THE Sun

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ELECTION 2024

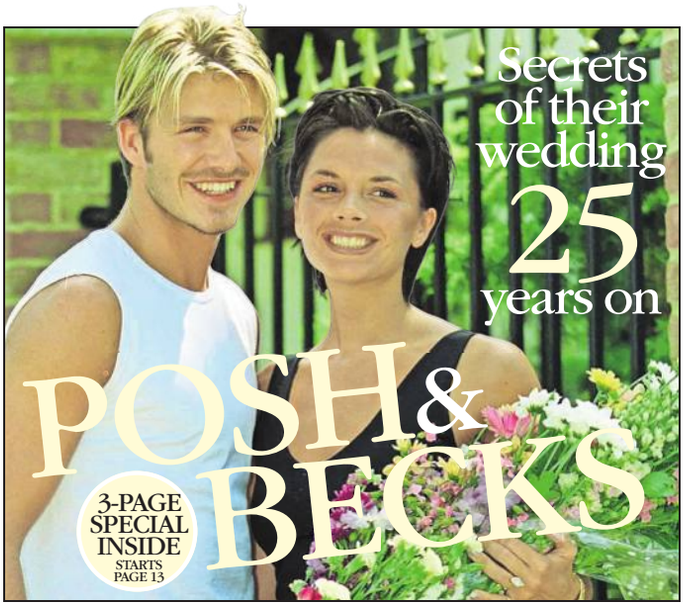
RISHI'S PAIN AT REFORM RACIST

By JACK ELSOM

PM RISHI Sunak says he is "hurt" over a racist slur by a Reform campaigner – for the sake of his two young daughters.

He blasted the party's "culture" and said leader Nigel Farage has "questions to answer".

Full Story — P8 & 9



Secrets of their wedding 25 years on

POSH & BECKS

3-PAGE SPECIAL INSIDE STARTS PAGE 13

IT'S A GAME OF OTHER HALVES

Pals . . Tolami, Ellie Alderson, Megan, Anouska and Dani Dyer in photo posted yesterday

TEAM ANNIE

ENGLAND'S Wags have united behind Kyle Walker's wife Annie amid fears his ex-mistress Lauryn Goodman will also be at tomorrow's last-16 game against Slovakia.

Megan Pickford, wife of goalie Jordan, Anouska Santos,

EXCLUSIVE by PAUL SIMS

girlfriend of Luke Shaw, and Tolami Benson, partner of Bukayo Saka, have vowed to protect Annie, 32. A source said: "They have her back."

Full Story — Pages Four and Five

England defender . . . Kyle

Flying to match . . . Annie

Wags united against Kyle's ex

LEADERS' VOWS OVER HEROES

KEIR BATTLES RISHI ON ARMED FORCES

Pledges . . . Sunak

RISHI Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer have gone to war — over who can provide the best help for our military heroes.

The PM and Labour chief outlined their positions on defence ahead of today's Armed Forces Day.

In a key dividing line, Mr Sunak has vowed to spend 2.5 per cent of GDP on defence by 2030. Sir Keir says he would match that only when economic conditions permit.

By RYAN SABEY

The PM has also signed up to the Veterans' Pledge, and said he would keep the Office for Veterans' Affairs and commission a review of the medical discharge process.

He pointed out that the Tories also oppose Labour's plans to scrap the Northern Ireland Legacy Act, a move which could see veterans dragged through the courts.

The PM said: "The women and men who serve in our Armed Forces represent the very best of Britain. In an increasingly dangerous world, our servicemen and women play an ever more critical role in keeping us safe . . . we are firmly on their side.

Temple . . Sir Keir

"Sir Keir Starmer on the other hand can't match our veterans' pledges, protect old veterans from being hauled before juries nor back our defence spending increases." Meanwhile Sir Keir, who yesterday visited the Shree Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu temple in Kingsbury, North West London, has promised an Armed Forces commissioner to probe complaints about sub-standard housing and faulty kit.

He said: "Labour is deeply proud of our Armed Forces personnel, veterans, and their families for the contribution they make to our country.

"Theirs is the ultimate public service and their professionalism and bravery is rightly respected across the world."

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Alarm . . . Johnson

Boz 'vote a lettuce' warning

By JACK ELSOM

BORIS Johnson insists there is time for voters to "come to our senses" and avoid "Starmergeddon".

The former PM said a Labour landslide was not inevitable with Sir Keir Starmer's "shockingly low" approval ratings.

Mr Johnson added: "The people view him with apathy, with resignation, as you might look at a dish of limp lettuce."

He attacked Sir Keir over immigration, trans issues and the EU, and backed Rishi Sunak.

He said: "In the last debate Rishi showed what he can do, and on any fair reading he won.

"It is by no means too late to tilt the steering wheel in the direction of common sense, avert Starmergeddon, and prevent this country going in the wrong direction."

Starmer pensions 'mistake'

By RYAN SABEY

SIR Keir Starmer has backtracked after saying he would stop people accessing part of their pension pot tax-free.

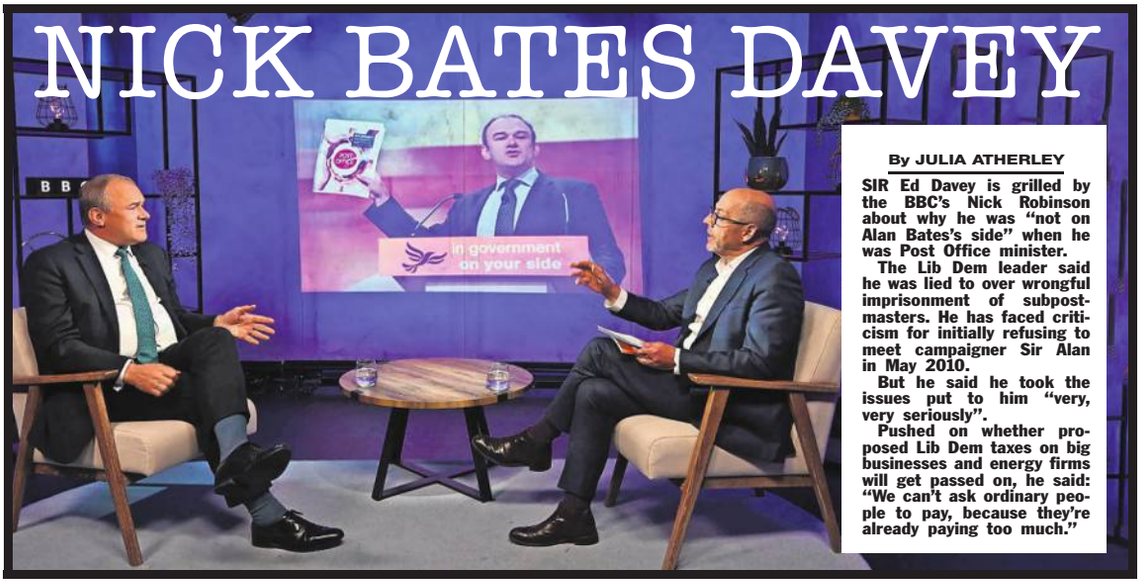
The over-55s were given greater flexibility to take out 25 per cent of their retirement savings without any levy after rule changes in 2015.

But the Labour leader got in a muddle on a BBC phone-in yesterday and said "we're not going to renew it".

A party spokesman later said he was talking about another tax break.

But Treasury minister Laura Trott seized on his comments and said only the Tories "will keep your pension safe".

NICK BATES DAVEY



By JULIA ATHERLEY

SIR Ed Davey is grilled by the BBC's Nick Robinson about why he was "not on Alan Bates's side" when he was Post Office minister.

The Lib Dem leader said he was lied to over wrongful imprisonment of subpostmasters. He has faced criticism for initially refusing to meet campaigner Sir Alan in May 2010.

But he said he took the issues put to him "very, very seriously".

Pushed on whether proposed Lib Dem taxes on big businesses and energy firms will get passed on, he said: "We can't ask ordinary people to pay, because they're already paying too much."

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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IPSO Regulated

Police by class fear

MIDDLE-class families will be at the back of the queue for public services from policing to bin collections under Labour, Conservatives claim.

They say Sir Keir Starmer has pledged to implement a dormant section of the Equality Act 2010 which prioritises grants on how wealthy an area is.

Tories say it is "enforced class discrimination", with better-off areas getting less cash.

Labour has denied services will suffer.

JK IN WHO-HAH

JK ROWLING has blasted David Tennant for claiming gender-critical campaigners are "whingeing f***ers".

The Harry Potter author, 58, yesterday slammed her fellow Scot for comments that had already sparked a blazing feud with equalities minister Kemi Badenoch.

At last week's LGBT Awards, Doctor Who star Tennant, 53, said gender-critical campaigners were "whingeing f***ers on the wrong side of history".

Ms Rowling said: "This man is talking about rape survivors who want female-only care, nurses suing their trust for making them change in front of a man, and female prisoners incarcerated with sex offenders."

RISHI DENTIST AXES PATIENTS

A DENTAL surgery visited by Rishi Sunak the day he announced his dentistry recovery plan has now dropped all its NHS adult patients.

The PM met Gentle Dental staff and patients in Newquay, Cornwall, in February as he unveiled plans for millions of NHS tooth appointments.

TOP G7 GROWTH

THE UK economy has bounced back faster than first thought, allowing Rishi Sunak to toast "the fastest growth in the G7".

Official figures yesterday showed the economy grew by 0.7 per cent in the first quarter, up from the initial 0.6 per cent figure.

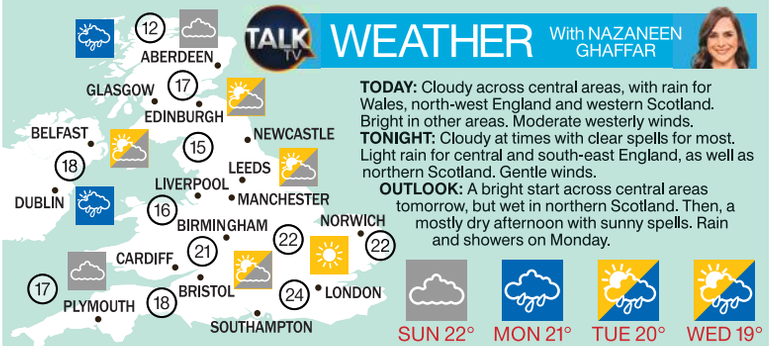
It was driven by consumer spending and was the fastest growth since 2021. The PM posted yesterday: "Confirmed, UK was the fastest-growing economy in the G7.

"We've got a clear plan to deliver a more secure future for your family."

Economist Paul Dales said the next PM would "benefit from the economic recovery being a bit stronger".

The Sun Says — Page Ten

TALK TV WEATHER With NAZANEEN GHAFFAR



TODAY: Cloudy across central areas, with rain for Wales, north-west England and western Scotland. Bright in other areas. Moderate westerly winds.

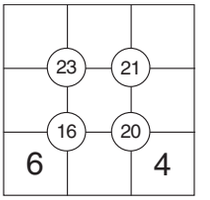
TONIGHT: Cloudy at times with clear spells for most. Light rain for central and south-east England, as well as northern Scotland. Gentle winds.

OUTLOOK: A bright start across central areas tomorrow, but wet in northern Scotland. Then, a mostly dry afternoon with sunny spells. Rain and showers on Monday.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED
22°	21°	20°	19°

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.



PUZZLES: PAGES 41-43

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

ENGLAND stars **JUDE BELLINGHAM, 21,** *left,* and **EBERECHI EZE, 26,** singers **NICOLE SCHERZINGER, 46,** *right,* and **KATHERINE JENKINS, 44,** and US actor **GARY BUSEY, 80.**

●**LAST night's winning Euromillions numbers: 10, 16, 18, 22, 35. Lucky Stars: 1, 10.**

Health Lottery: 13, 32, 38, 42, 50. Bonus ball: 6.

J-LO AND BEHOLD

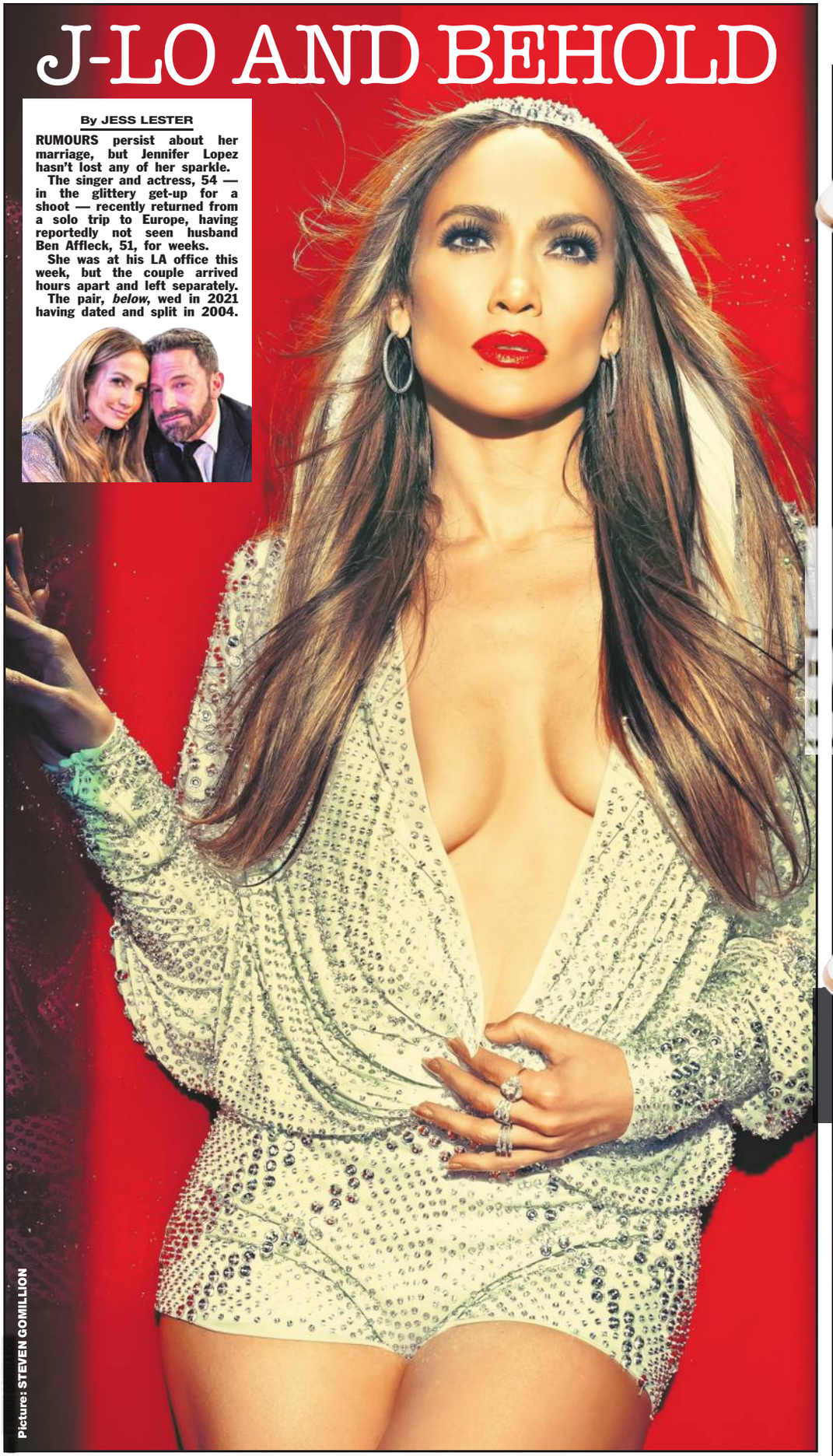
By JESS LESTER

RUMOURS persist about her marriage, but Jennifer Lopez hasn't lost any of her sparkle.

The singer and actress, 54 — in the glittery get-up for a shoot — recently returned from a solo trip to Europe, having reportedly not seen husband Ben Affleck, 51, for weeks.

She was at his LA office this week, but the couple arrived hours apart and left separately.

The pair, *below*, wed in 2021 having dated and split in 2004.



Picture: STEVEN GOMILLION

EXCLUSIVE

ONE'S BEST FRIEND

King sells luxury products for pets

By STEPHEN MOYES

THE King has launched a range of pet products fit for animal royalty, including a bowl with gold trimmings and a crown.

Doggies can channel their inner corgi by playing with a toy bone embossed with a fancy "Buckingham Palace" label.

The accessories have been designed "for pampered pooches and fabulous felines", exclusively for the Royal Collection Trust.

Your pet can now wolf down its grub from a £30 china bowl, with 22-carat gold edging and crown motif.

It boasts an inscription from Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle or, for monarchy-loving pets north of the border, the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

Dogs can gnaw on a £19.96 pink bone created by designer Rory Hutton. There is also a matching bandana at £10.96, bow tie for £12.95 and a £35 coat. A £90 hamper of goodies will ensure yours is "the best dressed four-legged friend", the website boasts.

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Call me Rex

Royal yappointment . . . Charles and corgi

SHANIA'S DUET HINT

bizarre

PAGES 22 & 23

ANNE'S OUT OF HOSPITAL: PAGE 21

IT'S ALL KICKING OFF

Kyle be there for you . . . Annie, ace and family after Denmark match, attended separately by Lauryn and Kairo

Pals back Annie in Kyle ex rift

Fears she'll be at match again

WAGS VS LAURYN

TOLAMI BENSON & BUKAYO SAKA

ELLIE ALDERSON & OLLIE WATKINS

ENGLAND'S Wags are backing Kyle Walker's wife Annie in the rift with his ex-mistress Lauryn Goodman — and a source revealed: "Like the players, they're a team."

EXCLUSIVE by PAUL SIMS

Annie and three of her four sons with Man City ace Kyle are taking a private jet to tomorrow's match against Slovakia.

Lauryn may also be in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, with Kairo, her four-year-old son with the defender. The pair also have a daughter, ten months.

Annie, 32, narrowly missed her rival at the 1-1 draw with Denmark in Frankfurt on June 20.

Pal Megan Pickford, wife of goalie Jordan, was said to have been appalled by Lauryn's attendance at that game.

Also in Annie's corner are Anouska Santos, girlfriend of Luke Shaw, and Bukayo Saka's partner Tolami Benson.

A Wag source said: "They have all known Annie for a long time. They stick together and want Annie to know she is not alone. They have her back."

Annie has kept a dignified silence since discovering in January that Kyle had fathered Lauryn's second child.

She kicked him out of their home, and the player has been trying to repair the damage ever since.

The source added: "Meghan, Anouska and the other Wags can't begin to imagine what Annie is going through.

"It must be so hard, but even more so because it's so public.

"Annie is dealing with what Kyle has done and wants to do that privately.

"But she's also put her feelings to one side to take their boys to the matches.

"Yet, all the while, she has no idea if Lauryn will be there. It's a terrible situation and made worse by Lauryn who appears to be trying to promote herself as a Wag. She's deluded."

Another source said: "There's a sense of bewilderment about why Lauryn would go to the match.

"Kyle has nothing to do with the children and no emotional relationship with them. They've never been to any of his previous matches.

"I'm sure they support England and no one would begrudge them going. But why do it so publicly?"

Influencer Lauryn, 33, stunned Kyle and Annie after taking Kairo to the 1-1 draw with Denmark in Frankfurt on June 20. Kairo wore an England shirt with No2 and "Daddy" on the back.

They flew out with a journalist and Lauryn posed for photos before kick-off, insisting: "There was no way I wasn't going to take Kairo to the Euros.

"I wanted it to be something he could remember for ever. We are not here to please other people.

"It's about Kairo and what is best for him and what is going to make him happy. I won't be scapegoated or bullied and made to feel like a villain."

Lauryn said she had not even given a chance meeting with Annie a second thought. She added: "I wasn't fearful at all that I was going to bump into her.

"It doesn't cross my mind. I couldn't care less. I just get on with things.

"I was there for Kairo, no one else, and if anyone has an issue with it, that's their problem, not mine."

Three of Team Annie – Tolami, Anouska and Megan – featured in a picture posted yesterday by Jarrod Bowen's partner Dani Dyer. It also included Ollie Watkins' girlfriend Ellie Alderson and was taken before Tuesday's 0-0 draw against Slovenia.

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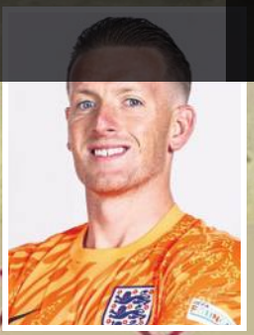
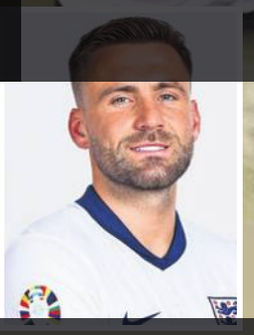
BEFORE 3 LIONS CLASH

Wags united . . . Dani, far right, with Tolami, Ellie, Megan, Anouska

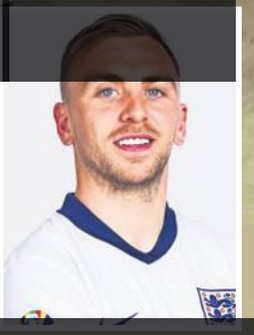
MEGAN PICKFORD & JORDAN PICKFORD



ANOUSKA SANTOS & LUKE SHAW



DANI DYER & JARROD BOWEN



DAD PHILS LOVE ..ANT FEELS PAIN

Back . . Foden & Gordon yesterday. Below, Sun

PHIL Foden was warmly welcomed back to the England camp yesterday after flying home for the birth of his baby boy.

The 24-year-old beamed "cheers" as he was congratulated on his third child. A source said he resumed training and will be available for selection for the last-16 tie against Slovakia tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Anthony Gordon revealed he was trying to record a video for his family when he went flying off his e-bike

By NICK PARKER and ROBIN PERRIE

on Wednesday. He said he hit the wrong brake and was hurled "10ft in the air chin first". The 23-year-old winger suffered injuries to his face, hands and legs which are not expected to keep him out of tomorrow's crunch clash. He added: "I didn't press record so there's some positives to come from it."

See SunSport

RIVALS FEAR SLO MAULING

By ROBIN PERRIE and NICK PARKER

SUN mascot Harry Mane roared into Slovakia yesterday to discover the locals fear a gou-lashing off England.

Our lion on the prowl in central Europe thought he would find a football-mad country gripped with excitement ahead of tomorrow's clash.

But even with England's stuttering start to the Euros, locals in capital Bratislava reckon their team – managed by a former coffee seller – have no chance.

Top-flight footie in this nation of just 5.4million attracts League Two-sized crowds and ice hockey is the No1 sport for many.

Student Richard Krosner, 18, said: "Our teams are not very good. People here are more interested in watching the English Premier League.

"I am surprised we made it to the last 16."

Waiter Aidrian Herceg, 31, added: "I don't think we are good enough to get a result. Although you never know, it might be a draw – and we then win on penalties."

On prowl . . Harry in Bratislava

5 TOP FACTS ON SLOVAKIA

NATIONAL dish Bryndzové halušky is made from potato dumplings, sheep cheese and bacon.

THE country came into existence in 1993 after the dissolution of Czechoslovakia.

DEVIL'S Rock, a boulder balancing on its corner, is a famous attraction.

ANGELINA Jolie and Andy Warhol's families both originally come from there.

WHEN Slovaks meet they kiss each other on the cheek.

LION CUBS: PAGES 36 & 37

JSO AIRPORT CHAOS SUSPECTS

27 OIL 'PLOTTERS' HELD IN COP RAIDS

JUST STOP OIL

A PLOT by Just Stop Oil to wreck summer holidays has been foiled — with 27 activists nicked.

The climate group's leaders were among those held in a three-day operation.

Met Police chief supt Ian Howells, said: "We know JSO is planning to disrupt airports across the country this summer which is why we have taken

By MIKE SULLIVAN, Crime Editor

swift and robust action now." It is thought activists planned to glue themselves to runways and lock themselves on planes to stop them taking off.

Four people were arrested at Gatwick on Tuesday and have since been bailed.

On Thursday, six more were held at an East London centre hosting a JSO event "promoting airport disruption." And 17 were arrested at properties across England yesterday, including in Devon, Essex, Manchester, Surrey, Sussex, Norfolk, London, West Yorks, Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

All 27 were detained under the Public Order Act, which makes it illegal to conspire to disrupt national infrastructure.

Chief supt Howells added: "Anyone who compromises the safety and security of airports can expect a strong response from officers." Just Stop Oil has claimed the arrests were "unlawful."

A spokesman said: "It speaks volumes when police crackdown on non-violent Just Stop Oil supporters in this way."

Asked why they intended to disrupt airports during the holidays, he added: "You can't really disassociate what we're potentially planning on doing from the reasons why."

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ALL A BIT ARROWING

By JOE HADDEN

TWO Red Arrows pilots cross just a few feet apart during high-speed practice yesterday.

The aircraft from the RAF display team, in its 60th year, were snapped over Lincolnshire.

Nasty . . E.coli bacteria

Stores in legal rap on E.coli

By SAM BLANCHARD

LEGAL action has been started against supermarkets Tesco and Asda over two people falling ill from the E.coli outbreak.

A girl, aged 11, from the North West, is said to be at risk of "permanent kidney damage" after she ate an own-brand chicken salad sandwich from Asda.

She was on dialysis for three weeks, lawyers say.

The second case involves a man in the South East who was hospitalised after having a Tesco sandwich with salad in it.

Legal firm Fieldfisher, representing the pair, said under the Consumer Protection Act "companies producing food must ensure it is safe".

The UK Health Security Agency said on Thursday one patient had died in the outbreak, which has been linked to salad used in sandwiches.

At least 275 people were reported to be infected up to June 4.

Obesity drug call

THERE is growing evidence that weight-loss drugs could be effective in treating severely obese teenagers, an expert says.

Trials show hunger-suppressing medications such as semaglutide acts "in the same way" in younger patients as in adults, Prof Louise Baur told a Brazil conference.

She said although no evidence exists for use in kids under 12, it may be justified in extreme cases.

NHS England last year revealed hospital admissions of obese youngsters under the age of 17 had tripled in a decade.

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EXCLUSIVE: PLATTS REUNITED

As Martin and Gail . . . on the ITV soap in the 1990s

CORRIE HELEN'S CHEESY ENDING

Exits show after TV fling with cheese-maker Sean

Wensley-Gail? . . . Sean's job change

By FELICITY CROSS
Deputy TV Editor

CORRIE legend Helen Worth's exit plot will see her character Gail rekindle a romance with Martin Platt and sail off into the sunset, The Sun can reveal.

It means a return to the ITV soap for on-screen ex-husband Sean Wilson, who left in 2005 and became a cheese-maker.

Bosses feel the plot marks a fitting end this year for actress Helen, 73, who has played Gail Platt for 50 years.

Despite Gail and Martin's ten-year union ending after he had an affair, the nurse is considered the most successful of Gail's six marriages.

Sean, 59, played Martin from 1985 to 2005 – and for a few episodes in 2018 – but trained as a chef, going on to win awards with his Saddleworth Cheese Company.

A source said: "A number of options were considered for Gail's departure but bosses knew it needed to truly celebrate one of Corrie's most iconic characters and honour Helen's run on the soap.

"It just didn't sit right to kill her off or have Gail suffer more tragedy.

"Martin was always considered the one that got away and bosses are thrilled they've been able to tempt Sean back.

"The plotline has many nuances, twists and turns but script writers all want this to feel like a gorgeous end of Gail's story, with her finally finding her happy ending."

Helen confirmed this month she had signed her final contract with the soap and would leave at the end of 2024.

She said: "This year felt like the perfect time to leave the show after 50 years in the most wonderful job on the most wonderful street.

"The past 50 years have flown by and I don't think the fact that I am leaving has quite sunk in yet."

At the time, bosses teased Gail will "bid farewell to Weatherfield in a major storyline for the Platt family".

Helen made her first appearance on the cobbles in 1974 and became one of the most recognisable soap stars.

Gail has buried all but one of her husbands – Martin.

Shortly after the murder of her first husband Brian Tilsey in 1989, Gail started a relationship with Martin and gave birth to son David in 1990.

She forgave Martin for a fling in 1994 but his affair with fellow nurse Rebecca in 2000 ended their relationship.

Other lovers included serial killer Richard Hillman and Joe McIntyre, who died trying to fake his own death.

Earlier this year, Sean said he would consider a return. He added: "I think the character is well-remembered.

"If the question was put in front of me then I'd have to think about it."

felicity.cross@thesun.co.uk

FERGIE BRIDGER BID

THE Duchess of York has said she tried to get on hit TV show Bridgerton.

Sarah Ferguson, 64, is a fan of the Netflix period drama – and believes she could be a pal of Penelope Bridgerton – played by Nicola Coughlan.

She said: "I've asked my agent to get me on Bridgerton. The set designs are incredible. I could be a long-lost friend for Penelope. I just have to be on it!"

Fergie recently had a cameo playing a duchess in US TV movie An American in Austen. But she told Platinum magazine she has ruled out offers from I'm A Celeb, saying it's "not for me".

Princess Anne out of hospital — Page 21

Sun SPOT

ELVIS Presley's blue suede shoes, which he wore on and off stage during the mid-1950s, fetched £120,000 yesterday at an auction in Devizes, Wiltshire.

FLIGHT STOP CHAOS

THOUSANDS suffered travel disruption yesterday after a British Airways jet was forced to make an emergency stop.

Gatwick's main runway was closed for nearly an hour, leading to 16 incoming planes being diverted, 23 cancellations and a string of delays.

It came after a jet which was due to fly to Vancouver had to perform a "high-speed emergency stop" instead.

Video footage from passengers on board showed fire engines scrambling towards them as they were told take-off had been aborted. A Gatwick spokesman said it was caused by "hot brakes", which can lead to fires.

ELECTION 2024

PM SAYS FARAGE

NEVER MIND THE BALLOTS ..HERE'S THE GOSS

QUOTE OF THE DAY

'I might have to answer that question next Friday'

Education Secretary Gillian Keegan, who has a 21,000 majority, when asked what she would do if not an MP

WINNER OF THE DAY

LABOUR'S Jonathan Ashworth, whose latest publicity stunt is a spoof mortgage ad. A colleague said: "He is living his best life this campaign."

LOSER OF THE DAY

USUALLY a thrill-seeker, Lib Dem leader Ed Davey admitted he does not bet "very high stakes because I don't think my wife would like it".

ELECTION WHISPERS

SHERRY drinkers are the only booze fans who favour the Tories at the election, polling by More In Common has found. Lager, cider, G&T, Pimms, brandy, prosecco, and red and white wine drinkers are all more likely to vote Labour.

THE Tories' future might not look bright, but at least one of their candidates is having fun in the sun. Eccentric New Forest MP Desmond Swayne, 67, has stuck campaign posters on his convertible and is making the most of the heat driving around with the top down.

SOME party members may have done a double-take when Tony Blair rocked up at Labour HQ on Thursday — with the ex-PM delivering a five-minute pep talk to campaign staffers.

His best advice? "Show no complacency."

AS if things were not bad enough for Reform, its former candidate in Clacton, Tony Mack, has accused the party of failing to pay back £6,000 in campaign costs after he was sidelined for the return of Nigel Farage.

My girls had to hear people call me an effin' P*** and it hurts

RISHI ANGER AT REFORM MAN'S RACIST TIRADE

RISHI Sunak said his two young daughters heard him being racially slurred by a Reform activist — and warned Nigel Farage he has "questions to answer".

The PM yesterday said he was livid his children saw the man calling him an "effing P***" on video and claimed it speaks to the culture of the rival right-wing party.

But Reform leader Mr Farage last night lashed out at a "complete and total set-up" as he fought to stop his campaign imploding with less than a week until the General Election.

The racism row risks denting his chances of landing more blows on the Tories over migrants, welfare and tax.

The comments were made by Reform canvasser Andrew Parker in Clacton, Essex, and recorded by undercover reporters.

He also says boat migrants should be shot.

Mr Sunak — the country's first British-Asian PM — spoke of his

'Questions to answer' . . . Reform leader Nigel Farage

HAS 'QUESTIONS TO ANSWER'

I don't repeat those words lightly, I do so deliberately because it's too important not to call out

Family's pain . . . Rishi with daughters and wife Akshata

'Set up' claim . . . Farage on Loose Women yesterday

Stirred up . . . Sunak on a school visit yesterday

Write way . . . PM speaks to a pupil in Teesside

Grilled . . . Starmer yesterday

Labour women's spaces 'twaddle'

By JACK ELSOM

SQUIRMING Sir Keir Starmer was savaged for talking "absolute twaddle" yesterday in a row over protecting women's spaces.

Fuming voter Jane accused the Labour leader of compromising females' "dignity" in a fiery radio exchange.

She said Sir Keir was "not listening to biological women when they say they don't want to share a space with biological men". Sir Keir responded: "I am listening, and it goes back many years."

Jane replied: "Why are you putting our dignity on the line? We want you to say sex will not be changed and you will protect us from men coming into our space."

Sir Keir said: "I have protected in the past and have worked with those protecting spaces." Jane accused him of talking "absolute twaddle" in his replies.

Tory Health Secretary Victoria Atkins claimed Sir Keir had shown no regard for women's safety.

She also put the boot in to the Lib Dems and Reform.

She hit out: "This election has highlighted the blatant disregard that Labour, the Liberal Democrats, and Reform have for women.

"Only Rishi Sunak and the Conservatives have a clear plan to stand up and protect women and girls."

Lib Dem leader Sir Ed Davey has said trans people should be able to use the bathroom "they want to use".

He has said he "strongly supports" single-sex spaces.

The Sun Says — Page Ten

Keir regrets clumsy dig

SIR Keir Starmer has said his remarks about Bangladesh were "clumsy" after he singled out the country when asked about migration during The Sun's election showdown.

The Labour leader said on Monday "people coming from countries like Bangladesh are not being removed".

It prompted a backlash from within the party.

A caller on BBC Radio 5 Live yesterday asked him, "How can we differentiate you with Nigel Farage" given "your recent racist comments".

When asked by host Nicky Campbell if his wording had been clumsy, he responded: "Clumsy would be a good word, and I didn't mean to offend anyone, I was simply answering the question."

By JACK ELSOM and THOMAS GODFREY

disgust while visiting Teesside yesterday, where he bought fish and chips with local candidate Jacob Young and visited Holy Trinity Rosehill primary school.

The Tory leader said: "My two daughters have to see and hear Reform people who campaign for Nigel Farage calling me an effing P***. It hurts and it makes me angry, and I think he has some questions to answer. I don't repeat those words lightly.

"I do so deliberately, because this is too important not to call out clearly for what it is."

Mr Sunak has spoken at his pride of becoming PM after his grandparents came from India with very little. He and wife Akshata Murty have two girls, Anoushka and Krishna, both under 14.

He added: "When you see Reform candidates and campaigners seemingly using racist and misogynistic language and opinion, seemingly without challenge, I think it tells you something about the culture in the Reform party."

Mr Sunak also slammed Mr Farage's praise for toxic online influencer Andrew Tate, saying: "He's a vile misogynist. And our politics and country is better than that." Questions over the Channel 4 undercover sting surfaced yesterday when Mr Parker – a part-time actor – claimed he was "goaded" into making the racist comments.

He said "of course" he regretted the remarks, but attempted to brush them off as pub talk in the "heat of the moment".

The 63-year-old said: "Of course I regret what I said. I'm old school. Christ, I'm not a racist. I've had Muslim girlfriends. It was typical chaps-down-the-pub talk.

"It was in the heat of the moment. I was goaded on."

Mr Parker was arrested yesterday in his home county, Hertfordshire, but released with no further action.

Hertfordshire police said: "Officers arrested a man in his 60s earlier today on suspicion of causing a public order offence. Following further review and liaison with Essex Police he is being released with no further action."

Mr Farage – who distanced his party from Mr Parker's "reprehensible" comments on Thursday night – has now claimed "it was an act from the very start".

While dubious of the reporting, Mr Farage branded the comments "vulgar, drunken and wrong". Repeating claims he first made earlier in the day on ITV's Loose Women,

Mr Farage told last night's BBC election debate that the Clacton race row was "a political set-up of astonishing proportions".

Not producing evidence, he theorised it may have been down to the production company hired by Channel 4 or Mr Parker himself for wanting to get "publicity to get more parts". He said: "I promise you that what happened is a deliberate attempt to smear us. When you look at it, it's almost unbelievable, a constant stream of invective."

Channel 4 said it stands by its "rigorous and duly impartial journalism which speaks for itself".

A spokesman added: "We met Mr Parker for the first time at Reform UK party headquarters, where he was a Reform party canvasser."

The Reform leader also last night denied audience claims that his party attracts racists, claiming he has done "more than anyone alive" to drive the far right out of British politics.

"Shocked" Labour boss Sir Keir Starmer said Mr Parker's language was "clearly racist" and said Mr Farage faced a "test of leadership".

He said: "You have to ask the question why so many people who are supporting Reform seem to be exposed in this particular way.

"It's for a leader to change his or her party, to make sure the culture is right and standards are understood by everybody within the party."

Mr Farage has faced accusations of attracting unsavoury characters throughout his political career, including during his spells at Ukip and the Brexit Party.

He has previously claimed to have been scrutinised to a greater extent than other parties who also have dodgy people in their ranks.

Mr Farage is currently odds-on to triumph in Clacton after seven previously unsuccessful bids to become an MP.

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Racist comments . . . Reform's Parker

THE Sun SAYS

Gotta go, Joe

HOW can America's Democrats continue to offer up Joe Biden as their candidate for leader of the free world?

His performance in the TV debate in which Donald Trump trounced him was terrifying, sad and confirmed exactly what his critics have long argued.

His best answers were rambling and muddled, his worst utter gibberish.

"I really don't know what he said at the end of that sentence," said Trump – adding, with icy calm and total justification: "I don't think he knows what he said either."

It is hard to imagine floating voters, on whom the looming US election will turn, risking Biden and his mental frailty over Trump, despite his scandals.

But Republicans should not pop the champagne corks just yet.

This may finally be enough for the Democrats to replace Biden with someone more competent and electable.

And Trump might struggle then.

Booming cheek

OPPOSITION parties have all made the same claim about the Tories.

They want voters to believe we are still engulfed by the chaos of the inflation crisis caused by Putin – and the vanishingly brief Liz Truss era.

It is fiction. Chancellor Jeremy Hunt began righting the finances two years ago. The results are now indisputable.

Yesterday our growth figures were revised up to 0.7 per cent in the first quarter, higher than any other G7 nation and twice the rate in the EU.

So much for Brexit "damaging the economy", that empty lie parroted by Remoaner headbangers.

Inflation is back down to two per cent. Living standards are up 2.4 per cent as pay rises outstrip prices. Mortgages will drop shortly too.

The Left says overall living standards have fallen since 2019 . . . cynically neglecting to mention Covid and war.

None of this is likely to help the Tories.

But if Labour wins power and trumpets some new boom, remember who laid its foundations.

Unclear Keir

COMPLEX problems cannot simply be wished away by Keir Starmer asking everyone to "be kind".

Some people's rights negate those of others. Like letting male-bodied transwomen legally change gender more easily and use women's safe spaces.

It is not enough for Labour to moan that the issue is "divisive". That is obvious to anyone hearing blinkered luvvie David Tennant call women's rights campaigners "whingeing little f***ers".

And when Starmer calls for a "respectful" debate, "bringing the country together", he is spouting twaddle, as a radio caller rightly told him.

Compromises cannot always be found.

As PM, you have to pick a side.

AS STARMER HEADS FOR No10

Which Keir will we get in here?

"A NEW dawn has broken, has it not?"

Those were the first words spoken by Tony Blair to an expectant nation waking up to a landslide Labour election victory on that sunny May morning in 1997.

Next week, millions of voters are expecting another new dawn as – if the polls are to be trusted – we face the end of 14 years of Tory rule and the arrival of a new Labour Prime Minister.

With just a few days to go until polling stations open, pretty much everyone has accepted that Labour are going to win.

The only questions remaining are how big a majority Sir Keir Starmer will get and how badly the Conservatives will lose.

Oh, and the teensy-weensy, infinitesimally small, don't-worry-your-pretty-little-head-about-it matter of just what sort of Labour Prime Minister we're about to get.

By **JULIA HARTLEY-BREWER**

Change isn't always better

Because, despite four years as Labour leader, numerous speeches, hundreds of interviews and hours facing questions in TV election debates, no one is any the wiser as to who Sir Keir Starmer actually is and – more importantly – what he plans to do if he takes power.

Sure, there's a glossy manifesto with some spending commitments in it, and rumour has it that his father was a toolmaker (although he doesn't like to mention it), but does anyone really know which Keir Starmer we're going to get?

Will we get the self-described "socialist" who called Jeremy Corbyn his "friend", tried to stop Brexit and who promised party members in the 2020 Labour leadership election that he'd hike income taxes on the better off and nationalise everything he could touch?

Or will we get the Keir Starmer currently running for election as Mr Dull But Reliable Technocrat and insisting he will transform our country's fortunes but has no plans to put up our taxes to pay for it? Is Starmer a secret Red Under the Bed or a Brylcreemed Blairite?

I genuinely have no idea – and I'm not sure anyone else does either.

Yet, this is the man who is urging the country to vote for him and "vote for change" on Thursday.

But what **KIND** of change is he promising? A change to what? And how much will it cost us?

Because change isn't always for the better. Jumping off a cliff is a change, but the outcome rather depends on what's at the bottom of that cliff, doesn't it?

The truth is we don't know what change a Starmer premiership will bring. We do, however, have a few clues.

When Tony Blair entered Number 10 27 years ago, on that sunny morning on Friday, May 2, he also enjoyed a spring-like financial outlook with the economy booming, plenty of taxpayers' money to spend on schools and hospitals, and the peace dividend of the Cold War ending.

NEW DAWN . . . Tony Blair and wife Cherie outside No10 in 1997

Keir Starmer, by contrast, faces a much gloomier first day in office: a stagnant economy, the rising cost of living, record NHS waiting lists, the immigration crisis, the housing shortage, sluggish productivity, social care in chaos, rising violent crime – not to mention wars in Ukraine and the Middle East.

And what is Starmer's big plan to deal with all of this?

Judging by his manifesto, it's all going to be solved by having more wind and solar power, putting VAT on private school fees and getting people around the table and talking with them.

That's pretty much it.

The man's a genius – why did **NO ONE** think of this before?

Whether it's talking to President Macron about returning Channel migrants or to the BMA about ending the junior doctors' strikes, all Starmer says he needs to do is talk to people over tea and biscuits and everything will work out fine.

He certainly is a man with immense faith in his own powers of persuasion.

Or maybe he's pinning his hopes on the chocolate Hobnobs to save the day. Who knows?

Either way, Starmer won't be able to deliver the sort of "change" that his voters will be expecting. There's nothing in his plans, he says, about raising taxes.

Ramping up culture wars

But there's also nothing in his plans that will deliver growth and get the country moving again.

The national debt will remain sky-high, there will be no extra billions for the NHS or schools, the Channel migrant boats won't miraculously stop coming, the public sector won't suddenly become efficient, we won't get a better trade deal with the EU, housing costs will continue to go up, teens will carry on stabbing other teens and the roads will still be covered in pot holes.

The only cost-free change Starmer can guarantee to deliver will be ramping up the culture wars, whether it's pushing trans ideology on to our children, racial divisions in the workplace or putting the climate hysteria cult on steroids.

And who in their right mind can possibly think **THAT** will be a change for the better?

Come rain or shine, whatever election results we wake up to next Friday morning, we will finally find out just who our new Prime Minister will be and what sort of change his government will deliver.

The Labour leader's day will finally have dawned. Now will the real Keir Starmer please stand up.

● **Listen to Julia on Talk from 10am-1pm every Monday to Thursday.**

Fans . . . on the mound

Henman Hill gets first serve of Stella

EXCLUSIVE by ANDY ROBINSON

WIMBLEDON is set to be boozier than ever when it starts on Monday thanks to a new Stella Artois bar built on Henman Hill.

The popular viewing area, where spectators sit to watch action on the huge screen, will now be serving up the Belgian beer for £8.50 a pint.

Pimms, champagne, other draft beers and spirits will also be served at the new watering hole.

It comes as SW19 chiefs confirmed fans will still be able to drink alcohol at their seats in the stands at the venue.

Rival Grand Slam the French Open last month banned booze from the grandstands in Paris after unruly behaviour had caused complaints.

But fans have been warned that anyone being disruptive or is visibly intoxicated will be at risk of being denied entry or kicked out.

'Ashamed' . . . Charles

TV Craig: 4 Glasto visits but no band

By JULIA ATHERLEY

RED Dwarf star Craig Charles has been to Glastonbury "three or four times" but has never seen a band play there.

The TV actor and Radio 6 DJ spent all his time hanging out in the festival's Shangri-La area for "underrepresented art".

It is billed as a "creative playground that aims to expand minds".

Craig, 59, said: "I'm so ashamed of myself. I've been at Glastonbury from the Thursday to the Monday and not seen a band.

"I'm not talking about just on one occasion but about three or four.

"I've had to come home, catch it all up on the BBC, come back to work and lie about it – and say, 'Oh yeah, they were great'.

"All the time we were up in a field in Shangri-La. A lot of it's not about watching live music – it's about the things that go on around it."

Bizarre at Glasto — P22 & 23

STAR 'KIDNAP CONSPIRACY'

SUSPECT IS ARRESTED

Bare-chested Plumb looked shocked as he was nicked at home

'Abduction threat' . . . court heard Holly was target

Bondage claim . . the 'kidnap kit'

HOLLY WAS MY CELEB CRUSH

Murder plot trial man says he meant no harm

By MIKE SULLIVAN
Crime Editor

A MAN accused of plotting to kidnap, rape and murder Holly Willoughby yesterday admitted that she was his "celebrity crush" — but denied intending to harm her.

Security guard Gavin Plumb, 37, had online chats with an undercover US cop and other users about abducting the TV host.

Plumb admitted getting "a rush of excitement" from it but insisted: "It was gratification. It was never going to happen."

US authorities alerted British police about the alleged plot and he was arrested at his home on October 4 last year.

Bodycam footage played to the court showed bare-chested Plumb crying out in shock as cops burst through his door.

He yelled out: "What the hell is going on?"

When told he was being arrested for conspiracy to kidnap Holly, 43, he told the officers: "I'm not going to lie, she is a fantasy of mine."

He said in court he had joined a Holly Willoughby group online, adding: "She was my celebrity crush – she was the main one."

Plumb, *below in a court sketch*, told the trial that he weighed between 28st and 30st at the time of the alleged plot and would not have been capable of climbing the wall of Holly's home to snatch her.

He also said a "kidnap kit" found at his home was what he bought on Amazon for bondage sex during a four-month relationship with a woman interested in the subject.

Defence barrister Sasha Wass KC asked him about his convictions for attempting to kidnap two air stewardesses on trains in 2006.

Plumb, of Harlow, Essex, claimed they were "a cry for help" to escape a "toxic relationship".

He got a two-year suspended sentence after claiming the attempts were just a "prank."

Plumb later moved back in with his partner and fathered two children with her, Chelmsford crown court heard.

But in 2008, he took two 16-year-old workers hostage at a Woolworths store in which he worked as a security guard and got 32 months' jail.

Yesterday, he claimed that was another attempt to get out of his relationship with his partner by being jailed.

He denies soliciting Holly's murder last October and two further counts of encouraging and assisting kidnap and rape dating back to December 2021. The trial continues.

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JAY'S 'LAST WALK'

Missing lad's pal heard 'slipping on rocks' in call

Searches . . . Brit Jay

MISSING Jay Slater's best pal has revealed he heard him slipping on rocks in their last video call.

Brad Hargreaves, on holiday with him in Tenerife, said they laughed about it.

Jay, 19, had been with Brad and friend Lucy Mae at a music festival before

From RYAN PARRY in Tenerife

going to an Airbnb with two men in the remote village of Masca.

Brad said Jay called the next morning after getting lost – and he could hear his feet slide on rocks. He said: "That's how I knew he went off the road."

Brad added on ITV's This Morning: "We were both, like, laughing about it. He said, 'Look where I am'." He said he was not concerned but did tell him to put his phone's location on. Jay, from Oswaldtwistle, Lancs, then cut off as he had another call waiting.

It is understood he then tried to walk to his holiday accommodation, 11 hours away.

At around 8.50am on June 17 he made a frantic call to Lucy saying he was lost, his leg was cut and his phone was dying.

He has not been seen since, despite extensive searches.

A local surveying expert yesterday claimed Jay may have fallen into a steep gorge on a mountain trail but could still be alive.

Expat Bryan Harrison said of the terrain: "It's extremely rugged, there's extreme highs and lows of temperature. It's extremely dangerous if you go off the road. But it's possible he's got some water."

Police have organised a large-scale search today involving volunteers at the Masca gorge, around 3,000ft above sea level.

Twelve Clues — Pages 26 and 27

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Picture: BOOHOO

PRETTY MOLLY

By JESSICA LESTER

LOVE Island's Molly Smith looks sweetly wrapped as she shows off a metallic two-piece from her new fashion collection.

The 30-year-old — who partnered with Boohoo after winning the dating show's All Stars version — also wore chunky gold earrings and bangles.

Molly posted pictures of the collection on social media and said: "I'm so excited. I hope you all love it as much as I do."

Caged . . . Abdullah

Beast is jailed for teenager alley rape

By ALEX WEST

A SEX predator raped a teen who had lost her virginity an hour earlier.

Mohammed Abdullah, 33, had offered several women money for sex, including the 18-year-old.

She declined but CCTV showed him stalk her and usher her down a dark alley in October 2022.

Half an hour after his attack, he propositioned another woman for sex in Plymouth, the city's crown court heard.

Prosecutor James Waddington said the teen had her first consensual sexual experience in a hotel an hour earlier, and was seen as "an easy target".

A judge said Algerian-born Abdullah's claims the victim was a prostitute was "a futile attempt to evade justice". He was found guilty of rape and jailed for 8½ years. He will then be deported.

Denial on P.O. tech

A FORMER senior Fujitsu engineer has denied hiding software faults in a trial that led to a wrongly convicted pregnant sub-postmaster being jailed.

Gareth Jenkins also told the Post Office Horizon IT inquiry yesterday he believes the issues are "down to the way the Post Office has behaved".

His evidence on Horizon was used in prosecutions of sub-postmasters, including Seema Misra, who was jailed for 15 months in November 2010.

Accused of "hiding" IT problems at her trial, he replied: "I did not believe I deliberately hid anything." Inquiry continues.

E-bikes in death call

A CORONER has called for government action to prevent future deaths from e-bike battery fires.

Maria Voisin issued the plea after the death of Abdul Oryakhel, 30, who fell from his 16th floor flat trying to flee a blaze.

A lithium-ion battery pack had overheated in his home in Bristol.

Avon coroner Ms Voisin wrote: "There is a lack understanding of the dangers with the batteries."

It follows two other prevention of future death reports in the past year.

Electrical Safety First's Lesley Rudd said: "Without government action, more lives will be lost."

WINNIE THE TYPHOO

A former tearoom where Winnie-the-Pooh was first discussed by AA Milne is on the market at £675,000 in Bristol.

Posh & Becks

1999-2024 SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY 3-PAGE SPECIAL

WHEN David Beckham tied the knot with Victoria Adams, aka Posh Spice from all-conquering pop group The Spice Girls, their lavish wedding defined the 1990s.

Next Thursday the couple will celebrate their silver wedding anniversary – 25 years of married bliss, and some occasional bother.

Many thought it would not last, but to those who know David and Victoria, their union is as strong now as ever.

Four children and an estimated £455million fortune later, they continue to dominate the cultural landscape, as their recent blockbuster Netflix special proved, bringing new fans to the Posh 'n' Becks phenomenon.

Today, in the first part of a special series, we take an intimate look back at that magical day a quarter of a century ago . . .

INSIDE STORY

of the do that captivated the world

FLAMES OF LOVE . . . on the thrones amid candles during the celebrations

THE VOW FACTOR . . . holding hands for the ceremony

. . . that's the seating plan sorted, love

GAME OF THRONES . . . Posh and Becks on the lavish chairs they used at their wedding

EXCLUSIVE by EMMA PIETRAS, MIKE RIDLEY and DEBORAH LINTON

IT WAS a wedding like no other – matching thrones and purple outfits, flower girls dressed as angels and a cake topped with a nearly nude sculpture of the newlyweds.

Even Prince Philip later talked about how he and the Queen did not use thrones at her 2012 Jubilee because they would have "looked like Mr and Mrs Beckham".

Ahead of Posh and Becks's 25th anniversary on Thursday, we exclusively bring you the inside details of the sensational wedding.

And while OK! magazine stumped up a record-breaking £1million for exclusive rights to cover the event at 15th-century Luttrellstown Castle near Dublin on July 4, 1999, it was The Sun that scooped the world.

Despite the whole venue being cloaked in secrecy, with screens erected to protect the magazine's exclusive deal, we had pictures of Posh and Becks in their infamous gold-and-red velvet chairs before the magazine came out – and our reporter even sat in the seats on the grass in the castle grounds.

Former Sun showbusiness reporter Thomas Whitaker recalls: "Security had been tight all weekend but there was no security there then. Posh and Becks were nowhere to be seen and staff were clearing out the marquee.

"Dumped in the middle of the field were the couple's identical thrones that we'd heard about the day before."

Next to the chairs on the lawn was a matching crib which four-month-old baby Brooklyn had napped in, as well as three 7ft naked gold figurines and two huge black Egyptian cat statues.

Sun photographer Marc Giddings recalls: "The thrones were there waiting

Turn to Page 14

Posh & Becks

POSH'S £30K CROWN

1999-2024

Continued from Page 13

to be picked up by a truck, completely unguarded. As I was taking photos of Thomas on one of the thrones, some security people drove by in a van. They did a double take and came rushing over. We were asked to leave but, by then, we'd got our exclusive pictures."

Preparations for the wedding, rumoured to have cost £750,000 – around £1.4million in today's money – had begun a year earlier.

Alan Edwards, who was the Spice Girls' publicist, tells The Sun: "We had endless meetings with the wedding planner worrying about who sat next to who, would cameras be allowed, dietary requirements . . . every detail you could think of.

"This was a worldwide publicity event and we knew the interest was akin to that around a royal wedding. In fact, we'd had a complaint from Buckingham Palace saying that they kept getting letters addressed to David and Victoria at 'Beckingham Palace'!"

He adds: "David and Victoria were impossibly romantic, always gazing into each other's eyes and laughing with each other. They were a joy to be around. It was all very fairytale and special."

According to Jim Maloney, former deputy editor at OK! and author of David & Victoria: An Invitation To A Wedding, Victoria had "clear views of what she wanted and was very hands-on".

He adds: "She had told wedding organiser Peregrine Armstrong-Jones, whose company had been responsible for Elton John's lavish 40th birthday party, that she wanted something green and leafy in the countryside."

VICTORIA, now 50, and David, 49, chose a Robin Hood theme, with a dark green, burgundy and purple colour scheme and huge floral displays.

Jim recalls: "Such was the attention to detail that fresh apples that formed part of a trailing ivy arrangement were pierced to release their scent. A leafy walkway was created, stretching from the French windows of the library, across the manicured lawns to two marquees where the reception and dancing would take place."

He adds: "Wedding invitations had been printed on parchment, headed with the couple's specially designed crest."

Guests were given a black and white dress code so they would not clash with the Beckhams, and they included three of Victoria's Spice Girls bandmates – Mels B and C and Emma Bunton, but not Geri Halliwell – and David's Manchester United team-mates Teddy Sheringham, Ryan Giggs and Dwight Yorke, as well as best man Gary Neville. The ceremony, officiated by the Bishop of Cork, the Right Rev Paul Colton, took place at 3pm in a folly chapel at the castle, watched by 29 of the couple's closest family and friends.

Dominic Mohan, The Sun's then Showbiz Editor, remembers the deafening sound of helicopters overhead.

He says: "It was an absolute bunfight. OK! had a helicopter desperate to defend their property, and other helicopters from other media outlets kept turning up.

"They flew quite low with quite a roaring sound. It was ridiculous, like something from the film Good Morning, Vietnam. The guests at the wedding must have really heard the racket in the marquee."

Fans flew in from around the world and 236 security guards were hired, led by ex-military man Kevin O'Brien. Manchester-based photographer Eamonn Clarke, who appeared in the recent Netflix docu series Beckham, covered the event for The Sun, and said: "It was a roasting hot weekend and the world's press descended on Dublin trying to see the footballers, wags and stars. People camped outside the castle for days waiting to look inside any car or van that went in." On the morning of the ceremony, David played golf at the castle with his best man Gary to calm the nerves.

Derek Morrison, who was then the castle's assistant pro golfer, told The Sun: "He borrowed my clubs.

"I remember him buying a tartan wind-cheater in the shop. It was like a Scottish design that the week before I'd thought, 'Who the hell is going to buy that!' "

For the big day itself, David wore a cream suit, gold and cream waistcoat, cream shirt, cravat, top hat and shoes by British designer Timothy Everest, and arrived in a £230,000 Bentley Azure. Victoria opted for a £100,000 gown by Vera Wang, featuring a bodice by couture corsetiere Mister Pearl, who has since worked on outfits for Bridgerton.

US designer Vera said last year: "I call it the transatlantic dress. That bodice flew back and forth four times on Concorde."

And OK!'s Jim tells The Sun: "Her simple champagne-coloured dress surprised many. Elegant and stylish, it had a fitted, strapless bodice made of Italian Clerici Duchess satin, recognised as the finest in the world, which emphasised her tiny waist.

"In reality, of course, there was nothing simple about it. There had been two initial consultations, six fittings in New York and London and it took 15 months to make."

Posh accessorised it with a £30,000 18-carat gold and diamond crown-shaped tiara by Irish-born jewellery designer Slim Barrett.

He told The Sun: "One day we received a call from a management agent wanting to arrange an appointment for Victoria Adams. She arrived at my studio with her mum Jackie and baby Brooklyn.

"Victoria said she was looking for a crown to wear on her wedding day to complement her gown.

"She wanted something like you would see in a fairytale."

Slim, who also made a necklace for Princess Diana, added: "She had a lot of fun trying on our tiaras and crowns, with her mum taking photographs." But in the end Victoria only borrowed the East of Paris fairy crown, and in 2013 it was put up for auction – but failed to reach the asking price.

For her journey to the folly for the ceremony, Posh descended a flight of purple-carpeted steps and climbed into a silver Bentley.

She had three bridesmaids – her sister Louise, Louise's 13-month-old daughter Liberty, and David's niece, Georgina, 16 months.

JIM recalls: "The younger ones were dressed as woodland flower fairies in cream with fake ivy around their wrists and ankles and gossamer wings."

He adds: "A trumpet fanfare by pageanters dressed in traditional Irish costume heralded the bride's arrival as she made her way to the altar, where a smiling David was waiting.

"At one point the Bishop raised a laugh when he reminded them that love should be enduring, quoting an old Irish country priest – 'The eyes that over cocktails seem so sweet, may not seem so amorous over Shredded Wheat'."

Just before 5pm, the orchestra struck up Mendelssohn's Wedding March, the service ended and a white dove was released over the estate, symbolising the couple's love.

Guests dined on a three-course feast of red pepper and tomato soup, chicken with garlic and sage, served on roasted potatoes, asparagus spears and a summer vegetable medley with a light herb jus.

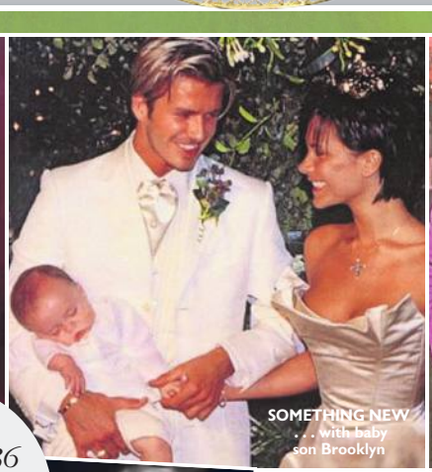
It then became a star-studded extravaganza, with a further 197 guests joining the newlyweds for a lavish reception.

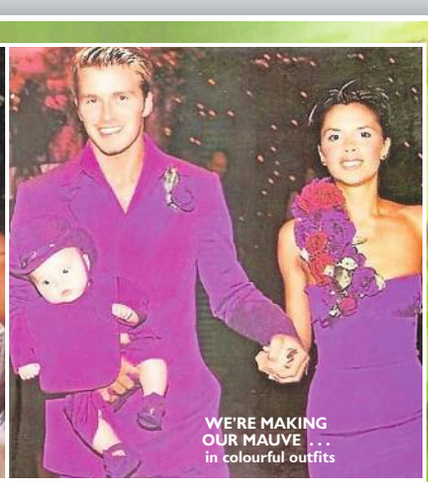
Jim recalls: "They were greeted by a fanfare on the battlements, with six-foot silk flames flurrying from the turrets, along with a purple flag bearing David and Victoria's crest.

"Inside, they enjoyed champagne and canapes before making their way along the woodland walkway to the marquee for the reception.

"The walls were lined with pleated ivory taffeta, tables draped in green

HANDS ON . . . newlyweds take to the floor for the first dance


SOMETHING NEW . . . with baby son Brooklyn


WE'RE MAKING OUR MAUVE . . . in colourful outfits

A castle in Ireland…236 guards…200+ guests…£1.4m in today's money

SMOOCH OF THE DAY . . . it's game on as they canoodle

TEE HEE . . . cheeky round of golf before the wedding

GATEAU LOAD OF THIS . . . naked on the wedding cake

David got a new top for golf. The pro had thought: 'Who the hell would buy that!'

ESTATEMENT PIECE . . . castle and marquee. *Left*, Sun's Page One

DECOR BLIMEY . . . golden figurine

£100,000 'fairytale' gown …a £230,000 Bentley…the roar of choppers overhead

SERVICE . . . Bishop Colton

SWORDPLAY . . . for cutting cake

OK YAH . . . mag paid £1m for their exclusive

SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY **SPECIAL**

LET'S DO BUNCH . . . with bouquet at Posh's parents' home in Hertfordshire two days before wedding

'Victoria's outfit was pretty bold. Mine was like the guys out of Dumb And Dumber' – BECKS

When 2 Beckham 1

By **ALAN EDWARDS**
The Spice Girls' PR guru

THE UK felt like the centre of the pop universe in the Nineties – and with Robbie Williams, All Saints, Pulp, Blur, Oasis, the Stone Roses, Cool Britannia was taking the world by storm.

The Spice Girls sold an incredible 44million albums and packed out stadiums across America, Taylor Swift-style.

David Beckham had made his England debut in 1996 aged 21 and was flying high with Manchester United's all-conquering team.

The UK was awash with talent and they were exciting times. Perched on a throne above it all (a purple one, of course) were David and Victoria Beckham, the unofficial king and queen of the UK.

There had been something of a revolution in the country and pop stars and footballers were the real popular heroes. David and Victoria epitomised these times.

So in love, so special.

They perfectly captured a moment of aspiration and incredible celebration in the nation.

It had all happened so fast.

One minute David was a shy footballer and Victoria was in a great new girl group and then, almost overnight, they were Posh and Becks – a global phenomenon.

It felt like we all went on the journey with them. In a way we did, and that was what made their romantic story so special.

We could see from their engagement announcement at a country hotel in Cheshire how in love David and Victoria were.

They were shy – coy, even, like any young couple setting out on life's path. Only in their case, they were surrounded by hundreds of journalists and of course, in the middle of it, myself and Caroline McAteer were running around trying to keep everything under control.

The wedding itself was truly spectacular but, in some ways, a lot more intimate than would appear at first sight. Underneath it all, it really was a proper family wedding – the parents, Tony and Jackie and Ted and Sandra, all knew each other well by then.

Even the non-arrival of Sir Elton John could not dampen the spirits, and the glow and warmth emanating from the couple enveloped everything and made for a great vibe.

As PRs, our phones of course were ringing off the hook, and we were trying to deal with the world's media in between the celebrations.

Caroline and I were also working closely with the respected photographer Brian Aris, who had previously photographed everyone from the Rolling Stones to Debbie Harry.

'They perfectly captured the times ...a great moment of aspiration and celebration in the nation'

He was getting the perfect photos for OK! magazine, which had acquired the exclusive rights.

Everyone wanted to see the pictures.

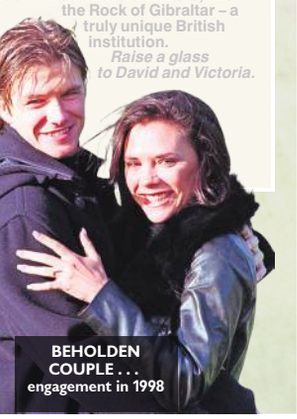
The clamour at newsagents was incredible and the mags sold out in minutes.

But despite the glitz and glamour, this was not one of those phoney showbiz weddings, and the photos perfectly capture the joy.

The morning after, David and Victoria approved the photographs outside the castle in their dressing gowns. It was a beautiful Irish summer morning as they stood there, still holding hands, gazing lovingly at each other and laughing at the images Brian was showing them.

We live in less innocent times, but I'm sure many yearn for another golden wedding like this and look with admiration at how this marriage has survived and is still there, like the Rock of Gibraltar – a truly unique British institution.

Raise a glass to David and Victoria.



BEHOLDEN COUPLE . . . engagement in 1998

velvet under cream-coloured calico, adorned by spectacular flower arrangements. But the most jaw-dropping aspect was the throne-like chairs for the couple, set on a dais, like medieval royalty."

The loved-up pair had their first dance to It Had To Be You by Frank Sinatra.

An orchestra also played Spice Girls hits and Sir Elton John had been due to perform, but had to pull out after suffering a heart attack weeks earlier.

The couple's three-tier cake featured layers of chocolate sponge and was stuffed with apples and iced in green and purple leaves with fondant sculptures of a semi-naked David, Victoria and Brooklyn on the top.

Posh and Becks cut the cake with a bespoke silver Wilkinson sword – supposedly a gift from four-month-old Brooklyn, and engraved with their crest and an inscription from their son – before sharing a lingering kiss.

After speeches, Jim says the newlyweds led everyone through to a second marquee, which was decorated in Moroccan style, with purple and gold drapes, gold statues and towering floral arrangements, where music and dancing took place on a black and white chequered floor.

They then slipped away to change into matching purple designer outfits.

Victoria wore a Jessica Rabbit-style dress, with flowers down one shoulder and a thigh-high split, while Becks wore a double-breasted blazer and flared trousers.

DAVID recalled in 2017: "That was pretty bold. Victoria's was pretty nice. Mine, I'm like, 'What was I thinking?'.

"I look like the guys out of Dumb And Dumber when they went to that party and wore those ridiculous outfits," he told Radio 4's Desert Island Discs. "I even had a top hat in purple. Unbelievable."

Even baby Brooklyn, now 25, who served as the couple's ring bearer, had a purple top hat and bib to match his parents. But PR supremo Alan – whose new book I Was There: Dispatches From A Life In Rock And Roll details his time working with celebrities – says: "The purple suits and thrones and all that were definitely a bit playful – mischievous, as opposed to serious. Definitely tongue in cheek."

While the wedding party let their hair down, the OK! team were hard at work.

Jim recalls: "We were based in a barn next to the castle, leaning over a light box, choosing the best transparencies to send quickly back to the office, along with captions giving as much detail as possible.

"The reporters were writing their copy on the hoof. Speed was vital.

"The magazine's deadline had been brought forward to get it into the shops as early as possible, to capitalise on the moment and sell enough copies to recoup the costs."

He adds: "At 2am, everyone gathered on a large platform, built to one side of the marquee, to watch the evening's spectacular finale – a firework display, accompanied by Bjork's hit It's Oh So Quiet." And after the last guests had left, Marina Licht, then the magazine's junior features writer, recalls helping to deliver proofs to the couple.

She tells The Sun: "The photographs had to be approved by Victoria and David that night. It must have been about 3am and they were still in the castle, dressed in white towelling dressing gowns.

"She still looked very glamorous."

Up against a deadline, the mag's team then flew straight back to London. Marina says: "I didn't have any sleep. We got a flight from Dublin at 6am and went straight to the office. We had to be escorted the whole way by security."

Jim adds: "The three issues of OK! magazine covering the wedding and reception party sold out, bringing total sales to seven million."

Since then, the couple have renewed their wedding vows and celebrated their anniversaries.

But nothing that they – or any other couple – do now could ever quite match up to the Posh and Becks wedding extravaganza.

TOMORROW
BECKHAMS SPECIAL

MONDAY: DON'T MISS PART THREE

LOTTO

£11.4 million* must be won tonight

will YOU be next?

Play on app

*Estimated jackpot. Account Terms, Rules & Procedures apply. Players must be 18+ and physically located in the UK/IOM.

jeremy.clarkson@the-sun.co.uk

Jeremy Clarkson

Miserable May was hottest on record but, er, only at night

WEDNESDAY was what we used to call a lovely summer's day. Deep blue skies, a gentle breeze and people sitting in the park drinking wine, eating cheese and catching a few rays.

Except it wasn't. According to the nation's climate enthusiasts, it was yet another example of global warming.

A savage, superheated reminder that the climate emergency is real and that unless we all start eating mud and vandalising paintings, we shall spontaneously combust and die in screaming agony.

Remember May? It was utterly miserable. The sun barely made an appearance from behind the relentless blanket of grey clouds and we all needed to wear woolly hats because it was so cold.

No it wasn't, say the disciples of Greta Thunberg. They say it was actually the warmest May on record. They claim that while the days were colder and more miserable than usual, the nights were warmer.

I see. So you take a statistic that no one can disprove because they were asleep and you use that to try to win your argument.

And now we get to India, where we are told there's a savage heatwave that's causing wheelie bins and lorry tyres to melt. And that hundreds are dying as a result. Which they are.

ECO MISSION . . . Greta

Communistical idiots

Now look. I'm not saying the climate isn't changing. It is. And some of the change is very possibly caused by human activity.

I also believe that changing temperatures around the world will cause havoc for farmers, problems for wildlife and major migration issues for Northern Europe and America.

And I don't think I'm alone. I think most reasonable people have got the message. So why do the eco-loonies feel the need to mangle facts and skew statistics and paint the weather maps dark red? And why do they spray Stonehenge and glue themselves to the road?

It's like trying to prove that the Earth goes round the sun or that England should do better in the Euros by self-immolating outside the British Museum. We know already.

I was going to call at this point for some sensible, calm debate. But actually, there's no need. The debate is done. Finished.

The world is round. It goes round the sun and it's heating up. Move on.

What we need are scientific solutions, and we are not going to get those if communistical idiots continue to ram a hysterical diet of Just Stop Oil rubbish down our throats every day.

SO let me see if I've got this straight. An Iraqi migrant on a boat to Europe allegedly raped a 16-year-old girl in front of her mother just moments after watching his wife and daughter drown.

Really? He watched his nearest and dearest die and then thought: "Right. I need to rape someone."

What in the name of all that's holy has gone wrong with the world?

I'M duty bound to comment on England's weird performance at the Euros. But while everyone else develops an encyclopaedic knowledge of football tactics every time the national team is playing, I have no idea what's gone wrong.

So while I may be duty bound to comment, unlike everyone else, I won't.

FESTIVAL . . . Glasto revellers

TRIAL . . . Socrates

Like Socrates, my heart really isn't in it . . .

WHEN Socrates was sentenced to death, he was told that a soldier would put his whole arm up his rectum then yank his heart free from its moorings. Sounds grisly, yes. But given the choice of that or going to Glastonbury? Close call.

OH DEER . . . Sir Keir

IS KEIR A GAME FELLA?

I KNOW that many people are worried about Sir Starmer becoming Prime Minister next week.

They know that he supported Arthur Scargill and Jeremy Corbyn and imagine he will create an unholy alliance of wokeness and communism.

But consider this.

We know, because he's told us about 17,000 times, that his dad was a toolmaker. But what he hasn't told us is that he comes from a long line of gamekeepers.

These guys understand the countryside. They run pheasant shoots and support the hunt and manage forests and keep nature balanced.

So yes. Sir Starmer will have inherited some down-to-earth ability to make a tool.

But he will have countryman DNA too. So come the autumn, I expect to see him in a pink tunic, with a bugle in one hand and a hip-flask full of port in the other, charging through the countryside on a huge and lively horse.

GLOVE STORY . . . prickly pal

'HOGGY HITCH

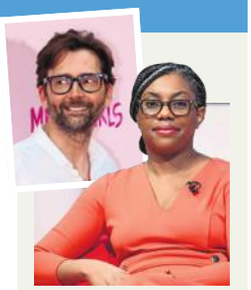
I WON'T go into details but last year, my farm's badger population was dramatically reduced.

The effect has been immediate. Fewer dry-stone walls are being knocked over, there's a noticeable increase in the number of ground-nesting birds and, best of all, last week I found my first ever hedgehog.

Unfortunately, my dogs found it too and it fascinated them. Unlike a badger, they don't have fierce claws so they can't tear into its flesh and eat it, and they've already worked out that it's quite prickly so what they do is sit there, looking at it. For hours.

I've used oven gloves to pick it up and hide it from them but moments later, they find it and the staring begins again.

Suggestions on a post card, please.



WAR OF WORDS . . . Kemi and, *inset*, David

SUCH A LACK OF REASON

IN a speech to various BLT+ people this week, the actor David Tennant said that he wished Tory equalities minister Kemi Badenoch "didn't exist".

Now we all know what he meant.

He was talking about a world so fair that there would be no need for the Government to have someone to root out inequality. Because inequality wouldn't be a thing.

But the crowd didn't see it that way.

They assumed he was lobbing a hand grenade at the Tories so they whooped and hollered and clapped until their arms had been worn down to stumps.

And buoyed by this reaction, David went on to add that Kemi should shut up.

He didn't mean that either.

It was just something he said in the heat of the moment and, God knows, we've all been there.

But instead of accepting that, Kemi Badenoch – whom I like, by the way – chimed in to say he was being racist and misogynistic. Social media was soon a cauldron of frothing hate.

And now we've all forgotten what it was he was talking about in the first place.

That's my biggest beef with this election and, indeed, the world in which we all now live.

There's a distinct and dangerous lack of reasonableness.

AGEING SO SAD

I HAD my first old person's tumble this week. I fell into a boat.

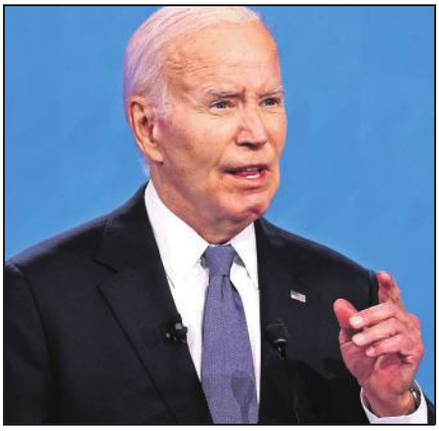
Which is better than falling out of one, I suppose. But it still hurt.

And it raises an interesting point. In my mind I'm 19, so of course I can jump into a boat, and of course I can boing over a fence and of course I can break into a run when the situation demands it.

So, yes, it's annoying when the day dawns and you can no longer do any of these things.

