE LOVE 21 J Horton 9-2 ..... G Rooke  
 8 (12) 8 ALEISHKA 7 E Dunlop 9-0 ..... M Cole (5)  
 9 (11) 00 KEEP SINGING 15 J Moore 9-0 ..... G Doble (3)  
 10 (14) LILLYS BET (H\*) W Knight 9-0 ..... N Callan  
 11 (4) MOUNT OF GOLD R Cook & J Bridger 9-0 P Bradley  
 12 (2) 6 MY CANDY GIRL 25 K Jewell 9-0 ..... J Haynes  
 13 (5) 3 STAR ALLURE 33 G Scott 9-0 ..... L Wright (5)  
 14 (10) 70 TIGGY WEBBER 14 T Dascombe 9-0 ..... W Cox  
 Jane Garfield ●99, Star Allure 97, Kaleidoscope Eyes 97  
 3 Jane Garfield, 4 Star Allure, 6 Enchanted Way, 7 Glamis Road

**8.00** MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (5); winner £3,942; 6f (5 runners)  
 1 (2) 63 FLYING STAR 15 J Berry 4-9-9 ..... J Quinn  
 2 (3) 6 FAMILY MATTERS 28 R Guest 3-9-2 ..... D Keenan  
 3 (4) SENSE OF SPIRIT 14 K Ryan 3-9-2 ..... S Bowen (5)  
 4 (4) 3 SHIBUYA STORM 9 G Margerson 3-9-2 ..... N Callan  
 5 (1) 0 THUNDERSTORM KATIE 19 B Toomey 3-9-0 W Cox  
 Shibuya Storm ●99, Flying Star 97, Sense Of Spirit 97  
 2 Shibuya Storm, 3 Flying Star, 4 Sense Of Spirit, 5 Family Matters

## GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

### TEMPLEGATE

**4.10** ..... Eve's Boy  
**4.45** ..... Alligator Alley  
**5.25** ..... Eminent Jewel  
**5.55** ..... Baileys Khelestar  
**6.25** ..... Beautiful Diamond  
**6.55** ..... Classy Al  
**7.25** ..... Lord Abama  
**7.55** ..... Moondial

### TOM PEPPER

**4.10** ..... Eve's Boy  
**4.45** ..... Moon Flight  
**5.25** ..... Mereside Madness  
**5.55** ..... Baileys Khelestar  
**6.25** ..... Pepsi Cat  
**6.55** ..... Classy Al  
**7.25** ..... Rainwater  
**7.55** ..... Loom Large

■TIC-TAC: Left-handed oval course of 1m 4f, races of 1m 3f start on a chute, straight off track. ■DRAW: A middle to high draw is an advantage in sprint races, low numbers favoured on the round course. ■LEADING TRAINERS (2019-2024): J Goldie 6-519, J Jardine 41-325, D O'Meara 34-255, R Fahey 31-303. THIS SEASON: M Dods 4, J Goldie 4, R M Smith 3. ■TOP JOCKEYS (2019-2024): P Mulrennan 58-391, J Fanning 42-240, A Mullen 32-251, D Nolan 10-81. THIS SEASON: P Mulrennan 3, D Nolan 3, J Fanning 2. ■LONGEST TRAVELLER: Big Cyril (4.10). Divina Grace (5.55), Graceful Thunder (6.25), Pop Star (7.25) trained at Newmarket. Round trip of 720 miles. ■FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OP: None. ■LIVE ON RACING TV

8 (10) 0076 AMERICAN STAR 12 (P,D) R Carr 5-9-7 ..... J Sullivan  
 9 (8) 1068 AHAMOMENT 12 (C) D & N Barron 5-9-7 J Fanning  
 10 (2) 3306 HAVANA ROSE 20 (D) K Scott 3-8-13 ..... P Muir (3)  
 Classy Al ●99, J The Caltonian 98, Be Proud 97

**7.25** HANDICAP (5); winner £5,574; 6f (9 runners)  
 1 (5) 1147 SIBYL CHARM 17 (D) J Jardine 4-10-4 ..... M Tabti (5)  
 2 (1) 1612 WINEMAKER 20 (D) D Dias (ire) 4-10-2 D Sheehy  
 3 (4) 3213 SACRED FALLS 10 (P,BF,CD) K Scott 4-9-12 A Young (7)  
 4 (7) 4803 POP STAR 15 (P,T,D) A Haynes 4-9-10 ..... K O'Neill  
 5 (9) 9811 LORD ABAMA 15 (B,D) M Dods 5-9-9 ..... D Nolan  
 6 (3) 2-44 RAINWATER 26 R Fahey 3-9-7 ..... R Sexton  
 7 (1) 8382 RORY 51 (C,D) J Goldie 9-9-7 ..... P Mulrennan  
 8 (6) 6558 HENRY HAWK 10 L Perratt 5-9-4 ..... T Jakes (5)  
 9 (2) 4-17 ZEBRA STAR 39 (H,C) R Smith 4-8-13 T Marshall (7)  
 Lord Abama ●99, Sacred Falls 98, Rory 97

5-2 Sacred Falls, 4 Lord Abama, Winemaker, 6 Sibyl Charm, 8 Rory, 10 Rainwater, 16 Zebra Star, Pop Star, 20 Henry Hawk  
**7.55** CLASSIFIED STAKES (6); winner £3,564; 7f (13 runners)  
 1 (6) 8472 MOONDIAL 9 (B,T,D) K Scott 4-9-10 ..... P Dennis  
 2 (11) 2221 COCONUT 40 (D) D Nolan 5-9-9 ..... D Nolan  
 3 (9) 3238 DARKER 10 (B) R Carr 5-9-9 ..... J Sullivan  
 4 (10) 5-45 GOING UNDERGROUND 26 (B) B Storey 7-9-9 P Muir (3)  
 5 (5) 8628 HAALIM 54 (HBF) A McCall (ire) 4-9-9 O McSwenney (3)  
 6 (12) 0910 LOOM LARGE 39 (P\*,T) Jardine 5-9-9 A Mullen  
 7 (1) 8691 MISS CALCULATION 30 (D) S Barclay 5-9-9 D Costello  
 8 (7) -000 ONTHEBUNNY 21 (E\*) L Perratt 4-9-9 ..... T Jakes (5)  
 9 (13) 8426 SADIQAA 38 (V,D) H McGuigan (ire) 6-9-9 A Young (7)  
 10 (2) 0-90 THE WORLD'S ASTACE 23 D Dias (ire) 4-9-9 D Sheehy  
 11 (4) 1136 TROOP COMMAND 71 (BF,D) A Hamilton 7-9-9 P Mulrennan  
 12 (3) 5803 BIG BLUE BOY 6 (T) D O'Meara 3-9-0 ..... R Sexton  
 13 (8) 9-98 LAM TON LAD 6 J Goldie 3-9-0 ..... L Young (7)  
 Haalim ●99, Miss Calculation 97, Coconut Bay 97  
 7-2 Coconut Bay, 5 Haalim, 11-2 Moondial, 6 Miss Calculation

## GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

### TEMPLEGATE

**6.00** ..... Charlie's Choice  
**6.30** ..... Pledge Of Honour  
**7.00** ..... Three Dons  
**7.30** ..... Enchanted Way  
**8.00** ..... Sense Of Spirit  
**8.30** ..... Another Jack  
**9.00** ..... So Sleepy

### TOM PEPPER

**6.00** ..... Morcar  
**6.30** ..... Major Major  
**7.00** ..... Gilbert  
**7.30** ..... Star Allure  
**8.00** ..... Shibuya Storm  
**8.30** ..... Head Of State  
**9.00** ..... San Francisco Bay

■TIC-TAC: Left-handed undulating course of 1m 4f, 3f run-in, races up to 7f are run on the straight course. ■DRAW: Little effect. ■LEADING TRAINERS (2019-2024): A Watson 61-325, A Carroll 58-513, R Hannan 57-485, G & J Moore 53-416. THIS SEASON: A Carroll 10, A Watson 6, J Williams 5. ■TOP JOCKEYS (2019-2024): D Keenan 38-354, G Rooke 36-364, W Carson 34-455, P Bradley 22-201. THIS SEASON: G Rooke 6, P Bradley 6, J Haynes 4. ■LONGEST TRAVELLER: Sense Of Spirit (8.00) trip of 518 miles. ■FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OP: Golden Keeper (7.00). ■LIVE ON SKY SPORTS RACING

**8.30** CLASSIFIED STAKES (6); winner £2,983; 1m (10 runners)  
 1 (3) 3289 ARLO'S SUNSHINE 14 (D) J Long 7-9-12 ..... G Rooke  
 2 (2) 300 GONZAGA 269 J Bennett 5-9-12 ..... L Coughlan (3)  
 3 (10) 9078 HEAD OF STATE 33 (H\*) R Ingram 4-9-12 P Bradley  
 4 (7) 99-0 KODIAC BRAVE 14 (B) C Benton 6-9-12 R Ingram (3)  
 5 (2) 0881 ANOTHER JACK 23 (H) K Jewell 5-9-2 ..... J Haynes  
 6 (1) 6-44 BRINTON 18 J Portman 3-9-2 ..... O Tubb (7)  
 7 (6) 6932 FORGOTTEN TREASURE 6 W Knight 3-9-2 N Callan  
 8 (9) 2133 RUN JOY RUN 107 (D) A West 3-9-2 A Bond (7)  
 9 (4) 7-60 RUNNING DEAL 47 J Portman 3-9-2 ..... W Cox  
 10 (5) -081 WEDGEWOOD SAPHIRE 19 A Carroll 3-9-2 W Carson  
 Another Jack ●99, Forgotten Treasure 96, Arlo's Sunshine 94  
 15-8 Forgotten Treasure, 5-2 Run Joy Run, 9-2 Another Jack, 13-2 Brinton, 10 Running Deal, 12 Wedgewood Sapphire

