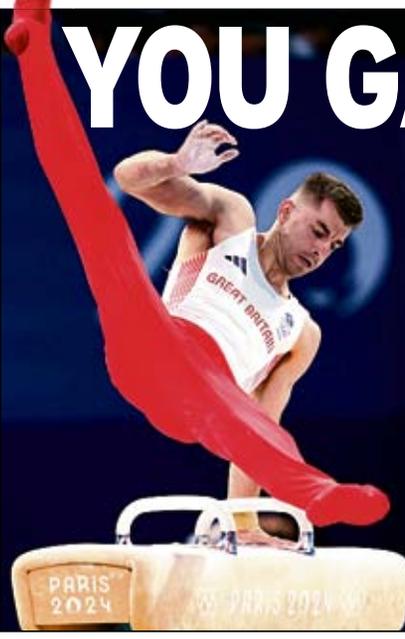


THOUGHT FOR THE DAY  
The theory of smellativity

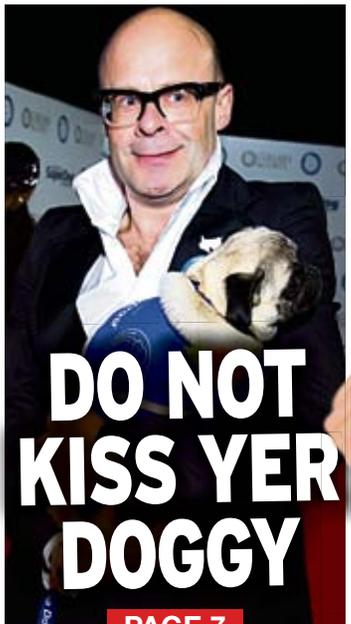
# YOU GAVE IT MAX

Olympics hero misses out.. but Brits pile on medals



PAGES 4-5 AND SPORT

## BRITONS ARE AT THEIR BRAINIEST ON THE BOG



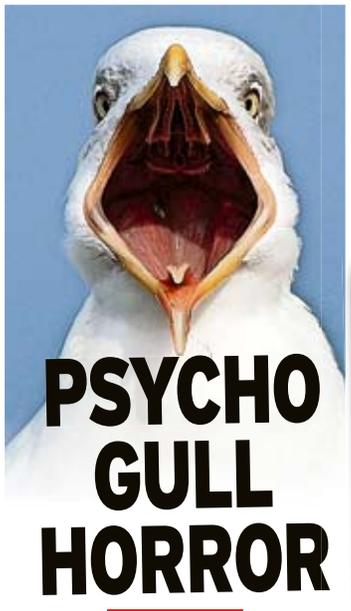
**DO NOT KISS YER DOGGY**

PAGE 7



**YOBS GO ON THE RAMPAGE**

PAGE 8



**PSYCHO GULL HORROR**

PAGE 13



- Life-changing decisions on loo
- More creative than in the office

■ by ISOBEL DICKINSON  
TWO-thirds of Brits say they come up with their cleverest ideas while sitting on the khazi. We're a nation of deep stinkers!  
Full story: Page 10

# EUREEKA!

# TODAY'S WEATHER

**TODAY:** A cloudy start for Northern Ireland and Scotland with patchy rain in the west, with persistent rain in the afternoon, especially further west. Mainly dry and cloudy in other areas, bright in the south. Fresh southerly winds.

**OUTLOOK:** Rain for Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland tomorrow, but bright in other areas. Showers on Tuesday and Wednesday. Cloudy with rain in the north on Thursday. Showers on Friday.

MON  
TUE  
WED

AIR QUALITY		
Air pollution levels: Low (1) Very high (10) uk-air.defra.gov.uk		
Highlands	2	2
North East Scotland	2	2
Central Scotland	2	2
Scottish Borders	2	2
Northern Ireland	2	2
North West & Mersey	2	2
North East	2	2
Yorkshire & Humber	2	2
North Wales	2	2
West Midlands	2	2
East Midlands	2	2
South Wales	2	2
South West	2	2
South East	2	2
Eastern	2	2
Greater London	2	2



## HORROR: Twin Towers Plea bid on 9/11 is axed

THE man accused of masterminding 9/11 faces the death penalty again after an American U-turn.

US defence secretary Lloyd Austin revoked the plea deals reached by suspect Khaled Sheikh Mohammed and accomplices Walid Muhammad Salih Mubarak Bin Attash and Mustafa Ahmed Adam al Hawsawi this week.

Defence lawyers requested they receive life sentences in exchange for guilty pleas for the Twin Towers attacks, but they have been reinstated as death penalty cases.

Pentagon officials declined to release the terms of the initial plea bargain.

Mr Austin said that "in light of the significance of the decision", he had decided that the authority to decide on accepting the plea agreements was his.