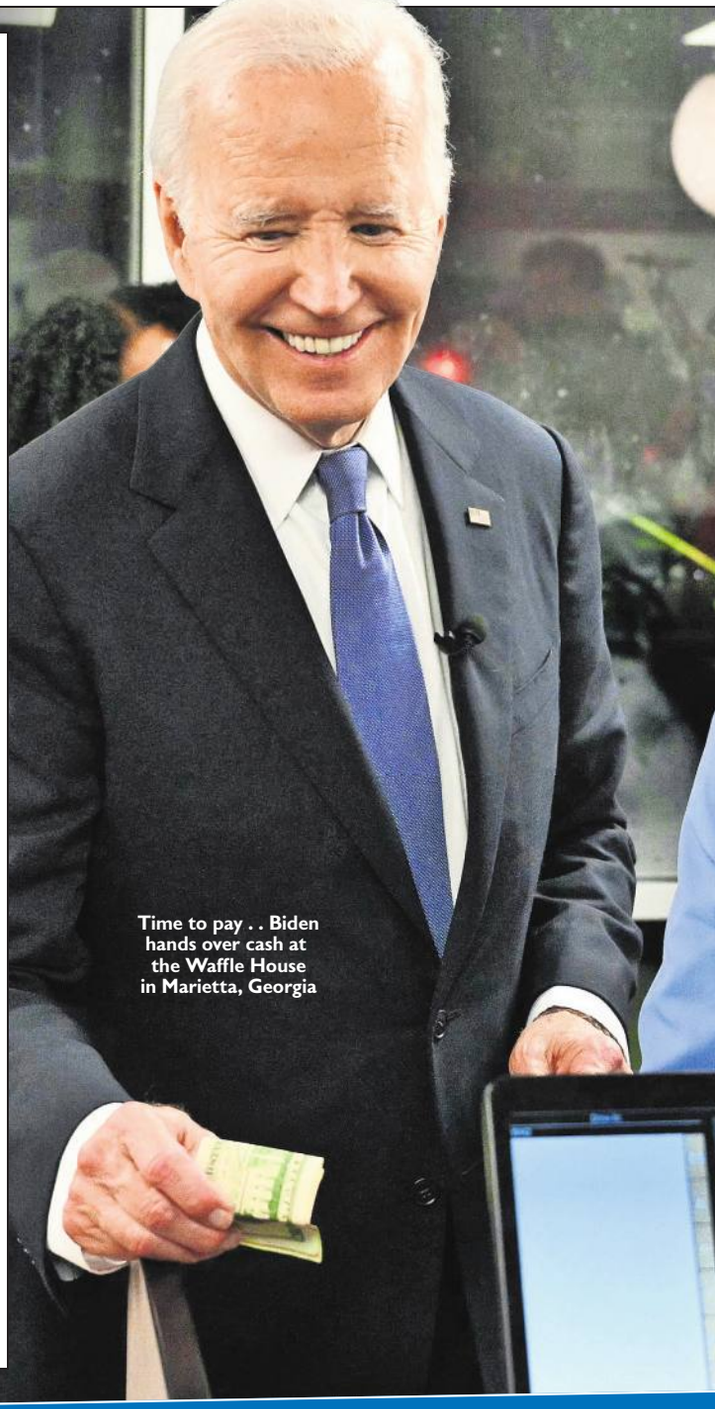
I even have to take a moment to get my breath after doing up a shoelace. But more than that, I find it a bit sad.

AMERICA IN SHOCK AFTER



Car crash . . . Biden in gaffe-strewn head-to-head

Poking fun . . . Trump had upper hand in debate



Time to pay . . Biden hands over cash at the Waffle House in Marietta, Georgia

By **ALEX DIAZ,** US Correspondent

Biden mumbles way through Trump clash

JOE Biden's US presidential campaign was left in turmoil after a shocking first debate performance against his bitter rival Donald Trump.

Biden, 81, lost his train of thought, mumbled and looked tired and confused in the head-to-head of the likely candidates to be the leader of the free world.

After the clash in Atlanta, Georgia, White House incumbent Biden still appeared dazed as he stopped off at a Waffle House restaurant in nearby Marietta with his wife Jill, 73.

When asked if he had any concerns about his performance, the President replied: "No, it's hard to debate a liar." He later added: "I know how to do this job. I know how to get things done.

"I know, like millions of Americans, I know, when you get knocked down, you get back up."

Yet Americans glued to TV screens to see the debate at "watch parties" across the nation were dismayed by his slip-ups.

Biden's showing on Thursday night sent his Democratic Party into panic mode with many wondering if he could be replaced before November's election.

Former presidential hopeful Andrew Yang, who endorsed Biden after running against him for the Democratic nomination four years ago, openly called for him to be swapped out.

He wrote: "Look I debated Joe seven times in 2020. He's a different guy in 2024."

But a Democratic adviser quoted by news channel CNN last night said Biden had no plans to drop out of the race and is committed to a second debate with Trump in September.

During their initial clash, Biden rambled incoherently during his answers. At one point he boasted that his administration had created "15,000 new jobs" when he presumably meant 15 million.

In one blunder, after attacking Trump, 78, on his tax cuts, he nonsensically bragged "We finally beat Medicare" — a reference to a government-run healthcare scheme for elderly and disabled.

Bizarrely, he also claimed that young women were being "raped by their in-laws, by their, by their spouses, brothers and sisters, by . . . it's just ridiculous" as he apparently tried to make a point about immigration.

Trump appeared confident and poked fun at Biden's confused responses, saying: "I really don't know what he said at the end of that sentence. I don't think he knows what he said either."

Tycoon Trump also had a dig at Biden after the president, speaking of golf, said: "I got my handicap, which when I was vice president, down to a six."

Trump described the comment as "the biggest lie" as Biden seemingly corrected himself, saying: "I was an eight handicap. Yeah, eight."

Trump taunted: "I've seen your swing, let's not act like children."

Biden went on the attack by calling Trump a "convicted felon" in reference to his guilty verdicts over hush-money payments to porn star Stormy Daniels.

Trump replied: "I didn't have sex with a porn star, number one" and added: "Your son is a convicted felon." Hunter Biden, 54, was convicted on gun charges this month following a trial.

Trump himself is due to be sentenced over the Daniels case on July 11, the week before his Republican Party's convention in Milwaukee. He has three other cases against him in the courts.

It is not clear if they will make it to trial before the election.

Despite his legal woes, Trump appears to have a significant lead against Biden in the polls.

One of America's top pollsters and political analysts, Nate Silver, said earlier in the week before their debate that Trump currently has a 65 per cent chance of winning the election.

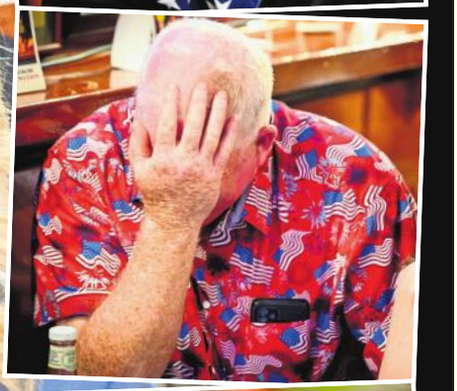
Biden's campaign team and the White House have desperately tried to play down concerns over his age and apparent decline in recent weeks. But his debate showing was so shocking that questions are being asked about who could replace him.

Other than his Vice President Kamala Harris, names being touted include former First Lady Michelle Obama and California Governor Gavin Newsom.

The Sun Says — Page Ten

FORGET THE WHITE HOUSE, IT'S... THE WAFFLE

PRESIDENT'S TV SHAMBLES



Smiles away . . . Biden, circled, at counter after debate disaster

Dismay . . . 'watch party' Americans

HOUSE

Rambling Joe is busted flush

PIERS MORGAN

I'LL never forget my first earthquake. I was staying at the Beverly Wilshire hotel in Los Angeles in 2009 and at 8.30pm one night, my suite suddenly began to rock wildly.

Chairs flew across the room, the minibar rattled furiously then burst open, sending bottles flying. My clothes tumbled out of the closet and for 20 seconds it felt like the world was about to end.

The whole experience was so shocking it took me many hours to get over it and I barely slept.

The US presidential debate between Presidents Biden and Trump had much the same effect on me, but the repercussions are likely to be far more profound.

This wasn't a mere car crash or train-wreck, as some are saying. It was a political earthquake of biblical proportions.

Only this quake lasted just 16 seconds. That's how long it took Joe Biden to show horrified Americans he is no longer fit to serve as President.

His rambling, nonsensical, stuttering attempt to explain what he'd do about the out-of-control illegal immigration border crisis he's fuelled was excruciating enough.

But it was Trump's response that was the kill-shot. With unusual calmness, the former President said: "I really don't know what he said at the end of that sentence.

"I don't think he knows what he said either."

It was a devastating riposte, because it was what we were all thinking. And from that moment, which came just a few minutes into the 90-minute debate, Biden was a dead man walking, both metaphorically and, sadly, almost literally.

I say sadly because nobody wants to see an old man humiliated live on TV in front of tens of millions.

It was so shudderingly painful to watch, I felt the same sharp pangs of discomforting anxiety I felt when going through that actual quake 15 years ago.

They should have stopped the debate right there. That would have been the kind, humane thing to do. But it continued, and Biden stumbled on like a guy with dementia who's escaped from his carer – and got lost in a hospital corridor.

Trump didn't even have to go full-bore Trump to win.

In fact, I've never seen him more restrained.

He was even entirely respectful to the CNN moderators Jake Tapper and Dana Bash, who I thought did an excellent job with a revised debate format – featuring no audience, and mute buttons. Trump's bemused and half-smiling expressions as Biden self-imploded with his croaky, incomprehensible verbal diarrhoea, said it all.

At one stage, it looked like the Republican nominee was feeling a tiny sliver of sympathy for his opponent. We all did, didn't we?

Setting aside political partisanship, this was a desperately sad moment for America.

It was the jaw-dropping public confirmation of what many of us have been saying for the past year: Joe Biden, both mentally and physically, is a busted flush.

Honestly, there were more than a few times when I either held my head in my hands, or wanted to run and hide behind my sofa.

And lest there be any doubt about what we had witnessed, CNN's post-debate reaction show reaffirmed it had been a political immolation.

To see former colleagues of mine like John King and Van Jones, and Democrat grandees like David Axelrod, queue up to denounce it as an unmitigated catastrophe was truly startling to behold, given how savagely critical they've been about Trump for so long. What else could they say?

This was a political earthquake of biblical proportions

For several years, Biden supporters have tried to pretend he's not the man we've all seen constantly falling over, freezing, or speaking gobbledegook.

Two weeks ago, when Barack Obama was at a fundraiser taking his former vice-president's hand to guide him off stage, I posted on X: "So embarrassing. The Democrats can't let this go on, surely?"

My view was shared by billionaire US hedge fund tycoon Bill Ackman, who replied: "The Democratic Party is destroying itself by advancing Biden for a second term.

"This is the Emperor's New Clothes in real life. But it is not a children's book or a joke. The world is at great risk, and a Biden second term is a grave threat to global security and prosperity."

Well, now it's been proven beyond any doubt that me and Bill Ackman were right.

The fallout from this unedifying debacle will be fast and ruthless.

Biden will inevitably be forced to resign to allow someone younger and more dynamic to replace him.

And it won't be Republicans, or people like me and Bill Ackman, who will have forced him to quit.

It will be the very same Democrats who disgracefully tried to pretend their emperor had new clothes, when they knew he didn't.

WHAT BIDEN SAID...

"All those things we need to do, childcare, eldercare, making sure we continue to strengthen our healthcare system, making sure that we're able to make every single solitary person ... er ... eligible for what I've been able to do with the er...with the, er, Covid, excuse me, with erm...dealing with everything we have to do with, er, look ... er, if ...we finally beat Medicare"

BUZZ KILL!

Bees invade Primark

EXCLUSIVE by ANDY ROBINSON

SHOPPERS ran for cover after a swarm of bees swooped on a Primark.

The yellow-and-black stingers were attracted by flowers in hanging baskets placed at the store's entrance just weeks earlier.

Security kept customers away as beekeepers managed to disturb the cluster and contain the queen and her workers in a cardboard box.

The store in Canterbury, Kent, later reopened.

Bosses had shown off the new flowers in a post on May 23, saying: "After months of growing, and hours of hard work, our displays have finally arrived and are ready to bloom all summer long.

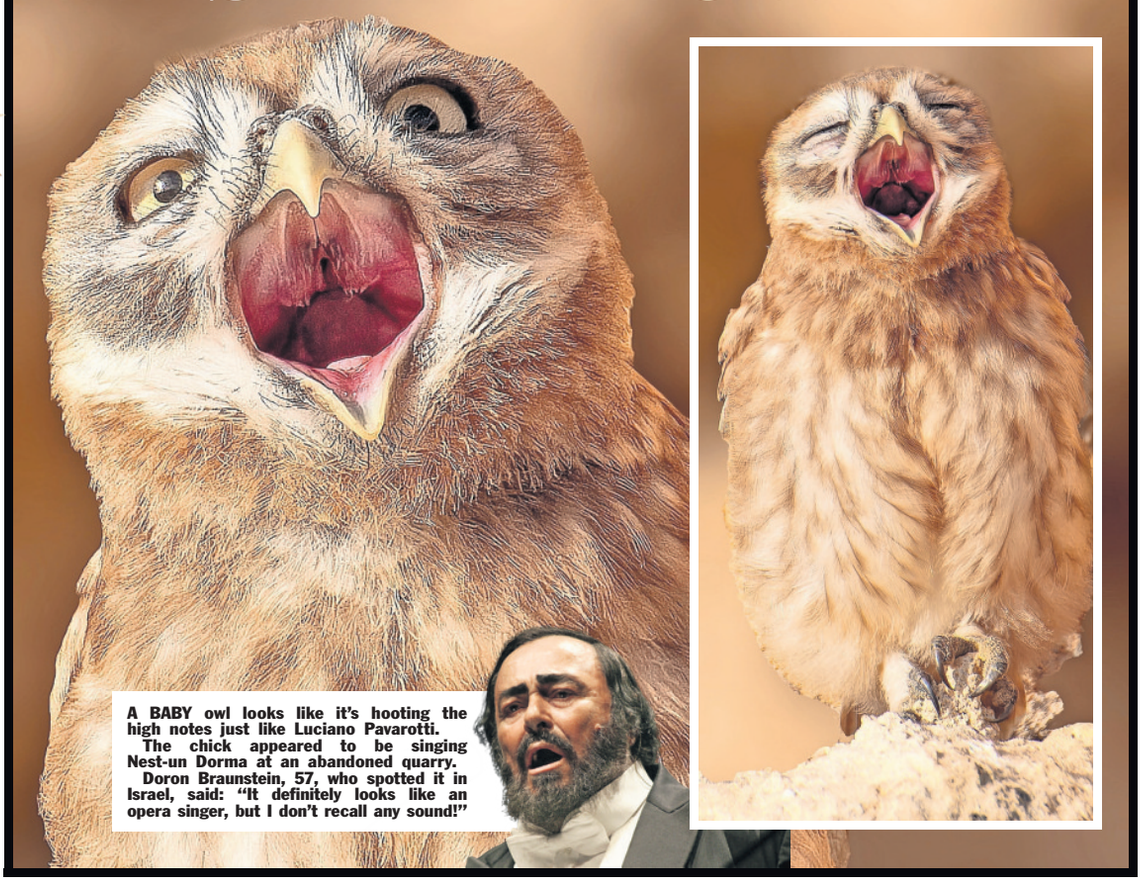
"To make it even sweeter, we've included special plants to attract our buzzing friends – the bees!"

Primark said yesterday: "We're sorry to anyone who couldn't visit us because of the swarm."

andy.robinson@the-sun.co.uk

Boxed up . . . beekeeper

IT'S PAVAROWLTY



A BABY owl looks like it's hooting the high notes just like Luciano Pavarotti.

The chick appeared to be singing Nest-un Dorma at an abandoned quarry.

Doron Braunstein, 57, who spotted it in Israel, said: "It definitely looks like an opera singer, but I don't recall any sound!"

what a line-up.

Carista
ONLY £3.99
4 x 330ml

Tropical Blast Zero Sugar
ONLY £1.79
6 x 330ml

Carlos Meat Feast Stonebaked Pizza
ONLY £2.49
335g

SPECIALLY SELECTED
The Ultimate Burger
ONLY £2.89
340g

30 JUNE 5PM
ENGLAND VS SLOVAKIA

ALDI
Everyday Amazing.

In Scotland and Wales, in store alcohol prices may be higher and alcohol may not be sold before 10am in accordance with Scottish laws. Tropical Blast Zero Sugar 6 x 330ml, 9p per 100ml. Carista 4 x 330ml, £3.02 per litre. Carlos Meat Feast Stonebaked Pizza 335g, £7.43 per 100g. Specially Selected The Ultimate Burger 340g, £8.50 per kg. Subject to availability. While stocks last. Products and prices may vary in store, Scotland, Wales, Aldi Local and online.

bedrinkaware.co.uk

'Broke trust' . . . Finn

Paedo hospital doc gets 8yrs' jail

By ROB PATTINSON

A "DEPRAVED" NHS anaesthetist has been jailed for eight years for sex offences – two of them involving patients.

Dr Edward Finn, 35, was arrested when "unsolicited sexual images" were found on a disused tablet device he owned.

Police found thousands more indecent pictures of children and photos he took while at work of a woman and a child.

Married dad-of-one Finn, of Cotgrave, Notts, who worked across the East Midlands, attempted suicide before charge.

He admitted nine offences including taking and making indecent photos of children, voyeurism and sexual assault of a child under 13.

Judge Michael Auty KC told Finn at Nottingham crown court: "You have irreparably damaged the confidence and trust society has placed in the medical profession."

Sale . . . winkle-pickers

Freddie's gear Ga Ga gone at £200k

By JOE HADDEN

A PAIR of winkle-picker shoes helped an auction of Freddie Mercury's clothes to net more than £200,000 yesterday.

The late Queen star's toe-pinching footwear, worn in his final video, went for £55,000, double the original estimate.

And a black suit donned by the rock legend for the same shoot made £47,000.

Freddie wore the gear for the video of I'm Going Slightly Mad just weeks before he died aged 45 in 1991.

The Bohemian Rhapsody and Radio Ga Ga singer's black velvet loafers – also in the video – sold for £25,000.

A black satin cummerbund made £19,000 and two scarfs went for £18,000 each.

A clothes hanger with Freddie's initials went for £150 at the auction in Devizes, Wilts, bringing the total to £201,950.

BRAID'S ON PARADE

By MATT WILKINSON

KING Charles wears his Field Marshal's uniform ahead of Armed Forces Day today.

The snap was taken last year by Hugo Burnand before the King's cancer diagnosis, and released last night by Buckingham Palace.

It was Queen Camilla, *below*, who gave this year's message to honour Forces personnel.

Wearing her brooch of the Royal Lancers — of which she is Colonel in Chief — she praised the "determination, unrelenting efforts and selfless loyalty" of service heroes and families.

Well suited . . . the King in his Field Marshal uniform

Picture: HUGO BERNAND/ROYAL HOUSEHOLD/PA WIRE

PRINCESS OUT OF HOSPITAL

ANNE GOES HOME

PRINCESS Anne has returned home after spending five nights in hospital for injuries caused by a horse.

The King's sister, 73, was discharged yesterday and is expected to be off front-line duty until her medical team gives the green light.

She received "minor injuries and concussion" from a horse at her Gatcombe Park estate on Sunday but her memory loss means the exact details are not known.

Her health scare comes as King Charles and the Princess of Wales are both being treated for cancer.

Anne will continue "rest and recuperation" at her Gloucestershire home, with her trip to Canada already cancelled.

The Princess Royal is an experienced horsewoman and competed for Great Britain in the 1976 Olympics.

No date has been given for her return to public duty.

Royal expert Charlie Rae told The Sun's Royal Exclusive show: "Sorry to use the analogy, but she is a royal workhorse.

By MATT WILKINSON, Royal Editor

She keeps on going all the time, and I suspect that, when she gets home, she'll be down on the estate, having a look at the horse.

"She'll probably give it a good talking to. Whatever happened was probably a bit more serious than just a glorified bump on the head but they want to make sure she's fully recovered."

He added: "It is a worry as the King wanted a slimmed-down monarchy. "You've got very few left to do the jobs. I would make sure Edward and Sophie are wrapped up in cotton wool for the near future."

Anne was rushed to Southmead Hospital in Bristol after being found with injuries thought to be from horses' hooves or legs.

The King sent Anne his "fondest love and well-wishes" after she was taken to hospital but could not visit her as he was hosting the Japan state visit.

Her husband, Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, said: "I'd like to extend my warmest thanks to Southmead Hospital for their care, expertise and kindness for my wife's stay."

matt.wilkinson @the-sun.co.uk

Recovering from injuries . . . Anne

S1

biz

GOT GOSSIP? CALL OR WHATSAPP THE **BIZ BATPHONE** WE NEVER SLEEP

07590 802979

JACK WHITEHALL and **ROXY HORNER** have left the babysitting duties to their parents and headed to Worthy Farm.

The pair, who had their first child in September, are staying in the posh Winnebago camp.

Prices for the camper vans begin at around £10,000.

ABBEY CLANCY and her husband **PETER CROUCH** are spied here every year.

FLORENCE PUGH was in the mood for a laugh as she gave a nod to her Midsommar film role wearing a very fitting festival flower crown.

The actress yesterday took part in a question and answer session on the Pilton farm for Dune: Part Two, as the film was screened at the Pilton Palais Cinema.

Florence, who played Princess Irulan in this year's blockbuster, let slip that she is keen on producing and directing her own movies.

She said: "It is definitely something I accidentally gravitated towards, I'm definitely someone who would love to do that.

"Being a director and producer requires a lot of education. I really want to do it when I've learned enough."

PAUL'S OUT WITH NORMAL PEOPLE

PAUL MESCAL and **DAISY EDGAR-JONES** had a low-key Normal People reunion at the Somerset festival.

Insiders saw the pair hanging out in the VIP bar with Paul's actor pal **ANDREW SCOTT** before they went to watch **OLIVIA DEAN** play the Pyramid Stage yesterday.

Their day out was caught on camera by Paul, *pictured with Andrew*, who revealed he is a keen snapper as he took photos of Daisy and their pals.

An onlooker told me: "Paul was having the best time at Glastonbury and was drinking with his friends, including Daisy and Andrew, all afternoon.

"There were no airs and graces about him.

"Paul even turned down the offer of free drinks to stay with his mates and party. He had an old-school Canon camera around his neck and when they went to watch Olivia he was taking pictures of them in the crowd.

"There were thousands of people around Paul but he went totally unnoticed."

Daisy was also on top form and was seen cuddling and kissing her boyfriend, photographer Ben Seed.

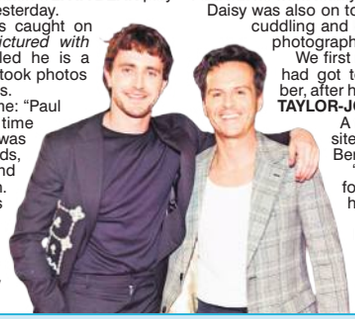
We first revealed how the pair had got together last September, after his break up with **ANYA TAYLOR-JOY**.

A fan who saw them on site told me: "Daisy and Ben are madly in love.

"They only had eyes for each other as they hung out in VIP .

"Daisy kept hugging Ben and pulling him close to her.

"They make a really lovely couple."



IT'S CYNDI LOOPAPER

I'VE seen plenty of weird and wonderful things at Glasto – but this year's sparkling disco-themed loo is top of the pile.

Designed by CYNDI LAUPER to help support WaterAid, the bogs, *left*, blast out some of her biggest hits.

As if pulled straight from Saturday Night Fever, the loos boast shiny mirrored walls, disco balls, coloured spotlights and neon wall art.

Cyndi, *inset*, said: "I'm proud to partner with WaterAid at Glastonbury to highlight that toilets shouldn't be a luxury. One in five people around the world don't have a decent toilet, which affects their health and dignity."

I have a feeling I will be using them Time After Time over the next few days.

STARR ON TOP OF PYRAMID

RISING talent **AYRA STARR** will play the Pyramid Stage today and I've no doubt she will have a queue of big names lining up to see her afterwards.

Earlier this year she teamed up with **LITTLE MIX**'s **LEIGH-ANNE PINNOCK** for single My Love.

And now Ayra, who released her album The Year I Turned 21 in May, has been in the studio with Coldplay frontman Chris Martin.

Ayra, *right*, said: "I've loved Chris for so long, and he's been very supportive.

"We met in a studio and I played him my album before it came out.

"He was giving me tips, and his producer Max Martin was giving me tips."

I can't think of a better mentor.

IT wasn't hard to notice SPENCER MATTHEWS and wife VOGUE WILLIAMS in the VIP area.

I saw them wearing loud red and green outfits while marching through the crowds.

There is one upside to the garish clobber – they definitely won't lose each other.

JOE & CO, JOG ON

WHILE we were tucking into fry-ups backstage, health nuts were doing a 5k run.

Not everyone was impressed by their health conscious choices, with some mocking the joggers online. One wrote: "Why can't they just sit in their tent and do ket like everyone else," while another said: "Unless this is a race to a newly opened portaloo, this is a madness."

Fitness fanatic **JOE WICKS** was also leading a mass workout class yesterday. If I didn't have my head in my plate, I might have joined in.

MY team spotted PRINCESS BEATRICE enjoying pints of cider in the sun at the Park Stage.

Earlier yesterday she spent time in Soho House's swanky Hideout bar and tucked into some food before heading out for the evening.

the charts

SABRINA CARPENTER holds on to her double whammy of No1 and No2 in the singles chart for a second week, while CHAPPELL ROAN makes her debut in the Top 10.

TAYLOR SWIFT has been toppled from her perch in the album chart by her protegee GRACIE ABRAMS, who celebrates a first No1.

SINGLES

1. Please Please Please – **SABRINA CARPENTER**
2. Espresso – **SABRINA CARPENTER**
3. A Bar Song (Tipsy) – **SHABOOZEY**
4. Houdini – **EMINEM**
5. Birds Of A Feather – **BILLIE EILISH**
6. Stargazing – **MYLES SMITH**
7. Good Luck Babe – **CHAPPELL ROAN**
8. I Had Some Help – **POST MALONE ft MORGAN WALLEN**
9. Austin – **DASHA**
10. Million Dollar Baby – **TOMMY RICHMAN**

ALBUMS

1. The Secret Of Us – **GRACIE ABRAMS**
2. The Tortured Poets Department – **TAYLOR SWIFT**
3. Hit Me Hard And Soft – **BILLIE EILISH**
4. Brat – **CHARLI XCX**
5. The Highlights – **THE WEEKND**
6. The Rise And Fall Of A Midwest Princess – **CHAPPELL ROAN**
7. Lover – **TAYLOR SWIFT**
8. Curtain Call: The Hits – **EMINEM**
9. 1989 (Taylor's Version) **TAYLOR SWIFT**
10. 50 Years On: Don't Stop – **FLEETWOOD MAC**

Anne-Marie shines at fest

ANNE-MARIE made the most of her "me time" by glamming up in a molten silver dress with a huge bow for her set yesterday.

The new mum tore through a high-energy performance on the Other Stage.

Backed by six dancers, she opened with hit Alarm and even threw in her cover of HADDAWAY's 1993 smash Baby Don't Hurt Me.

ELLIE HENMAN'S

arre

With HOWELL DAVIES & JACK HARDWICK

2024 GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL

Picture: DAVE BENETT/GETTY IMAGING

Maya and Stormzy Hideout at Glasto

STORMZY and MAYA JAMA got into the Glasto spirit in the most glamorous way possible.

The pair, seen here in bold-patterned outfits, hosted a private bash at The Hideout with Soho House CEO Andrew Carne.

The area allowed the couple to let their hair down ahead of Dua Lipa's headline set. The posh pop-up restaurant and bar, open to members and non-members, also served Soho House classic Dirty Burgers, as well as new cocktail Casa Verde.

BASTILLE's DAN SMITH was on site from Thursday – but not to perform. I spotted the singer keeping a low profile and helping out in the film tent.

The band made their Pyramid Stage debut in 2019 but last performed here in 2022.

A source said: "Dan adores Glastonbury, regardless of if they perform. He just loves being on site mucking in."

MEAL . . . Dua and mum

DUA'S PIG MOMENT

DUA LIPA gave the performance of her life last night as the headline act.

And she prepared for the gig with some hearty grub at country house hotel The Pig in Bath, half an hour from the site.

A pal of mine was eating at the celeb hotspot when Dua and parents Anesa and Dukagjin took a seat.

They told me: "Dua was so relaxed – you wouldn't know she was about to put on the show of her career at Glasto.

"She sat with her parents, with LENNON GALLAGHER and YUNGBLUD at a table nearby.

"Her boyfriend CALLUM TURNER couldn't stop grinning. It was clear he was so proud of Dua.

"She chose to steer clear of the booze."

A wise decision, Dua.

SHANIA: HARRY IS STILL THE ONE

Country star teases repeat of Styles duet

FOR 27 years she has provided the soundtrack to girls' nights out up and down the country.

So it couldn't be more fitting that **SHANIA TWAIN** is this year's booking for the coveted Glasto Legend's slot.

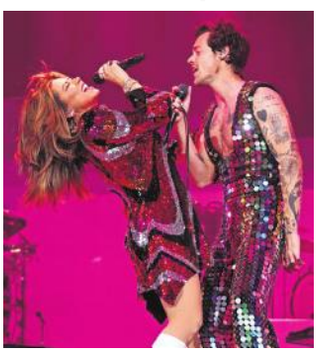
Tomorrow, the queen of country pop will take to the Pyramid Stage for an epic performance which, she promises me, will include all her biggest hits.

And she hasn't ruled out bringing **HARRY STYLES** on stage, if he is about.

Shania will also spend time going around incognito and checking out all the sights and sounds Worthy Farm has to offer, including tonight's headliners **COLDPLAY**.

In an exclusive chat with Bizarre, Shania said: "I am going to see some of the festival, as I have never been before.

"I am told I will love it. I plan on going early and just taking it all in. I have a pair of baby pink wellies with horses on, they are great.



FEST MATES . . . pair at Coachella in 2022

"I don't know why I want to wear those but I do. I also have a cowboy hat! I've never seen a Coldplay show, even though I've sung with **CHRIS MARTIN**."

Teasing her set, Shania said she has not lined up special guests, but wouldn't mind singing with Harry.

You're Still The One singer Shania added: "It will be all the hits. I was Harry's guest at Coachella so if he attends Glastonbury, then I will make him come up with me. If he attends, that is. If he's not here, it's really hard to get in there to just show up so I'm not going to hold it against him."

Fans should also keep an eye out on her outfits. Shania said: "My leopard-print look from That Don't Impress Me Much would be a good one to dig out for the set but I think it may be too hot for it.

"Actually, it's velvet too so the mud could ruin it. So on second thoughts, maybe not."

Laughing, Shania added: "Maybe I should be singing now, 'Man I Feel Like a Legend'. Even though I know it's happening, it feels surreal, especially as so many of my heroes have played the slot."

To prepare, she has genned up on past festival performances by stars such as **KYLIE MINOGUE**, who was there in 2019.

She added: "**DIANA ROSS** is a childhood legend of mine. I've watched Kylie Minogue back, **SIR TOM JONES**, **DOLLY PARTON** and, of course, Diana."

Shania confirms she is deep into her seventh album, which will follow last year's Queen Of Me.

She said: "I'm talking to a number of producers and have a few collaborations in the works.

"I actually started writing it during the Queen Of Me tour but then it was on hold for a few weeks while I kicked off my Vegas show.

"It won't be out this year. The plan is for next year."

KIDS TOO FAT FOR A DONKEY RIDE

A SEASIDE donkey ride boss is so worried about obese kids he now weighs them before they climb on to the saddle.

John Nuttall, 66, said children were asked to step on a set of scales if they appeared to weigh over 6st.

The dad of four, whose family has been operating in Lincolnshire for more than 100 years, said:

By ROB PATTINSON

"Some are just too big to ride a donkey. The welfare of the animals has to come first."

But Obesity Health Alliance director Katharine Jenner said: "It is completely unacceptable to weigh a child in public and then say they can't go on a ride."

She added: "It's the unhealthy food and drink that they have on their plates, in their high streets, in their schools. That's where we should be focusing our attention to try and improve what children are being given, rather than embarrassing them about their size."

Welfare . . John with donkey

But John, who operates on beaches in Skegness and Cleethorpes, said: "People are understanding. It's about the donkeys."

Riders must also be under 4ft 7in and aged ten or under.

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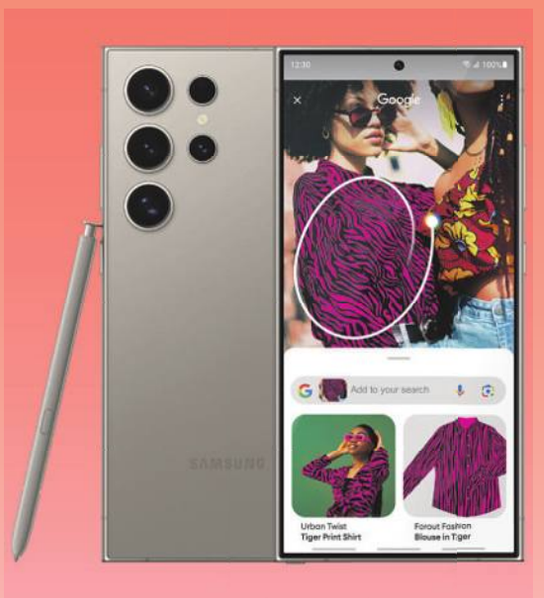

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IN THE Sun ON SUNDAY TOMORROW

VIVA FOREVER

IT is an enduring love story in the era of celeb break-ups and David and Victoria Beckham are about to celebrate their silver anniversary.

In Fabulous magazine tomorrow read the inside story from those in the know on how the power couple thrive together.

It's FREE with The Sun on Sunday, as is TV Soap, with top gossip and your telly listings.

PLUS 7 DAYS TELLY

Dry . . Benidorm beach

Two Brits fall foul of Beni ban on booze

By ZEENIA NAQVEE

TWO British blokes are believed to be the first victims of Benidorm's tough beach booze ban.

The bronzed pair were filmed being spoken to by local police as they shared a bottle of wine at the Spanish hol resort.

Benidorm authorities recently imposed fines of up to £650 on people drinking on the beach.

Fellow Brit tourist Darren, 46, from Middlesbrough, said: "The two men were doing nothing wrong, just chilling out with a bottle of wine.

"It's the first time I've ever seen the police move people off the beach for drinking. It's getting really strict. The police don't mess about and they're out searching people every night."

It is believed the two were not fined but were told off and moved on.

The new crackdown on "problem tourists" also includes a £1,700 fine for smoking on the beach.

Studio . . . singer Ed

Sheeran boost to school's pop stars

By STEPHEN MOYES

POP singer Ed Sheeran is helping pupils become stars of tomorrow after opening recording studios at his former school.

The 33-year-old global superstar paid for the new facilities – named Gingerbread Studios – through his charity, the Framlingham Foundation.

And he was at Thomas Mills High School, in Framlingham, Suffolk, to cut the ribbon.

Ed said: "When I was at school there was such an importance on classical music – there wasn't anything to do with production or songwriting or pop music or anything.

"Now students can write a song and then, the same day, record it and have something to take home and learn how to do production."

The school's head of music, Richard Hanley, said: "Such an incredible facility will be the envy of other music departments across the land."

STATE OF UK JAILS IN 2024

Prison officer films porn vid with inmate

Other lag 'directs' while puffing spliff

Cell sex tape . . lag in T-shirt and shorts with female prison guard. Right, second lag holds 'spliff' as he films pair and talks to cam

SHAMING OF THE SCREW

A FEMALE prison officer is being investigated by police over a sex tape filmed in a cell at a scandal-hit jail.

She was seen performing a sex act then having intercourse with a lag as her discarded radio crackled with messages.

The four-minute clip was filmed by another con who is apparently smoking a joint. He jokes: "This is how we live at Wandsworth. This is a movie innit, gangsters online."

He puts his hand over the woman's mouth and reassures his pal: "No one's coming through by door, bro. I will fight them. Do your ting. You know we are family."

By MICHAEL HAMILTON, Chief Reporter

The footage has been shared among other lags with illegally held phones, and circulated on WhatsApp yesterday. The guard, who looks in her 20s, is understood to have quit when the video emerged.

A source told The Sun: "This is incredibly stupid and dangerous, and the officer has acted outrageously – and put herself in harm's way.

"But there is a shocking lack of discipline at the jail. Loads of the staff are young and inexperienced."

Last month a report by HM Inspector of Prisons said 1,500-capacity Wandsworth in South London needs urgent improvement amid a surge in violence.

Governor Katie Price resigned during the inspection which highlighted "systemic and cultural failures that stemmed from poor leadership".

Criticised in report . . Wandsworth jail

Fallen German tennis star Boris Becker spent time at the jail after his conviction on financial charges in 2022. He later branded prison a "brutal experience".

A Prison Service spokesman said yesterday: "Staff corruption is not tolerated and the former prison officer allegedly featured in this video has been reported to police."

The Met force confirmed a probe was under way, adding: "At this early stage there have been no arrests. We are in close contact with the Ministry of Justice."

Target . . Hants school

Boy held for bomb threats to 6 schools

By ALEX WEST

A BOY of 13 has been arrested over a series of bomb hoaxes that forced six schools to close.

Headteachers said they received word of "serious" bomb threats on Wednesday morning.

Pupils were evacuated, while parents were told not to send their children in to the schools, which are all in Southampton.

Hampshire Police said the teenager was arrested on suspicion of communicating false information via a bomb hoax.

A mum of two pupils at Saint George Catholic College said: "I received a text message from my son that said there had been a bomb threat at the school. I drove straight here to make sure everything was OK."

Supt Phil Lamb added: "It was very quickly established by our officers that these were not a credible threat."

Pupils later returned to their lessons.

Allergies . . . Patch

Bald dog in search of home fur ever..

By WILL BARKER

A BALD dog with an unusual skin allergy is desperate for a home.

Patch's previous owners gave him up after being unable to afford treatments for his sores.

RSPCA staff took six months to find out the four-year-old boxer had a severe reaction to dust mites and birch pollen.

He now wears sun cream and special jumpers, and needs medicated baths and allergy tablets.

Fay Gibbons, from the Halifax branch, said: "Patch is one of the goofiest dogs we've ever had. He's always getting up to cheeky antics.

"He loves company of people so he'd like someone based at home with lots of spare time.

"His care plan can change from season to season.

"But our team will help any potential adopters.

"He's such a lovely lad and he really deserves a loving new home."

13 DAYS AFTER TEEN DISAPPEARS

The 12 clues that could unlock the mystery over missing Jay

By GRACE MACASKILL

IT IS the case that has gripped the nation.

The disappearance of Jay Slater on his first lads' holiday abroad has left cops in Tenerife baffled as the hunt for the 19-year-old enters its 13th day.

For British parents, the fact a teenager can seemingly vanish without trace on a family-friendly island reflects their worst fears, while young people have grown obsessed with the case on social media.

Jay, from Oswaldtwistle, just outside Blackburn, Lancs, vanished after a night out at the NRG festival at Papagayo nightclub in Playa de las Americas on June 17.

While pals Lucy Mae Law and Brad Hargreaves went home after the event, Jay travelled with two men he had just met to an Airbnb in the north of the island in the Rural de Teno park.

The next morning, he called Lucy to reveal he had missed a bus and was walking back to his apartment – a journey that would take more than ten hours by foot.

In a frantic call, Jay is said to have told Lucy he desperately needed a drink, his phone only had one per cent battery remaining and he had cut his leg on a cactus.

Separately, Brad yesterday revealed a second call in which his pal told him that he had veered off the main path – leading to speculation he may have slid down rocks.

Since then, there have been several alleged sightings of Jay, but no real leads. His devastated family, including mum Debbie Duncan, have flown to the island to help search for him.

As the days go by, the case seems ever more intriguing and police say Jay's criminal past is being examined as part of the investigation.

We look at the clues that could help unlock the key to the mystery.

THE PINGING PHONE

THE last person Jay had contact with was pal Lucy Law, who partied with him and his friend Brad Hargreaves after they flew out to the island on holiday. They had been at the NRG festival and Lucy went home before 3am. Jay stayed on, then travelled 45 minutes in a hire car with two men he had just met to an Airbnb near Masco in the Rural de Teno, a national park in the island's north.

He posted a Snapchat picture at the £40-a-night digs at around 7.30am. It appeared to show him holding a cigarette and walking down some stone steps. At around 8.30am, Jay called 18-year-old Lucy in a panic, saying he wasn't able to catch a bus and was going to start walking back to his flat.

Lucy says Jay told her his phone was almost out of power, that he had cut his leg on a prickly cactus and he badly needed a drink. His phone went dead at 8.50am near a hiking trail in the park.

Lucy told reporters she found Jay's disappearance "weird and suspicious".

Earlier, search teams narrowed their efforts to a small group of buildings close to where Jay's phone last pinged, but found nothing.

Spanish cops yesterday called on volunteers to help with the hunt. They asked firemen and mountain experts to assist searching ravines and trails near the village of Masca.

BUS STOP RIDDLE

THE sister of the woman who owns the Airbnb Jay visited was the last person to see him alive.

Ofelia Medina Hernadez told cops she spotted him standing at a bus stop shortly after 8am and he asked the time of the next service to Los Cristianos. Ofelia said she saw Jay walking along the road "normally but a bit quickly" some 15 minutes later.

Mum Debbie Duncan insists he would not have wandered from the main road, saying: "He isn't stupid."

The question remains why Jay did not wait for the cheap bus. And if his phone was out of battery, why didn't he return to the Airbnb to charge it?

REMOTE . . . cops search for missing teen in Rural de Teno Park

DUO WHO DISAPPEARED

TWO men Jay travelled to the Airbnb with suddenly cut short their holiday after he went missing.

They were originally booked to stay at the property from June 15 to June 24, but flew back to Britain the day after Jay vanished.

It has since been revealed they are from Luton and one goes by the nickname Johnny Vegas. Local sources say cops took pictures of their passports before they returned home.

Investigator Mark Williams-Thomas, a former detective who worked on the Madeleine McCann case, has flown to Tenerife to offer help to Jay's family. He claims the two men spoke with Jay outside the Papagayo nightclub on Veronicas strip before driving him to their accommodation.

Mark said Jay's family is desperate for the duo to come forward as witnesses as "they are not currently assisting". He described one of the men as around 6ft, stocky, with short dark hair, wearing an orange wristband and drinking Hennessy cognac.

DEATH THREATS

WITHIN hours of arriving in Tenerife, Debbie was sent a Snapchat message which convinced her he might have been abducted.

It read: "Kiss goodbye to your boy, you're never going to see him again, he owes me a lot of money."

Could the message be from a gang member connected to Tenerife's drug trade or someone pulling a hoax? It rattled Debbie, 55, who said: "I think he's been taken against his will."

HIS FRIENDS

LIKE every missing person's probe, cops will be looking closely at who can assist – including Jay's friends.

The teen flew to Tenerife with Brad, 19, and Lucy, a well-travelled student who has spent a lot of time in Tenerife, according to her Instagram. Brad revealed for the first time yesterday that he had also spoken to the teen on the morning he vanished.

He said Jay video-called him and he could see his feet sliding down a hilly area. It's not known why the information is only now being made public. Brad told This Morning: "He was on the phone walking down a road and he'd gone over a little bit – not a big drop – but he was going down. He said, 'I'll ring ya back, I'll ring ya back' because I think someone else was ringing him.

Brad said he knew Jay was off-road because, "I could hear, like, when you walk on gravel stones."

He added that his pal put his phone location on and said he would be getting a taxi back to Los Cristianos.

Brad's mum Rachel knows Jay's mum Debbie and is currently in Tenerife offering support, but it is not known how Jay knows Lucy or how long they have been friends.

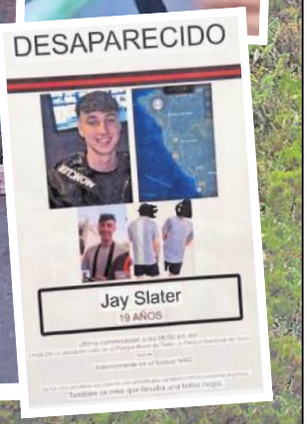
Lucy gave an interview to Sky News about the rescue

HELPING HAND . . . investigator Mark

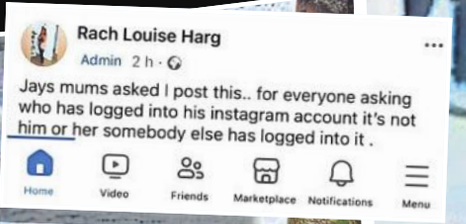
...'SIGHTINGS', THEORIES AND VILE TROLLS

EXCITED . . . Jay on first holiday abroad with pals. *Main pic:* mountainous region where he is believed to have disappeared

DISTRAUGHT . . . Debbie with her son. *Right,* in his final Snapchat image. *Below right,* missing person poster put up in the search for Jay



On arriving in Tenerife, Jay's mum Debbie was sent a Snapchat message: 'Kiss goodbye to your boy. You're never going to see him again, he owes me a lot of money'



SICKENING . . . chilling message, *top,* sent to Jay's mum Debbie and, *above,* friend's supportive post

LAST SIGHTINGS . . . grainy CCTV image and, *right,* by the Hard Rock Hotel pool two days before he disappeared

efforts, but chose not to show her face and only the back of her head. She has since gone to ground.

Rachel added that her son was "not really coping" since Jay went missing.

CHEQUERED PAST

SPANISH cops revealed Jay's criminal past is being explored as a possible line of inquiry.

In 2021, he was part of a gang of eight who attacked Tom Hilton, then 17, with a machete, golf clubs and an axe in Rishton, Lancs.

He got an 18-month community order with 25 days of rehabilitation activities and 150 hours of unpaid work, which he had finished before his holiday to Tenerife.

DRUG LINKS?

PICTURES and videos of Jay at the NRG rave show him wearing a black bag with thick straps around his neck. Even when images show him dancing topless in the searing heat, the bag remains with him.

At one point he is seen wandering around the dancefloor, looking around at other partygoers. It has led some to wonder what the bag contained and whether Jay could have been selling drugs that evening. Could that also explain the interest of the two strangers who took him back to their home?

Mark Williams-Thomas said the Tenerife drugs scene could play a role in the disappearance.

He said: "You get out of your car and, within 30 seconds, you are offered every kind of drug imaginable – and that is an alarming aspect. There is no doubt an undercurrent of drugs, but I can't tell you if that has had a direct impact.

"In the past 24-48 hours, information has come to light that gives rise to concern that drugs are a worrying aspect here. This is a line of inquiry."

VITAL WITNESS?

JAY'S family have pinned hopes he is still alive on a grainy CCTV image taken ten hours after he was last seen. They believe the figure, wearing a T-shirt and shorts like those the teen had on at the NRG festival, could be Jay. The image was taken in Santiago del Teide, a 17-minute car journey from where Jay was last seen.

It tallied with a witness who said he had seen someone matching Jay's description sitting on a bench in the town with two men.

Jay's father, Warren, believes his son could be the person in the film and has been putting up missing posters around the area. The question remains that, if it is Jay, why is he unaware of the huge police operation to find him – and why has he not contacted family?

EUROS SIGHTING

LOCALS in the town where the CCTV emerged claimed they spotted missing raver Jay watching the Euros football **AFTER** he vanished.

Mayor Emilio Jose Navarro said investigators had spoken to several people who alleged Jay watched the Euros "on the coast". He said: "Locals have told me they have heard from others that they saw someone looking like the boy in a bar at Los Gigantes. I have no idea if it was him and I have no idea in which bars he was seen. "I don't know if the police have been there."

FAMILY'S FEAR

JAY'S mum Debbie has faced a huge social media backlash, with trolls calling her the "new Karen Matthews" because she hasn't broken down in public. Matthews was involved in a plot to profit from faking the 2008 "kidnap" of her daughter Shannon, nine.

Spanish police say they are "keeping an open mind" over what has happened to Jay, but it is extremely unlikely they are looking at family, who weren't even on the island when he went missing.

TV psychologist Emma Kenny said the criticism levelled at Debbie is unfair, adding: "These comparisons to Karen Matthews seem to be that she isn't showing the 'typical' signs of distress others expect. However, she is exhausted, in a completely atypical emotional landscape, while constantly having to deal with the Press, which is overwhelming. Tears are not a 'one size fits all' reaction, and many people use different coping strategies."

JAY'S SOCIAL MEDIA

WITHIN days of Jay vanishing, his Instagram appeared to be active. Loved ones say someone logged into his account. However, Jay last used the site in 2021 and it appears to be the work of a hacker.

Mum Debbie complained that twisted Brits with "northern accents" were calling her phone from hidden numbers.

Armchair detectives have been creating bizarre conspiracy theories around his disappearance too, many involving Moroccan drug gangs.

GOFUNDME SCAMMERS

SCAMMERS tried to cash in on Jay's disappearance by setting up fake GoFundMe accounts.

Brad Hargreaves' mum warned against donating to an account in her name. The genuine page, set up by Jay's friend Lucy, has so far raised more than £39,000.

Debbie was forced to defend the appeal after cruel trolls asked how it would benefit the search for Jay.

She said she was talking to GoFundMe about using some cash to compensate loved ones who travelled to Tenerife to join the search.

Own bed A&E fury

A FED-UP patient lay down on his own rubber mattress in a packed A&E waiting room.

A pal brought the makeshift bed in after he had waited an hour to be seen, witnesses said.

Another A&E patient claimed she had been waiting for ten hours.

She said: "He was on a mattress in the middle of the waiting room. Nurses told him it wasn't safe.

"He demanded to be seen and the argument went on for half an hour before staff persuaded him to sit in a chair."

William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, Kent, said: "We understand patients can feel frustrated."

Gardens rat threat

LOCALS are gardening in hazmat suits and wellies after their road was invaded by rats.

Residents say rubbish in another tenant's garden has been attracting rodents for over a year.

Lesleyanne Walker, said: "I have to garden in a hazmat suit. I don't want to catch diseases."

Another Watford Community Housing resident on Colne Avenue, Marina Gvilova, said: "My cat does a better job than housing officers."

The housing association said it had appointed a pest control specialist.

Watford Borough Council confirmed they were monitoring the issue.

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GYPSY KERCHING

Practice leaps . . troops

Forces in 'chutes injury rise

EXCLUSIVE
by THOMAS GODFREY

HUNDREDS of British troops have been injured while practising parachute jumps – with cases last year up more than 50 per cent from 2016.

A total of 527 personnel have suffered broken bones and other ailments from plane and helicopter jumps in that time.

Last year saw a record 91 – up from 58 in 2016.

In 2021, RAF instructor Sgt Rachel Fisk died when her two chutes did not open during a exercise. An inquest last month ruled it an "unforeseeable accident".

An MoD spokesman said: "Parachuting does carry risks, but service personnel are provided with the appropriate equipment and training to ensure that they are as safe as possible."

CROWNING GLORY

A rare proof crown coin from the reign of King William IV in 1831 sold for £30,000 at an auction in London.

MEET & SWEET

By DAN CAIN

ALISON Hammond and her toyboy lover are getting serious as her son joins them at a party.

The telly favourite, 49, and David Putman, 26, posed with 19-year-old Aiden at sweets brand Candy Kittens' event in Brixton, South London.

Boxer's fortune soars to £115m

BOXER Tyson Fury's fortune soared to almost £115million last year on the back of sell-out fights and sponsorship deals.

Latest accounts show the Gypsy King's gross assets rose from £49.7million to £114.9million after beating Derek Chisora and Dillian Whyte.

But the documents filed cover from April 2022 to September 2023 and so do not include his mega-money heavyweight clash with Oleksandr Usyk in Saudi Arabia last month.

Tyson is said to have banked £85million from that bout despite losing his title to the Ukrainian.

A rematch could take place by the end of 2024.

During the accounts period, he also signed a deal to fight MMA star Francis Ngannou, which took place last October.

Despite bringing in around £65million, Fury, *below*, paid himself a dividend for the accounts period of just £150,000.

Of the £114.9million in assets, almost £109million was held in investments.

However, in the 12 months following the filing date of September 2023, more than £36million was due to creditors.

This leaves Tyson Fury Limited with assets less liabilities of £82,281,741.

As well as his exploits in the ring, dad-of-seven Tyson, 35, also appeared in Netflix show At Home With The Furys. He has a mansion in Morecambe, Lancs, plus other land and a caravan park.

A source said: "The Usyk fights will add to his fortune, as would any fight with Anthony Joshua."

EXCLUSIVE
by MICHAEL HAMILTON

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KIM PONG UN STRIKES AGAIN

NORTH Koreans have been told to join a big push and collect human waste to fertilise crops.

Dictator Kim Jong-un wants a whopping 22lb of poo from each citizen.

It comes a month after the tubby despot sent balloons filled with faeces over the border to South Korea – apparently in response to the pooh-poohing of his regime.

EXCLUSIVE by STEPHEN MOYES

His subjects are down in the dumps over the latest request as it is usually done in winter.

But dire shortages of imported fertiliser mean a summer collection has been introduced under Jong-un's agriculture-first initiative.

Residents are complaining that they are being asked to dry their dung in their gardens in the summer heat. But North Koreans can dodge the dirt draft by spending a few pennies.

Dictator . . . Jong-un

One resident of Ryanggang province said opting out cost 5,000 won – about £4.50 – a large sum for many impoverished locals.

He added: "The neighbourhood watch unit issued an order to dry human waste. Residents could not hide their bewilderment."

The Carpenters

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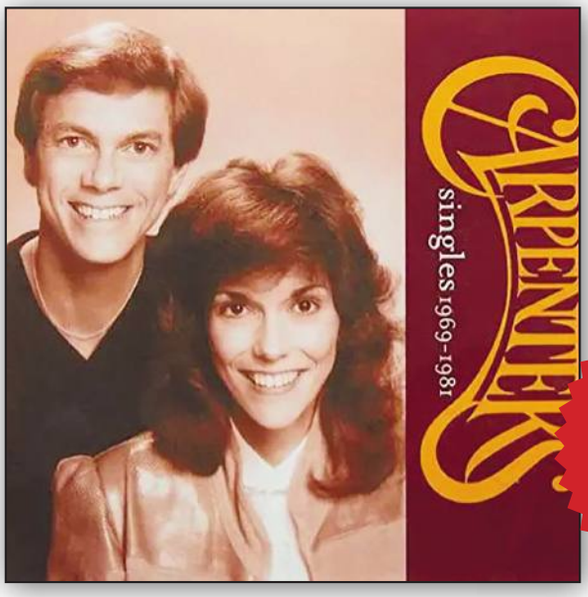

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11. Only Yesterday
12. Ticket To Ride
13. Hurting Each Other
14. Yesterday Once More
15. Sing
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AFTER TEENAGERS'

By GRACE MACASKILL

IT was a nervy phone conversation between a mother and her two estranged sons that tugs at the heartstrings.

On one end of the line was Britney Spears, whose mental health struggles have been well documented as the sorry saga of her life has played out in the full glare of publicity.

On the other end were sons Sean Preston, 18, and 17-year-old Jayden James, whose relationship with her crashed under the strain of the singer's 13-year conservatorship.

But that Mothers' Day call shared by the three in May could be the bridge that finally reunites the Toxic pop hitmaker with the boys she calls the "loves of my life".

Britney lost full-time custody of her sons in 2007 after an infamous breakdown during which she shaved her head. The US star was allowed only supervised visits to see her boys, then aged two and one, who went to live with her former husband Kevin Federline.

She now has 30 per cent custody but her relations with her sons hit a rough patch after they chose not to attend their mum's 2022 wedding to US model Sam Asghari, her now ex.

The teens were also said to be embarrassed by her semi-naked pictures and overtly sexual dance videos posted on Instagram.

But Britney is now at pains to rebuild a loving relationship with her sons – who were once by her side for everything, from Smurf movie premieres to Dodgers baseball games and trips to Disneyland.

This week a family source claimed Britney, 42, was "fully back on track" with the pair, although that seems a little premature at this point.

'Perinatal depression'

Britney's ex and one-time backing dancer Federline denied she had paid secret visits to her sons at their home in Hawaii, but his lawyer issued a statement admitting a reunion may be on the cards.

Attorney Mark Vincent said: "A reconciliation/reunification is complex and can take time. The phone call was a good sign but it's a process that takes more to accomplish. The good thing is, the boys saw their mum was doing well and have a desire to speak with her."

In another sign Britney is getting her life back together, it has been revealed she no longer needs the services of high-profile US lawyer Mathew Rosengart – the man credited with freeing her from her conservatorship.

Britney has not been pictured with her sons since 2021 but earlier this month she shared photos of her brother Bryan Spears and referenced her children in the caption – while also suggesting that she is now exchanging messages with them.

She wrote about one image: "I sent it to my kids and I think they got jealous because they said 'that's a filter . . . that's not real."

Britney's brother Bryan, 47, a TV producer, is said to be the key to healing the rift between mother and sons. A source said: "Bryan was instrumental in facilitating their reunion. He cares so much for Britney and his nephews.

"She wanted to keep this quiet because she didn't want to jeopardise their chances of reconciliation, but she's actually back to being their mum again."

Britney's troubles began soon after she married American Federline, now 46, and became pregnant with first son Sean Preston in 2005.

She dedicated memoir The Woman In Me, published last October, to her boys and called them the "loves of my life". But she also shared how her mental health had spiralled just before and after she gave birth.

She wrote: "Unfortunately, there wasn't the same conversation about mental health back then that there is now. I now know that I was displaying just about every symptom of perinatal depression – sadness, anxiety, fatigue."

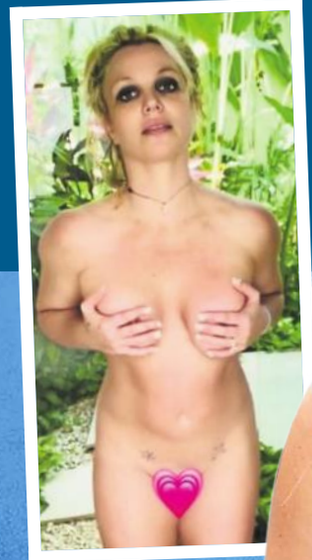
With her every move scrutinised, the public watched in horror in February 2006 as footage showed her driving one-handed with then five-month-old Sean Preston on her lap.

In May that year, she took a tumble with her baby, as she held him in one arm while clutching a drink with her other hand.

She was said to be distraught and tearful after the accident.

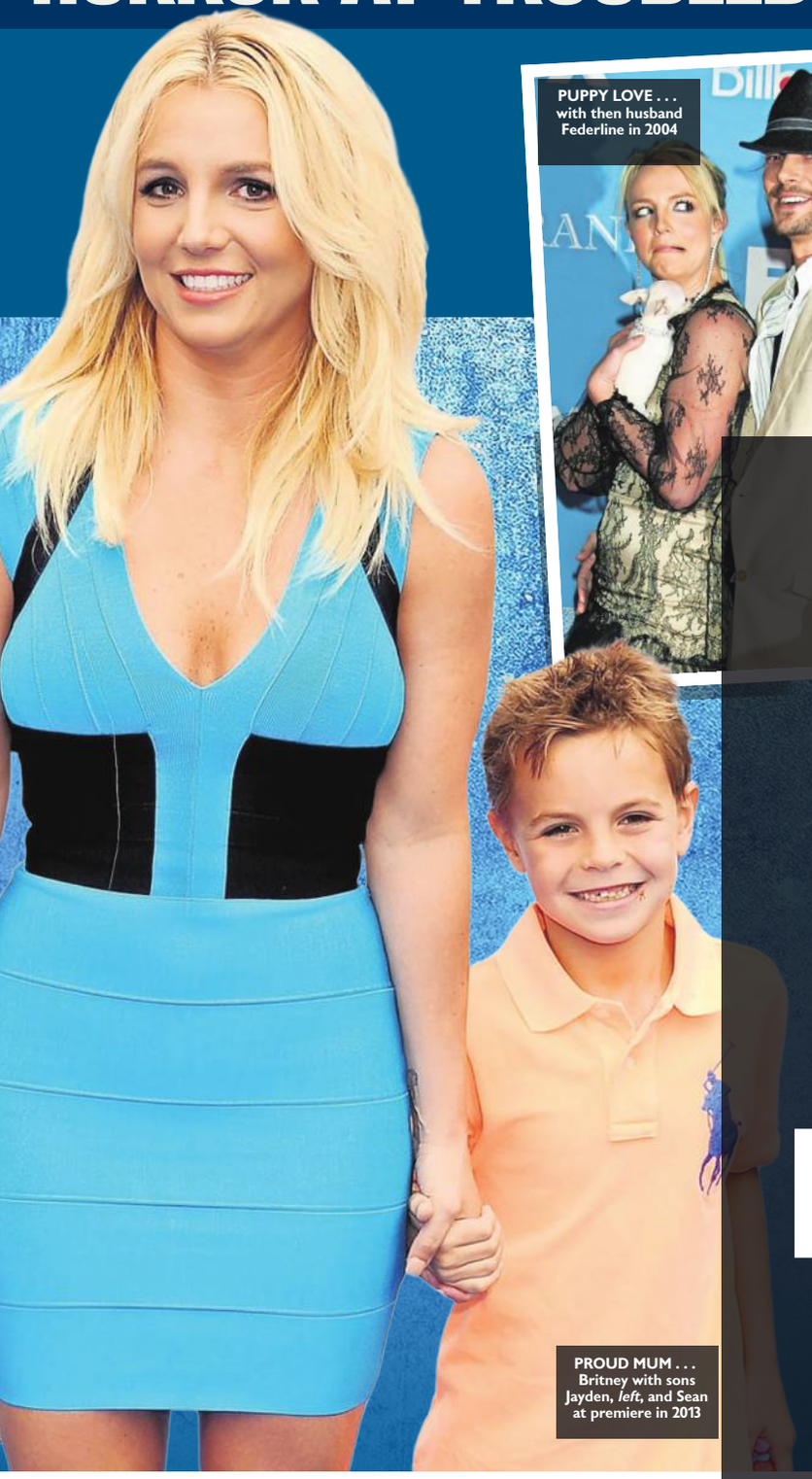
In September 2006, she gave birth to second child Jayden James but announced within weeks that her marriage to Federline was finished.

As she struggled to come to terms with the marriage breakdown while coping with fame and two small children, Britney's beloved aunt Sandra, who she once described as



SHOCK . . . nude on Instagram, 2022

HORROR AT TROUBLED STAR'S ONLINE POSTS



PUPPY LOVE . . . with then husband Federline in 2004

LADS' NIGHT . . . Britney's boys Jayden, *left*, and Sean with pal at film premiere in 2021

PROUD MUM . . . Britney with sons Jayden, *left*, and Sean at premiere in 2013

Cautious phone call that may reunite Britney and her boys

like a second mother, died of ovarian cancer

In February 2007, the world again watched aghast as Britney got a hairdresser to shave off her long, brunette locks – and she attacked a paparazzi with an umbrella.

She said in her memoir that she was "out of my mind with grief" at the time. She wrote: "'With my head shaved, everyone was scared of me, even my mom.

"Flailing those weeks without my children, I lost it, over and over again. I didn't even really know how to take care of myself.'

In January 2008, Britney was sectioned after she locked herself in a bathroom with the two boys and refused to hand them to Federline.

She regained visitation rights in July 2008, as she returned to the spotlight with a documentary, but by then she had been placed under the controversial conservatorship which gave dad Jamie, and lawyers, complete control over her.

She claimed she only agreed to the deal so that she could spend more time with her boys amid ongoing custody issues.

She said that she thought she would get her sons back if she "played along."

She wrote in her book: "My freedom in exchange for naps with my children – it was a trade I was willing to make. Starting a family was my dream come true, being a mom was my dream come true." The guardianship meant Britney was given 50/50 custody with Federline – but then things between them again seemed to break down in 2019 when her sons filed a restraining order against their grandad Jamie, amid claims he had broken down a door.

During the #FreeBritney legal fight to regain her freedom it then emerged that she had been desperate to become a mum again – but had been forced to keep in place an IUD contraceptive device against her will.

It was this week revealed that Britney no longer needs legal advice after a settlement deal with her father following the conservatorship.

A year after breaking free, she wed long-term beau Sam Asghari and in April 2022 announced she was expecting – but the following month she miscarried.

Her sons did not attend the wedding but dad Federline issued a statement: "They're happy for their mom and hopeful Sam and Britney are starting a great future. It's their [wedding] night and they didn't want to take [attention] away."

Britney and Sam split last August after six years together, amid explosive rows and rumour of her cheating. To add to Britney's woes, Federline moved to Hawaii the same month with her sons after his wife Victoria Prince was offered a job at the university there.

In 2022, he said the boys wished not to see their mum, after her revealing shots on Instagram left them red-faced. He said: "I try to explain to them, 'Look, maybe that's just another way she tries to express herself'. But that doesn't take away from what it does to them. It's tough. I can't imagine how it feels to be a teenager having to go to high school."

Meanwhile Britney posted on Instagram: "I used to have my kids way more than him *[Federline]*. From when they were six to nine years old, I had them 70 per cent of the time, and in the time since they've been gone, I've felt a huge part of me has died and like I have no purpose. They were my joy; they were my everything."

Hopefully the troubled singer can now build a relationship with the sons she misses so badly.

'Flailing those weeks without my children, I lost it, over and over again. I didn't even really know how to take care of myself'

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By MEL HUNTER

Keep reading to find out how to be a budget book worm.

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£3

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'Don't be rude' . . . AI

AI works better if it's given 'respect'

By THOMAS GODFREY

BEING kind to AI bots makes them carry out tasks better and faster, a study has found.

Researchers claim asking chatbots to do things politely causes fewer errors because they want to be respected.

Scientists from Japan's Waseda University asked multiple AI tools to do 150 jobs each, switching between rude prompts and polite requests.

Rude queries triggered longer and more irrelevant responses by bots.

But the AI tools reacted equally badly to excessive compliments.

Study author Hao Wang said: "Impolite prompts led to a deterioration in performance, with mistakes, stronger biases, and omission of information.

"Excessive flattery is also not necessarily welcome, indicating that large language models reflect the human desire to be respected."

Scare . . exposed drain

Ma's fury after son falls into 8ft sewer

By ALEX WEST

A MUM says her five-year-old son is lucky to be alive after falling into an 8ft-deep sewer.

Natalie Walton's boy tumbled in after his pal, seven, moved its cover which had been damaged. Luckily a neighbour saw the accident and pulled her son free.

The lad suffered bruising and grazes.

Natalie, 33, of Ilchester, Somerset, said: "We are fortunate he landed on a ledge and that the drain wasn't full of water. He has nightmares and won't walk on drain covers."

Natalie, who lives with hubby Shane and their three sons, added: "I'm not being taken seriously because it wasn't fatal.

"There has been no accountability."

Wessex Water said: "It's unclear how the cover was damaged. We were there within an hour to make the area safe.

"The cover was then repaired the next day."

Picture: KHY

KYLIE'S ABS FAB

By JESS LESTER

FORMER billionaire Kylie Jenner looks abs fab in a summery white two-piece.

The reality TV star and business owner, now worth £700million, posed in a bralette and mini skirt from her clothing firm KHY.

Kylie, 26, also modelled a low-cut summer dress, which she paired with wellies, *right*. The release marked the seventh collection for the brand, launched last October after she lost her billionaire status.

TRIAL STARTS

FINANCE CHIEF'S £160K ESCORTS

Payments . . . Mr Khan outside court, and Ms Massey

Firm sues accountant

A MARRIED accountant is being sued for £1.1million after spending £160,000 of his company cash on escorts.

Dad-of-two Mohammed Asif Khan, 45, paid £56,000 to "Britain's No1 porn queen".

He admits bringing shame to his wife, but told the High Court: "The company didn't care what I spent that money on."

Mr Khan, of Newcastle, worked for vehicle bodyshop North of England Coachworks until 2019 when financial irregularities were spotted. He was quizzed and then he resigned.

The firm's barrister Sam Neaman said investigations revealed Mr Khan had been using cheques and transfers to "steal" about £1.1million.

Around £160,000 went to "a number of escorts" — £56,000 to Gemma Massey, the court heard. The 39-year-old is an OnlyFans model and once boasted of being "Britain's best-paid porn star".

Mr Khan admitted paying escorts, but insisted he did not do anything his employers of which did not approve.

He told the judge: "The reality is they're not telling the truth. I was giving them (the firm) money when they had major cash issues. I gave them £800,000."

But Mr Neaman said that, even offset by the amount Mr Khan has put in, he left the company £1.1million out of pocket over 6½ years.

By ED SOUTHGATE

Mr Khan said some of the money was a bonus he was entitled to and came as part of an unusual way of paying him. The judge asked: "Why would a company be happy for you to spend so much money on prostitutes?"

Mr Khan replied: "In reality, it was my money. The company didn't care what I spent that money on. The agreement we had was I could spend that money, that was mine.

"Unlikely as it sounds, they were aware of where that money was going. That was the truth." Trial continues.

GAME, SET & PATCH Create your own Wimbledon display Plus: £500 greenhouse to be won gardening Page 57

Crime scene . . file pic

Cyclist 'killed car driver at window'

By MIKE SULLIVAN

A CYCLIST stabbed a BMW driver to death after his mountain bike was dragged by the victim's car, a court heard.

Ahmed Gonladieu, 25, is accused of murdering Alexandros Josephs, 29, through his open window.

The blow pierced Mr Josephs' liver and aorta.

He drove a short way before crashing into cars and died at the scene, the Old Bailey was told.

A witness had allegedly seen Mr Josephs talking to a man on a bike in Ladywell, South London.

After a minute, the witness heard scraping metal and saw the BMW dragging the bike along the road – followed by the knifing, it was said.

A passenger in the car got out and shouted for help as the attacker fled.

Jurors heard it was not disputed that Gonladieu, of Ladywell, stabbed Mr Josephs but an issue may be why. He denies murder. Trial continues.

Captain . . with Mark

Pub gets ready to party for parrot, 41

By ALEX WEST

A PUB is throwing a 41st birthday party bash for its beloved parrot.

"Captain" has been entertaining drinkers with her lively avian banter since 1985.

And she soon won over Mark Smeed who took charge of the New Inn at Coleford, Devon, five years ago. He said: "I thought I had bought a pub with a parrot, but now I know I bought a parrot with a pub."

He went on: "She became attached to me when I got here and doesn't leave my side.

"She's got a very good sense of humour and says a lot of 'pretty boys, hellos and goodbyes'.

"She's not got a potty mouth, but the worse she says is 'Roy's a bugger'!"

He said Captain has requested live music, a beer festival and a hog roast this weekend. He said: "At the end of the day, who am I to say no?"

EXPERT'S 3-STEP THERAPY FOR NAUGHTY MUTTS

WE all know someone who got a dog in lockdown.

By NATASHA HARDING and THEA JACOBS

They may well be man's best friend – at the last count there were 12million pooches living in UK households. But parks are now full of bonkers, barking mutts whose owners are struggling to cope.

Canine behaviourist, nutritionist and hydrotherapist Leon Towers has 12 years' experience helping wayward dogs and reckons the old methods do not work. Instead, he thinks of all dogs as children.

In his new book, Fix Your Dog In Three Easy Steps, he writes: "I don't believe that there's any such thing as an adult dog. Instead, I believe all dogs have the mental age of a three-year-old.

"However old they are, dogs never mentally outgrow a three-year-old toddler. Even if a dog is 17 years old, they still have the mental needs of a three-year-old."

Leon believes that each dog can be fixed by focusing on three things – diet, environment and mental stimulation – and that all owners should remember one key point.

He writes: "Don't look at what they've done, but why they've done it.

"There's always a reason behind the behaviour. Dogs don't do things just because they want to. They want to please you.

"Any issues like chewing, aggression or destructive habits – they all happen for a reason. They are not just born that way."

Here, we share Leon's top tips for getting your dog's behaviour on track from his new book, published by Cassell (*£14.99*) on July 11.

DIET

LIKE humans, dogs can be affected by their diet. To help curb bad behaviour in your pooch, make sure you feed them the right things, as you would for a child.

Leon says canines need at least 70 per cent of their diet to be meat, but some dog food brands do not contain any.

One key thing to reduce is carbs. Leon writes: "If I've got a dog with what I would call 'nervous energy' who is always on edge and anxious, I would know before I've even looked at the diet that it's going to contain lots of carbs.

"Why? Because carbs turn to sugar. Like a kid ramped up on sweets, if your dog eats an excess of carbs and sugar, they'll be bouncing off the walls."

Red meat can also be a problem, as Leon says it can contribute to aggression. He writes: "If your dog has aggression issues, either with humans or dog-on-dog aggression, I would avoid beef, lamb, rabbit or duck. Red meat contributes to anger issues because it is full of testosterone. It's like injecting your dog with steroids."

Leon recommends chicken, turkey and fish instead.

The trainer also believes a raw diet is the healthiest.

Another of his tips is to limit treats, as it's like giving biscuits to a child. He suggests putting a treat in a jar every time you give one to your pooch – so you can see how quickly it fills up.

Finally, Leon believes adult dogs need two meals a day and these should be after the morning and evening walks.

He writes: "A dog needs a meal around 7-8am, after their walk, and around 4-5pm. Dogs can get bloat or a twisted stomach from exercising too soon after a meal. You wouldn't go to the gym after eating."

Get that dog ON the couch!

ENVIRONMENT

FOR dogs to behave their absolute best, it is vital owners make sure their home space is a suitable environment for them.

Leon writes: "He needs routine, consistency and boundaries. He needs to know where he can and can't go, and he needs to have a place he can escape to when things get too much – the equivalent of a child's bedroom."

First, ensure your dog's bed is perfect.

Leon says it should be in a quiet spot away from the front door.

He recommends crates because they are like a den. Leon doesn't see them as a punishment tool, unless that is how they are used by the owner. If you want your dog in the bedroom, that's fine too.

For people with aggressive dogs, he recommends restricting access to the hallway and front door using a safety gate.

Having a gate, rather than shutting the door, allows the dog to see what is going on and as a result reduces anxiety.

No matter your dog's temperament, Leon recommends having areas that are red zones – meaning your pet does not have automatic access. This should be places like the kitchen or young children's bedrooms. These out-of-bounds areas can be sealed off with more gates, so your furry friend can still see what is going on.

Next up is toys. While many owners leave their pet's possessions all over the house, this is a bad habit according to Leon. He writes: "Your dog needs to know which are his toys and when he can play with them."

This can take the form of having a designated box for your dog's toys and then presenting them to him when it's play time.

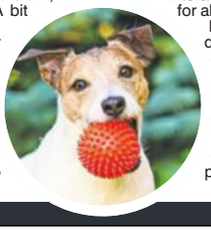
MENTAL STIMULATION

KEEPING your dog mentally satisfied is a huge part of helping them behave well.

Leon writes: "Mental stimulation is exercise for your dog's brain. Dogs don't just need physical exercise, they need mental engagement too – activities and challenges that make them think, learn and solve problems. A bit like us doing a sudoku!

"Just as walks keep your dog healthy, it's important to keep their minds occupied.

"This is vital for dogs with difficult behaviour."



Dogs need to be walked twice a day, according to Leon. Spice up the routine by changing the walk you do or by taking them somewhere new to enjoy.

Another way to keep pooches mentally stimulated is to have two toy times each day, when their toys are brought out.

Mid-morning and mid-afternoon are the best times, according to Leon.

Interact with your dog and his toys for about 30 to 45 minutes.

Leon recommends play dates and also doggy day-care a couple of days a week, so your pet has different pals to play with.

Finally, he suggests a hydrotherapy hour so your dog can splash about with other dogs. But it all depends on what you can afford.

LEON'S TEN CANINE COMMANDMENTS

1. Reward good behaviour
2. Ignore unwanted behaviour
3. Be consistent
4. Communicate clearly
5. Be patient
6. Take timing seriously
7. Progress at your dog's pace
8. Socialise your way to success
9. Manage his motivation
10. Practise regularly

WHY IS YOUR DOG PLAYING UP?

- Has your vet checked him over for illness or injury?
- Have you checked what's in your dog's diet?
- Is he getting the right amount of food?
- What about his treats?
- Have you moved house?
- Is his feeding routine consistent?
- Is the home a calm place or is it noisy and unsettled?
- Have you moved your dog's bed?
- Are you leaving him alone for too long?
- Are his toys left out all day?
- Is he getting enough physical exercise?
- Do you need a new lead?

OAP, 74, in pond tragedy

A PENSIONER has died after falling into a huge garden pond 10ft deep.

The 74-year-old man was found dead after "getting into difficulties", police said yesterday.

Cops, firefighters, an air ambulance and paramedics were called on Thursday to a house near St Davids, Pembrokeshire.

The local fire service confirmed the man was located and retrieved from the pond, measuring 130ft (40m) by 65ft.

Dyfed-Powys Police said: "The death is not being treated as suspicious. His next of kin have been informed of the incident, as well as HM Coroner."