**9.00** HANDICAP (6); winner £2,983; 6f (9 runners)  
 1 (8) 4631 FIVE WINDS 10 (D) J Jones 4-9-11 ..... N Callan  
 2 (3) TWITCH (B\*) C Bennett 6-9-9 ..... R Ingram (3)  
 3 (9) 7060 HALLOWED TIME 15 (B) M Loughnane 6-9-9 D Keenan  
 4 (1) 7-44 SAN FRANCISCO BAY 37 (P,CD) R Candy 5-9-7 T Greatrex  
 5 (5) -463 SO SLEEPY 15 (T) W Muir & C Grassick 4-9-7 S Bowen (5)  
 6 (6) 6291 ARLECCHINO'S GIFT 37 (CD) M Usher 5-9-3 G Rooke  
 7 (6) 4-74 LAHINA BAY 15 (D) R Cook & J Bridger 4-9-2 E Jones (7)  
 8 (3) 7582 LILKIAN 25 (PD) D Holland 7-9-11 ..... L Wright (5)  
 9 (4) 3578 COAST 18 S Dixon 5-8-4 ..... J Haynes  
 Five Winds ●99, Lilkian 98, Arlecchino's Gift 97  
 15-8 Five Winds, 4 Arlecchino's Gift, Lilkian, 8 So Sleepy, 12 San Francisco Bay, Coast, Lahina Bay, 16 Hallowed Time, 20 Twitch



# Doyle on the boil

**JAMES DOYLE** and his new employers **Watnhan** have already had plenty to smile about at Ascot.

Yet their top jockeys reckon their best chance is yet to be unleashed. Big money buy **Haatem** goes in today's Jersey and his Guineas form has been boosted with stablemate Rosallion winning the St James's Palace Stakes on Tuesday. But the bookies still

make Aidan O'Brien's River Tiber their 7-4 favourite with Haatem available at 3-1.

Doyle (left) said: "We've had a great week and it's great for British racing. "I suppose the pressure was on but it's good to see people investing in our sport getting something out of it. "The two-year-olds have gone very well and I said before racing got

going that Haatem was probably our best chance. "Nothing has changed my mind about that.

"Yes, dropping to seven might not be ideal instead of a mile but he has bundles of class and his form is rock-solid." Watnhan have had three winners this week thanks to Leovanni's Queen Mary success, Shareholder's win in the Norfolk and improving sprinter English Oak in the Buckingham Palace.

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# Favourite

**2-1**

SINCE England fans adopted Hey Jude as an ode to Jude Bellingham, Coral have slashed odds on The Beatles' hit going to No1 in the finals from 8-1 to 2-1.

**11-2**

THREE or more goals in each of today's three Euro 2024 matches has been boosted to a 11-2 shot by Paddy Power.

Turkey v  
Portugal draw  
BTTS tonight

**4-1****BETGOODWIN**

Turkey v  
Portugal

5pm, ITV1 &amp; talkSPORT

ONE thing I don't expect is Turkey to be stuffed today. They had 22 shots in the 3-1 win over Georgia and have quality in Arda Guler. Portugal were jaded in beating the Czechs so take the draw at 7-2 and Kenan Yildiz (left) to score anytime at 21-4 with Unibet. FORECAST: 2-2

Belgium to  
beat Romania  
4-0 tonight

**16-1****BETGOODWIN**

Belgium v  
Romania

8pm, ITV1 &amp; talkSPORT

IT'S D-Day for Belgium's Golden Generation just 90 minutes into the Euros. Surely a side with De Bruyne, Lukaku and Doku can't keep being this bad. So a statement win and an opener by Leandro Trossard (left) at 7-1 with Betway are the selections. FORECAST: 4-0

# TA-TARTAN ARMY

A Mac to score,  
Scots to draw  
...and go out

AS any Scotland fan will tell you: "It's the hope that kills you."

Eight World Cups and four Euros and not a knockout game to their name. Home before the postcards.

And they've had some sides, some chances.

In the 1978 World Cup, Archie Gemmill (inset) scored one of the greatest goals ever, as they beat runners-up Holland 3-2 in the group stage.

But a team with Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness went home early on goal difference.

David Narey's screamer put them 1-0 up against Brazil in the 1982 World Cup but they lost 4-1 and went out on goal difference again.

Less glorious Euro stories abound but all with the same old, familiar ending.

The one thing you can say about this Scotland team, though, is at least

By **KEVIN DUNNE**



they're getting better at this tournament. Which is more than you can say for some.

Still, they were coming off a fairly low base after that nightmare 5-1 defeat in Munich against the German hosts on opening night.

The only way from there was up and Wednesday's 1-1 draw with the Swiss once more beckoned the Scots into the world of dreams – a last-16 game.

Victory against pointless Hungary in Stuttgart tomorrow is highly likely to deliver it, as at least one of the best third-place sides.

And Coral have cut Steve Clarke and his men to do just that.

The firm's John Hill said: "It was a much better performance against the Swiss than they showed against Germany."

"They're now 6-4 to qualify for the last 16 – and I fancy them to beat Hungary."

"They're the slight underdogs at 8-5 but Scotland will fancy their chances."

William Hills' Lee Phelps is

a little less optimistic about Scotland's chances. He said: "If you'd told the Tartan Army they'd still go through after that 5-1 defeat, they'd probably think you'd had a few!"

"Scotland are 12 places below Hungary in the Fifa rankings, and 7-5 underdogs."

"The value really is in Hungary to qualify from the group at 5-2."

BetGoodwin go a boosted 7-2 for those who've given up on the dream and fancy a Germany-Hungary double tomorrow. And that might have some legs.

Before the Euros, the Magyars had lost only twice in 20 games, with scalps including a 4-0 win over England at Wembley.

But in what promises to be a titanic battle, I predict they both go down with a draw at a best-priced 16-5 with Hills doing the damage.

If you know your history, you'll know only players with surnames starting with "Mc" have ever scored for Scotland at the Euros – McStay, McClair and McAllister in 1992, McCoist in 1996, McGregor in 2020 and McTominay in 2024.

On that basis, John McGinn is the first-scorer selection at 9-1 with bet365.

I don't think they'll do it but I wish them McGinn's luck.

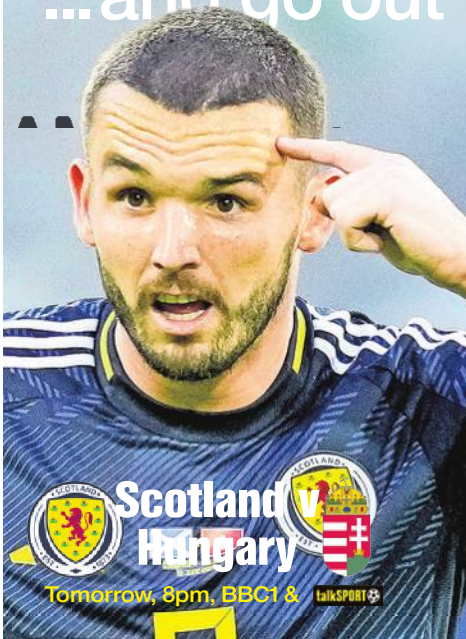
**KEV'S OFF TO A FLIER**

SUNSPORT football tipster Kevin Dunne got out of the traps fast at Euro 2024, landing a 4-1 four-fold on the opening weekend – with Italy, England, Netherlands and France all obliging. And he weighed in with Italy to beat Albania 2-1 at 6-1 and 1-1 between Slovenia and Denmark at 6-1.

# THE DARK HORSE BET

**18-1**

IF Scotland are to beat history and qualify for the knockout stages of a major tournament for the first time, it's unlikely to be straightforward. BetVictor go a best-priced 11-1 that Steve Clarke (below) and Co win from behind tomorrow.



Scotland v  
Hungary

Tomorrow, 8pm, BBC1 &amp; talkSPORT

Scotland v  
Hungary draw  
BTTS tomorrow

**3-1****BETGOODWIN**

Switzerland  
v Germany

Tomorrow, 8pm, BBC2 &amp; talkSPORT

IT will be no surprise if Germany rotate but the Swiss have work to do.

Encouragingly, they have not lost in a final group game since Euro 2004.

Brighton's Deniz Undav (right) hit 18 goals on loan at Stuttgart. He's 11-2 with Sky Bet to net first.

FORECAST: 2-2



Germany and  
Switzerland 2-2  
draw tomorrow

**14-1****BETGOODWIN**

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Saturday, June 22, 2024



# Masked stinger

## A LES BLEUS BLANK AS MBAPPE NURSES NOSE AND OFFSIDE SAVES 'EM



**STRIKER PLIGHT** . . . Mbappe is masked for the warm-up but was an unused sub and not risked by France after his broken nose

From **JACK ROSSER**

**FRANCE failed to sniff out a winner over Holland without broken nose superstar Kylian Mbappe.**

Real Madrid's new signing was named on the bench after his horror facial injury in Monday's 1-0 win over Austria.