The now-overridden deal with the men to enter into a plea agreement comes more than 16 years after their prosecution began for al-Qaeda's attack.

It killed nearly 3,000 people and triggered years of US wars against militant extremist groups that reshaped Middle Eastern countries.

## Ukraine barrage

KREMLIN officials say Ukraine has launched a massive drone barrage on Russia.

Mad Vlad's defence ministry said its air defence systems "intercepted and destroyed" 75 drones over a number of regions that lie on the border.

Ukraine's general staff said its forces hit an airfield in Morozovsk, hitting ammunition depots with guided air bombs, as well as fuel depots in the Belgorod, Kursk and Rostov regions.

It added that Russia attacked Ukraine overnight with 29 drones - 24 of which were shot down - and four missiles.

## COSTS CRISIS FEAR

THE cost of living is top of parents' fears for their children's futures - while global instability is of little concern, a survey revealed.

## NEWS

**MAN ON TRIAL OVER EMAILS TO MPs**  
*Tomorrow / Southwark Crown Court, London*  
Mark Tew, 60, has pleaded not guilty to six charges over alleged communications with Sir Keir Starmer and Priti Patel.

**ANIMAL REBELLION TRIAL**  
*Tomorrow / Southwark*  
Trial over dye in Buckingham Palace fountain.

## SPORT

**OLYMPICS**  
*All week / BBC*  
The Paris Games are in full swing now and Team GB will be hoping to carry on their fantastic start. Tonight it's the men's 100m final, while Keely Hodgkinson will be eyeing gold in tomorrow's women's 800m final.

**EFL FOOTBALL** *Friday / 8pm, Sky Sports*  
The English Football League season begins with Blackburn v Derby and Preston v Sheffield United.

## FUN

**A CHORUS LINE**  
*Tonight / Sadler's Wells Theatre, London*  
Revival of classic musical continues its run in the capital.

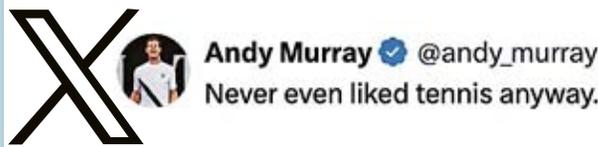
**PRETTY WOMAN THE MUSICAL**  
*Tuesday / Cliffs Pavilion, Southend-on-Sea*  
Stage version of movie romcom kicks off the latest leg of its UK tour.

## TELLY

**FIRST DATES**  
*Tuesday / 10pm, Channel 4*  
Hit show is back for a new run. Fred Sirieix will be playing matchmaker for more couples at its new restaurant in picturesque Bath.

**COOKING WITH THE STARS**  
*Tuesday / 8pm, ITV1*  
Celebs including Carol Vorderman, Katherine Ryan and Abbey Clancy are competing in hit cookery show. Hosted by Emma Willis and Tom Allen.

## TWEET OF THE WEEK



## DON'T FORGET

**INTERNATIONAL CAT DAY 2024** *Thursday*  
August 8 is widely known as International Cat Day, and it's not hard to see why our feline friends hold such a special place in our affections.

# FEARS AS U.S SENDS FIGHTERS

## Biden bid to stop all-out war

THE US is to move a fighter jet squadron to the Middle East.

It will also keep an aircraft carrier in the region, the Pentagon said.

It comes as fears rise that the Gaza war could escalate into a regional conflict.

President Joe Biden has said he is "very concerned" the violence may spread.

It follows the assassinations of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in the Iranian capital Tehran and Hezbollah commander Fouad Shukur in Beirut, Lebanon. Iran

■ by JOHN WARD  
has threatened to respond after the attack on its territory.

Mr Biden said the killing of Haniyeh had "not helped" efforts to negotiate a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.

He said he had a "very direct" conversation about the Gaza war with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu.

He added: "We have the basis for a ceasefire. He and they should move on it now."

Mr Netanyahu has said his country is determined to win "total victory".  
Thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters marched to the US Embassy in Indonesia's capital Jakarta yesterday over the killing of the Hamas leader. Israel has vowed to kill Hamas leaders after the group's October 7 attack, which sparked the war in Gaza.