DOUGH NUTS

A baker cannot build flats at his shop as the council says the smell of bread may upset tenants in Sittingbourne, Kent.

'5 STRICTLY CELEBS' QUIZZED

GIO PROBE LASTS UNTIL NEXT YEAR

Row . . . Giovanni Pernice

THE Strictly probe into Giovanni Pernice is not expected to be concluded until next year.

It is understood up to five celebs have given interviews to two ex Met detectives leading the investigation.

The Sicilian dancer, 33, who faces accusations of bullying, has yet to be quizzed.

EXCLUSIVE
by CLEMMIE MOODIE

Meanwhile, the BBC's duty of care executive, Sam Bickley, is expected to address the issue for the first time on Tuesday.

A source said last night: "Those involved have been told the probe could well drag on into next year. Of course, the last thing the BBC need is the findings to be released in the middle of this series."

They added: "Bosses are under enormous pressure to make sure the investigation is extremely thorough.

"Up to five stars have presented evidence in statements and WhatsApp exchanges.

"Gio is likely to be quizzed last, once everything else is in order. He's more than happy to speak to investigators and is determined to clear his name."

Ms Bickley is expected to outline measures safeguarding performers on a Royal Television Society panel next week.

Giovanni, who has quit Strictly, denies all allegations.

Actress Amanda Abbington, his last partner, has received death threats from Giovanni's fans after saying she got PTSD from her time with him.

'Rob the dead' PC to get trial

A COP accused of stealing money from a man who collapsed and died in the street is facing a crown court trial.

Craig Carter, 51, allegedly pocketed the cash in Haringey, North London, in September 2022.

The Met PC is charged with wilfully neglecting his duty and abusing the public's trust in police.

Carter, of Harlow, Essex, appeared at Westminster magistrates' court yesterday to confirm his details.

The district judge told him the alleged offences are too serious for magistrates' powers.

He was bailed to Wood Green crown court on July 26.

ISLAMIST, 15, JAILED

A boy, 15, who plotted an Islamist attack on a Christmas market has been jailed for four years in Cologne, Germany.

SINK IT'S ALL OVER

By NICK PARKER

A GIANT sinkhole swallows the centre of a football field popular with children.

The dramatic collapse saw artificial turf, benches and a light pole disappear, leaving a crater a 100ft (30m) wide and up to 50ft (15m) deep.

The pitches are built over an operating limestone mine.

Operator New Frontier Materials said the sinkhole resulted from surface subsidence in Alton, Illinois, US.

City mayor David Goins said: "No one was on the field at the time and no one was hurt — and that's the most important thing."

Parks and recreation chief Michael Haynes added: "It was surreal, like a movie."

The collapse has been reported to safety officials, with the park and surrounding roads closed indefinitely.

Search . . student Jack

Sea tech hunt for missing Jack, 23

By ALEX WEST

THE hunt for a student missing more than 100 days is being assisted by an ocean expert.

Jack O'Sullivan, 23, was last seen at 3.13am on March 2 as he walked home from a party.

His last confirmed sighting was at Cumberland Basin, the main entrance to Bristol docks and near to the party in Hotwells.

Data shows his phone was in use hours later.

Police fearing he may have gone into the water have deployed divers and drones, spoken to hundreds of taxi drivers and reviewed hours of CCTV.

A spokeswoman said: "We're continuing to seek further guidance and support from national experts, including an oceanographer, and we'll be following their advice."

Jack's family have complained about the search, saying vital CCTV footage was initially missed.

Row . . . Martin Peel

Landlord raging at mural of bull ban

By ROB PATTINSON

A PUB landlord is facing legal action by the council after he painted a giant bull on his 400-year-old inn.

Martin Peel, 52, paid a local artist £1,200 to have the 8ft mural emblazoned on the Bull's Head.

But Stratford District Council council says it breaches planning rules for listed properties.

It has ordered Mr Peel to paint over the artwork in Wootton Wawen, Warks, within four weeks or face legal action.

Mr Peel said: "The painting was meant to be eye-catching and a bit of fun while respecting the heritage of the building.

"We get a lot of positive comments, you get people stopping and taking pictures."

Residents have rallied around Mr Peel, saying the painting has "put the village on the map".

Stratford District Council declined to comment.

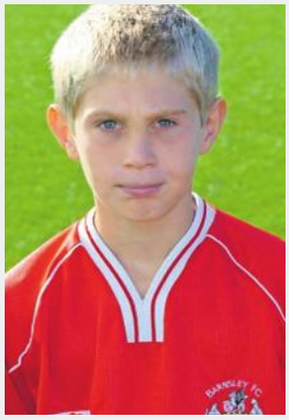
AS WE BRACE FOR THE SLOVA

Bukayo Saka Arsenal & Greenford Celtic

THE 22-year-old flying winger played his first game at Greenford Celtic FC, in West London, before moving to Arsenal's youth academy.

The original club no longer exists and it later became Celtic-1995 FC.

Chairman Albert Tamou said: "We're very proud Bukayo started at our club and has gone on to achieve such great things."



John Stones Man City & Penistone Church FC

JOHN, 30, stood out the first time he played for Penistone Church FC, aged seven, in his home town of Barnsley.

Club secretary Dave Hampshire recalled: "When he joined Penistone it was clear that he had something extra – he just had an awareness about him.

"When we see Penistone Church FC next to his name, it gives the club a boost.

"We wish him the very best at Euro 2024."

Kobbie Mainoo Man Utd and Cheadle & Gatley Juniors, Adam Wharton Crystal Palace & Moorland Academy

IT wasn't long ago that England starlets Adam, 20, and 19-year-old Kobbie, were enjoying junior football games in Lancashire.

The gifted midfielders may yet play a huge role for England after playing for Moorland Academy in Clitheroe, and Cheadle & Gatley Juniors in Stockport, respectively.

A Moorland spokesman said: "It's difficult to put into words how over the moon we are about what Adam has achieved. We wish him every success."

And Cheadle & Gatley Juniors said they were "so proud" to see Kobbie in the England squad.

Coach Steve Vare added: "He wasn't one of these young lads that might be a little arrogant – he was very quiet and he'd let his football do the talking."

Harry Kane Bayern Munich & Ridgeway Rovers

RIDGEWAY Rovers in Chingford, East London, has produced not one but two England captains – with Harry, 30, following in David Beckham's footsteps.

Chairman Ian Marshall said: "I really hope we go on to win this, with Harry Kane taking a lead role.

"When he wears that armband he's a true leader for England. He has that ability to raise his game that extra five per cent.

"Harry means such a lot to us here, but he's a player to be celebrated by the whole country now.

"The kids here love to see Harry do well and he's a tremendous inspiration for youngsters coming up through this club."

ONE chee face pain flag while off schoo

But thes aren't of of emula – they Al snapped game as

Ahead last 16 c ROBIN P spoke to clubs – v own goo

Jude Belling & Stourb

THE way Jude, who turn storm with Real Madrid star – and not just as a fo

At Hagley Cricket Bellingham stood out. C "If he had focused on cr

But football was alwa bridge Juniors, and he s posed for a snap with t FC, *above in the team's*

Club chairman Jim Sc was how remarkably m Jude the young man wa

THE LIO

AKIA CRUNCH...ENGLAND ACES AS KIDS

eky-looking lad has his nted with a St George's e others proudly show olboy medals.
se adorable photos youngsters dreaming ting their footie heroes RE the Three Lions, d playing the beautiful s youngsters.
of tomorrow's crunch clash against Slovakia, ERRIE and NICK PARKER o the players' former who have sent their od luck messages.

ham Real Madrid
ridge Juniors

ns 21 today, has taken La Liga by shows he was destined to be a otballer.
Club, Worcs, an 11-year-old Chairman Mark Baker, 71, said: ricket, he could have gone far."
ys his first love, starting with Stour- showed he's always been up for the cup when he he FA Cup as a kid with non-league Leamington *strip.*
cott, 68, said: "What struck me about young Jude ature he was. Forget about Jude the footballer, s very well brought up with great standards."

Phil Foden Man City & Reddish Vulcans

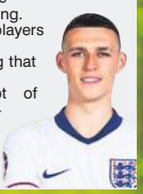
NEW dad Phil, 24, dazzled even as a youngster for Reddish Vulcans in his home town of Stockport.

A club spokesman said: "Even at the age of seven, his control, movement and change of direction were frightening.

"He would leave players trailing.

"It's wonderful knowing that Phil played for us.

"He's inspired a lot of children in our community and we are honoured to say that he was once here."



Marc Guehi Crystal Palace & Cray Wanderers

ENGLAND'S stand-out defender, 23, at the Euros once played for Cray Wanderers in South East London.

CEO Sam Wright said: "It's fantastic to have a guy who played in our under-7s and under-8s now representing England at the Euros.

"We've been blown away by how well he has done. After the Iceland friendly I worried whether the big stage might be too much for him but he's been absolutely magnificent. Even when he makes an error he makes sure he recovers and clears the danger."

Aaron Ramsdale Arsenal & **Kyle Walker** Man City, both Sheffield United Academy

SHEFFIELD United Academy manager Derek Geary knew both Aaron, 26, and 34-year-old Kyle, when they were youngsters.

Aaron's prowess between the sticks singled him out as a special talent, while Kyle's electric turn of foot caught the eye.

Derek said: "I could see straight away that Aaron was going to make it as a professional.

"Not just because he was talented, but his character was outrageous.

"He was bubbly and full of energy, but he was obsessed with being a goalkeeper and loved being at Sheffield United.

"Kyle was very, very fast. He was very determined, very outgoing, full of energy and ultra-ambitious.

"He suited the modern day full-back position. There was absolutely no doubt in my mind that he was going to go on and have the great career that he has.

"They are both now an inspiration to the current players here because they see pictures of them around the Academy."

Jarrod Bowen West Ham & Leominster Town

THE little lad with the face paint and the St George's Cross hair do is now a millionaire Premier League star with West Ham United. And he's also dating arguably England's most famous Wag – Love Islander Dani Dyer.

But for the 27-year-old winger, it all started at Leominster Town FC, in his home town in Herefordshire.

Club chairman Andy Barrington said: "I am incredibly proud that Jarrod made it into the England squad for the Euros.

"It's a momentous occasion for him, for our club and our entire community. His journey from a grassroots footballer at Leominster Town to an international star is nothing short of inspirational."

ONS RAW

Fab DAILY

ALL ABOUT YOU

Edited by **LYNSEY CLARKE** and **JOEL COOPER**

THE FAB DAILY TEAM: Digital Commissioning Editor Claire Dunwell, Contributing Editor Nikki Watkins, Senior Feature Writers Kirsten Jones and Alex Lloyd, Feature Writer Yasmin Harisha, Fashion Editor Clemmie Fieldsend, Deputy Fashion Editor Abby McHale

Shorts, £28, River Island

Long sleeve top, £22, Next

WHY write a card when you can send a message with what you wear? The postcard motif is a trendy summer print and CLEMMIE FIELDSEND finds the high street's best options.

IT'S THE WRITE WAY TO DRESS

T-shirt, £46, Never Fully Dressed

Co-ord cami top, £22.99, and trousers, £39.99, New Look

Dress, £55, River Island

Swim suit, £19.50, John Lewis

Shirt, £54.99, H&M

YOU may have used one to make chicken nuggets for the kids and even tried to do your Sunday roast in one – but have you ever baked a CAKE in your air fryer?

Lucy Parissi's new cookbook, Easy Air Fryer Bakes *(£22, Penguin Michael Joseph)*, has ideas for more than 80 yummy creations – all made in the decade's must-have kitchen gadget. From easy-peasy flapjacks to celebration cakes, the air fryer bakes save time, money and stress. Ready, get set, bake . . .

By KIRSTY SPENCE

- Easy Air Fryer Bakes by Lucy Parissi (£22, Penguin Michael Joseph) is out now.
- Author photographer: Thea Courtney. Recipe photographer: Ant Duncan
- You can follow Lucy Parissi @supergolden88

Jam tarts

Makes: 3 (6-8 servings per tart)
Preparation time: 20-30 minutes, plus 1 hour chilling
Baking time: 24-26 minutes
YOU NEED:
For the dough
100g ground almonds
120g icing sugar
225g unsalted butter, softened
1 egg
1 tbsp freshly-squeezed orange juice, sieved
1 tsp vanilla bean paste
½ tsp salt
½ tsp ground cinnamon
¼ tsp ground cardamom
330g plain flour
Icing sugar as needed, for dusting and rolling
For the topping
1 egg yolk
1 tbsp milk
2 tbsp sanding or granulated sugar
For the filling
160–200g jam of your choice

METHOD: Pulse the ground almonds, flour and icing sugar in a food processor to combine, or sift ingredients into a bowl to remove any lumps.

Beat the butter until it is creamy. Add a spoonful of the almond and sugar mixture, and the egg, orange juice and vanilla. Beat to combine, then gradually add the remaining dry ingredients.

Tip the dough on to a large piece of cling film and form into a disc. Wrap tightly and rest in the fridge for at least 1 hour.

To make the tarts, divide the dough in half and keep any you are not using wrapped and chilled. Dust your worktop with icing sugar. Roll out the dough until it is 6mm thick.

Use a 16cm tart ring (or top of a springform cake tin) to cut out three discs.

Transfer the discs to a baking liner and lightly dock with a fork, without piercing all the way through. If you can, transfer to a baking tray and chill the dough in the fridge.

Roll out the rest of the dough and use a pastry wheel to cut 1cm wide strips.

Alternatively, roll the pastry into a 18cm disk and cut out shapes using small cookie cutters to use as the jam tart lid. Press down and crimp edges to seal and trim any excess pastry. Spoon jam over the rolled-out tart bases, leaving a small border around the edge.

Whisk together the egg yolk and milk, then brush the edge of the tarts with the egg wash. Arrange the strips over the tart base in a trellis pattern and press down the edges to seal.

Trim any excess dough, gather into a ball and roll out again. Alternatively, top with the tart lid. Brush the pastry strips with egg wash and sprinkle with the sugar.

Bake the tarts in batches, carefully transferring the first tart to a wire rack.

Preheat the air fryer to 150C for 3 minutes. Place the wire rack in the air fryer basket and bake for 24–26 minutes. If the tart is colouring too quickly, reduce the temperature to 145C.

Allow tart to cool before slicing. Store in a paper towel-lined airtight container for three to four days.

Flapjacks

Makes: 12-14
Preparation time: 10 minutes
Baking time: 40 minutes
YOU NEED:
200g vegan butter, cubed
150g soft light brown sugar
150g golden syrup
1 tbsp maple syrup
3tbsp almond butter (smooth)
1 tsp vanilla extract
Zest 1 orange
320g porridge oats
30g ground almonds
100g whole almonds, roughly chopped
100g dried cranberries, chopped
50g mixed seeds (sunflower, pumpkin, linseed, sesame)
1 tsp cinnamon
Pinch of salt

METHOD: Place the vegan butter, sugar, golden syrup, maple syrup, almond butter, vanilla and orange zest in a saucepan.

Stir over a low heat until the butter has melted and the sugar has dissolved. Do not boil.

Measure the oats, ground almonds, chopped almonds, cranberries, mixed seeds, cinnamon and salt into a mixing bowl and stir. Pour the liquid ingredients into the dry ones and stir to combine.

Press the flapjack mix into a greased and lined 20cm square tin. Score the top where you want to cut it later.

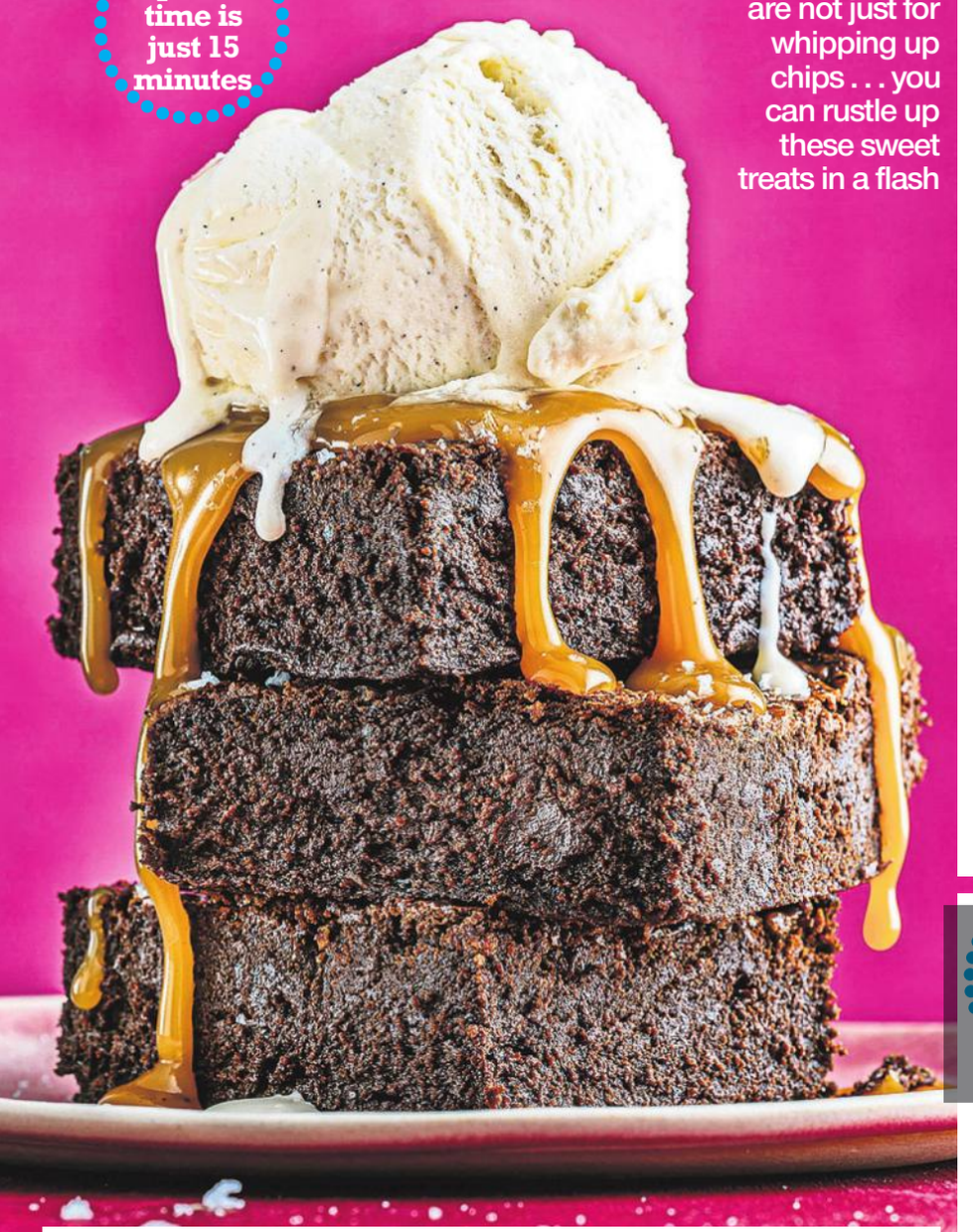
Preheat the air fryer to 160C for 3 minutes, add the tin to the basket and bake for 40 minutes, covering the tin with foil after 15 minutes, or until golden and crispy at the edges. Transfer flapjacks to a wire rack to cool.

Cut along scored lines and store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to five days.

BRILLIANT BAKES TO MAKE IN AN AIR FRYER

Preparation time is just 15 minutes

The fast-cooking kitchen gadgets are not just for whipping up chips . . . you can rustle up these sweet treats in a flash



Salted caramel brownies

Makes: 9 squares
Preparation time: 15 minutes
Baking time: 30-35 minutes
YOU NEED:
200g dark chocolate chips
115g unsalted butter, cubed
200g light brown sugar
2 tsp vanilla extract
2 eggs
65g plain flour
4 tbsp cocoa powder
Pinch of salt
4 tbsp salted caramel (optional)

METHOD: In a mixing bowl, microwave the chocolate chips and butter for 30-second bursts until the butter melts. Leave to stand for 2 minutes, then stir so the chocolate melts completely. Set aside.

Beat the sugar, vanilla and eggs in a separate bowl. Whisk until the sugar is dissolved and the mixture is frothy.

Stir the melted chocolate mixture into the sugar mixture.

Sift the flour, cocoa powder and salt into the bowl and stir until you have a thick, glossy batter with no pockets of flour. Spoon batter into a greased and lined 20cm square metal cake tin and level.

Dollop spoonfuls of salted caramel over the top and use a toothpick to swirl them into the batter.

Preheat the air fryer to 160C. Bake the brownies for 30 minutes. They should have a smooth, shiny top and feel set at the edges.

A toothpick inserted in the middle should come out with a few moist crumbs (but not wet batter). If not quite baked, cook for a further 5 minutes.

Cool brownies before slicing.

Coffee and walnut cake

Serves: 8-10
Preparation time: 15 minutes
Baking time: 30-35 minutes
YOU NEED:
100ml whole milk, plus 1 tbsp lemon juice
50g walnuts
1 tbsp instant espresso powder (can use decaf)
165g plain flour
165g soft light brown sugar
2 tsp baking powder
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
¼ tsp salt
100g cold unsalted butter, cubed
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla paste
For the buttercream
2-3tbsp instant espresso powder (can use decaf)
½ tbsp hot water
500g icing sugar
160g unsalted butter, softened
50ml double cream
To decorate
Walnut halves or chocolate-covered espresso beans

METHOD: Mist two 18cm cake tins with cake release spray and line the bottoms with baking paper.

Combine milk and lemon juice and leave for a few minutes – the milk will curdle.

Finely grind the walnuts and coffee powder in a food processor.

Place flour, sugar, ground walnuts, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and salt into a mixing bowl and stir well.

Add the butter and beat with a hand mixer until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.

Add the eggs, curdled milk and vanilla and beat until the batter is smooth.

Preheat the air fryer to 170C. Divide the batter into cake tins and bake for 30-35 minutes, one at a time.

The cakes are ready when a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean. Turn cakes out of the tins and cool on a wire rack.

To make the buttercream, dissolve the espresso powder in the water. Slowly mix the icing sugar, butter and coffee in a stand mixer.

Once the ingredients are combined, increase to the maximum speed setting and whisk for 4-5 minutes until light and fluffy.

Add the double cream and beat together until incorporated.

To assemble the cake, place the bottom cake layer on a plate and add a generous layer of frosting. Sandwich together with the second cake layer and cover the entire cake with a thin layer of frosting. Chill for 20 minutes.

Add a generous layer of frosting over the sides of the cake using a palette knife.

Put any remaining buttercream in a piping bag fitted with a star tip and pipe a pattern around the perimeter of the cake.

Decorate with walnut halves or chocolate-covered espresso beans.

Bakes in 35 to 40 minutes

School cake

Serves: 16
Preparation time: 10 minutes
Baking time: 35-40 minutes
YOU NEED:
For the cake
260g self-raising flour
250g caster sugar
4 eggs
115g unsalted butter, softened, or margarine
80ml milk, semi-skimmed
1 tsp vanilla bean paste or extract
For the glaze
140g icing sugar, sifted
1 tsp vanilla extract
½ tbsp milk, or as needed
For the topping
Hundreds and thousands sprinkles or sprinkles of your choice

METHOD: Sift the flour and sugar into a mixing bowl. Add the eggs, butter, milk and vanilla and beat together using an electric hand mixer until the batter is completely smooth.

Scrape the bottom and sides of the bowl with a spatula halfway through to make sure everything is mixed well. Pour the batter into a lined 20cm square cake tin and level.

Preheat the air fryer to 150C for 3 minutes, add the cake to the basket and bake for 35-40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean. Lift cake out of tin using the paper and cool on a wire rack.

Mix all the glaze ingredients together in a bowl until you have a thick, pourable glaze.

Spread the glaze over the cooled cake and cover with sprinkles. Leave to set before slicing.

dear deidre

No matter what the issue, I answer every single problem

Edited by
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JANE ALLTON
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KALLY LEWIS
CATHERINE THOMAS
CHLOE STRATTON

stories

deidre's photo casebook

DEREK DODGES THE TRUTH: **DAY 6**

Clothes by boohoo and boohooMAN

CONTINUES TOMORROW

I want sex with my partner's daughter

Dear Deidre

THIS isn't something I'm proud to admit, but I went to bed with my partner's daughter.

At 23, she's actually nearer my age than my partner – but I know it's still wrong.

Now I'm not sure what to do.

I'm 28, my partner's 42. We've been together for three years and I spend most of the week at her house.

When I first met my partner, I didn't take much notice of her daughter, who seemed immature for her age.

I've always liked an older woman, and I was in lust with my partner.

But over the last few months, our passion has cooled a little.

I want sex every night, while she seems to only want it once or twice a week. Meanwhile, her daughter started staying up late with me, sometimes after her mum had gone to bed, telling me of her boyfriend problems. Sometimes, she'd text me while I was at work or at home at my flat.

If I'm honest, I noticed she was a bit flirty, and I was rather flattered.

Like her mum, she is good-looking, with a cracking figure and beautiful long dark hair.

Then one evening, she told me she'd split up with her boyfriend. My partner was at a work do.

She started crying and I comforted her, giving her a hug on the sofa. Somehow, we ended up kissing and she led me to her bedroom.

Although we didn't have sex, I held her, and we hugged and kissed.

It would have gone further right then, but I stopped myself because I didn't want to take advantage.

Since then, I've felt terribly guilty but I also really want to do it again – and more. And she keeps sending me suggestive texts.

I feel it's just a matter of time before we have full sex.

■ **DEIDRE SAYS: Your partner's daughter may be an adult, but as her 'stepfather' figure what you've done is at best totally inappropriate.**

You are jeopardising not only your relationship with your partner, but also hers with her daughter.

Imagine how hurt your partner would feel by this double betrayal.

So you need to be firm and tell her nothing can happen between you.

Hopefully she will see reason. My support pack, Standing Up For Yourself, should help you have this conversation.

Avoid being left alone with her and block her number to give you the space to regain sense.

Perhaps, given what's occurred, it's time for you to question whether you are happy in your relationship and either to work on it together, or think about splitting up.

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

Dear Deidre

MODERN dating culture is making it impossible for me to find a partner.

Although I enjoy sex as much as the next guy, I'm not interested in "situationships", dating multiple women at once or one-night stands.

And I don't subscribe to online influencer Andrew Tate's sexist rhetoric.

The result is that, at 36, I'm still an unhappily single man.

I'd love to meet a woman the way my dad met my mum. They became best friends then got engaged. They're still together 40 years later.

I've always get on well with women – better than with guys my own age – but I regularly get friend-zoned.

People tell me I'm kind and likeable, but that doesn't seem to be what women are looking for these days.

Social media bores me and is all about fake, airbrushed photos. And dating sites are too focused on appearance, so I stay off them.

How and where can I meet a lovely woman the old-fashioned way?

■ **DEIDRE SAYS: You're not alone in your distaste for dating sites and social media hook-ups. Plenty of women feel the same.**

If you want to form a relationship organically, the best thing is to join activities where you'll meet like-minded women.

Think about your interests and then find local groups. Perhaps try sports, drama, walking or volunteering.

If you're constantly friend-zoned, think about the signals you give out.

Make it clear you're interested in someone by asking lots of questions.

My support pack, Finding The Love Of Your Life, should help you meet someone.

THANK YOU FOR... GIVING ME PUSH TO LEAVE VIOLENT EX

Dear Deidre

MY ex destroyed my self-confidence, but with your help I'm putting my life back on track and starting a career as a big-bust model.

After years in a violent relationship, I wrote to you for help.

I knew I needed to leave my abusive partner, but I couldn't find the strength.

I'm 28 and he's 38. We were together for six years. During that time he beat me and destroyed my self-esteem, making me feel so ugly that nobody else would want me.

You confirmed that he wasn't going to change, and would only get more violent.

You suggested I read your Abusive Partner support pack and recommended I contact Women's Aid (womensaid.org.uk) and the National Domestic Abuse Helpline (0808 2000 247). Talking really helped, but I still wasn't ready.

Then my partner battered me again, leaving me covered in bruises.

This time, I contacted the police and got him removed from the flat. He can't come near me now.

Since then, I've begun rebuilding my life and I'm starting a new career as a big-bust model – something I would never have had the confidence to do while I was with him.

Thank you.

■ **DEIDRE SAYS: I'm so glad you were able to find the right help and get away from your ex. Good luck with the modelling.**

PUNISHED FOR SLEEPING AROUND AS A TEENAGER

Dear Deidre

YEARS ago I slept around, and now it feels like I'm being punished for it.

My boyfriend keeps meeting guys I had sex with in the past, and it's making him paranoid and jealous.

He's changed his attitude towards me, and I feel like I'm losing him.

I'm 29 and he's 30. We've been together for nine months, I really love him, and can see myself settling down with him.

I live in a small town. When I was in my late teens and early 20s, I went through a wild phase.

I drank, took drugs and slept with lots of guys of all ages, even some married ones.

This earned me a bit of a reputation for being "easy", which I'm not proud of. I've felt guilty ever since.

In my defence, I was having a difficult time at home.

Since then, I've grown up, got my act together and no longer have casual sex.

I feel ready to settle down and have a family. When I met my boyfriend, who had just moved to the area, I knew he was the one. Then he started to get to know a group of local guys, and began hearing stories about me.

Some of them were my ex partners. He found that hard to handle.

I told him I'd slept with about eight people, when in reality it's a lot more.

He keeps asking if there's anyone else he should know about, and I keep saying no because I'm terrified he'll leave me.

It's really getting me down.

■ **DEIDRE SAYS: You've done nothing wrong and don't need to justify your behaviour. You can't change your past. But your boyfriend fell in love with the person you are now – and you're shaped by that past.**

Our society still judges women in a way they don't judge men. You yourself have decided you are ready to settle down – that is all that matters.

Tell him you want to sort this out and put it behind you. If he truly loves you, he will want to do that.

My support packs Looking After Your Relationship and Dealing With Jealousy will help.

TEENAGE TROUBLES

Dear Deidre

MY best mate is obsessed with washing his hands, and he's too scared to touch anything in case it has germs on it.

I used to take the mickey but now I think he has a real problem. We're 19-year-old lads, at university together.

If we're somewhere he can't wash his hands – if there's no soap in a bathroom, for example – he gets into a real panic. Why does he do this and what should I do?

■ **DEIDRE SAYS: This sounds like Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, which isn't as uncommon as you'd think.**

It's admirable you want to help your friend. Give him my support pack on Obsessions and suggest he sees his GP, who can help him.

A type of talking treatment called Cognitive Behavioural Therapy is good for this condition and will teach him ways to manage it.

hot topic

FAMILY life is challenging no matter what your set up. And for anyone living in a blended family, those relationships bring extra challenges with new and different values.

Many step-parents find balancing life with step-children extremely challenging. Not only is everyone learning to live with new relatives, they may also be struggling with the breakdown of their former family unit.

If you are dealing with these issues, my support pack Step-Family Problems will help.

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 **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

3 PAGES OF PUZZLES START HERE

double Sun DOKU

TODAY'S TEASER

Call 0905 757 0156 for clues or solutions. Cost £1 per minute plus network access charge.

1	3			9				
5			4	7		3		
				3			7	
8	4							
	2		5			9	1	8
	1		6	2			9	
			3	4	9			7
					3		6	8

TODAY'S TOUGHIE

Call 0905 757 0152 for clues or solutions. Cost £1 per minute plus network access charge.

						1		
		4					5	7
	7	8			2	5		
					6		3	
		5					2	8
3		9	8				7	
	6		2	1	8			
	2			9				8
								9

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

TEASER

8	2	5	7	3	1	4	9	6
3	7	4	8	9	6	2	1	5
1	9	6	2	4	5	8	7	3
5	6	1	4	8	9	7	3	2
7	8	9	6	2	3	1	5	4
2	4	3	5	1	7	9	6	8
6	5	2	9	7	8	3	4	1
9	1	8	3	6	4	5	2	7
4	3	7	1	5	2	6	8	9

TOUGHIE

9	3	7	5	4	2	8	1	6
2	4	8	6	1	3	9	7	5
5	6	1	9	7	8	3	4	2
7	9	6	2	8	5	4	3	1
8	5	4	3	6	1	2	9	7
3	1	2	4	9	7	5	6	8
1	8	3	7	2	4	6	5	9
4	2	9	1	5	6	7	8	3
6	7	5	8	3	9	1	2	4

Calls cost £1 per minute from BT landlines plus network rates

MINDBENDER

The following twelve pairs of letters can be put before and after the letters "RU" to form six six-letter words:

AB	ON	SE	FF	PT	SP
CE	PE	SH	LY	SC	UN

Can you work out what the six words are? Answer tomorrow.

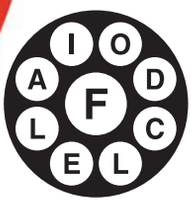
PATHFINDER

Beginning with the letter P in the shaded square below, follow a continuous path in the grid to find 16 items relating to soup. The trail passes through each and every letter once, and may twist up, down or sideways, but never diagonally.

L	T	T	E	U	I	B	T	E	B	A
I	L	E	N	Q	S	T	C	O	R	H
A	E	C	O	N	S	E	S	E	N	P
T	O	T	S	E	O	E	W	L	A	L
X	M	E	T	M	M	U	R	T	W	O
O	A	N	A	R	K	T	R	E	D	H
O	T	O	E	T	C	O	M	S	S	C
S	T	R	R	E	F	I	R	E	T	A
E	N	E	V	L	B	S	C	R	E	W
M	I	G	E	T	A	H	A	A	T	O
S	U	G	A	R	A	P	S	T	O	P

ALPHABET
ASPARAGUS
BISQUE
CHOWDER
CONSOMME
FISH
MINESTRONE
MOCK TURTLE
NETTLE
OXTAIL
POTATO
STARTER
SWEETCORN
TOMATO
VEGETABLE
WATERCRESS

SUNDIAL



SEE how many words of four or more letters you can "dial" using the one at the centre in each word.

You can make at least one word using all of them. Don't use the letters more than once in any word.

No proper names or plurals ending in 's'. Words from Collins Concise Dictionary.

BRILLIANT: 29. EXCELLENT: 24. GOOD: 18. GREAT SCORE FOR KIDS: 13.

YESTERDAY: Anger, bairn, banger, barb, bare, barge, baring, barn, bear, bearing, berg, bier, brae, brag, brain, bran, bribe, brig, brine, bring, earn, garb, gear, gibber, grab, grain, gran, grin, jabber, near, rabbi, rage, rain, rang, range, rani, regain, reign, rein, rejig, ring, JABBERING.

Check today's answers by calling 0905 757 0155 before midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

WORDSEARCH

The 16 items listed below are all biscuits, but which one isn't in the grid?

WIN! £50

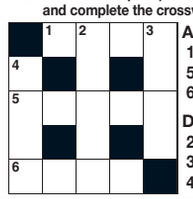
U	S	R	E	G	N	I	F	C	M	
A	K	V	D	U	M	S	H	T	D	
E	B	O	U	R	B	O	N	A	M	
T	S	R	E	T	C	A	L	I	A	
H	H	U	E	O	E	I	D	S	C	
C	S	A	L	F	N	L	E	L	A	
I	T	A	E	C	A	I	V	W	R	
R	T	N	O	B	K	W	I	A	O	
E	D	L	I	O	G	M	T	T	O	
E	N	R	O	C	A	S	S	E	N	
T	A	C	R	I	E	E	E	R	H	
G	U	S	L	L	O	R	G	I	F	
F	L	O	R	E	N	T	I	N	E	
A	N	S	E	D	R	T	D	I	A	
S	B	O	N	B	O	H	E	L	G	

BOURBON
CHOCOLATE
COOKIES
DIGESTIVE
FIG ROLLS
FINGERS
FLORENTINE
GARIBALDI
GINGER NUT
HOBNOBS
LINCOLN
MACAROON
NICE
RICH TEA
WAFER
WATER

For how to enter see details on puzzle page 3.

MINI ANAGRAM

Correctly solve the anagrams (there may be more than one option) to fill in the grid and complete the crossword.



ACROSS
1 MIRE
5 PIQUE
6 DUNE

DOWN
2 NO MUD
3 PORE
4 VINE

Calls for extra clues and answers last no longer than two minutes (Sundial answers may vary). Helpline: 0333 202 3390 (9am-5.30pm). Service provider: Spoke, W1T 4HD

the BIG quizword

ACROSS

1 London Metropolitan Police (8,4)
8 Jekyll's alter ego (4)
12 Equestrian eventing (5,6)
13 Baltic country, capital Tallinn (7)
14 First name of Swedish actress Ms Vikander (6)
15 First prime minister of independent India (5)
16 Brand-name e-book reader (6)
20 December's birthstone (9)
22 The Loco-Motion singer (6,3)
23 Radio 2 Drivetime presenter (4,3)
25 It's A Wonderful Life director (5)
26 Pet charity founded by Maria Dickin (inits)(4)
29 Machu Picchu's country (4)
30 Asian region partitioned roughly along the 38th parallel (5)
31 First part of Dante's The Divine Comedy (7)
35 Prime minister at the time of the Profumo scandal (9)
36 Beethoven's 6th Symphony (9)
38 1841-1919 French painter (6)
39 Cornish river or humped animal (5)
40 French region on the borders with Germany and Switzerland (6)
44 First capital of Pakistan (7)
46 Capitalist class, in Marxist terms (11)
47 1979 Polanski film of a Thomas Hardy novel (4)
48 1916 Irish rebellion against British rule (6,6)

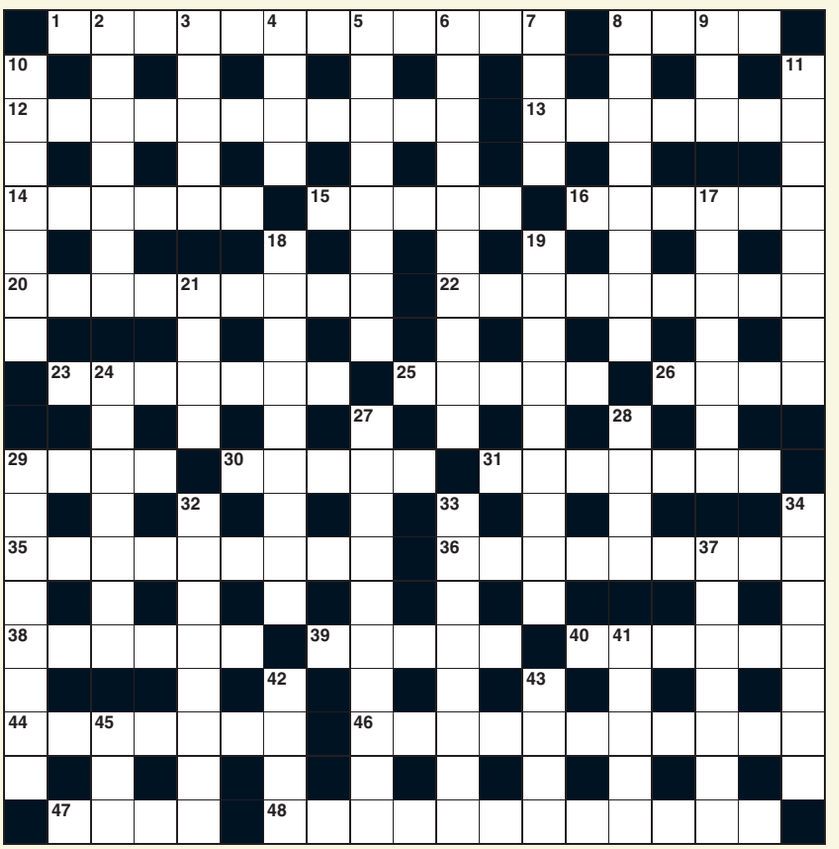
DOWN

2 Luxury watch manufacturer (7)
3 Rome's famous fountain (5)
4 City of the Taj Mahal (4)
5 Disease which is treated with insulin (8)
6 Antipodean (10)
7 First name of US actress Ms Barrymore (4)
8 Hertfordshire stately home (8)
9 Sheffield's river (3)
10 Red wine from Tuscany (7)
11 The Martian actress (4,4)
17 German city famous for its fine porcelain (7)
18 Unit used to measure the energy value of food (9)
19 Spice used in Chinese cookery (4,5)
21 Mormon state of the USA (4)
24 Of the second-largest continent (7)
27 Dorset village famed for its hillside 'giant' (5,5)
28 American divorce city (4)
29 SW Wales seaport (8)
32 State flower of Hawaii (8)
33 Small globe (8)
34 Magic Roundabout character (7)
37 Surname of Born Free author Joy (7)
41 British international rugby players (5)
42 River which flows through Leeds (4)
43 First name of Russian composer Stravinsky (4)
45 Grain used for whiskey (3)

Answers tomorrow.

Check today's answers before midnight by calling 0905 757 0158 for Across and 0905 757 0159 for Down. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

Purchase the latest Sun Puzzle Books, including crosswords, wordsearches & sudoku, for as little as £4.99 from the HarperCollins website harpercollins.co.uk or phone 0141 306 3100



Sun puzzles

We've got all your favourite brain teasers

UP TO £200 CASH TO BE WON!

Crossword

WIN! £100

Complete the clues below and rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to spell out the name of a Hollywood actress (7).

ACROSS

1 2023 film starring Timothée Chalamet (5)
6 Surname of Duran Duran's vocalist (2,3)
7 Nicki ___, rapper (5)
9 ___ Foy, British actress (6)
11 Ms Simone, singer of My Baby Just Cares For Me (4)
12 ___ Gomez, actress and singer (6)
15 ___ Gaynor, I Will Survive singer (6)
17 Surname of Frasier star Kelsey (7)
18 ___ Hawkes, singer of The One And Only (7)
21 Tina ___, actress who plays Sarah in Coronation Street (6)
23 ___ Singh, Good Morning Britain presenter (6)
26 Surname of comedian and TV presenter Jimmy (4)
27 Last ___ Hero, 1993 Schwarzenegger film (6)
29 ___ Albarn, Blur's lead singer (5)
30 ___ Axe, series of films directed by Steve McQueen (5)
31 Ben ___, Upstart Crow writer (5)

DOWN

1 Surname of Citizen Kane star Orson (6)
2 ___ Stewart, former cricketer (4)
3 Surname of one of the Three Tenors (7)
4 Murder, They Hope star (4,6)
5 First name of former footballer Rooney (5)
8 2024 Eurovision winner (4)
10 ___ Right Now, Will Young hit (5)
13 George ___, Shotgun singer (4)
14 Honey Mitchell in EastEnders (4,6)
16 First name of Ghost star Ms Moore (4)
19 One of the Marx Brothers (5)
20 Grey's ___, award-winning American TV medical drama (7)
22 First name of Welsh actor Mr Gruffudd (4)
24 Linda ___, Loose Women panellist (6)
25 Surname of Olympic distance runner Mo (5)
28 ___ Rodgers, Chic musician (4)

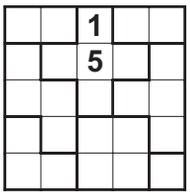
SUNRISER

Place these words in the horizontal rows so that the letters in the diagonal staircase spell out another word related to talent shows.

COACH
COMMENT
FAMOUS
JUDGES
STARS
VOTING
WINNER

SUGURU®

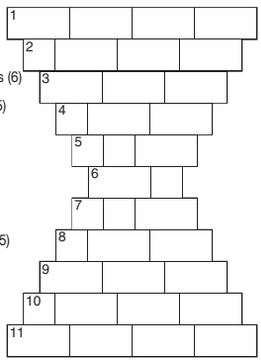
Each cell in an outlined block must contain a digit: a two-cell block contains the digits 1 and 2, a three-cell block contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. The same digit must not appear in neighbouring cells, not even diagonally.



BRICKWORK

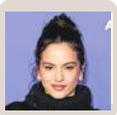
Answer each clue so that every entry contains the same letters as the previous entry, plus or minus one.

1 Likens (8)
2 Scurry (7)
3 Muscular spasms (6)
4 Baby carriages (5)
5 Slope (4)
6 Provide weapons to (3)
7 Female horse (4)
8 Sleeper's vision (5)
9 More moist (6)
10 Walked heavily (7)
11 Related, told (8)



INITIALS

If R is Rosalia, who are these other Spanish celebrities?



1. AB
2. PC
3. EI
4. PG
5. RN
6. JB

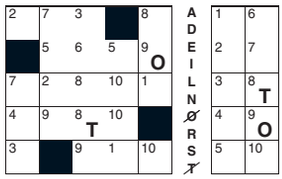
UNSCRAMBLE

Unscramble these anagrams to spell out six Damian Lewis TV series.

1. ILL BISON
2. ABHOR FOBS TREND
3. MEND HALO
4. HOWL FALL
5. ABANDONS ESTHER
6. SAFETY SHORTAGE

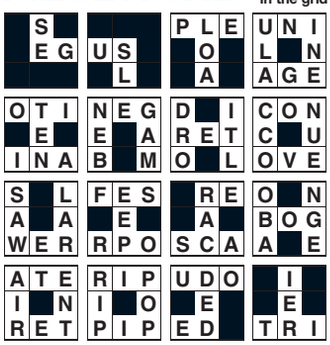
MINI CODE

Ten letters have been given a number from 1 to 10. Break the code to complete the crossword.



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.

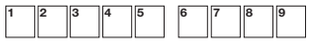


ACROSS

1 Haggle over again
3 Tissue formed over a wound • Mosque tower
4 Student institution, for short
5 Wading bird
6 Method of prioritising casualties
7 Mini-wave
8 Phoney, sham
9 Apple seed
10 Admit • Children's board game
12 Defeated by superior force

THE NAME GAME

EACH clue leads to a well-known name. Put the initials or stated letters in the appropriate squares to identify an actress:



1 & 5	David, actor who played James Bond in the original film version of Casino Royale (first two letters of name)
4 & 2	Mr McCloud, presenter of Grand Designs (first and fourth letters of name)
3 & 8	Mr Whately, TV's Inspector Lewis (first two letters of name)
9 & 6	Author of the stories on which the musical Guys And Dolls is based
7	Ms Henderson, singer who topped the singles charts in 2014 with the song Ghost

● Yesterday: TV presenter JOE CROWLEY (Jude Law, George (Wendt), Robert (the Bruce), (Gemma) Cairney, Charlie Watts). 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.

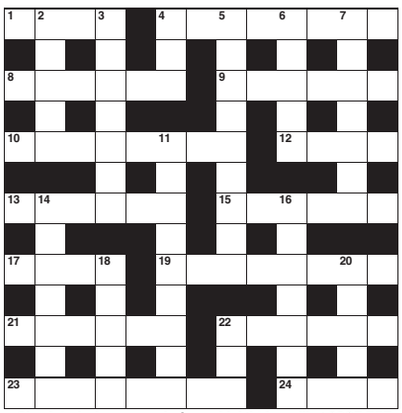
BRAINBOXER

Eight cards were dealt from a normal 52 card deck, aces high; no aces were dealt. Each suit appeared twice, and five number cards (including two diamonds) appeared; four consecutive numbers appeared, and the sum of all the numbers was 38. Two red cards had the same rank; no other rank was repeated. Three of the four highest cards were black, including both spades. One club had an even number, and the face cards were all of different suits. If the highest card was a club and the Jack of Spades did not appear, can you deduce which cards were dealt?

Solution tomorrow.

TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD

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

1 Drink given with soft meat (4)
4 Chases jobs (8)
8 Old mother reported complaint (6)
9 Attack same point twice that's on chin (6)
10 Building workers dividing opinion (8)
12 Despicable person's taken head off fish (4)
13 Mild-mannered chap drained lake (6)
15 Confront model put to work (6)
17 Amusing person gives context (4)
19 Ostrich one flying? That's momentous (8)
21 Underling displaying a lot of leg? (6)
22 Beast in man: I'm a leprechaun! (6)
23 Circuits covered with grass deteriorated (8)
24 First wife and knight on terms (4)

DOWN

2 Poor clue about new family member (5)
3 Ideal to promote right person in authority (7)
4 Seed found in ripe artichoke (3)
5 This rogue's reformed, just! (9)
6 Employment gives us time (5)
7 Likely backer when climbers need training (7)
11 Animals sloshed in London? (9)
14 Look at one among wandering axemen (7)
16 Peril of doctored dossier (7)
18 Girl in Chester I called (5)
20 Claim agent's persona (5)
22 Answer two dukes put together (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 8 Anem-one, 9 Rusty, 10 Sal-v-e, 11 Dissent (descent), 12 Odourless, 14 Ma-c, 16 L-oo, 17 Tar-paul-in, 19 A-ll-told, 21 Sty-l-e, 22 A-rena, 23 Sea-l-ant.
DOWN: 1 Bars-tool, 2 Well-to-do, 3 Robe, 4 Meddle (medal), 5 Irish Sea, 6 (a)Isle, 7 Cyst, 13 Rational, 14 M-ilk-y Way, 15 Concerto, 18 Ra-di-sh, 19 Alas, 20 Leer, 21 Soap.

Coffee time

ACROSS

1 Hindquarters (4)
4 Hobbies (8)
8 Skin inflammation (6)
9 Shaped beard (6)
10 Apartment block (8)
12 Congers or morays (4)
13 Tender (6)
15 Stand against (6)
17 Wine delivery box (4)
19 Epoch-making (8)
21 Subordinate (6)
22 Creature (6)
23 Regressed (8)
24 All square (4)

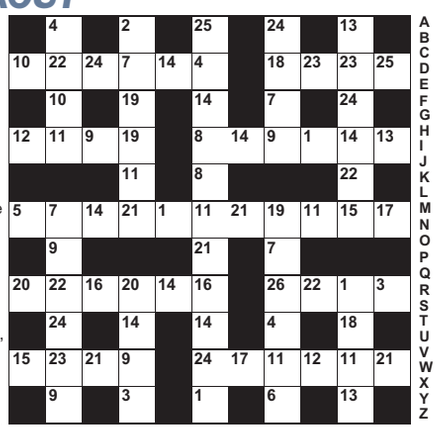
DOWN

2 Male relative (5)
3 Roman magistrate (7)
4 Green vegetable (3)
5 Virtuous (9)
6 Customary practice (5)
7 Garden lattice (7)
11 Pachyderms (9)
14 Scrutinise (7)
16 Short bio (7)
18 ___ Jong, author (5)
20 Picture (5)
22 Supplement (3)

WORD WORKOUT

THIS is the world's best brainteaser, 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: Grow, Aqua, Vex, Lock, Here, Transform, Badminton, Onus, Will, Hug, Drew, Onyx.
DOWN: Gulp, Occur, Jeans, Queer, Abed, Tab, Aid, Oat, Man, Azure, Input, Onion, Void, Flex.



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

ARROWORD

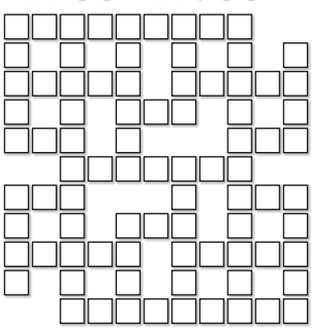
Complete the puzzle and rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to spell out an actress (5,7).

WIN! £50

	Unattractive fruit?		__ Ross, Motown singer		Doles (out)
	Fly a plane without an engine				
	Engaged man		Beers		Wales, in Welsh
	Pries	Places down			
Capital of Japan	Known in advance	Maiden name indicator		Surname of the pictured star	Large woods
			Bonded servant		
Green field divider	Wall across a river	Sticks (together)	Sped	Team of two	Story outline
Spicy Mexican dip				Primate	
Large flightless bird		Crimps			
Emphasis of responsibility	Lamb's mother			Speck	
		Lightly cleans			

KRISS KROSS

Fit the words into the grid below.



3 letters
ACE
DYE
GEE
LAY
LEA
WEB

4 letters
AEON
GALE
OGRE
STAY

5 letters
APPAL
BLEAT
FLAKE
LATTE
PREEN
ROAST

6 letters
CONDOR
IREFUL

7 letters
PORTICO

9 letters
AUTOCROSS
CANDLELIT

11 letters
SWALLOWTAIL
THERAPEUTIC

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.

3			
2	4		
	3	1	

3	2	1	
			2
2			
	4	2	3

ENTERING OUR PRIZE PUZZLES IS NOW EASIER THAN EVER!

ENTER BY POST:
Write your answers to the puzzles, fill in your personal details, then cut out the coupon and post to the address below. (You can enter one, two or all three puzzles.)

CROSSWORD ANSWER: _____

WORDSEARCH ANSWER: _____

ARROWORD ANSWER: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

POSTCODE _____

EMAIL _____

TEL _____

POST COUPON IN AN ENVELOPE TO: The Sun Puzzles Competition, PO Box 3190, Colchester, Essex CO2 8GP

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.

ARROWORD: Call 0904 043 5006 and leave your answer, name and contact details. Calls cost £1.50 plus network access charge. Or you can text **ARROWORD**, 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 05 July. 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

Minidoku

3	1	2	4
2	4	3	1
1	2	4	3
4	3	1	2

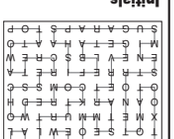
1	4	2	3
2	3	4	1
4	1	3	2
3	2	1	4

Kriss Kross

Unscramble
1. Billions
2. Band Of Brothers
3. Homeland
4. Wolf Hall
5. Hearts And Bones
6. The Forsyte Saga

Initials
1. Antonio Banderas
2. Penelope Cruz
3. Enrique Iglesias
4. Pep Guardiola
5. Rafael Nadal
6. Javier Bardem

Pathfinder



Sunfixer
Coach, Voting, Winner, Stars, Judges, Famous, Comment – spelling CONTEST.

Mini Anagram
ACROSS: 1 Emir
5 Equip 6 Nude
DOWN: 2 Mound
3 Rope 4 Vein

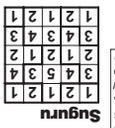
Sujiko
PAGE 2
Top line 971
Middle 258
Bottom 634

Pieceword

Mini Code

Brickwork
1 Compares 2 Scamper
3 Cramps 4 Prams
5 Ramp 6 Am 7 Mare
8 Dream 9 Damper
10 Tramped 11 Impartered

Sugaru



TV Mag Solutions

Sudoku

6	3	2	5	4	1
5	4	1	2	3	6
3	1	5	6	2	4
2	6	4	1	5	3
1	2	3	4	6	5
4	5	6	3	1	2

Letter Box

R	A	F	T
U	G	L	Y
S	E	A	R
E	D	G	E

Word Ladder
FUEL, FULL, PULL, PULP, PUMP.

Add It Up
71

Set Square

2	×	1	×	5	
×		+		×	
6	×	8	×	4	
+		+		×	
9	×	3	+	7	

Futoshiki

Suko
413
928
567

Last Saturday's Prize Answers
Crossword MICHAEL DOUGLAS

Wordsearch
PADSTOW

Arroword
JUDE LAW

Mystic Meg

with MAGGIE INNES

ARIES March 21 – April 20

As Saturn spins back tonight, you can start a spell of reflecting on who you are, where you have come from – and where you want to go. Yes, you prefer action to thought, but giving consideration to parts of yourself and your life that you want to change can prove to be such a revealing task.

TAURUS April 21 – May 21

Asking yourself if you rely too much on outside approval, and spend too long following other people's rules, can open up a treasure trove of confidence. At last, you can be honest with yourself. A moon of dreams brings faces and places your mind may not recognise, but your heart instantly "knows".

GEMINI May 22 – June 21

Venus and Mars highlight the difference between practical money plans and impossible dreams – and your actions today can fall somewhere in between. A business proposition needs more time, not cash. But spending a little on something that means so much to someone special is a lifelong investment.

CANCER June 22 – July 22

As Saturn swings into reverse in your ninth house, you can be questioning what and who makes you truly you. This can highlight one or more names you do realise you have outgrown, and should leave behind. A time of trusting your own insight is starting, and hard decisions on every level can get easier.

LEO July 23 – August 23

Your heart wants and needs to go deeper, and this is the time to start. You can filter out those bonds that never try to deal with the challenges of reality. In a relationship, this can mean asking a question with only one answer you should accept. If you're single, charm is great but integrity, and intimacy, are better.

VIRGO August 24 – September 22

How much sharing, as well as caring, goes into the key relationships in your life, is the question Saturn urges you to keep on asking. You do know certain people take much more from you than they give and now is the time to correct this. A practical skill may be tough to crack, but try not to give up.

LIBRA September 23 – October 23

If you usually get through your leisure day on autopilot, Saturn's chart shift for the next few months wakes you up to tackle this. Routine can change to innovation, and doing set tasks in a different way can set up a series of unexpected chances. Right through your life, you're ready to try new things and meet new people.

SCORPIO October 24 – November 22

Those ideas you always push to the back of your mind can be the very ones the world is waiting for. So take time today to get them out and dust them off. See where you can take them next. If you're in love, Venus may prefer not to learn from past mistakes, but you still can, without jeopardising future happiness.

SAGITTARIUS November 23 – December 21

A vision of the right home for you is right there on the edge of your mind – you just need to grant it access. Yes, this can involve a major change, but you can manage this so capably when you trust yourself to do what's right. Mars could make health plans too rushed – slow them down a little, but don't let them stop.

CAPRICORN December 22 – January 20

Restrictions (maybe self-imposed) on what you can say, or how you say it, can lift as Saturn spins into retrograde – so you find it easier to be 100 per cent honest. In love terms, maybe you think a kind lie is better than a tough truth, but if this keeps you stuck in a difficult situation, this is your moment to reconsider.

AQUARIUS January 21 –February 18

You are the kind of sign who makes a promise and sticks to it. But sometimes people don't deserve this loyalty from you – and you may be starting to see this in certain relationships. Today you can have the necessary conversations. A work-based on-off romance chance fires up to full when you meet in the street.

PISCES February 19 – March 20

Self-searching can lead straight to self-confidence when you follow Saturn's lead in your own sign and look long and deep into your heart. You know, deep down, certain bonds have run out of steam, and certain goals no longer appeal. Now you can start to deal with this, in ways that make your future glow.

Phone Meg's psychics for a chat on **0905 005 8102**

Or to pay by credit/debit card call **08000 356 684** or mobile users call **020 7111 6406**

Text a psychic. Just text **MEG** then a space and your question to **60016**

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: Inveroak.com, PO Box 10015, CM1 9HH.

GOOD WEEK

BOSS of MATALAN, Jo Whitfield, who revealed a sizeable drop in its losses – a year since being taken over by lenders.

BAD WEEK

JONATHAN Adnams, chairman of brewer ADNAMS, who had 36 per cent of investors oppose his re-election.

Sun business

By ASHLEY ARMSTRONG
ashley.armstrong@the-sun.co.uk
@AArmstrong_says

DRINK IT'S ALL OVER

Ex-Dragon delists cocktail firm

FORMER Dragons' Den investor Sarah Willingham has told the City: "I'm out."

She unveiled shock plans to delist cocktail chain **NIGHTCAP** from London's **AIM** market.

Shares in the business – which owns 46 bars including Dirty Martini and The Cocktail Club – halved in value at yesterday's news.

Nightcap reckons the stock market undervalues it – and "this is unlikely to change in the short-to-medium term".

Delisting means it will no longer be traded on the London stock exchange and the shares will be in private ownership instead. Nightcap said it has a better chance of raising cash from private equity firms and other investors to grow the business.

It is the latest company to quit the stock market. Medical firms **OXFORD CANNABINOID TECHNOLOGIES** and **E-THERAPEUTICS** delisted in April because of poor liquidity and low valuations. It said the market had undervalued it so much it was able to raise cash several times at a price higher than its shares.

But, despite delisting, it warned profits would be much lower than expected due to the tough environment and higher wages.

The business crashed in value to £4.2million – but co-founder Ms Willingham's website claimed a £70million valuation. The move comes a month after it announced plans to raise £3.5million from investors.

Co-founder . . Ms Willingham

NIKE TICKED OFF

TRAINER giant **NIKE** fears its sale could slump by 10 per cent this quarter – with rivals snapping at its heels.

ADIDAS has had success with its Samba line, while running brand firms **ON** and **HOKA** are doing well.

Nike said sales of its Converse trainers were down 18 per cent.

TATA'S THREAT

STEEL giant **TATA** has threatened to shut down its Port Talbot plant early because of industrial action.

Workers at the South Wales site had been due to walk on July 8 in a strike led by Unite.

But Tata said if it goes ahead it will bring forward permanent closure from September to July 7.

WEEKLY SHARE PERFORMANCE

THE FTSE 100 YESTERDAY FELL 15.56 TO 8,164.12

21st Century Fox Inc A	2726	-	
21st Century Fox Inc B	2540 ¾	+	4 ¾
Abrdn	148	-	3 ¼
Anglo American	2502	+	29 ½
Assco Br Foods*	2474	+	6
AstraZeneca	12356	-	116
Aviva	476 ½	-	3
BAE	1320	-	19
BAT*	2430	-	58
BP*	475	+	4
BT Group	140 ¼	-	1 ¼
Barclays	208 ¾	+	4
Barratt	472	-	2
Bco Santander	363	-	11 ½
British Land*	411 ½	-	1 ¼
Bunzl*	3010	-	4
Burberry*	877 ¾	-	107
Carnival	1357	+	231
Compass*	2160	-	99
Currys plc	72	-	4 ¼
Diageo	2489 ½	-	88 ½
Drax Group	492	-	23 ¼
Esken Limited	-	-	
Experian*	3686	+	1
Ferguson*	15235	-	120
FirstGroup	158 ¼	+	5 ¼
Frasers Group	882 ½	+	12 ½
GSK*	1529 ½	-	69 ½
Greggs	2772	-	70
HSBC	683 ¾		-
IDS	320 ¼	+	1 ¼
IMI	1764	-	22
ITV	80 ½		-
Imperial Brands	2024	-	12
InterContinental Hotels	8326	+	60
International Airlines	162 ¼	+	6 ¾
Johnson M*	1567	-	2
Kingfisher	248 ¾		-
Legal&Gen	227	-	4
Lloyds Banking Group	54 ½	-	¾
London St Exch	9400	-	254
Man	242	-	4 ¾
Marks & Spencer*	286 ½	-	11 ½
Mitch & Butlers	285 ½	-	15 ½
Mitie Gp*	116	-	1
Mobico Group	51	+	3 ¾
Mothercare	4 ¼		-
NatWest	311 ¾	-	3
National Grid*	882 ½	-	16
News Corp A	2194	+	70
News Corp B	2265 ½	+	34
Next	9036	-	104
Pennon	573 ½	-	35 ½
Persimmon*	1352	-	3 ½
Prudential	718 ¼	+	11
Rank	68	-	3
Reckitt Benckiser	4282	-	146
Rentokil	461	+	7 ½
Rio Tinto	5201	-	33
Rolls-Royce	456 ¾	-	16 ¼
SSE	1789 ½	-	34 ½
Sage*	1088 ½	+	7 ½
Sainsbury's*	255	-	7 ¼
Segro	898	+	5
Severn Trent*	2380	-	84
Smith&N	980 ½	-	24 ¼
Smiths News*	58 ½	+	¾
Stand Chart	716	-	7
Tesco*	306	-	2 ½
Tui	563 ½	-	10
Unilever	4345	-	89
United Utilities*	982 ½	-	26 ¾
Vanquis	50	+	¾
Vesuvius	461 ½	-	14 ½
Vodafone*	69 ¾	-	1 ¾
WH Smith	1132	-	39

* = ex dividend

Data by MORNINGSTAR

Sun money

SKY'S PLAYING LONG GAME ON WIFI

SKY has quietly changed the minimum term on its broadband contracts from 18 months to 24 months.

The telecoms firm brought in the change on June 20, with all new and renewed contracts extended.

Alex Tofts, from Broadband Genie, said: "Sky is delaying customers from shopping around and moving to a cheaper deal, while they cash in for longer."

Ernest Doku, from price comparison website Uswitch, said the change could have its benefits. He added: "Longer contracts mean less flexibility, but they do allow for customers to lock in a good price for longer."

If you're a Sky customer outside the minimum term of your contract then you can ditch the provider and switch to another firm offering a shorter-term contract. Vodafone offers 12-month deals, while Virgin Media's standard contract length is 18 months.

A Sky spokesperson said the move would mean "extending the in-contract benefits we know our customers value".

SAM WALKER

LOCKED IN . . . web provider

A 'LIBRARY OF THINGS' CAN SAVE

DO you have a garage, loft or spare room clogged up with items you only get out once a year?

Whether it's power tools, party decorations or camping gear, these items are expensive to buy and rarely used.

But have you ever considered paying to loan such equipment, instead of buying it?

Lending libraries allow you to do just that – and, here, ROSIE TAYLOR reveals how they can save lots of money.

LIBRARY OF THINGS

THERE are more than 100 "things libraries" in the UK, run by private companies, charity volunteers or councils.

You normally have to become a member for a fee and then may have to pay additional costs to borrow each item – but each library has different rules.

For example, the London-based Library Of Things (which has 17 sites) charges per item, per day, not for membership.

A pressure washer is £17.50 a day, so costs would quickly add up if you need it for a week.

Share Bristol's library of things charges £50 for a standard annual membership (it says this is about the same as buying one power tool per year) and £20 for concessions. And then there are no charges for borrowing most items.

In Hull, members can join the Library Of Stuff for just £1 and then pay a small weekly fee for each item they borrow, such as £1.50 for a telescopic camera for seven days.

Some are run or supported by local councils, such as Guildford Library Of Things.

You can find your local service by viewing the directory at ethicalconsumer.org.

WHAT CAN I BORROW?

EACH library of things stocks different types of items, but most offer DIY tools and household equipment.

Others have a much wider range of items, including bikes, office equipment, gardening tools, board games, suitcases and sports equipment.

Items may have been donated by the community or bought new.

In London's Library Of Things, you can borrow a sewing machine for £5.50 a day or £20 a week. A speaker and PA system for events is £11 a day.

At Share Bristol, free items include camping gear, party crockery, high chairs and bed guards.

Hull's Library Of Stuff offers a Brother laserjet printer (£5.50 a week), ten metres of bunting (£3 a week), ski goggles (£6.50 a week) and a smoke machine (£5.50 a week).

It also loans health and wellbeing equipment, such as a Nintendo Wii Fit Plus with balance board (£6.50 per month), family litter-picking kits (free) and a light box to treat seasonal affective disorder (free).

HOW DOES IT WORK?

I TESTED Brighton Tool Library as I wanted to strip a wooden floor and clean a patio with a pressure washer. There was a choice of paying per item or signing up to be a member.

An annual membership costs £20 to £50 (depending on income), or there is a pay-as-you-go option for £5 to £25.

I signed up for the £10 monthly membership, which meant there were no additional fees to hire the items.

But I did have to buy my own safety goggles, gloves and sandpaper sheets.

I reserved my items around a week in advance to ensure they were available for the day I needed.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

STAFF can help you find the right tool for the job.

A volunteer suggested I swap the handsaw that I had reserved for an electric multitool, which he explained would be better for cutting some wood out of an awkward corner.

He showed me how to use it and how to load the sander with sandpaper. His advice saved me lots of time I would have wasted watching YouTube videos.

It was also reassuring to know each piece of equipment had been tested.

But the biggest benefit was saving money. I borrowed a Bosch sander and multitool, which cost around £70 and £85 each new, as well as a V-TUF pressure washer, which would have been £173 new.

In total, it would have cost £328 to buy the items. Even second-hand, it costs around £40 to

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**
Write: **Sun Money, News UK, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF**

OFGEM LOBBIED ON DISCOUNT DEALS

ENERGY regulator Ofgem is being urged to keep in place a ban on discounted tariffs.

A coalition of power suppliers Octopus, So Energy, E.ON and Rebel Energy, as well as consumer groups Which?, the End Fuel Poverty Coalition, Citizens Advice and Fair by Design have written to the regulator to warn that relaxing the ruling could lead to loyal customers being ripped off.

The Sun campaigned for the ban before it was imposed in April 2022.

It means energy firms are not allowed to offer cheap prices to switchers unless they also offer those same deals to their existing customers.

Rocio Concha, Which? director of policy and advocacy, said:

"Our research has shown consumers overwhelmingly believe that cheaper energy deals only available to new customers are unfair – even when they might stand to benefit.

"That's why Which? and a coalition of energy firms and consumer organisations have written to Ofgem warning them not to lift the ban on discounted tariffs."

JAMES FLANDERS

SMART TRACKER . . . energy

'Aged 81 and hounded by energy debt collectors'

LAURA PURKESS
Sorts out your money issues

Q I SWITCHED suppliers to Octopus Energy in January and paid a final bill of £446, but my old provider British Gas is still asking for another £527.

I thought I had paid my outstanding balance but now I'm being chased by debt collectors. Can you help?

MAUREEN SEMENS, Nottingham

A WHEN you decided to switch to Octopus Energy you contacted British Gas and were told to clear the balance of £446 before you could move.

So in May you were surprised to receive another final bill from British Gas for £527 for the period from November to January 17, 2024.

You assumed this was a mistake and explained you had already paid your final bill.

But a few weeks later you received a letter from debt collectors acting for British Gas, chasing you for the money.

Again, you told the company you had paid your final bill with British Gas, but it ignored you and sent another letter demanding the payment.

The situation has kept you up at night worrying, as you are 81 and cannot afford to pay another huge bill which you don't believe you owe.

When I contacted British Gas it confirmed that the bill was indeed correct.

The £446 you paid off was your outstanding bill up to November 2023, while the additional bill you received was for your usage up to the date you switched – January 17.

However, it agreed with me that this was not clearly explained to you at the time, and so it has offered you £100 as compensation for the mix-up, which it will deduct from your final bill.

It has also recalled the debt collectors so they won't contact you again.

A British Gas spokesman said: "Mrs Semens' final bill is correct and relates to unpaid energy usage, but we recognise we could have explained things more clearly when she previously called us.

"We're trying to reach her to explain the bill further and offer additional support, and we'll also be applying a credit to reduce the bill as a goodwill gesture."

I was very glad to clear this up, but I think perhaps British Gas could have done more to explain the situation to you before calling in debt collectors.

HUNDREDS OF POUNDS

Be a big lender... not a spender

V-TUF pressure washer Cost to buy £173

£60 to buy a Bosch multitool, around £25 to buy a Bosch sander and between £80 to £120 to buy the pressure washer.

It's a great way to try before you buy and save on storage space. And only having the tools for a week was a great incentive to get the tasks done fast.

WHAT ARE DOWNSIDES?

ITEMS in a library of things will have been used previously, so they probably won't be the latest models and may have signs of wear and tear.

Some of the blades on the multitool I borrowed were rusty (although they still worked) and I struggled to put together the pressure washer as none of the parts had been left where the instructions said they would be. Having a short timeframe to use the items is also not always convenient. It was raining most of the week I had the pressure washer, so I ended up having to rush to use it on the one clear morning.

Many libraries are staffed by volunteers so the opening times for collection and drop-off are often limited to a couple of hours on a few days per week.

This can be difficult to fit around your work and other commitments.

But overall the benefits far outweigh the negatives.

I was able to use tools worth £328 to do the jobs I needed – and it only cost me a tenner.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON VISA SWITCH

TEN million Lloyds Banking Group credit card holders will receive new cards after the group signed a deal with Visa. JAMES FLANDERS explains what it may mean for you.

WHO DOES IT AFFECT? Over two years, around ten million credit cards will convert from Mastercard to Visa. At the moment, most customers of Lloyds Bank, Halifax, Bank of Scotland and MBNA have Mastercard credit cards.

It is not yet clear when the switch will begin, but it is expected to be a phased process that will be completed by the end of 2026.

Marc Lien, credit cards chief at Lloyds Banking Group, said: "Our expanded partnership with Visa brings significant benefits to our customers, offering seamless payments, in addition to a range of upcoming innovative new products and services."

WHAT ARE VISA AND MASTERCARD? The UK's biggest payments firms, accounting for 95 per cent of transactions on UK cards. They facilitate electronic fund transfers, mainly through credit, debit and prepaid cards issued by banks and financial institutions. They are a go-between for you, your bank and a retailer.

When you buy something, Visa or Mastercard checks with your card provider if a transaction should be accepted or declined, then tells the retailer that the payment can be made. It then processes the payment between your card provider and the retailer.

While both companies offer similar services, the differences lie in the specific benefits and features of the cards issued by financial institutions under the Visa or Mastercard brand.

These benefits may include varying interest rates, rewards programmes, fees and perks.

MASTERCARD . . . new deal

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT ME? It won't have a major impact on how you pay or where you can use your card.

But at some point you will be sent a new Visa credit card and PIN if you now have a Mastercard with a Lloyds Banking Group brand.

It's worth ensuring your address and contact details are up to date so that you get yours, though your Visa card won't stop working until you activate the new one.

Customers of Lloyds, Halifax and Bank of Scotland already have Visa debit cards.

The latest change means all types of card will now be Visa.

WHY DO BANKS DO THIS? Banks can change the card network they use at any time, and this can be for various reasons.

In 2021, customers of Santander, First Direct and NatWest were sent Mastercard debit cards to replace Visa.

The banks denied it was due to Visa's fees and said it was to improve customer experience.

The Sun ON SUNDAY
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Sun money EXTRA in association with ASDA

Aisle let you into a secret

By LANA CLEMENTS

TRIM the cost of your weekly food shop by getting a few tips and tricks under your belt.

This is what you need to know before heading to the supermarket . . .

FRUIT AND VEG: You pay more for the convenience of pre-prepared fruit and veg.

So buy whole instead and you can then prepare at home to save cash.

Choose loose produce where possible and you will usually pay less for the same quantity of items, including fruit and veg such as potatoes, carrots and bananas.

It also means you are more likely to only buy what you need, cutting down on waste and overspending.

WORLD FOOD: World-food aisles feature produce from international brands that you may not recognise.

But the products are often cheaper and similar to everyday food items you are already buying.

You can usually make savings on spices, grains and canned products such as tinned tomatoes or coconut milk bought on this aisle.

YELLOW STICKERS: Supermarkets discount food close to expiry dates, often with a yellow sticker label.

The best bargains are often quickly snapped up, so it can be worth asking staff when they reduce items because it can vary by store.

Try to find items that you can freeze and use at a later date.

LOYALTY PAYS: Sign up to membership and loyalty schemes of supermarkets that you use regularly, to benefit from special offers and prices.

You can also collect points, which can be exchanged for money off your shopping.

Save on your shop

TOP PICK . . . loose items cost less

CHOOSY . . . pet food

BRANDS VERSUS STORE'S

YOU can save a small fortune by swapping big brands for supermarket own-labels. Often, firms make cheaper equivalents using similar recipes . . .

OWN-LABEL

Cereal: Supermarket own-label can be just as tasty.

Crisps: Store crisps often surpass their better-known brands but at a lower price.

Canned: You'd struggle to taste the difference between shop and branded tins of fish, beans, veg and pulses.

BRANDED

Tea and coffee: If you have a beloved morning brew, you've most likely tried many different varieties to find your favourite, so stick with it.

Chocolate: You may find supermarket chocolate is not the same as your favourite.

Pet food: If your four-legged friend is a food snob, it can be better to stick with what you know they like.

Blast-off early!

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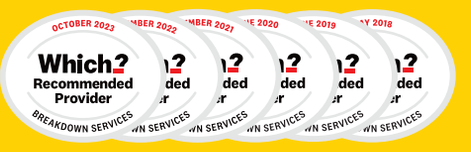

AA

More members than any other major UK breakdown service. Source: AA Intermediate Co Limited Interim Report 2023 (13.9m Roadside members) and RAC Bidco Limited Interim Report HY 2023 (12.8m Roadside members). Verify at theAA.com/Best 40% off breakdown cover packages is only available when you take out a new Membership with At Home, National Recovery or Onward Travel on theAA.com The sale starts on 19 June 2024 and ends at 11.59 pm on 1 July 2024. This introductory offer: (1) is only available online at theAA.com; (2) is for new AA breakdown customers only who are UK residents, and not existing AA breakdown members or at renewal; (3) only applies to the first year of your membership; (4) does not apply when only Roadside Assistance is purchased, or to Parts & Garage Cover; (5) is not available in conjunction with any other offer, discount or promotion or in a breakdown situation; and (6) is not valid and prices are subject to change if you hold your Breakdown membership in relation to a vehicle used to carry items or people for money, or if you are in material breach of any other terms of your Roadside Assistance policy. You can choose how your policy renews when you set up your cover. You'll receive notice beforehand of the price of membership after the first 12 months, so you'll have plenty of time to change or cancel your cover. There's no cash alternative. The AA reserves the right to withdraw or alter this promotion without prior notice at any time. All information correct at time of print June 2024.