But Mbappe, who wore a plain black protective mask, sat on the sidelines for the full 90 minutes of the Group D stalemate in Leipzig.

It was the first goalless draw at the Euros in 51 games dating back to England versus Scotland at the last finals.

Mbappe watched on as France were frustrated by a series of missed chances, with two from stand-in skipper Antoine Griez-

Holland.....	0
France.....	0

mann. But Les Bleus got a let-off when Xavi Simons (right) had his effort disallowed by the English officials in the second half.

Denzel Dumfries was in an offside position and deemed to impede France keeper Mike Maignan after a check by VAR Stuart Attwell of two minutes and 44 seconds.

The draw meant Poland became the first team to be knocked out of Euro 2024.

Austria beat the Poles 3-1 – their second loss.

**Match report — Pages 2-3**



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goals EURO 2024 GROUP B



TEARY AZZURRI ... Spain celebrate Calafiori's own goal

# Luis' lads El bent on glory

THE message from Spain was one nobody could ignore.

But just in case their rivals had missed it, coach Luis de la Fuente decided to get out his foghorn.

The difference on paper against Italy on Thursday was a single goal – put through his own net by Riccardo Calafiori. But Azzurri boss Luciano Spalletti conceded the gap was actually a “gulf” – in quality, class, mentality and desire.

Confident – or arguably smug – De la Fuente hailed his side's “complete performance” in the 1-0 Group B win and warned:

“I will never tire of promoting Spanish football.

“We're the best in the world. Look at the quality of the players in this squad.

“I saw the potential we have, the ability to make light of a top-class side.

“Perhaps it seemed Italy played badly but that was

From MARTIN LIPTON

because we played so well. And I know we can get better. This team does not have any ceiling. “The sky is the limit and there is huge room for improvement.

“They are all grafters and will do exactly what we ask of them.

“I'm confident they will keep working until they achieve their dreams.”

To be fair to De la Fuente (left), he had reason for his confidence as they became the first side to clinch their group's top spot.

And he seems more and more convinced that Spain will be crowned European champions for a fourth time.

He added: “I like that people are starting to say we could win it.

“But we have to stay relaxed and calm. We have individual talent but that has to serve the team ethic to win games.”



# Croats to get spicy Donna

ITALY skipper Gianluigi Donnarumma wants to take out his “anger” on Croatia to ensure the Euro kings do not limp out at the group stage.

The Azzurri were outplayed by Spain in a 1-0 defeat on Thursday but a point against the Croats on Monday should see them progress and on course for a potential last-eight clash with England.

Only some fine saves by Paris Saint-Germain keeper Donnarumma (right) stopped Spain running riot.

But he said: “I don't care about my saves, I hoped for a different result and a different performance.

“We missed too many easy passes and put in too little quality and, if you miss that much, the opponents punish you.

“We are angry but we need to funnel that and

From MARTIN LIPTON

take it into the Croatia game. We still have our destiny in our hands.”

Italy boss Luciano Spalletti blasted his team's display against Spain.

He said: “We couldn't think as quickly as them or react. It was the heart of the problem.

“We struggled with their counter press, made passing errors and were never in the game.

“I'm not going to beat around the bush. We were too frantic and just tried to launch it, so had no fluidity and we made simple mistakes.”

Italian winger Andrea Cambiaso, a half-time sub, added: “They had more pace and were more intelligent and it was decisive.

“So we have to recover our energy and play better against Croatia.”



# A Dutch



From JACK ROSSER in Leipzig

## STOCKLEY PARK has gone on tour for the summer and brought Premier League chaos to the Euros.

After everybody had praised officials at this tournament for their use of VAR... the English arrived.

You can argue the toss on whether the trio of ref Anthony Taylor, linesman Adam Nunn and VAR Stuart Attwell were right to rule out what would have been a winner for Holland's Xavi Simons.

But the clear fact is it should not take nearly three agonising minutes to work out if an offside player is getting in the way of a ball or not.

Well done, lads. Good process.

The dithering sucked the life out of a game that, while goalless, had bubbled nicely with chances at either end – and had been well officiated, allowed to breathe, to that point. Chances that, had

Holland.....	0
France.....	0

they been taken, would have seen France win by a mile.

But that was their problem. The masked man, Kylian Mbappe, never came close to getting on.

France had feared Mbappe would be able to play no role in their biggest game of the group stages. But Real Madrid's newest superstar recovered in time to be named on the bench – although his inclusion appeared to be simply mind games from boss Didier Deschamps.

Mbappe took his seat on the bench and did not move from it once – not even to warm up.

Aurelien Tchouameni, who has recovered from a foot injury, came into the side with Antoine Griezmann pushed into a more

advanced role. The France end of the Red Bull Arena was dotted with supporters wearing home-made versions of Mbappe's mask, bearing the Tricolore flag, his initials and the No10.

Ronald Koeman had demanded his Holland side show more bravery on the ball and brought in Jeremie Frimpong to add some more firepower to his forward line. He began with Wout Weghorst on the bench despite his winner last time out.

Bayer Leverkusen winger Frimpong made an instant impact, driving beyond the French defence in the opening minute and forcing Mike Maigman to tip around the post.

There were fears that, having both got an opening-day win in Group D, this could be a tame contest between two former winners.

But just minutes after Frimpong's early effort, Bart Verbruggen was scrambling to push Griezmann's dipping effort over his bar. The Dutch had the greater backing in Leipzig and made a more threatening



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HOLLAND	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
FRANCE	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
AUSTRIA	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
POLAND	2	0	2	2	5	0	0

# GROUP D

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*William* **HILL**

# unlucky

## 'WINNER' RULED OUT



VAR-CICAL . . . Dutch ace Simons beats France keeper Maignan but his effort was controversially disallowed

## MARK HALSEY

### The whistleblower



OFF . . . Dumfries was judged to be blocking Maignan

## VAR'S IN A RIGHT STU

ENGLISH VAR officials . . . here we go again. Stuart Attwell took far too long to make a call on Xavi Simons' strike and he got it wrong by sticking with the on-field decision. It was a 'good' goal because Denzel Dumfries should not have been adjudged offside. Holland's Dumfries did not affect the line of vision for France keeper Mike Maignan, who made no attempt to save a shot he could not have reached. It means wing-back Dumfries was not involved in 'active' play. The VAR decision-making had been so slick in Germany up until last night. But with VAR Attwell, who should have sent English referee Anthony Taylor (above) to the pitchside monitor, we had the slowest decision of Euro 2024 so far — which took just under three minutes.



start, but France should have been ahead after 12 minutes.

Griezmann said ahead of the game that he wanted more touches of the ball — something he may have been regretting after dropping an absolute clanger.

Marcus Thuram played Adrien Rabiot clean through with a delightful backheel.

Instead of slotting home, the midfielder surprisingly prodded the ball left to Griezmann, who appeared surprised by the decision and instead of tapping into an empty net collapsed in a heap.

The Atletico Madrid man had the chance to make amends moments later when N'Golo Kante, superb once more, squared to him in the box but the shot was wide.

Both sides were at the same time wonderful and wasteful. Some superb breaks were sparked by sloppy play on the ball from those in orange and in white.

It was making for a fine encounter. Griezmann, captain for the night in Mbappe's absence, was at fault on both

sides. He wasted chances and gifted possession but was at the heart of most France openings, heading into Verbruggen's hands from Rabiot's cross just before the interval.

For all the chances created, France appeared to be lacking the efficient cutting edge Mbappe always carries.

They may have won the opener with an own-goal but it was their captain's work which forced it.

The profligacy continued after the restart, Rabiot scooping an effort into the sky from Ousmane Dembele's whipped cross before Thuram dragged one wide.

At least the French chances were still flowing. The Dutch struggled to get out of their own half for most of the second half.

France were getting closer. Tchouameni headed narrowly over from Dembele's corner and Griezmann should have scored again, fluffing his lines from yards out once more having been teed up by Kante.

Dembele then sent one whistling over the bar. It looked as if Holland had

punished all those wasted chances when Simons smashed home, though after an interminably long VAR break the goal was ruled out for offside against Denzel Dumfries, who had been blocking Maignan from diving to stop the ball.

Just to rub it in for Simons, who had a disappointing first game, he was withdrawn once the decision had been confirmed.

Deschamps made his changes but still Mbappe stayed fixed to his seat as Olivier Giroud and Kingsley Coman were sent on. But the game never really got going after the disallowed goal.

It is a result which really harms neither nation in their pursuit of qualification to the knockouts. The only real dent is on English officiating.

#### HOW THEY LINED UP

**HOLLAND:** Verbruggen, Ake, Van Dijk, De Vrij, Dumfries, Reijnders, Schouten (Wijnaldum 73), Gakpo, Simons (Veerman 73), Frimpong (Geertruida 73), Depay (Weghorst 79).  
**FRANCE:** Maignan, Hernandez, Saliba, Upamecano, Kounde, Rabiot, Tchouameni, Kante, Dembele (Coman 75), Griezmann, Thuram (Giroud 75).