WAR OF WORDS: Netanyahu & Biden

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## CORRECTIONS & COMPLAINTS

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The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2021 was 65.7%

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## THE HEALTH LOTTERY

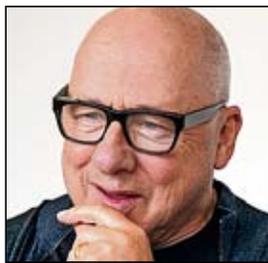
Big Win numbers Saturday, August 03	09 18 29 30 40 19
Big Win numbers Friday, August 02	09 19 23 24 25 37
Big Win numbers Thursday, August 01	08 18 20 25 48 41
Big Win numbers Wednesday, July 31	18 24 33 37 39 46
Big Win numbers Tuesday, July 30	07 09 11 16 20 31

2ND CHANCE DRAW, WEDNESDAY, JULY 31: 10, 36, 39, 40, 44  
2ND CHANCE DRAW, SATURDAY, AUGUST 3: 04, 11, 34, 41, 49  
ALL OR NOTHING, TUESDAY, JULY 30: 1, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24

## NATIONAL LOTTERY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 03	
LOTTO	06 19 20 26 28 45 07
T-BALL	02 11 12 23 24 07
FRIDAY, AUGUST 02	
EURO	05 07 12 33 46 03 12

MILLIONAIRE MAKER: MBQF49899



OFF KEY: Knopfler

## Mark's guitar a racket..

MARK Knopfler has told how strumming a tennis racket as a child helped him form his guitar style.

The left-handed Dire Straits star explained older sister Ruth turned the racket round so he was holding it right-handed and said: "That's the way you play it."

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's Desert Island Discs, he said that, as a left-hander playing a right-handed guitar, his stronger hand formed the notes.

This gave him "a little bit of flexibility", and allowed him to use vibrato (bending the strings vertically) on "two or three strings at a time".

Mark, 74, went on to explain that his mother and father "never stood in the way" of his music career, and added he "could not believe how patient they must have been".

He said: "I played shockingly bad boogie woogie piano, taught by my uncle Kingsley in the house.

"I played it and played it and played it, but I don't think it ever improved."

Mark Knopfler will appear on Desert Island Discs on BBC Radio 4 at 10am today and the show will also be available on BBC Sounds.

**THE Ward**  
on the street  
**'The BBC**  
needs to  
**switch**  
**on fast'**

SEE PAGE 11



## BANG AND CRASH

RESCUERS found two nude men and a half naked woman who'd been having a threesome when their car crashed in Kanpur, India.

# Donald pumps



Picture: JEANY SAVAGE

■ by DOMINIK LEMANSKI  
★ HOME Counties girl Ellie donned her favourite lingerie for her latest Daily Star Sunday shoot.

The Herts-based model was more than happy to share her secret formula on how to keep her legions of fans happy.

★ The 27-year-old told us: "When I want to make an impression I always climb into my special stocking and suspender plus fishnet bra combo. I wouldn't be seen in anything else."



FOR THE WELL HEELED ONLY: High-top footwear

## GOLD TRAINERS 'DESIGNED' BY TRUMP UP FOR £38K ON EBAY

■ by AIMEE BRANIFF CREE

**GOLDEN** trainers designed and signed by Donald Trump are for sale on Ebay for £38,000.

Images show the limited edition high-top sneakers in pristine condition still in the box - with a signed note from the orange manbaby himself.

They are the First Official Sneakers by the former US president, and were unveiled at a trainers fair in Philadelphia in February. Only 1,000 pairs of the £310 shoes were made, and they sold out within minutes.

They will never be back in stock, making them a collectors' item.

The Donald Trump sneakers website says of the pair now up for sale: "With a standout gold finish and the 'T' badge, these kicks are for true Patriots. Bold, gold, and tough, just like President Trump."

It goes on: "Wrapped with an American flag on the collar, they shout out to the brave and the free."

And it tells Trump supporters: "The Never Surrender sneakers can be your rally cry in shoe form. Lace-up and step out ready to conquer. With only 1000 pairs ever to be released, Grab Your Limited Edition Pair Now."

The billionaire tycoon is favourite to return to the White House when he takes on vice president Kamala Harris in the presidential election in November.

news@dailystar.co.uk



ORANGE &amp; GOLD: Trump

## POSH HOLS FLIP-FLOP

VICTORIA Beckham has told how she drives hubby David "mad" by packing loads of high heels for beach breaks - then not wearing them.

Posh said: "The amount of times I've taken lots of high heels to a beautiful island and not worn a single pair. It drives David crazy."





# REALITY SHOWS SET TO

# £5m POTS



**BURGER FAN:** Iwan

## Sprinter Thomas meats match..

SPRINT star Iwan Thomas has admitted tucking into a sextuple cheeseburger.

The 50-year-old, who won Olympic silver medal in the 4x400m relay at the Atlanta Games in 1996, said he loved puddings and burgers.

Speaking yesterday, the dad-of-three and former 400m UK record holder added that he was 80kg when he was at the top of his game, but was about 95kg now.

He said: "I love a dessert. The bigger the better.

"And the other day I got two McDonald's triple cheeseburgers and stacked them on top of each other. "It was lush."

Iwan also said he gave up going on a weekly run recently after being beaten by a child.

He said: "I used to do Parkrun, but I stopped when a nine-year-old boy in an Everton jersey kept beating me. "I knew my time was up."