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AWARD-WINNING

Sun travel

Edited by LISA MINOT

hot spot

IT'S 25C in TENERIFE – seven nights' self-catering at 3★ Pueblo Torviscas in Costa Adeje is from £379pp, including flights from Birmingham on July 9. See thomascook.com.

TURKEY is 33C – seven nights' self-catering at the 3★ Green House Apartments in Bodrum is from £479pp, including flights from East Midlands on July 8. See jet2holidays.com.

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2 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 that 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, have 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.

Today, we're focussing on our fabulous Florida prize. Up for grabs is a seven-night stay for two on the beautiful beaches of Pensacola, in association with Hays Travel, and including B&B stay in a superior hotel room and return economy flights from a major UK airport.

The trip is courtesy of Visit Pensacola, the coastal city on Florida's north-west coast with endless sunshine and 40 miles of sugar-white beaches.

You have until August 8, 2024, to vote at thesun.co.uk/travelawards.

Terms and conditions apply.

CITY BASE . . . easyHotel

easyHotel, London City Shoreditch

WHAT'S IT LIKE? The low-cost easyHotel has ditched the frills to save on price, making it a cheap option for tourists visiting London who simply want a base so they can focus on exploring.

ROOMS ANY GOOD? Twin or double – and you can choose if you want a window or not, depending on the price. While simple, each room has comfortable beds with Silent Night mattresses, a 32in TV and free Wifi.

check in... check it out

Despite being low-cost, you can still leave your towels and toiletries at home as they are all included in the en-suite bathrooms, each fitted with a walk-in shower.

EAT HERE OR GRAB A PIZZA? The no-frills approach means you won't find breakfast or dinner at the hotel, although there is a 24-hour vending machine.

Venturing out, there's no shortage of places to eat, as you're in the heart of Old Street. Head to Shoreditch Grind for a morning coffee and croissant, while restaurants such as Wagamama and The Posh Burger are nearby for dinner.

Bars are aplenty too, with local spot Bounce offering table tennis alongside your cocktail.

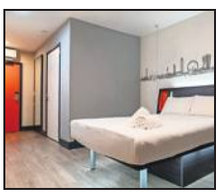
WHAT ELSE? The reception is 24-hours, and you can pay £10 for an early check-in or late check out. It will cost you to store your bags, from £5 per 24 hours.

The hotel is ideal for exploring the capital with Old Street Tube station just a short walk away.

SO YOU'D GO BACK? Yes. It's a basic, affordable option for doing London on a budget with very clean rooms and friendly staff.

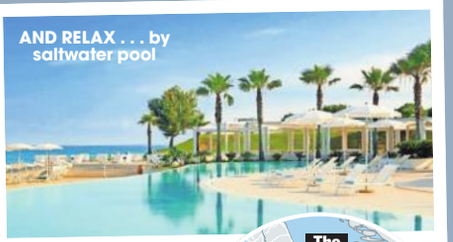
WHAT'S THE DAMAGE? Rooms start from £70 based on two people sharing. See easyhotel.com.

KARA GODFREY



BARGAIN . . . bedroom

RELAX ON A SPA BREAK IN SOUTHERN ITALY'S CALABRIA



Reboot yourself in stunning Tropea

GET YOUR KICKS . . . idyllic town at country's tip

UNWIND . . . on sun-kissed coast

"RELAX and let the ocean revive you," the therapist says, as she slathers my skin in gel.

It has a distinct seaweed aroma due to one of its main ingredients, algae, which is rich in vitamins and minerals.

I'm on a beachside spa cabana and fittingly the soundtrack to accompany this lovely marine-based treatment is the lap of gentle waves.

Capovaticano Resort and Thalasso (seawater) Spa takes its name from the small hamlet of coves, beaches and homes scattered amid a cactus-dotted landscape that sits five miles from Tropea in Calabria, far south on Italy's "toe" at the very end of the country's famous "boot".

The glimpse of a spearmint-blue Tyrrhenian Sea lapping the resort's small beach is a sight for sore eyes, as is Capovaticano's gorgeous spa.

I'm willing to bet that Tropea is the most attractive town in Italy you've never heard of.

It won the title of Italy's much-coveted Borgo dei Borghi (village of villages) in 2022 and yet remains pretty much off the tourist radar, making it a bargain compared with other popular Italian hotspots.

This proves that when it comes to a cost-effective wellness break in a swanky Italian spa, location is key. The restorative benefits of bathing in seawater include relief to both psychological and physical ailments, and there are various spa packages on offer at an additional cost.

However, as all resort guests are free to make use of the heated seawater pools, sauna, steam room, hydro-massage pools, cold water plunge pools, and sensory showers (collectively known as the Thalassotherapy path), you don't need to spend one Euro extra.

During summer months northern Italian holidaymakers are lured to Tropea for its stunning beaches (which are among Italy's cleanest) and top-notch restaurants – try the chewy local pasta fileja, rolled on a wire into an elongated, slightly curved shape and served with 'nduja, the region's spicy sausage. The town can get a little busy during July and August – although that doesn't detract from its beauty.

The beaches of La Rotonda and Mari Picciulu prove to be favourites, due to their family-friendly calm waters and shallow natural pools, ideal for cooling off in.

Although Capovaticano Resort's beach isn't private, it is remarkably quiet and in the early morning I take a pre-breakfast stroll along honey-coloured sands while enjoying views out to the island of Sicily and to the cone-shaped volcanic island of Stromboli, where wisps of smoke curl at its summit.

Picture perfect

Mornings are spent at the picture-perfect, palm-fringed, saltwater pool, which is warmed solely by the sun, so a little bracing when first getting in. Hugged by rich, red, volcanic hills, peppered with spiky cactus, the resort has a Palm Springs vibe, and this stark, stylish beauty is reflected in the bedrooms with their neutral colour-schemes and uncluttered spaces that help you quickly unwind.

Tropea is near enough to visit on a whim (catch a local taxi if you've not hired a car) where activities are also pleasingly low-key. A highlight is watching the sunset from the square of Affricione del Cannone (named for the canon that provides a climbing frame for local kids), while enjoying a gelato from nearby Nona Rosa's.

With map firmly shut, I get happily lost in the town's quiet streets, lined with 18th century palazzi, pausing to pay my respects to the town's patron saint, Our Lady of Romania (credited as defender against earthquakes, or so the story goes), in the pretty Norman cathedral.

I save my spa visits for late in the day, enjoying a swim in the outdoor, heated saltwater pool while watching bats flit between moonlit palms, before I head to dinner.

As half-board is such good value, most guests opt to dine at Il Mantineo, the resort's specialist Calabrian restaurant, where I order fresh-off-the-boat lightly battered whole sardines, followed by rustic paccheri, a large tubular pasta served with braised pork.

Luckily the Italians have a saying, "Il buon vino fa buon sangue" (good wine makes good blood), so I raise a toast of salute to a "wellness path" that doesn't make you feel guilty for enjoying a glass or two.

KATE WICKERS

GO: TROPEA, ITALY

GETTING THERE: Ryanair flies direct from Stansted to Lamezia Terme from £30.99 return. See ryanair.com.

STAYING THERE: Double rooms at Capovaticano Resort cost from £210 per night, including breakfast and use of the spa and beach facilities. See capovaticanoresort.it.

Sun travel

Edited by LISA MINOT
Follow on Facebook @TheSunTravelEditor

SEABIRD ELUSIVE ON TRIP TO OTHER-WORLDLY ISLES

TAKE A WALK . . . Faroe Islands are great for hiking

Huffin' but no puffin on Faroe Islands hike

CALLING all anxiety-riddled, exhausted adults.

You've been working hard and need a break – somewhere away from the city, with plenty of nature, fresh air and birds to watch.

Allow me to suggest the Faroe Islands.

There are 18 of them, all connected by bridges and subterranean tunnels.

Sitting between Iceland and Scotland, the islands provide an almost otherworldly destination.

And Atlantic Airways has launched direct flights from Gatwick this month, which means it's easier than ever to get an eyeful of their sweeping scenery.

Gorgeous gorges, majestic mountains and fantastic fjords all stretch out as far as the eye can see.

There are hikes for all abilities – ranging from two-hour rambles between towns to all-day treks that take you to the most Instagram-worthy spots.

One such hike is the trek from the islands' capital Tórshavn to Kirkjubøur, one of the oldest towns in the Faroes which dates back to the 13th century.

STOCKY . . . Faroe horse

You can walk up and back from the towns – about two hours each way – or a free bus runs regularly between them.

We scurry up the side of one of the mountains, following the cairns – piles of rocks strategically made into mini pyramids to guide you – to gape at the fjord below.

The oyster catcher – the Faroe Islands' national bird chirp their hellos, while the doleful Faroe sheep watch us make our way through their stunning backyard.

Puffins are the birds most commonly associated with the Faroes. But despite going to Vestmanna and other puffin hotspots, I didn't get a chance to spot the red-beaked seabirds.

That's because they hadn't quite made it to the islands by mid-April when I was visiting.

But other birds, including fulmars, helped to fill the puffin-shaped whole in my heart. And thankfully there's plenty of other natural wonders you can soak up on the islands.

One spot to live out your country dreams is Hanusarstova, a farm owned by local couple Harriet and John.

Deftly jumping between feeding the stocky horses to preparing for the sheep to begin lambing, Harriet is an impressive woman to behold.

Just one feature of her farm, in village Avevig, is a gorgeous Airbnb where a conveniently placed window and ramp will mean you are greeted by sheep when you wake each morning.

It's a surreal experience, seeing the beady eyes staring at you through the glass when you wake.

This chance to be close to nature and the tranquil isolation is the real draw of the Faroes. And as if to prove my point, the dark night sky pulls out all the stops during my stay at 4★ Hotel Foroyar which sits on the hill above Tórshavn.

Hearing a rumour that the Northern Lights are likely to appear that night, I scramble up the hill at about midnight and am rewarded with a spectacular show of colour.

Green and purple lights roll and flicker in the sky above my head as I take 41 photos in the space of 87 seconds, despite my freezing fingers.

It's an unforgettable night and I have to drag myself away with the knowledge that an early morning wake-up call for another hike is on the cards.

Spirit renewed

The seclusion of the Faroe Islands is wonderful, but don't be fooled that the isolation means they cannot rustle up some good grub.

There are top restaurants including Michelin-starred Roks, which serves fresh fish dishes such as Greenlandic snow crab with burnt onion butter and razor clam tartare.

But I choose to scoff down delicious risotto at Katrina Christiansen and steaks at The Tarv after long days of hiking.

The local Parne bookshop is another perfect spot to take a break in after running around the mountains – and its rhubarb cheesecake is a delicious pick-me-up.

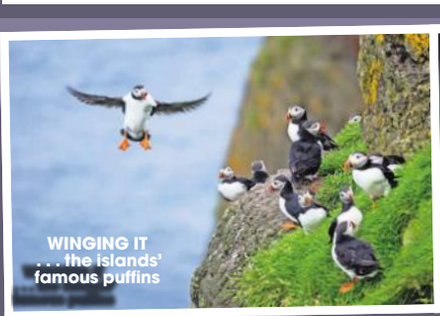
In four days, my tired city spirit has been renewed by the lush Faroes, and an interest in birdwatching has been well and truly sparked.

I know I'll be back to finally catch a glimpse of a puffin.

BRITTANY VONOW

GO: FAROE ISLANDS

GETTING THERE: Atlantic Airways flies from Gatwick to Vágar from around £140 each way. See atlanticairways.com.
STAYING THERE: Hotel Føroyar has rooms from around £146 per night on a room-only basis. See hotelforoyar.com.
MORE INFO: See visitfaroeislands.com



WINGING IT . . . the islands' famous puffins

SKY HIGH . . . Northern Lights

PICTURESQUE . . . capital Tórshavn

take 3

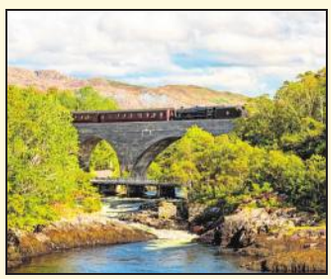
OUR Take Three column gives a trio of cut-out-and-keep suggestions. This week, in light of the chaos at Manchester airport, we're looking at train holidays where you can explore several destinations without needing to hop on a plane.

ALL ABOARD AND RELAX

BUDGET – French Riviera: The Eurostar is a bucket-list experience in its own right – and on this six-day adventure you'll get to board the cross-channel train straight to Paris, before heading to the medieval city of Avignon with its winding streets and a 14th Century fortress.

Then it's off to Marseille with it's historical Old Port and picturesque narrow streets, lined with terracotta-coloured cafes and boutique shops.

The six-night trip costs from £621pp.



BARGAIN – Highlands & Islands: Train is the best way to travel around Scotland's breathtaking landscapes, soaking up some lush views from the window while you whizz from London to Fort William, then on to the Isle of Skye, Inverness and Edinburgh.

Over ten days you'll tick off bucket list experiences such as Ben Nevis (if you fancy a hike) or Loch Ness.

Holidaymakers also get to travel on the Kyle Line, one of Scotland's most beautiful rail routes, through rolling hills and craggy mountains.

The ten-day trip costs from £1,002pp.

BLOW OUT – Morocco (and Europe): This really is the ultimate European getaway with a whopping 23 days to soak up some sun-soaked cultural destinations.

You'll depart the UK for Paris, then head to Nimes before venturing into Spain to visit Barcelona, Madrid, Cadiz and Tarifa.

Stops in Morocco include the historical gateway of Tangier, Chefchaouen and Fez, as well as the bustling metropolises of Marrakech and the country's largest city Casablanca.

The 23-day trip costs from £2,674pp.

●Trips include all accommodation, travel and some meals. To book or find out more, see byway.travel.

Sun travel

JESSICA'S GOLD TRIP

OLYMPIC golden girl Jessica Ennis-Hill travelled to Paris in style this week on Eurostar's first ever Golden Train.

The shiny carriages have been decorated in honour of the athletes travelling to the French capital for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which begin next month.

And the UK's 2012 heptathlon superstar Jess, *right*, was one of the first former champions to get on board.

As well as athletes from four competing countries – Team GB, Team Belgium, Team Netherlands, and Team Germany – the Golden Train will also be fast-tracking customers travelling from London.

Eurostar is also adding up to eight more services between London and Paris on peak Olympic days.

lates

LANZAROTE: Seven nights' all-inclusive at the 4★ Sandos Papagayo Beach Resort is from £682pp with Gatwick flights on July 7. See blueseaholidays.co.uk.

DURHAM: Seven nights' self-catering for up to seven sharing at Chapel Cottage in Middleton-in-Teesdale from £818, arriving July 6. See sykescottages.co.uk.

RHODES: Seven nights' self-catering at the 3★ Lia Matina Studios is from £435pp with flights from Stansted on July 23. See olympicholidays.com.

BUBBLY BREAKS

HOT TUB holidays are on fire this summer, despite the sizzling weather.

New research from Hoeseasons shows that bookings for UK properties with the outdoor feature soared by 23 per cent in the last four weeks of May and by ten per cent overall this year compared with 2023.

There are still plenty of places up for grabs too including Kielder Waterside in Northumberland which is offering a three-night stay in woodland from £449 and Ullswater Heights in Cumbria which features deluxe safari tents, complete with decking, from £359 for three nights.

See hoseasons.co.uk or call 0345 498 6060.

SPOT WILDLIFE ON ISLAND HOP FROM FORT MYERS

ISLAND LIFE . . . pristine sands and laid-back vibe

LAID-BACK VIBES . . . beach bar

OLD CHARM . . . Anna Maria Island

SERENE . . . manatee

Life of ease with Florida manatees

THE Sunshine State is famous for attracting millions of thrill-seekers – but rollercoasters are not the only thing Florida has to offer.

Fort Myers is a three-hour drive south of Orlando and offers a totally different kind of amusement.

Far from the hustle and bustle of crowded, noisy theme parks, this is the gateway to island-hopping off Florida's stunning south west coast.

Expect the unexpected while exploring these luxurious islands' pristine beaches and crystal-clear waters.

Spot free-roaming turtles in Sanibel, kayak around Captiva's Buck Key Mangroves and lunch at the restaurant and bar in Cabbage Key, where singer Jimmy Buffett is said to have written his song Cheeseburger In Paradise.

And paradise it sure is. The irregular-shaped island of Cabbage Key, measuring just over half a mile, is accessible only by boat and it is like stepping back in time as soon as your feet hit the shore.

You are almost guaranteed the pleasure of seeing dolphins and manatees on the five-mile boat trip from Pine Island – and by the end of the trip you will think of them as travelling companions.

Aside from being popular for its unrivalled hospitality, stunning location, and, of course, the Cheeseburger song, the Cabbage Key bar is also famous for its dollar bills, with around $100,000 signed notes covering its walls.

The tradition started in the 1960s when a fisherman taped his dollar to the wall with his name on so he would have money for a drink when he returned.

Having lost my dad at a young age, it meant a lot to write his name on my dollar to pin up in the restaurant. Now he will join presidents and celebrities remembered on the family-owned island.

Fort Myers has experienced its share of loss too, following Hurricane Ian in 2022. The residents' determination and drive to rebuild stays with you long after you leave.

Secluded picnics

We started our trip at Tarpon Lodge on Pine Island, a picture-perfect setting overlooking the marina. It is a breathtaking first stop into experiencing "old Florida".

Breakfast at The Perfect Cup Roastery set us up for a beach clean-up to clear the way for sea turtle nesting season.

From May through to October, turtles emerge from the Gulf of Mexico to lay their eggs on Fort Myers' shores and it is down to local volunteers to protect them from being disturbed.

After picking litter in the sun, it was time for lunch (and a stiff drink) at Doc Ford's, known as the home of the island mojito.

While visiting Sanibel, it was clear to see the damage caused to homes and businesses by Hurricane Ian. A tour of the shell museum revealed further the extent of the devastation.

Visiting this part of the world gives you a chance to speak to residents forced to rebuild their lives. And they did so with such overwhelming positivity.

On the mainland, downtown Fort Myers has a buzzier atmosphere and there is plenty to see and do, including visiting a 17-acre botanical garden and the homes of inventor Thomas Edison and motor industry pioneer Henry Ford.

Next up was a flying visit to Bradenton for a fascinating tour of The Bishop Museum of Science & Nature before we ticked off our next slice of paradise – the seven-mile long Anna Maria Island.

It is hard to believe anyone has set foot on its beach, a testament to its eco-friendly attitude. Highlights included unforgettable sunsets while eating dinner at Beach Bistro on Holmes Beach, family friendly Manatee Public Beach and hidden hotspot Bean Point Beach for secluded picnics.

The island also has two rustic "old Florida" fishing piers, Anna Maria City Pier and Rod n' Reel Pier.

We stayed at the modern hotel complex Mello on the Beach, a short stroll from the seafront.

The suites offer an independent stay, with kitchenette, large bedroom and living area, and a swimming pool to relax in before heading into town.

Anna Maria has friendly and welcoming independent shops on Pine Avenue, which manages to retain historic charm in a modern setting.

If, like me, you usually end up rushing around looking for gifts before hitting the airport, it is the perfect place to shop, or stop in for a drink at the pier where locals are enjoying the laid-back lifestyle.

It was the slow-paced, gentle nature of this island-hopping trip that gave me pause for thought before I boarded my nine-hour trip back to London.

Seeing the manatees gliding across the Gulf of Mexico, and the playful nature of the dolphins following the crash of the waves against the boats, reminded me to enjoy the simple, care-free moments.

Florida stole my heart and it will steal yours too.

AMANDA DEVLIN

GO: FLORIDA

GETTING/STAYING THERE: A six night, multi-centre trip including three nights' room-only at the Tarpon Lodge, Pine Island and three nights' room-only at the Mello On The Beach, Anna Maria Island is from £1,775pp including return British Airways flights from Gatwick to Tampa and seven days' fully-inclusive car hire. See americaasyoulikeit.com or call 020 8742 8299.

MORE INFO: See visitflorida.com.

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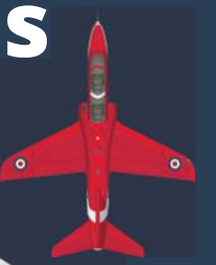

NEW 50p

Country of Issue: Jersey • Denomination: Fifty Pence • Year of Issue: 2024
Metal: Cupro-Nickel with Selective Colour Print • Diameter: 27.3mm • Weight: 8g
• Reverse: Matthew Emeny • Obverse: Glyn Davies • Finish: Brilliant Uncirculated

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*****IMPORTANT INFORMATION*****

There are also 4 more Red Arrows 60th Season 50p designs released which are available to purchase TODAY. Designed by the talented artist Matthew Emeny, the coins perfectly capture the thrill and precision of the Red Arrows' breathtaking displays. The set is usually priced at £75, but **if you buy the full set today, you will receive the Red Arrows Over London 50p for FREE,** making the whole set ONLY £60 (+£3.99 p&p).

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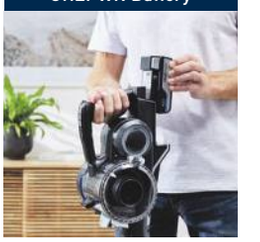
Vax Technology
The brushless motor, controlled by VAX Core™ technology, continuously monitors and ensures optimal cleaning performance, whilst 3-stage filtration captures up to 99.8% of particles and fine dust down to 0.3 microns in size.Δ The dirt bin is also easily removed for simple and hygienic emptying, and with a removable brushbar and filter, maintenance of a VAX Blade 4 is made simple.

Compact & Lightweight
Weighing just 3.1kg, it's lightweight, balanced and easy to use. It features our DustTracker headlights, leaving nowhere for dirt to hide, and with the removable ONEPWR battery, charging can be done separately with the handy charging dock.

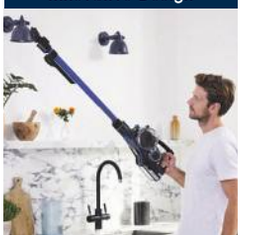
Upstairs, Downstairs & The Car
Fingertip controls allow you to choose the right mode for the job – select having the brushbar on or off and boost mode gives you up to three times the power to tackle tougher jobs.± Easily turn the VAX Blade 4 into a handheld, perfect for cleaning stairs, pet beds, cars and upholstery. Plus, when you buy direct from Vax, get an additional free toolkit worth over £50.

Handheld mode: clean above the floor

Removable VAX ONEPWR Battery



Lightweight and Innovative Design



★★★★★

Really happy with my new vacuum cleaner. It's lightweight, with fantastic suction. Easy to use as a handheld cleaner. The tools are great, and I like the light too.

JMK27

See more reviews at vax.co.uk

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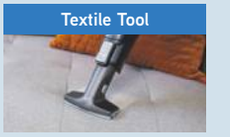

*UK Market data Jan 2023 – Dec 2023 (by sales volume), tested in boost mode on carpet according to IEC 62885-4:2020 part 5.3. For further information email claimsinfo@vax.co.uk **UK Market data Jan 2023 - Dec 2023 (by sales volume), tested in boost mode on carpets and hard floors according to IEC 62885-2:2021 parts 5.2 and 5.4. For further information email claimsinfo@vax.co.uk †Tested in standard power mode on hard floor, with floor brush switched off. ΔTested 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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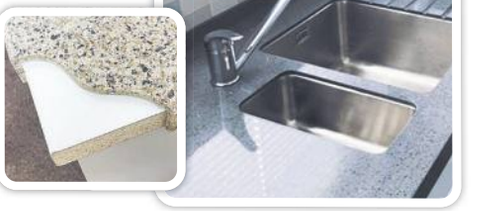

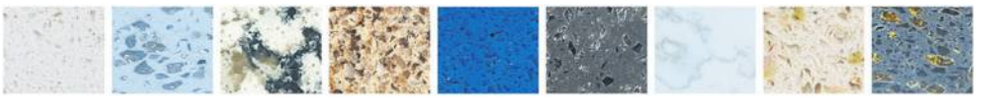

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LEARN!

Q I HAVE had agapanthus in pots for years and overwinter in my garage. Can I put some in my garden border and keep them in over winter?

E MARRIOT, Mansfield

A I cover them over winter in a plastic cloche to be on the safe side. As long as they're a hardy version, they should be fine. Especially if sheltered towards the backs of beds.

KEEP cutting sweet peas when they are in bloom. The more you pick, the more flowers you'll get – and it will keep the plants nice and healthy.

This week's **TIP**

THINK about autumn flowering bulbs – and plant them two to three times deeper than the size of bulb. Try crocosmia, cyclamen and crocuses.

This week's **JOB**

THEME . . . the Money Saving design

OTHER COURT ACTION

SEE gardens themed Money Saving, Moss Magic and Lion King when the RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival starts on Tuesday.

There will also be the usual demos and talks, a floral marquee, RHS allotment area and free family activities.

She Grows Veg will recreate its "edimental" heirloom veg exhibit, following its gold at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Founders Lucy Hutchings and Kate Cotterill will also share tips on how to grow veg, fruit and edible flowers.

WIMBLEDON GARDENER MARTYN SHARES TIPS

GAME ON . . . Sun's Veronica with Martyn

IT'S A WINNER . . . with one of the displays, below, bronze trees

Pictures: STEWART WILLIAMS

Serve up an ace display

ANYONE watching Wimbledon next week won't fail to notice the gorgeous floral arrangements in the Championship's colours of purple, white and green.

There will also be a 250 square metre living wall on Murray Mount, along with the Centre Court's ivy and even a bronze tree with a Womble hidden in it.

Are you feeling inspired? Head gardener Martyn Falconer took time out to show me how you can replicate the famous flora.

And you can get pretty much all the plants at your local garden centre or supermarket – at minimal cost.

Martyn said: "Our ethos is 'Tennis in an English Garden', so that's what we hope people experience.

"It's quite easy as there's a lot of herbaceous purples and greens. Petunias, hydrangeas and ivy are our iconic plants.

"But Salvia Nemorosa 'Ostfriesland' is a really piercing good bluey purple, which has really come out with the sunshine.

"Our living wall is a soilless system, in rock wool, watered four times a day with nutrients, 52 weeks a year.

"There's heucheras, liriope, hebes and ferns in there – about 14 different varieties of plants in it. We've got a team of 12 full-time gardeners, then eight seasonals from April to September.

"Where we really try to make a big impact is the main concourse, under the balcony where you get the players showing off the trophy.

"Our day during the Championships starts around 5am for dead-heading, watering and making sure everything is tip top, including picking up Pimm's glasses and cigarette butts, before the public arrive at 10am. We choose plants that are going to be out naturally around this time of year and get a delivery every week, six weeks out from the Championships, with a very regimented plan.

"I'll make sure they are quite closed heads, not in too much flower.

"Then we're hoping that the British weather is on our side and it will all look great for the champs."

EIGHT OF THE GREATS

WIMBLEDON'S Martyn has an "Iconic Eight" plants and trees he "tries to squeeze in everywhere I possibly can".

He said: "Euonymus Harlequin is the plant we buy the most.

"The white lifts everything and it replicates the white lines on the green grass courts. We have about 4,000 of them.

"We use Dutch hydrangeas, including the traditional 'blue' and also the shorter 'curly wurly'. We have hebes, more for the foliage.

"And we have a lot of salvias, mainly Nemorosa 'offreizant', and also 'Love and Wishes.'

"Ferns are great for softening everything up, and petunias are everywhere.

"Agapanthus brings the right colour and height.

"While acer trees in pots are good for shade."

IT is not too late to get tickets to see the brilliant blooms – and watch some tennis – at Wimbledon. Just queue up on the day to buy either limited show court tickets or grounds tickets.

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LeBron and son link up

BRONNY JAMES will team up with legendary dad LeBron in the first father-son duo in NBA history.

The 19-year-old was picked 55th by the LA Lakers in the second round of the 2024 draft in New York on Thursday.

Lakers vice president of basketball operations and general manager Rob Pelinka triumphantly shook hands with members of his front office after drafting Bronny.

The James family held a draft party as the room erupted in cheers after his selection.

Bronny *(above with his dad)* said he was "beyond blessed" on Instagram

By JAKE SANDERS

while LeBron, 39, posted some snaps of the pair with a caption "legacy".

Pelinka said: "In the history of the NBA, there has never been a father and a son that have shared an NBA basketball court.

"That feels like something that could be magical.

"We know — and have to respect of course — that LeBron has a decision on his opt-out.

"But if it worked out that he was on our team next season, NBA history could be made. And NBA history should be made in a Lakers uniform."

SPORTS ROUND-UP: RESULTS & FIXTURES

COPA AMERICA - GROUP C

URUGUAY (2) 5 **BOLIVIA (0)** 0
Pellistri 9
Nunez 22
M Araujo 78
Valverde 82
Bentancur 90
Att: 48,033

PANAMA (1) 2 **USA (1)** 1
Blackman 27
Fajardo 84
Balogun 23
Att: 59,145

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
USA	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Panama	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Bolivia	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

FORMULA 1

AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX (Spielberg): **Sprint Qualifying -1** M Verstappen (Hol) Red Bull 1m 04.686, 2 L Norris (GB) McLaren 1:04.779, 3 O Piastri (Aus) McLaren 1:04.987, 4 G Russell (GB) Mercedes 1:05.054, 5 C Sainz Jr. (Spa) Ferrari 1:05.126, 6 L Hamilton (GB) Mercedes 1:05.270.

GOLF

ITALIAN OPEN (Ravenna): **2nd Rnd** (Gbr & Irl unless stated) - **133** G Wiebe (USA) 64 69, **134** J De Bruyn (Ger) 67 67, **135** A Otaegui (Spa) 66 69, M Kinhult (Swe) 65 70, B Stone (Rsa) 68 67, S Friedrichsen (Den) 64 71, **136** S Sharma (Ind) 68 68, A Cockerill (Can) 66 70, **137** M Siem (Ger) 69 68, C Shinkwin 68 69, S Crocker (USA) 66 71, R Ramsay 68 69, A Arnaus (Spa) 66 71, D Bradbury 69 68, A Saddier (Fra) 70 67, E Molinari (Ita) 69 68, M Korhonen (Fin) 69 68, A Johnston 69 68, A Pavan (Ita) 64 73, T Vaillant (Fra) 69 68, J Girrbach (Swi) 67 70, J Nicholas (USA) 67 70.

ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC (Detroit, Michigan): **1st Rnd** (USA unless stated) - **64** A Bhatia, **65** M Kim, T Montgomery, **66** E Cole, R Fowler, A Rai (Eng), M Schmid (Ger), W Zalatoris, **67** N Dunlap, B Griffin, B Kohles, N Shipley, B Silverman (Can), J. J. Spaun, J Vegas (Ven), C Young, C Young.

VP BANK SWISS LADIES OPEN (Risch-Rotkreuz): **1st Rnd** (Gbr & Irl unless stated) - **66** K Rudgeley (Aus), C Hedwall (Swe), A-C Mora (Fra), V Kapoor (Ind), **67** M Hernandez (Spa), M Haddioui (Mor), S Bringner (Swe), D Zalewska (Pol), **68** (selected) A Hewson, R Davies.

LPGA DOW CHAMPIONSHIP (Midland, Michigan): **1st Rnd** (USA unless stated) - **64** A Thitikul (Tha), J Kupcho, J Boonchant (Tha), R Yin (Chn), A Ewing, C Wannasaen (Tha), **65** Ssu-Chia Cheng (Tai), A Park, W Ling Hsu (Tai), J Chang, **66** G Hall (Eng), L Thompson, Y Noh, C Hull (Eng), B Henderson (Can), A-Lim Kim (Kor).

U.S. SENIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP (Newport, Rhode Island): **1st Rnd** (USA unless stated) - **63** H Fujita (Jpn), R Green (Aus), **64** B Andrade, **65** S Ames (Can), **66** C Barlow, P Broadhurst (Eng), A Cejka (Ger), B Estes, M Goggin (Aus), P Harrington (Irl), J Maggert, S Stricker, L Westwood (Eng), D von Hoffmann.

TENNIS

ATP & WTA ROTHESAY INT'L (Eastbourne): **Semi-finals, Men -** M Purcell (Aus) bt B Harris (Gbr) 6-4 4-6 6-4.

Women - L Fernandez (Can) bt M Keys (USA) 6-3 3-6 6-3; D Kasatkina (Rus) bt J Paolini (Ita) 3-6 7-5 6-3.

ATP MALLORCA CHAMPIONSHIPS (Spain): **Semi-finals -** A Tabilo (Chi) bt G Monfils (Fra) 2-6 6-2 7-6 (7-3).

WTA BAD HOMBURG OPEN (Germany): **Semi-finals -** D Shnaider (Rus) bt E Navarro (USA) 7-5 2-6 6-3; D Vekic (Cro) bt V Tomova (Bul) 6-0 7-6 (8-6) .

TODAY'S SPORT

EURO 2024 ROUND OF 16
Switzerland v Italy **5.0**
Germany v Denmark **8.0**

COPA AMERICA GROUP A
Argentina v Peru ..... **1am tonight** (Live on Premier Sports)
Canada v Chile ..... **1am tonight** (Live on Premier Sports)

CRICKET
ICC World Twenty20 - Final: South Africa v India (Bridgetown, 3.30pm).

CYCLING
Tour de France - Stage 1 (Florence to Rimini, 206 km).

FORMULA 1
Austrian Grand Prix (Spielberg, Austria): **Sprint** (11.0). **Qualifying** (3.0).

GOLF (all weekend)
USPGA Rocket Mortgage Classic (Detroit Golf Club, Detroit, Michigan).
Italian Open (Milano Marittima, Ravenna).
LPGA Dow Championship (Midland Country Club, Midland, Michigan).
VP Bank Swiss Ladies Open (Golfpark Holzhausern).
U.S. Senior Open Championship (Newport CC, Newport, Rhode Island).

NETBALL
Superleague Final: Manchester Thunder v Loughborough Lightning (4.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE
International: France v England (5.0).
Women's International: France v England (2.30).
Betfred Championship (8.0): Doncaster v Swinton (6.30), Toulouse v Featherstone.

TENNIS
ATP & WTA Rothesay International (Eastbourne). **ATP Mallorca Championships** (Spain). **WTA Bad Homburg Open** (Germany).

TOMORROW

EURO 2024 ROUND OF 16
England v Slovakia **5.0**
Spain v Georgia **8.0**

COPA AMERICA GROUP B
Jamaica v Venezuela ..... **1am** (Live on Premier Sports)
Mexico v Ecuador ..... **1am** (Live on Premier Sports)

CRICKET
County Championship (day 1 of 4, 11am) - **Division One** Durham v Worcs (Riverside), Hampshire v Kent (The Rose Bowl), Lancashire v Nottinghamshire (Southport), Somerset v Warwickshire (Taunton), Surrey v Essex (The Oval).

	P	W	L	D	Bt	Bl	Pts
Surrey	8	5	1	2	19	22	137
Essex	8	4	1	3	17	20	125
Somerset	8	2	1	5	20	22	114
Durham	8	2	1	5	14	14	99
Hampshire	8	2	1	5	11	16	97
Notts	8	1	2	5	14	22	92
Warwicks	8	0	2	6	20	21	89
Lancashire	8	2	3	3	12	19	87
Worcs	8	0	3	5	13	19	72
Kent	8	1	4	3	7	15	62

Division Two: Derbyshire v Yorkshire (Chesterfield), Gloucestershire v Glamorgan (Cheltenham), Leicestershire v Middlesex (Grace Road, 11am), Northamptonshire v Sussex (Northampton).

	P	W	L	D	Bt	Bl	Pts
Sussex	8	4	1	3	24	22	132
Middlesex	8	3	0	5	18	18	124
Yorkshire	8	1	2	5	19	24	99
Glamorgan	8	1	1	6	16	17	97
Leics	8	0	1	7	22	18	96
Northants	8	0	1	7	19	19	94
Glocs	8	1	2	5	20	16	92
Derbyshire	8	0	2	6	14	14	75

Women's Second ODI: England v New Zealand (New Road, 11am).

CYCLING
Tour de France - Stage 2 (Cesenatico to Bologne, 199.2 km).

FORMULA 1
Austrian Grand Prix (Spielberg, 2.0).

MOTORCYCLING
Grand Prix of Netherlands (Assen).

RUGBY LEAGUE
Betfred Championship: Barrow v Wakefield (2.0), Dewsbury v Bradford (2.30), Halifax v Whitehaven (1.0), Widnes v Batley, York v Sheffield (3.0).
Betfred League 1 (2.0): Cornwall RLFC v North Wales Crusaders (1.0), Newcastle v Midlands Hurricanes, Oldham v Hunslet, Workington v Keighley.

REDEMPTION MARK . . . skipper Markram views Kensington Oval

THAT CHOKE ISN'T FUNNY

SOUTH AFRICA are desperate to shed their "chokers" tag by beating India in today's T20 World Cup final.

By JOHN ETHERIDGE

The Proteas have for years possessed some of the planet's best players – but always mucked up at tournaments.

They first played at a World Cup in 1992 and, in nine 50-over and now nine T20 versions since, this is their first final.

It is a remarkable statistic of failure, considering the quality of stars like Allan Donald, Shaun Pollock, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Dale Steyn and AB de Villiers.

Ahead of the Barbados final, captain Aiden Markram said: "Those guys are legends. It doesn't matter if they made the final or not, because they inspired all of us to play.

"I feel we have one more step remaining . . . the final."

India coach Rahul Dravid, who saw his team lose last year's 50-over World Cup final to Australia, said: "If we play well and have the rub of the green, we will win."

CRICKET T20 WORLD CUP

Mott ON THE spot

MATT FIGHTS FOR JOB

JOS AT LOSS . . . Buttler reflects on a poor T20 campaign

MATTHEW MOTT began the fight to keep his job by insisting he can help make England "bigger, badder and better."

By JOHN ETHERIDGE

The head coach was speaking after the 68-run thrashing by India in the T20 World Cup semi-final on Thursday.

It was England's second poor defence of a global white-ball crown in seven months and it has left Mott *(right)* and captain Jos Buttler under big pressure.

Mott said: "We're in a results driven business and some people will have fun at our expense.

"But when you wake up in the morning and have a crack and do your best, you can sleep at night knowing sometimes results are out of your control. I absolutely love what I do, I'm excited about where we can go.

"We'll lick our wounds in the next week or two and then I'm sure we'll get back to planning. We'll take time to reflect and then hopefully come back bigger, badder and better."

Aussie Mott will struggle to convince fans and his boss Rob Key he deserves to keep his job after England lost three out of four matches against Test nations. Mott and Buttler were also responsible for several tactical, selection and strategy blunders.

Jonny Bairstow, Moeen Ali, Mark Wood and Chris Jordan all seem likely to be pensioned off while the likes of Sam Curran and Liam Livingstone might struggle to stay in the squad.

The only true positive was the bowling of Jofra Archer after years of injury and frustration.

Harry Brook would be a contender to replace Buttler but faces workload issues as he plays three formats for England.

Test captain Ben Stokes, who pulled out of the tournament to concentrate on fitness and this summer's Tests, quickly came out in support of pal Buttler.

He said: "It's not shabby to say you got through to a World Cup semi-final.

"I watched it against India and was gutted, devastated for them.

"They got through in a strange way and there was a lot of weather around.

"But when they were put under pressure, especially towards the back end of the group stages, they showed what a good team they are. I think Jos and Motty have done a great job."

SPORTS UPDATE

Luke how it's done

LUKE HUMPHRIES and Michael Smith will try to show Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham how to lift silverware on German soil.

Tomorrow, around the time of England's last-16 Euros clash with Slovakia, the PDC World Cup of Darts finale will take place in Frankfurt.

And Humphries, along with England team-mate Smith, wants to show how to win on the continent.

Cool Hand Luke, 29, said: "I've watched every England game — and it's not been pretty.

"Michael Smith and I will be favourites. But like you've seen in football, you can have all the talent but it doesn't mean you will play like you should."

AMERICAN Frank Bensel Jr hit TWO hole-in-ones in a row at the US Senior Open.

The club pro, 56, aced back-to-back par-3s of 184 yards and 203 yards in Rhode Island.

England's John Hudson did the same in 1971 at Royal Norwich Golf Club.

Jake out of trials

JAKE WIGHTMAN is set to miss out on 1500 metres Olympic selection as a "minor" calf injury has ruled him out of the UK Athletics Championships.

The former world 1500m champion has been granted a medical exemption to skip the event in Manchester, which doubles as a trial.

Wightman, 29, needed to finish in the top two to secure his place in Paris.

The Scot could still be handed a discretionary place to run the 800m at the Olympics, the event in which he won a European silver medal two years ago.

But in the 1500m, Josh Kerr, 26, gets the discretionary spot thanks to winning the world title in Budapest last year.

CYCLING TOUR DE FRANCE

ITV4 and Discovery+

Fast & loose

MAKING HIS OWN MARK . . . Cavendish is aiming to win a record 35th Tour de France stage

CAV HAS 'NOTHING TO LOSE' IN GLORY CHASE

MARK CAVENDISH is confident he can create Tour de France history in his final run, saying: I have nothing to lose.

By ROB MAUL

The Manx Missile decided to come out of retirement and target the 2024 race, which starts today with a 128-mile opener between Italian cities Florence and Rimini.

A year ago, Cavendish came close to winning a record 35th stage – he has been tied on 34 triumphs with long-retired Belgian great Eddy Merckx, 79, for three years.

Yet a decision not to hang up his saddle was made soon after he crashed out of the Grand Tour with a broken collarbone.

Thanks to the support of the Kazakhstan-based Astana Qazaqstan Team, he has been given the time, patience and appropriate team-mates for one last crack at glory.

Cav, 39, said: "Every component we had was a factor for me continuing to do the year. I couldn't be happier with the team.

"Everything we have, we had to have all the pieces in place.

"We have all got on super well, trained and raced all year. We play cards together. We sit for an hour after dinner.

"This team has won a hell of a lot. Our job is to try and win more.

"Opportunities come around to make more history. You don't try to make history – you try to make **MORE** history. It's as simple as that.

"I'm proud of the length of my career, to be able to do this. It's something I'm very fortunate to have had mostly great support around me.

"We wouldn't be here if we didn't think it was possible to win."

Cavendish, one of the quickest men ever on two wheels, reckons there are "five or six chances" over the next three weeks, and more than 2,000 miles, where the sprinters will come to the fore.

The famous old race, which began in 1903, is finishing for the first time outside of Paris – its finale is in Nice in the south of France due to the Olympics being held next month.

Cavendish added: "Look, I don't have anything to lose. It's not like playing roulette where if I don't win here, I lose 34 stage wins.

"I have won 34 stages of the Tour de France, I have won the most number of stages along with the great Eddy Merckx.

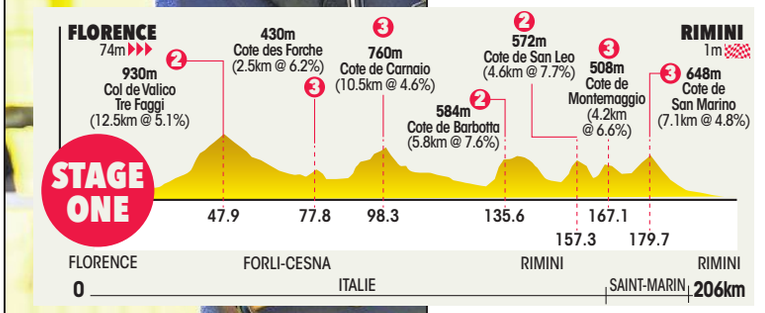
"I'm just trying for more – one more, two more, ten more, it doesn't matter. We have a job to do, which is to try to win.

"We take every day like that and approach it like any other bike race.

"I love this sport, I've always loved everything about it, especially this race. It's beautiful that I start in Florence. I lived here for ten years.

"And it's quite nice that it's a sprint in the first stage. We have been training on the roads that I did for the majority of my career.

"Starting here and then going to France, it's perfect. It's very, very nice on an emotional level. I couldn't have asked for better."



Q&A

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS YEAR?

Well, it kicks off in Italy for the first time and the traditional ceremonial final stage into Paris was always going to be a non-starter because of the Olympic preparations so we finish in Nice.

Also, the finale is a time trial, the first since 1989.

WHO ARE THE MAIN CONTENDERS?

Dane Jonas Vingegaard, 27, is going for a hat-trick of Yellow Jerseys but a horror crash in April that required a collarbone op has seen him racing against time to be fit.

Popular Slovenian Tadej Pogacar, 25, the 2020 and 2021 champ, is in top form and is bidding for a Giro d'Italia/Tour de France double.

THOMAS . . . back-up

ANY BRITS IN ACTION?

There are 11 with Mark Cavendish, 39, grabbing all the attention as he looks to go one better than Eddy Merckx and win his 35th Tour stage.

Britain's 2018 champion Geraint Thomas, 38, is a back-up rider for Ineos Grenadiers, while Tom Pidcock will go looking for stage wins along with 31-year-old Bury twins Adam and Simon Yates.

WHO ELSE SHOULD WE LOOK OUT FOR?

Biniam Girmay became the first black African rider to win a stage at a Grand Tour during the 2022 Giro.

The Eritrean, 24, having flopped on his Tour debut last year, is looking to create history again.

ROB MAUL

WIMBLEDON

IT ALL STARTS MONDAY

Dan will not beg

DAN EVANS says he would rather not play Wimbledon in the future than grovel for a wildcard.

Brummie Evans, 34, is set to play Chilean Alejandro Tabilo next week despite suffering a knee injury after slipping at Queen's last week.

Twelve of the 19 Brits taking part will be there due to wildcards but Evans has no intention of seeking LTA handouts to prolong his career.

World No 61 Evans said: "I don't want to be here asking for a wildcard — you can remind me of that if I need one next year!

"It's not an easy thought but when you're not good enough, I think that's time to let it all go."

WIMBLEDON FIRST ROUND DRAW FOR BRITS

MEN

(WC) Liam Broady v Botic Van de Zandschulp (Hol)
(WC) Charles Broom v Stan Wawrinka (Swi)
(WC) Jan Choinski v Luciano Darderi (Ita)
(28) Jack Draper v Elias Ymer (Swe)
Dan Evans v Alejandro Tabilo (Chi)
(WC) Jacob Fearnley v Alejandro Moro Canas (Spa)
(WC) Arthur Fery v Daniel Altmaier (Ger)
(WC) Billy Harris v Jaume Munar (Spa)
(WC) Paul Jubb v Thiago Seyboth Wild (Bra)
Andy Murray v Tomas Machac (Cze)
Cameron Norrie v Facundo Diaz Acosta (Arg)
(WC) Henry Searle v Marcos Giron (USA)

WOMEN

(32) Katie Boulter v Tatjana Maria (Ger)
Harriet Dart v Bai Zhuoxuan (Chn)
(WC) Fran Jones v Petra Martic (Cro)
(Q) Sonay Kartal v Sorana Cirstea (Rom)
(WC) Lily Miyazaki v Tamara Korpatsch (Ger)
(WC) Emma Raducanu v Ekaterina Alexandrova (Rus)
(WC) Heather Watson v Greet Minnen (Bel)

(Seeding/wild card in brackets)

Brits set and wild

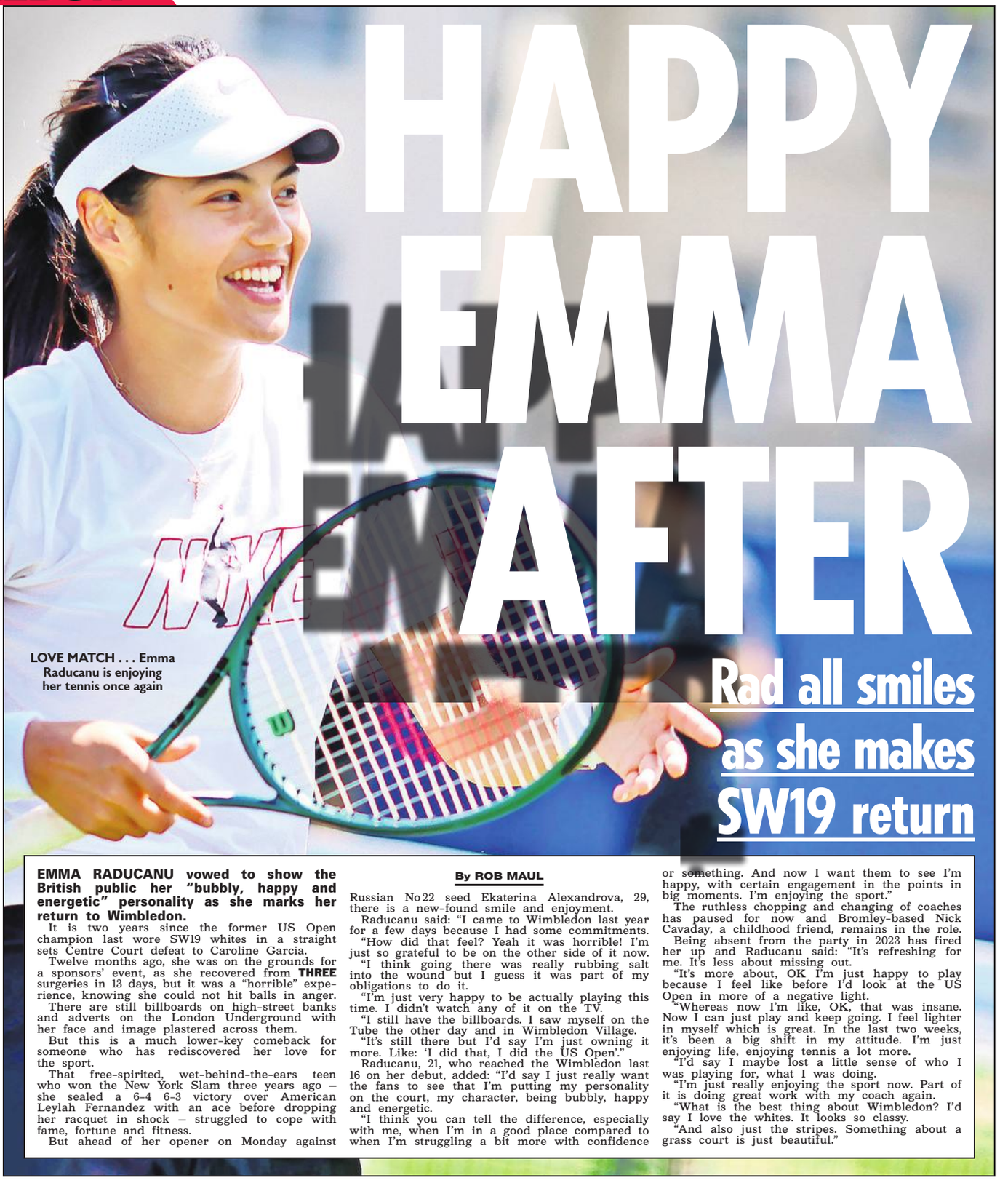
TWO British wildcards will head to SW19 after the pain of losing in ATP Tour-level semi-finals.

Billy Harris' run at the Eastbourne International was ended 6-4 4-6 6-4 by Australian Max Purcell.

The Isle of Man star — who plays Spaniard Jaume Munar next week at the All England Club — could not hide his dismay.

Harris, 29, said: "This stings but I will get over it. It's Wimbledon next, so I can't put my head down."

In Mallorca, Paul Jubb, 24, — who grew up on a Hull council estate — was KO'd 6-4 7-5 by Austria's Sebastian Ofner. Jubb preps for a Wimbledon first-round clash with Brazilian Thiago Seyboth Wild.



LOVE MATCH . . . Emma Raducanu is enjoying her tennis once again

HAPPY EMMA AFTER

Rad all smiles as she makes SW19 return

EMMA RADUCANU vowed to show the British public her "bubbly, happy and energetic" personality as she marks her return to Wimbledon.

By ROB MAUL

It is two years since the former US Open champion last wore SW19 whites in a straight sets Centre Court defeat to Caroline Garcia.

Twelve months ago, she was on the grounds for a sponsors' event, as she recovered from **THREE** surgeries in 13 days, but it was a "horrible" experience, knowing she could not hit balls in anger.

There are still billboards on high-street banks and adverts on the London Underground with her face and image plastered across them.

But this is a much lower-key comeback for someone who has rediscovered her love for the sport.

That free-spirited, wet-behind-the-ears teen who won the New York Slam three years ago – she sealed a 6-4 6-3 victory over American Leylah Fernandez with an ace before dropping her racquet in shock – struggled to cope with fame, fortune and fitness.

But ahead of her opener on Monday against Russian No 22 seed Ekaterina Alexandrova, 29, there is a new-found smile and enjoyment.

Raducanu said: "I came to Wimbledon last year for a few days because I had some commitments.

"How did that feel? Yeah it was horrible! I'm just so grateful to be on the other side of it now.

"I think going there was really rubbing salt into the wound but I guess it was part of my obligations to do it.

"I'm just very happy to be actually playing this time. I didn't watch any of it on the TV.

"I still have the billboards. I saw myself on the Tube the other day and in Wimbledon Village.

"It's still there but I'd say I'm just owning it more. Like: 'I did that, I did the US Open'."

Raducanu, 21, who reached the Wimbledon last 16 on her debut, added: "I'd say I just really want the fans to see that I'm putting my personality on the court, my character, being bubbly, happy and energetic.

"I think you can tell the difference, especially with me, when I'm in a good place compared to when I'm struggling a bit more with confidence or something. And now I want them to see I'm happy, with certain engagement in the points in big moments. I'm enjoying the sport."

The ruthless chopping and changing of coaches has paused for now and Bromley-based Nick Cavaday, a childhood friend, remains in the role.

Being absent from the party in 2023 has fired her up and Raducanu said: "It's refreshing for me. It's less about missing out.

"It's more about, OK I'm just happy to play because I feel like before I'd look at the US Open in more of a negative light.

"Whereas now I'm like, OK, that was insane. Now I can just play and keep going. I feel lighter in myself which is great. In the last two weeks, it's been a big shift in my attitude. I'm just enjoying life, enjoying tennis a lot more.

"I'd say I maybe lost a little sense of who I was playing for, what I was doing.

"I'm just really enjoying the sport now. Part of it is doing great work with my coach again.

"What is the best thing about Wimbledon? I'd say I love the whites. It looks so classy.

"And also just the stripes. Something about a grass court is just beautiful."

MURRAY . . . SW19 farewell

ANDY FACES MACH POINT

ANDY MURRAY'S Wimbledon farewell tour will start on Tuesday evening.

By ROB MAUL

Muzza, 37, faces world No 38 Tomas Machac in the first round as he prepares to say goodbye to the Centre Court crowd.

Being drawn in the bottom half of the 128-player field means the double SW19 champion will not have to get involved until day two at the All England Club.

And officials will give Murray as much time as possible to recover from the spinal surgery he underwent last Saturday.

The Scot, whose first appearance in the senior draw came in 2005, faced Czech ace Machac, 23, in three exciting sets at the Miami Open in March.

But his decision to play on in the deciding set with severely damaged ankle ligaments ruled him out for seven weeks.

Defending Wimbledon champ Carlos Alcaraz, 21, is in the top half of the draw along with world No 1 Jannik Sinner and Russian Daniil Medvedev.

Seven-time winner Novak Djokovic, 37, who will compete despite recent knee surgery, opens up against Czech qualifier Vit Kopriva and will not face any of those big guns until the final.

There could be a Battle of the Brits in the second round if 22-year-old Jack Draper, the new national No 1, knocks out Swede Elias Ymer and Cameron Norrie, 28, gets past Argentine Facundo Diaz Acosta.

And Katie Boulter and Harriet Dart, both 27, will play German Tatjana Maria and Chinese qualifier Bai Zhuoxuan respectively.

Czech Marketa Vondrousova, the defending ladies' singles champ, has been drawn in the same quarter as world No 1 Iga Swiatek, who has a poor record on grass.

MINCHELLA . . . trouble

Elliot will be doing it for dad on debut

England v France

5pm

By GARY CARTER

ELLIOT MINCHELLA does not need to look far to know he will have his team-mates' backs on his England debut.

Just a glimpse of what his dad Chris is doing for his old pal Steve Pryce has taught Minchella the value of support.

Pryce was diagnosed with Alzheimer's after being told he had dementia at the age of 52 — so former Hunslet team-mate Chris converted his garage to allow him to live more comfortably.

Hull KR loose-forward Minchella, who is one of six new faces in Shaun Wane's squad facing France in Toulouse, said: "Dad adapted it so Steve can live more comfortably and easily. He's put a lot of hard work in.

"It's sad to see Steve the way he is but he's got amazing people around him. My dad's his carer, he's doing it to be a good mate and he's a great role model for me.

"Dad and Steve met playing rugby league and they have had a friendship ever since.

"Rugby league's about working hard for and looking after your mates – dad's in his 50s and he's still doing it. I can take lessons from that."

Minchella's path to the England set-up has been far from smooth. After leaving Leeds under a disciplinary cloud in 2015, he found himself working on building sites and playing part-time for Sheffield.

But he worked his way back to the top with an attitude of never letting moments pass him by.

The 28-year-old added: "A few years ago, being in this sort of environment felt a world away.

"I got into a bit of trouble off the field and had to go part-time. There were dark days but it makes weeks like this feel all the sweeter.

"When I was on a building site in Bradford and it was raining or snowing, playing for England would not have entered my head.

"I was just trying to get back full-time. I did that with Bradford, then my next goal was to get back into Super League.

"Your goals evolve as your career evolves. Just push yourself, that's my mindset.

"Hopefully that gives people who have been in my position, playing in the Championship, something to hold on to."

KEV HEARTBREAK

Rob saw me & smiled...it was brilliant

FOOD FOR THOUGHT . . . England coach Kevin Sinfield and No.8 Alex Dombrandt (right) pack food parcels in Auckland

SINFIELD ON LAST VISIT TO SEE PAL

KEVIN SINFIELD revealed he got a 'big smile' from best mate Rob Burrow when he paid a heartbreaking final visit just days before his death.

From ADAM HATHAWAY in Auckland

The England rugby union defence coach will head home from the tour to New Zealand for his friend's funeral.

Burrow *(right)*, who was diagnosed with motor neurone disease in December 2019, died earlier this month aged 41.

The funeral takes place in Pontefract a week tomorrow, which means Sinfield will miss next week's opener against the All Blacks in Dunedin with the blessing of head coach Steve Borthwick.

He will then return to New Zealand to help prepare England for the Second Test against the All Blacks on July 13.

Sinfield, 43, said: "That weekend was tough. I got to see him on the Thursday before he passed.

"We had broken from camp. I knew he was poorly, but I walked in to see him and I got a big smile which was brilliant.

"I'll be home for two days then I'll be back out here getting ready for the Second Test. Steve has been wonderfully supportive.

"Apart from being at home with family this is probably the best place for me to be. Rob would want me to be here and be part of this. He would want me to be supporting the guys.

"Rob passed on a Sunday afternoon and on Monday we were in camp before we went out to Japan. At that point you want to be with family and friends and on Monday morning, before I travelled down, I was at the site where the Rob Burrow MND Centre is going to be. They put the first spade in the ground, and his mum and dad were there and his sisters."

Sinfield has led the charge in the fight against MND, raising more than £7million with a series of ultra-running challenges.

But the rugby league legend admits he wishes he could have been at more of the tributes to Burrow at various sporting events and hailed the supportive England squad.

Sinfield joined Red Rose players packing food parcels at an Auckland volunteer centre run by ex-All Blacks star Sir Michael Jones on Thursday.

He said: "It's been really good to get away and have time to reflect. The lads have been fantastic in my time working with them . . . they've shown compassion and care for me that won't go unnoticed.

"There are a lot of things I have missed over the last few weeks. We were at the Premiership final, where they did a wonderful job with the tribute to Rob and the FA did a wonderful job earlier that week.

"Then at the Challenge Cup final there was a big tribute. There was a big tribute last week at the Rhinos game, there was an MND round in Super League. There are some bits I would like to have been there to witness."

Burrow's funeral is a private affair but thousands are expected to line the Pontefract streets. Sinfield said: "People might know where it is and come and stand outside, but there's only about 100 people who have been asked to attend. The rest will be asked to line the streets, which I'm sure they will."

BATTLE LINES . . . Jos Verstappen (left) and Christian Horner

CHRIS CROSS IN JOS WAR OF WORDS

From ISABELLE BARKER in Spielberg

CHRISTIAN HORNER and Jos Verstappen reignited their bitter feud yesterday.

Red Bull's boss and the dad of Max Verstappen, 26, were at war again over Jos claiming Horner sabotaged his plans to drive in this weekend's Legends Parade.

Livid Jos slammed "childish" Horner saying he is "completely done" with him as he attended his first race since Monaco over a month ago.

Horner claimed he did **NOT** block the plans, with Jos due to drive the RB8 in a show lap of several historic cars at the Red Bull ring tomorrow.

The duo first locked horns in a fiery season opener in Bahrain after a female colleague of Horner made a complaint against him of inappropriate behaviour.

But 50-year-old Horner, who denied the accusations, was cleared of the allegations after a private independent investigation.

In Bahrain, Jos said the team would "explode" if he remained in charge and could be "torn apart". And it seems yesterday's drama was the last straw.

He said: "Over the past few days I have heard from several quarters that Horner has done everything he can to make sure I don't drive.

"And to make sure that nothing would be filmed. I think, 'say it to my face'. This way it doesn't have to be for me, I find it very disappointing.

"How childish can you be? There was going to be filming, also with a drone, but Horner didn't want me to be filmed.

"I'm completely finished with Horner. It's like a kindergarten here.

"I would have been allowed to drive in the end but I backed out. I find this so childish of Horner but I think it says something about him."

The woman who made accusations about Horner's behaviour was suspended and is set to appeal against Red Bulls decision to dismiss her complaint.

In March, Horner said it was "time to draw a line under" the controversy.

Yesterday, he said: "The Legends Parade is something that is organised by the circuit. There was no veto from my side. I'm sure the Legends will be in action later.

"The relationship with Max has always been very strong. He's a key part of our team. He's our driver, he's the one that is important to have a strong relationship with.

"I've never had an issue with any of our drivers' fathers in the past. Whatever Jos' issues are, I've really got nothing to comment on."

Tensions have been bubbling since Thursday after Verstappen confirmed for the first time with a "yes" that he would be driving for Red Bull next year.

VERSTAPPEN . . . 'yes'

Verstappen, who has a contract until 2028, has been linked with Mercedes given Lewis Hamilton sealed a shock move to Ferrari next year.

After Verstappen's comments, Mercedes boss Toto Wolff said: "I don't think he clearly said yes."

Horner fired back at Wolff yesterday and said: "I thought Max was pretty resolute in what he said in this conference. He's always been absolutely consistent in that with the team.

"With Toto I think it's purely a tactic of distraction. If he does want a Verstappen for next year, then I guess Jos is potentially available!"

And Horner took further aim at Mercedes and Hamilton by saying: "The driver who has created all the movement in the market [Hamilton] had all the information about the engines and 2026 regulation, and chose to leave Mercedes."

Verstappen blocked out the noise to take pole in the sprint qualifying at the Austrian GP.

Horner added: "Despite the distractions, we've won 70 per cent of races, including two sprints and seven poles and lead both world championships.

"I can't control relationships with drivers' fathers. But my focus is on our drivers and team."

Russell reward

RUSSELL MARTIN is set to be rewarded with a new three-year deal for taking Southampton back to the Premier League.

Martin *(left)*, 38, joined Saints last June and — after setting a club-record 25-match unbeaten run — ended his debut campaign with a play-off final win over Leeds.

Saints keeper Alex McCarthy, a Saudi Pro League target, has penned a new two-year contract.

ALL THE GOSSIP
ALL THE NEWS
ALL THE DEALS
FOOTBALL CONFIDENTIAL FC

Hall or nothing, Foxes tell Blues

By GRAEME BRYCE

LEICESTER are sticking to their £40million valuation of Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall but remain hopeful the midfielder will stay.

Chelsea jumped ahead of Brighton in the chase for the 25-year-old after opening talks with the Foxes over a potential swap-plus-cash deal.

Negotiations are expected to continue over the weekend but Chelsea have yet to come up with a bid that satisfies King Power chiefs.

New Blues boss Enzo Maresca wants a reunion with Dewsbury-Hall, who racked up 12 goals and 14 assists as the Italian led Foxes back to the Prem last season.

Strikers Armando Broja and David Datro Fofana have been offered as potential swaps, along with midfielder Cesare Casadei. But the Foxes have yet to bite.

Brighton's hopes are not totally dead yet, even though KDH *(right)* prefers joining Maresca.

NEWS TICKER

BURNLEY made Dutch right-back Shurandy Sambo their first summer signing on a four-year deal after his contract at PSV expired.

Sambo, 22, said: "I chose Burnley because it's a historic club with a good fanbase."

LEEDS midfielder Marc Roca has moved to Real Betis on a permanent deal.

The 27-year-old spent last season on loan with the LaLiga outfit, scoring twice in 26 games.

He played 36 times for the Whites following his summer 2022 move from Bayern Munich.

BEN GODFREY has joined Europa League winners Atalanta from Everton for £10million.

After four years at Goodison, defender Godfrey, 26, chose the Serie A club over Ligue 1 Lyon. He said on X: "It's time to go onto my next challenge."

PROMOTED Derby are expected to beat off Championship rivals Blackburn, QPR and Stoke to sign Swansea's Jerry Yates on loan.

The forward, 27, scored nine goals in 46 games after moving to South Wales on a three-year deal from Blackpool last summer.

Omari on Trac

OMARI HUTCHINSON is poised to sign for Ipswich on a permanent deal.

The Chelsea winger *(right)*, 20, scored ten goals in 44 Championship games to help fire the Tractor Boys to promotion during a loan spell last season.

Now Hutchinson is on the verge of returning to Portman Road in a £22million deal ahead of Ipswich's first season in the Prem for 22 years.

Prem skips mob rule ban

PREM bosses will NOT follow Euro 2024 rules that have stamped out players surrounding the ref.

EXCLUSIVE by MARTIN LIPTON

Uefa refs' chief Roberto Rosetti believes the crackdown, which means only captains are allowed to approach referees, has been a success.

Any other players trying to influence officials have faced yellow cards and so far it appears to have worked in preventing most mass outbreaks of dissent.

Rosetti said: "Our first feedback is extremely positive – it works.

"Speaking with the players, with the coaches, before the games, after the matches, they are absolutely happy about this implementation.

"I also had talks with top players after the matches and they like it. The process is positive.

"The referees are giving information to the captain. The captains are responding in a very positive way and also, for the other players, it's easier because now they don't mob the referee any more.

"We've received requests from important national associations in Europe – they really want to follow this line.

"It will be implemented, for sure, in all the Uefa competitions and we are happy that also the national associations want to follow us."

Premier League leaders do not believe the Uefa style of clamping down on dissent is needed in the top flight. Last season's 'participant charter', aimed at addressing player behaviour, was viewed as a success by the Prem, FA and EFL.

There were just two matches in which clubs misbehaved around officials. Manchester City were fined £120,000 for surrounding Simon Hooper in their 3-3 draw with Spurs. And Brentford and Aston Villa were fined £175,000 and £180,000 respectively after the contentious end of their clash last December.

A Prem source said: "The feeling was the behaviour charter worked well last season. We do not feel there is any reason to change the policy and there will be no alterations for 2024-25."

SPARK . . . City surround Hooper (left), captain Kane (main) talks to Euros ref and Bees vent anger

PFA RAPS PSR LOOPHOLE

OFFLOAD OF NONSENSE!

Molango fury at homegrown sales

PFA boss Maheta Molango slammed "nonsensical" Prem rules that are seeing clubs flog homegrown players to get round financial limits.

By MARTIN LIPTON

Chelsea, Aston Villa, Newcastle and Everton are lining up weekend deals for youngsters in a bid to avoid PSR charges.

Under current Prem rules, clubs are limited to £105million of losses over a three-season period.

But while purchases of players will see the value of the deal "amortised" over their contract length up to five years, clubs can book the entire amount of sales made by Sunday night in this season's accounts.

That could see a flood of deals being completed over the weekend.

Villa have already signed Everton youngster Lewis Dobbin, 21, with midfielder Tim Iroegbunam, 20, moving the other way in a similar £9m deal.

England youth schemer Omari Kellyman, 18, is set to move from Villa to Chelsea for up to £19m, with 22-year-old Blues left-back Ian Maatsen's £37m switch to Villa confirmed last night.

Other possible deals could see Newcastle signing Everton's England striker Dominic Calvert-Lewin, 27, with Toon winger Yankuba Minteh, 19, interesting the Toffees. However, Molango argues the loophole being exploited is not good for the game or for the players involved. He said: "It's another good example of how players need to be at the table.

"We need to be part of those discussions, otherwise you end up introducing rules which make sense in a nice office with air conditioning but in practice don't make any sense.

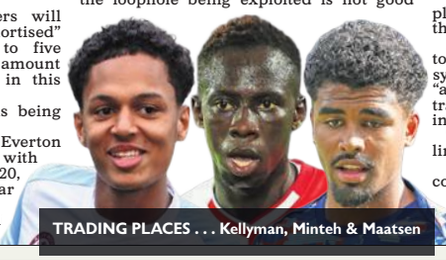
"How can it make sense that due to the rules you end up selling an academy player?

"Fans want to see their academy players. They make you dream – create that bond with the club."

Profit and Sustainability Rules are set to be phased out and replaced by a system based on squad cost ratios, with "anchoring" limiting clubs' revenues on transfers and wages to five times the income of the lowest-earning side.

That could effectively bring salary limits, fiercely resisted by the PFA.

Molango added: "There needs to be a consultation. But consultation is not having a crazy idea, tweaking it a bit and having something a little less crazy . . . but still crazy."



TRADING PLACES . . . Kellyman, Minteh & Maatsen

EURO 2024 LAST 16 FOCUS ON OUR OPPONENTS

SLO BEATS

Kitman's musical forfeit shows a relaxed camp

SLOVAKIA'S relaxed mood was summed up when their kitman started yesterday's press conference by BEATBOXING!

From JORDAN DAVIES in Mainz

It was Marek Kosan's forfeit after he lost a bet over whether they would reach the last 16.

There was applause and whooping before skipper Milan Skriniar, 29, said: "We're very cool. We're together for more than a month. We love to be together as a group."

So, if you were expecting a side ranked 45th in the world to be worried ahead of facing Euros favourites England in Gelsenkirchen tomorrow, you would be wrong.

They are up against a Three Lions squad – dubbed 'Three Kittens' by the German media – whose confidence, belief and form is at an all-time low.

The opposite can be said in the Slovakian camp here in Mainz, having reached the last 16 of a major tournament for just the third time in their history and beating a star-studded Belgium along the way.

Players were given the day off after Wednesday's 1-1 draw with Romania confirmed third place in Group E, spending it with a few holes at a local golf course. Paris Saint-Germain defender Skriniar said: "We love to spend time together and we really are a team on and off the pitch.

"Our free day was nice, we were not paying attention to football at all. We played some golf, we rebooted our systems and we're ready for the match."

It says a lot about the standing of Gareth Southgate's England right now that a team like Slovakia decide to spend 24 hours giggling and gallivanting before facing them.

England have done plenty of that, too, at their base in Blankenhain, from bike rides and pool tournaments to impromptu cricket sessions – but without the desired effect on the pitch.

In contrast, the Slovaks look a limited but organised, committed and well-drilled bunch, capable of executing a plan and being clinical when necessary. And asked about the prospect of facing Harry Kane, Skriniar shrugged his shoulders and said: "We managed to defend Romelu Lukaku."

But he also admitted it is almost impossible to prepare for Jude Bellingham, explaining: "He's not a striker, he's not a winger, but he's everywhere."

Skriniar added: "If Slovakia beat England, it will be the best result for Slovakia in its history – or one of the best. So, I hope and I believe that we can do it."

That sort of confidence hasn't always been natural for Slovaks – but a Euros qualifying campaign of seven wins in ten games and a top-two finish behind Portugal changed that.

Slovakian legend Marek Hamsik, 36, now the national team's manager working with head coach Francesco Calzona, said: "I am so proud of this group because the beginnings were not easy.

"The last year has reflected our work and getting to the last 16 is just a cherry on top.

"We can't change who we're playing against, we have our identity and we must keep playing our game to be able to succeed.

"We are facing the most expensive team of the tournament and it is in our heads, of course. The pressure will be on their side, though.

"We can beat anyone and I am absolutely convinced of that."

With the likes of Skriniar, Napoli midfielder Stanislav Lobotka and Ivan Schranz – the Slavia Prague forward who has two goals already this Euros – Hamsik suggests this is Slovakia's Golden Generation, better than the team he played in at Euro 2016.

Back then, Slovakia nicked a 0-0 draw with Roy Hodgson's England in the group stage to qualify for the last 16.

Former midfielder Hamsik said: "I remember the match. It was an historic moment.

"But you know that we have a Golden Generation right now and there's going to be expectations to meet. We are capable of shocking the world, though."

SLO NEWS DAY . . . Skriniar celebrates victory over Belgium and (right) enjoys a day off golfing with team-mates, while kitman Kosan (left) beatboxes at yesterday's press conference

ATTWELL . . . backed

All's Well and good

From MARTIN LIPTON

STUART ATTWELL has been publicly backed by Uefa's top ref — who said he got Euro 2024's most-criticised call RIGHT.

VAR Attwell took nearly three minutes to confirm ref Anthony Taylor had correctly judged Holland's offside Denzel Dumfries impeded France keeper Mike Maignan as a Xavi Simons shot found the net.

Pundits and fans condemned the English duo's call, adding to the scrutiny of Attwell who was in a Prem storm when Nottingham Forest accused him of bias last season.

But Uefa refs' boss Roberto Rosetti said: "The referee committee totally support the decision.

"We are also happy about the process."

Rosetti also stated the call not to award Scotland a penalty for a challenge on Stuart Armstrong in the defeat to Hungary was fully checked by VAR.

Surb is plane daft

From MARTIN LIPTON

SERBIAN FA chief Jovan Surbatovic was forced to quit after being disowned by their government for flying the team to Germany in a plane from Croatia.

The Serbs exited the Euros at the bottom of Group C after a 0-0 draw with Denmark on Tuesday.

And politicians including president Aleksandar Vucic turned on Surbatovic after it emerged the flight from Belgrade was on a jet owned by a firm based in their Balkan rivals.

National assembly chief Ana Brnabic said: "It's a shame and Vucic was extremely angry.

"We have Air Serbia and all travel with them.

"When the plane lands you can see Air Serbia — and that's our pride."

Surbatovic said: "When things fail in the system, I, as general secretary, accept responsibility."

MILES COVERED AT EURO 2024		TOP SPEED	
ENGLAND	208.2 (336.09km)	KYLE WALKER	21.6mph (34.8km/h)
SLOVAKIA	212.2 (342.36km)	TOMAS SUSLOV	20.8mph (33.5km/h)

MELER . . . attacked

Turk ref a tough nut

From TOM BARCLAY

THE Turkish ref punched by a club president will be in charge of England's crunch last-16 clash with Slovakia.

Halil Umut Meler, 37, was brutally attacked by Ankaragucu president Faruk Koca after his side drew 1-1 with Caykur Rizespor in December.

Rizespor scored a 97th-minute equaliser in a bad-tempered clash that saw two men sent off.

Koca stormed on to the pitch after the final whistle before punching the referee and kicking him as he lay on the ground.

Meler suffered facial injuries including a small fracture and was pictured in a hospital bed with a swollen face and wearing a neck brace.

He was discharged the following day and confirmed: "There is no problem with my health."

The attack sparked outrage and prompted a temporary suspension of the Turkish league.

Koca resigned as Ankaragucu president after a court ordered his arrest.

MAGUIRE . . . criticism

Keane to make up

By NEIL CUSTIS

ROY KEANE said sorry to Harry Maguire for the stick he has given him.

Keane laid into Maguire for his part in Manchester United's downturn in form over the last 18 months.