MATCH STATS	
HOLLAND	FRANCE
8	15
4	3
37%	63%
397	658
351	609
12	20
3	6
13	8
1/0	0/0
MATCH TIME: 96m 20s	
BALL IN PLAY: 62m 13s	





EURO 2024



GROUP D



# That's Nauty!

## MARKO DUMMY HELPS TO KO LEW & CO

From TOM BARCLAY in Berlin

**ROBERT LEWANDOWSKI** was dumped out of the Euros – after being sold a dummy by fellow old-timer Marko Arnautovic.

It was a clever step-over from former West Ham striker Arnautovic, 35, that paved the way for Christoph Baumgartner's crucial strike to put Austria 2-1 up.

That was after Poland forward Krzysztof Piatek had chalked off Gernot Trauner's early opener before half-time here.

Arnautovic then killed the game off when converting a 78th-minute penalty after ex-Manchester United loanee Marcel Sabitzer had been tripped by keeper Wojciech Szczesny.

Legend Lewandowski, also 35 but only fit enough to be introduced on the hour, and his team-mates were then left sweating on Holland beating France to stay in the tournament.

But the goalless draw in Leipzig doomed the Poles to their third group-stage exit in four Euros as the first team out in Germany.

Austria chief Ralf Rangnick, meanwhile, had played a blinder, with two of his three changes from Monday's 1-0 opening defeat to France scoring

**Poland.....1**  
Piatek 30  
**Austria.....3**  
Trauner 9; Baumgartner 66; Arnautovic 78 (pen)

the goals. Trauner was one of two centre-back switches – with Kylian Mbappe nose-breaker Kevin Danso dropping out – while Arnautovic was drafted in up top.

It made quite the change from the last time he bossed a team in red, after that horror-show spell in interim charge at Old Trafford.

Here, you could see why Bayern Munich wanted him before they hired Vincent Kompany.

His opposite number, Michal Probiez, had been dealt a blow with Lewandowski's fitness news.

The Poland fans appeared to outnumber their Austrian counterparts three-to-one in the Olympiastadion and let off several flares during the national anthems.

This ground will host the final on July 14, not that England supporters will expect to be here watching.

Trauner provided the ideal start by heading in Philipp Mwene's super cross after nine minutes to send the

red army in the stands potty. David Alaba, Austria's best player but not in the squad due to injury, high-fived a team-mate on the sidelines in his unusual role of 'non-playing captain'.

Poland fluffed a chance to hit straight back when Nicola Zalewski blazed well over and Probiez was not a happy bunny.

The bald-headed coach was soon on the edge of his technical area going barney at his players.

On the half hour, he had his response.

A ball cut back across the box found its way to Southampton man Jan Bednarek near the penalty spot.

His initial effort was well blocked by Trauner but the rebound fell to Piatek, who kept his head to tuck into the corner from close range.

Close shots were traded as Sabitzer fired narrowly wide from distance, before Polish skipper Piotr Zielinski had a fine free-kick saved.

It was a case of cometh the hour, cometh the man as Lewandowski (inset) was introduced on 60 minutes for his 151st cap. His appearance

meant he joined former Arsenal stopper Szczesny as the only Polish players ever to play at six major tournaments.

The Barcelona forward was instantly booked for catching centre-back Philipp Lienhart with a stray elbow when battling for a high ball. Szczesny was soon picking his ball out of the net again after a clever second from Rangnick's side.

Arnautovic's clever dummy freed space for RB Leipzig star Baumgartner to pick his spot, before embracing Rangnick with a meaty celebratory hug.

Then with 12 minutes to go, the excellent Sabitzer raced in behind the defence and was taken out by Szczesny, who was booked.

And Arnautovic confidently fired home the spot-kick – in the end, that was that for Lewandowski and Co.

### HOW THEY LINED UP

**POLAND:** Szczesny, Kwiior, Dawidowicz, Bednarek, Zalewski, Piotrowski (Moder 46), Slisz (Grosicki 75), Zielinski (Urbanski 87), Frankowski, Buksa (Swiderski 60), Piatek (Lewandowski 60).

**AUSTRIA:** Pentz, Mwene (Prass 63), Lienhart, Trauner (Danso 59), Posch, Grillitsch (Wimmer 46), Seiwald, Sabitzer, Laimer, Baumgartner (Schmid 81), Arnautovic (Gregoritsch 81).



HUG ... Baumgartner celebrates with Rangnick

## Chris joy as Poles caught napping

From TOM BARCLAY

**AUSTRIA'S** Christoph Baumgartner revealed they were so worried about this crunch clash they could not even nap on Thursday.

Luckily, they caught Poland sleeping with an impressive 3-1 win, thanks to goals from Gernot Trauner, Baumgartner and Marko Arnautovic's penalty.

Had they lost, Ralf Rangnick's side were facing the nightmare scenario of a group-stage exit.

But now they go into Tuesday's final fixture against Holland with a shot of making the knock-out stage.

RB Leipzig star Baumgartner, 24, said: "Everybody is extremely happy."

"We couldn't even really do a good afternoon nap because there was so much stress and pressure."

"We are really relieved. We know we have some-

We could not sleep because of the stress

— BAUMGARTNER

thing in front of us, it's only starting."

Baumgartner praised boss Rangnick for keeping faith in him after he missed a big chance in the 1-0 loss to France.

He added: "You score in five matches in a row, then in the match where it really counts, you miss."

"The coach made it clear he believes in me. That gave me strength."

"I am extremely happy he is still here with us."

Ex-Manchester United loanee Marcel Sabitzer was excellent after the break, winning the penalty.

Rangnick, who had a nightmare spell as United interim chief in 2021-22, added: "Sabitzer is one of the players we really need."

"I said before the game this would be a play-off match. The team that wins it has everything in their own hands."

"Since I have been coach of Austria, I would say it was the most important match we've had."

**ROARSOME ...** Austria skipper Marko Arnautovic is congratulated by pals after his 78th-minute penalty sealed the win



MATCH STATS		
POLAND	V	AUSTRIA
15	SHOTS	15
3	SHOTS ON TARGET	9
47%	POSSESSION	53%
390	PASSES	446
312	COMPLETED PASSES	376
13	TOUCHES IN OPPOSITION BOX	24
4	CORNERS	3
15	FOULS CONCEDED	15
4/0	YELLOW/RED	2/0



	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	S
ROMANIA	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	
UKRAINE	2	1	0	1	2	4	3	
SLOVAKIA	2	1	0	1	2	2	3	
BELGIUM	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	



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# WE WON'T CHUK IN THE TOWEL

## Roman fightback after Zelensky call

MATCH STATS	
SLOVAKIA	UKRAINE
14	13
5	5
56%	44%
534	419
480	368
17	24
4	4
9	12
0/0	1/0



**SLO BURNER...**  
Yaremchuk pokes  
the ball past keeper  
Martin Dubravka to  
win it for Ukraine

**Slovakia.....1**

Schranz 17

**Ukraine.....2**

Shaparenko 54; Yaremchuk 80

From **JORDAN DAVIES**

**UKRAINE boss Sergei Rebrov admitted his players were too exhausted to celebrate after their emotional comeback win over Slovakia.**

After a dismal 3-0 capitulation to Romania in their Group E opener, the Ukrainians were up against it again after falling behind to Ivan Schranz's 17th-minute opener.

But, helped by an inspirational video message from Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelensky ahead of the game, they rallied in the second half to finally prove their mettle out in Germany.

Roman Yaremchuk's late winner nicked all three points and Rebrov hailed his side's fighting spirit.

He said: "My players don't have the energy to celebrate. They gave it their all."

"We have a very young team and they haven't played on this level before in these stadiums."

"Mentally, it is very hard but in football you can lose one game and you have to react very fast."

"We were concentrated and we showed a great spirit."

"They know who they are



representing – people back home who are fighting for their freedom. "We reacted and we deserved the three points."

As promised in the build-up, Rebrov made wholesale changes from their collapse to Romania.

The most intriguing came in goal as Anatoliy Trubin replaced Real Madrid's Andriy Lunin following his calamitous opening-day outing – and it eventually paid off.

Schranz – after his winning strike to down Belgium – netted again to rock Ukraine and put the Slovaks within touching distance of the Euros knockout rounds for only the second time in their history. But Mykola Shaparenko



**PRESIDENT AND CORRECT...**  
Zelensky talks to Ukraine (left) before Shaparenko levels and (right) Yaremchuk is hailed after winner



sparked a second-half turnaround in the 54th minute before substitute Yaremchuk stepped up with a crucial 80th-minute winner.

It was a goal that has shaken up an unpredictable Group E even further and silenced those doubters who felt Ukraine would find themselves being this tournament's whipping boys.

And the win has set up an edgy group finale against Belgium on Wednesday, while Slovakia must get a result against Romania.

Goalscorer Shaparenko added: "The first game was a big lesson and it allowed us to prepare for this match."

"Our mental strength was shown

on the pitch. I am very proud. When we equalised it gave us self-belief and inspiration."

The Slovaks will be praying that lightning does not strike twice – having also won their opening group clash at Euro 2020 only to be knocked out after back-to-back defeats.

Slovakia manager Francesco Calzona said: "I am happy with my team's performance."

"I am very proud but when we took the lead there was still a long way to go."

"We still want to make it to the knockout stages but we were up against a team who are like a top-ten team because of their personnel."

A few months ago it would be inconceivable for us to compete with a team like this.

"They had to win at all costs and we are still the Cinderella story of this group stage."

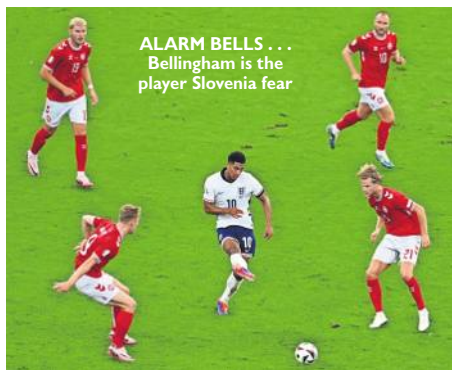
Slovakia also have an injury concern with defender David Hancko forced off while clutching his groin.

He is now a major doubt for the rest of the tournament.

### HOW THEY LINED UP

**SLOVAKIA:** Dubravka, Pekarik, Vavro, Skrinjar, Hancko (Suslov 67), Kucka, Lobotka, Duda (Benes 60), Schranz (Sauer 86), Bozzenik (Strellec 60), Haraslin (Obert 57).  
**UKRAINE:** Trubin, Tymchyk, Zabarnyi, Matviyenko, Zinchenko, Shaparenko (Talovierov 90), Brazhko (Sydoruk 85), Yarmolenko (Zubkov 67), Sudakov, Mudryk (Malinovskyi 85), Dovbyk (Yaremchuk 67).



**EURO 2024****GROUP C**

**ALARM BELLS . . .**  
Bellingham is the  
player Slovenia fear

# STOPPING JUDE IS TIMI'S TIP

**JUDE BELLINGHAM** is 'everywhere' and a complete player who has Slovenia on full alert.

That comes as some consolation for flagging England as they prepare for their third Group C game on Tuesday still waiting to get into gear.

But Slovenia midfielder Timi Elnik insists his country will fight for every inch of ground as they harbour dreams of reaching the last 16 of Euro 2024.

Former Derby midfielder Elnik said: "I don't really care about Jude Bellingham now.

"I will care about him when we play them and we are going to have to run after him.

"He is having an amazing time right now, one of the best seasons for a midfielder.

"If he is still a midfielder, he is everywhere right now. He is always dan-

gerous, always looking to get on the ball and score and affect the game.

"If a team is capable of stopping him, then you are doing a lot to stopping England altogether at the moment. For us, England is still far away.

"We need one or two days to recover, then get our heads right and keep our emotions under control.

"We are fighting on the pitch. We are showing that we are capable of good things and we are not going to give up.

"We know the big favourites of this group are waiting for us in the last game but we never say never.

"We will give it our all in the last game and see if it is enough to go through."

Elnik, 26, hit the post against Serbia but watched in agony as his country was denied a first-ever Euros win by a last-second equaliser in their second group game.

But he is backing star forward Benjamin Sesko — tracked by Chelsea and other top European teams before he signed a new

From **ANDREW DILLON**

RB Leipzig contract this month — to show his true value.

Sesko, 21, missed a golden opportunity to score his first Euros goal.

Elnik said: "He is losing a lot of energy in defence. We need him in defence so he is sacrificing his energy for us. We are not Leipzig attacking 70 per cent of the time.

"He doesn't care if he scores, he just wants Slovenia to win. He has so much potential. And he will be the main guy.

"Even if it had been the other way around and we had equalised, the emotions would be a bit better in the changing room.

"But the disappointment will last one day and then it is full focus towards England.

"Slovenia is playing in the Euros after 24 years and we are close to winning a game. We must enjoy all of it.

"It's not the end of the world that we conceded in the last second.

"Sometimes you score in the last second and sometimes you concede."



**FLAT OUT . . .** Elnik on the deck against Serbia

# SESKO

## Benjamin showing

**EXCLUSIVE**  
From **JORDAN DAVIES**  
in Wuppertal

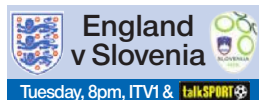
**HE is the latest Bundesliga star being chased by Premier League giants.**

Once upon a time it was Erling Haaland. Now Benjamin Sesko is the name on everyone's lips.

The RB Leipzig striker is the supreme talent on the big boys' transfer wish lists in England.

Arsenal and Chelsea were both hopeful of luring the 21-year-old to London this summer, ready to trigger an appealing £55million release clause.

But it says a lot about Sesko's mindset and maturity that ten days ago he instead decided to sign a new long-term deal with Leipzig. There



is a composure and an aura around the Slovenian — who bagged 18 goals last season — which is hard to ignore.

A self-confidence that his time in the Prem spotlight will come — just not yet.

Not that the spotlight has avoided his towering 6ft 5in frame in Germany during the Euros, showing glimpses of why he is such a wanted man.

As such, he is embracing Slovenia's Group C showdown with England on Tuesday, a chance to pit himself against players he may well call teammates before too long.

Speaking exclusively to Sun Sport at Slovenia's training camp, he said: "With the pressure, I put it on the bright

side. It's a good kind of pressure. If you have the opportunity where people can talk about you, it doesn't matter if it's good or bad.

"It means there's something about you and it means I have done something good in the past and people are talking about it.

"I always put it on the bright side and I am happy to be a part of this.

"It's definitely a good chance for me to play in this type of tournament.

"I'm really proud of myself to be a part of the team and to be here for the experience and the self-growth.

"It's really important for me and for my career generally.

"It's been an amazing time and I am looking forward to more of this."



**LEIPS AND BOUNDS . . .**  
Sesko salutes a goal for Leipzig





5

SLOVENIA are still without a win in five Euros finals matches (D4 L1) — Thursday's game against Serbia was only the second time they have led, also doing so against Yugoslavia in 2000 (D3-3 after being 3-0 up).

6

ENGLAND have never lost in six games against Slovenia (W5 D1) — only against Greece and Denmark (both seven) have Slovenia played more matches without ever winning a single game.

in association with

**William HILL**

# FEVER!

## why Prem clubs want him

**BIG BEN . . . towering striker**  
Sesko is the poster boy of Slovenian football after his shining displays (below)

Haaland furthered his footballing education at Red Bull Salzburg.

And Slovenian journalists — who have covered Sesko's journey from the age of 15, when he left his home village of Radece to join the same club in 2019 — are in awe of this lad.

They admit they have never seen or met anyone like him — a unique presence matched with an eye-catching ability.

Having scored 11 times in 31 caps, he is already tipped to be Slovenia's greatest-ever product.

It is expected he will soon eclipse Zlatko Zahovic's national goalscoring record of 35.

Sesko, who joined Leipzig last summer, holds the country's footballing hopes on his enormous shoulders.

He added: "It's good that I can be that. We have to know that I am still young and there will be plenty more games, tournaments, so I

am always going to be there for the team. Sometimes I am lucky, sometimes I am not.

"It is just about the position I am in at present. It's my status. I always help my team as much as I can and do my best."

Sesko is yet to find the net at his first major tournament, but came agonisingly close in Slovenia's opening 1-1 draw with Denmark, smacking a post from range late on.

Two points from their two games so far sees Slovenia needing an unlikely result against the Three Lions to reach the last 16 in their first Euros campaign for 24 years.

Sesko's impressive conviction shines through again when asked what he thinks of England's stuttering start in the Euros and whether Slovenia could catch them cold.

He explained: "Yeah, we definitely can. They know that we have played two great games. They're not at their best. They are still doing great, of

course. But now is the best opportunity to play against them and show them the best we can do. I am sure we are going to shine."

Sesko has watched clips of England skipper and Bayern Munich man Harry Kane on his journey to becoming a leading European striker — not that he believes they are one of the same, having already sized him up in the Bundesliga this term.

He said: "Every single season Kane scores plenty of goals and he is a great striker."

"He is a different type to me but still the position and what a striker needs."

"He is a great example to learn from."

"It's amazing that I am going to play against him and try to copy him in a couple of positions."

"I watch him, I watch a lot of strikers and try to learn from them and hope to learn from him, too."

**SCARE . . .**  
Pavlovic collapsed at half-time of Slovenia clash



## Pav's heat KO scare

**CENTRE-BACK** Strahinja Pavlovic suffered a frightening collapse during Serbia's draining clash with Slovenia.

Boss Dragan Stojkovic told how the 23-year-old crumbled due to heat exhaustion at half-time — but then amazingly recovered enough to finish the gripping 1-1 draw.

Serbia equalised with the last action of the Group C game to get their first point of Euro 2024.

Stojkovic said: "Pavlovic collapsed, we brought him back to life, he was fine, but he toiled a bit."

"We also heard the Slovenians going back to the changing rooms commenting 'it's so hot, we're going to collapse'."

Two other Serbs were taken ill but carried on as the country's controversial

From **ANDREW DILLON**

campaign rumbles on. Uefa will investigate objects being thrown at opposition players by Serbia fans in Munich.

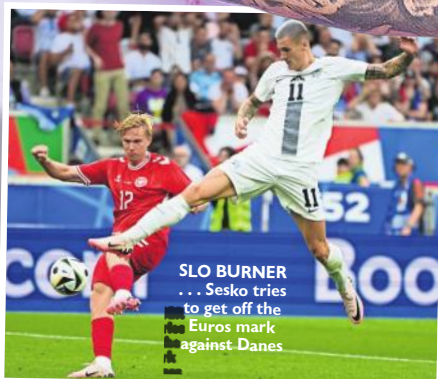
Serbian FA chiefs also briefly threatened to pull out of the tournament over offensive chanting aimed at them by rival Croatia and Albania fans.