The England defender, 31, was a target for United and England fans despite often playing with injuries.

Speaking on ITV's Stick to Football show, Red Devils legend Keane, 52, said: "I was harsh on Harry for football reasons and we do a lot of United matches. Obviously he's struggled at United, had a tough time with England — but more so club level.

"We're on about the mental health of players and I've crossed the line with Maguire. I mocked him a bit and it's not nice.

"I've played the game and I know how hard it is but I'm also big enough.

"I bumped into Harry a few months ago and I apologised to him.

"Sometimes as pundits we get it wrong as well but there's a point where you go, if it's personal, you're crossing the line."

Harry Redknapp

Britain's favourite pundit writing exclusively for The Sun

Mission possible

NO OTHER TEAM SCARES ME

FOR 30 years they have called it the Impossible Job — but in my book it was always the Ultimate Dream.

In 2012 there was a time when it seemed it may come true as well, when England were looking for the man to replace Fabio Capello.

I was Tottenham boss at the time and perfectly happy with my lot.

Why wouldn't I be? It was one of the best in football.

But the chance to manage England?

That was the greatest honour of all and I said so to everyone who asked.

Even though I'd not had an approach from the FA, I had loads of messages from people at the League Managers Association insisting I would get it.

Still I heard nothing, until one day, when I put the radio on as I drove out of Tottenham, there was a newsflash that Roy Hodgson had been appointed — and that was the end of that.

As much as it would have been great, it wasn't a huge disappointment because I had a great job already — although not for much longer as it happened — and it didn't eat away at me.

I'm not one for living in the past and my days aren't filled with regrets.

But I'm also a proud Englishman and it does occasionally still cross my mind, especially at tournament time.

What an opportunity it would have been to work with players like Wayne Rooney, Frank Lampard, Steven Gerrard — it was a great generation. Mind you, it's not a bad one now either, because Gareth Southgate's England squad is — in my book — the envy of the Euros.

OK, it's not been great so far, but we topped the group.

And the way our half of the draw has opened up is as though someone up there is saying, 'There you are, now go and win it'.

England will certainly never get a better chance and it does have a 'now or never' feel about things.

Of course there has been a bit of flak flying around, although that's hardly a surprise after making such heavy weather of getting out of an easy group.

But if Gareth thinks a few grumbles and chucking the odd plastic cup is stick, he doesn't know the half of it.

Compared to what Graham Taylor suffered — every day at one stage — it's nothing.

Such a great man, a genuinely lovely guy, he was ridiculed by the whole country.

And people think it was all great under Bobby Robson, too.

They remember the 1990 World Cup, Gazza's tears and all that.

But he got a load of grief in the years before. For sure, Gareth's had a bit over the last few days — as England manager it comes as part of the deal — but nothing like those two.

Not even close.

I remember when the West Ham fans were having a right go at David Moyes in his first spell there and him telling me, "My God, they don't mess about, do they?"

That's what real stick is like — horrible, personal stuff and hopefully Gareth never gets anything similar.

Touch wood he won't, either, because I keep coming back to the draw — and how it's being put on a plate for England.

Harry Kane is the best centre-forward in the world, for all he's struggled this far, Jude Bellingham was the star of LaLiga and Phil Foden the Player of the Year in this country. All men any other nation would build their team around.

They would do the same with Jack Grealish and James Maddison and they never even made the plane.

And now we've got Slovakia in the last 16 tomorrow — a side who've got lads who were on loan at places like Norwich and Watford not so long ago.

No doubt Gareth will talk them up as being well organised, hard to break down and tough opponents.

But let's be honest, compared to the top sides — ones like England — they are rubbish and we should be smashing them to pieces.

There isn't a team to scare me and, after saying before the tournament that anything less than the final would be failure, I'm not about to change now.

Fingers crossed all those who have underperformed — there are plenty of them — get their act together.

Not many will live with England if they do, trust me.

Gareth won't be worrying about dodging any plastic beer glasses or angry fans then — although I think it's wrong to put all the blame at his door in any case.

As Taylor used to say, a manager is never as bad as you think and never as good as he's painted. It's always somewhere in the middle.

Southgate has done a decent job so far.

The last four of the World Cup and a Euros final isn't bad, for all the draws helped him then as well.

Let's just hope this time he gets us over the line. They won't be calling it the Impossible Job if he does.

DO I NOT LIKE THAT . . . Gareth Southgate has been criticised but it is nothing like the vilification suffered by Graham Taylor (far right) and Bobby Robson

PALM SUNDAY

ENGLAND may have stunk the place out so far but there's only one new face I want to see in tomorrow's line-up — Cole Palmer.

I don't go along with those who want to see a load of changes against Slovakia — for all the group games were awful.

It's been too slow, too steady, too safe but you need someone who can produce that flash of genius — and Cole is that special talent.

He can cause chaos on the left and that would also allow Phil Foden — touch wood he's back in the camp — to float in behind Harry Kane.

Lots of people are calling for Kobbie Mainoo to come in alongside Declan Rice in midfield.

But I would put Jude Bellingham in a deeper role, with Kobbie coming off the bench again if he's needed.

I just hope England are more attacking, more positive and play with more pace. If they do that, I can't see us having a problem.

EURO 2024 LAST 16

PALMER BLOW

STONES . . . experience

Stones: Time to get rollin'

From TOM BARCLAY

JOHN STONES admits it is time for England's senior pros to step up.

Gareth Southgate's 26-man squad has 12 players experiencing their first major tournament.

But there are older heads like Stones, 30, who is at his FIFTH, who can guide the rookies.

The Manchester City defender, set to start tomorrow in the last-16 clash with Slovakia, said: "It's now time for us senior boys to step up and give our advice.

"How we've approached things and our experience at the big games at the Euros and the World Cup.

"Trying to keep people as calm as possible."

Stones was talking alongside best pal and Etihad team-mate Kyle Walker, 34, on the FA's Lions' Den show.

Walker added: "We've been here before. It's not our first time going into a knockout scenario.

"Me and John have been very fortunate to represent our country a lot.

"We just need to up it that five or ten per cent, collectively and individually, and we'll be fine."

Stones reckons he and Walker are good at spotting when a Three Lions team-mate needs a pep talk or encouragement.

The former Everton man added: "Things can get on top of you, pressure, the willingness to do well can backfire sometimes.

"Walks is one of the best at keeping the standards and keeping everyone in check. It's exciting times now."

Tatt's the way, Kyle

From TOM BARCLAY

KYLE WALKER promised to get a tattoo of his England legacy number.

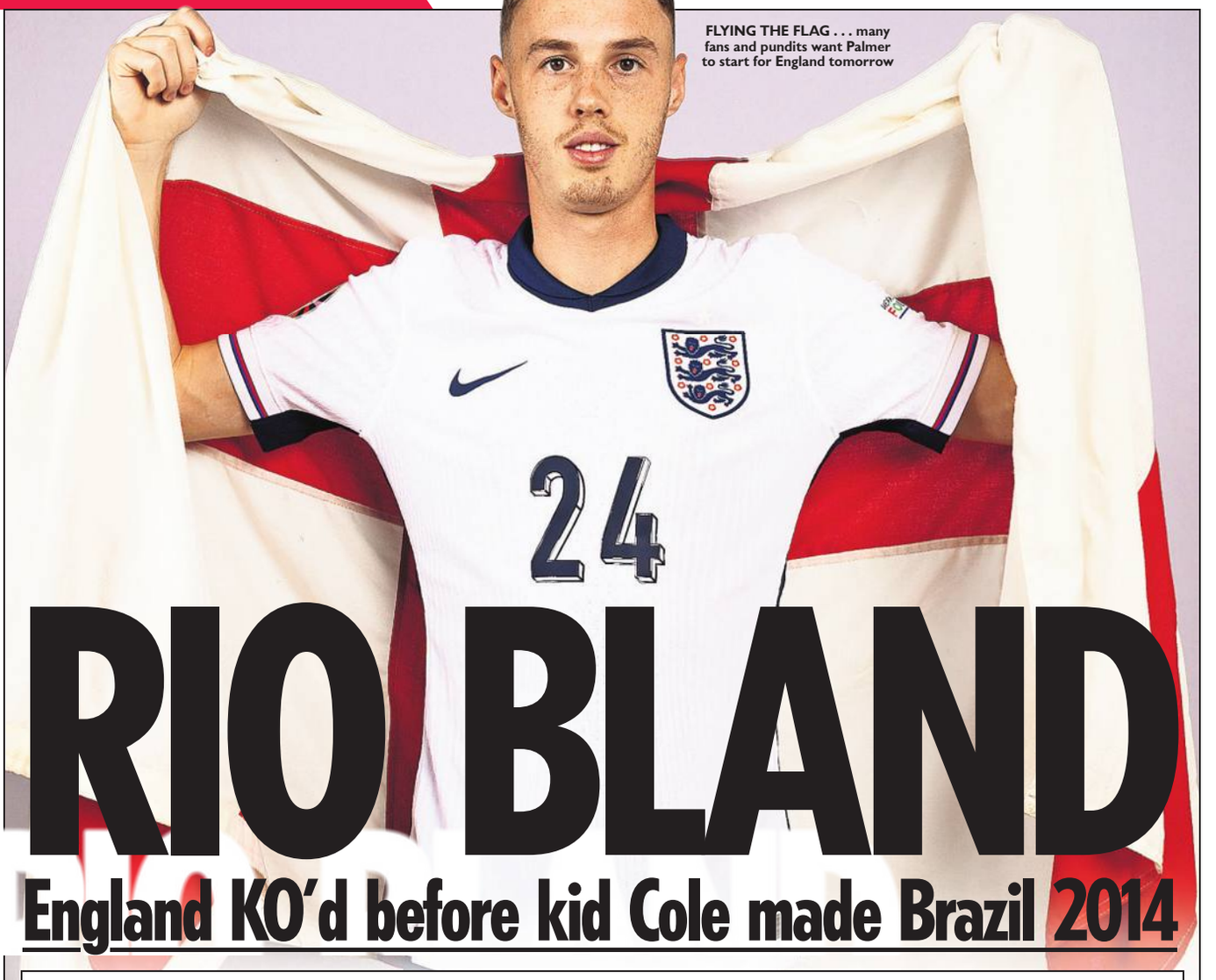
Many of the squad have their digit — which marks the numerical position in the list of all players to have represented the Three Lions — inked on them.

Declan Rice shows off No1241 on his left shin and John Stones has No1202 on his left arm.

But Walker is yet to have No1178 on his body. Manchester City's star, 34, told the FA's Lions' Den show: "I haven't got mine done. I'll get it done."

Stones, 30, who clinched a 75th cap against Slovenia, said: "It's strange. At one point I never thought I'd play for England again.

"I had a tough part of my career and my aim was 50 caps. I made that milestone and set this one. The next one is 100."



FLYING THE FLAG . . . many fans and pundits want Palmer to start for England tomorrow

RIO BLAND

England KO'd before kid Cole made Brazil 2014

IF you need a decent dose of perspective about England's progress at the Euros, listen to Cole Palmer.

From DAVE KIDD in Blankenhain

When Chelsea's main man was just 12 years old, he flew out to Brazil to see his grandad, hoping to watch the Three Lions at the 2014 World Cup.

There was a flaw in that plan, though.

Palmer arrived in Rio de Janeiro a week into the tournament – and Roy Hodgson's England had already been knocked out.

Palmer said: "I went to Brazil for the World Cup. My grandad Gary lives in Brazil.

"I didn't see any England games – by the time I got there they'd already been knocked out.

"It was great, though. I went to watch Belgium versus Russia at the Maracana.

"My grandad lived in Rio. He got an apartment out there. He just moved over there. He didn't like the weather in Manchester, so he moved to Brazil. Now he speaks fluent Portuguese."

A decade later, at least England have topped their Euros group.

And, after a highly promising performance as a sub in the goalless draw with Slovenia, there is a clamour for Palmer to start in tomorrow's last-16 clash with Slovakia.

Palmer, 22, was one of the great stories of the season – a youngster with the balls to leave Manchester City because Pep Guardiola could not guarantee him enough game-time.

He then lit up Stamford Bridge, scoring 25 goals for his new club and carrying Chelsea to such an extent that Mauricio Pochettino demanded that the rest of his squad must prove "they weren't Cole Palmer FC".

Without meaning to be, Palmer is a brilliant interviewee.

He acts as if he does not understand why all these middle-aged blokes are huddled around him asking questions. But he speaks like he plays – off the cuff and to the point.

He is also disarmingly honest. Take his reaction to Pochettino's departure – "we built a great relationship . . . I was gutted when he left".

Or, when asked if he felt he was ready to start for England at this tournament: "Personally I think so but it's not up to me. It's nice to see people on social media saying I should start but it's not up to them is it?"

And on his move to the south: "The people are moody in London, aren't they? I like London but it's a lot different."

He was also asked about a claim, from Chelsea keeper Djordje Petrovic, that he likes baked beans so much, he is nicknamed Beans.

Palmer replied: "No, no one calls me Beans," who then adds that his fellow Mancunian Kobbie Mainoo, 19, "has beetroot for everything, he has beetroot for breakfast, dinner and tea".

Asked whether he started out as a striker, Palmer then sparks laughter in the room by admitting he first played at left-back, England's problem position at this tournament.

"I didn't say I'd play there now," he quickly interjects, "That was just for the Under-10s – I haven't played left-back since." Despite his long association with City, Palmer grew up a Manchester United fan, who idolised Wayne Rooney.

Palmer says: "If my mum said 'do this, Rooney does it', I would do it."

It is refreshing to hear a player who speaks so naturally.

Talking to Palmer makes you inclined to believe that he should start for England.

After two stultifying draws against Denmark and Slovenia, Gareth Southgate needs a player who isn't fazed by anything.

A player who tore it up in his first season as a regular Premier League starter.

There is only one question Palmer refuses to answer – whether Guardiola tried to persuade him to stay at City. He shrugs his shoulders, smirks, pauses and says: "Next question."

But Palmer could not be more glowing about Pochettino, saying: "He's probably the main reason I'm here because a different manager might not have given me that freedom and opportunity to do what I did at Chelsea."

Yet Poch's successor Enzo Maresca is also a familiar face to Palmer – having coached him for City's Under-21s and also an assistant to Guardiola with the first team.

Maresca, in fact, was the first coach to play Palmer in his wide-right position.

Even if he does not start, there is every chance he will feature in the likelihood of a knockout round penalty shootout and the fact that he has scored all nine of his Chelsea spot-kicks, as well as one for England.

Palmer and fellow penalty expert Ivan Toney have been discussing the prospect of coming on cold in the final minute of extra-time in order to take a shootout penalty.

He admitted: "I was speaking about this the other day with Ivan. Yeah, I'd come on and take one."

You'd be highly surprised if he missed it.

NOT BRAZILIANT . . . Hodgson's England suffered an early KO in 2014

ENGLAND'S MAJOR TOURNAMENT GOALLESS DRAWS 0-0

1958 W CUP Brazil	1962 W CUP Bulgaria	1966 W CUP Uruguay	1982 W CUP W Germany	1982 W CUP Spain	1986 W CUP Morocco	1990 W CUP Holland	1992 EUROS Denmark	1992 EUROS France	1996 EUROS Spain
2002 W CUP Nigeria	2006 W CUP Portugal	2010 W CUP Algeria	2012 EUROS Italy	2014 W CUP Costa Rica	2016 EUROS Slovakia	2020 EUROS Scotland	2022 W CUP USA	2024 EUROS Slovenia	

EURO 2024 LAST 16

ENGLAND v

Bouncing baby joy for Phil

PHIL FODEN is set to start against Slovakia after returning to training yesterday.

The Manchester City midfielder, 24, left the camp for the birth of his third child — a boy — and took a private jet back to Germany ahead of the morning session.

The only change for the last-16 clash could be Kobbie Mainoo coming in for Conor Gallagher in midfield.

Declan Rice and Kieran Trippier trained yesterday after missing Thursday's session.

Crocked left-back Luke Shaw has taken part in all of the sessions this week but is likely to start on the bench.

NAPPY DAYS . . . Foden gets back to training yesterday after birth of his son

Saka: Switch is not Wright

BUKAYO SAKA does not agree with calls to put him at left-back for England.

From TOM BARCLAY

Luke Shaw is the only natural in that position in Gareth Southgate's 26-man Euros squad and he is yet to play a minute in the tournament as he recovers from a hamstring injury.

It has prompted some observers, including ex-Arsenal and England striker Ian Wright, to suggest putting Saka there, given he played at left-back earlier in his career.

But winger Saka, 22, told BBC 5Live: "No, obviously I love Wrighty and he says so many great things about me, but I don't think putting me out of position is the solution."

Shaw, 28, has declared himself fit for tomorrow's huge last-16 clash with Slovakia, though he is not expected to start the game in Gelsenkirchen.

Saka, 22, will likely continue on the right wing, despite pressure from Cole Palmer after the Chelsea youngster's cameo display off the bench against Slovenia on Tuesday.

Gunners man Saka told talkSPORT: "I feel more comfortable on the right. A lot of the time it is coming inside on my strongest foot, being able to link up play, take shots and things like that."

The Three Lions have been heavily criticised for their underwhelming performances so far.

Boss Southgate had three beer cups chucked at him by angry fans as he went to applaud the supporters at full-time in Cologne on Tuesday.

Saka is shutting out all the noise and he added: "For us it is important what is outside stays outside and what is on the inside, we discuss internally.

"When we came into the tournament we just wanted to qualify first and we have done that.

"We leave the group stage behind now and it is the knockout stages, every game is massive."

One of the standout images of England's last Euros was of Saka riding an inflatable unicorn at the St George's Park swimming pool.

And it turns out there was another one in camp this week but Saka said: "It was massive. Kind of like a bucking bronco – I didn't go on it!"

HARRY REDKNAPP'S EXCLUSIVE VERDICT
See Page 68

I'LL GIVE 'EM A ROUGH RIDE

Gordon geared up to leave Slovaks scarred

ANTHONY GORDON is giving manager Gareth Southgate a selection headache — and is ready to become a "nightmare" for Slovakia's defence.

From CHARLIE WYETT in BLANKENHAIN

Although battered and bruised from his cycling escapade, Gordon – who delivered a promising cameo as a late substitute in Tuesday's goalless draw with Slovenia – is desperate for a run-out in the last-16 tie.

With England struggling offensively in Germany, the 23-year-old Newcastle winger knows a huge number of pundits and fans would like to see him given a start tomorrow.

Three Lions boss Southgate could stick with Phil Foden, Harry Kane and Bukayo Saka in attack.

But confident Scouser Gordon wants to make his mark on Euro 2024 while adding to his four caps. He said: "My main strengths are I am very direct, I'm obviously quick.

"I know I am a nightmare for anyone I play against.

"Every time I get the ball, I always try to make something happen.

"I'm not a very safe player, I am always going for it. I am always trying to put people on the back foot.

"With the players we have got, I add a different element to the team.

"I win a lot of fouls and it can put teams on the back foot.

"That is just the way I play football and that works for me.

"And I know how hard I am to play against, I can feel it. People don't like playing against me. It's worked for me how I'm doing it."

He added: "Everyone doubts themselves. Before every training session, before every game.

"But it's noticing when you're doubting yourself and realising that you're having a war in your head and it's not really real.

"You're good enough to do anything. I went on loan to Preston and hardly played a minute really.

"There were plenty of times at Everton when I couldn't break through. My start at Newcastle wasn't brilliant.

"But that's the key part of any good athlete, your resilience and how you come back from things like that."

Gordon left boyhood club Everton for Newcastle in January 2023 in a £45million deal.

And last season he scored 12 goals as Eddie Howe's Toon narrowly missed

SLOVAKIA

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SADDLE SORE . . . Anthony Gordon shows off his wounds after the accident on an e-bike

GORDON RECORD AT NEWCASTLE LAST SEASON
(ALL COMPETITIONS)

GAMES	48
MINS PLAYED	3,858
FOULS WON	92
PENALTIES WON	7
BALL CARRY DISTANCE	8,244 METRES
SHOTS ON TARGET	37
GOALS	12
ASSISTS	10
TOUCHES IN OPP BOX	212

MOST PENS WON BY PREM PLAYERS LAST SEASON
(ALL COMPETITIONS)

	Games	Pens won
Anthony Gordon (Newcastle)	48	7
Joao Pedro (Brighton)	40	6
Raheem Sterling (Chelsea)	43	4
Noni Mandueke (Chelsea)	34	3

MOST FOULS WON BY PREM PLAYERS LAST SEASON
(ALL COMPETITIONS)

	Games	Fouls won
Bruno Guimaraes (Newcastle)	50	139
Jordan Ayew (Crystal Palace)	37	101
John McGinn (Aston Villa)	53	97
Bukayo Saka (Arsenal)	47	96
Mohammed Kudus (West Ham)	46	92
Anthony Gordon (Newcastle)	48	92
Ezri Konsa (Aston Villa)	50	90

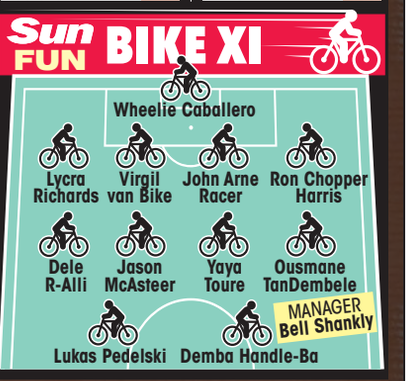
HIS RECORD AT U21 EUROS LAST YEAR
(WHEN ENGLAND WON COMPETITION)

GAMES	6
STARTS	5
MINS PLAYED	408
TOTAL SHOTS	8
SHOTS ON TARGET	5
GOALS	2
ASSISTS	1

...AND HIS SENIOR ENGLAND RECORD

GAMES	4
STARTS	2
MINS PLAYED	150

Sun FUN BIKE XI



out on a European spot.

Aware of the debate over whether he should start tomorrow, Gordon said: "That's what I want. Six months ago it would have been crazy because the opinion of me compared to now is very different.

"I've worked hard to be in this position and that's what I want.

"I want people to be calling for me because that's what I am doing in training.

"I'm giving my best to cause selection headaches, that's all I can do. The rest is out of my control."

It would be nice to see either Gordon or Cole Palmer get a start, even though it would mean Jude Bellingham dropping slightly deeper next to Declan Rice.

Aware of the negative reaction towards the team and Southgate after a less-than-impressive group stage, Gordon said: "I don't really care about stuff like that.

"I think of it in a positive way – if people are being negative it's only because they expect a lot from you.

"Which is a positive thing. So if we want that to stop we need to perform and give people what they want.

"I can only control what I can control and that's doing my best every day and trying to cause as many problems for the manager when it comes to selection as I possibly can.

"If and when I'm needed, I'll be more than ready."

If Gordon is to deliver a cycling celebration tomorrow, he will have to beat Newcastle team-mate Martin Dubravka in the Slovakia goal.

Smiling, Gordon added: "Dubravka's a top guy, I've played with him for a year and a half now. He's been really important for Newcastle. Slovakia are a good team. A lot of threats on the counterattack and they have some direct players.

"So it will be a really difficult game and we're preparing for that."

Yet with just two goals scored so far, England know they will have to do much better at the home of Schalke in Gelsenkirchen.

Asked what needs to click in attack, Gordon said: "It's difficult to say. A team just has to come together, perform when the pressure's high.

"Now we're into the knockout stages so there's no, 'next game, next game'.

"Now we really have to step it up and be the team we can be. That's on us, we're the ones on the pitch.

"We're the ones who can make an impact and change things.

"As players you've got to take responsibility and accountability."

GORDON . . . chin first

BIKE

From Back Page

going down a hill, trying to take a quick video for my family, just to show them what I was doing.

"Before I knew it, I was head first into the floor.

"I've got a few grazes, a few cuts but it's not anything painful.

"The bikes are electric so they are faster than normal bikes and, in England, the front brake is on the right-hand side.

"Here, I tried to press the left brake just to slow down and, next minute, it had not slowed down, it had fully come to a stop ... and I hadn't.

"I have gone ten feet in the air, chin first."

Of the cuts he suffered, Gordon said: "I just went back to the camp and put some stuff on it.

"To be fair, no one had seen it and I definitely didn't press record so there were some positives to come from it.

"I'll get back on — I won't let that bother me.

"The thing was, because I was on my phone I didn't know I was falling off until I hit the floor.

"I was just focused on my phone.

"And I went chin first. The moral of the story is we spend too much time on our phones."

The former Everton player revealed manager Gareth Southgate found the incident amusing.

Gordon said: "He laughed at first, just like everyone else did. It was a bit of a joke.

"It wasn't too serious — just a few scratches — so everyone was laughing at me and laughing at me in pain."

LION

From Back Page

to punish any mistakes they make."

Slovakia teed up for tomorrow's showdown in Gelsenkirchen by finishing third in Group E.

They are now aiming to reach the Euros quarter-finals for the first time.

And Skriniar is eyeing a huge scalp against an England side who have struggled — despite finishing top of Group C — and scored just two goals.

Gary Lineker blasted Southgate's side as "s**t" after their 1-1 draw with Denmark while fellow pundit and Three Lions legend Alan Shearer called them "terrible".

Skriniar added: "They have big, big stars but, as a team, they are not at their best so far.

"We are looking forward to it. We know England are one of the top teams in here but I believe we can beat them."

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COLE'S BRAZIL TRIP: P69

CRASH GORDON'S VOW

SCORE & I'LL BE A BRAKE DANCER

Battered Ant plans bike goal celebration

GRAZING SADDLES . . . our mock-up of Anthony Gordon on a bike and (right) boss Gareth Southgate

ANTHONY GORDON vowed to perform a bike celebration if he scores against Slovakia tomorrow.

From CHARLIE WYETT in Blankenhain

The England winger escaped with cuts and bruises after crashing an electric bike when he pulled the wrong brake.

Gordon is pushing for a start in tomorrow's last-16 clash in Gelsenkirchen following his lively cameo off the bench in Tuesday's 0-0 draw with Slovenia.

He was yesterday handed a helmet and a set of child's stabilisers by a photographer. Gordon, 23, laughed and promised: "I'll put the stabilisers next to the pitch and you lot will get the credit for the celebration. I will do it. You've got my word."

The Newcastle star was lucky to avoid a serious injury in the accident, which happened while he was filming himself riding around the golf course at the team hotel.

He said: "We went on what was meant to be a recovery bike ride. It was a lovely day. I was

Turn to Page 71

SKRINIAR . . . jibes

Skriniar taunts 3 Lions

From JORDAN DAVIES

SLOVAKIA skipper Milan Skriniar began the mind games by saying England will crack under pressure tomorrow.

The defender claims Gareth Southgate's side are a team of individuals playing 'long ball' football at Euro 2024 ahead of their last-16 clash.

And Paris Saint-Germain's Skriniar, 29, taunted: "They are relying on individual quality a lot.

"There will be a lot of pressure on them.

"The English love to play long balls — and the only thing you can do against that is win aerial duels and get the second balls.

"That may be an advantage for us, as they need to convince the world they came here to win.

"So this can be our opportunity to beat them. We can be successful if we keep playing like a team.

"We know that the English have difficulties in transition, so we will try

Turn to Page 71

EXCLUSIVE

Gareth's in game's top job

HARRY REDKNAPP - P68

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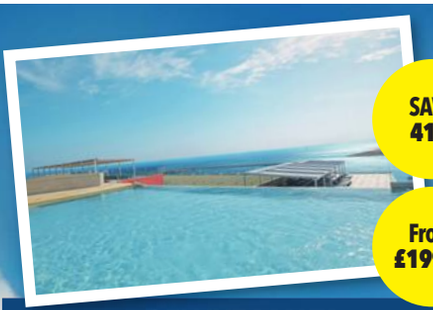

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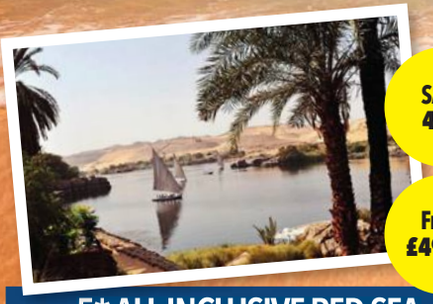

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GEORDIE SURE

Brian confident he has a couple of Plate smashers

TASH SMASH . . . Tashkhan is one of two Plate contenders for Brian Ellison

By LUZ WOLLOCOMBE

LOCAL lad Brian Ellison says it will be a 'dream' if he can finally win the Pitmen's Derby.

The proud Geordie saddles two live contenders in **Tashkhan** and **Onesmoothoperator** in today's £150,000 Northumberland Plate (3.10).

Indeed, Ellison must feel it his birthright to win the famous race as he was born in Cowgate – just three miles from the Newcastle winning post – on Plate Day in 1952.

He said: "Yes, it would be a dream to win it. I was born on Pitmen's Derby day so it's always been a race I love."

DERBY 1

Ellison has hit the bar a couple of times, most notably in 2016 when his 13-2 favourite Seamour was nabbed close home in the two-mile slog.

The Malton-based trainer said: "He went three lengths clear a furlong out. I thought he'd done it but he got tired."

There are no worries about the trip for top stayer Tashkhan – while Onesmoothoperator's last win came at the track in the November Handicap. Both horses are owned by Ellison's North Yorkshire neighbour Patrick Boyle.

Ellision *(inset)* said: "I think this is the best chance I've had of winning the race.

"Tashkhan was third in the Group 1 Prix Royal-Oak on his last start in October.

"He's got top weight but has a touch of class and has been working well.

"As for Smoothie we know he likes the track and he ran well over the two miles at Southwell in April.

"Both are nice and fresh and ready to roll. Tashkan's

Turn to Page 2

Rees pride at Syd bid

By TOM PEPPER

DERBY 2

HOVE trainer Richard Rees prays it will be third time lucky in tonight's £175,000-to-the-winner Star Sports English Greyhound Derby final.

Rees' Churchfield Syd *(below)* is one of the favourites to bank the Classic at Towcester (9.15).

Rees' grandfather won the race with the brilliant Mutts Silver in 1976 and his dad took it with Pagan Swallow in 1985.

Rees said: "To follow in their footsteps and win the big one would be amazing. My son Charlie and I would be so proud. Churchfield Syd is my third runner in the final so I'm hoping he's a lucky one."

Churchfield Syd ended the unbeaten Derby run of red-hot favourite King Memphis last Saturday and Rees said: "It was a great effort by Syd. Hopefully he can do it again."

Greyhound Derby — See P12

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Aidan's sweet sixteen

By EAMONN HAMES

DERBY 3

MASTER trainer Aidan O'Brien will saddle half the field in a bid for an incredible 16th Irish Derby win at The Curragh tomorrow.

The O'Brien *(below)* quartet is headed by Derby-third Los Angeles — the ride of Ryan Moore.

The 15-8 shot has three lengths to find with 11-10 Ambiente Friendly on their Epsom running — who was supplemented at a cost of €100,000 on Tuesday.

Ballydoyle will also run Grosvenor Square, Euphoric and The Euphrates in the the mile-and-a-half Classic.

O'Brien said: "It's a great race and we are very happy to see three good runners from England come over.

"Euphoric will make sure there is a good pace and we'd love to win it like we did last year with Auguste Rodin."

Irish Derby card — See P8

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QUESTION: Are horse-traders thick?

On the basis the answer is no, Cheltenham should stand its ground over rumoured changes to the conditions of the disastrous Mares Hurdle.

And if the rumours are not true, then those in power have 100 per cent support from this scribe to rip the contest apart.

Yes, yes, I know. It's the Flat season. But I can't let this go.

Some of you will have no idea what I'm on about, so here's a recap.

Since the end of this year's Festival in March, the entire race schedule at Cheltenham has been under review with the races for mares thought to be under the closest scrutiny of the Jockey Club.

Although nothing has been confirmed, it is believed officials are on the verge of changing the credentials needed to tackle the Grade 1 Mares' Hurdle won, since its creation in 2008, by the likes of Quevega, Honeysuckle and Lossiemouth.

It's quite clear to most racing fans the Mares' Hurdle is a nightmare.

First of all, it usually revolves around one or two horses, and secondly, and much more importantly, it gives mares who should be in the Champion Hurdle a 'gimme'.

That has been clear not only with Quevega, Honeysuckle and Lossiemouth, but also Annie Power, who somehow never won the Mares', but did take the 2016 Champion purely because her stable companion, Faugheen, was injured and had to miss the main event. Annie Power was switched from the lesser race at the last minute.

Chelt must ignore Molony's baloney

Breeders – in particular Honeysuckle's Peter Molony – insist the Mares' race must continue in its current guise as it encourages the fairer sex to be kept in training.

Indeed, Molony says the whole of the National Hunt breeding programme will fall down if mares are denied their big day at Prestbury Park.

That, of course, is absolute nonsense.

Molony, on X, said: "New proposal would mean no mare who won a G1 in the previous 13 months would be eligible to run in the Mares Hurdle at Cheltenham. Collapse of the mare trade we've all worked so hard to build!! Sledgehammer & nuts!!"

Let's get this clear. For a start, if you are the breeder or seller of a filly or mare the chance of you winning the Mares' Hurdle is very small. And even smaller if she is not trained by Willie Mullins.

So the concept of breeders just eyeing up this one prize to carry on what they are doing is laughable. Even more crazy would be people going about splashing cash on a mare just to try and win the Grade 1 Mares' Hurdle.

BOOM OR BUST

SPARTAN ARMY (3.10 Newcastle) looks a great each-way bet to give Alan King a third win in the Plate. Billy Loughnane is a tasty jockey booking.

As I have said, if Molony is right either all breeders, sellers and buyers are thick, or delusional.

The promotion of mares is important. That should always happen. A Grade 1 victory at Cheltenham, however, is not. If your mare is worthy of that they can still win the Champion Hurdle.

I have long suggested the Mares' Hurdle should be limited to horses rated 0-150 and given Grade 2 status. I stick by that.

Breeders, owners and trainers will all want the Mares' Hurdle to stay as it is. Why?

Because it's easier to win than the Champion Hurdle. Hold on. I thought winning at Cheltenham was meant to be the ultimate challenge.

Not just a gift for rich people either able to trade or a breeder looking for a quick fix.

Stand firm Cheltenham. You refuse to make your meeting great again by going back to three days. But at least do the right thing and try and make some of your races competitive once again.

Today it's all about the Northumberland Plate at Newcastle. I'll be playing **Spartan Army** each-way for Alan King.

While tomorrow I expect **Los Angeles** to take the Irish Derby. Let's hope neither has a 'mare'!

Yeeehaaa!!!

STAR MARE . . . Honeysuckle

From Page One

GEORDIE BRI

probably got the best chance. We wanted to take him to Royal Ascot.

"They forecast rain but it just didn't happen so we decided to aim him at this race instead. It will be his first run at Newcastle.

"Smoothie's run around here a fair few times and loves the track. He's a proper Newcastle regular and hopefully he can show Tashkhan the way round!

"Smoothie ran in the race two years ago but he'd had too much racing going into it.

"This time we've kept him off since April to keep him fresher."

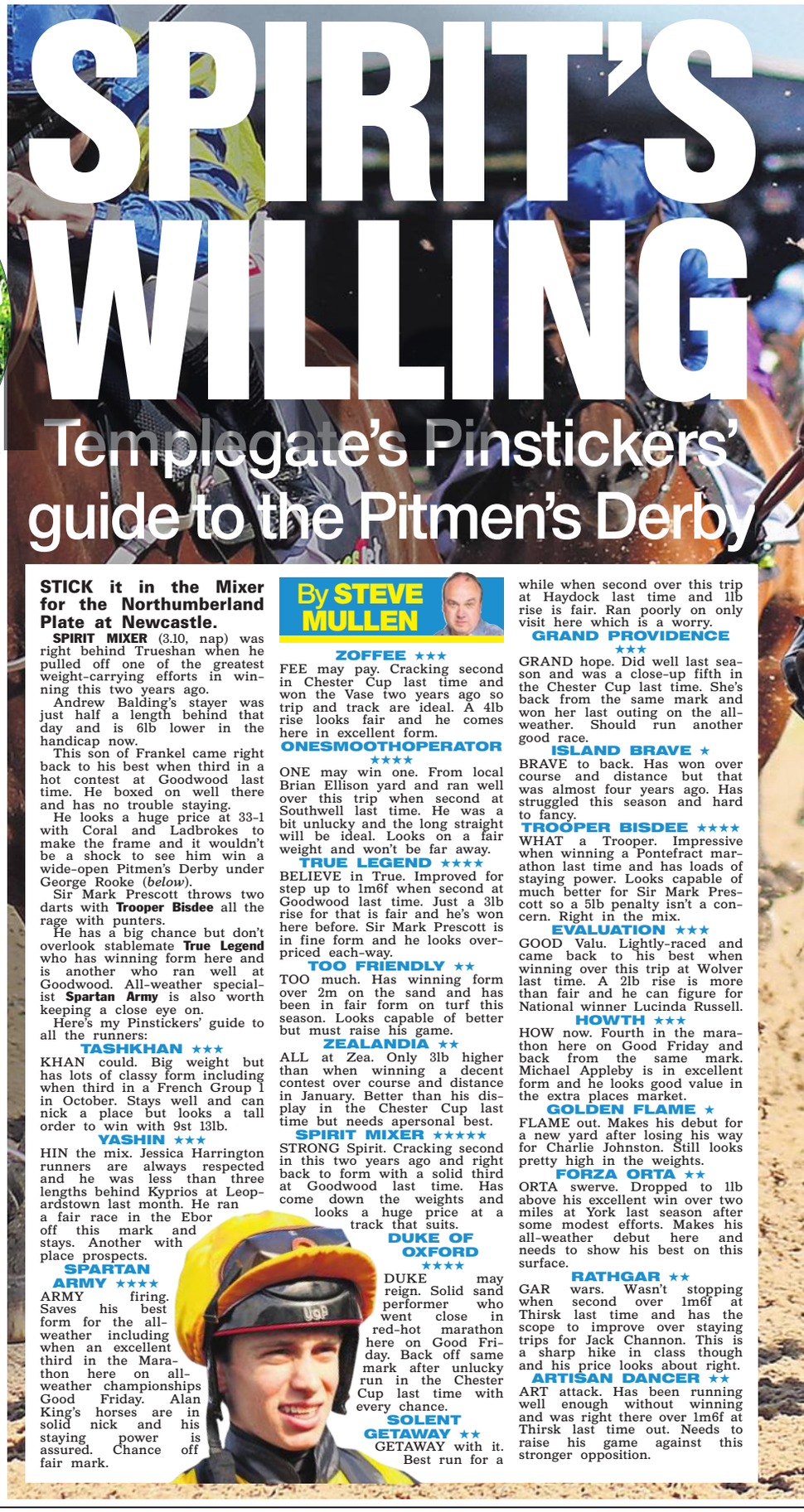
Owner Boyle lives just five minutes down the road from Ellison's Spring Cottage Stables.

Ellison added: "We both know how hard it is to win this race. There are plenty in the race with chances.

"There are no gimmes in racing but we are more than hopeful.

"We'll all have a barbeque later if we win.

"Well, I think we'll have a barbeque regardless! So that will be nice."



SPIRIT'S WILLING

Templegate's Pinstickers' guide to the Pitmen's Derby

STICK it in the Mixer for the Northumberland Plate at Newcastle.

By STEVE MULLEN

SPIRIT MIXER (3.10, nap) was right behind Trueshan when he pulled off one of the greatest weight-carrying efforts in winning this two years ago.

Andrew Balding's stayer was just half a length behind that day and is 6lb lower in the handicap now.

This son of Frankel came right back to his best when third in a hot contest at Goodwood last time. He boxed on well there and has no trouble staying.

He looks a huge price at 33-1 with Coral and Ladbrokes to make the frame and it wouldn't be a shock to see him win a wide-open Pitmen's Derby under George Rooke (*below*).

Sir Mark Prescott throws two darts with **Trooper Bisdee** all the rage with punters.

He has a big chance but don't overlook stablemate **True Legend** who has winning form here and is another who ran well at Goodwood. All-weather specialist **Spartan Army** is also worth keeping a close eye on.

Here's my Pinstickers' guide to all the runners:

TASHKHAN ★★★

KHAN could. Big weight but has lots of classy form including when third in a French Group 1 in October. Stays well and can nick a place but looks a tall order to win with 9st 13lb.

YASHIN ★★★

HIN the mix. Jessica Harrington runners are always respected and he was less than three lengths behind Kyprios at Leopardstown last month. He ran a fair race in the Ebor off this mark and stays. Another with place prospects.

SPARTAN ARMY ★★★★

ARMY firing. Saves his best form for the all-weather including when an excellent third in the Marathon here on all-weather championships Good Friday. Alan King's horses are in solid nick and his staying power is assured. Chance off fair mark.

ZOFFEE ★★★

FEE may pay. Cracking second in Chester Cup last time and won the Vase two years ago so trip and track are ideal. A 4lb rise looks fair and he comes here in excellent form.

ONESMOOTHOPERATOR ★★★★

ONE may win one. From local Brian Ellison yard and ran well over this trip when second at Southwell last time. He was a bit unlucky and the long straight will be ideal. Looks on a fair weight and won't be far away.

TRUE LEGEND ★★★★

BELIEVE in True. Improved for step up to 1m6f when second at Goodwood last time. Just a 3lb rise for that is fair and he's won here before. Sir Mark Prescott is in fine form and he looks overpriced each-way.

TOO FRIENDLY ★★

TOO much. Has winning form over 2m on the sand and has been in fair form on turf this season. Looks capable of better but must raise his game.

ZEALANDIA ★★

ALL at Zea. Only 3lb higher than when winning a decent contest over course and distance in January. Better than his display in the Chester Cup last time but needs apersonal best.

SPIRIT MIXER ★★★★★

STRONG Spirit. Cracking second in this two years ago and right back to form with a solid third at Goodwood last time. Has come down the weights and looks a huge price at a track that suits.

DUKE OF OXFORD ★★★★

DUKE may reign. Solid sand performer who went close in red-hot marathon here on Good Friday. Back off same mark after unlucky run in the Chester Cup last time with every chance.

SOLENT GETAWAY ★★

GETAWAY with it. Best run for a while when second over this trip at Haydock last time and 1lb rise is fair. Ran poorly on only visit here which is a worry.

GRAND PROVIDENCE ★★★

GRAND hope. Did well last season and was a close-up fifth in the Chester Cup last time. She's back from the same mark and won her last outing on the all-weather. Should run another good race.

ISLAND BRAVE ★

BRAVE to back. Has won over course and distance but that was almost four years ago. Has struggled this season and hard to fancy.

TROOPER BISDEE ★★★★

WHAT a Trooper. Impressive when winning a Pontefract marathon last time and has loads of staying power. Looks capable of much better for Sir Mark Prescott so a 5lb penalty isn't a concern. Right in the mix.

EVALUATION ★★★

GOOD Valu. Lightly-raced and came back to his best when winning over this trip at Wolver last time. A 2lb rise is more than fair and he can figure for National winner Lucinda Russell.

HOWTH ★★★

HOW now. Fourth in the marathon here on Good Friday and back from the same mark. Michael Appleby is in excellent form and he looks good value in the extra places market.

GOLDEN FLAME ★

FLAME out. Makes his debut for a new yard after losing his way for Charlie Johnston. Still looks pretty high in the weights.

FORZA ORTA ★★

ORTA swerve. Dropped to 11b above his excellent win over two miles at York last season after some modest efforts. Makes his all-weather debut here and needs to show his best on this surface.

RATHGAR ★★

GAR wars. Wasn't stopping when second over 1m6f at Thirsk last time and has the scope to improve over staying trips for Jack Channon. This is a sharp hike in class though and his price looks about right.

ARTISAN DANCER ★★

ART attack. Has been running well enough without winning and was right there over 1m6f at Thirsk last time out. Needs to raise his game against this stronger opposition.

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FOR COLOURS, FORM AND NEWS

Oisin at the Don double

By TOM PEPPER

RED-HOT jock Oisin Murphy stretched his lead to the top of the jockeys' championship to 17 with a double at Doncaster.

Kameko colt New Century got the ball rolling in the opening novice at 13-8.

Murphy was a winner again two races later as Ian Williams' well-backed Beylerbeyi battled to victory.

Reigning champ Will Buick has a task on his hands if he is to lift the trophy again.

Murphy is as short as 1-5 in the title betting. He has six wins to his name this week and now has 53 winners, with Rossa Ryan in second on 36. Buick is a further three back.

Murphy has a strong book of rides at Newmarket this afternoon before jetting to the Curragh for tomorrow's Irish Derby ride on Sunway.

Three-time champion Murphy said: "Kameko's horses are just starting to come through.

"He was a miler so his horses are always going to need time.

"Things are going well but I know I need to keep going. I never sit back and think I have done enough. The big races keep coming now."

Tiff gets top Mark

By CALLUM JAMIESON

IN-FORM Sir Mark Prescott warmed up for the Pitmen's Derby with a win in last night's big'un at Newcastle.

His improving filly Tiffany sailed to a cosy victory in the Group 3 Hoppings Stakes under Luke Morris.

The Newmarket trainer has his team in fine nick with five of his last 17 runners doing the business.

It was a boost ahead of well-backed Trooper Bisdee's run for Prescott *(right)* in today's Northumberland Plate.

Tiffany is entered up in the Group 1 Nassau Stakes at Glorious Goodwood and would not look out of place in that line up judged on this.

Morris said: "She's a credit to the whole team and a good example of what you can do with a filly if you have patience.

"She has kept on improving and is worth a shot at the top level now."

ANDY AYRES TRACKMAN

in association with William HILL

Burke's Spy is no secret

YASHIN (3.10) is the talk of the Toon at Newcastle.

Hills are paying a handy six places in this wide-open two miler –and they report bundles of bunce for Jessica Harrington's raider from Moone.

The each-way early birds have knocked Harrington's hero in from 16s to 17-2. With that kind of dosh down he should be involved at the sharp end.

And have a squint at **SPYCATCHER** in the 2.04 for Karl Burke *(below)*.

Canny Karl's nag has a belting record on the sand, and Hills reckon the clever cash is on his side.

Talking about lolly, a well-informed wurzel tells me Coolmore head honcho John Magnier is buying 5,000-acres of prime farmland south of Salisbury.

Who knows what moneybags Magnier plans to do with the new back garden, but he'll need more than a fancy Flymo and pruning shears to keep it trim.

That king-sized plot isn't a million miles from Ralph Beckett's five-star finishing school. And red-faced Ralph's crew have got cash on the hip after Sea The Thunder landed a tidy touch at Carlisle.

There are plenty of service stations between Wiltshire and chilly Cumbria, but this improver paid for the diesel with knobs on and he looks a nice little earner.

By the way, Beckett's band of brothers are planning to reinvest their ill-gotten when **BLUESTOCKING** (3.30) lines up in the Pretty Polly at the Curragh.

This fast lady looked a bit lively at York on her first run of the season, and friendly faces in the yard say she's ready to put punters on a high.

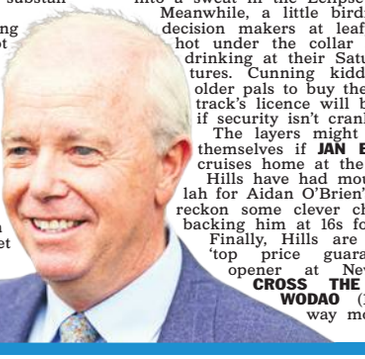
Talking of highs, my pal 'Dopey Desmond' dabbled with some iffy substances in his youth.

Des reckons he tried sniffing coke once . . . the ice cubes got stuck up his nose.

Anyway, the old rascal was in desperate need of a result after doing his wotsnames at Royal Ascot. Luckily, he's got pals in low places, and they told him to go banco on Adam West's Good Too (8s to 5-1) at Kempton.

Our man whacked £1,500 each-way on Westy's wonder, and collected enough for a month on the Costa Packet when his nap did the bizzo.

Oisin Murphy nudged that one home, and Smurf nipped back to the Sunbury gaff for a Thursday morning tune-up on Roger Teal's star-turn **Dancing Gemini**. Tealy's tearaway is reported in rip-roaring shape – and he might just make City Of Troy break into a sweat in the Eclipse a week today.



Meanwhile, a little birdie tells me the decision makers at leafy Lingfield are hot under the collar about underage drinking at their Saturday night fixtures. Cunning kiddies are getting older pals to buy the booze, and the track's licence will be under review if security isn't cranked up a notch.

The layers might need a livener themselves if **JAN BRUEGHEL** (2.55) cruises home at the Curragh.

Hills have had mountains of moolah for Aidan O'Brien's jolly, and they reckon some clever chaps have been backing him at 16s for the Leger.

Finally, Hills are throwing in a 'top price guarantee' on the opener at Newcastle, where **CROSS THE TRACKS** and **WODAO** (1.35) are each-way movers.

ANDREW BALDING

17-TIME GROUP 1 CLASSIC-WINNING TRAINER ONLY IN THE Sun

Five alive up on the Toon

IT'S time to give the Irish a taste of their own medicine.

Plenty of our Group 1s have been lost to top horses coming over from Ireland, but this weekend us Brits have a right chance of returning the favour.

I've got my finger's crossed **BLUESTOCKING** (3.30) can do the business for my pal Ralph Beckett in the Pretty Polly at the Curragh today after her easy win in the Middleton. She's finished second in two Group 1s and should get her turn here.

The top three in the market are all Brits and two of the first three in the Irish Derby hail from Britain too.

AMBIENTE FRIENDLY (4.05 Curragh tomorrow) is a short price and will take all the beating after his great Derby second to City Of Troy. He was supplemented for a pretty penny and I hope it pays off for James Fanshawe and his team.

Back to my runners, and many will say that we've hit the crossbar in recent weeks. I'd say we've damaged it beyond repair!

In the last two weeks, we've had 15 horses finish second, including a pair at the Royal Ascot, so I'd quite like a Northumberland Plate winner!

And I think **GRAND PROVIDENCE** (3.10) has a brilliant chance of giving me one.

She shaped well on return at Newbury and then ran a cracker in the Chester Cup last time where she was probably too far forward in a race won by closers.

She's on a good mark and is yet to run a bad race on the all-weather, so I'm expecting a big performance.

We also run **Spirit Mixer** and he shouldn't be discounted. He's on a dangerous mark now and showed us a bit more at Goodwood last time.

In the Group 3 Chipchase, I think **FIVE-THOUSANDTOONE** (2.04) has been seriously underestimated and can go well at a price.

He's run four times at Newcastle, winning twice and finishing in the places the other two occasions. On that alone, I'd be surprised if he didn't run a big race, but he also has the class to do some damage.

Finally, I think my best chance of the weekend runs at Chester in the shape of **UPSCALE** (1.40).

She was back to form at Haydock last time and has an excellent oppourtunity to get off the mark for Juddmonte.

WE'RE HERE FOR IT CORAL

Favourite YOUR NO1 TELLY COLOURS START HERE

Stocking's a silky bet

I COULD not believe my eyes when I saw my court list.

Ralph Beckett Esq and Sir Mark Prescott are two of the finest gentlemen in the land.

Yet today they stand before me awaiting judgement. So please be upstanding as I run the rule over their hopefuls.

BLUESTOCKING

Pretty Polly, Curragh (3.30)

Case for the defence: M'Lud, Bluestocking was seriously progressive last season and unlucky not to land her Group 1 breakthrough.

But my client has already taken her form to a new level this term, running away with the Middleton at York.

There is no doubt that this is a tougher assignment, but her trainer Ralph Beckett is a master at bringing these fillies through the ranks.

She ran a blinder here last season in the Irish Oaks and this smooth travelling four-year-old is probably at her best over this trip.

Case for the prosecution: It is easy to state that Bluestocking has come on leaps and bounds this season.

But what did she really beat at York? It was a five-runner race and the fourth and fifth have since been stuffed at a much lower level.

The third didn't run a race and the second ran well below par and hasn't been seen since.

Bluestocking has regularly come up short at the top level, admittedly by a narrow margin.

In fact, last season, she went an entire campaign without a win.

Your honour, I am not sure she should be favourite against some battle-hardened fillies and mares in this deep Group 1.

JUDGE JAMIESON'S VERDICT: As you know by now I only deal in hard evidence. Bluestocking's comeback win was a huge effort on numbers and she is a rising force in this division. Emily Upjohn meanwhile looks on a downward spiral. Stick with the up and comer.

TROOPER BISDEE

Northumberland Plate, Newcastle (3.10)

Case for the defence: It is fair to say my client has been a slow burner – but is that really a surprise given he is trained by the great Sir Mark Prescott?

Once rated a measly 56 and sent off 200-1 for a novice race he now has the handicapper on the run. He bolted up at Pontefract last weekend and runs here off the same mark but with a 5lb penalty. That would not have stopped him there.

Yes, this is tougher but he ticks all the boxes for this race.

For good measure, favourites have won three of the last six renewals.

Case for the prosecution: My good Lord, you will notice a '4' next to the defendant's copy book at Thirsk.

This is the only time Trooper Bisdee has been turned over since heading over marathon trips and that was after a quick turnaround.

Sir Mark has since avoided running his stayer back so swiftly but was forced to run him in Yorkshire last week to ensure he got in this race with an extra 5lb on his back.

Yes, he is a stronger and older horse but there are serious doubts.

JUDGE JAMIESON'S VERDICT: A compelling case – and Sir Mark Prescott is not a character seen often in my court. Yet I find his client guilty. Trooper Bisdee still has too much to prove for my liking. **YASHIN** and **SPARTAN ARMY** look better options at bigger odds.

Rooting for Friend Rab

I'M hoping to Hav a good day at Newmarket.

I've got three rides at HQ this afternoon and my best chance comes on **HAVANA GILA** (2.15) in the Empress Stakes.

She's a small filly, but what she lacks in size, she makes up for in guts.

She needed her debut at Newmarket but quickly left it behind with a very cosy win at York.

A return to six furlongs is just what she needs and I'm really hoping she has lots more improvement to come.

I also ride **CHERRY BLOSSOM** (3.45), who was outclassed in a Listed race at Lingfield last time.

She was a good winner at Doncaster the time before and hopefully she can bounce back on her handicap debut today.

My final ride is **SNIPER'S EYE** (5.10) for David Simcock.

He was a bit disappointing at Chelmsford last time, but it's still early days and he's totally unexposed at the middle distances.

There's top class action at the Curragh this weekend, building up to the Irish Derby tomorrow.

Lots of British horses are making the journey over and it's nice to see our runners being well fancied.

The Pretty Polly Stakes is today's Group 1 and I hope **BLUESTOCKING** (3.30) can do the business for Ralph Beckett and Rossa Ryan.

She takes on fellow Brits **Emily Upjohn** and last year's unlucky second **Stay Alert**, but she should have e too much class after her easy win on return at York.

The main event has another warm British favourite and I'd be made up if **AMBIENTE FRIENDLY** (4.05) triumphed for James Fanshawe and Rab Havlin.

Rab is a great pal of mine and Ambiente Friendly went very close in the Derby last month.

He was ahead of **Los Angeles** that day and I think he can confirm the placings.

There's a bit of doubt about his staying power over this stiffer test, but he's still unexposed and the faster ground will help ease any stamina worries. Come on Rab!

NEWMARKET ON ITV: 2.15,

1.40 BLANDFORD MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES (Class 4) 2-Y-O; £10,308; 7f (4 runners)

1 233 **BERONIA 1**
(4) G Boughey 9-2........ **Tom Marquand** 92
Runs: 2 Places: 2 £4,640
Only third here yesterday, future lies in hcap company needs to improve

2 274 **NEW CHARTER 13**
(3) R Hannon 9-2............. **Sean Levey** 94
Runs: 3 Places: 1 £10,556
Hasn't kicked on from promising debut, looks one for nurseries

3 **PARADISE SPRINGS**
(1) C Appleby 9-2 .... **William Buick** —
Stable know family well, bred nicely, yard have won this last two years

4 62 **REMAAT 24**
(2) A Balding 9-2........... **Oisin Murphy** ●99
Runs: 2 Places: 1 £1,724
Improved at 6f at Kempton, one to beat on bare form, but vulnerable

BETTING: 2 Paradise Springs, 3 New Charter, 4 Beronia, 5 Remaat
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1-5 1 1
2023: Dance Sequence 9-2, W Buick 5-6 Fav (C Appleby), dr 4, 6 ran.

Sunracing FORM

BERONIA (9-2) 3-1 fav chased leaders, pushed along halfway, stayed on final furlong but held, 3rd of 13 (btn 1½l) to Alice Fairfax (9-2) (Thirsk 6f nov (4) £10,360 good to soft).
NEW CHARTER (9-2) 5-2 tracked leader, ridden and every chance final furlong, one pace, 4th of 8 (btn 2½l) to An Outlaw's Grace (9-7) (Salisbury 6f nov stks (3) £7,560 good to firm).
REMAAT (9-2) 15-2 mid-division, headway final furlong, kept on, btn 1l by Tales Of The Heart (9-2) (11 ran) (Kempton 6f mdn (5) £3,672 AW).
PARADISE SPRINGS Ghaiyyath filly out of Come Alive.

2.15 EMPRESS FILLIES STAKES (LISTED) (1) 2-Y-O; winner £22,684; 6f (13 runners)

1 2 **ARABIAN DUSK 28 (BF)**
(4) S & E Crisford 9-2......... **Sean Levey** 93
Runs: 1 Places: 1 £1,724
Expensive breeze-up buy, beaten on debut but backed, more to come

2 71 **CELANDINE 19 (D)**
(1) E Walker 9-2.......... **Tom Marquand** 89
Runs: 2 Wins: 1 (F) £5,373
Big step up at Windsor, needs to go on again but lively outsider

3 51 **HAVANA GILA 15**
(6) H Eustace 9-2...........**Hayley Turner** 95
Runs: 2 Wins: 1 (GS) £15,462
Showed lots of speed at York, back up to 6f, still green, can improve

4 181 **IT AIN'T TWO 30 (D)**
(5) H Palmer 9-2............ **Jack Mitchell** 92
Runs: 3 Wins: 2 (S,G) £19,635
Speedy juvenile, not likely to have bags of improvement left, ew shout

5 1 **MISS NIFTY 11 (D)**
(3) J Moore 9-2..........**Dougie Costello** 87
Runs: 1 Wins: 1 (F) £3,672
Just got up to win on debut, more needed in much deeper waters

6 930 **NAINA 1**
(7) J Ryan 9-2.............. **Joe Bradnam** 78
Runs: 2 Places: 1 £862
Struggled at Yarmouth yesterday, this looks a tall order, best watched

7 22 **POUTING 19**
(10) R Hughes 9-2............**Finley Marsh** 87
Runs: 2 Places: 2 £4,246
Narrow defeats at Windsor, well-touted but bit to prove in this line up

8 3 **QUEUE DOS 5**
(13) J Moore 9-2.............. **Jim Crowley** 82
Runs: 1 Places: 1 £799
Outrun odds on debut when very green, hard to make a case for

9 1 **SANTA SAVANA 32 (H;D)**
(11) B Millman 9-2........... **Oisin Murphy** 94
Runs: 1 Wins: 1 (GS) £4,187
Runaway winner at Leicester, wasn't a strong race, unexposed

10 1 **SUNSHINE STATE 9 (D)**
(12) C Johnston 9-2 .... **Richard Kingscote** 96
Runs: 1 Wins: 1 (A) £4,187
Did well to win from poor position on debut, knew job, in the mix

11 1 **TALES OF THE HEART 24 (D)**
(2) R Beckett 9-2........... **William Buick** 97
Runs: 1 Wins: 1 (A) £3,672
Yard going great guns, knew job on debut, more to come again

12 211 **TEEJ A 29 (D)**
(9) K Burke 9-2................ **Sam James** ●99
Runs: 3 Wins: 2 (GS,G) Places: 1 £60,788
Sets the form standard, Epsom win let down a tad, one to beat

13 21 **TEQUILA ROSE 32 (D)**
(8) A Murphy 9-2...........**George Wood** 90
Runs: 2 Wins: 1 (G) Places: 1 £5,573
Beat a modest field at Brighton, this is tougher, needs plenty more

BETTING: 4 Teej A, 9-2 Arabian Dusk, 6 It Ain't Two, Tales Of The Heart, 8 Santa Savana, Celandine, 10 Sunshine State, Havana Gila
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 1 3 5 1
2023: Star Of Mystery 9-2, W Buick 4-5 Fav (C Appleby), dr 3, 9 ran.

Sunracing FORM

ARABIAN DUSK (9-2) 9-4 fav mid-division, pushed along 2f out, ran on well 1f out, kept on but held, btn 1½l by Twafeeg (9-2) (12 ran) (Doncaster 6f mdn (5) £3,672 good).
CELANDINE (9-2) 6-1 quick away, soon led, ridden along 2f out, faced challenge, ran on strongly run-in, bt **POUTING** (9-2) 5-2 held up in behind leaders, shaken up 2f out, soon outpaced, ridden along 1f out, ran on strongly finish, 1¾l (11 ran) (Windsor 6f nov (4) £5,373 good to firm).
HAVANA GILA (9-0) 16-1 handy, ridden 2f out, stayed on well to lead finish, bt River Seine (9-2) 1½l (7 ran) (York 5f nov (2) £15,462 good to soft).
IT AIN'T TWO (9-7) 2-5 fav handy, led going well inside final 2f, ridden out, bt Eve's Boy (9-7) 1l (4 ran) (Carlisle 6f nov stks (3) £6,750 soft).
MISS NIFTY (8-11) 25-1 held up last early, stayed on well from 2f out, strong run 1f out, led post, bt Alashos (9-7) sh hd (7 ran) (Brighton 6f mdn (5) £3,672 good to firm).
TEQUILA ROSE (9-0) 8-11 fav made all, led field centre in straight, ridden and strongly pressed final furlong, ran on gamel, found extra finish, bt Could She Be Magic (9-0) nk **NAINA** (9-0) 22-1 prominent, went 2nd 4f out, ridden out wide and lost 2nd 1f out, kept on, 3rd (btn ½l) (9 ran) (Brighton 6f mdn (5) £3,672 good).
QUEUE DOS (9-2) 28-1 dwelt, mid-division, pushed along halfway, ran on inside last, never nearer, 3rd of 8 (btn 4¾l) to Mythical Composer (9-7) (Bath 6f mdn (5) £3,402 firm).
SANTA SAVANA (9-2) 12-1 prominent, ridden 2f out, led 1f out, ran on, bt Seaplane (9-7) 2½l (9 ran) (Leicester 6f mdn (4) £4,187 good to soft).
SUNSHINE STATE (9-0) 5-2 off the pace rear, good headway 1f out, angled out, went 2nd, stayed on, led finish, bt Cyclonite (9-5) ½l (10 ran) (Chelmsford 6f mdn (5) £4,187 AW).
TALES OF THE HEART (9-2) 4-1 mid-division, headway under pressure 1f out, led inside final furlong, ran on well, bt Remaat (9-2) 1l (11 ran) (Kempton 6f mdn (5) £3,672 AW).
TEEJ A (9-2) 7-2 chased leaders, effort 2f out, led 1f out, stayed on well, bt Megalithic (9-2) 1¼l (10 ran) (Epsom 6f 2yo stks (2) £38,655 good to soft).

TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

2.15

TALES OF THE HEART looked classy when winning on debut at Kempton last time. She cruised along nicely before showing a sharp turn of speed. Ralph Beckett is in top form and there's more to come. **Havana Gila** had plenty up her sleeve when scoring at York 15 days ago. She showed real pace dropped back to the minimum but finished off strongly and should have no issue getting home under *The Favourite*'s Hayley Turner. **Teej A** is improving with every run and followed a convincing Chester success with a commanding victory at Epsom. This is tougher but she can take a major step forward for Karl Burke. **Santa Savana** clocked a good time for a newcomer when winning at Leicester. She stays well and Oisin Murphy is on board again which can't hurt.

2.50 JCB FRED ARCHER STAKES (LISTED) (1) winner £31,190; 1m 4f (6 runners)

1 42515- **KEMARI 315 (P;CD)**
(5) C Appleby 6-9-5.......**Dougie Costello** 97
Runs: 16 Wins: 3 (F,2G) Places: 4 £286,292
First run of year, won this 2023 but run beforehand, ground to make up

2 3-4521 **KING OF CONQUEST 20 (P;D)**
(4) C Appleby 5-9-5......... **William Buick** ●99
Runs: 17 Wins: 6 (2F,A,2GS,G) Places: 4 £312,062
Has improved of late, Newbury win was career best, hard to stop

3 881-12 **AIMERIC 20 (D)**
(6) R Varian 5-9-2........... **Jack Mitchell** 95
Runs: 12 Wins: 5 (F,4G) Places: 2 £84,101
Two lengths behind fav at Goodwood, hard to see form places flipping

4 520-11 **CRYSTAL DELIGHT 45 (T;D)**
(3) H Eustace 5-9-2.......... **Jim Crowley** 98
Runs: 15 Wins: 3 (A,2G) Places: 5 £95,437
Horse on the up, first go out of handicaps, interesting but needs more

5 494-44 **DEAUVILLE LEGEND 20 (C,D)**
(2) J Ferguson 5-9-2...... **Tom Marquand** 92
Runs: 13 Wins: 3 (2F,G) Places: 4 £620,236
Not same since Melbourne Cup '22, needs revival, small field helps

6 1324-4 **VERBIER 38 (H)**
(1) R Beckett 4-8-11.... **Richard Kingscote** 87
Runs: 5 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 1 £13,540
Lots of ground to make up, connections hoping for cheap black type

BETTING: 7-4 King Of Conquest, 7-2 Crystal Delight, 4 Aimeric, 5 Kemari, 10 Deauville Legend, 12 Verbier
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 3 2 1 3
2023: Kemari 5-9-2, James Doyle 7-1 (C Appleby), dr 2, 5 ran.

Sunracing FORM

KEMARI (9-7) 7-1 handy, went 3rd 4f out, ridden 2f out, no threat, 5th of 7 (btn 10l) to Arrest (9-1) (Newbury 1m 5f Grp 3 £39,697 good to soft).
KING OF CONQUEST (9-3) 11-10 fav chased leader, ridden 3f out, led 1f out, clear final furlong, stayed on, bt **AIMERIC** (9-3) 4-1 held up in 4th, pushed along 3f out, switched and effort 2f out, stayed on, 2¾l **DEAUVILLE LEGEND** (9-3) 10-3 led, driven 2f out, headed 1f out, no extra, 4th (btn 6½l) (5 ran) (Goodwood 1½m Listed (1) £39,697 good).
CRYSTAL DELIGHT (9-6) 18-5 fav made all, quickened 2f out, ran on, easily, bt Kihavah (9-6) 4¾l (13 ran) (York 1½m hcap (2) £33,501 good).
VERBIER (9-2) 11-2 in rear, ridden 2f out, stayed on, 4th of 8 (btn 1¾l) to Madame Ambassador (9-2) (Ayr 1¼m Listed (1) £26,654 good to firm).

TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

2.50

KING OF CONQUEST powered away from Aimeric to score at Goodwood last time and can confirm that form. He relished every yard of this trip and he's got decent form on fast and slow ground. **Aimeric** is still the biggest danger and he's 3lb better off here but it's hard to see that making too much difference. Saying that, the Frankel colt is clear second best. **Crystal Delight** has going well in handicaps with easy wins at Epsom and York. He likes to go from the front and would be dangerous if getting his own way. It's not sure he will as the tip's stablemate **Kemari** likes to be up with the pace as he was when winning this race 12 months ago. He can't be written off but will need a personal best after a break.

3.25 PLANTATION STUD CRITERION STAKES (GROUP 3); £48,204; 7f (6 runners)

1 13-5F1 **TIBER FLOW 21 (D)**
(5) W Haggas 5-9-11 ...... **Tom Marquand** 98
Runs: 15 Wins: 6 (4A,2G) Places: 2 £188,887
Back on track at Haydock, consistent at this level, right in mix

2 -11108 **DEAR MY FRIEND 42 (D)**
(1) C Johnston 4-9-8........ **Oisin Murphy** 88
Runs: 15 Wins: 6 (F,4A,G) Places: 2 £168,805
Not as good last twice, vulnerable in this, back at 7f, make running?

3 011/51 **NOBLE DYNASTY 57 (C,D)**
(2) C Appleby 6-9-8......... **William Buick** ●99
Runs: 12 Wins: 6 (F,2A,3G) Places: 1 £93,427
Very good at Guineas meeting, form franked, hard to stop with repeat

4 /126-6 **NOSTRUM 64 (C,D)**
(6) Sir M Stoute 4-9-8.. **Richard Kingscote** 96
Runs: 7 Wins: 3 (2F,G) Places: 1 £150,709
Hard to trust, ran no race on return, talented but has had problems

5 04-423 **POGO 21 (CD)**
(4) C Hills 8-9-8.............. **Jim Crowley** 94
Runs: 48 Wins: 8 (3F,GS,4G) Places: 13 £575,366
Behind Tiber Flow at Haydock, won this in '22, yard back in winners

6 -53394 **WITCH HUNTER 11 (D)**
(3) R Hannon 5-9-8........... **Sean Levey** 94
Runs: 29 Wins: 4 (F,2A,GS) Places: 10 £315,667
Great fourth in Queen Anne, better in a bigger field, not ruled out

BETTING: 11-8 Noble Dynasty, 7-2 Pogo, 9-2 Nostrum, 11-2 Tiber Flow, 7 Witch Hunter, 12 Dear My Friend
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 7 2 6 4
2023: Audience 4-9-7, R Havlin 14-1 (J & T Gosden), dr 6, 6 ran.

Favourite THE HOME OF RACING

CORAL

2.50 & 3.25

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

TEMPLEGATE		TOM PEPPER	
1.40	Beronia	1.40	Remaat
2.15	Tales Of The Heart	2.15	Teej A
2.50	King Of Conquest (nb)	2.50	King Of Conquest (nb)
3.25	Noble Dynasty	3.25	NOSTRUM (nap)
4.00	Mercury Day	4.00	Surveyor
4.35	Candle Of Dubai	4.35	Mrs Twig
5.10	Qitaal	5.10	Majestic

TRACKFAX . . .

TIC-TAC: Undulating track of 2m. All races upto a mile are on the straight course. **DRAW:** No significant advantage. **FAVOURITES:** (2019-2024): 257 have won out of 773 races (33%). At corresponding meetings, 53 have won out of 131 races (40%). **LIVE ON RACING TV**

HOT 'N NOT

TRAINERS with best record in last 14 days: G Boughey 13 wins from 46 runners; B Millman 6 from 23; W Haggas 9 from 55; K R Burke 9 from 55; R Varian 6 from 37; H Palmer 6 from 38; R Beckett 9 from 61; R Hannon 9 from 78; C Johnston 8 from 84. **JOCKEYS with best record in last 14 days:** J Mitchell 7 wins from 33; W Buick 11 from 65; J Crowley 5 from 34; O Murphy 10 from 71. **TRAINERS who have had the most runners since last win:** R Hughes 31. **JOCKEYS who have had the most rides since last win:** G Wood 31.

TOP TRAINERS

2019-2024 C Appleby 78-243, R Hannon 34-315, W Haggas 27-167, R Beckett 23-132, A Balding 22-140, E Walker 17-74, R Varian 16-143, H Palmer 14-84, K R Burke 11-56.

TOP JOCKEYS

2019-2024 W Buick 83-274, O Murphy 27-125, J Crowley 16-79, J Mitchell 15-85, S M Levey 13-119, R Kingscote 11-100, T Marquand 10-123, H Turner 5-68.

TRAINER TRACE

FIRST RACE FOR NEW YARD: No qualifiers. **RACEFAX:** C Appleby won the 1.40 in 2022 & 2023 and the 2.50 in 2022 & 2023. R Beckett won the 2.15 in 2020 & 2022. **LONGEST TRAVELLERS: Santa Savana** (2.15) trained by B Millman, Cullompton, round trip of 438 miles; **It Ain't Two** (2.15) trained by H Palmer, Malpas, round trip of 414 miles; **Sunshine State** (2.15), **Dear My Friend** (3.25), **Candle Of Dubai** (4.35), **Qitaal** (5.10), C Johnston, Middleham, round trip 400 miles.

UNDER ORDERS

SEVEN-DAY WINNERS: None. **BLINKERED FIRST TIME:** None. **VISORED FIRST TIME:** None. **FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OP:** None. **WEIGHTWATCHER:** None. **JOB JOCKEY:** J Crowley rides **Alhattan** (4.35) for G Boughey, 7 winners from 18 rides, 39%. T Marquand rides **Deauville Legend** (2.50) for J Ferguson, 3 from 8, 38%.

Sunracing FORM

TIBER FLOW (9-2) 6-1 held up, shaken up 3f out, switched and headway 2f out, switched again 1f out, squeezed through, led final 100 yards, ran on, bt Sirona (8-13) 1l **POGO** (9-2) 11-2 chased leaders, effort 2f out, led final furlong, headed final 100 yards, 3rd (btn 1½l) **WITCH HUNTER** (9-2) 7-2 fav mid-division, effort 2f out, no extra, 9th (btn 4¾l) (11 ran) (Haydock 7f Grp 3 (1) £48,204 good).
WITCH HUNTER (9-2) 22-1 rear near side, pushed along and headway 1f out, kept on, 3rd of 10 (btn 8¼l) to Audience (9-2) **DEAR MY FRIEND** (9-2) 40-1 close up, pushed along 2f out, faded, 8th (btn 18l) (10 ran) (Newbury 1m Grp 1 £226,840 good).
NOBLE DYNASTY (9-12) 5-1 made all, stayed on well, unchallenged, bt English Oak (8-11) 2l (10 ran) (Newmarket 7f hcap (2) £25,770 good).
POGO (9-3) 28-1 led and raced freely, pushed along 2f out, headed 1f out, weakened, 4th of 6 (btn 4¼l) to Charyn (9-3) **WITCH HUNTER** (9-3) 20-1 rear, plugged on final furlong, no threat, 5th (btn 4½l) **NOSTRUM** (9-3) 5-2 keen, tracked leaders, hung badly right 3f out, ridden 1f out, eased with rider looking down inside final furlong, last (btn 10l) (Sandown 1m Grp 2 (1) £70,888 good to soft).
WITCH HUNTER (9-2) 40-1 held up in rear, headway and edged right 1f out, went 4th final furlong, stayed on, 4th of 13 (btn 6l) to Charyn (9-2) (Ascot 1m Grp 1 (1) £425,325 good to firm).

TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

3.25

NOBLE DYNASTY was impressive when winning from the front on the Rowley Mile last month. He is best over this specialist trip and the second from last time came out and won at Royal Ascot. He can lead them all home again. **Pogo** won this race in 2022 and was a close-up third last season. He's getting on a bit now but ran well in the John Of Gaunt at Haydock last time and can make his presence felt. Sir Michael Stoute is in great form so his **Nostrum** isn't dismissed.

He has been gelded since a poor comeback run and that could buck him up at a track where he won a Listed contest last season. **Tiber Flow** was an easy winner in this grade at Haydock so can't be ignored despite this looking a bit stronger.

4.00 PAT SMULLEN MEMORIAL FILLIES' HCAP (4); winner £10,308; 1m (6 runners)

1 317-41 **QUEEN'S REIGN 36 (C,D)**
(4) E Walker 3-9-9 . . . . **Oisin Murphy ●99**
Runs: 5 Wins: 2 (2G) £12,872
Easy win at Goodwood, looks progressive, 2lb rise is generous

2 37-408 **SPERIAMO 41 (CD)**
(6) P McBride 4-9-8. . . . . . . **Tom Marquand 91**
Runs: 16 Wins: 3 (F,A,G) Places: 2 £24,917
Best form at this track, form nothing to shout about, check market

3 0-25 **ISLANOVA 22**
(3) Sir M Stoute 3-9-4 . . **Richard Kingscote 96**
Runs: 3 Places: 1 £2,310
Modest form in novices, mark not generous on paper but can't rule out

4 433 **AURORA'S BEAUTY 40**
(5) C Appleby 3-9-4. . . . . **William Buick 94**
Runs: 3 Places: 2 £8,321
Not pulled up any trees so far, needs to kick on but obvious appeal

5 42-158 **SURVEYOR 37 (H★;BF,D)**
(2) J Fanshawe 3-9-3 . . . . **Sean Levey 98**
Runs: 5 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 1 £8,372
No-show on hcap debut when backed, quicker ground today, chance

6 422-1 **MERCURY DAY 27 (D)**
(1) C Allen 3-9-2. . . . . **Jim Crowley 85**
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 (G) Places: 2 £9,294
Smooth winner at Notts on return, hcap debut, mark looks fair

BETTING: 2 Queen's Reign, 11-4 Islanova, 3 Aurora's Beauty, 13-2 Mercury Day, 10 Surveyor, 20 Speriamo
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 7 1 1
2023: Royal Charter 3-9-9, W Buick 2-1 Fav (W Haggas), dr 5, 5 ran.