Stojkovic said: "We can be proud of the boys for wanting to fight and that morale is at a high level."

"If you add to that, the game was played at 3pm and that three players collapsed at half-time, then you know how difficult it was to come back."

Serbia face Denmark on Tuesday and Stojkovic said: "There's no giving up. We will give our last blood to reach the goal."

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
<b>GROUP C</b>							
<b>ENGLAND</b>	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
<b>DENMARK</b>	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
<b>SLOVENIA</b>	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
<b>SERBIA</b>	2	0	1	1	1	2	1



**SLO BURNER**  
... Sesko tries to get off the Euros mark against Danes

	GAMES	GOALS
2019-23 <b>Red Bull Salzburg</b>	79	29
2019-21 <b>FC Liefering (loan)</b>	44	22
2023- <b>Red Bull Leipzig</b>	42	18
2021- <b>Slovenia</b>	31	11

## INITIALLY SPEAKING

### TEN ENGLAND PLAYERS' SURNAMES BEGINNING WITH 'W' UNDER SOUTHGATE

CAN you work out the ten England players with surnames starting with the letter 'W' who have been selected by Gareth Southgate since 2016... just by their initials? Simply identify them and then answer the following question and send it to us by Thursday (at noon) and you could be a winner!

**Q:** Of the 10 players below who has scored the most goals under Gareth Southgate (3)?

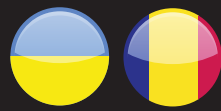
Let us know the number by Thursday at noon and send your entry to [sportsquiz-sm@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:sportsquiz-sm@the-sun.co.uk) for a chance to win £50. (Winner's bank details will be required).

**CAPS UNDER SOUTHGATE**

K		W								64
O		W								12
J		W								11
H		W								10
C		W								9
D		W								8
B		W								4
T		W								3
K		W								2
A		W								1

**Week 47 winner:** Karen Howe, Huddersfield. **Last week's answer:** Joleon Lescott. **ENGLAND'S OPENING SCORERS AT LAST 10 EUROS:** Bobby Charlton, Ray Wilkins, Bryan Robson, David Platt, Alan Shearer, Paul Scholes, Frank Lampard, Joleon Lescott, Eric Dier, Raheem Sterling



**EURO 2024****GROUP E**

# THE ERA OF OUR WAYS

## Heat on KDB & Co



BELGIAN FRIED? LAST SEVEN FINALS			
Year	Ave age	Over 30s	Position
2014	26	1	QF
2016	26.4	3	QF
2018	27.6	7	SF
2020	29.1	10	QF
2022	27.8	11	GS
2024	26.9	9	TBC

From **MARTIN LIPTON**

### **PRESSURE is heaped upon the remaining members of Belgium's Golden Generation.**

And defeat in Cologne tonight could bring the end of a decade in which the country dared to dream.

After losing their opener 1-0 to Slovakia, Domenico Tedesco's side do not need telling they are on the precipice of a second successive group-phase exit, following their embarrassing departure from Qatar.

Tedesco wanted to shake up the squad he had inherited from Roberto Martinez, getting rid of some of those accused of damaging internal spirit.

But he then opted against including the world's best keeper, Thibaut Courtois, in his squad — a call made even harder to comprehend by the Real Madrid man's Champions League final display.

While Courtois is sailing around the Sardinian coast, replacement Koen Casteels copped the flak for Slovakia's goal in Frankfurt as he spilled a close-range strike that was then smashed home on the volley by Ivan Schranz.

Yet it was the failings at the other end, by a host of faces very familiar to Prem fans, that really cost Belgium dear.

Romelu Lukaku missed five chances, Leandro Trossard chipped over a vacant goal, Jeremy Doku's bad error led to Slovakia cashing in and while Kevin De Bruyne prompted and probed, nothing came off.

Tedesco revealed: "Romelu and I spoke alone after the last training session. We always speak because he is one of the main players, not just because he missed some chances."

"He has confidence. He just needs to score one goal. He did get two but they were ruled out by VAR. You can't expect him to score six goals from six chances."

It all conspired to leave Belgium, top of the Fifa rankings for almost four years until 2022, facing a brutal reality if they flop again this evening.

Ukraine's comeback win over Slovakia opened the door a touch more but it will be slammed in their faces if Belgium cannot get back to winning ways.

Tedesco, forced to leave experienced defender Axel Witsel at their Ludwigsburg base ahead of an MRI scan on his groin problem today, insisted: "We never think about losing, only about winning."

"We want to achieve something important and, if we get past the group stage, I have a good feeling."

"Watching the game back, I saw what I thought initially — that we played really well."

"We had two big chances in the first five minutes and it would have been easier. We stuck to the

PROBED...  
yet Kevin De  
Bruyne has  
yet to spark



plan and so I don't want to change anything in our minds. We have to play the same way.

"This is our chance to make everything better, even if it will not be any easier."

Leicester's Wout Faes added: "If we win then everything is in our hands and positive, and this has to be our approach."

"We have to win both matches but things don't always go as you hope."

"Against Slovakia we had enough chances but there is a lot to improve. We will be ready."

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**3**

BELGIUM have failed to score in three consecutive matches at major finals for the first time — they have had 42 shots (11 on target) across those three games.

**5**

BELGIUM and Romania have five wins apiece in their all-time meetings (D2) — but the Belgians have only won one of the last five (D1 L3), a 2-1 friendly result in November 2011.

**BOLD GOLD**  
... Lukaku, Doku and Vertonghen have it all to do — and without injured Witsel (second left)



# Dragusing in chants encounter



**DRAG RACING ...**  
Dragusin beats his Ukrainian markers

## HE FIRES UP FANS

**RADU DRAGUSIN has pledged to get Romania's fans singing again — and help send Belgium nearer the Euro 2024 brink.**

**From MARTIN LIPTON**

The Spurs defender was heralded by Romanian supporters after the stunning 3-0 win over Ukraine in Munich with a specialised chant in his honour.

Today he will face Romelu Lukaku, Kevin de Bruyne and the rest of Domenico Tedesco's Red Devils in Cologne, knowing victory will confirm Romania's last-16 spot and leave Belgium in crisis mode after their shock defeat to Slovakia.

Dragusin, 22, said: "We're aware that — with all due respect to Ukraine — Belgium is a different team and full of players who are more valuable."

"When you look at their team you can see they are players of the biggest calibre."

"But we've played against teams that were superior to us on paper and still won."

"We will have the same mentality and even higher confidence and we will want to do well on the pitch."

"The way the fans responded to me after the first game shows me that people are confident in me and appreciate what I do."

"I have heard people saying that I played in Italy and now for Spurs and that I have 'made it'."

"But I have not fully made it as I want to play more and help all of my teams. Playing for my national

team is an incredible honour. It's a thing of pride and I don't expect anything different against Belgium."

"There will be all the same enthusiasm, energy and passion from the fans."

"I know a lot of people back home will be watching and we want to make them happy and proud."

"That is a pressure but we've had pressure from the very beginning and always played with it."

"That comes with the territory of playing for the Romania national team. It's impossible not to have it."

"But we coped with that when we qualified and won the first game so everybody expects a win. We are very confident."

Romania boss Edward Iordanescu will be a national hero if his side confirm their place in the knock-out phase — especially if they do so as Group E winners.

He said: "We want to inspire the country and every Romanian with another performance like the one we had against Ukraine."

"This would be history and a fantastic example of what sport can mean. I know the whole country is behind us."

"Belgium are ranked No3 in the world and have great players."

"But they really need to get a result in this match and we are fully ready for this challenge and an incredible experience."

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# goals EURO 2024

5

TODAY is the first ever meeting between Georgia and Czech Republic — the Czechs have won five of their last six matches when facing an opponent for the first time, although the exception was in their last such game when they lost 2-1 to Kosovo in September 2019.



## GEORGIA v CZECH REP, 2pm

LIKELY LINE-UPS



### TEAM NEWS

GEORGIA should be unchanged from their opener although Luka Lochoshvili is pushing for a start in defence.

### ONE TO WATCH

STRIKER Georges Mikautadze has already written himself into the history books with Georgia's first finals goal.



### TEAM NEWS

MOJMIL CHYTIL (left) is set to get the nod in attack in place of Jan Kuchta, with Antonín Barák also ready to start in midfield.

### ONE TO WATCH

FIORENTINA midfielder Antonín Barák has an eye for goal from distance — a useful skill based on the tournament so far.



## Wish you were Herr?



**EMOTIONAL** Mirlind Daku said 'sorry' for using a megaphone to lead Albania fans' chants about Balkan rivals North Macedonia after the draw with Croatia. The striker (above), who faces a Uefa probe, said: "Apologising is manly. Like any footballer, in those moments emotions are on another level."

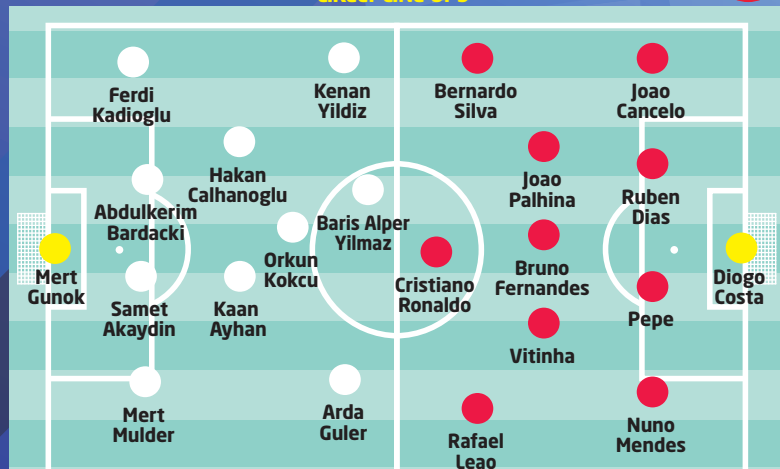


**CHRISTMAS** came early for Austria as they finally got their Euro 2024 campaign up and running with their 3-1 Group D win against Poland. Some crazy supporters even celebrated the occasion by dressing up as Santa Claus despite the hot weather in Berlin. Yule bet they will be warming up for a last-16 spot now.



## TURKEY v PORTUGAL, 5pm

LIKELY LINE-UPS



### TEAM NEWS

BOSS Vincenzo Montella (left) will make a late decision on Real Madrid star Arda Guler, who has an unspecified niggle.

### ONE TO WATCH

ALTHOUGH Arda Guler's stunner stole the headlines, fellow 19-year-old Kenan Yildiz (right) was also really impressive.



### TEAM NEWS

ROBERTO MARTINEZ is expected to revert to a back four, with Joao Palhinha (left) in for Diogo Dalot to stiffen the midfield.

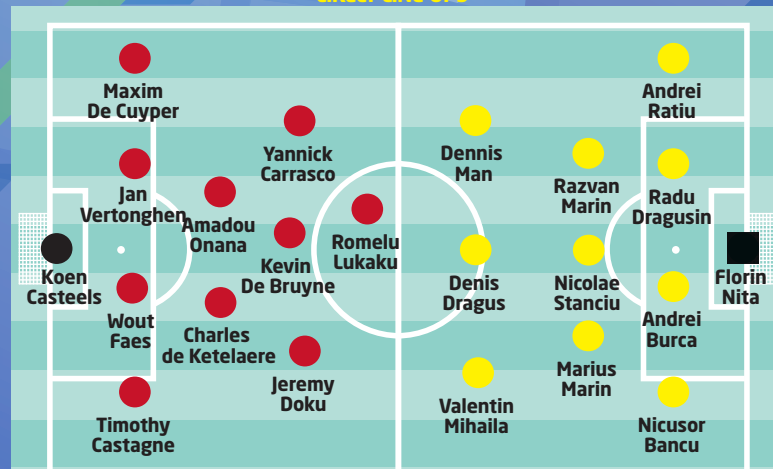
### ONE TO WATCH

AFTER a bright start against the Czechs, Rafael Leao (right) faded and is playing for his place with Diogo Jota waiting in the wings.



## BELGIUM v ROMANIA, 8pm

LIKELY LINE-UPS



### TEAM NEWS

AXEL WITSEL (left) could miss the rest of the tournament with a groin injury and Maxim De Cuyper is set to come in at left-back.

### ONE TO WATCH

FIVE misses and two chalked off against Slovakia means — still officially — Chelsea man Romelu Lukaku is in the line of fire.



### TEAM NEWS

VALENTIN MIHAILESCU (left) should come in on the left flank in place of Florinel Coman — the only expected change.

### ONE TO WATCH

MUCH-TRAVELLED skipper Nicolae Stanciu is now in the Saudi Pro League with Damac after spells in Belgium, Czech Republic and China.



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LATE drama in this last-eight tie as Croatia went ahead with a minute to play in extra time — but Semih Senturk levelled in the 122nd minute and Turkey prevailed on penalties to reach the semis. But what was the year?



ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

## ★ EURO STAR ★

THE EGO has landed! There were two goals in Euro 2004, including an audacious flick against Italy for this Swede.

He also scored two in the next two Euros — but those were the only tournament goals for a man who won eight domestic league titles in a row. But who is he?

Who am I?





# YOUR COMPLETE TOURNAMENT GUIDE

in association with

**William HILL**

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
GERMANY	2	2	0	0	+6	6
SWITZERLAND	2	1	1	0	+2	4
SCOTLAND	2	0	1	1	-4	1
HUNGARY	2	0	0	2	-4	0

GERMANY.....(3) 5	Wirtz 10; Musiala 19; Havertz 45 (pen); Falkberg 68; Can 90
SCOTLAND.....(0) 1	Rodriguez (og) 87
(MUNICH) MATCH TIME: 97m 14s. BALL IN PLAY: 51m 15s	
HUNGARY.....(0) 1	Varga 66
SWITZERLAND.....(2) 3	Deak 12; Aebischer 45; Embolo 90
(COLOGNE) MATCH TIME: 99m 4s. BALL IN PLAY: 54m 4s	
GERMANY.....(1) 2	Messia 22; Sandgren 67
HUNGARY.....(0) 0	
(STUTTGART) MATCH TIME: 96m 14s. BALL IN PLAY: 57m 11s	
SCOTLAND.....(1) 1	McIntyre 13
SWITZERLAND.....(1) 1	Shaqiri 26
(COLOGNE) MATCH TIME: 97m 11s. BALL IN PLAY: 49m 18s	

SWITZERLAND VS GERMANY	Frankfurt, Tomorrow, 8pm, BBC
SCOTLAND VS HUNGARY	Stuttgart, Tomorrow, 8pm, BBC

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
SPAIN	2	2	0	0	+4	6
ITALY	2	1	0	1	0	3
ALBANIA	2	0	1	1	-1	1
CROATIA	2	0	1	1	-3	1

SPAIN.....(3) 3	Morata 29; Inui 32; Carvajal 45
CROATIA.....(0) 0	
(BERLIN) MATCH TIME: 98m 4s. BALL IN PLAY: 58m 3s	
ITALY.....(2) 2	Bastoni 11; Barella 16
ALBANIA.....(1) 1	Bajrami 1
(DORTMUND) MATCH TIME: 98m 30s. BALL IN PLAY: 62m 40s	
CROATIA.....(0) 2	Kramaric 74; Gjasula (og) 76
ALBANIA.....(1) 2	Isak 11; Gjasula 90
(HAMBURG) MATCH TIME: 99m 51s. BALL IN PLAY: 61m 17s	
SPAIN.....(0) 1	Calafiori (og) 65
ITALY.....(0) 0	
(GELSENKIRCHEN) MATCH TIME: 98m 13s. BALL IN PLAY: 60m 21s	

ALBANIA VS SPAIN	Dusseldorf, June 24, 8pm, BBC
CROATIA VS ITALY	Leipzig, June 24, 8pm, BBC

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
ENGLAND	2	1	1	0	+1	4
DENMARK	2	0	2	0	0	2
SLOVENIA	2	0	2	0	0	2
SERBIA	2	0	1	1	-1	1


SLOVENIA.....(0) 1	Janca 77
DENMARK.....(1) 1	Eriksen 17
(STUTTGART) MATCH TIME: 95m 29s. BALL IN PLAY: 56m 24s	
SERBIA.....(0) 0	
ENGLAND.....(1) 1	Bellingham 13
(GELSENKIRCHEN) MATCH TIME: 96m 21s. BALL IN PLAY: 63m 56s	
SLOVENIA.....(0) 1	Karlenic 69
SERBIA.....(0) 1	Jovic 90
(MUNICH) MATCH TIME: 97m 31s. BALL IN PLAY: 57m 42s	
DENMARK.....(1) 1	Hjundum 34
ENGLAND.....(1) 1	Rane 18
(FRANKFURT) MATCH TIME: 94m 1s. BALL IN PLAY: 58m 53s	

ENGLAND VS SLOVENIA	Cologne, June 25, 8pm, ITV
DENMARK VS SERBIA	Munich, June 25, 8pm, ITV

GROUP

D






	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
HOLLAND	2	1	1	0	+1	4
FRANCE	2	1	1	0	+1	4
AUSTRIA	2	1	0	1	+1	3
POLAND	2	0	2	-3	0	0

POLAND.....(1) 1

Boke 16

HOLLAND.....(1) 2

Gakpo 28; Weghorst 83

(HAMBURG) MATCH TIME: 96m 22s. BALL IN PLAY: 56m 34s

AUSTRIA.....(0) 0

FRANCE.....(1) 1

Wendler (og) 38

(DUISSELDORF) MATCH TIME: 100m 12s. BALL IN PLAY: 58m 25s

POLAND.....(1) 1

Piatek 30

AUSTRIA.....(1) 3


Trummer 8; Baumgartner 66; Krastovic (pen) 70

(BERLIN) MATCH TIME: 95m 15s. BALL IN PLAY: 51m 35s


HOLLAND.....(0) 0

FRANCE.....(0) 0

(LEIPZIG) MATCH TIME: 96m 20s. BALL IN PLAY: 62m 12s




VS




HOLLAND

AUSTRIA

Berlin, June 25, 5pm, BBC



VS



FRANCE

POLAND

Dortmund, June 25, 5pm, BBC

GROUP E	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
ROMANIA	1	1	0	0	+3	3
UKRAINE	2	1	0	1	-2	3
SLOVAKIA	2	1	0	1	0	3
BELGIUM	1	0	0	1	-1	0