Sunracing FORM

QUEEN'S REIGN (9-7) 17-2 close up, pushed along 1f out, every chance, stayed on, led close home, bt Aragon Castle (9-9) nk (11 ran) (Goodwood 1m hcap (4) £6,621 good).
SPERIAMO (10-2) 25-1 kept on, no chance with leaders, 8th of 13 (btn 5l) to Ziggy's Phoenix (9-4) (Newmarket 1m hcap (5) £10,823 good to firm).
ISLANOVA (9-2) 7-2 mid-division, not much room 2f out, switched, headway 1f out, one pace, 5th of 12 (btn 3l) to Dramatic Effect (9-2) (Goodwood 1m app hcap (4) £7,851 good).
AURORA'S BEAUTY (9-2) 10-3 chased leaders, ridden along 2f out, kept on, 3rd of 12 (btn 12l) to Cat Ninja (9-2) (Windsor 1m mdn (2) £20,616 firm).
SURVEYOR (9-10) 5-2 fav tracked leader, driven 2f out, weakened 1f out, 8th of 9 (btn 7¼l) to Blake (9-2) (Sandown 1m hcap (4) £6,019 soft).
MERCURY DAY (9-0) 10-3 pressed leader 1f out, led 110 yards out, stayed on well to assert finish, bt Get Jiggy With It (9-0) 1l (12 ran) (Nottingham 1m mdn (5) £3,780 good).

4.35 STRADIVARIUS FIRST FOALS 2024 FILLIES' HANDICAP (3); £12,885; 1m 4f (6 runners)

1 1-4 **MERIBELLA 42 (C)**
(4) R Beckett 3-9-9 . . . . **Richard Kingscote 98**
Runs: 2 Wins: 1 (F) £8,543
Not disgraced in Listed heat latest, well in at weights, dangerous

2 76-141 **MRS TWIG 31 (D)**
(3) Muir/Grassick 4-9-5 . . . **Tom Marquand 94**
Runs: 10 Wins: 2 (2A) £9,725
Bolted up at Kempton, up 7lb in deeper race, best form all on aw

3 213 **PRECIOUS JEWEL 23 (BF,D)**
(5) C Appleby 3-9-2. . . . . **William Buick 96**
Runs: 3 Wins: 1 (G) Places: 2 £31,388
Well beaten by Candle Of Dubai latest, 4lb better off but needs more

4 221 **CANDLE OF DUBAI 23**
(6) C Johnston 3-8-13 . . . . **Oisin Murphy ●99**
Runs: 3 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 2 £18,760
Impressive at Chelmsford, should progress in hcaps, obvious type

5 12362 **ALHATTAN 18**
(1) G Boughey 3-8-12 . . . . **Jim Crowley 92**
Runs: 5 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 2 £11,135
Better at Salisbury, needs longer trip to eke out more, others better

6 9-317 **CHERRY BURTON 49 (D)**
(2) S Woods 3-8-7 . . . .**Hayley Turner 89**
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 (S) £5,766
Stuffed in Listed heat, better level today, form yet to stack up, ignored

BETTING: 11-4 Precious Jewel, 3 Candle Of Dubai, 4 Meribella, 5 Alhattan, Mrs Twig, 12 Cherry Burton
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 3 1
2023: Spring Fever 3-9-9, R Havlin 8-15 Fav (J & T Gosden), dr 4, 6 ran.

Sunracing FORM

MERIBELLA (9-2) 4-1 keen soon led and set steady pace, pushed along 2f out, ridden and headed 1f out, weakened, 4th of 5 (btn 7¼l) to Diamond Rain (9-2) (Newbury 1¼m Listed (1) £42,532 good).
MRS TWIG (9-7) 9-5 fav handy, went 2nd going well 2f out, led 1f out, clear, easily, bt Gold Aura (9-8) 4¼l (8 ran) (Kempton 1½m hcap (5) £4,187 AW).
CANDLE OF DUBAI (9-0) 5-1 tracked leader, led 2f out, two lengths clear, ran on, bt Ten Dimes (9-7) 2½l
PRECIOUS JEWEL (9-7) 11-8 fav close up, ridden 2f out, one pace, 3rd (btn 3¾l) (12 ran) (Chelmsford 1¼m fillies nov (4) £4,711 AW).
ALHATTAN (9-3) 4-1 raced wide close up, tracked winner 7f out, ridden 1f out, ran on, just held, btn sh hd by Quietness (9-10) (10 ran) (Salisbury 1¼m hcap (4) £5,888 good to firm).
CHERRY BURTON (9-2) 28-1 held up towards rear, outpaced over 2f out, well behind final 2f, last of 7 (well btn) to You Got To Me (9-2) (Lingfield 1½m Listed (1) £34,488 good).

5.10 MUTASAABEQ AT THE NATIONAL STUD HANDICAP (3); £12,885; 1m 2f (7 runners)

1 749-40 **MACHETE 15**
(2) D O'Meara 5-10-2. . . . . . **Tom Marquand 92**
Runs: 22 Wins: 3 (S,2A) Places: 3 £115,410
Not fired since switch from France, off same mark again, vulnerable

2 1106-4 **ELEGANCIA 37 (H;D)**
(5) H Charlton 4-10-0. . . . . **William Buick ●99**
Runs: 9 Wins: 2 (F,GS) Places: 1 £28,486
Stuffed in G3 at Sandown, calmer waters, won last hcap off 4lb lower

3 4-5483 **MAJESTIC 15**
(6) J Channon 6-9-12 . . **Richard Kingscote 95**
Runs: 20 Wins: 2 (F,G) Places: 8 £186,602
Not won since '22 Cambridgeshire, solid at Sandown, vulnerable

4 162495 **QITAAL 15 (D)**
(4) C Johnston 5-9-6. . . . . **Oisin Murphy 98**
Runs: 10 Wins: 2 (S,GS) Places: 2 £34,915
Good run at York latest, likely to make running, small field a plus

5 4251-6 **SNIPER'S EYE 9 (H)**
(3) D Simcock 4-9-4 . . . .**Hayley Turner 90**
Runs: 6 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 1 £7,780
Quiet return at Chelmsford, needs to improve, best watched for now

6 518-09 **BINT AL DAAR 15 (C)**
(1) K De Foy 4-8-11. . . . . **Jack Mitchell 87**
Runs: 16 Wins: 2 (A,G) Places: 5 £27,767
Two very bad runs this season, needs massive revival, ignored for now

7 45-235 **MAFNOOD 14 (B)**
(7) R Hannon 3-8-9 . . . . **Jim Crowley 94**
Runs: 9 Wins: 1 (G) Places: 3 £23,647
Mark proving beyond him so far this year, found a good opening

BETTING: 11-4 Elegancia, 7-2 Majestic, 4 Mafnood, 6 Qitaal, 7 Sniper's Eye, 8 Machete, 12 Bint Al Daar
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 7
2023: Peace Man 4-10-2, R Havlin 4-1 (J & T Gosden), dr 9, 10 ran.

Sunracing FORM

QITAAL (8-6) 16-1 prominent, led 2f out, headed 1f out, one pace, 5th of 17 (btn 4¾l) to Ron O (8-11) **MACHETE** (9-1) 17-2 held up rear of mid-division, outpaced 3f out, well beaten 2f out, 15th (btn 16l) (17 ran) (York 1¼m hcap (2) £36,078 good to soft).
ELEGANCIA (8-13) 11-1 rear, ridden and switched 3f out, faded, last of 4 (btn 12l) to Royal Rhyme (9-2) (Sandown 1¼m Grp 3 (1) £45,368 soft).
MAJESTIC (9-8) 11-2 held up off pace in last pair, ridden and headway 1f out, stayed on, 3rd of 10 (btn 2½l) to Chasing Aphrodite (9-9) (Sandown 1¼m hcap (3) £7,731 good to firm).
SNIPER'S EYE (8-11) 10-1 ridden 1f out, no impression final furlong, 6th of 8 (btn 4l) to Enfjaar (9-9) (Chelmsford 1¼m hcap (3) £13,085 AW).
BINT AL DAAR (9-4) 28-1 rear, modest headway 2f out, held, 9th of 16 (btn 15l) to Invisible Friend (9-2) (York 1¼m hcap (4) £10,468 good to soft).
MAFNOOD (9-9) 12-1 rear, angled out 2f out, headway between horses when hung right, hampered 1f out, stayed on reluctantly run-in, 5th of 7 (btn 1¾l) to Prince Eric (9-2) (Sandown 1m 1f hcap (3) £12,885 good to firm).

PROBETS

EYECATCHER: INVITED (4.15 Newcastle) looked ready to win at HQ latest.
SUPER SPEED: TROOPER
BISDEE (3.10 Newcastle) clocked a good time when winning at Pontefract.
GAMBLED ON: GIANT (3.40 Newcastle) has been sent off favourite on his past four outings.

CORAL TRADING FLOOR

YASHIN's a keeper for punters in the feature Northumberland Plate at Newcastle today.

The Jessica Harrington raider is a late mover for the Pitmen's Derby.

Coral's Andy Lobo said: "Two very well respected trainers are vying for the favourite.

"You have our nemesis Sir Mark Prescott with Tropper Bisdee who is on the drift a little to 6-1. At the same time, you never ignore a Harrington runner and her Yashin is 7-1 having been 12s yesterday.

"Zoffee is a public horse who always seems to attract cash and he could even end up heading the betting if the 7-1 is snapped up.

"At bigger prices, there has been a nibble for Evaluation at 16-1 from 25s with Howth into 20 from the same price.

"It looks wide open and we are hoping for a right result!"

A classy contender is out in front of the Chipchase betting.

Lobo said: "Kinross was fancied for a Group 1 at Royal Ascot so it's no surprise to see him 5-2 favourite for this Group 3 contest. That could end up looking a very big price if he performs on the track."

They may not be of-

YASHIN A PLATE SMASH

ficially trained by Tony Martin but he could still give the bookies nightmares in the Northumberland Vase.

Lobo said: "Alphonse Le Grande is holding very steady as favourite and we've have to trim him to 11-4 but his other runner Belgoprince has been all the rage too and is just 7-1 now having been big double-figures."

Tomorrow's Irish Derby looks a battle between the top two in the betting. Ambiente Friendly looked like he may be an odds-on shot earlier this week but he's bit bigger on the race's eve.

Lobo said: "We are 11-8 Ambiente Friendly and his Epsom effort would take him very close. The home team are getting right behind Los Angeles though for Aidan O'Brien. There was some 3-1 around but he's just 7-4 now and getting shorter."

WINDSOR

TEMPLEGATE		TOM PEPPER	
2.10	Compton Bay	2.10	Kinetic
2.42	Dubai Bling	2.42	Sands Of Marra
3.17	New Chelsea	3.17	Stanage
3.52	Believe In Stars	3.52	True Courage
4.25	Coup De Force	4.25	Northcliff
5.00	She's A Novelty	5.00	Allonsy
5.32	Brian The Snail	5.32	Zing Up

■TIC-TAC: Figure-of-eight course of 1m 4f, straight final 5f, 6f races start on an extension to the straight. ■DRAW: High numbers hold a slight advantage in sprints. ■LEADING TRAINERS (2019-2024): R Hannon 36-262, A Balding 32-167, W Haggas 25-99, R Beckett 25-137. THIS SEASON: J & T Gosden 7, M Bell 4. ■TOP JOCKEYS (2019-2024): R Havlin 15-92, N Callan 13-110, S Osborne 11-105, G Dobie 7-70. THIS SEASON: S Osborne 4. ■LONGEST TRAVELLER: Brian The Snail (5.32) trained at Prescot. Round trip of 412 miles. ■TRAINERFAX: D M Simcock won 3.52 in 2016 & 2018. ■FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OP: None. ■LIVE ON SKY SPORTS RACING

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.10 SACHA'S BIRTHDAY APPRENTICE HANDICAP (Class 6); 3-y-o; value to winner £3,768; 1m 3f. (7 runners)

1	(2)	5-54423	**COMPTON BAY 35 (H)** M Madgwick 9-10	**Rose Dawes 98**
2	(5)	707	**BARAFUNDLE BAY 33** D Quinn 9-10	**Sean D Bowen 82**
3	(1)	80-8024	**STANDBACKANDLOOK 10** W Knight 9-8	**Brandon Wilkie ●99**
4	(6)	86-4344	**KINETIC 19 (P)** O Greenall & J Guerriero 9-8	**Sam Feilden (3) 93**
5	(4)	4059	**BY FARHH THE BEST 45 (B★)** K De Foy 9-6	**Dominique Kraats (7) 85**
6	(7)	560	**ALL TOO WELL 17** J & T Gosden 9-6	**Luke Catton 80**
7	(3)	70-895	**POTTERS DIAMOND 68** M Crawley 9-0	**Taryn Langley (7) 78**

BETTING: 9-4 Kinetic, 5-2 Standbackandlook, 11-4 Compton Bay, 15-2 All Too Well, 14 Potters Diamond, 16 By Farhh The Best, 20 Barafundle Bay
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 0 1 5
2023: Manxman 9-0 Luke Catton 4-1 (S & E Crisford) drawn 1, 6 ran.

2.42 HOUDINI'S FINAL ESCAPE NOVICE STAKES (5); 2-y-o; value to the winner £3,672; 6f. (9 runners)

1	(4)	1	**DUBAI BLING 23 (D)** H Palmer 9-11	**Neil Callan ●99**
2	(5)	95	**ART MARKET 15** W Haggas 9-4	**Adam Farragher 86**
3	(6)	35	**BERKSHIRE KAMEO 16** A Balding 9-4	**Joshua Bryan 91**
4	(7)	98	**FREAK ENCOUNTER 14** J Osborne 9-4	**William Carver (3) 76**
5	(3)		**HAVANA CLUB** W Greatrex 9-4	**Edward Greatrex —**
6	(9)		**QAAEADD** E Walker 9-4	**Saffie Osborne —**
7	(1)	4	**SANDS OF MARRA 18** O Sangster 9-4	**John Egan 95**
8	(2)		**WHEELS OF FIRE** R Hannon 9-4	**Robert Havlin —**
9	(8)		**YAKFEEK** R Hannon 9-4	**Alec Voikhansky (3) —**

BETTING: 3 Dubai Bling, 7-2 Sands Of Marra, 4 Berkshire Kameo, 7 Art Market, 15-2 Qaaeadd, Wheels Of Fire, 10 Yakfeek, 20 Havana Club, 50 Freak Encounter
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 5 1 2
2023: Shagraan 9-7 William Cox 5-1 (C Cox) drawn 8, 9 ran.

3.17 BRITISH STALLION STUDS EBF NOVICE STAKES (2); value to the winner £20,936; 1m. (6 runners)

1	(1)	1	**PERENNIAL 18** E Walker 3-9-10	**Callum Hutchinson 96**
2	(4)	3242-72	**NEW CHELSEA 21** R Beckett 3-9-4	**Edward Greatrex ●99**
3	(5)	353	**STANAGE 28** J & T Gosden 3-9-4	**Robert Havlin 97**
4	(2)	0	**THRONE OF GLORY 29** C Cox 3-9-4	**John Fahy 70**
5	(3)	0	**AMONGST THE STARS 16** D & C Kubler 3-8-13	**Saffie Osborne 70**
6	(6)	3	**FIOR DI BOSCO 16** W Haggas 3-8-13	**Adam Farragher 88**

BETTING: 2 New Chelsea, 9-4 Stanage, 5-2 Perennial, 10 Fior Di Bosco
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2
2023: Alsakib 3-9-10 David Probert 4-1 (A Balding) drawn 10, 9 ran.

Sunracing FORM

PERENNIAL (9-7) 11-1 made all, ridden 1f out, stayed on well close home, bt Amsterdam (9-7) 1l (11 ran) (Salisbury 7f nov mdn (4) £4,860 good to firm).
NEW CHELSEA (9-8) 10-1 closed 2f out, every chance, kept on, btn 2¼l by Dashing Darcey (9-10) (9 ran) (Haydock 1m hcap (4) £10,468 good).
STANAGE (9-4) 12-1 kept on, 3rd of 10 (btn 2¾l) to Socialite (9-10) (Doncaster 7f nov mdn (2) £21,600 good).
FIOR DI BOSCO (9-2) 8-1 one pace, 3rd of 11 (btn 16l) to Clove Hitch (9-2) **AMONGST THE STARS** (9-2) 80-1 10th (well btn) (11 ran) (Newbury 1m nov stk (2) £20,616 good to firm).

3.52 FREE DIGITAL RACECARD AT RACEDAY-READY.COM HANDICAP (2); winner £15,462; 1m 3f. (5 runners)

1	(1)	5/6127-	**MR ALAN 231 (P)** G Boughey 5-9-9	**Neil Callan 93**
2	(3)	61/12-	**BELIEVE IN STARS 233 (BF)** Sir M Stoute 5-9-4	**Saffie Osborne ●99**
3	(4)	1-80433	**TO CATCH A THIEF 7 (T;BF)** W Haggas 4-8-10	**Adam Farragher 98**
4	(5)	6517181	**TRUE COURAGE 22 (V)** M Bell 6-8-4	**Sean D Bowen (5) 97**
5	(2)	499-721	**AIMING HIGH 17 (H;D)** D Simcock 5-8-4	**Georgia Dobie (3) 91**

BETTING: 6-5 Believe In Stars, 3 Mr Alan, 6 To Catch A Thief, 13-2 True Courage
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 2 4 5 3
2023: Youthful King 4-8-9 Aidan Keeley 9-2 (L Dace) drawn 3, 7 ran.

Sunracing FORM

MR ALAN (9-11) 18-1 headway 2f out, ridden 1f out, ran on, 7th of 13 (btn 4l) to Onesmoothoperator (9-0) (Newcastle 1½m hcap (2) £36,078 AW).
BELIEVE IN STARS (9-6) 15-8 fav soon tracking leaders, pushed along 2f out, ridden and stayed on, btn 2l by Base Note (10-0) (7 ran) (Chelmsford 1¼m hcap (2) £13,500 AW).
TO CATCH A THIEF (9-11) 2-1 fav held up rear, headway 1f out, kept on close home, 3rd of 6 (btn 2¼l) to Dora Milaje (9-5) (Haydock 1¼m hcap (4) £6,281 good to firm).
TRUE COURAGE (9-6) 15-2 headway 2f out, soon led, ran on strongly, bt Sax Appeal (8-13) 2l (7 ran) (Thirsk 1½m hcap (4) £6,281 good to firm).
AIMING HIGH (10-4) 3-1 headway 2f out, led 1f out, went clear, eased finish, bt Warbler (8-10) 3¼l (7 ran) (Kempton 1½m hcap (5) £4,187 AW).

4.25 DOWNLOAD THE RACECOURSE APP RACEDAY READY HANDICAP (4); winner £5,832; 6f. (9 runners)

1	(5)	43669-7	**HAVANA PUSEY 24 (D)** J Gallagher 4-10-0	**Callum Hutchinson (3) 86**
2	(6)	3286-68	**SPRING BLOOM 36 (C)** R Eddery 7-10-0	**Darragh Keenan 98**
3	(2)	0-81075	**TEMPLE BRUER 1 (P;D)** M Murphy & M Keady 6-9-12	**Taylor Fisher (3) 86**
4	(3)	525-354	**CLIPSHAM LA HABANA 93 (P★;D)** A Haynes 4-9-12	**Sean D Bowen (5) 85**
5	(9)	1562-33	**COUP DE FORCE 35 (D)** W Kittow 5-9-11	**Saffie Osborne ●99**
6	(7)	1433119	**NORTHCLIFF 35 (P;D)** M Murphy & M Keady 4-9-10	**Sorcha Woods (7) 94**
7	(8)	-037973	**THE COFFEE POD 8 (P;D)** R Hannon 3-9-6	**Alec Voikhansky (3) 87**
8	(1)	81-5487	**LADY DREAMER 12 (T,V;CD)** T Ward 4-9-6	**Robert Havlin 89**
9	(4)	910	**THE AMAZON 35 (P★;BF,CD)** J Tate 3-9-4	**Neil Callan 87**

BETTING: 5-2 The Amazon, 7-2 Northcliff, 11-2 Clipsham La Habana, 13-2 Coup De Force, 15-2 The Coffee Pod, Spring Bloom, 16 Temple Bruer, Lady Dreamer
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED and 2023: No corresponding race.

5.00 GET THE INSIDE TRACK WITH RACEDAY-READY.COM FILLIES' HANDICAP (5); £4,397; 1m 3f. (8 runners)

1	(1)	/2311-5	**SHE'S A NOVELTY 29 (T;CD)** F O'Brien 9-10-2	**Ben Sanderson (3) 95**
2	(6)	23/67-4	**ADDOSH J10 (T)** S Edmunds 6-9-12	**Connor Brace 85**
3	(7)	655-44	ALMUDENA 9 (P) Sir M Prescott 3-9-4	non-runner 94
4	(5)	586-233	**ALLONSY 15 (P★;BF)** R Beckett 3-9-4	**Edward Greatrex ●99**
5	(8)	850-424	**CHARTWELL'S LADY 61** J Ferguson 3-9-0	**Saffie Osborne 88**
6	(4)	690-342	**LIA ROSE 19** R Guest 3-8-13	**Darragh Keenan 98**
7	(2)	7-31545	**PEGASUS OF HARRY 33** M Botti 3-8-12	**Sean D Bowen (5) 88**
8	(3)	7-973	**GLIMPSE THE MOON 19** K De Foy 3-8-11	**Paddy Bradley 97**

BETTING: 11-4 She's A Novelty, 3 Allonsy, 5 Lia Rose, 7 Chartwell's Lady, 10 Glimpse The Moon, 12 Pegasus Of Harry, 14 Addosh
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 1 2
2023: Absolute Queen 3-9-5 William Buick 5-2 (G Boughey) drawn 3, 7 ran.

5.32 AITCH SEA JAYS MEMORIAL HANDICAP (6); value to the winner £3,768; 5f. (8 runners)

1	(2)	73871-5	**BRIAN THE SNAIL 24 (P;D)** P Morris 10-9-13	**Paddy Bradley ●99**
2	(7)	6-46362	**WAKAI UMI 9 (P;D)** M Loughnane 4-9-12	**Saffie Osborne 91**
3	(1)	9836596	**SECRET HANDSHEIKH 5 (B;D)** J Gallagher 6-9-10	**Neil Callan 95**
4	(6)	227-436	**NOTRE MAISON 29 (V★;D)** W Kittow 5-9-3	**Sean D Bowen (5) 98**
5	(8)	175-405	**ZING UP 5 (P;D)** T Ward 4-9-1	**Edward Greatrex 87**
6	(5)	69-8283	**STRYDER 26** M Attwater 4-9-1	**Harry Burns (3) 93**
7	(4)	556-06	**DARKENED EDGE 21** C Mason 4-8-13	**Darragh Keenan 85**
8	(3)	9452567	**LOUIS TREIZE 5 (D)** D Faulkner 8-8-12	**Shane W Kelly 91**

BETTING: 11-4 Wakai Umi, 4 Brian The Snail, 9-2 Notre Maison, Zing Up, 6 Stryder, 10 Secret Handsheikh, 12 Louis Treize, 33 Darkened Edge
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED and 2023: No corresponding race.

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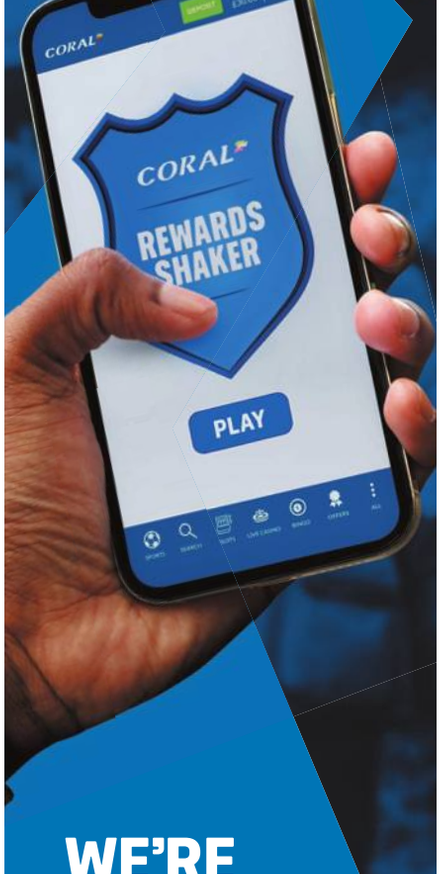

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PITMEN'S DERBY DAY AT NEWCAS

TEMPLEGATE		TOM PEPPER	
1.35	Cross The Tracks	1.35	Wiltshire
2.04	Kinross	2.04	Montassib
2.35	Marbuzet	2.35	Chillhi
3.10	SPIRIT MIXER (nap)	3.10	Howth
3.40	United Approach	3.40	Baradar
4.15	Ardennes	4.15	Death Or Glory
4.50	Sea Legend	4.50	Bystander
5.25	Shifter	5.25	Furzig

TEMPLEGATE'S TRIO: Spirit Mixer (Newcastle) and King Of Conquest (double, Newmarket) with Kinross (Newcastle). TOM PEPPER'S DOUBLE: Nostrum and King Of Conquest (both Newmarket).
SUNRATINGS' NAP: TROOPER BISDEE (3.10 Newcastle).
SIRIUS, Sun On Sunday, nap: YASHIN (3.10 Newcastle).

TRACKFAX . . .

TIC-TAC: Left-handed all-weather Tapeta course with a 3f run-in. Races up to a mile run on the straight course. **DRAW:** High numbers have a slight advantage over 5f. **FAVOURITES:** (2019-2024): 838 have won out of 2,747 races (31%). At corresponding meetings, 34 have won out of 99 races (34.3%). **JACKPOT:** 1-6. **LIVE ON SKY SPORTS RACING**

HOT 'N NOT

TRAINERS with best record in last 14 days: G Boughey 13 wins from 46 runners; K Ryan 10 from 41; M Appleby 7 from 39; W Haggas 9 from 55; K R Burke 9 from 61; R Hannon 9 from 78; T Easterby 10 from 100.
JOCKEYS with best record in last 14 days: James Doyle 8 wins from 39 rides; H Crouch 6 from 30; Mark Winn 5 from 29; B Loughnane 7 from 41; C Fallon 5 from 33; C Beasley 6 from 40.
TRAINERS who have had the most runners since last win: C O'Leary 43; H Main 39; J Tate 26.
JOCKEYS who have had the most rides since last win: C Lee 53.

TOP TRAINERS

2019-2024 R Fahey 82-729, B Ellison 52-504, D O'Meara 51-409, K R Burke 51-427, R Varian 50-200, J Goldie 50-474, W Haggas 46-167, A Watson 44-213, I Jardine 44-532, G Tuer 40-345. **THIS SEASON:** J Goldie 13, I Jardine 12, A Watson 10.

TOP JOCKEYS

2019-2024 P Mulrennan 95-766, H Doyle 49-254, B Robinson 49-455, T Eaves 38-618, A Mullen 37-607, C Lee 34-306, C Beasley 34-329, JP Sullivan 31-490, R Scott 28-361. **THIS SEASON:** P Mulrennan 18, H Doyle 14, T Eaves 9, C Lee 6.

TRAINER TRACE

FIRST RACE FOR NEW YARD: 1.35 Wodao D O'Brien (Ire) to J Osborne; **3.10 Golden Flame** C & M Johnston to D Faulkner; **5.25 Sir Jock Bennett** C Johnston to N Mechie. **RACEFAX:** A King won the 3.10 in 2019 & 2022. W Haggas won the 2.04 in 2022 & 2023.
LONGEST TRAVELLERS: Kingentleman (1.35) trained by D Menuisier, Pulborough, round trip of 672 miles; **Kinross** (2.04) & **Grey's Monument** (3.40) trained by R Beckett, Kimpton Down, round trip of 644 miles; **Batal Dubai** (1.35) & **Baltic** (5.25), H Charlton, Beckhampton, round trip 626 miles.

IN THE MONEY

MONEY TALKS: Sea Legend (4.50) opened 2-1, won at 13-8f; **Forceful Speed** (4.50) opened 2-1, won at 13-8f; **Local Hero** (3.40) opened 7-1, won at 5-1.

TOP EARNERS

2.04 **Kinross**	£1,704,224
3.10 **Tashkhan**	£378,900
2.04 **Cold Case**	£351,362
1.35 **King's Lynn**	£349,334

SCOOP6

LEG 1	**1.35 Newcastle**
LEG 2	**2.04 Newcastle**
LEG 3	**215 Newmarket**
LEG 4	**2.35 Newcastle**
LEG 5	**310 Newcastle**
LEG 6	**3.45 Newcastle**
CURRENT WIN FUND	**£49,942**

UNDER ORDERS

SEVEN-DAY WINNERS: Trooper Bisdee (3.10) won at Pontefract (2m 2f). **Forceful Speed** (4.50) won at Pontefract (1m 4f). **BLINKERED FIRST TIME:** None. **VISORED FIRST TIME:** None. **FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OP:** Westerton (4.50). **WEIGHTWATCHER:** 2.35 **Chillhi** (won off 85, down 6lb to 79); **Haveyoumissedme** (won off 85, down 7lb to 78); **Pons Aelius** (won off 80, down 12lb to 68); 3.40 **Zip** (won off 89, down 3lb to 86); **Documenting** (won off 99, down 5lb to 94). **JOB JOCKEYS:** M Winn rides **Wobwobwob** (1.35)**, Legendary Day** (2.35) for A Keatley, 4 from 16, 25%. M Tabti rides **Bringbackmemories** (2.35) for I Jardine, 4 from 16, 25%. D Probert rides **Single** (2.35) for J Channon, 12 from 54, 22%. H Crouch rides **Kinross** (2.04)**, Grey's Monument** (3.40) for R Beckett, 105 from 498, 21%.

STANDARD TO SLOW

1.35 JENNINGSBET 200 SHOPS HANDICAP (Class 2) value to winner £25,770; 6f (14 runners)

1 26897- **WODAO 279**
(8) J Osborne 4-10-2 ..... **Callum Shepherd** 83
Runs: 14 Wins: 2 (G) Places: 4 £62,540
Left Aidan O'Brien after some modest Grp 3 runs, back from a break, watch

2 1240/ **RIZG 743 (D)**
(4) R Varian 5-9-12 ..... **Hollie Doyle** —
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 (F) Places: 1 £9,663
Big run at Listed level on third start, still unexposed on hcap debut, places

3 2-7425 **SOPHIA'S STARLIGHT 28 (D)**
(5) G Tuer 4-9-11 ..... **Clifford Lee** 92
Runs: 19 Wins: 5 (F,A,2GS,G) Places: 6 £116,977
Gutsy, has no secrets but rarely runs a bad race, hard to rule out a big run

4 21-050 **STRIKE RED 7 (CD)**
(7) R Fahey 6-9-11 ..... **Oisin Orr** 85
Runs: 32 Wins: 7 (2S,3A,GS,G) Places: 3 £196,649
Out of form, on last winning mark but recent signs not positive, best left

5 501-10 **WILTSHIRE 42 (BF,D)**
(6) W Haggas 4-9-11 ..... **Cieren Fallon** 98
Runs: 8 Wins: 3 (2A,GS) £28,835
Unexposed, poor last time but was highly progressive before that, player

6 006-10 **MAGICAL SPIRIT 45 (CD)**
(12) K Ryan 8-9-10 ..... **Tom Eaves** 91
Runs: 40 Wins: 8 (3S,A,2GS,2G) Places: 9 £101,507
Inconsistent, better on the turf but has won off this mark before, each-way

7 9-9234 **KING'S LYNN 27 (D)**
(11) A Balding 7-9-8 ..... **David Probert** 98
Runs: 32 Wins: 4 (S,F,GS,G) Places: 11 £349,334
Has back class, positive signs this year and on a dangerous mark, chance

8 5-0010 **WOBWOBWOB 45 (V;D)**
(10) A Keatley 6-9-7 ..... **Mark Winn (3)** 95
Runs: 37 Wins: 6 (2S,3GS,G) Places: 8 £114,685
Deserved his win two back but has edged back up to a tough mark, risky

9 /875-0 **KINGENTLEMAN 28 (H★,T;D)**
(9) D Menuisier 5-9-6 ..... **Harry Davies** 81
Runs: 13 Wins: 3 (2A,GS) £63,757
Ex-French, tailed off at Donny on stable debut this month, best watched

10 323040 **BATAL DUBAI 21 (P;CD)**
(1) H Charlton 4-9-5 ..... **James Doyle** 94
Runs: 17 Wins: 4 (F,3A) Places: 3 £59,599
Stopped quickly last time, inconsistent form a worry but has class, in mix

11 094-40 **LIR SPECIALE 21 (T;D)**
(14) S Williams 5-9-5 ..... **Marco Ghiani** 95
Runs: 14 Wins: 4 (F,2A,G) Places: 3 £59,047
Runs have suggested he's handicapped to his best, others stronger

12 1-0342 **ALMARADA PRINCE 14 (D)**
(3) C Lidster 3-9-0 ..... **Ethan Jones (5)** ●99
Runs: 8 Wins: 3 (A,2G) Places: 2 £42,748
Lightly raced, posted another improved run at York, 2lb rise, dangerous

13 21-902 **CITY HOUSE 17 (T;D)**
(13) J Fanshawe 3-8-10 ..... **Daniel Muscutt** 96
Runs: 7 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 2 £8,993
Relished return to the AW at Kempton, track will suit him, one to# consider

14 456121 **CROSS THE TRACKS 48 (B;CD)**
(2) R Spencer 3-8-9 ..... **Billy Loughnane** 94
Runs: 11 Wins: 3 (2A,GS) Places: 1 £58,345
Loves it here, up in grade and will be taken on for the lead, not ruled out

BETTING: 4 Wiltshire, 6 Almarada Prince, 13-2 Batal Dubai, 8 Cross The Tracks, 10 City House, Rizg, King's Lynn, 12 Sophia's Starlight, 14 Magical Spirit, Wobwobwob, Strike Red, 16 Wodao, 20 Lir Speciale
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 4 1-8
2023: Batal Dubai 3-8-8, O Murphy 7-2 JtFav (H & R Charlton), dr 9, 9 ran.

Sunracing FORM

WODAO (9-5) 28-1 mid-division, ridden 2f out, 7th of 9 (btn 14l) to Go Athletico (9-7) (Curragh 6f Grp 3 €32,057 soft).
RIZG (9-2) 50-1 rear, no threat, 14th of 20 (btn 10l) to Perfect Power (9-2) (Ascot 8f Grp 1 (t) £283,550 good to firm).
SOPHIA'S STARLIGHT (9-3) 6-1 keen, tracked leader, ridden 2f out, 5th of 8 (btn 6¼l) to Jabaara (8-7) (Musselburgh 7f Listed (1) £22,684 good).
STRIKE RED (9-2) 28-1 13th of 25 (btn 5¼l) to Unequal Love (9-7) (Ascot 6f hcap (2) £90,195 good to firm).
WILTSHIRE (9-2) 5-2 fav ridden 2f out, 10th of 11 (btn 8¼l) to Lethal Levi (8-12) (Newbury 6f hcap (2) £38,655 good).
WOBWOBWOB (8-13) 22-1 rear, ridden 1f out, 10th of 21 (btn 8l) to Aleezdancer (8-13) **MAGICAL SPIRIT** (9-3) 14-1 rear, never a factor, 17th (btn 17l) (21 ran) (York 6f hcap (2) £25,770 good).
KING'S LYNN (9-12) 6-1 effort when not much room 2f out, went 2nd 1f out, 4th of 15 (btn 5l) to Desperate Hero (9-9) (Hamilton 5f hcap (2) £38,655 good).
KINGENTLEMAN (9-8) 40-1 mid-division, pushed along 2f out, soon beaten, last of 13 (btn 11l) to Silver Samurai (9-7) (Doncaster 7f hcap (3) £9,631 good).
LIR SPECIALE (9-5) 16-1 prominent, switched and pushed along 2f out, no extra, 10th of 14 (btn 3¾l) to Buccabay (8-12) **BATAL DUBAI** (9-5) 8-1 handy, pushed along 2f out, last (well btn) (Haydock 6f hcap (3) £16,200 good).
ALMARADA PRINCE (8-5) 16-1 tracked leaders, ridden and every chance final furlong, stayed on one pace, btn 2¼l by James's Delight (9-9) (17 ran) (York 6f hcap (2) £51,540 good to soft).
CITY HOUSE (9-9) 10-3 held up rear, not clear run 2f out, switched, headway 1f out, every chance final furlong, held finish, btn nk by Drama (9-2) (10 ran) (Kempton 6f hcap (4) £5,757 AW).
CROSS THE TRACKS (9-9) 5-4 fav made all, quickened 1f out, in command, ran on well, comfortably, bt Wren Officer (8-13) 2l (9 ran) (Newcastle 6f hcap (4) £10,468 AW).

TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

1.35

CROSS THE TRACKS has such a strong track record with two wins and a second from his three visits. It might have been a perfect record had his 5lb claiming rider not dropped the reins at a crucial stage. Rising star Billy Loughnane is on board today and he can improve past a 6lb rise for a bloodless win last time. He likes to be up there but doesn't have to lead and has more to come. **City House** went down in a photo at Kempton last time and has shown his best over this trip. He looks on a fair mark and will be right there. **Wiltshire** blew out at Newbury last time but earlier won a hot handicap. A repeat of that form would bring him right in to it. **Batal Dubai** won this 12 months ago and is only 1lb higher in the weights. He ran well on his last visit and is a danger along with **Almarada Prince** who was a good second in hot company at York latest.

2.04 JENNINGSBET CHIPCHASE STAKES (GROUP 3); winner £51,039; 6f (11 runners)

1 -11790 **ALBASHEER 7 (B;CD)**
(5) A Watson 6-9-5 ..... **Hollie Doyle** 94
Runs: 20 Wins: 4 (2F,2A) Places: 3 £122,483
Nowhere near his best this year, return to this track will help, one to note

2 /1534- **COLD CASE 328 (D)**
(11) K Burke 4-9-5 ..... **Tom Eaves** 97
Runs: 10 Wins: 4 (2GS,2G) Places: 3 £351,362
Consistent, absent since good Grp 1 run in France, chance if ready to roll

3 -21190 **FIVETHOUSANDTOONE 7 (V;CD)**
(9) A Balding 6-9-5 ..... **David Probert** 90
Runs: 27 Wins: 4 (3A,GS) Places: 7 £163,268
Always off the bridle at Royal Ascot, has a good record here, needs extra

4 31122- **KINROSS 252 (BF,D)**
(3) R Beckett 7-9-5 ..... **Hector Crouch** ●99
Runs: 28 Wins: 10 (2F,3S,A,4GS) Places: 6 £1,704,224
Classy, has gone well fresh and this is a big drop in grade, the one to beat

5 851-16 **MONTASSIB 45 (CD)**
(2) W Haggas 6-9-5 ..... **Cieren Fallon** 97
Runs: 17 Wins: 6 (3S,F,A,G) Places: 2 £167,088
Fast finisher, needs it all to drop right but has the class if it does, dangerous

6 5-0619 **NEVER JUST A DREAM 105 (T;CD)**
(1) I Mohammed 4-9-5 ..... **Callum Shepherd** 82
Runs: 14 Wins: 4 (4A) £51,581
Loves the surface, his recent Jebel Ali form suggests he'll fall way short

7 12-677 **POPMASTER 21 (D)**
(10) E Walker 6-9-5 ..... **Billy Loughnane** 96
Runs: 35 Wins: 6 (2S,F,2A,GS) Places: 10 £215,376
Best over 7f, running well this year but may be outpaced in this, down list

8 22-228 **RAMAZAN 21 (V;D)**
(8) R Fahey 4-9-5 ..... **Oisin Orr** 91
Runs: 17 Wins: 4 (S,2F,GS) Places: 7 £290,026
AW debut, return to 6f may help but yard struggling for winners, has risk

9 233-30 **SPYCATCHER 45 (BF,D)**
(4) K Burke 6-9-5 ..... **Clifford Lee** 98
Runs: 26 Wins: 5 (2S,F,A,G) Places: 13 £335,366
Grp 1 placed in France last year, only beaten a neck in this last year, player

10 011-39 **WILLEM TWEE 42 (D)**
(6) J Fanshawe 5-9-5 ..... **Daniel Muscutt** 95
Runs: 12 Wins: 4 (2F,2A) Places: 2 £59,253
Listed defeat on return followed by handicap flop at Newbury, vulnerable

11 2281-0 **BALLYMOUNT BOY 70 (D)**
(7) A Keatley 3-8-12 ..... **James Doyle** 90
Runs: 7 Wins: 2 (S,GS) Places: 3 £108,783
Listed winner as a 2yo, first run since when tailed off at Newbury, best left

BETTING: 5-2 Kinross, 5 Montassib, 13-2 Albasheer, Cold Case, 10 Ramazan, Spycatcher, 10 Willem Twee, 12 Ballymount Boy, Popmaster
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 0 8 1 1
2023: Tiber Flow 4-9-5, T Marquand 5-2 Fav (W Haggas), dr 3, 8 ran.

Sunracing FORM

ALBASHEER (9-5) 11-2 in touch, ridden 1f out, faded, 18th of 25 (btn 7l) to Unequal Love (9-7) **FIVETHOUSANDTOONE** (9-10) 16-1 in touch, ridden 1f out, faded, 22nd (btn 8l) (Ascot 6f hcap (2) £90,195 good to firm).
SPYCATCHER (9-4) 15-8 fav led 2f out, ridden, headed close home, game, btn sh hd by King Gold (9-4) **COLD CASE** (8-13) 9-2 shaken up 2f out, hard ridden, one pace, 4th (btn 2¼l) (10 ran) (Deauville 6f Grp 1 £192,152 heavy).
KINROSS (9-4) 5-4 fav led final furlong, ran on, headed near line, btn nk by Art Power (9-4) **SPYCATCHER** (9-4) 11-1 in touch, ridden and headway 1f out, stayed on, 3rd (btn 2¼l) (15 ran) (Ascot 6f Grp 1 (t) £283,550 soft).
MONTASSIB (9-10) 17-2 held up, ridden and headway final furlong, kept on, 6th of 14 (btn 3¾l) to Mill Stream (9-10) **FIVETHOUSANDTOONE** (9-10) 28-1 in rear, pushed along 2f out, never on terms, 9th (btn 5¼l) **SPYCATCHER** (9-10) 4-1 jt fav in touch, headway 1f out, held final furlong, 11th (btn 6¾l) (York 6f Grp 2 (1) £85,065 good).
NEVER JUST A DREAM (9-3) one pace, 9th of 16 (btn 8¼l) to Major Cinnamon (8-6) (Jebel Ali 5f hcap £13,002 fast).
POPMASTER (9-2) 10-1 mid-division,

TEMPLEGAT

KINROSS can make his Grou in grade. He has plenty of asset as this is a stretching s form on the all-weather a second in Ascot's Champion and should be too record here and course and dis seemed at hor can show his very game and months ago. He level last season again. **Montassib** ki good win in the mud at D again in hot company at Yo the break but likes to come some useful form and is p gone well fresh so can't be v

2.04

2.35 JENNINGSBET NOR HANDICAP (2) £38

1 06-680 **LEGEND**
(1) A Keatley 6-9
Runs: 31 Wins: 6 (2S,F,2A
Won over fences two back, Fla

2 445-15 **SINGLE**
(3) J Channon 7-
Runs: 48 Wins: 4 (3F,GS)
Stamina has run out when trie

3 /7-511 **ALPHON**
(12) C O'Leary (Ire
Runs: 21 Wins: 4 (F,3A)
On a roll, strong Irish stayer, wo

4 331663 **BRINGBA**
(4) I Jardine 5-9-
Runs: 28 Wins: 4 (2A,GS,
Consistent, has no secrets but

5 6-4453 **FAYLAQ**
(2) J Goldie 8-9-
Runs: 39 Wins: 3 (A,GS,G
Really caught the eye at Hamil

6 6-6258 **CHILLHI**
(9) B Ellison 4-9-
Runs: 17 Wins: 2 (2A)
Out of form, will like this step u

7 2140-0 **BELGOP**
(10) C O'Leary (Ire
Runs: 28 Wins: 4 (A,2G)
Dangerously weighted on his b

8 -66020 **HAVEYO**
(8) I Jardine 6-9-
Runs: 26 Wins: 4 (2S,2A)
Hard to predict, more out than

9 33-485 **ZIMMER**
(7) T Easterby 5-
Runs: 28 Wins: 4 (2S,2GS
Better than the bare result whe

10 /248-0 **THE PRE**
(11) R Fahey 5-9-
Runs: 13 Wins: 1 (G)
Back from a year off with a mo

11 08-000 **GREEN T**
(14) I Williams 5-9
Runs: 19 Wins: 1 (F)
Gelded over the winter but has

12 -70636 **PONS AE**
(6) C Johnston 5
Runs: 38 Wins: 5 (2F,3A)
Pace angle, this mark is tempti

13 2-5224 **MARBUZ**
(5) T Easterby 5-
Runs: 27 Wins: 4 (2F,GS,
Tough, has a great attitude and

14 2-1261 **SHOW N**
(13) R Menzies 4-
Runs: 14 Wins: 2 (A,G)
Given easiest of leads when wi

BETTING: 11-4 Alphonse Le Gran Zimmerman, Faylaq, Pons Aelius, 1 Bringbackmemories, 16 Haveyoumis
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED
2023: La Hacienda 6-9-8, H Davie

Sunracin

ZIMMERMAN (8-6) 13-2 never closer than mid-division, 8th of 13 (btn 13l) to Divine Comedy (8-10) **LEGENDARY DAY** (8-12) 16-1 rear, tailed off and eased inside final 3f, last (well btn) (Haydock 2m hcap (2) £25,770 soft).
SINGLE (9-8) 7-2 one pace, 5th of 7 (btn 7l) to Mountain Road (9-10) (Newmarket 1¼m hcap (4) £7,731 good to firm).
ALPHONSE LE GRANDE (8-10) 17-2 headway 1f out, led near line, ran on, bt Hamsiyann (9-9) 2¼l **GREEN TEAM** (9-0) 33-1 rear, never on terms, 14th (well btn) (16 ran) (Chester 2m 3f hcap (2) £25,480 good to firm).
BRINGBACKMEMORIES (8-10) 9-1 pushed along 2f out, ridden 1f out, stayed on, not trouble front pair, 3rd of 9 (btn 2½l) to Euchen Glen (9-4) (Ayr 1m 5f hcap (2) £21,600 good to firm).
FAYLAQ (8-11) 11-1 slow away, behind, headway 3f out, hung right 1f out, switched, held, kept on, 3rd of 12 (btn 2¼l) to Dark Moon Rising (8-11) (Hamilton 1m 5f hcap (3) £14,947 good).
CHILLHI (9-12) 28-1 headway 2f out, one pace, 8th of 18 (btn 13l) to Lord Melbourne (9-13) **GREEN TEAM** (9-0)

STLE ITV: 1.35 - 3.40

CORAL

never pace to get involved, 7th of 11 (btn 4l) to Tiber Flow (9-2) **RAMAZAN** (9-2) 5-1 mid-division, switched 2f out, not much room 1f out, 8th (btn 4¼l) (Haydock 7f Grp 3 (1) £48,204 good).
WILLEM TWEE (9-12) 6-1 in touch, headway 1f out, kept on one pace, 9th of 11 (btn 8l) to Lethal Levi (8-12) (Newbury 6f hcap (2) £38,655 good).
BALLYMOUNT BOY (9-2) 7-1 in rear, ridden halfway, ridden 2f out, last of 11 (btn 15l) to Esquire (9-2) (Newbury 7f Grp 3 (1) £51,039 good to soft).

E'S VERDICT

up 1 class count on this drop stamina, which will be an ix furlongs. He has winning nd was last seen finishing ns Sprint. He goes well fresh sharp. **Albasheer** has a good landed a hot handicap over tance in January. He hasn't me on turf this season and true colours. **Spycatcher** is was a close second in this 12 held his own at the highest and will be on the premises icked off the season with a Donny and wasn't far away rk last month. He can miss late anyway. **Cold Case** has roven in this grade. He has written off.

RTHUMBERLAND VASE
,655; 2m (14 runners)

ARY DAY J21 (P;C,D)
-12 ..... **Mark Winn (3) 94**
A,GS) Places: 7 £95,818
t form before that was modest, not obvious

7
9-12(5lbex) .... **David Probert 89**
Places: 16 £89,518
d at this trip before, struggled latest, left out

SE LE GRANDE 50 (T)
e) 5-9-10 ..... **Hollie Doyle ●99**
Places: 1 £44,974
on well at Chester last time, tough to beat

ACKMEMORIES 7 (T;C)
10..... **Mohammed Tabti (5) 92**
G) Places: 9 £51,889
could improve for new trip, not ruled out

27
9..... **Paul Mulrennan 97**
G) Places: 9 £108,839
ton, this test might be perfect, interesting

14 (C)
8 ..... **Ben Robinson 93**
Places: 2 £25,297
p in trip but needs to bounce back, places

RINCE J18 (T)
e) 7-9-8 ..... **James Doyle 98**
Places: 5 £41,340
best, good run over hurdles latest, chance

UMISSEDME 69 (CD)
7..... **Andrew Mullen 86**
Places: 5 £52,645
in of late despite dropping mark, best left

MAN 14 (P;D)
9-7..... **James Sullivan 97**
G) Places: 5 £53,741
n always outpaced at Chester, one to note

EDICTOR 13 (P;D)
6..... **Oisin Orr 82**
Places: 5 £20,448
dest run at Thirsk, very hard to fancy again

TEAM 14 (T)
-3..... **Josephine Gordon 78**
Places: 1 £19,452
shown nothing this year, would be a shock

ELIUS 21 (BF,D)
8-11 ..... **Billy Loughnane 93**
Places: 10 £126,579
ng and he was backed last time, in the mix

ZET 13 (B;D)
8-9..... **Duran Fentiman 95**
G) Places: 11 £39,433
d arrives in career-best form, not far away

O FEAR J33 (P;CD)
8-8..... **Cam Hardie 95**
Places: 4 £13,718
nning at Ayr latest, not certain to back it up

de, 6 Belgoprince, 15-2 Marbuzet, 8
0 Chillhi, 14 Single, Legendary Day,
ssedme, 20 Show No Fear.
: 1 3 0 4 8
s 11-1 (M J Smith Ire), dr 6, 14 ran.

g FORM

66-1 ridden 2f out, 12th (well btn) (York 1f/m hcap (3) £12,222 good to soft).
BELGOPRINCE (9-13) 33-1 rear, ridden 3f out, never a factor, last of 13 (well btn) to Mr Rango (9-12) (Leopardstown 1f/m hcap €9,000 heavy).
HAVEYOUMISSEDME (9-9) 11-1 ridden 2f out, never dangerous, 10th of 13 (btn 11l) to Destinado (8-11) (Musselburgh 1f/m hcap (4) £12,885 good to soft).
ZIMMERMAN (9-7) 9-2 pushed along 2f out, ridden 1f out, one pace, 5th of 10 (btn 9¼l) to Rich Belief (9-5) (Chester 2m hcap (4) £7,644 soft).
MARBUZET (8-0) 8-1 headway tracking leaders 2f out, kept on final furlong, 4th of 15 (btn 2¾l) to Letsbefrank (7-13)
THE PREDICTOR (9-1) 20-1 rear, never on terms, 13th (btn 15l) (15 ran) (Thirsk 1f/m hcap (4) £10,360 good to soft).
PONS AELIUS (9-8) 7-2 fav handy, lridden and held 2f out, 6th of 11 (btn 8¼l) to Gibside (9-8) (Catterick 1f/m hcap (5) £4,187 good to firm).
SHOW NO FEAR (8-12) 9-2 made all, quickened 3f out, stayed on well, soon clear, easily, bt Animato (9-10) 4l (4 ran) (Ayr 1m 7f hcap (5) £4,187 good).

TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

MARBUZET was a little unlucky at Thirsk last time and this longer trip should help. He has been running well for Tim Easterby and should be able to take this off a modest mark of 66. Two Tony Martin horses – currently trained by his sister after he copped a six-month anti-doping ban – look dangerous.

2.35

Alphonse Le Grande was impressive when scoring at Chester last month and has loads of staying power. Fancied stablemate **Belgoprince** came back to form over hurdles 18 days ago and has run well on the all-weather before. **Zimmerman** didn't get much luck at Chester latest and has had a little nudge down the weights. He stays and won't be far away. **Faylaq** came from a fair way back when third over 1m5f at Hamilton. He doesn't win very often but this longer trip will give him a chance to hit top gear. **Chillhi** likes it here and could improve for this stamina test.

3.10 JENNINGSBET NORTHUMBERLAND PLATE HANDICAP (2); £81,000; 2m (20 runners)

1 80133- **TASHKHAN 244 (BF)**
(16) B Ellison 6-9-13..... **Ben Robinson 95**
Runs: 25 Wins: 4 (4S) Places: 5 £378,900
Classy stayer, weight no help but yard flying and he goes well fresh, places

2 674-33 **YASHIN 43**
(1) J Harrington (Ire) 5-9-7 **Scott McCullagh (3) 96**
Runs: 14 Wins: 3 (3G) Places: 1 £110,712
Has run well behind Kyprios last twice, competitive off this mark, chance

3 -11135 **SPARTAN ARMY 71 (D)**
(18) A King 5-8-11..... **Billy Loughnane 94**
Runs: 9 Wins: 4 (3A) Places: 2 £73,973
Unexposed, ran well here two back and has room to improve, one to note

4 6080-1 **ZOFFEE 50 (CD)**
(13) H Palmer 8-8-10..... **Harry Davies 97**
Runs: 23 Wins: 4 (2F,A,G) Places: 7 £223,257
Chester Cup win on stable debut, 4lb rise looks fair, unlikely to be far away

5 -64282 **ONESMOOTHOPERATOR 62 (C)**
(12) B Ellison 6-8-9 ..... **Connor Beasley 91**
Runs: 32 Wins: 3 (3A) Places: 14 £143,781
Consistent, handicapped to his best but will keep on galloping, each-way

6 825-22 **TRUE LEGEND 35 (C)**
(15) Sir M Prescott 4-8-8 ..... **Cieren Fallon 93**
Runs: 14 Wins: 3 (A,2G) Places: 4 £67,828
Can lead or track, has quirks but long promised to love this trip, interesting

7 8/1024 **TOO FRIENDLY 27 (P;D)**
(8) J Owen 6-8-7..... **Callum Shepherd 89**
Runs: 10 Wins: 2 (A,G) Places: 3 £20,081
Unlucky at Newmarket two back, this trip on AW not ideal, others stronger

8 35-190 **ZEALANDIA 50 (P;CD)**
(7) I Williams 7-8-7..... **Josephine Gordon 83**
Runs: 27 Wins: 4 (S,A,G) Places: 7 £87,757
Won over track & trip on return, well beaten twice since, hard to fancy

9 7-8903 **SPIRIT MIXER 20 (P)**
(6) A Balding 6-8-7 ..... **George Rooke 91**
Runs: 24 Wins: 5 (2F,A,2G) Places: 5 £88,886
On a good mark, signs of better latest, trainer thinks he can out-run odds

10 11-320 **DUKE OF OXFORD 50 (T;D)**
(20) M Bell 4-8-6..... **Tyler Heard (3) 98**
Runs: 12 Wins: 4 (4A) Places: 3 £110,225
Flew home over this track & trip two back, forgive latest, taken seriously

11 3-0002 **SOLENT GATEWAY 35 (P,T;D)**
(4) H Palmer 6-8-6..... **Rowan Scott 88**
Runs: 34 Wins: 4 (F,A,GS,G) Places: 11 £137,204
Better at Haydock but far from guaranteed to back that up, not fancied

12 210-35 **GRAND PROVIDENCE 50 (D)**
(14) A Balding 4-8-6 ..... **David Probert 96**
Runs: 11 Wins: 3 (F,A,G) Places: 4 £68,822
Has been coming to the boil this year, not fully exposed, won't be far away

13 /2-048 **ISLAND BRAVE 7 (CD)**
(5) H Main 10-8-6..... **Ethan Jones (5) 81**
Runs: 65 Wins: 12 (3F,7A,2G) Places: 4 £292,842
Bitterly disappointing this year, yard struggling for winners, little chance

14 114-11 **TROOPER BISDEE 6 (D)**
(10) Sir M Prescott 4-8-6(5lbex).... **Hollie Doyle ●99**
Runs: 12 Wins: 6 (3F,GS,2G) £27,492
Loves a test, all about stamina and lots to spare at Ponte on Sun, obvious appeal

15 45-591 **EVALUATION 67 (T;D)**
(19) L Russell 6-8-4..... **Andrew Mullen 90**
Runs: 23 Wins: 6 (F,2A,3G) Places: 5 £71,324
Wolves win took advantage of declining mark, yard badly out of form, risky

16 0-5414 **HOWTH 92 (H)**
(9) M Appleby 5-8-4..... **Marco Ghiani 87**
Runs: 24 Wins: 2 (A,G) Places: 2 £49,413
Hit the line hard behind Duke Of Oxford and Spartan Army, outside chance

17 36025/ **GOLDEN FLAME 612**
(11) D Faulkner 6-8-3 ..... **Duran Fentiman —**
Runs: 23 Wins: 3 (2F,A) Places: 6 £92,097
Hard to predict, stamina not in doubt but wellbeing after big break is, avoid

18 18-786 **FORZA ORTA 35 (D)**
(17) K Ryan 6-8-3..... **James Sullivan 92**
Runs: 24 Wins: 4 (2F,GS,G) Places: 7 £111,517
Not hit top form this season, but plenty in his favour, go well off nice weight

19 2-3132 **RATHGAR 13**
(3) J Channon 4-8-2 ..... **Cam Hardie 86**
Runs: 13 Wins: 2 (S,GS) Places: 6 £39,176
First try at 2m, not an obvious stayer if this turns into a real test, best left

20 534373 **ARTISAN DANCER 13 (C,D)**
(2) C Johnston 4-8-2..... **Andrew Breslin (3) 80**
Runs: 31 Wins: 5 (5A) Places: 11 £56,729
Frustrating, rarely runs a bad race but this is a big rise in grade, avoid

BETTING: 6 Trooper Bisdee, 7 Zoffee, 15-2 Duke Of Oxford, Grand Providence, 8 Onesmoothoperator, Yashin, 10 Spartan Army, 12 True Legend, Tashkhan, 18 Zealandia, Howth, Evaluation, 20 Rathgar.

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 0 1 6 1 2-4

2023: Calling The Wind 7-9-4, N Callan 14-1 (R Hughes), dr 14, 19 ran.

EACH-WAY THIEF

ZIMMERMAN (2.35 Newcastle) didn't get much luck at Chester and can get closer here. Have an each-way double with SPARTAN ARMY (3.10 Newcastle) who has an excellent record at the track and can make his presence felt.

Sunracing FORM

TASHKHAN (9-4) 9-2 co fav handy, ridden 3f out, one pace, 3rd of 11 (btn 8¾l) to Double Major (8-10) (Longchamp 1m 7f Grp 1 £176,982 heavy).
YASHIN (9-5) 14-1 ridden in 4th 1f out, went 3rd, kept on one pace, 3rd of 6 (btn 2¾l) to Kyprios (9-5) (Leopardstown 1¼m Grp 3 €31,500 good).
GRAND PROVIDENCE (8-9) 9-4 fav held up rear, headway 2f out, ridden 1f out, stayed on, 3rd of 9 (btn 3l) to Prince Alex (8-5) **SPARTAN ARMY** (9-3) 9-2 ridden to chase winner 1f out, no extra, 5th (btn 3¼l) (9 ran) (Newbury 2m hcap (2) £23,193 good to soft).
ZOFFEE (8-7) 9-1 led final furlong, ran on, bt Emiyn (8-4) ¾l **GRAND PROVIDENCE** (8-6) 15-2 prominent, pushed along 2f out, kept on, 5th (btn 2¾l) **FORZA ORTA** (8-6) 9-1 headway 2f out, switched, ran on, 8th (btn 4l) **TOO FRIENDLY** (8-6) 9-2 keen close up, ridden 1f out, weakened, 10th (btn 6¾l) **DUKE OF OXFORD** (8-7) 12-1 rear, ridden 2f out, never a factor, 11th (btn 8¾l) **ZEALANDIA** (8-9) 28-1 midfield, ridden 2f out, 12th (btn 9¾l) **SPIRIT MIXER** (8-8) 33-1 13th (btn 11l) **SOLENT GATEWAY** (8-9) 20-1 in touch, faded 2f out, 14th (btn 15l) (16 ran) (Chester 2m 3f (2) £86,632 good to firm).
ONESMOOTHOPERATOR (8-13) 10-1 rear, headway 2f out, stayed on, btn 1¾l by Prydwen (9-12) (9 ran) (Southwell 2m hcap (2) £39,255 AW).
TRUE LEGEND (8-13) 10-3 keen hold, not clear run 3f out and 2f out, headway 1f out, stayed on, just held, btn sh hd by Tides Of War (8-9) (8 ran) (Goodwood 1¾/m hcap (2) £23,193 good).
TOO FRIENDLY (9-8) 9-2 every chance, kept on one pace, 4th of 12 (btn 2¾l) to Dark Moon Rising (8-11) (Hamilton 1m 5f hcap (3) £14,947 good).
SPIRIT MIXER (9-10) 13-2 chased leaders, ridden 3f out, 3rd of 11 (btn 7½l) to Tenerife Sunshine (9-1) (Goodwood 2m hcap (3) £12,885 good).
SOLENT GATEWAY (9-2) 14-1 went 2nd 2f out, stayed on but easily held by winner, btn 5¼l by Divine Comedy (8-10) **FORZA ORTA** (9-1) 14-1 ridden 3f out, 6th (btn 12l) (13 ran) (Haydock 2m hcap (2) £25,770 soft).
ISLAND BRAVE (9-6) 22-1 led from 3f, pushed along 2f out, 8th of 9 (btn 12l) to Euchen Glen (9-4) (Ayr 1m 5f hcap (2) £21,600 good to firm).
TROOPER BISDEE (9-9) 11-8 fav held up in 5th, headway to lead after 4f, pushed clear 2f out, ridden and in no danger 1f out, stayed on strongly, heavily eased inside final 110 yards, bt Weddell Sea (8-7) 4l (7 ran) (Pontefract 2¼/m hcap (4) £5,154 good to firm).
EVALUATION (10-1) 4-1 went 3rd 1f out, stayed on, led close home, bt Miss Cynthia (9-3) nk (6 ran) (W'hampton 2m hcap (4) £4,972 AW).
DUKE OF OXFORD (8-2) 18-1 mid-division, headway 2f out, ridden 1f out, stayed on, btn 3¼l by Prydwen (9-3) **SPARTAN ARMY** (8-13) 5-1 went 2nd 1f out, one pace, 3rd (btn 3¾l) **HOWTH** (8-6) 33-1 headway 1f out, kept on, 4th (btn 4l) (13 ran) (Newcastle 2m hcap (2) £77,310 AW).
GOLDEN FLAME (9-13) 13-2 prominent, ridden 4f out, 5th of 6 (well btn) to Prince Imperial (10-2) (Nottingham 1¾/m hcap (3) £6,750 soft).
RATHGAR (9-8) 11-2 headway chasing leaders and went 2nd 6f out, led 2f out, headed final furlong, stayed on, no chance with winner, btn 1¼l by Letsbefrank (7-13) **ARTISAN DANCER** (9-6) 50-1 headway tracking leaders 2f out, not clear run, kept on same pace, 3rd (btn 2¼l) (15 ran) (Thirsk 1¾/m hcap (4) £10,360 good to soft).

TEMPLEGATE'S VERDICT

SPIRIT MIXER came right back to form when third at Goodwood last time and can go close in what looks a wide-open Plate. He was second in this two years ago when just half a length behind Trueshan and is 6lb lower in the weights now. He has been relatively lightly raced since and ran well last time. He has a solid chance for Andrew Balding. In-form Sir Mark Prescott has two good chances. The well-backed **Trooper Bisdee** is a proven stayer who won one of Pontefract's marathons last time. But I prefer the claims of **True Legend** who went down in a tight finish over 1m6f at Goodwood. He shapes like a stayer and should be on the premises. Local boy Brian Ellison has a good chance with **Onesmoothoperator**. He has been knocking on the door and was a close second over this trip at Southwell last time. He has winning form here and is on a fair weight. In contrast, Ellison's other runner **Tashkhan** is classy but looks to have too much lead in the saddle. **Zoffee** got the better of **Grand Providence** when winning the Chester Cup. Despite the trip, that turned into a bit of a sprint which didn't help the latter. They should both run well and it would be no shock to see the form turned around. **Duke Of Oxford** got no luck in running in that Roodee contest and is better judged on his close second on all-weather finals day here. He's off the same mark and is dangerous. **Spartan Army** saves his best for this surface and was a solid third here in that Good Friday contest. A repeat of that would give him a chance.

3.10

BIG-RACE TRENDS

Yr	G	Ran	Winner	Age	Jockey	Trainer	SP	Wt	OR	Drw	Days	Form
23	Slw	19	**CALLING THE WIND**	7	Callan, N	Hughes, R	14/1	9-4	99	14	11	3370462
22	Slw	20	**TRUESHAN**	6	Doyle, Hollie	King, A	3/1	10-8	120	10	80	1126111
21	Std	20	**NICHOLAS T**	9	Robinson, B	Goldie, J S	33/1	8-10	96	17	14	7016371
20	Std	18	**CARAVAN OF HOPE**	4	Bentley, H	Palmer, H	9/2	8-5	89	17	18	4232112
19	Slw	19	**WHO DARES WINS**	7	Marquand, T	King, A	12/1	9-1	101	7	50	353332
18	Slw	20	**WITHHOLD**	5	Winston, R	Charlton, R	5/1	9-1	99	11	259	7212131
17	Std	20	**HIGHER POWER**	5	Queally, T P	Fanshawe, J	11/2	9-9	107	13	37	3122122
16	Std	20	**ANTIQUARIUM**	4	McDonald, J	Appleby, C	16/1	9-5	99	3	35	1922574
15	Gd	19	**QUEST FOR MORE**	5	Baker, G	Charlton, R	15/2	9-4	104	3	35	1220121
14	GF	19	**ANGEL GABRIAL**	5	Chaloner, G	Fahey, R A	4/1	8-12	96	1	52	64412
13	GS	18	**TOMINATOR**	6	Lee, G	O'Neill, J	8/1	9-10	102	4	52	43171P3
12	Hvy	16	**ILE DE RE**	6	Crowley, J	McCain, D	5/2	9-3	101	9	52	U321101
11	GS	19	**TOMINATOR**	4	Pickard, P	Hollinshead, R	25/1	8-5	90	14	17	2412363
10	GF	19	**OVERTURN**	6	Ahern, E	McCain, D	14/1	8-7	93	21	49	4321112

3.10 Northumberland Plate

TROOPER BISDEE has Newcastle glory on a Plate.

Thirteen of the past 14 winners of the Plate finished in the first three last time out. That's a negative for **Spartan Army**, **Too Friendly**, **Zealandia**, **Duke Of Oxford**, **Grand Providence**, **Island Brave**, **Howth**, **Golden Flame** and **Forza Orta**.

The incredible effort of Trueshan two years ago aside, the official ratings bracket is between 89 and 107.

That further crosses out **Evaluation**, **Rathgar** and **Artisan Dancer** from the bottom of the weights and **Tashkhan** at the top. Looking at the age of past winners, **Zoffee** has a lot on his plate as an eight-year-old.

The draw used to be a massive factor when this race was run on turf but the nine runnings since Newcastle went all-weather has seen a wide range of stalls scoring.

The same applies to the starting price with winners right up to 33-1 in the past decade.

It's not essential but it's a major plus to have scored over two miles. That rules out **Yashin**, **Onesmoothoperator**, **True Legend** and **Spirit Mixer**.

So we're left with **Solent Gateway** who looks a solid each-way bet at around 16-1 and **TROOPER BISDEE** who ticks most boxes.

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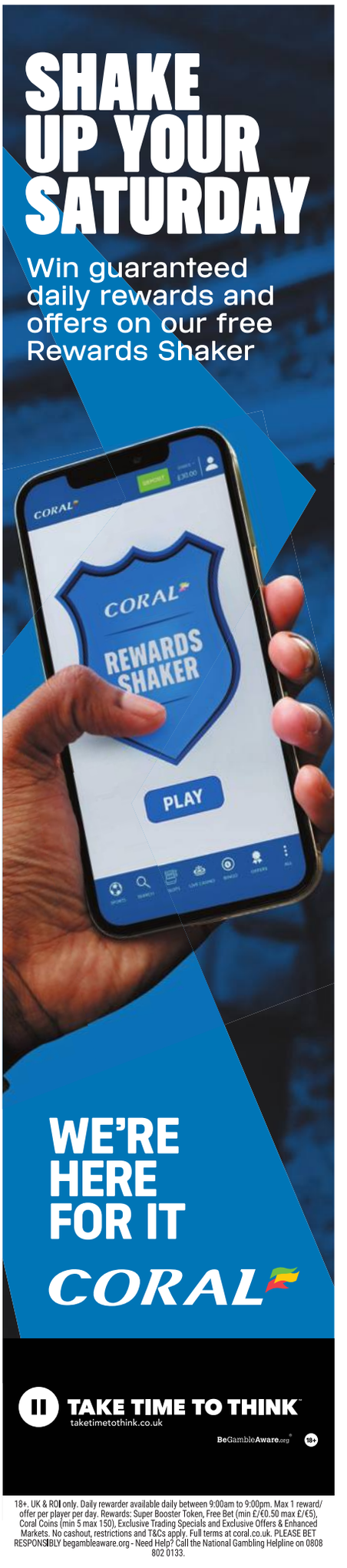

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NEWCASTLE

3.40 DOWNLOAD THE RACEDAY READY APP HANDICAP (2) £27,000; 7f (12 runners)

1 231-30 **GREY'S MONUMENT 44 (D)**
(9) R Beckett 4-10-2 .... **Hector Crouch** 97
Runs: 13 Wins: 3 (A,2GS) Places: 3 £84,527
Yet to hit form this season, plenty of weight but not surprise if he runs well

2 5-5498 **MAKE ME KING 9 (P;D)**
(6) H Al Jehani (UAE) 4-9-13 .. **James Doyle** 93
Runs: 13 Wins: 2 (A,GS) Places: 3 £80,523
Not really made much impact in UK this season, more needed

3 0-3790 **RAADOBARG 10 (P,T;D)**
(3) G Boughey 6-9-12 ..... **Daniel Muscutt** 97
Runs: 27 Wins: 5 (F,2S) Places: 4 £158,963
Classy, found ground too quick in the Hunt Cup at Royal Ascot, do better

4 0-5470 **BARADAR 9 (P,T;D)**
(5) G Boughey 6-9-11 ..... **Billy Loughnane** 96
Runs: 23 Wins: 5 (4S,G) Places: 2 £175,145
Loves the mud and will take to this track, dropped to last winning mark

5 32-613 **DOCUMENTING 50 (D)**
(1) K Frost 11-9-5 .... **Paul Mulrennan** 93
Runs: 57 Wins: 11 (F,8A,2G) Places: 13 £214,413
A-W specialist, not getting any younger at the age of 11, e-w chance

6 9-1159 **LIAMARTY DREAMS 35 (CD)**
(4) K Burke 5-9-2 .... **Clifford Lee** 91
Runs: 33 Wins: 6 (S,F,A,GS,2G) Places: 6 £80,008
Won twice in March, struggled since and hcapper may have him

7 5-2100 **ELDRICKJONES 10 (CD)**
(8) R Fell & S Murray 5-9-2 .. **Cieren Fallon** 89
Runs: 31 Wins: 4 (F,3A) Places: 6 £82,619
Impressive when winning here last month, not so good since, do better

8 8138-0 **YERMANTHERE 14 (D)**
(12) T Easterby 6-8-13 ..... **Duran Fentiman** 86
Runs: 19 Wins: 2 (S) Places: 2 £24,428
Ex-Irish, might need more help from the hcapper, best watched

9 564225 **ZIP 35 (CD)**
(11) R Fahey 8-8-11 .... **Oisin Orr** 98
Runs: 67 Wins: 10 (6S,4A) Places: 22 £161,674
Running well without winning, likes it here and big chance if getting cover

10 51/1-4 **UNITED APPROACH 42**
(2) J Tate 4-8-11 .... **Connor Beasley** 97
Runs: 4 Wins: 2 (S,GS) £12,522
Unexposed, solid return over 6f at Newbury, must settle now up in trip

11 2-1326 **GIANT 38 (BF,D)**
(7) R Spencer 4-8-11 .... **David Probert** 95
Runs: 12 Wins: 2 (2A) Places: 5 £17,594
A-W specialist, 12lb higher than last win and plenty on his plate today

12 19-21 **LOCAL HERO 24 (D)**
(10) R Hannon 3-8-7 .... **Hollie Doyle** ●99
Runs: 4 Wins: 2 (2A) Places: 1 £11,280
Progressive, quickened well to win at Kempton latest, strong fancy

BETTING: 3 Giant, 11-2 Zip, 6 Local Hero, 7 Baradar, 15-2 Grey's Monument, Make Me King, 8 Liamarty Dreams, 10 United Approach
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 7 4 3
2023: Adeb 4-8-12, Billy Garritty 13-2 (R Fahey), drawn 9, 8 ran.

Sunracing FORM

GREY'S MONUMENT (9-12) 16-1 close up, ridden final 2f, weakened, 10th of 17 (btn 10l) to Point Lynas (9-6) (York 1m hcap (2) £38,655 good).
MAKE ME KING (9-12) 12-1 led, headed 1f out, weakened, 8th of 26 (btn 7¼l) to English Oak (9-8) **BARADAR** (9-10) 50-1 weakened, 18th (Ascot 7f hcap (2) £56,694 good to firm).
ELDRICKJONES (8-8) 66-1 weakened, 14th of 29 (btn 7¾l) to Wild Tiger (9-0) **RAADOBARG** (9-5) 40-1 weakened, 20th (btn 10l) (29 ran) (Ascot 1m hcap (2) £90,195 good to firm).
DOCUMENTING (9-10) 28-1 pushed along 2f out, kept on, 3rd of 13 (btn 2¾l) to Percy's Lad (9-11) **LIAMARTY DREAMS** (9-8) 4-1 kept on, 5th (3¼l) (Chester 1m hcap (2) £22,932 good).
BARADAR (9-12) 7-2 fav weakened 2f out, 7th of 9 (6l) to Spirit Genie (8-9) **LIAMARTY DREAMS** (9-1) 11-2 led, headed 2f out, weakened, last (9¼l) (Chester 7f hcap (2) £25,480 good).
YERMANTHERE (9-12) 33-1 weakened 1f out, 12th of 17 (4½l) to Tolstoy (8-11) (York 7f hcap (3) £15,462 good).
ZIP (9-6) 11-2 led 6f out, headed 1f out, 5th of 6 (btn 5l) to English Oak (9-9) (Haydock 7f hcap (3) £16,200 soft).
UNITED APPROACH (8-9) 12-1 in touch, headway final furlong, kept on, 4th of 11 (4¼l) to Lethal Levi (8-12) (Newbury 6f hcap (2) £38,655 good).
GIANT (9-6) 5-2 fav outpaced 2f out, no extra, 6th of 10 (4l) to Rajindri (9-6) (Kempton 7f hcap (4) £5,757 AW).
LOCAL HERO (9-9) 5-1 led 1f out, ran on, bt North View (9-1) 1¾l (10 ran) (Kempton 7f hcap (4) £5,757 AW).

4.15 WINNERS WEAR SKOPES MENSWEAR EBF NOVICE STAKES (2); 2-y-o; winner £17,010; 5f. (9 runners)

1 (3) 61 **ARDENNES 18** E Walker 9-9 .... **Hector Crouch 97**
2 (1) 60 **AGAINST THE WIND 23** K Ryan 9-4 .... **Tom Eaves 80**
3 (8) 08 **CHASING GOLD 15** R Cowell 9-4 .... **Daniel Muscutt 74**
4 (9) **DARLA'S SECRET** S Spencer 9-4 .... **Dale Swift —**
5 (4) 24 **DEATH OR GLORY 14** R Fahey 9-4 .... **Oisin Orr 93**
6 (7) **DUTCH FINALE** G Boughey 9-4 .... **Billy Loughnane —**
7 (6) 32 **INVITED 7** R Hannon 9-4 .... **Hollie Doyle ●99**
8 (5) 5 **LOUDAN 14** A Balding 8-13 .... **David Probert 91**
9 (2) 304 **SYBARIS JEWEL 37** B Ellison 8-13 .... **Ben Robinson 89**

BETTING: 9-4 Invited, 4 Ardennes, 5 Death Or Glory, 11-2 Dutch Finale, 8 Loudan
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 5 1 1
2023: Markakol 9-7 Andrea Atzeni 6-4 Fav (R Varian) drawn 7, 7 ran.

4.50 FREE DIGITAL RACECARD AT RACEDAY-READY.COM HANDICAP (3); winner £18,900; 1m 2f. (10 runners)

1 (10) 3529-00 **WESTERTON 45 (D)** A King 4-9-9 .... **James Doyle 91**
2 (8) 519-210 **CITY STREAK 29 (D)** A Balding 5-9-8 .... **David Probert 98**
3 (2) 1114-61 **FORCEFUL SPEED 6 (T;D)** G Boughey 4-9-8(5ex). **Billy Loughnane ●99**
4 (4) 1227201 **LOYAL TOUCH 14 (CD)** C Johnston 4-9-5 .... **Archie Young (7) 97**
5 (3) 00-8022 **LORD PROTECTOR 23 (D)** R Carr 6-9-5 .... **James Sullivan 94**
6 (9) 32/43-1 **SEA LEGEND 48 (H;CD)** J Fanshawe 4-9-0 .... **Daniel Muscutt 96**
7 (1) 042-036 **FORCA TIMAO 134** R Hannon 4-9-0 .... **Hollie Doyle 89**
8 (5) 1-21748 **BYSTANDER 33 (C,D)** K Burke 4-8-13 .... **Clifford Lee 90**
9 (6) 2043/73 **WINTER REPRISE 43 (D)** A King 7-8-11 .... **Benoit Sayette 86**
10 (7) 04-4405 **CLEAR ANGEL 14 (C)** S Corbett 6-8-4 .... **Cam Hardie 80**

BETTING: 5-2 Forceful Speed, 4 City Streak, 6 Sea Legend, 8 Lord Protector
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2 1
2023: Nobel 4-9-7 Oisin Murphy 5-2 Fav (A Balding) drawn 6, 8 ran.

5.25 GET THE INSIDE TRACK WITH RACEDAY-READY.COM HANDICAP (5); winner £10,468; 1m 4f. (14 runners)

1 (10) 7/81P9- **SIR JOCK BENNETT 324** N Mechie 4-9-9 .... **Andrew Breslin (3) 83**
2 (11) 0-22164 **NATZOR 22 (C)** D O'Meara 4-9-9 .... **Mark Winn (3) 91**
3 (5) 18-4052 **SOOWAIH 48 (C)** J Goldie 4-9-7 .... **Paul Mulrennan 95**
4 (1) 230 **PARRAMOUNT 19** C Longsdon 8-9-7 .... **Hollie Doyle 93**
5 (13) 116-945 **EVENING STORY 79 (CD)** G Tuer 4-9-7 .... **Clifford Lee 87**
6 (8) 6122-72 **SQUEEZEBOX 35 (H)** M Appleby 5-9-7 .... **Callum Shepherd 97**
7 (2) 3159145 **FOX FLAME 28 (V;D)** C Johnston 4-9-7 .... **Billy Loughnane 90**
8 (7) 9844296 **CHANTICO J21** A Keatley 5-9-6 .... **Cieren Fallon 88**
9 (14) -293040 **FURZIG 48 (C,D)** R Fahey 9-9-6 .... **Oisin Orr 82**
10 (3) 9/23-05 **A GIFT OF LOVE 24 (P★)** C Fellowes 4-9-5 .... **Harry Davies 93**
11 (6) 14-7113 **SHIFTER 15** W Storey 5-9-5 .... **Paula Muir (3) 97**
12 (12) 3132537 **PERCY WILLIS 14 (P;CD)** J O'Keeffe 6-9-5 .... **Jack Garritty 90**
13 (4) 0601-11 **BALTIC 17 (P;D)** H Charlton 4-9-4 .... **James Doyle ●99**
14 (9) 5000/25 **NO RECOLLECTION J27 (T)** S England 6-9-3 .... **Tom Eaves 88**

BETTING: 3 Shifter, 7-2 Squeezebox, 9-2 Baltic, 6 Soowaih, 8 Natzor, 10 Parramount
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2 1 1
2023: Lexington Knight 5-9-9 Neil Callan 10-3 Fav (R Hannon) drawn 6, 11 ran.

CHESTER COLOURS

GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD)

TEMPLEGATE

1.50 .... The Flying Seagull
2.25 .... Bur Dubai
3.00 .... Dare To Hope
3.35 .... Gunfighter
4.10 .... Clan Chieftain
4.45 .... Bobby Bennu
5.20 .... Loughville

TOM PEPPER

1.50 .... Sensorium
2.25 .... Selwan
3.00 .... Radio Goo Goo
3.35 .... Ziggy's Condor
4.10 .... African Star
4.45 .... Warrior's Dance
5.20 .... Giudecca

TIC-TAC: Left-handed, very sharp track of just over 1m round with a short run-in.
DRAW: A fast start give a distinct advantage in sprints.
FAVOURITES: (2019-2024): 152 have won out of 482 races (32%). At the previous corresponding meetings, 19 have won out of 59 races (32%).
LIVE ON SKY SPORTS RACING

HOT 'N NOT

TRAINERS with best record in last 14 days: G Boughey 13 wins from 46 runners; A Carroll 12 from 44; W Haggas 9 from 55; K R Burke 9 from 55; H Palmer 6 from 38; R Beckett 9 from 61; R Hannon 9 from 78; T Easterby 10 from 100; C Johnston 8 from 84; A Balding 6 from 79.
JOCKEYS with best record in last 14 days: D Hogan 5 wins from 23 rides; P-L Jamin 3 from 15; R Hornby 4 from 21; S De Sousa 8 from 46; A Brookes 2 from 14; J Leavy 3 from 25; F Norton 3 from 28; D Tudhope 3 from 37; C Bishop 2 from 33.
TRAINERS who have had the most runners since last win: E J-Houghton 31; B Toomey 24.
JOCKEYS who have had the most rides since last win: C Bishop 28; Mia Nichiolls 16.

TOP TRAINERS

2019-2024 A Balding 36-190, R Fahey 31-262, T Dascombe 28-156, H Palmer 22-127, T Easterby 20-164, R Beckett 19-78, I Williams 14-208, P Evans 12-77. **THIS SEASON:** R Fahey 3, C Johnston 2, H Palmer 2.

TOP JOCKEYS

2019-2024 F Norton 25-191, P-L Jamin 7-47, R Hornby 7-52, D Tudhope 5-26, S De Sousa 4-41, B Garritty 2-25, H Russell 1-11, J Watson 1-26. **THIS SEASON:** F Norton 2, P-L Jamin 2.

TRAINER TRACE

FIRST RACE FOR NEW YARD: 3.00 Last Crusader K R Burke to B Toomey.
RACEFAX: R Fahey won the 3.35 in 2014, 2019 & 2021. A Balding won the 5.20 in 2019 & 2022.
LONGEST TRAVELLERS: Dovena (4.10) trained by Mrs S Gardner, Longdown, round trip of 474 miles; **Frankelian** (2.25), **Clan Chieftain** (4.10), **Esmeray** (5.20) trained by R Beckett, Kimpton Down, round trip of 452 miles; **Way To Dubai** (3.00), C Fellowes; **Sensorium** (1.50), D Cunha; **Melek Alreeh** (2.25), D M Simcock; **Eva's Eyes** (1.50), D Holland; **Uncle Bonni** (1.50) & **Warrior's Dance** (4.45), G Boughey; **Bur Dubai** (2.25), K P De Foy; **Bobby Bennu** (4.45), R Varian; **Giudecca** (5.20), Sir M Stoute; **Sunfall** (3.35), W Haggas; **Regal Envoy** (3.00), W Knight, all Newmarket, round trip 364 miles.

IN THE MONEY

TOP EARNERS
3.00 **Bosh** £133,548
3.35 **Blue Prince** £110,693
3.00 **Radio Goo Goo** ... £100,601
5.20 **Golden Melody** £89,979

UNDER ORDERS

SEVEN-DAY WINNERS: None.
FIRST TIME BLINKERS: None.
VISORED FIRST TIME: None.
FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OP: None.
WEIGHTWATCHER: 3.00 **Paws For Thought** (won off 87, down 4lb to 83); 4.10 **Bulldog Spirit** (won off 73, down 3lb to 70)
JOB JOCKEYS: C Bishop rides **Selwan** (2.25) for I Williams, 6 winners from 23 rides, 26%. S De Sousa rides **Sunfall** (3.35) for W Haggas, 23 from 89, 26%. S De Sousa rides **Bobby Bennu** (4.45) for R Varian, 42 from 176, 24%.

1.50 CHAMPAGNE LAURENT-PERRIER EBF MAIDEN STAKES (Class 4); 2-y-o; winner £7,644; 6f. (10 runners)

1 (9) 347 **ANTHROPOLOGIST 43** C Johnston 9-7 .... **Franny Norton 95**
2 (4) **GROUNDSMAN** R Fahey 9-7 .... **Billy Garritty —**
3 (1) 30 **SENSORIUM 10** D Cunha 9-7 .... **Rob Hornby 97**
4 (3) 362 **THE FLYING SEAGULL 14** H Palmer 9-7 .... **Silvestre De Sousa ●99**
5 (7) 53 **MRBLUESKY 15** R Fahey 9-5 .... **Harry Russell 93**
6 (10) 54 **SON OF ASTAR 32** A Carroll 9-5 .... **Jason Watson 86**
7 (8) **UNCLE BONNI** G Boughey 9-5 .... **Grace McEntee (3) —**
8 (5) 48 **EVA'S EYES 14** D Holland 9-0 .... **Joe Leavy (5) 80**
9 (6) R **MISTY SKY 19** H Palmer 9-0 .... **Aidan Keeley (3) —**
10 (2) 6 **BLUEANDTANGERINE 70** M & D Easterby 8-12 ..... **Lewis Chalkley (7) 85**

BETTING: 3 The Flying Seagull, 4 Sensorium, 9-2 Anthropologist, 5 Mrbluesky, 8 Uncle Bonni, 10 Groundsman, 16 Blueandtangerine, Misty Sky, 20 Son Of Astar
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED and 2023: No corresponding race.

2.25 WHISPERING ANGEL HANDICAP (4); value to the winner £7,644; 1m 4f. (7 runners)

1 (4) /80-754 **SELWAN 24 (D)** I Williams 5-10-2 .... **Charles Bishop 94**
2 (1) 656-218 **MELEK ALREEH 21 (D)** D Simcock 5-10-1 .... **Silvestre De Sousa 92**
3 (7) 155-353 **PERCY JONES 14 (D)** M Loughnane 5-9-10 .... **Aidan Keeley (3) 90**
4 (5) 3-2342 **OPEN SECRET 8 (BF)** C Johnston 3-9-0 .... **Franny Norton 98**
5 (2) 343-623 **BUR DUBAI 23 (BF)** K De Foy 3-9-0 .... **Daniel Tudhope ●99**
6 (6) 536-3 **FRANKELIAN 18** R Beckett 3-8-12 .... **Rob Hornby 96**
7 (3) 9-32377 **BUSBY 18 (P)** P Kirby 9-8-11 .... **Aiden Brookes (3) 87**

BETTING: 11-4 Bur Dubai, 3 Open Secret, 10-3 Frankelian, 6 Melek Alreeh, 10 Selwan, 12 Percy Jones, 20 Busby
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 5 3 4 1
2023: Scintillante 3-9-0 Hayley Turner 11-4 Fav (A Balding) drawn 7, 8 ran.

3.00 MANOR CAR HIRE HANDICAP (3) value to the winner £10,192; 6f (10 runners)

1 153138 **BOSH 48 (D)**
(7) R Hannon 5-10-2 .... **Joe Leavy (5)** 94
Runs: 19 Wins: 4 (F,2A,G) Places: 6 £133,548
Rare below par effort at Newcastle latest, freshened up since, do better

2 46/80- **LAST CRUSADER 427 (D)**
(9) B Toomey 5-10-2 ...... **Daniel Tudhope** 84
Runs: 13 Wins: 2 (F,G) Places: 1 £77,804
Smart juvenile, struggled for form since, plenty to prove on return

3 83-102 **DARE TO HOPE 23 (D)**
(8) R Fahey 4-9-13 .... **Billy Garritty** 93
Runs: 16 Wins: 3 (S,2G) Places: 5 £68,777
Career best when just held at Hamilton, wide draw not ideal, respected

4 2-0582 **WAY TO DUBAI 35 (P)**
(2) C Fellowes 5-9-13 .... **Rob Hornby** ●99
Runs: 17 Wins: 3 (F,G) Places: 7 £46,624
Unlucky loser when beaten a nose here latest, must be hard to beat

5 635139 **RADIO GOO GOO 14 (CD)**
(3) P Evans 4-9-10 .... **Dylan Hogan** 93
Runs: 29 Wins: 6 (S,2F,A,2G) Places: 9 £100,601
Disappointing last time, never showed up here latest, do better

6 83-201 **BUCCABAY 21 (D)**
(4) E J-Houghton 4-9-10 ... **Charles Bishop** 98
Runs: 17 Wins: 3 (F,2G) Places: 4 £44,171
Always travelling like the winner at Haydock latest, more to come

7 7-3887 **PAWS FOR THOUGHT 14 (P;CD)**
(6) D McCain 6-9-6 .... **Franny Norton** 92
Runs: 37 Wins: 6 (2GS,4G) Places: 6 £76,151
Likes it here, but best form is on softer ground and over 7f, bit to find

8 2-7711 **REGAL ENVOY 18 (V;D)**
(5) W Knight 5-9-4 ..... **Silvestre De Sousa** 97
Runs: 25 Wins: 7 (A,5F,G) Places: 5 £43,432
In cracking form, running style should suit this track, strong fancy

9 -62502 **DICKIEBURD 14 (C,D)**
(10) C Lidster 4-9-2 .... **Mia Nichiolls (5)** 95
Runs: 25 Wins: 3 (A,2G) Places: 6 £43,632
Finished well for second here over 5f latest, drawn wide, up against it

10 122301 **OLD CHUMS 15 (P;CD)**
(1) T Dascombe 3-8-9 .... **Pierre Jamin** 97
Runs: 11 Wins: 3 (2A,G) Places: 4 £35,527
Overcame wide trip to win here latest. plum draw today, dangerous

BETTING: 4 Way To Dubai, 11-2 Regal Envoy, 6 Old Chums, Buccabay, 7 Dare To Hope, 8 Radio Goo Goo, Bosh, 10 Dickieburd, 14 Paws For Thought, 16 Last Crusader
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 4
2023: Roman Dragon 4-9-0, H Turner 7-2 (H Palmer), drw 1, 8 ran.

Sunracing FORM

BOSH (8-12) 8-1 outpaced 2f out, no impression after, 8th of 14 (btn 8¼l) to Misty Grey (9-7) **DARE TO HOPE** (8-9) 11-1 beaten 1f out, 12th (btn 11l) (Newcastle 6f hcap (2) £38,655 AW).
LAST CRUSADER (9-8) 14-1 soon prominent, ridden 2f out, behind 1f out, last of 10 (btn 14l) to Hyperfocus (8-13) (Ripon 5f hcap (2) £15,462 soft).
DARE TO HOPE (9-7) 13-2 in touch, ridden final furlong, ran on, btn nk by Manila Scouse (9-0) **PAWS FOR THOUGHT** (9-2) 9-1 weakened final furlong, 8th (btn 5½l) (11 ran) (Hamilton 6f hcap (2) £15,462 good).
WAY TO DUBAI (8-9) 10-1 mid-division, ridden to challenge final 100 yards, just denied on line, btn ns by Spirit Genie (8-9) **PAWS FOR THOUGHT** (8-12) 8-1 prominent, no impression 2f out, 8th (btn 7l) (9 ran) (Chester 7f hcap (2) £25,480 good to soft).
DICKIEBURD (9-7) 15-2 close up, led 1f out, headed inside final furlong, no match for winner, btn 1¾l by Copper Knight (9-5) **PAWS FOR THOUGHT** (9-7) 9-1 held up, outpaced 3f out, 7th (4½l) **RADIO GOO GOO** (10-1) 9-2 no extra final furlong, 9th (6½l) (11 ran) (Chester 5f hcap (3) £12,740 soft).
BUCCABAY (8-12) 18-1 led final furlong, ran on well, bt Aramis Grey (9-9) ¾l **RADIO GOO GOO** (9-1) 15-2 led, ridden 2f out, headed final furlong, kept on, 3rd (btn 1l) (14 ran) (Haydock 6f hcap (3) £16,200 good).
REGAL ENVOY (9-11) 11-4 fav made all, ran on strongly final furlong, bt Lihou (9-2) ¾l (9 ran) (Salisbury 6f hcap (5) £4,580 good to firm).
OLD CHUMS (9-7) 9-2 midfield, led 1f out, soon asserted, comfortably, bt Infinity Blue (9-4) 1½l (12 ran) (Chester 6f hcap (5) £7,644 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 NEWCASTLE
LEG 1 .... Cross The Tracks, City House
LEG 2 .... Kinross
LEG 3 .... Marbuzet, Alphonse Le Grande
LEG 4 .... Spirit Mixer, Trooper Bisdee
LEG 5 .... United Approach, Documenting
LEG 6 .... Ardennes, Invited

3.35 PATRON TEQUILA HANDICAP (2) 3-Y-O; winner £20,384; 7f (7 runners)

1 14-622 **AL SHABAB STORM 35 (BF)**
(7) A Balding 9-9 .... **Jason Watson** 98
Runs: 7 Wins: 1 (S) Places: 4 £46,284
Running huge in defeat, deserves to get his head in front, dangerous

2 308333 **BLUE PRINCE 14**
(6) P Evans 9-8 .... **Dylan Hogan** 97
Runs: 19 Wins: 3 (2A,G) Places: 7 £110,693
Never got the breaks when closing third here latest, on the shortlist

3 123-20 **ZIGGY'S CONDOR 14 (BF)**
(5) R Fahey 9-5 .... **Billy Garritty** 96
Runs: 5 Wins: 1 (GS) Places: 2 £73,570
Big effort over 7f at York last month, below form latest, lots to like

4 1-3343 **GUNFIGHTER 21 (P★;D)**
(3) H Palmer 9-3 .... **Aidan Keeley (3)** 94
Runs: 10 Wins: 2 (2A) Places: 2 £20,255
Outstayed over a mile at Haydock, drop in trip will suit, check betting

5 4-101 **SUNFALL 15 (D)**
(2) W Haggas 9-0 ..... **Silvestre De Sousa** ●99
Runs: 4 Wins: 2 (F,A) £8,860
Smart prospect, well drawn to attack early, top rider, strongly fancied

6 -13432 **JUNGLE MAC 7 (BF)**
(1) J Channon 9-0 .... **Franny Norton** 94
Runs: 9 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 6 £25,147
Only just held when beaten a head at Newmarket latest, respected

7 -51659 **GOLDEN PHARAOH 14 (D)**
(4) S Dixon 8-13 .... **Daniel Tudhope** 82
Runs: 12 Wins: 2 (S,A) Places: 1 £30,870
Bit to find at this level, finished weakly at York latest, hard to fancy

BETTING: 9-4 Sunfall, 3 Al Shabab Storm, 5 Blue Prince, 6 Ziggy's Condor, Jungle Mac, 10 Gunfighter, 20 Golden Pharaoh
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 3 1-2-8 2 1
2023: Equatorial 9-5, F Norton 10-11 Fav (R Varian), drw 2, 7 ran.

Sunracing FORM

AL SHABAB STORM (8-12) 4-1 fav led, headed final furlong, kept on, btn 1¼l by Qirat (8-10) **BLUE PRINCE** (8-12) 9-1 not much room 1f out, went 3rd near finish, 3rd (1½l) (13 ran) (Goodwood 7f hcap (2) £51,540 good).
BLUE PRINCE (9-2) 6-1 in rear, headway 2f out, not reach leaders, 3rd of 13 (1½l) to Love Billy Boy (8-11) (Chester 1m hcap (2) £30,576 soft).
ZIGGY'S CONDOR (8-3) 4-1 jt fav weakened final furlong, 11th of 17 (btn 13l) to James's Delight (9-9) (York 6f hcap (2) £51,540 good to soft).
GUNFIGHTER (9-9) 6-1 led 2f out, headed final furlong, no extra, 3rd of 9 (btn 4l) to Dashing Darcey (9-10) (Haydock 1m hcap (4) £10,468 good).
SUNFALL (9-9) 11-4 fav led, quickened 1f out, unchallenged, bt King Of Charm (9-8) 2½l (9 ran) (Sandown 7f hcap (5) £4,449 good to firm).
JUNGLE MAC (9-8) 11-4 fav led, headed 1f out, just held, btn hd by Treasure Time (9-6) (10 ran) (Newmarket 7f hcap (4) £7,731 good).
GOLDEN PHARAOH (8-9) 66-1 ridden 2f out, weakened final furlong, 9th of 17 (btn 3¾l) to Tolstoy (8-11) (York 7f hcap (3) £15,462 good to soft).

4.10 JAM SHED HANDICAP (4); value to the winner £7,644; 2m. (8 runners)

1 (8) 63-7731 **DREAMS ADOZEN 14 (V;C)** C Johnston 4-9-9 ...... **Silvestre De Sousa 94**
2 (7) 1604-82 **CLAN CHIEFTAIN 35** R Beckett 4-9-7 .... **Rob Hornby 96**
3 (2) 53637-4 **SEA GREY J32 (P)** D McCain 5-9-4 .... **Franny Norton 85**
4 (5) 548-720 **BULLDOG SPIRIT 27** R Menzies 4-9-0 .... **Jason Watson 98**
5 (6) 584-437 **AFRICAN STAR 30 (P,T)** M Loughnane 4-8-12 .... **Daniel Tudhope 85**
6 (3) 4094 **TAILORMAN 2** I Williams 4-8-6 .... **Joe Leavy (5) 97**
7 (4) 9-58676 **ACHNAMARA 14 (P)** P Kirby 5-8-6 .... **Aiden Brookes (3) 92**
8 (1) 3142-67 **DOVENA 22** S Gardner 4-8-4 .... **Mia Nichiolls (5) ●99**

BETTING: 2 Dreams Adozen, 4 Clan Chieftain, 5 Bulldog Spirit, Dovena, 8 African Star
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 1 4 2
2023: Military Two Step 5-9-11 Franny Norton 5-2 (C Johnston) drawn 8, 7 ran.

4.45 BORN TO MIX ABSOLUT VODKA NOVICE STAKES (3); value to the winner £7,644; 1m. (4 runners)

1 (3) 2 **BOBBY BENNU 24** R Varian 3-9-7 .... **Silvestre De Sousa 97**
2 (1) 3 **WARRIOR'S DANCE 18** G Boughey 3-9-7 .... **Grace McEntee (3) 94**
3 (2) 7 **LITTLE MISS INDIA 16** I Williams 3-9-2 .... **Franny Norton 77**
4 (4) 2-02 **UPSCALE 23** A Balding 3-9-2 .... **Rob Hornby ●99**

BETTING: 5-6 Upscale, 7-4 Bobby Bennu, 7 Warrior's Dance, 20 Little Miss India
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 5 5 1 3
2023: Princess Niyla 3-8-13 Paul Hanagan 4-1 (H Palmer) drawn 6, 7 ran.

5.20 CHASE DISTILLERY EBF FILLIES' HANDICAP (3) winner £12,885; 1m 2f (7 runners)

1 13-311 **ESMERAY 19 (D)**
(3) R Beckett 4-10-2 .... **Rob Hornby** 98
Runs: 7 Wins: 3 (GS,2G) Places: 3 £30,592
Progressive, well on top at Pontefract, 6lb rise unlikely to stop him

2 5-5131 **LOUGHVILLE 26 (D)**
(1) A King 4-10-0 ...... **Silvestre De Sousa** 96
Runs: 9 Wins: 2 (F,S) Places: 1 £20,445
Impressive when hacking up at Wetherby latest, 10lb rise demands more

3 114-3 **KARMOLOGY 72**
(5) K Burke 4-10-0 .... **Pierre Jamin** 93
Runs: 4 Wins: 2 (A,G) Places: 1 £12,560
Shapes as if she needs softer ground, but yet to see the best of her

4 16-776 **CAROLINA REAPER 27**
(4) C Johnston 3-9-7 .... **Franny Norton** 90
Runs: 9 Wins: 2 (GS,G) £51,176
Showed more at Hamilton latest, hcapper has given her a chance

5 231-9 **GIUDECCA 62**
(7) Sir M Stoute 3-9-3 ...... **Jason Watson** 95
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 2 £6,429
Bred to be good, trainer is brilliant with this type of filly, dangerous

6 262821 **GOLDEN MELODY 12 (B;CD)**
(2) T Easterby 6-9-2 .... **Billy Garritty** 97
Runs: 56 Wins: 6 (2S,GS,3G) Places: 18 £89,979
Overcame mile trip to win easily at Carlisle latest, leading contender

7 42-321 **HAYA 30**
(6) A Balding 3-9-1 .... **Daniel Tudhope** ●99
Runs: 5 Wins: 1 (S) Places: 2 £11,741
Battled well to win at Carlisle latest, bred to stay and more to come

BETTING: 2 Esmeray, 11-4 Loughville, 5 Haya, 6 Golden Melody
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2 4 1 2
2023: Sparks Fly 3-9-6, L Pearson 11-1 (D Loughnane), drw 5, 8 ran.

Sunracing FORM

ESMERAY (9-3) 6-4f led 1f out, ran on, bt Ginistrelli (8-2) 4½l (6 ran) (Pontefract 1½m hcap (4) £5,234 good).
LOUGHVILLE (9-0) 9-2 led 1f out, clear inside final furlong, easily, bt Dora Milaje (9-10) 4l (16 ran) (Wetherby 1¼m hcap (4) £5,234 good to firm).
KARMOLOGY (9-8) 5-1 mid-division, pushed along 1f out, kept on in 3rd, 3rd of 8 (btn 7½l) to Maxi King (9-6) (Ripon 1¼m hcap (4) £6,281 heavy).
CAROLINA REAPER (9-7) 10-1 no extra inside final furlong, 6th of 7 (btn 1¼l) to Fiver Friday (9-7) (Hamilton 1m 1f hcap (3) £14,947 good to firm).
GIUDECCA (9-7) 11-2 weakened quickly, last of 9 (btn 6¾l) to Francophone (9-8) (Southwell 1m (3) £14,394 AW).
GOLDEN MELODY (9-6) 13-2 led final furlong, bt Helter Skelter (9-7) 1½l (9 ran) (Carlisle 1m hcap (5) £4,187 soft).
HAYA (8-12) 6-4 led 1f out, just did enough, bt Aviemore (9-3) hd (9 ran) (Carlisle 1m 1f nov (5) £3,780 soft).

Favourite GROUP 1 ACTION IN IRELAND

CORAL

THE CURRAGH

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM)

1.15 BARRONSTOWN STUD IRISH EBF (C & G) MAIDEN; 2-y-o; winner €12,000; 7f. (15 runners)

1 (11) **APPLES AND BANANAS** J P O'Brien 9-5 ..... **Dylan McMonagle**
2 (7) **BERNARD SHAW** A P O'Brien 9-5 ..... **John Velazquez**
3 (4) **BLACK FORZA** M O'Callaghan 9-5 ..... **Gary Carroll**
4 (15) **CURRAGH CONJURER** B Duke 9-5 ..... **Robbie Colgan**
5 (13) **CURRAWOOD** P Twomey 9-5 ..... **Billy Lee**
6 (10) **DALER** G Lyons 9-5 ..... **Colin Keane**
7 (3) **GREEN IMPACT** J Harrington 9-5 ..... **Shane Foley**
8 (2) 9 **HAZDANN 13** D K Weld 9-5 ..... **Chris Hayes**
9 (8) **HIGH FAVOUR** J Bolger 9-5 ..... **Rory Cleary**
10 (1) **JA'MARR** D Marnane 9-5 ..... **Luke McAteer**
11 (5) **JUSTIFIED RISK** S Davis 9-5 ..... **Gary Halpin**
12 (14) **RED CHARLIE** E Mullins 9-5 ..... **Ronan Whelan**
13 (9) **ROCK OF CASHEL** A P O'Brien 9-5 ..... **Ryan Moore**
14 (12) **SHOW YOUR WORKINGS** S Davis 9-5 ..... **Sean Davis**
15 (6) **TRINITY COLLEGE** A P O'Brien 9-5 ..... **Wayne Lordan**

BETTING: 13-8 Bernard Shaw, 6 Trinity College, 13-2 Apples And Bananas, 8 Black Forza, Currawood, Rock Of Cashel, 12 Daler, 16 Green Impact, High Favour
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1-7 5 9 1
2023: City Of Troy 9-5 Ryan Moore 6-4 Fav (A P O'Brien) drawn 5, 13 ran.

1.45 SHERRY FITZGERALD COUNTRY HOMES HANDICAP; value to the winner €14,999; 6f. (16 runners)

1 (11) -733130 **LAUGH A MINUTE 36 (C,D)** J Davison 9-10-3 ..... **Ronan Whelan 97**
2 (2) 11050-1 **RED LETTER BRAY 36 (T;CD)** L Cusack 4-9-13 ..... **Chris Hayes 98**
3 (12) 406-020 **RAHMI 36 (T;C)** J Murtagh 5-9-12 ..... **Ben Coen 95**
4 (5) -173094 **APACHE OUTLAW 15 (BF,D)** A McGuinness 4-9-7 . **Adam Caffrey (3) 88**
5 (4) 0813-06 **HEAVENLY POWER 36 (CD)** E Lynam 6-9-6 ..... **James Ryan (5) 92**
6 (13) -541363 **COLLECTIVE POWER 15 (D)** E Lynam 6-9-2 ..... **Billy Lee 95**
7 (14) 0022-79 **DONTSPOILASALE 127** N Lupini 4-9-1 ..... **Wesley Joyce (5) 77**
8 (16) 87-0062 **TAWAAZON 15 (P,T;CD)** J Kinsella 6-9-1 ..... **Robert Whearty (5) 92**
9 (10) 0172-00 **DUPLANTIS 26 (CD)** R O'Brien 3-9-0 ..... **Shane Foley 86**
10 (8) 27-221 **APRICOT ICE 36 (CD)** G Lyons 3-8-13 ..... **Colin Keane ●99**
11 (6) 5000-40 **GORDON BENNETT 36 (CD)** R Brabazon 6-8-12 ..... **Gary Carroll 88**
12 (1) 420893- **BIG BABY BULL 234 (C)** J Hayes 8-8-10 ..... **Rory Cleary 93**
13 (3) /01-602 **CHARLISSE 36** D Cullen 5-8-10 ..... **John Velazquez 97**
14 (7) 527-449 **DYNAMIC FORCE 118 (D)** J Stack 5-8-8 ..... **Andy Slattery 84**
15 (9) 344-130 **TAI TAM BAY 35 (D)** E & P Harty 3-8-7 ..... **Nathan Crosse 92**
16 (15) 4416-67 **CLONMACASH 15 (D)** N Lupini 3-8-7 ..... **Wayne Lordan 90**

BETTING: 11-2 Apricot Ice, 6 Charlisse, 13-2 Collective Power, 8 Tawaazon, 10 Red Letter Bray, Heavenly Power, Apache Outlaw, 12 Rahmi
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 8 6-9 1
2023: Coumshingaun 4-8-9 N Crosse 9-2 Fav (K Coleman) drawn 5, 13 ran.

2.20 AIRLIE STUD STAKES (FILLIES' GROUP 2) 2-Y-O; winner €72,000; 6f (10 runners)

1 1 **AMERICAN BAR 27 (D)**
(9) P Twomey 9-2 ..... **Billy Lee 97**
Runs: 1 Wins: 1 (G) €9,391
Green but won with plenty in hand at Listowel, could be very smart

2 14 **BARNAVARA 41 (CD)**
(1) J Harrington 9-2 ..... **Shane Foley 95**
Runs: 2 Wins: 1 (S) €16,087
Won well on debut, below best at Naas latest, leading contender

3 235 **CALIFORNIA DREAMER 8**
(2) A Murray 9-2 ..... **David Egan 96**
Runs: 3 Places: 1 €12,580
Smart maiden, this is a quick turnaround after Royal Ascot, check betting

4 3328 **CRADLE OF LOVE 8 (P)**
(8) J P O'Brien 9-2 ..... **Dylan McMonagle 92**
Runs: 4 Places: 2 €6,870
Useful maiden, not disgraced in the Albany at Royal Ascot, e-w claims

5 1 **EASY MOVER 22 (D)**
(3) A P O'Brien 9-2 ..... **Declan McDonogh 94**
Runs: 1 Wins: 1 (G) €9,391
Very green but did well to win on debut, looks to be crying out for 7f

6 21 **FIERY LUCY 15 (D)**
(4) G Cromwell 9-2 ..... **Gary Carroll 90**
Runs: 2 Wins: 1 (G) Places: 1 €14,783
Improving, strong at the finish at Fairyhouse latest, more to come

7 3 **GRANDE MARQUES 34**
(6) J Stack 9-2 ..... **Seamie Heffernan 86**
Runs: 1 Places: 1 €2,174
Showed plenty of ability when third on debut, this is tougher, e-w claims

8 21 **JANUARY 12**
(10) A P O'Brien 9-2 ..... **Wayne Lordan 94**
Runs: 2 Wins: 1 (G) Places: 1 €12,174
Bred in the purple, only workmanlike at Gowran Park, more needed

9 10 **TRULY ENCHANTING 10**
(7) A P O'Brien 9-2 ..... **Ryan Moore ●99**
Runs: 2 Wins: 1 (S) €6,303
Struggled in the Queen Mary at Royal Ascot, step up to 6f will suit, go well

10 4 **VARNER 32**
(5) A Murray 9-2 ..... **John Velazquez 82**
Runs: 1 €563
No match for Truly Enchanting on debut, top US rider up, will be outclassed

BETTING: 2 Truly Enchanting, 4 California Dreamer, 5 Easy Mover, 11-2 American Bar, 13-2 January, 10 Barnavara, 14 Fiery Lucy, 16 Cradle Of Love, 25 Grande Marques, 33 Varner
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 2 3 1 1
2023: Matrika 9-2, R Moore 2-5 Fav (A P O'Brien), drw 7, 7 ran.

2.55 AL BASTI EQUIWORLD DUBAI INTERNATIONAL (GROUP 3) €60,000; 1m 2f (8 runners)

1 5177-4 **SELF BELIEF 23 (C,D)**
(8) W McCreery 5-9-12 ..... **Billy Lee 90**
Runs: 10 Wins: 3 (S) Places: 1 €66,852
Best form is on softer ground, so needs plenty of rain, check betting

2 100-11 **BOLSTER 29 (D)**
(6) K R Burke (UK) 4-9-9 ..... **Chris Hayes ●99**
Runs: 6 Wins: 4 (S,F,GS,G) €74,056
UK raider, very smart performance at Epsom latest, improving fast

3 12-150 **CHAZZESMEE 36 (C)**
(7) J Stack 6-9-9 ..... **Joseph Sheridan 93**
Runs: 12 Wins: 3 (2S,A) Places: 2 €88,783
Won Irish Lincoln, stamina should not be an issue but bit to prove

4 114-1 **TRUSTYOURINSTINCT 13 (CD)**
(1) J P O'Brien 4-9-9 ..... **Dylan McMonagle 97**
Runs: 4 Wins: 3 (2G) €32,207
Lightly raced, smooth win at Gowran Park latest, strongly fancied

5 1236-1 **EMPRESS OF BEAUTY 52**
(4) H Bromhead 4-9-6 ..... **Shane Foley 96**
Runs: 5 Wins: 2 (S) Places: 1 €49,632
Tough filly, battled well to win at Gowran, might need softer ground

6 143 **ECUREUIL SECRET 34**
(3) E O'Grady 3-8-11 ..... **Seamie Heffernan 92**
Runs: 3 Wins: 1 (S) Places: 1 €15,391
Unlucky not to finish closer here last month, big engine and can do better

7 1 **JAN BRUEGHEL 35 (CD)**
(2) A P O'Brien 3-8-11 ..... **Ryan Moore 97**
Runs: 1 Wins: 1 (G) €10,435
Smart debut performance, will get better with experience, one to beat

8 26-161 **WENDLA 48**
(5) G Lyons 3-8-11 ..... **Colin Keane 98**
Runs: 5 Wins: 2 (S,G) Places: 1 €39,820
Classy filly, quickened well to win Grp 3 at Leopardstown, dangerous

BETTING: 6-4 Jan Brueghel, 7-2 Bolster, 6 Wendla, 7 Trustyourinstinct, Self Belief, 10 Ecureuil Secret, 12 Chazzesmee
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 2 3 3 2
2023: Mashhoor 5-9-9, B Coen 6-1 (J P Murtagh), drw 1, 5 ran.

3.30 PRETTY POLLY STAKES (FILLIES' & MARES' GROUP 1) €180,000; 1m 2f (8 runners)

1 2422-1 **BLUESTOCKING 44 (D)**
(3) R Beckett (UK) 4-9-12 ..... **Rossa Ryan ●99**
Runs: 8 Wins: 2 (GS,G) Places: 5 €373,371
Classy, stunning performance at York, repeat would be good enough

2 127-54 **EMILY UPJOHN 29 (H;BF,D)**
(4) J & T Gosden (UK) 5-9-12 **Kieran Shoemark 98**
Runs: 11 Wins: 5 (F,A,GS,2G) Places: 1 €1,052,829
Group 1 performer at best, but struggling for form this season, respected

3 2136-5 **LUMIERE ROCK 34 (P;CD)**
(6) J O'Brien 4-9-12 ..... **Dylan McMonagle 94**
Runs: 13 Wins: 2 (S) Places: 6 €331,715
Won Grp 2 here last season, will be sharper for return, dangerous

4 961-25 **MAXUX 54 (BF)**
(1) J O'Brien 4-9-12 ..... **Mikey Sheehy 90**
Runs: 6 Wins: 2 Places: 1 €53,910
Strong traveller, below form here in the Mooresbridge, can do better

5 2690-1 **STAY ALERT 55 (T;D)**
(7) H Morrison (UK) 5-9-12 ..... **David Egan 96**
Runs: 13 Wins: 4 (A,GS,2G) Places: 2 €226,903
Runner-up last year, electric win at Newmarket latest, strongly fancied

6 11361- **TASMANIA 267 (D)**
(8) Sir Prescott (UK) 4-9-12 ..... **Luke Morris 93**
Runs: 6 Wins: 3 (S,GS) Places: 1 €151,411
Smart in France, joined shrewd yard and no surprise if she runs well

7 614-88 **CONTENT 8 (C)**
(5) A P O'Brien 3-9-0 ..... **Ryan Moore 89**
Runs: 9 Wins: 2 (S,G) Places: 1 €66,121
Talented, but spolit her chance by pulling too hard last twice, ignore

8 25-121 **FRANCOPHONE 35 (D)**
(2) C Johnston (UK) 3-9-0 ..... **Joe Fanning 84**
Runs: 6 Wins: 3 (A,GS,G) Places: 2 €87,602
Improving, well on top at Goodwood latest but this is a different level

BETTING: 6-4 Bluestocking, 7-4 Emily Upjohn, 6 Stay Alert, 10 Tasmania, 14 Lumiere Rock, 20 Maxux, 33 Francophone, Content
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 3 1 3 2 1
2023: Via Sistina 5-9-10, J Spencer 6-4 Fav (G Boughey Uk), drw 3, 9 ran.

Sunracing FORM

BLUESTOCKING (9-2) 5-2 close up, travelling well 3f out, rider delayed challenge until led on bit inside final 2f, quickened clear 1f out, heavily eased towards finish, impressive, bt Free Wind (9-2) 6l (5 ran) (York 1¼m Grp 2 (1) £85,065 good to firm).
EMILY UPJOHN (8-13) 7-4 fav chased leaders, took keen hold, ridden 2f out, soon no impression on winner, one pace, 4th of 5 (btn 11l) to Luxembourg (9-2) (Epsom 1½m Grp 1 (1) £252,360 good to soft).
LUMIERE ROCK (9-2) 8-1 tracked leaders, ridden 2 ½f out, under pressure 1 ½f out, one pace, 5th of 8 (14l) to White Birch (9-5) (Curragh 1¼m Grp 1 €300,000 yielding).
MAXUX (9-2) 13-8 fav slowly into stride, held up, pushed along 2f out, ridden and dropped to last 1f out, last of 5 (btn 9l) to White Birch (9-5) (Curragh 1¼m Grp 2 (1) €72,000 soft).
STAY ALERT (9-2) 5-1 held up behind, closed to lead final furlong, soon clear, stayed on strongly, bt Running Lion (9-2) 3½l (6 ran) (Newmarket 1m 1f Grp 2 (1) £70,888 good).
TASMANIA (8-11) 6-4 fav held up, smooth headway 2f out, led 1f out, quickened clear, impressive, bt Iznik (8-11) 4l (14 ran) (Compiegne 1¼m Listed £24,336 good to soft).
CONTENT (9-2) 40-1 held up in rear, never involved, 8th of 9 (btn 6¼l) to Porta Fortuna (9-2) (Ascot 1m Grp 1 (1) £368,615 good to firm).
FRANCOPHONE (9-2) 6-4 fav tracked leaders, led over 2f out, stayed on well, comfortably, bt Regal Jubilee (9-5) ¾l (8 ran) (Goodwood 1¼m Listed (1) £34,026 good to firm).

4.05 KILDARE VILLAGE LADIES DERBY HANDICAP; value to the winner €18,000; 1m 2f. (14 runners)

1 (10) 2129/0- **GOOD HEAVENS J280 (T)** J P O'Brien 5-10-10 . **Rachael Blackmore ●99**
2 (2) 122212/ **BIALYSTOK J60 (D)** W P Mullins 6-10-8 ..... **Miss J Townend (3) —**
3 (8) 100900- **SOARING MONARCH 237 (D)** A McIntyre 7-10-1 ... **Miss A B O'Connor (3) 97**
4 (14) 692-297 **SCHOLARSHIP 35 (B)** G O'Leary 4-10-0 ..... **Miss G Benson (7) 90**
5 (4) 047-070 **JUNGLE COVE J32 (P;D)** J Harrington 7-9-13 .... **Siobhan Rutledge (3) 92**
6 (5) 9851-8 **THE BLACK TIGER 43 (CD)** F Crowley 4-9-11 ..... **Ms H Smullen (7) 89**
7 (7) 046-098 **JOE MASSERIA 15 (P)** H McGuigan 5-9-9 ..... **— 95**
8 (11) 358015- **SERIENMOND 182 (D)** A Mullins 4-9-7 ..... **Miss A Hourigan (7) 84**
9 (1) 2610-39 **GOD KNOWS 55 (D)** R Brabazon 5-9-6 ... **Robyn Donaghue-Leahy (7) 88**
10 (9) 3906/5- **SET POINT J48 (P)** G Elliott 6-9-6 ..... **Miss S A Carter (7) 83**
11 (6) 3170-09 **LETIZA 16 (P)** T Dowling 4-9-4 ..... **Miss C Byrne (7) 87**
12 (12) /39-900 **SNAPIUS 7 (B;D)** J Nash 5-9-0 ..... **Neve Bennett (7) 81**
13 (13) 0-73023 **BOLD APPROACH 15 (P,T)** J Bolger 8-8-13 ..... **Gabriella Hill (7) 97**
14 (3) -000400 **SAN MARTINO J20** S Millar 6-8-10 ..... **Aileen O'Sullivan (7) 74**

BETTING: 5-2 Bialystok, 4 Bold Approach, 13-2 Good Heavens, 10 Serienmond, Scholarship, 12 Set Point, Joe Masseria, 14 God Knows, Jungle Cove
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 4 3 8 5 8
2023: Alanya 4-8-13 Amy Jo Hayes 40-1 (T Gibney) drawn 1, 15 ran.

4.40 MOLTON BROWN IRISH EBF MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN; value to the winner €12,000; 1m. (13 runners)

1 (2) 0 **PURRRFECT TIMING 53 (V★)** C Timmons 4-10-4 ..... **Rory Cleary 71**
2 (3) 6- **RECLAIM 364** J Feane 4-10-4 ..... **Hugh Horgan (5) 86**
3 (5) **CAYO PIRATA** A Murray 3-9-8 ..... **Joseph Sheridan —**
4 (11) **EL REGALO** E Mullins 3-9-8 ..... **Ronan Whelan —**
5 (7) 2-2 **GALEN 36 (BF)** J O'Brien 3-9-8 ..... **Dylan McMonagle ●99**
6 (6) 3330-64 **GANDOLFO 12 (B,T)** N Meade 3-9-8 ..... **Colin Keane 90**
7 (9) 7237 **JUDGE ME NOT 7 (P★)** J Murtagh 3-9-8 ..... **Ben Coen 91**
8 (4) **SEURAT** W Farrell 3-9-8 ..... **Danny Sheehy —**
9 (13) **SIBARI (P★)** D O'Brien 3-9-8 ..... **Paddy Harnett (5) —**
10 (8) **TANGO FIVE** C Hughes 3-9-8 ..... **Robbie Colgan —**
11 (1) 4 **LUCKY MELODY 16** J Harrington 3-9-3 ..... **Shane Foley 97**
12 (10) 73 **LUCKY OUT 16** T Mullins 3-9-3 ..... **Seamie Heffernan 92**
13 (12) 3-632 **NEXT TRICK 12** D Weld 3-9-3 ..... **Chris Hayes 95**

BETTING: 11-8 Galen, 4 Sibari, 13-2 Next Trick, 7 Lucky Out, Lucky Melody, 12 Judge Me Not, Gandolfo, 16 El Regalo
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 2 9
2023: Pink Sorrel 3-9-3 Gary Carroll 11-1 (Joseph G Murphy) drawn 9, 14 ran.

5.15 LA CELIA WINES IRISH EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND (C & G) MAIDEN; 3-y-o; €12,000; 7f. (5 runners)

1 (3) 2 **ARNAMAN 99 (T★)** K Condon 9-8 ..... **Billy Lee ●99**
2 (4) 23527 **EMERALD ECLIPSE 7 (P,T)** J P O'Brien 9-8 ..... **Wayne Hassett (5) 94**
3 (2) 6 **IZZARI 5** J O'Brien 9-8 ..... **Hugh Horgan (5) 91**
4 (1) **JOHN STEINBECK** A P O'Brien 9-8 ..... **Ryan Moore —**
5 (5) 0 **ROYAL DYNAMITE 22** C Timmons 9-8 ..... **Robbie Colgan 70**

BETTING: 6-4 John Steinbeck, 5-2 Arnaman, 11-4 Emerald Eclipse, 13-2 Izzari, 33 Royal Dynamite
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED and 2023: No corresponding race.

EAMONN HAMES

1.15 ..... Rock Of Cashel
1.45 ..... Heavenly Power (nb)
2.20 ..... Fiery Lucy
2.55 ..... Jan Brueghel
3.30 ..... Bluestocking
4.05 .... THE BLACK TIGER (nap)
4.40 ..... Lucky Melody
5.15 ..... John Steinbeck

TOM PEPPER

1.15 ..... Currawood
1.45 ..... Apricot Ice
2.20 ..... California Dreamer
2.55 ..... Wendla
3.30 ..... Emily Upjohn
4.05 ..... Bialystok
4.40 ..... Galen
5.15 ..... Arnaman

TIC-TAC: Right-handed horseshoe-shaped track of 2 miles, with a run in of 3f and an uphill finish. 5f and 6f races are run on the straight track.
DRAW: None.
FAVOURITES: (2019-2024): 269 have won out of 917 races (29%). At the previous corresponding meetings, 37 have won out of 105 races (35%).
LIVE ON RACING TV

HOT 'N NOT

TRAINERS with best record in last 14 days: D K Weld 6 wins from 22 runners; W McCreery 4 from 16; G M Lyons 6 from 24; A P O'Brien 12 from 60; J & T Gosden 9 from 54; K R Burke 9 from 55; R Beckett 9 from 61; J P Murtagh 4 from 30; C Johnston 8 from 84; J P O'Brien 4 from 57.
JOCKEYS with best record in last 14 days: John Velazquez 7 wins from 29 rides; W J Lee 10 from 46; C T Keane 8 from 43; K Shoemark 6 from 39; J Fanning 6 from 40; L Morris 5 from 36; B M Coen 5 from 39; G F Carroll 4 from 38; C D Hayes 4 from 39.
TRAINERS who have had the most runners since last win: S Millar 97; B Duke 43.
JOCKEYS who have had the most rides since last win: M P Sheehy 52; P A Harnett 40.

TOP TRAINERS

2019-2024 A P O'Brien 142-741, J P O'Brien 82-728, J Harrington 53-556, J P Murtagh 42-385, G M Lyons 41-353, D K Weld 28-307, P Twomey 22-91, W McCreery 21-231, J S Bolger 20-444. **THIS SEASON:** A P O'Brien 9, J Harrington 4, J P O'Brien 3.

TOP JOCKEYS

2019-2024 C T Keane 82-583, W J Lee 59-481, S Foley 54-507, J A Heffernan 46-354, C D Hayes 38-528, W M Lordan 35-344, D McMonagle 24-280, B M Coen 24-357, G F Carroll 22-333. **THIS SEASON:** C T Keane 8, W J Lee 5, S Foley 5, C D Hayes 4.

TRAINER TRACE

FIRST RACE FOR NEW YARD: 1.45 Big Baby Bull Miss S Larkin to J Hayes; **Duplantis** G M Lyons to R O'Brien; **Dynamic Force** R Cowell to J A Stack; **Laugh A Minute** A McGuinness to J Davison; **3.30 Tasmania** F Graffard (Fr) to Sir M Prescott; **4.05 Serienmond** P Schiergen (Ger) to A Mullins; **Soaring Monarch** Peter Fahey to Alan McIntyre; **5.15 Arnaman** M G Quinn to K J Condon.
RACEFAX: A P O'Brien won the 1.15 in 2020 & 2023; 2.20 in 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2022 & 2023; 2.55 in 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2022 and 3.30 in 2015, 2016 & 2020. J P O'Brien won the 3.30 in 2019 & 2021.

UNDER ORDERS

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.
VISORED FIRST TIME: 4.40 Purrrfect Timing.
WEIGHTWATCHER: 1.45 **Big Baby Bull** (won off 81 down 4lb to 77); **Tawaazon** (won off 90 down 8lb to 82); **Gordon Bennett** (won off 90 down 11lb to 79); **Dynamic Force** (won off 88 down 13lb to 75); 4.05 **Joe Masseria** (won off 88 down 9lb to 79); **Jungle Cove** (won off 92 down 9lb to 83)
JOB JOCKEYS: J Townend rides **Bialystok** (4.05) for W P Mullins, 45 from 148, 30%. W J Lee rides **Currawood** (1.15), **American Bar** (2.20) for P Twomey, 115 from 400, 29%. C T Keane rides **Daler** (1.15), **Apricot Ice** (1.45), **Wendla** (2.55) for G M Lyons, 603 from 3081, 20%. W M Lordan rides **Clonmacash** (1.45) for N Lupini, 16 from 80, 20%.

TOMORROW'S BIG RACE

4.05 DUBAI DUTY FREE IRISH DERBY (GROUP 1) 3-Y-O; €725,000; 1m 4f (8 runners)

1 13-412 **AMBIENTE FRIENDLY 29 (D)**
(6) J Fanshawe (UK) 9-2 ..... **Robert Havlin ●99**
Runs: 5 Wins: 2 (GS,G) Places: 1 €386,532
Classy, ran a huge race in the Derby at Epsom, stays well, one to beat

2 1-329 **EUPHORIC 29**
(7) A P O'Brien 9-2 ..... **Declan McDonogh 89**
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 Places: 1 €22,146
Shaped like a stayer in the Derby at Epsom, will set a strong gallop

3 131-3 **GROSVENOR SQUARE 53 (BF)**
(1) A P O'Brien 9-2 ..... **Wayne Lordan 92**
Runs: 4 Wins: 2 (2S) €62,233
Unexposed, staying is his game, lacks tactical pace but on the shortlist

4 21-43 **KEEPER'S HEART 24**
(5) G Lyons 9-2 ..... **Colin Keane 87**
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 1 €23,480
No match for Los Angeles earlier at Leopardstown, plenty on his plate

5 11-13 **LOS ANGELES 29**
(3) A P O'Brien 9-2 ..... **Ryan Moore 98**
Runs: 4 Wins: 3 (G) Places: 1 €343,824
Group 1 winner last year, better than the bare form at Epsom, dangerous

6 21-1 **MATSURI 34 (H)**
(2) R Varian (UK) 9-2 ..... **James Doyle 93**
Runs: 3 Wins: 2 (A,GS) Places: 1 €13,115
Well regarded, cruised clear to win a novice at Leicester, this is tougher

7 21-527 **SUNWAY 28 (T)**
(8) D Menuisier (UK) 9-2 ..... **Oisin Murphy 94**
Runs: 7 Wins: 2 (G) Places: 1 €177,620
Seems best in the mud, not beaten far in the French Derby, e-w chance

8 31-245 **THE EUPHRATES 9 (V)**
(4) A P O'Brien 9-2 ..... **Dylan McMonagle 83**
Runs: 5 Wins: 1 (S) Places: 1 €29,359
Exposed when only fifth in the King Edward at Royal Ascot, hard to fancy

BETTING: 11-10 Ambiente Friendly, 13-8 Los Angeles, 13-2 Matsuri, 14 Grosvenor Square, 20 Sunway, 50 The Euphrates, 66 Euphoric
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2 1 0 1-4 1
2023: Auguste Rodin 9-2, R Moore 4-11 Fav (A P O'Brien), dr 1, 9 ran.

Friendly fire

TEMPLEGATE'S GUIDE TO THE IRISH DERBY

AMBIENTE FRIENDLY can prove the bookies' enemy in the Irish Derby.

James Fanshawe's (*above*) star travelled well but just found City Of Troy too good. He looks a good bet to make amends at The Curragh tomorrow. **Los Angeles** was a place behind him at Epsom. He won't be easy to pass and Roger Varian's **Matsuri** can hit the frame.

AMBIENTE FRIENDLY ★★★★★
BE Friendly. Connections forked out a cool 100 grand to supplement him after his excellent second in the Derby at Epsom when he should have finished even closer than he did. That's the strongest form and there is more to come.

EUPHORIC ★
EU must be joking. He was a pacemaker at Epsom and will be on similar duties here.

GROSVENOR SQUARE ★★★
SQUARE deal. Ended last term with a Group 3 win at Leopardstown but modest effort in the Chester Vase. Each-way chance.

KEEPER'S HEART ★
KEEP TRYING. Ran okay at Leopardstown but don't have a flutter on Heart.

LOS ANGELES ★★★★
LOS could win. Good winner of Leopardstown Trial before third in the Derby at Epsom when up with a fast pace. This track will suit him better.

MATSURI ★★★★
MAT finish. Bred to be good and had eight lengths in hand when winning Leicester novice. Could be anything.

SUNWAY ★★★
WAY to go. He won a French Group 1 as a juvenile and finished with a real rattle in the French Derby. More to come.

THE EUPHRATES ★★
RATES lowly. Exposed in the King Edward at Royal Ascot. Best watched.

FRIEND INDEED . . . Ambiente Friendly can win Irish Derby

Favourite 25-1

KOBBIE MAINOO'S impressive second-half showing v Slovenia has got Ladbrokes thinking. They go 25-1 England win Euros and the Man Utd star scores in the final.

20-1

DENMARK and Switzerland are underdogs to see off Euro giants Germany and Italy respectively today. Paddy Power are a boosted 20-1 the minnows both do it.

Switzerland to beat Italy after extra-time
11-1
BETGOODWIN

Switzerland v Italy

5pm, BBC1 & talkSPORT

SWITZERLAND nearly beat Germany in Group A while Italy only just avoided a third-place Group B finish.

So the Swiss look a bet at 5-2 with MGM to shock the defending champions.

Ex-Prem star Xherdan Shaqiri *(left)* is 11-1 with Unibet to score first.

FORECAST: 1-0

Germany to win both halves against Denmark
14-5
BETGOODWIN

Germany v Denmark

8pm, ITV & talkSPORT

DENMARK looked just as dull as England in Group C.

They rely on Christian Eriksen and the Germans will be ready for him.

The hosts have proved they are real contenders so back an easy home win and Ilkay Gundogan *(left)* to net first at 8-1 with Unibet.

FORECAST: 2-0

HOT COLE . . . Palmer is ready to sizzle for Lions

KNIVES OUT

Palmer is different gravy and he can spare Gareth from roasting

A SUNDAY roast — one of the great English traditions — and something Gareth Southgate will be getting a taste of if he fails to guide England through the last-16 tomorrow.

Master chefs Alan Shearer and Gary Lineker, along with most of the country, have had their knives Samurai-sharp after the shocking fare his side served up against Slovenia in midweek.

It's fair to say that, so far at the Euros, this England side have been the "blandest thing on the menu".

Yes, despite having some of the finest ingredients on the planet at his disposal, the Three Lions boss has conjured up dishes you wouldn't feed to your cat.

As the man said, "things can only get better".

But forget about taking the hand-brake off — Southgate needs to get this motor off the driveway first.

Coral's Dave Stevens has been equally unimpressed with the England head coach and his side's lifeless efforts.

He said: "I'd advise the players to start ignoring whatever it is the manager is telling them before a match and instead go out and play some high-tempo, energetic football.

"I have no doubt the squad has more than enough talent and I honestly think managed by a Pep Guardiola or a Jurgen Klopp, we'd be talking about a team that has won multiple tournaments.

"But under Gareth Southgate, they continually fall short when it really matters. I don't see that changing here."

Failing to beat world-ranked No45 Slovakia (England are fifth) remains unthinkable, despite their showing so far.

As both Napoleon and Eisenhower insisted: "It's better to have a lucky general than a good one".

And on that score Southgate is looking quite the four-leaf clover given the way the draw has worked out.

Beat Slovakia, who squeaked through after beating Belgium 1-0, losing 2-1 to Ukraine and drawing 1-1 with Romania, and it's Italy or Switzerland for a place in the semis. Not Germany, Spain, France or Portugal.

William Hill's Lee Phelps does see a way forward for the Three Lions but it's not quite out of the beautiful game handbook.

He said: "England's performances haven't deterred national optimism and they head into the game as 4-9 favourites, with Slovakia 15-2.

"It would be no surprise to see Slovakia park the bus, hoping for a draw at 16-5 and even penalties, which is 14-1 to be either team's method of victory."

Still it's clear to anyone that Kobbie Mainoo and Cole Palmer made a difference in the second half against Slovenia.

Even Mr Southgate *(left)* must have noticed.

England owe everyone they know a performance and, with the right side out, they can deliver it.

In the score market, 1-0 is the 19-4 favourite, but that's too pessimistic for me.

Slovakia have scored in all three games, so I like 3-1 at Hills' 14-1, while Coral's 29-10 England win and BTTS looks a solid bet.

If anyone's gonna make it happen for England, it's Chelsea ace Palmer and I like him at Sporting Index's 13-2 to get the ball rolling.

The knives are out for Southgate but this could be a fork in the road.

By KEVIN DUNNE

England v Slovakia
tomorrow, 5pm, ITV & talkSPORT

THE DARK HORSE BET

33-1

FOR all the hype, France have not impressed yet but Belgium still look a big price at 4-1 to turn them over on Monday.

Tied in with Switzerland to beat Italy plus Austria to see off Turkey, the treble pays 33-1 with BetMGM.

KYL TO WIN . . . Mbappe will be big threat to Belgium

England to lead at half-time, full-time with BTTS
13-2
BETGOODWIN

HARRY UP . . . England ace Kane will bid to add to his one Euro 2024 goal so far tomorrow

The Spanish to knock out Georgia 3-1
11-1
BETGOODWIN

Spain v Georgia

tomorrow, 8pm, ITV & talkSPORT

GEORGIA were not on Spain's minds until their shock win over Portugal.

But La Roja beat them 10-2 on aggregate in qualifying and are 9-2 to be Euro 2024 champs.

Spain's Lamine Yamal *(left)* to net first at Sky Bet's 6-1 is the tip.

FORECAST: 3-1

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GOODWINNERS' ENCLOSURE

NINE, TEN, OOPS-A-DAISY
. . . Kane and Jude have issues

WHO'D have thought after lacklustre performances in the group games that England would still be outright favourites?

We have a dream draw, dodging all the big guns until – hopefully – the final in Berlin on July 14.

In fact, the Three Lions are only 7-5 to make it to the Euros final – although we at BetGoodwin feel Gareth Southgate needs to be brave and freshen up his team against Slovakia tomorrow.

BET ON KOBBIE 'N COLE

Sadly, Jude Bellingham and Bukayo Saka have not performed and surely now Cole Palmer has got to start along with Kobbie Mainoo.

Back in 1966, Sir Alf Ramsey had a similar dilemma when Jimmy Greaves picked up a slight knock in the World Cup group stages.

But Ramsey kept his replacement Geoff Hurst in the team even when Jimmy was fit again . . . and the rest is history.

Since last week, results have generally been bookmaker friendly and we've hit the front with the games not going to form!

Our biggest losers now to lift the trophy are France, currently 11-2, with England 7-2 and Germany 11-2. But every other team is a nice winner for us.

BetGoodwin's good-thing treble this week is Germany, England and Spain all to win inside 90 minutes. And this pays a very tasty 15-8.

There's a very tempting bet we've seen with William Hill that one or two of our traders have thrown a couple of quid at – France star Kylian Mbappe to be Player of the Tournament in a double with Cole Palmer to be the Young Player of the Tournament. The odds for that are an incredible 250-1.

Whatever you choose to have a wager on, remember bet clever, BetGoodwin – and hopefully you'll nick a couple of bob.

Adios till next week.

Sun DREAM TEAM EUROS
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TOP TIPS

WEEKEND FOUR-TIMER
Switzerland to beat Italy, Germany to beat Denmark, England to beat Slovakia, Spain to beat Georgia. Acca is 9-1 with BetMGM.

EIGHT TO REACH QUARTER-FINALS
Switzerland, Germany, England, Spain, France, Portugal, Holland, Austria. Acca pays 9-1 with Unibet.

BEST BETS
Marcel Sabitzer *(below)* and his Austria to make the semi-finals 5-2 with BetVictor. England v Spain final is 10-1 at bet365.

BETGOODWIN
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✓ FALLS AT THE LAST WHEN IN FRONT
✓ IS SECOND TO A 50/1
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Stake money will be returned as a free bet: Min £10 - max £100. UK and Irish win singles only. Stake to be deducted from free bet returns. For full T&C's please visit goodwinracing.co.uk
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++TONIGHT'S RUNNERS AND RIDERS++

LINGFIELD

GOING: A-W: STANDARD; TURF: GOOD TO FIRM

TEMPLEGATE		TOM PEPPER	
5.40	Beach Point	5.40	Roscioli
6.10	Idyllic	6.10	Manila Mist
6.45	Fair Dinkum	6.45	Feyha
7.15	Desdemona	7.15	Lucky Gift
7.45	Noel Fox	7.45	Parisiac
8.15	Mbappe	8.15	Essme
8.45	Em Jay Kay	8.45	Em Jay Kay

■TIC-TAC: (AW) L-H all-weather Polytrack of 1m 2f, 2f run-in. (Turf) L-H 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): G & J Moore 53-416, S Dow 40-399, S & E Crisford 39-150, K P De Foy 29-152. THIS SEASON: C Johnston 6, S Dow 5, Alice Haynes 5. ■TOP JOCKEYS (2019-2024): R Clutterbuck 42-330, W Carson 35-460, J Haynes 22-296, T P Queally 20-223. THIS SEASON: R Clutterbuck 5, J Haynes 5, W Carson 4. ■LONGEST TRAVELLER: Persian Phoenix (5.40) & Baileys Jubilation (7.15) trip of 540 miles. ■FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OP: None. ■LIVE ON SKY SPORTS RACING

5.40 TRUELOVE TROPHY HANDICAP (Class 5); value to the winner £3,716; 1m. a-w (7 runners)

1 (3) 2241146 **EGOISTE 27** D Menuisier 5-10-2 **Rhys Clutterbuck 95**
2 (4) 275056- **HOORNBLOWER 277** D Coakley 5-10-2 **Ray Dawson 89**
3 (7) 0-31803 **ROSCIOLI 19 (P,T;D)** B Johnson 6-9-10 **Laura Pearson 92**
4 (6) 7-66708 **COMMANDER CROUCH 15 (P)** J Boyle 3-9-9 **Pat Cosgrave 88**
5 (2) 7671 **JAZZ SCENE 10 (D)** Sir M Prescott 3-9-8 **Jack Gilligan ●99**
6 (1) -743243 **PERSIAN PHOENIX 10** C Johnston 3-9-4 **Jonny Peate (3) 95**
7 (5) 6-82124 **BEACH POINT 13 (V★;BF,D)** W Knight 3-9-4 **Pat Dobbs 98**

BETTING: 9-4 Jazz Scene, 11-4 Beach Point, 11-2 Egoiste, 6 Persian Phoenix, 7 Commander Crouch, 12 Roscioli, 16 Hoornblower
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED and 2023: No corresponding race.

6.10 GET RACEDAY READY HANDICAP (6); value to the winner £2,983; 1m 2f. a-w (10 runners)

1 (6) 5486-62 **BRASSAVOLA 9 (B)** K De Foy 5-10-5 **Kaiya Fraser (5) 98**
2 (2) 117-738 **THE PUG 22 (B;CD)** S Kirk 4-10-1 **Shariq Mohd (7) 90**
3 (1) 2-99745 **SEMSER 26 (P;C,D)** G & J Moore 7-9-12 **Tom Queally 93**
4 (8) 8-493 **THE COLORIST 19** K Jewell 4-9-10 **Charles Bishop 97**
5 (4) 05-6856 **PRIDE OF NEPAL 13 (T,V;D)** J Scott 6-9-9 **Cameron Noble 88**
6 (5) 0-02452 **MANILA MIST 22** K Jewell 4-9-9 **Pat Cosgrave 96**
7 (10) 6-60555 **LOST IN TIME 11 (V;C,D)** D Ivory 7-9-4 **William Carson 89**
8 (9) -878555 **MYKONOS ST JOHN 6 (V;C)** S Dixon 7-9-3 **Joey Haynes 86**
9 (7) 8090-22 **KNIGHT TEMPLAR 29 (BF)** Sir M Prescott 3-9-2 **Jack Gilligan ●99**
10 (3) 8-982 **IDYLLIC 25** C Fellowes 3-8-13 **Ray Dawson 93**

BETTING: 5-2 Knight Templar, 10-3 Brassavola, 11-2 Idyllic, 6 Mykonos St John
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED and 2023: No corresponding race.

6.45 EWI PRO HANDICAP (6); value to the winner £2,983; 1m 5f. a-w (6 runners)

1 (3) 432-246 **STAGE SHOW J11** A Dunn 4-9-11 **Kaiya Fraser (5) ●99**
2 (6) 4150-76 **FEYHA 13 (B)** M Tregoning 4-9-7 **Rhys Clutterbuck 91**
3 (4) 5-68344 **DYNAMISTE 31 (P★)** K De Foy 4-9-7 **Ray Dawson 96**
4 (2) 323-675 **ON THE RIGHT TRACK 8** M Usher 7-9-6 **Joey Haynes 93**
5 (5) 86417-5 **FAIR DINKUM 13 (T;C)** J Scott 4-9-6 **Pat Dobbs 98**
6 (1) 34-8605 **PABLO PRINCE 25 (C)** K Jewell 6-9-3 **Charles Bishop 82**

BETTING: 3 Fair Dinkum, 7-2 Stage Show, 4 Dynamiste, 9-2 On The Right Track, 5 Feyha, 16 Pablo Prince
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED and 2023: No corresponding race.

7.15 DOWNLOAD RACECOURSE APP RACEDAY EBF FILLIES' NOVICE (5); 2-y-o; £3,402; 5f. turf (6 runners)

1 (1) **ANDANTINI** K De Foy 9-2 **Ray Dawson —**
2 (6) 454 **BAILEYS JUBILATION 15** C Johnston 9-2 **Pat Cosgrave 97**
3 (3) **COTO DE CAZA** S & E Crisford 9-2 **Jonny Peate (3) —**
4 (5) 23 **DESDEMONA 11 (T★)** T Clover 9-2 **Connor Planas (3) ●99**
5 (4) 85 **LUCKY GIFT 24 (H)** C Appleby 9-2 **Pat Dobbs 89**
6 (2) **SAINT FONTEYN** R Cook & J Bridger 9-2 **Rhys Clutterbuck —**

BETTING: 3 Coto De Caza, 7-2 Baileys Jubilation, 4 Lucky Gift, 9-2 Desdemona
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 6 2
2023: Dapperling 8-11 A Voikhansky 15-8 (R Hannon) drawn 3, 5 ran.

7.45 EASTBOURNE CAR AUCTIONS HANDICAP (5); value to the winner £3,716; 5f. turf (4 runners)

1 (3) 8-46202 **MC LOVEN 15 (D)** S Dow 3-9-8 **Kaiya Fraser (5) 94**
2 (1) 612 **NOEL FOX 22 (BF)** R Beckett 3-9-7 **Rhys Clutterbuck ●99**
3 (4) -469555 **PARISIAC 9 (P;C,D)** A Haynes 5-9-6 **Christian Howarth (3) 90**
4 (2) 589-2 **BIG TIME RASCAL 26** P & O Cole 3-9-4 **Pat Cosgrave 98**

BETTING: 13-8 Noel Fox, 9-4 Big Time Rascal, 10-3 Mc Loven, 6 Parisiac
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 3 3
2023: Eeh Bah Gum 8-9-9 Laura Coughlan 13-2 (I Furtado) drawn 2, 6 ran.

8.15 TIPS FOR EVERY RACE AT RACEDAY-READY.COM HANDICAP (6); £2,983; 7f. turf (7 runners)

1 (5) 21-6421 **BUY THE DIP 32** J Boyle 4-10-2 **Pat Cosgrave 98**
2 (4) 551586- **LUNA QUEEN 247 (D)** S West 5-9-13 **Jack Gilligan 87**
3 (1) 288-141 **MBAPPE 21 (C,D)** M Loughnane 3-9-9 **Ray Dawson ●99**
4 (2) 55-2600 **CUBAN HARRY 18 (P★)** E Dunlop 3-9-8 **Morgan Cole (5) 82**
5 (3) 304-248 **HAVANA SMOKE 154** D Cunha 3-9-7 **Rhys Clutterbuck 90**
6 (7) 9-86 **ALABAMA ANNA 35** H Charlton 3-9-6 **Tom Queally 95**
7 (6) 5-34433 **ESSME 9 (P,T;CD)** R Cook & J Bridger 6-9-1 **William Carson 96**

BETTING: 11-4 Buy The Dip, 3 Mbappe, 7-2 Essme, 4 Alabama Anna, 10 Cuban Harry, 12 Havana Smoke, 14 Luna Queen
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 5 2
2023: Amathus 6-10-2 George Rooke 13-2 (P Chamings) drawn 1, 8 ran.

8.45 GET RACEDAY READY 'CONFINED' APPRENTICE HANDICAP (6); £2,983; 6f. turf (6 runners)

1 (3) 7022293 **EM JAY KAY 5 (P★;D)** P McEntee 5-10-1 **Connor Planas ●99**
2 (6) 6-43527 **ALPINE GIRL 22 (H★)** J Fanshawe 4-10-0 **Kaiya Fraser (3) 96**
3 (1) 4-455 **LITTLE MISS MAGIC 18** C Hills 3-9-8 **Jonny Peate 97**
4 (5) 8-09025 **MUY MUY GUAPO 11 (P)** S Dow 4-9-2 **Christian Howarth 94**
5 (2) 567-8 **BRIAR ROSE 21** E Dunlop 3-9-1 **Morgan Cole (3) 88**
6 (4) 3-96658 **INVINCIBLE NAVY 21 (B★)** R Cook & J Bridger 3-9-0 **Laura Coughlan 86**

BETTING: 9-4 Em Jay Kay, 5-2 Alpine Girl, 7-2 Little Miss Magic, 5 Muy Muy Guapo, 12 Invincible Navy, Briar Rose
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1
2023: San Francisco Bay 4-9-9 Laura Coughlan 7-4 Fav (H Candy) drawn 5, 8 ran.

LONG SHOT
TASHKHAN (3.10 Newcastle) has a big weight but was a brilliant third in a Longchamp Group 1 and the Cesarewitch last season so has lots of class.

DONCASTER

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD)

TEMPLEGATE		TOM PEPPER	
5.50	Mythical Phoenix	5.50	Be Frank
6.25	Balmoral Lady	6.25	Pinsent
7.00	Extrication	7.00	Riot
7.30	Timefall	7.30	Melissa Honey
8.00	Indivar	8.00	Fihrayn
8.30	Atlantis Blue	8.30	Throubi
9.00	War Chant	9.00	Naepoint

■TIC-TAC: Left-handed, galloping pear-shaped track. Almost 2m round with 4 1/2f run-in. Round and straight miles. ■DRAW: High numbers best on the straight course. ■LEADING TRAINERS (2019-2024): R Hannon 33-248, W Haggas 24-129, D O'Meara 20-218, R Beckett 19-112. THIS SEASON: D O'Meara 5, R Beckett 3, G Tuer 2. ■TOP JOCKEYS (2019-2024): K Stott 11-107, C Rodriguez 7-70, J Hart 7-123, L Edmunds 7-78. THIS SEASON: C Rodriguez 3, D Nolan 3, L Edmunds 2. ■LONGEST TRAVELLER: Timefall (7.30) trained at Kimpton Down. Round trip of 424 miles. ■FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OP: Eco Power Boy (8.00). ■LIVE ON SKY SPORTS RACING

5.50 NAPOLEONS CASINO HANDICAP (Class 4); value to the winner £5,653; 6f. (10 runners)

1 (9) /420-56 **INGRA TOR 20 (D)** J Channon 5-9-9 **Callum Rodriguez 88**
2 (6) 214-222 **MYTHICAL PHOENIX 14 (P★;BF)** J Camacho 4-9-9. **Lewis Edmunds 98**
3 (10) 3-75029 **ANOTHER INVESTMENT 14 (D)** N Tinkler 5-9-8 **Alex Jary (5) 93**
4 (8) 117-439 **BE FRANK 16 (P★;D)** H Candy 4-9-7 **Trevor Whelan 97**
5 (5) 619-000 **ROCK OF ENGLAND 14 (V;D)** P Midgley 4-9-5 **Ryan Sexton 84**
6 (7) 043-330 **CHAMPAGNE SARAH 35 (P;BF,D)** M Murphy & M Keady 4-9-5 **Sean Kirrane 92**
7 (3) 4349910 **TYKE 24 (CD)** M Appleby 4-9-2 **Alistair Rawlinson 95**
8 (1) 1355042 **ROCK OPERA 24 (D)** R Fahey 4-9-2 **David Nolan ●99**
9 (2) 6522230 **MUSCIKA 14 (D)** D O'Meara 10-9-1 **Jason Hart 90**
10 (4) 040-005 **ANOTHER BAAR 11 (T;D)** A Keatley 4-8-12 **Oisin McSweeney (3) 83**

BETTING: 9-4 Mythical Phoenix, 4 Rock Opera, 6 Champagne Sarah, 8 Be Frank, Another Investment, 10 Ingra Tor, 12 Tyke, 14 Another Baar
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 6 5
2023: Fantasy Master 5-8-13 David Egan 10-1 (D Holland) drawn 5, 10 ran.