ROMANIA.....(1) 3	Stanciu 29; Marin 53; Dragus 57
UKRAINE.....(0) 0	
(MUNICH) MATCH TIME: 96m 3s. BALL IN PLAY: 55m 24s	
BELGIUM.....(0) 0	
SLOVAKIA.....(1) 1	Schranz 7
(FRANKFURT) MATCH TIME: 100m 35s. BALL IN PLAY: 55m 2s	
SLOVAKIA.....(1) 1	Schranz 17
UKRAINE.....(0) 2	Shaparenko 54; Yaremchuk 90
(DUISSELDORF) MATCH TIME: 96m 21s. BALL IN PLAY: 58m 0s	

BELGIUM VS ROMANIA	Cologne, Today, 8pm, ITV
SLOVAKIA VS ROMANIA	Frankfurt, June 26, 5pm, BBC
UKRAINE VS BELGIUM	Stuttgart, June 26, 5pm, BBC

GROUP F	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
TURKEY	1	1	0	0	+2	3
PORTUGAL	1	1	0	0	+1	3
CZECH REP	1	0	0	1	-1	0
GEORGIA	1	0	0	1	-2	0

TURKEY.....(1) 3	Mulder 25; Guler 65; Aktugoglu 90
GEORGIA.....(1) 1	Mikautadze 32
(DORTMUND) MATCH TIME: 98m 40s. BALL IN PLAY: 58m 35s	
PORTUGAL.....(0) 2	Brancos (og) 69; Conceicao 90
CZECH REP.....(0) 1	Proved 62
(LEIPZIG) MATCH TIME: 96m. BALL IN PLAY: 60m 18s	

GEORGIA VS CZECH REP	Hamburg, Today, 2pm, BBC
TURKEY VS PORTUGAL	Dortmund, Today, 5pm, ITV
GEORGIA VS PORTUGAL	Gelsenkirchen, June 26, 8pm, ITV
CZECH REP VS TURKEY	Hamburg, June 26, 8pm, ITV

GAME 4	SPAIN VS 3RD GROUP A/D/E/F	Cologne, June 30, 8pm
GAME 2	1ST GROUP A VS 2ND GROUP C	Dortmund, June 29, 8pm
GAME 6	1ST GROUP F VS 3RD GROUP A/B/C	Frankfurt, July 1, 8pm
GAME 5	2ND GROUP D VS 2ND GROUP E	Dusseldorf, July 1, 5pm

QUARTER-FINAL 1	WINNER GAME 4 VS WINNER GAME 2	Stuttgart, July 5, 5pm
QUARTER-FINAL 2	WINNER GAME 6 VS WINNER GAME 5	Hamburg, July 5, 8pm

SEMI-FINAL 1	WINNER QUARTER-FINAL 1 VS WINNER QUARTER-FINAL 2	Munich, July 9, 8pm
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SEMI-FINAL 2	WINNER QUARTER-FINAL 4 VS WINNER QUARTER-FINAL 3	Dortmund, July 10, 8pm
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QUARTER-FINAL 4	WINNER GAME 7 VS WINNER GAME 8	Berlin, July 6, 8pm
QUARTER-FINAL 3	WINNER GAME 3 VS WINNER GAME 1	Dusseldorf, July 6, 5pm

1ST GROUP E VS 3RD GROUP A/B/C/D	Munich, July 2, 5pm
1ST GROUP D VS 2ND GROUP F	Leipzig, July 2, 8pm
1ST GROUP C VS 3RD GROUP D/E/F	Gelsenkirchen, June 30, 5pm
2ND GROUP A VS 2ND GROUP B	Berlin, June 29, 5pm

**EURO LOTTERY**

13 UKRAINE have now played 13 European Championship matches without keeping a clean sheet — they are the only side to have played more than five finals fixtures without a single shut-out.

In total they have conceded 23 goals in Euro finals games, scoring ten.

**WE STAND**

ENGLAND'S Denmark draw was their first game since Euro 96 to not feature a Man United player — 56 matches ago.

Their city rivals have taken the mantle, with a City player in every such game since the 2006 World Cup.

EURO 96 SEMI-FINAL	THURSDAY'S LINE-UP
David Seaman	Jordan Pickford
David Platt	Kyle Walker
Gareth Southgate	John Stones
Tony Adams	Marc Guehi
Stuart Pearce	Kieran Trippier
Darren Anderton	Declan Rice
Paul Ince	Trent Alexander-Arnold
Paul Gascoigne	Jude Bellingham
Steve McManaman	Phil Foden
Teddy Sheringham	Harry Kane
Alan Shearer	
No subs used	

THURSDAY'S LINE-UP	Subs used:
Jordan Pickford	Conor Gallagher (Chelsea)
Kyle Walker	Jarrod Bowen (West Ham)
John Stones	Eberechi Eze (Crystal Palace)
Marc Guehi	Ollie Watkins (Aston Villa)
Kieran Trippier	
Declan Rice	
Trent Alexander-Arnold	
Jude Bellingham	
Phil Foden	
Harry Kane	

CURRENT CLUBS WITH SUCCESSIVE ENGLAND FINALS APPEARANCES	Last game without
36 Man City	v Portugal, 2006 World Cup
21 Everton	v Iceland, Euro 2016
14 West Ham	v Belgium, 2018 World Cup
6 Liverpool	v Iran, 2022 World Cup
4 Arsenal, Chelsea	v Wales, 2022 World Cup
2 Real Madrid, B Munich, C Palace, Newcastle, Aston Villa	v France, 2022 World Cup

**ANSWERS:**

Euro vision: 2008.

Euro star: Zlatan Ibrahimovic.



# goals EURO 2024

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# Ron to stay on

## ROB: HE CAN PLAY 90

From DAN KING

**PORTUGAL boss Roberto Martinez has leapt to the defence of Cristiano Ronaldo amid claims the megastar is past it.**

Captain Ron, 39, played the full 90 minutes of the dramatic 2-1 win over the Czech Republic but his performance drew mixed reviews.

And when it was suggested the Al-Nassr forward's powers were fading, and it would be a mistake to let him play whole games in Germany, Martinez was having none of it.

The former Everton, Wigan and Belgium manager said: "Can I ask you a question? Do you know how many minutes Cristiano played last season?"

"He has experience – there is no other player in the history of football who has played at six Euros. It is important to understand what a player brings."

"Cristiano brings experience, goalscoring opportunities, a way of opening up spaces."

"He is in the national team because he deserves to be here."

"Just look at what he has achieved and what he did in the previous competitions."

Martinez also defended Ronaldo's contribution in the opening game.

The former Manchester United and Real Madrid star was caught offside on a number of



occasions, including when he headed against a post and Diogo Jota put in the rebound – only for VAR to chalk off the late effort.

Substitute Francisco Conceicao, 21, then struck in stoppage-time to snatch a win for Portugal.

When asked if Ronaldo would benefit from having another forward playing closer to him, Martinez (right) said: "In the goal from Francisco, the space opens up because Cristiano is in the area."

"He was very disciplined, he worked a lot and he is a killer, a very important box player."

"We work with a focus and Cristiano is important for us, in what we try to do in the big picture."

"Portugal's style is not direct football, to be a team that looks for the striker immediately."

"We don't need one player, we need four, five or six close to the spearhead."

AC Milan's Rafael Leao, 25, is expected to keep his place in attack alongside Ronaldo, despite his own mixed display against the Czechs. And he is predicting

a classic game against Turkey. Leao said: "It's going to be a totally different game, beautiful and more in the style of the national team."

"It will be a game with space in which we can show our strength in attack."

"It's an important match against a team with individual quality. They are dangerous."

"We can't give them too much space because they can take advantage."

"Hakan Calhanoglu can make a difference. He is a player with a lot of quality – he shoots very well and is dangerous from set-pieces."

"Arda Guler is capable of being a game-changer."

"Baris Yilmaz, too, is very fast."

Between 30,000 and 40,000 Turks are expected at the home of Borussia Dortmund to roar on the team after

passionate scenes in the 3-1 win over Georgia. Turkey will be in their change strip of all white.

Kerem Akturkoglu, who ran clear for the late third goal against Georgia, said: "Everyone in the stadium was red for that game and here will be in white."

"We're aware of the responsibility and hungry for success."

"Unfortunately, we have not done well in recent tournaments so our country needs it."

**STILL IN TOP BAND**  
... veteran Ronaldo has been defended by boss Martinez



BARAK... chasing a win

## Antonin's Czech up

**Georgia v Czech Rep**  
2pm, BBC1, talkSPORT

From MARTIN LIPTON

**CZECH star Antonin Barak pledged to end the Georgia Euro fairytale – to ensure his side do not go out.**

Portugal's cruel injury-time winner in the opener means the Czechs are desperate to get three points this afternoon.

With Georgia also pointless after their loss to Turkey, it makes the Hamburg clash a must-win for both sides.

Fiorentina schemer Barak, 29, said: "Georgia played very well against Turkey."

"It was their first game and it's so difficult to do that if you don't have experience, so it shows how impressive they were."

"They are completely different to Portugal and we have to adapt and impose our style to give the fans an enjoyable show. We must rely on each other."

West Ham's Tomas Soucek is fit after playing against Portugal despite a bug that laid him low before the game.

Coach Ivan Hasek said: "Tomas is a true captain. He represents his team outside of the pitch as well and it's important to have him."

Georgia boss Willy Sagna, a former France defender, added: "My players want to show they can give even more than in the first game, for the fans."

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