6.25 HARRISON COLLEGE- YOUR FUTURE YOUR CHOICE MAIDEN STAKES (5); £4,320; 6f. (14 runners)

1 (5) 3/ **ALL WHITE MATE 575** G Tuer 4-10-0 **Harrison Shaw —**
2 (14) 64-4547 **ASIMOV 16 (T;BF)** J Fanshawe 3-9-7 **Ross Coakley 92**
3 (4) 60 **DASH GORDON 18** A French 3-9-7 **Alistair Rawlinson 85**
4 (2) **LAST OUTLAW (H★)** M Wigham 3-9-7 **Jason Hart —**
5 (13) 54-3 **MUSICAL TOUCH 175** R Fahey 3-9-7 **David Nolan 97**
6 (7) 99 **MYAL 33** Steph Hollinshead 3-9-7 **Faye McManoman 74**
7 (8) **PINSENT** D & N Barron 3-9-7 **Ryan Sexton —**
8 (9) **PIPERSTOWN** K Frost 3-9-7 **Andrea Pinna (7) —**
9 (11) 5- **SONDAD 275** M & D Easterby 3-9-7 **Joanna Mason 87**
10 (10) 00 **WIGGINS B 18** D & N Barron 3-9-7 **Shane Gray 70**
11 (3) 22 **BALMORAL LADY 14 (BF)** E Walker 3-9-2 **Callum Rodriguez ●99**
12 (6) 45-4 **DARK SUN 24 (T)** W Haggas 3-9-2 **Kevin Stott 96**
13 (12) 0-0 **SALLY ANNE'S DREAM 42** S Whitaker 3-9-2 **Lewis Edmunds 70**
14 (1) 9 **TWILIGHT TRUTH 26** H Candy 3-9-2 **Trevor Whelan 71**

BETTING: 7-4 Balmoral Lady, 4 Musical Touch, 9-2 Dark Sun, 5 Asimov, 12 Sondad
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 1 4
2023: Billyjoh 3-9-4 Frederick Larson 7-1 (M Appleby) drawn 6, 12 ran.

7.00 RED ROCK PARTNERSHIP RECRUITMENT SOLUTIONS HANDICAP (4); winner £5,653; 7f. (10 runners)

1 (10) 3840140 **RIOT 15 (T,V;CD)** D O'Meara 7-9-9 **Jason Hart 97**
2 (7) 58-7161 **SIGNCASTLE CITY 21 (D)** R Hannon 4-9-7 **Sam Hitchcott ●99**
3 (2) 000-090 **TACTICAL 14 (D)** J Camacho 6-9-7 **Ryan Sexton 83**
4 (6) 6-32 **EXTRICATION 62** R Teal 5-9-5 **Kevin Stott 98**
5 (1) 4614139 **SUPREME KING 14 (T;C)** P Evans 4-9-4 **Callum Rodriguez 95**
6 (4) 7-09204 **ROUNDHAY PARK 14 (C,D)** N Tinkler 9-9-4 **Faye McManoman 93**
7 (3) 745-767 **GREAT MAX 13 (BF,D)** D O'Meara 5-9-4 **David Nolan 87**
8 (9) 2556175 **THAPA VC 12 (P,T;D)** M Rimell 6-8-11 **Lewis Edmunds 90**
9 (5) -679349 **STARSHIBA 99 (D)** M Appleby 7-8-11 **Joanna Mason 88**
10 (8) 4220050 **LEAP DAY 35 (P)** T Easterby 4-8-10 **Sean Kirrane 77**

BETTING: 3 Signcastle City, 7-2 Extrication, 7 Roundhay Park, Great Max, 8 Riot, Thapa VC, Supreme King, 12 Starshiba
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 2 PU
2023: Mobashr 5-8-12 Jason Watson 11-1 (M Appleby) drawn 1, 6 ran.

Sunracing FORM

RIOT (9-9) 7-1 weakened final furlong, 10th of 16 (btn 9½l) to Tolstoy (8-5) (York 7f app hcap (4) £10,468 good).
SIGNCASTLE CITY (9-8) 9-1 in touch, stayed on to lead close home, bt King Of War (8-9) ½l (11 ran) (Chepstow 7f hcap (4) £4,972 good to firm).
TACTICAL (9-7) 28-1 rear, never on terms, 14th of 17 (11l) to Tolstoy (8-11) (York 7f hcap (3) £15,462 good).
EXTRICATION (9-4) 7-2 led 1f out, soon driven, headed final strides, btn ½l by Own Accord (8-13) (6 ran) (Wetherby 7f nov stk (5) £4,320 soft).
SUPREME KING (9-5) 7-1 one pace, 9th of 10 (5½l) to Hyperfocus (9-7) (Chester 6f hcap (4) £7,644 heavy).
ROUNDHAY PARK (9-10) 28-1 stayed on, 4th of 20 (btn 2l) to Holkham Bay (9-9) (York 6f hcap (4) £10,730 good).
GREAT MAX (9-9) 4-1 fav weakened, 7th of 11 (btn 7l) to Society Lion (9-7) (Doncaster 1m hcap (4) £5,832 good).
THAPA VC (8-11) 22-1 one pace, 5th of 8 (btn 4½l) to Metabolt (9-9) (Windsor 1m hcap (4) £5,653 good to firm).
STARSHIBA (9-11) 13-2, weakened 1f out, last of 9 (7l) to Danielsflyer (9-6) (Newcastle 7f hcap (4) £7,328 AW).
RIOT (9-11) 13-2 ran on final furlong, 4th of 18 (btn 3l) to Feel The Need (9-3)
LEAP DAY (9-1) 50-1 ridden 3f out, soon beaten, 15th (14l) (18 ran) (York 7f hcap (4) £10,468 good to soft).

7.30 EBF RESTRICTED MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES (2); 2-y-o; value to the winner £16,200; 7f. (13 runners)

1 (11) **BALAYAGED** C Johnston 9-2 **Jason Hart —**
2 (12) **BOUVIER** Dr R Newland & J Insole 9-2 **Trevor Whelan —**
3 (2) **GLAMIS ROAD** O Sangster 9-2 **Kevin Stott —**
4 (3) **LADY JUSTICE** S Williams 9-2 **Ross Coakley —**
5 (10) **MELISSA HONEY** A Haynes 9-2 **David Nolan —**
6 (5) 87 **REALISE THE DREAM 19** A Haynes 9-2 **Alistair Rawlinson 75**
7 (1) 5 **RIDGEWAY REDWING 17** D Coakley 9-2 **George Bass 89**
8 (7) 684 **WHISKEY GLASSES 15** O Sangster 9-2 **Harrison Shaw 94**
9 (13) 86 **ALEISHKA 7** E Dunlop 9-0 **Ryan Sexton 90**
10 (4) 6 **DAWN AWAKENING 11 (H)** I Furtado 9-0 **Connor Murtagh 88**
11 (6) **HARVESTING** M & D Easterby 9-0 **Joanna Mason —**
12 (9) **LOGICAL LADY** I Furtado 9-0 **Shane Gray —**
13 (8) 2 **TIMEFALL 14** R Beckett 9-0 **Callum Rodriguez ●99**

BETTING: 6-5 Timefall, 3 Whiskey Glasses, 8 Glamis Road, 12 Ridgeway Redwing
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2 2 1
2023: Alshinfarah 9-2 Dane O'Neill 5-2 Fav (K P De Foy) drawn 7, 10 ran.

8.00 SUMMER SATURDAY SERIES HANDICAP (5); 3-y-o; value to the winner £4,397; 7f. (14 runners)

1 (12) 511-533 **THE BITTER MOOSE 28 (D)** H Palmer 9-10 **Ross Coakley 97**
2 (7) 43-1903 **SMART VISION 23 (P;D)** J Macey 9-9 **Lewis Edmunds 91**
3 (4) 445-96 **FIHRAYN 43** R Hannon 9-8 **Sam Hitchcott 88**
4 (6) 0-2364 **MARMADUKE LEMON 8 (B★)** E Bethell 9-8 **Callum Rodriguez 94**
5 (1) 417-064 **INGLEBY IVY 22** A Nicholls 9-7 **Connor Murtagh 92**
6 (14) 42-3079 **BAZBALL 54 (V)** K Burke 9-7 **Harrison Shaw 87**
7 (8) 623-357 **WELCOME DREAM 23** K Ryan 9-6 **Shane Gray 83**
8 (3) 21-4984 **BELLA BISBEE 14** E Dunlop 9-5 **Kevin Stott 95**
9 (13) 8-88 **BRINDLEY 19** J Channon 9-4 **George Bass (3) 74**
10 (10) 51-3073 **INDIVAR 14 (P★;BF)** D O'Meara 9-4 **David Nolan ●99**
11 (9) 0458- **ECO POWER BOY 316** J & S Quinn 9-3 **Jason Hart 91**
12 (5) 076-614 **ALFIE BOY 23 (D)** T Easterby 9-3 **Sean Kirrane 96**
13 (2) 920-46 **TRIGGERMAN 23** J Camacho 9-1 **Ryan Sexton 92**
14 (11) 7013717 **BODY PARTS 32 (D)** G Tutty 8-13 **Joanna Mason 90**

BETTING: 11-2 Indivar, 6 Smart Vision, 13-2 The Bitter Moose, 7 Marmaduke Lemon, 8 Welcome Dream, Fihrayn, 10 Ingleby Ivy, 12 Alfie Boy, Brindley
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1
2023: Desert Voice 9-11 Dane O'Neill 15-8 Fav (W Haggas) drawn 7, 9 ran.

8.30 DONCASTER SUPPORTING RACING STAFF WEEK FILLIES' HANDICAP (5); £4,397; 1m 2f. (5 runners)

1 (5) 29-9618 **ABSOLUTE QUEEN 29 (BF,D)** G Boughey 4-9-9 **Tommie Jakes (5) 93**
2 (3) 5236126 **TURNER GIRL 15 (P;CD)** E Dunlop 5-9-8 **Jason Hart 97**
3 (2) 4/53-73 **THROUBI 64** J Fanshawe 4-9-6 **Ross Coakley 98**
4 (4) 2330-55 **ATLANTIS BLUE 26** G Baker 5-9-4 **Trevor Whelan ●99**
5 (1) 9-67556 **CELEBRATING ETHEL 4** A Carroll 5-8-13 **Joanna Mason 89**

BETTING: 2 Throubi, 3 Atlantis Blue, Turner Girl, 5 Absolute Queen, Celebrating Ethel
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2 5 4
2023: Sid's Annie 4-9-9 Dane O'Neill 13-2 (M Usher) drawn 4, 7 ran.

9.00 GET RACEDAY READY HANDICAP (STR) (5); value to the winner £4,397; 1m. (8 runners)

1 (5) 3163411 **AL MUQDAD 13 (C)** D O'Meara 4-10-4 **David Nolan ●99**
2 (4) 0/05-50 **SUMMA PETO 168 (BF,D)** M Appleby 6-10-4 **Alistair Rawlinson 80**
3 (8) 1170-31 **WAR CHANT 27 (D)** R Guest 4-10-1 **Tommie Jakes (5) 98**
4 (3) 5488730 **PARIS LIGHTS 15** P Midgley 5-9-10 **Ryan Sexton 88**
5 (1) 1998-45 **BIGBERTIEBASSETT 21 (BF,C)** W Muir & C Grassick 3-9-8 **Lewis Edmunds 93**
6 (2) 40-0016 **COPPER AND FIVE 18 (CD)** R Carr 8-9-6 **Joanna Mason 91**
7 (6) 3-524 **NAEPOINT 16** E Bethell 3-9-5 **Kevin Stott 97**
8 (7) -122173 **HAVANARAMA 16 (T)** H Palmer 3-9-2 **Ross Coakley 94**

BETTING: 3 Al Muqdad, 7-2 War Chant, 9-2 Havanarama, 5 Naepoint, 6 Bigbertiebassett, 10 Summa Peto, 14 Copper And Five, 20 Paris Lights
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 1-3-6 3
2023: Dougies Dream 4-9-3 Alex Jary 9-1 (N Tinkler) drawn 5, 10 ran.

GET YOUR FAVOURITE PULLOUT IN TOMORROW'S SUN ON SUNDAY FOR IRISH DERBY CARD AT THE CURRAGH PLUS ACTION AT UTTOXETER, CARTMEL & WOLVERHAMPTON

RACING RESULTS ROUND-UP FROM YESTERDAY'S SEVEN MEETINGS IN THE UK AND IRELAND

CARTMEL

1.20: 1 BOOMSLANG R Chapman (11-10 fav); **2 Sky Luna** (9-1); **3 Skyjack Hijack** (11-2). 9 ran. ¾l; 6l. R Menzies. T: £2.10; £1.10, £2.30, £1.80. Ex: £14.30. Trif: £57.70. CF: £12.33. NR: Wholly Boley.

1.55: 1 ASA J Williamson (7-2); **2 Starlyte** (5-1); **3 Lady Hamilton** (5-2 fav). 10 ran. 3½l; 13l. P Kirby. T: £4.50; £1.70, £1.60, £1.40. Ex: £22.50. Tricast: £51.62. Trifecta: £67.60. CF: £21.50.

2.30: 1 BELLES BENEFIT H Bannister (9-1); **2 Solway Molly** (20-1); **3 You Some Girl** (15-2). 9 ran (Emily Wade 5-2 fav). nk; 6l. B Case. T: £10.30; £2.50, £4.80, £2.50. Ex: £197.90. Tric: £1402.90. Trif: £1673.40. CF: £154.07. NR: Little Talks.

3.05: 1 ILIKEDWAYURTHINKIN R McLernon (4-1 jtfav); **2 Do No Wrong** (9-2); **3 Elleon** (9-2). 11 ran (Mario De Pail 4-1 jtfav). 3¼l; 4¼l. B Haslam. T: £5; £1.80, £2.10, £1.80. Ex: £25.80. Tricast: £86.59. Trifecta: £129.20. CF: £23.42.

3.40: 1 ISHOLO DU VIVIEN T Gillard (9-1); **2 Arctic Ambition** (12-1); **3 Goodtimes Badtimes** (9-1). 12 ran (Dr Sanderson 5-2 fav). 3l; 4l. D McCain. T: £10; £2.60, £3.70, £2.70. Ex: £107.10. Tric: £1006.97. Trif: £1181.60. CF: £110.08.

4.15: 1 SEAN OG Sean Quinlan (9-2); **2 Unwanted Attention** (5-2 fav); **3 Olivers Travels** (3-1). 7 ran. 1l; 13l. D Sayer. T: £5.50; £2.40, £1.70. Ex: £16.80. Trifecta: £58. CF: £15.39.

4.47: 1 CALEVADE J Dawson (10-3 fav); **2 Restandbethankful** (12-1); **3 Ashington** (15-2). 14 ran. 3¾l; ½l. B Haslam. T: £4.34; £1.80, £3.10, £2.50. Ex: £46.90. Tric: £291.10. Trif: £292.30. CF: £41.15.

P/POT: £125.50 **Q/POT:** £134.70

DONCASTER

1.35: 1 MINNESOTA LAD B Garritty (7-2 jtfav); **2 Showtime Mahomes** (5-1); **3 Bright** (10-1). 9 ran (Crypto Quest 7-2 jtfav). nk; 1½l. R Fahey. T: £4.60; £1.60, £1.90, £3.10. Ex: £22.60. Tricast: £159.65. Trifecta: £148.60. CF: £21.06. NR: Epic Express, Golden Duke.

2.10: 1 NEW CENTURY O Murphy (13-8 fav); **2 Consolidation** (3-1); **3 Field Of Gold** (11-4). 6 ran. 2¼l; ½l. A Balding. T: £2.63; £1.40, £1.60. Ex: £5.80. Trifecta: £12.90. CF: £6.44.

2.45: 1 NOVELLO LAD D Nolan (5-4 fav); **2 Wichahpi** (17-2); **3 Sergeant Mayer** (10-1). 11 ran. ½l; ½l. P Midgley. T: £2.25; £1.30, £1.90, £2.60. Ex: £12.30. Tricast: £77.63. Trif: £79.90. CF: £11.67.

3.20: 1 GOLDEN MYRRH R Ryan (evens fav); **2 Princess Niyla** (5-1); **3 Hostelry** (9-2). 6 ran. ¾l; 2l. R Beckett. T: £2; £1.40, £2.30. Ex: £7.20. Trif: £14.80. CF: £6.09.

3.55: 1 BEYLERBEYI O Murphy (11-8 fav); **2 Ardbraccan** (4-1); **3 Oakland Princess** (20-1). 8 ran. ½l; 2¼l. I Williams. T: £2.38; £4.10, £1.20, £1.50. Ex: £7.40. Tric: £71.56. Trif: £81.70. CF: £6.72.

4.30: 1 MISS GITANA D Muscutt (9-4 fav); **2 Love Safari** (12-1); **3 Filibustering** (11-2). 6 ran. shd; shd. Sir M Prescott. T: £3.25; £1.60, £4.70. Ex: £28.70. Trifecta: £105. CF: £28.45.

5.05: 1 GLISTENING NIGHTS B Garritty (3-1 fav); **2 Bearwith** (7-2); **3 Sisterandbrother** (10-3). 11 ran. ½l; 2¾l. R Fahey. T: £4; £1.60, £1.70, £1.40. Ex: £16.70. Tric: £36.85. Trif: £53.30. CF: £13.04.

P/POT: £19.80 **Q/POT:** £6.80

YARMOUTH

1.45: 1 LOVE YOUR WORK Liam Wright (10-11 fav); **2 United Force** (16-1); **3 Anif** (9-2). 6 ran. ns; 1¼l. Darryll Holland. T: £1.91; £1.10, £4.10. Ex: £11.60. Trifecta: £34.10. CF: £16.58.

2.20: 1 RUFF JUSTICE E Greatrex (28-1); **2 Queen Of Good News** (7-2 fav); **3 Little Lies** (16-1). 14 ran. 2¼l; shd. W Greatrex. T: £29; £8.30, £1.70, £5.10. Ex: £155.70. Trif: £1892. CF: £119.79. NR: Desert Eye.

2.55: 1 THE CRAFTY MOLE Jason Watson (15-8); **2 Wannabeawallaby** (8-1); **3 Warmonger** (11-8 fav). 8 ran. 3¼l; 1l. D O'Meara. T: £2.88; £1.10, £1.50, £1.10. Ex: £14.30. Tricast: £24.70. Trifecta: £31.60. CF: £15.71. NR: Veer.

3.30: 1 ANGLE LAND N Callan (9-2); **2 It's Showtime** (3-1); **3 Raffles Angel** (11-4 fav). 7 ran. hd; shd. R Cowell. T: £5.50; £2.70, £1.70. Ex: £22.80. Trifecta: £70. CF: £18.02.

4.05: 1 CHARMING WHISPER S D Bowen (7-1); **2 Ebt's Guard** (5-1); **3 Berkshire Nugget** (4-1 fav). 9 ran. shd; 2½l. P McBride. T: £8; £2.30, £1.90, £1.50. Ex: £42.40. Tricast: £144.01. Trifecta: £185.30. CF: £41.45.

4.40: 1 HOVER ON THE WIND A Keeley (7-2); **2 Tennessee Gold** (2-1 fav); **3 Above** (12-1). 11 ran. 1¼l; 1l. C Dwyer. T: £4.50; £1.40, £1.50, £3.40. Ex: £14. Tric: £76.36. Trif: £111. CF: £10.75.

5.10: 1 BLUEBELLS BOY N Callan (11-8 fav); **2 Sir Rodneyredblood** (4-1); **3 Mehigburn** (7-1). 8 ran. 3¾l; 1¾l. D Holland. T: £2.38; £1.10, £1.50, £2. Ex: £6.70. Trif: £32.80. CF: £6.86. NR: Deep Spirit.

P/POT: £29.90 **Q/POT:** £5.10

BANGOR

5.40: 1 EXMOOR FOREST James Davies (14-1); **2 Happy Du Mesnil** (5-2 fav); **3 Walking The Walk** (11-1). 9 ran. 1½l; 6l. N Hawke. T: £17.30; £3.80, £1.50, £2.90. Ex: £62.80. Tricast: £406.90. Trifecta: £484.80. CF: £49.83. NR: Doctor Foley, Favori De Sivola.

6.13: 1 JERRASH G Sheehan (17-2); **2 I Am Gonna Be** (11-1); **3 Peacocks Secret** (20-1). 8 ran (Steppenwolf 15-8 fav). 5½l; 1¼l. P & M Bowen. T: £10.40; £2.30, £2.90, £3.90. Ex: £75.90. Tricast: £1792.40. Trifecta: £651. CF: £87.78. NR: Deerstalker, Quoi De Neuf.

6.48: 1 DOG FOX H Brooke (3-1); **2 Therapist** (9-4 fav); **3 The Sad Shepherd** (17-2). 10 ran. 3¼l; 18l. O Greenall & J Guerriero. T: £4; £1.50, £1.20, £2.80. Ex: £11.30. Tricast: £50.13. Trifecta: £71. CF: £10.29.

7.23: 1 ZEEBAND D Gilligan (13-2); **2 Made For You** (14-1); **3 Kaleb** (3-1 jtfav). 8 ran (Ballygeary 3-1 jtfav). 11l; 1½l. P Gilligan (IRE) . T: £7.50; £1.80, £3.80, £1.30. Ex: £81. Tricast: £319.61. Trifecta: £290.90. CF: £81.10. NR: Donnie Azoff, Thankyourluckystar.

7.58: 1 BRIEFLY S Twiston-Davies (4-9 fav); **2 Moon Lady** (17-2); **3 Walk Of The Roses** (10-3). 11 ran. ¾l; 18l. A Honeyball. T: £1.45; £1.10, £1.70, £1.30. Ex: £5.50. Trifecta: £11.40. CF: £5.66.

NEWCASTLE

4.23: 1 HUMBLE SPARK Miss A Keighley (6-4 fav); **2 Isle of Wolves** (10-1); **3 My Brother Mike** (14-1). 11 ran. ¾l; 3l. J Goldie. T: £2.50; £1.30, £2.70, £3.50. Ex: £17.90. Tricast: £158.90. Trifecta: £145.20. CF: £17.15.

4.55: 1 ELEGANT ERIN D Tudhope (5-1 fav); **2 Paddy's Day** (7-1); **3 Never Dark** (9-1). 14 ran. nk; nk. P Midgley. T: £6; £2, £2.90, £3.30. Ex: £38. Tricast: £319.46. Trifecta: £243.70. CF: £38.25.

5.25: 1 BERGERAC T Eaves (5-1); **2 Prince of Zenda** (3-1 fav); **3 Navello** (20-1). 13 ran. 1¼l; ns. K Ryan. T: £6.30; £1.80, £1.60, £3.70. Ex: £26.30. Tricast: £288.82. Trifecta: £322.10. CF: £19.40. NR: Vintage Clarets.

6.00: 1 TIFFANY L Morris (7-2 jtfav); **2 Darnation** (9-1); **3 Sea Of Roses** (28-1). 14 ran (Chic Colombine 7-2 jtfav). 2½l; hd. Sir M Prescott. T: £4.50; £1.70, £3, £7.50. Ex: £33.10. Tricast: £777.83. Trifecta: £630.60. CF: £33.37.

6.35: 1 CHESHIRE DANCER D Probert (6-1); **2 Johnny Ringo** (12-1); **3 Hartswood** (13-2). 12 ran (Perfectly Timed 4-1 fav). shd; ¾l. H Palmer. T: £7; £2.70, £3.60, £2.50. Ex: £89.70. Tricast: £492.32. Trifecta: £739.80. CF: £73.63. NR: Baltimore Boy.

7.10: 1 GERMANIC T Marquand (5-4 fav); **2 Thewind Cries Mary** (3-1); **3 Bothar** (4-1). 9 ran. 11l; 2¼l. W Haggas. T: £2.07; £1.10, £1.10, £1.20. Ex: £3.60. Trifecta: £7.50. CF: £3.60. NR: Barefoot Warrior. Rule 4 to All Bets, 15p in the £.

7.45: 1 TEN POUNDS T Whelan (4-5 fav); **2 Baraq** (9-2); **3 Gregorianna** (200-1). 8 ran. 3½l; 11l. Harry Charlton. T: £1.72; £1.10, £1.40, £11.10. Ex: £4.10. Trifecta: £200.60. CF: £3.71. NR: Walson's Law. Rule 4 applies to All Bets, deduct 10p in the £.

JACKPOT: £13,896.70
P/POT: £57 **Q/POT:** £15.40

NEWMARKET

5.15: 1 MANDURAH H Davies (5-1); **2 Miss Fascinator** (8-1); **3 Beronia** (4-1). 11 ran (Scattering Light 11-4 fav). ½l; 1¾l. S & E Crisford. T: £6.10; £2.20, £2.30. Ex: £54.60. Tf: £220.30. CF: £44.46.

5.50: 1 ORCHARD KEEPER J Mitchell (10-3); **2 Aim For The Moon** (5-1); **3 Post Rider** (evens fav). 5 ran. 1½l; nk. R Varian. T: £4.34; £1.60, £2.40. Ex: £19.70. Trifecta: £30.20. CF: £19.38.

6.25: 1 RAINBOWS EDGE K Shoemark (11-8 fav); **2 Inherit** (10-3); **3 Morrophore** (11-1). 8 ran. 2¾l; shd. J & T Gosden. T: £2.38; £1.10, £1.40, £2. Ex: £6. Trifecta: £33. CF: £6. NR: Prevail.

7.00: 1 LUNARIO David Egan (3-1); **2 Come On You Spurs** (9-2); **3 Royal Tapestry** (9-2). 5 ran (Magnificent Match 11-4f). nk; 6½l. A Haynes. T: £4; £1.80, £2. Ex: £16.30. Tf: £61.30. CF: £15.52. NR: Abbey Gardens, Strategia.

7.35: 1 LOU LOU'S GIFT C Fallon (10-11 fav); **2 Aquacell** (6-1); **3 Secret World** (10-1). 5 ran. 2½l; nk. W Haggas. T: £1.91; £1.10, £2.30. Ex: £5.80. Trifecta: £26.20. CF: £6.57. NR: Neverstopdreaming.

CURRAGH

5.00: 1 BECKMAN C T Keane (20-1); **2 Distant Seas** (22-1); **3 Mount Parnassus** (7-2). 14 ran (Admiral Churchill 2-1 fav). ¾l; ¾l. G M Lyons. T: €25.40; €5.10, €6, €1.60. Ex: €702.30. Trifecta: Not won. CF: €400.55.

5.30: 1 LAKE VICTORIA R L Moore (5-2 jtfav); **2 Red Letter** (5-2 jtfav); **3 Senna's Girl** (40-1). 15 ran. hd; 3¾l. A P O'Brien. T: €3.50; €1.40, €1.70, €13.50. Ex: €11.80. Trifecta: €245.80. CF: €7.46.

6.05: 1 BACK DOWN UNDER C D Hayes (6-1); **2 Serialise** (16-1); **3 Ice Cold In Alex** (11-2). 13 ran (Transcending Glory 10-3 fav). hd; nk. P Roche. T: €7; €2.50, €4.40, €2. Ex: €98.60. Tricast: €569.97. Trifecta: €798.70. CF: €99.35. NR: Port Louis.

6.40: 1 SIEGE OF TROY B M Coen (6-4 fav); **2 Trapalanda** (22-1); **3 Sacred Oath** (12-1); **4 Shepperton Lodge** (25-1). 18 ran. 1¼l; 1½l; 2l. J P Murtagh. T: €2.50; €3.30, €1.30, €6.70. Ex: €48.50. Trifecta: €1001.50. CF: €47.37.

7.15: 1 GOLDEN TEMPLE Jamie Powell (12-1); **2 The Truant** (14-1); **3 How About No** (11-1); **4 Palamon** (6-1). 17 ran (Stoke The Fire 10-3 fav). nk; 2l; 1¼l. N Meade. T: €13; €2.70, €3.90, €2.50, €2.20. Ex: €207.80. Tricast: €1932.03. Trifecta: €1055.80. CF: €167.55.

7.50: 1 LORD CHURCH R Whelan (7-2 fav); **2 Blackcastle Storm** (16-1); **3 Kentucky Gal** (6-1); **4 Apercu** (12-1). 21 ran. ¾l; ¾l; shd. M Halford & T Collins. T: €4.50; €1.30, €4.20, €2, €2.50. Ex: €90. Tricast: €359.49. Trifecta: €605.70. CF: €61.95. NR: Magic Charm.

PLACEPOT: €743.90

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+TONIGHT'S £250,000 GREYHOUND DERBY FINAL ACTION+

KING AN ACE

Memphis ready to rock for Liz and Rab in final

By CHRIS OLIVER

KING MEMPHIS (3) can reign supreme in the Star Sports/TRC English Greyhound Derby Final.

After five weeks of fantastic action at Towcester, just six remain in the quest for greyhound racing immortality and we have a final worthy of the whopping £175,000 first prize.

The England versus Irish battle is finely balanced, with three finalists apiece, but it's hard to get away from King Memphis (*left*) for the home team.

The Liz and Rab McNair-trained dog quickly went about justifying his position as ante-post favourite with dominant victories from the front in the first four rounds, before losing nothing in defeat behind Churchfield Syd in the semi-finals.

With a tricky draw in trap four, King Memphis came together with The Other Kobe as he looked to get across to the rail and that allowed the winner to kick clear.

However, the McNair star began to eat up the ground and was only denied by a short head at the line.

Trap three may be a little wider than ideal but, crucially, this time he has slow starters to his left in Whyaye Man and Ballymac Gizmo, and he is drawn inside main rival De Lahdedah.

That can allow him a smooth passage to the corner and he won't be for catching if, as expected, he turns in front.

De Lahdedah heads the Irish challenge and is hugely respected after setting the standard with a brilliant victory last week, but clearing the favourite on his inside could be very tricky.

Churchfield Syd was completing a hat-trick when denying King Memphis last Saturday and his electric early speed makes him a leading player.

The switch to trap five is a worry for the wide seed.

It is **Boylesports Bob** who gets trap six and his 28.68 demolition job in the quarter-finals was Derby-winning form, but he fluff ed the start in his two runs either side and he could lose it at the boxes again.

Outsiders **Whyaye Man** and **Ballymac Gizmo** both have strong finishes, but will find things difficult early on.

McNair also has the favourite in the Kennel Derby Plate Final (8.22) but her Queen Joni represents little value at odds-on, and **FAYPOINT SUSIE** (1) makes more appeal at the prices.

WICKY NED (3) is being talked about as a Derby winner for next year and he can advertise his potential by landing the Puppy Invitation Trophy Final (7.10).

Runer-up in Derby 12 months ago, **ROMEO COMMAND** (5) should be hard to beat in the Champion Stakes Final at 9.39.

■OLIVER'S ARMY (All Towcester): Wicky Ned (T3, 7.10), Faypoint Susie (T1, 8.22), King Memphis (T3, 9.15), Romeo Command (T5, 9.39)

9.15 STAR SPORTS/TRC ENGLISH DERBY FINAL 500m

Trap	Runner	Odds
1	**WHYAYE MAN** FORM: 21322; TRAINER: Mark Wallis (Suffolk Downs) Blue/Brindle Dog; Droopys Jet-Droopys Megan (Jan 2021); Best time: 28.98 *Could cause some grief at turn if getting out quick, well held on form & clock*	20-1
2	**BALLYMAC GIZMO** FORM: 22333; TRAINER: Liam Dowling (Ire) Brindle Dog; Ballymac Cooper-Ballymac Aminta (Jul 2022); Best time: 28.90 *Scrambled through heats, sluggish at boxes, lacks early pace, got it all to do*	16-1
3	**KING MEMPHIS** FORM: 11112; TRAINER: Liz McNair (Central Park) Black Dog; Droopys Sydney-Queen Beyonce (Dec 2021); Best time: 28.65 *Shocked in semi to lose unbeaten record by an inch, will boss this if pinging lid*	5-4
4	**DE LAHDEDAH** FORM: 11231; TRAINER: Liam Dowling (Ire) Black Dog; Lenson Bocko-Ballymax Sarahjo (Oct 2021); Best time: 28.64 *Coffin box draw but could follow fav through and give him most to do at finish*	5-2
5	**CHURCHFIELD SYD** (W) FORM: 32111; TRAINER: Richard Rees (Hove) Brindle Dog; Droopys Sydney-Millbank Jade (Jun 2021); Best time: 28.96 *Improver through heats, just beat King Memphis in semi, speedy starter, dangerous*	6-1
6	**BOYLESPORTS BOB** (W) FORM: 12313; TRAINER: P Hennessy (Ire) Black Dog; Good News-Roanna Bess (Oct 2021); Best time: 28.68 *Fluffed start in semi, worked through field to just qualify, classy but risky bet*	9-2

REST OF TOWCESTER PLUS TIPS AND SP CHECK

TOWCESTER CARD

6.01 (IV) 500 Metres
Droopys Clue (4-3-1)

6.17 (IV) 270 Metres

2-1	ROMEO CRUSADE	rl	–.–
6-1	Westfield Bullet	rl	15.61
9-4	NOT SO SLOW	rl	15.51
8-1	Cree Jo Jo	md	15.59
7-2	Guzzler†	wd	15.80
7-2	My Lennie	rl	15.84

6.35 (IV) 500 Metres

4-1	DROOPYS QUIKTIME	sa	29.82
4-1	Ballyblack Speed†	md	30.13
2-1	CLAIREKEITH REMY	rl	29.53
4-1	Cochise	sa	29.20
9-2	Mustang Diva	wd	30.48
6-1	Milton Lango	wd	29.68

6.51 (IV) 712 Metres

3-1	Barntick Beart†	rl	–.–
6-1	Doohoma Princess	md	43.12
2-1	BALLYMAC NOVA	ep	–.–
10-3	Bubbly Scorcher	rl	42.95
8-1	BALLYMAC SLICK	sa	–.–
7-2	Cooladerry Dust	wd	–.–

7.10 (IV) 500 Metres

8-1	Answering	fw	29.44
5-1	Table Topperst†	rl	29.15
1-1	WICKY NED	rl	28.85
4-1	Littlers Nuke	sa	29.59
7-2	ROMEO STEEL	rl	28.97
8-1	Slick Sentinel	wd	29.10

7.29 (Open) 270 Metres

1-1	AERO SACUNDAI	rl	15.43
14-1	Salacres Buzz	rl	15.75
2-1	BOMBOUT BULLET	rl	15.57
8-1	Mustang Ojay	sa	15.77
25-1	Droopys Rarity	wd	15.75
7-1	Bettys Jack†	wd	15.81

7.47 (Open) 500 Metres

9-4	GARY THE ARB	rl	28.98
11-4	VIXONS FILOFAX	wd	29.23
11-4	Savana Top Cat†	rl	29.20
4-1	Uncle Freddie	wd	29.09
25-1	Noduff Sahara	rl	29.34
8-1	Salacres Blake	ep	29.19

8.05 (Open) 500 Metres

5-2	Flying Desire	md	29.25
8-1	Crafty Shivoo†	md	28.59
7-2	ANTIGUA BINGO	rl	28.88
4-1	Fabulous Terra	RL	29.26
4-1	Baywatch Bullet	rl	29.28
11-4	COOLAVANNY MERCY	md	29.22

8.22 (Open) 500 Metres

11-4	FAYPOINT SUSIE	md	28.94
10-1	Druids All Go†	rl	29.03
25-1	Wrighty	md	28.93
1-2	QUEEN JONI	rl	28.67
10-1	Kilara Roberto	rl	29.03
16-1	Clona Curly	wd	29.24

8.40 (Open) 712 Metres

20-1	Haka Carlo	md	42.72
11-8	COONOUGH CROW	rl	42.43
5-4	QUEEN GEORGIA	md	42.58
25-1	Magical Luna	rl	43.07
8-1	Savana Herosst†	wd	42.73
10-1	Alright Gordy	wd	43.17

8.57 (IV) 500 Metres

6-1	Singaporeslinger	rl	29.72
6-1	Coss Tokyo	rl	29.10
6-1	Glorious Tom	wd	29.34
5-1	Salacres Tipster†	rl	29.17
5-4	MIAMI BULLET	rl	29.25
4-1	MIRACLE	wd	29.06

9.39 (Open) 500 Metres

5-1	Greenwell Coet†	rl	29.01
4-1	NEVER SAY NO	rl	28.98
12-1	Romeo Hotshot	rl	29.09
7-1	Keefill Goose	rl	28.99
4-5	ROMEO COMMAND	rl	28.68
20-1	Coppice Ella	wd	29.14

SELECTIONS

■ROMFORD: 11.09 Kenzo (3-4-6) 11.27 Star Tiger (nap) (4-6-2) 11.43 Ellaha Rois (1-2-5) 12.01 Blacklabel Spot (2-6-5) 12.18 Bubbly Glitz (1-6-3) 12.34 Glosha Beech (nb) (6-4-1) 12.51 Horacedatortoise (1-3-6) 1.08 Kahuna Ella (2-5-6) 1.26 To Tone Chloe (1-3-6) 1.42 Shady Belle (1-2-6) 1.59 Chilli Drago (2-4-6) 2.14 Visitor (2-4-3)

■CRAYFORD: 2.23 Choices Peggy (6-4-2) 2.41 Kira (nap) (3-1-5) 3.01 Ragtime George (5-2-3) 3.19 Kanturk Mills (nb) (2-1-6) 3.38 Mollycoddle (5-3-6) 3.57 Roseville Emily (2-5-6) 4.16 Slowlane Jenny (6-3-4) 4.34 Scrambled Egg (2-4-6) 4.53 Ascot Jan (5-3-6) 5.12 Casa Amor (5-4-2) 5.31 Olwinn Dasher (1-2-6) 5.49 Butterbridge Lol (3-2-5)

■NEWCASTLE: 2.29 Ballymac Fearne (1-4-5) 2.48 Presidents Day (nap) (3-1-5) 3.07 Blackhouse Sadie (2-5-6) 3.26 Lightfoot Aoife (3-6-5) 3.44 Robbies Bear (4-6-5) 4.03 Romeo Stingray (nb) (6-5-1) 4.22 Popper Mason (1-2-3) 4.41 Bramble Sky (3-5-1) 4.59 A Bit Of Betsy (1-4-6) 5.18 A Bit Of Noah (2-3-6) 5.37 Babs Ghost (2-4-1) 5.56 Footfield Logan (1-3-6)

RESULTS

■KINSLEY: 2.29 Vanilla Slice 11-4 (1-4-2 BAGS F £9.79). 2.48 Highview Career 10-3 (5-6-4 £14.56 TC £35.95). 3.07 Highview Amy 2-1f (2-1-4 £10.98 TC £47.05). 3.26 Freedom Bale 9-2 (5-6-4 £19.84 TC £48.94). 3.44 Restless Jet 10-1 (DH 3rd 5-6-4 £54.61 TC £43.78, 5-6-1 TC £67.82), 5-6-2). 4.03 Scotrath Kiki 3-1 (5-2-1 £27.60 TC £81.37). 4.22 Glenvale Jolly 9-2 (5-3-6 £26.55 TC £114.44). 4.41 Grumpy Garlic 6-1 (6-3-1 £24.66 TC £71.82). 4.59 Grumpy Pugwash 9-2 (3-4-6 £17.95 TC £44.33). 5.18 Sunset Daybreak 4-1 (2-3-6 £18.50). 5.37 My Olivia 12-1 (4-6-5 £94.65 TC £326.61). 5.56 Rectors Reprieve 6-1 (5-1-4 £32.53 TC £75.58).

■NEWCASTLE: 2.36 Alnwick Saddle 2-1f (1-4-5 BAGS F £10.68). 2.54 Maxi On Fire 6-5f (4-5-2 £7.25). 3.13 Pennylane Oakley 6-4f (5-2-4 £22.27 TC £106.29). 3.32 Southfield Eagle 7-2 (1-5-6 £27.87 TC £58.15). 3.51 Jayque Dazzle 3-1 (6-1-2 £14.35 TC £55.44). 4.09 Crooks Mojito 3-1 (6-1-5 £22.93 TC £80.26). 4.28 Wraysbury Style 12-1 (6-2-1 £69.70). 4.47 Coolemount Flo 7-2 (4-1-6 £16.05 TC £43.54). 5.06 Ratchies Biddy 3-1 (6-2-3 £17.31 TC £28.87). 5.24 Dromana Roxy 11-4 (4-3-5 £11.09). 5.43 Wraysbury Wisp 5-6f (3-2-4 £2.35). 6.02 Wraysbury Band 15-8f (1-2-5 £7.71 TC £40.27).

goals

in association with William HILL

Saturday, June 29, 2024

GOLDEN BUOY

Buffon lifts 'em

GIGI WHIZZ . . . No1 Buffon with the World Cup after Italy's 2006 triumph

Switzerland v Italy

5pm, BBC1 & talkSPORT

From JORDAN DAVIES in Berlin

GOALKEEPING legend Gianluigi Buffon is firing up Italy's squad with his tales of World Cup glory right here in Germany.

The Azzurri are aiming to become the first side to win back-to-back Euros.

But their most recent triumph before beating England on penalties at Wembley three years ago was when Buffon lifted the World Cup in 2006.

That time they beat France on penalties in Berlin – the venue for this summer's final on July 14 **AND** today's last-16 clash with Switzerland.

Buffon, 46, won a record 176 caps and is now on Italy's coaching staff.

And boss Luciano Spalletti revealed: "Over the last few days Gigi has spoken about that final and allowed us to relive all the excitement we enjoyed watching back in 2006.

"So, we know that we have to

Turn to Page 3

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goals EURO 2024 LAST 16

2

ITALY have won both of their last two Euro last-16 games — at Euro 2016 (2-0 v Spain) and Euro 2020 (2-1 v Austria).

WE'RE ZO

Gianfranco: Late leveller shows you can never write off Azzurri

EXCLUSIVE by ALESSANDRO SCHIAVONE

GIANFRANCO ZOLA has warned Italy's Euros rivals: Never write us off.

The holders were trailing 1-0 to Croatia on Monday until sub Mattia Zaccagni's 98th-minute equaliser.

That saw the Azzurri leapfrog the Croats and go through as Group B runners-up.

And Chelsea legend Zola said: "It's something everyone has to remember – never underestimate Italy.

"Even when wounded and in hardship, we always come out the other side. This is a quality not many nations have.

"In those in or out games, the technique and quality are important but there are other factors coming into play such as the willingness to suffer and the tactical aspect.

"And Italy have always had those qualities which can make a difference.

"Even if not at their best and without having phenomenons like France or England, as an opponent I'd always prefer to get Italy out of the way.

"We deserve respect, we have a strong tradition and the know-how.

"Maybe we go out sooner if we don't perform but if not, you have to be wary of us."

Zaccagni came off the bench in the 81st minute to grab a vital point from a nerve-racking encounter.

Zola, 57, has tipped him to be Italy's impromptu hero, like Fabio Grosso was at the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

The 5ft 6in former Azzurri striker said: "After Zaccagni's goal I went completely nuts and almost banged my head on my ceiling.

"Directly advancing to the second round was an important injection of confidence and enthusiasm.

"Italy never give up until the end and this is hugely positive.

"We all hope Mattia can be our Grosso. He scored an incredible goal and I hope he can add to it.

"He has huge potential and I hope he can show it all now.

"It was easy to compare his goal to Alessandro Del Piero's one against Germany in 2006 and I reminded everyone about it."

Italy have a long history of group-stage hiccups before turning into a different beast in the knockouts and reaching the final.

It happened at the World Cup in 1970, 1982 and 1994 and at Euro 2012.

A replay of the Euro 2020 final against England – which Italy won on penalties – is on the cards in the next round if both sides see off their last-16 opponents.

But Zola has urged Luciano Spalletti's side to focus on this evening's "difficult" clash with Switzerland before thinking of the Three Lions.

Murat Yakin's side held Italy to back-to-back draws in the 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

Zola added: "From now on all the games will be difficult.

"If Italy want to go far they can't bank on being on the easier side of the bracket.

"They have to play to their strengths and the level of their performances has to go up.

"Against Switzerland it will be tough, the memory of that double header will stick in the heads of those who played.

"It's important to approach this game with a new mindset and know it's a different one.

"We shall not forget that Switzerland are a hell of a team with players who are used to this kind of game. But Italy have good chances – as a team we're not that ugly.

"What we can't produce individually we have to make up for as a team. If that happens it will be tough for anyone."

Jorginho's two infamous penalty misses against Switzerland home and away saw Italy miss out on a place in Qatar.

So would Zola trust the Arsenal star with another decisive spot-kick should the opportunity arise?

Zola, who missed a costly penalty himself against Germany at Euro 96, said: "It's a tough one.

"If I was the manager and we get awarded a penalty I'd let him take it, unless he declined.

"I know Jorginho, he has a big personality and doesn't shirk responsibility.

"But I'd let him take a free-kick from the edge of the box. A penalty, I don't know.

"The missed penalty against Germany still hurts, it's one of the things I beat myself up over.

"Not really the miss itself but because I let it affect my whole performance."

Manager Spalletti came under fire back home for reverting to Italy's old defensive style in their 1-0 defeat to Spain.

Zola said: "Italy have to get to winning ways through a good brand of football because in the modern game this is essential.

"There's nothing wrong with becoming more pragmatic during a game and go straight to the point, being less spectacular and more solid.

"But only Spalletti can make those big calls because he knows the team."

Zola wants more from West Ham flop Gianluca Scamacca and Juventus' Federico Chiesa if Italy are to retain their crown.

The forwards were hauled off in the second half against Spain and started the Croatia match on the bench.

And Zola said: "Gianluca has the potential to be better and I expect more from him.

"Chiesa has to up his level, be more incisive and make the difference because he's our best player potential-wise."

Switzerland v Italy

5pm, BBC1 & talkSPORT

ZACCA THE NET . . . legend Zola (right) hopes Zaccagni (left) can be Italy's latest goal hero and follow in the footsteps of 2006 World Cup winner Grosso (above)

FOFANA . . . belief

Fo all go for lift-off

From JACK ROSSER

SHOT-SHY France believe just one goal can "launch the machine" and get them firing in Germany.

Les Bleus did not score from open play as they finished runners-up in Group D thanks to an own goal and a penalty.

But, ahead of Monday's last-16 tie with Belgium, Monaco midfielder Youssouf Fofana warned: "We know there is a luck factor in football.

"We are really doing everything well, defensively solid. Offensively we are just lacking this little goal which will launch the machine.

"Belgium have world-class players, it is going to be a great duel. We have to put a lot of pace into the patch, they will respond in the midfield."

France return to Dusseldorf where they beat Austria in the opener despite problems before and after the game.

Boss Didier Deschamps' training session at a nearby stadium was easily visible while the players got back to the team's Paderborn base at 3.20am.

This time, France will train in Paderborn before flying to Dusseldorf and then staying overnight after the match.

France v Belgium

Monday, 5pm, ITV1 & talkSPORT

Dom will carry on

From JACK ROSSER

BELGIUM boss Domenico Tedesco is set to keep his job beyond the Euros — regardless of their last-16 showing against France.

The Red Devils chief was booed by some supporters during the 0-0 draw with Ukraine in Group E.

Fans also turned on the players at full-time as they finished second in a group which also featured Romania and Slovakia.

Tedesco is under pressure but Belgium's FA are thought to want to keep him until at least the end of his contract in 2026.

Ahead of Monday's clash with the French, he said: "Fans may be unhappy but we need them. I have no other message for them.

"We face a top team and everything is possible — so why shouldn't we make it against France?

"We can unleash our true potential. These are the games we want. This is the magic of a Euros."

15 FIFTEEN of Italy's last 26 knockout matches at major international tournaments have gone to extra-time (58 per cent), including four of their last five.

1 ITALY have conceded just one goal in each of their last seven Euro games and haven't conceded more than once at a major tournament (World Cup/Euro) since losing 4-0 to Spain in the Euro 2012 final.

in association with William HILL

RESILIENT

SQUAD GOALS . . . Zaccagni is buried under a pile of team-mates as Italy celebrate his strike

BUFFON LIFT

From Page 1

honour the comparisons with our predecessors who brought the trophy home.

"It adds pressure and greater responsibility."

Holders Italy only snuck into the knockout stages from Group B thanks to Mattia Zaccagni scoring a dramatic 98th-minute leveller in their final match against Croatia.

They narrowly beat Albania 2-1 after being hammered 3-0 by rampant Spain in their opening game.

If they can beat the Swiss, however, the Italians could be facing Gareth Southgate's Three Lions again in the quarter-finals a week today.

But Spalletti warned: "We have to do something better than what we have achieved so far to win this competition.

"The draw put us in a tough group and we saw the players probably struggled — I struggled, too.

"I expect to see them more relaxed as we are focusing on a knockout match.

"You can't think about permutations, you have to act. The time is now because we can only make it through if we win. We cannot afford to switch off."

Italy's current No1, Paris Saint-Germain keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma, added: "There are some situations we need to clean up and it will be a different kettle of fish. We will be ready for it."

BUFFON . . . coach

It's Yak attack

From JORDAN DAVIES

SWISS boss Murat Yakin is ready to put the ghosts of past tournaments to bed by reaching the quarter-finals.

Since 1994, Switzerland have made the last eight of a Euros or World Cup only once, at Euro 2020 where they lost to Spain on penalties.

There have near misses and embarrassing defeats, such as a 6-1 thrashing at the hands of Portugal in the last-16 at the Qatar World Cup in 2022.

But the Swiss appear to be a different beast this time and were only denied a 1-0 win over Germany in their final Group A game by a 92nd-minute equaliser.

Ahead of this evening's match with reigning champs Italy, Yakin said: "I'm not interested in the past.

"We are in the hunt to reach the quarter-finals and we have produced good performances.

"We have had a full week of training with no injuries.

"There's an excellent mood in the camp and it will be a special game. We are ready."

Keeper Yann Sommer added: "This is a new tie and I cannot wait to get out there. We are focused on making it through."

Sommer, 35, will be up against some of his Inter Milan team-mates in Berlin.

He said: "It is useful to be familiar with opposition players but everyone knows the Italy players and their squad have a great ability with lots of options.

"I have come up against them in Serie A so know more about them but I am not sure it will be too big a factor."

PALHINHA . . . shock

Pal: No Slo start

From MARTIN LIPTON

FULHAM midfielder Joao Palhinha has promised Portugal will bounce back from their Georgia glitch.

Roberto Martinez's men slipped to their first competitive defeat since the 2022 World Cup in the shock 2-0 midweek loss.

The Portuguese still took top spot in Group F and face Slovenia in the last 16 on Monday.

And Palhinha admitted: "Nobody likes to lose and we didn't expect it at all.

"The good thing was that as soon as the match was over we could start to think about Slovenia.

"Not everything was good when we won the last two games and not everything is bad after that.

"This is football but we know we have to improve."

Portugal lost 2-0 to the Slovenians in a friendly back in March.

Craven Cottage schemer Palhinha, 28, added: "The lesson we learned is that we need to be a dominant team throughout the game.

"The danger sometimes lies in the way we have the ball and how we react after losing it.

"It will be a similar game against Slovenia, we already know them because of that friendly."

Portugal v Slovenia

Monday, 8pm, BBC1 & talkSPORT

Kek can't be fooled

BOSS Matjaz Kek warned his Slovenia players that victory over Portugal in their last meeting counts for nothing on Monday.

They beat Cristiano Ronaldo and Co 2-0 in a Ljubljana friendly in March and will be looking to pull off another shock in their first-ever knock-out tie in Frankfurt.

But Kek, whose side made it through by holding England 0-0 on Tuesday, insisted: "These are two completely different matches.

"That game was very important because it created a positive atmosphere — but we would be foolish to think we've already beaten them.

"If anyone lives off that 2-0, then we will be in big trouble.

"Everyone knows who the favourite is, but on our side are the challenge, the motivation, and the great satisfaction we are not yet on vacation."

Leader of the pack

JULIAN'S TOAST OF TOWN

KELLER INSTINCT . . . Germany boss Nagelsmann has evolved since his ill-fated stint with Bayern Munich

GERMANY boss Julian Nagelsmann has learnt from his mistakes.

From DAN KING in Dortmund

And that has led to a growing feeling the hosts can do something special under their charismatic manager.

Bayern Munich sacked Nagelsmann after just 20 months in charge in March 2023.

The reaction in Germany was more surprise at his failure, rather than schadenfreude that the skateboarding coach had been taken down a peg or two.

Subsequent events have put Nagelsmann's reign in perspective.

His 71 per cent win rate was better than successor Thomas Tuchel, who became the first Bayern boss not to win the Bundesliga for 12 years.

And Nagelsmann has taken steps to rectify some of his past failings.

He struggled with managing upwards and the dysfunctional executive structure at Bayern.

Now Nagelsmann works well in tandem with Germany team director Rudi Voller – the former World Cup winner acting as something of a father figure.

Nagelsmann's stunning success with Hoffenheim and RB Leipzig fed his ego and stubborn streak.

That continued into the Germany job when he played Arsenal's Kai Havertz at left-back in last November's 3-2 friendly defeat by Turkey. And then at left wing-back in the 2-0 loss to Austria that followed.

But Nagelsmann realised he is better off with a less quirky 4-2-3-1 system – then finding the right blend of personalities and talents to make it work.

And the accusations of aloofness with the players from his Leipzig and Bayern days have gone. He held individual meetings with potential squad members ahead of these Euros to explain their roles.

Those he felt would take being benched badly, like Leon Goretzka and Mats Hummels, were left out.

He also took inspiration from the way Canadian-Finnish coach Gordon Herbert led Germany's basketball team to World Cup glory last year and invited him to deliver a speech to his squad.

The German team is a blend of youthful talent like Jamal Musiala and Florian Wirtz with 30-somethings Manuel Neuer, Toni Rudiger, Toni Kroos and Ilkay Gundogan.

At still only 36, Nagelsmann is two years younger than Neuer.

And his successful campaign to persuade Kroos out of international retirement seems to be paying off.

Well aware Europe's leading clubs are sniffing around Nagelsmann, German chiefs agreed to extend his contract until 2026.

Needing a last-gasp goal to avoid defeat in their final group game against Switzerland has tempered some of the hosts' optimism.

But Nagelsmann believes it may have done them a favour after smashing Scotland 5-1 in their opening group game.

He said: "We started with an easy game – or a bit more easy than we expected.

"Then there was a more complicated game against Hungary.

"The third game against Switzerland was difficult. It took a long time to score to get the equaliser.

"You feel a bit more comfortable when you win every game 3-0.

"But it's important for the team to get to know how to deal with difficult and different situations."

The fact the boss himself has clearly done that himself is good reason to think the new, improved Nagelsmann could take Germany all the way.

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Y V DENMARK

8PM, ITV & talkSPORT

3

THREE of the last four meetings between Germany and Denmark have been draws (Germany won the other 2-1 at Euro 2012).

REAT DANE . . . Schmeichel in 1992

JANNIK VESTERGAARD says Denmark will channel the spirit of 1992 in their clash with Germany.

The Danes famously beat the Germans 2-0 in Euro 92's final in Sweden with keeper Peter Schmeichel, dad of current No1 Kasper, in the team.

Southampton defender Vestergaard, who was eligible to play for Germany at Under-21 level but chose not to, said: "It's part of growing up in Denmark to learn about that summer.

"The big story was that Denmark were quite an outsider and hadn't even qualified for the tournament.

"We've a good team but there's no doubt that for anything special to happen, we'll have to create an upset and it's a mentality that we embrace.

"We like to tease the favourites and Germany will be strong favourites in front of their home crowd.

"Finding a bit of grit, trying to be a bit of a pain, playing to our strengths – that's what we will take from 1992."

Denmark must find more goals as they hit just two in Group C.

Their star striker Rasmus Hojlund has not bagged an international goal since October and the Manchester United man has drawn a blank in seven games since scoring against San Marino.

Denmark boss Kasper Hjulmand said: "We have had difficulties scoring goals in these three matches. Our intention has always been to be on the front foot. It is clear from the games.

"It's not only about the strikers, just as if we conceded too many it wouldn't be only about the defenders and goalie.

"Our service to Hojlund has not been the best. He has been in the box at the right moments and he has been in the right place at the right time."

Denmark's creativity will be massively dented if talisman Christian Eriksen does not recover from illness.

Like fellow midfielder Thomas Delaney, the Manchester United star has been suffering from a stomach bug but is expected to be fit to play.

Danish fans will be massively outnumbered at Signal Iduna Park, with no more than 8,000 expected in a crowd of 62,000.

Hjulmand added: "The number of Danish people that travelled to Germany, over 20,000 in the stadiums and more outside, we're so happy for the support.

"This will be like an away game. We're ready and so glad for the people who will be there. They will do their very best to be loud and support us.

"I said before the tournament I considered Germany one of the favourites. It's too bad they are playing us tomorrow!

"They've talent but so do we, we also have a great team."

From DAN KING in Dortmund

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LEGENDS OF VESTER YEAR . . . Jannik aims to emulate Danish heroes

SALUTE TO NEW GAARD

Jan's spirit of '92

goals EURO 2024

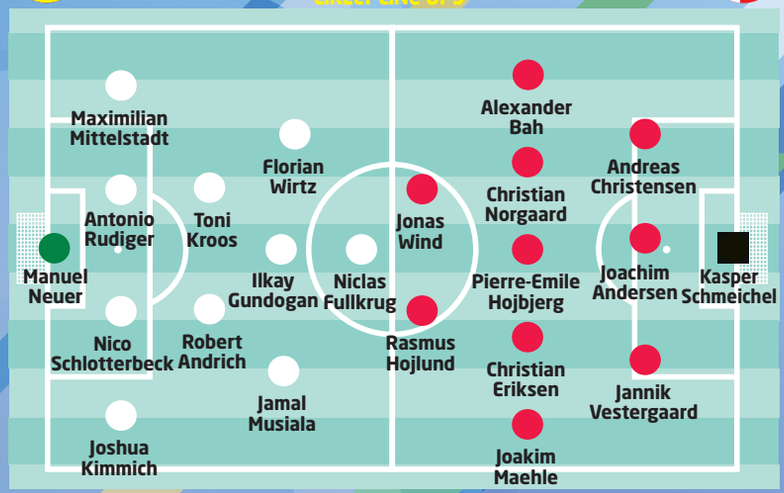
5 DENMARK have lost all five of their previous Euro finals games against host nations, including one v Germany in the 1988 group stage. They were KO'd by co-hosts England at Wembley in the semi-final of the last Euros (2-1).

SWITZERLAND v ITALY, 5pm

LIKELY LINE-UPS

GERMANY v DENMARK, 8pm

LIKELY LINE-UPS



TEAM NEWS

SILVAN WIDMER *(left)* misses out through suspension so Leonidas Stergiou is likely to come in and replace him on the wing.

ONE TO WATCH

BREEL EMBOLO started the draw with Germany and has impressed since coming off the bench and scoring in the win over Hungary.

TEAM NEWS

RICCARDO CALAFIORI *(left)* is banned so Gianluca Mancini deputises. And Gianluigi Donnarumma is a yellow away from a one-match suspension.

ONE TO WATCH

FEDERICO CHIESA was dropped against Croatia and will now be desperate to prove he is the man to lead his nation to glory.

TEAM NEWS

NICLAS FULLKRUG is set to replace Kai Havertz up top, with Nico Schlotterbeck *(left)* in for banned Jonathan Tah at centre-back.

ONE TO WATCH

BORUSSIA DORTMUND striker Niclas Fullkrug grabbed a late equaliser against Switzerland and will relish playing in his home stadium.

TEAM NEWS

CHRISTIAN ERIKSEN *(left)* is fit to start despite a stomach bug, with Brentford's Christian Norgaard in for the banned Morten Hjulmand.

ONE TO WATCH

VERSATILE defender Joakim Maehle can play on either flank and his speed allows him to get forward to great effect on the break.

INITIALLY SPEAKING

EUROPEAN PLAYERS WITH MOST WORLD CUP & EURO FINALS APPEARANCES

CAN you work out the 12 players who have made most appearances in World Cup and Euro major tournaments combined?

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 12 players below who is the only one whose country has not won the World Cup or Euros?

Let us know the number by Thursday at noon and send your entry to sportsquiz-sm@the-sun.co.uk for a chance to win £50. (Winner's bank details will be required).

		TOTAL WORLD CUP AND EURO GAMES
1	C R	2004-2024 — 50
2	B S	2004-2018 — 38
3	M N	2010-2024 — 37
=	M K	2002-2014 — 37
5	P M	1988-2002 — 36
=	L M	1980-2000 — 36
7	T M	2010-2024 — 35
=	H L	2010-2022 — 35
=	L M	2006-2024 — 35
10	P L	2004-2014 — 34
11	A G	2014-2024 — 33
=	P	2008-2024 — 33

Week 48 winner: Lee Davis, Rotherham. **Last week's answer:** Ollie Watkins. **ENGLAND PLAYERS WITH SURNAMES BEGINNING WITH 'W' UNDER SOUTHGATE:** Kyle Walker, Ollie Watkins, James Ward-Prowse, Harry Winks, Callum Wilson, Danny Welbeck, Ben White, Theo Walcott, Kyle Walker-Peters, Adam Wharton

ORANJE DOOM

VVD: Time for Dutch courage

VIRG OF EXIT . . . Van Dijk fears Euros KO

ALL GONE RON . . . Koeman is under fire

From MARTIN LIPTON

VIRGIL VAN DIJK says Holland's Euros dream will end on Tuesday unless they sort themselves out.

In a brutal assessment of his side's shortcomings – and his own – the Liverpool skipper laid bare the tensions bubbling around Ronald Koeman's side.

The Dutch, who finished third in their group after a shock 3-2 defeat to Austria, will face surprise Group E winners Romania in Munich.

But Van Dijk, 32, warned: "Maybe we have all been overestimating ourselves.

"A lot had to be said between ourselves after the Austria game. There was a great deal to analyse.

"We all know it was very bad. It went completely wrong. It's all good us sitting down and talking about a lot of aspects – now we have to show it.

"If you look at that match, we didn't react to things in time and were too late to change. But it wasn't the tactical story that went wrong. It was mainly that we did not have the will to win, the will to win the second ball.

"Why didn't we win the duels? Because we didn't communicate.

"Every time Austria scored, we had more players than them in the right place but they scored anyway.

"So you can say we lacked the desire to prevent them scoring but it was mainly because we did a bad job.

"You don't have to talk about that with the staff, the players have to do that and we have talked with very hard words."

The 71-cap defender added: "It was just one match, so there is no reason to panic. But is was a real eye-opener. If we continue in the same way, we have no business here, we will be out.

"So it has to change quickly, otherwise we will be sitting at home going over all the things we should have done better. We don't want that."

Van Dijk, who has won the Premier League, FA Cup, Champions League, Uefa Super Cup, Fifa Club World Cup and two League Cups with Liverpool, did not spare himself from criticism.

He added: "If things aren't working, certain guys have to take the lead and I am one of them.

"I can completely understand the criticism we all got.

"I'm not crazy. I know that I can do better and that it should be better, that's what I'm working on.

"I didn't play my best game against Austria. It does affect me.

"So while it's right to say the whole team didn't run, I have to look at myself. I could bring much more."

Romania v Holland

Tuesday, 5pm, BBC1 & talkSPORT

YOUR COMPLETE TOURNAMENT GUIDE

in association with William HILL

LAST 16 | GAME 2
GERMANY v DENMARK
Dortmund, Today, 8pm, ITV1

LAST 16 | GAME 4
SPAIN v GEORGIA
Cologne, Tomorrow, 8pm, ITV1

LAST 16 | GAME 1
SWITZERLAND v ITALY
Berlin, Today, 5pm, BBC1

LAST 16 | GAME 3
ENGLAND v SLOVAKIA
Gelsenkirchen, Tomorrow, 5pm, ITV1

QUARTER-FINAL | GAME 1
WINNER 4 v WINNER 2
Stuttgart, July 5, 5pm

QUARTER-FINAL | GAME 3
WINNER 3 v WINNER 1
Dusseldorf, July 6, 5pm

FINAL
SF1 WINNER v SF2 WINNER
Berlin, Sunday, July 14, 8pm

SEMI-FINAL | GAME 1
QF1 WINNER v QF2 WINNER
Munich, July 9, 8pm

SEMI-FINAL | GAME 2
QF4 WINNER v QF3 WINNER
Dortmund, July 10, 8pm

All games live on talkSPORT

QUARTER-FINAL | GAME 2
WINNER 6 v WINNER 5
Hamburg, July 5, 8pm

QUARTER-FINAL | GAME 4
WINNER 7 v WINNER 8
Berlin, July 6, 8pm

LAST 16 | GAME 5
FRANCE v BELGIUM
Dusseldorf, Monday, 5pm, ITV1

LAST 16 | GAME 6
PORTUGAL v SLOVENIA
Frankfurt, Monday, 8pm, BBC1

LAST 16 | GAME 7
ROMANIA v HOLLAND
Munich, Tuesday, 5pm, BBC1

LAST 16 | GAME 8
AUSTRIA v TURKEY
Leipzig, Tuesday 8pm, ITV1

A

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
GERMANY	3	2	1	0	+6	7
SWITZERLAND	3	1	2	0	+2	5
HUNGARY	3	1	0	2	-3	3
SCOTLAND	3	0	1	2	-5	1

GERMANY 5, SCOTLAND 1
HUNGARY 1, SWITZERLAND 3
GERMANY 2, HUNGARY 0
SCOTLAND 1, SWITZERLAND 1
SWITZERLAND 1, GERMANY 1
SCOTLAND 0, HUNGARY 1

B

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
SPAIN	3	3	0	0	+5	9
ITALY	3	1	1	1	0	4
CROATIA	3	0	2	1	-3	2
ALBANIA	3	0	1	2	-2	1

SPAIN 3, CROATIA 0
ITALY 2, ALBANIA 1
CROATIA 2, ALBANIA 2
SPAIN 1, ITALY 0
ALBANIA 0, SPAIN 1
CROATIA 1, ITALY 1

C

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
ENGLAND	3	1	2	0	+1	5
DENMARK	3	0	3	0	0	3
SLOVENIA	3	0	3	0	0	3
SERBIA	3	0	2	1	-1	2

SLOVENIA 1, DENMARK 1
SERBIA 0, ENGLAND 1
SLOVENIA 1, SERBIA 1
DENMARK 1, ENGLAND 1
ENGLAND 0, SLOVENIA 0
DENMARK 0, SERBIA 0

D

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
AUSTRIA	3	2	0	1	+2	6
FRANCE	3	1	2	0	+1	5
HOLLAND	3	1	1	1	0	4
POLAND	3	0	1	2	-3	1

POLAND 1, HOLLAND 2
AUSTRIA 0, FRANCE 1
POLAND 1, AUSTRIA 3
HOLLAND 0, FRANCE 0
HOLLAND 2, AUSTRIA 3
FRANCE 1, POLAND 1

E

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
ROMANIA	3	1	1	1	+1	4
BELGIUM	3	1	1	1	+1	4
SLOVAKIA	3	1	1	1	0	4
UKRAINE	3	1	1	1	-2	4

ROMANIA 3, UKRAINE 0
BELGIUM 0, SLOVAKIA 1
SLOVAKIA 1, UKRAINE 2
BELGIUM 2, ROMANIA 0
SLOVAKIA 1, ROMANIA 1
UKRAINE 0, BELGIUM 0

F

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
PORTUGAL	3	2	0	1	+2	6
TURKEY	3	2	0	1	0	6
GEORGIA	3	1	1	1	0	4
CZECH REP	3	0	1	2	-2	1

TURKEY 3, GEORGIA 1
PORTUGAL 2, CZECH REP 1
GEORGIA 1, CZECH REP 1
TURKEY 0, PORTUGAL 3
GEORGIA 2, PORTUGAL 0
CZECH REP 1, TURKEY 2

EURO VISION

GUESS THE YEAR

HAL ROBSON-KANU *(right)* scores a stunning goal for Wales during the Euros quarter-final — turning Belgian duo Radja Nainggolan and Marouane Fellaini before firing home.

But what was the year? *(answer right)*

EURO STAR

Who am I?

TODAY'S mystery star played 14 games in Euros finals, bagging five goals and one assist including two at the group stage against England in 2004.

In total he played 49 international games, scoring 17 goals.

He also won the World Cup and the Euros with his country during his 17-year playing career. But who is he? *(Answer far right)*

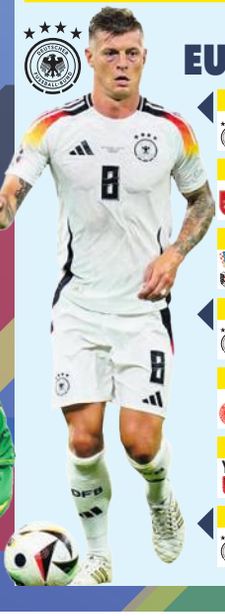
EURO LOTTERY

11 GIANLUIGI DONNARUMMA *(right)* — voted player of the tournament in Euro 2020 — made 11 saves for Italy in this year's group stages.

It's the most by an Italian keeper in the opening part of a major tournament since Gianluigi Buffon at Euro 2012 — who also managed 11.

STATS LIFE EURO2024

EURO 2024 PLAYER MOSTS



PASSES — Toni Kroos (Germany) 340

GOALS — Georges Mikautadze (Georgia) 3

TACKLES WON — Josip Stanisic (Croatia), Stefan Posch (Austria) 8

TOUCHES — Toni Kroos (Germany) 383

CHANCES CREATED — Christian Eriksen (Denmark) 13

MILES COVERED — Ylber Ramadani (Albania) 23.3

CORNERS — Toni Kroos (Germany) 22

SHOTS ON TARGET — Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) 7

TOUCHES IN OPP BOX — Jeremy Doku (Belgium) 29

INTERCEPTIONS — Josip Sutalo (Croatia) 13

DUELS WON — Stranimja Pavlovic (Serbia) 26

FOULS CONCEDED — Adam Gnezda Cerin (Slovenia), Stefan Posch (Austria) 9

FOULS WON — Khvicha Kvaratskhelia (Georgia) 10

SUCCESSFUL LONG PASSES — Angus Gunn (Scotland) 31

TOTAL SHOTS — Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) 12

OFFSIDES — Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) 5

ANSWERS: Euro vision: 2016
Euro star: Zinedine Zidane (France)

goals EURO 2024

KVARATSKHELIA AT EURO 2024

Games	3	Hit woodwork	1
Mins played	254	Goals	1
Total shots	5	Assists	0
Shots on target	2		

Special K!

STAR ONE OF THE KVLADS

Spain v Georgia
Tomorrow, 8pm, ITV1 & talkSPORT

HE is a God to the Georgian people and 'Kvaradona' to his adoring Napoli fans.

EXCLUSIVE from TOM BARCLAY

But Khvicha Kvaratskhelia has no ego and is "just one of the lads" according to David Webb, the English assistant manager of this Euros' surprise package.

Kvaratskhelia's nickname came as fans likened his dribbling style to Napoli's greatest-ever player Diego Maradona.

And the late Argentine icon would have been impressed with the 23-year-old's thumping finish in Wednesday's 2-0 win over Portugal.

The greatest result in Georgia's history put them through to tomorrow's last-16 meeting with Spain.

Webb, 43, told SunSport: "He's an incredible talent but he's one of the lads. It's a special team spirit we have here.

"There's no egos, there's no superstars, none of that big bravado.

"He blends in with the other players. He's incredible to work with.

"After team training is finished, he always wants to do extras, whether it's shooting or working on a particular part of his technique."

While Kvaratskhelia brings star quality, Metz striker Georges Mikautadze has been banging in the goals.

A strike in each of Georgia's group games against Turkey, Czech Republic and Portugal, has made Mikautadze, 23, the tournament's top scorer on three.

The win over Cristiano Ronaldo and Co sent fans potty in Georgia, which was part of the Soviet Union until its collapse in 1991.

Webb, who is No2 to Georgia boss Willy Sagnol, revealed: "There were a few celebrations in the dressing room and on the coach.

"There wasn't much alcohol because we've got Spain on Sunday, so it was more singing and dancing to Georgian songs. There were a few tears, loads of joy, loads of emotion.

"We've already exceeded one expectation by getting through to the last 16.

"It means the world to the fans and Georgian people."

Former Crystal Palace academy player Webb is a previous head of recruitment at Bournemouth, scouted for Spurs, was technical director at Ostersunds in Sweden and enjoyed a short stint as manager of non-league York.

He first met former France defender Sagnol a decade ago on a scouting trip and took up his friend's offer to be his assistant manager last year.

Now they must find a way to follow up the Portugal victory by bringing down Spain – who won 7-1 in Georgia and 3-1 in Valladolid in the Euro qualifiers.

Webb added: "We're well aware of their strengths – they're an incredible football team.

"But we'll approach it like we did against Portugal with a positive, attacking mindset.

"We'll try to score goals and defensively be well-organised.

"We have nothing to lose because the pressure is not on us.

"If we can give Spain the same kind of performance we did Portugal, it will be an incredible game. It's a one-off game but we know it's going to be incredibly tough."

DREAM TEAM . . . boss Sagnol and No2 Webb

KVAR QUALITY . . . winger Kvaratskhelia after scoring for Georgia against Portugal

MORATA . . . pride

Morata sticks it to trolls

From MARTIN LIPTON

CHELSEA flop Alvaro Morata admits he took so much "s*" from Spain fans he nearly quit.**

The Atletico Madrid striker now wears the captain's armband and leads La Roja against Georgia tomorrow.

But Morata, who scored just 16 Prem goals in two seasons after his £60million move to the Blues in 2017, revealed he was ready to turn his back on the national side.

Morata, 31, said: "It's a question of respect and in Spain I experienced many episodes with my family on the street.

"No matter how many unpleasant episodes you have to live through it is my daily life, when I go to the supermarket with my children or to take them to training.

"I have thought about throwing in the towel many times.

"But the best thing I can teach my children is that I have been in the s* many times and in the end I always managed to get my head out.**

"That is a source of pride for me but there have been times when I've hit rock bottom mentally."

Spain's whizkids Nico Williams and 16-year-old Lamine Yamal are starring in Germany.

Bilbao winger Williams, 21, said: "Lamine and I are very similar, both of us played on the street.

"When I was a kid I was out in the yard playing football, dribbling, 24/7. Lamine is a great player and we try to learn from each other."

MULDUR . . . emotional

Muldur's Austrian ex files

Austria v Turkey
Tuesday, 8pm, ITV1 & talkSPORT

From MARTIN LIPTON

TURKEY'S Mert Muldur is set to make his pals back home pay on Tuesday.

The right-back was born and raised in Vienna and began his career at Rapid in the Austrian capital.

But after opting for his parents' homeland from under-17 level, he feels a fully-fledged Turk.

Muldur, 25, scored one of the goals of the group phase with his stunning volley against Georgia and cannot wait for the chance to stick one past his homeland team in the Leipzig last-16 clash.

He said: "It will be a very special game for me.

"I know how much this means for both teams to be at this stage and, because of my background, it will have an extra edge.

"So it will be a very emotional match for me and I know the people I grew up with in Vienna will be watching."

Austria, coached by Ralf Rangnick, have been the revelation of the Euros despite losing star player David Alaba of Real Madrid to a cruciate injury before the tournament.

But the Austrians' progress has not been a surprise to Muldur.

The two teams met in Vienna in March for a pre-tournament friendly, which saw Turkey smashed 6-1.

Muldur, who signed for Fenerbahce last summer, said: "That hurt us a great deal. Now we want our revenge."

THE WILLIAM HILL 5
TOP TIPS FOR POSITIVE PLAY

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