## Flipping mad on camera

"VICTORY selfies" being shot by athletes on the podium at the Olympics have sparked a spike in sales of the foldable phone being used to take them

Samsung is a long-term Olympic partner, and for this year's Games is offering those on the podium the opportunity to take a selfie with their fellow medallists using its new foldable Galaxy Z Flip6 smartphone.

The company said it saw a 23% spike in Flip6 sales on July 30, compared with an average day.

The Z Flip6 has been given to all of the athletes taking part in the Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Picture: PA

## Keep it win the family

★ BRIT rower Tom Ford won Olympic gold – minutes after his sister Emily grabbed a bronze.

The siblings helped Team GB's rowers pocket their best ever medal haul for an overseas Games, with three golds, two silvers and three bronzes.

★ Just 20 minutes after Emily, 29, came third with the women's eight team, Tom, 31, helped the men's eight power home to a thrilling first place.

Their dad Paul, who watched the action with their mum Christine, said: "It wasn't a bad day in the office really."

# LINFORD: I HAVE LOST MY GONGS



**RACE ACE:** Winner Christie

## Track king's medals 'in house somewhere'

**SPRINTING icon Linford Christie has "no idea" where his 24 medals are.**

The 64-year-old former Olympic champ, who held the British 100m record for 30 years, said they were "around somewhere".

Linford, who grabbed gold at

by STIAN ALEXANDER

the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, said: "My medals are in the house somewhere, it would take me a while to find them. One of the biggest dangers in coaching is that you get caught up in the past."

Linford, now an athletics

coach at Brunel University in west London, won 11 golds, eight silvers and five bronze medals in a glittering career.

But he said comments about his "lunchbox" wouldn't be allowed these days.

He added: "When you win Olympic gold you are expected

to be an entertainer. 'Linford's lunchbox, my genitalia, became a newspaper headline.

"Sometimes I was able to laugh and be a nice guy, sometimes it really made me angry.

"Thankfully, it wouldn't be allowed these days."

# BOOST STARS' INCOMES



# OF GOLD..



FIGHTING ON: Khelif

## Gender storm boxer's triumph

BOXER Imane Khelif won again last night as the Olympics gender storm rumbled on.

The Algerian beat Hungary's Anna Luca Hamori in their women's 66kg quarter-final bout.

She and fellow boxer Lin Yu-ting's places at Paris 2024 led to scrutiny after their World Championship ban for failing to meet gender eligibility criteria.

On Thursday, Khelif won her fight in just 46 seconds, with opponent Angela Carini saying she had "never felt a punch like this".

Yesterday's bout went the distance, with Khelif winning a unanimous decision. Chinese Taipei fighter Lin also won her latest featherweight fight.

Yesterday, IOC president Thomas Bach condemned the "hate speech" the pair received online, adding: "Let's be very clear, there was never any doubt about them being a woman."

## Half the world is viewing

HALF the world's population will watch the Olympic Games, officials say.

Analysis of viewing figures so far show over four billion people from across the globe will tune in to the action in Paris at some point during the fortnight.

An epic table tennis mixed doubles final between China and North Korea is the most watched broadcast of the Games so far, drawing in a TV audience of 48.54m.

International Olympic Committee spokesman Mark Adams said: "A huge majority of people are interested in following the amazing sport and sites that we have in Paris."



TOP FELLAS: Tom Pidcock and, below, Alex Yee

## Olympic heroes to rake in cash from sponsors

by JOHN WARD

TEAM GB stars going for glory may also strike gold with sponsors keen to offer highly lucrative deals.

Experts reckon gold medallists such as mountain biker Tom Pidcock, triathlete Alex Yee and our victorious swimmers could land four-year deals worth £5million.

They could double or treble their pay days by signing with several sponsors, including sportswear manufacturers, and get on or climb the GB's wealthy athletes' table.

Sponsorship consultant Nigel Currie said: "Looks and physique are important and bubbly outgoing personalities do well as this can lead to big contracts."

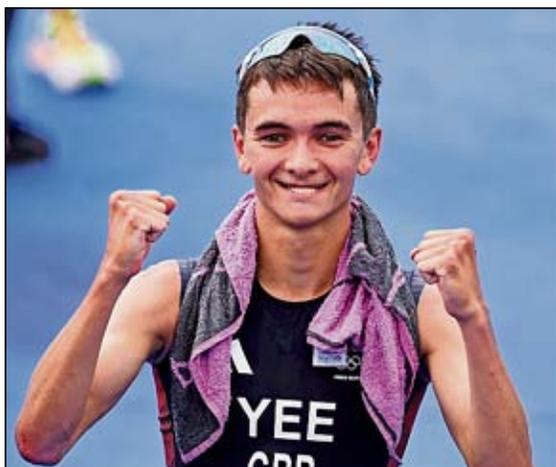
"To be a really successful Olympian it helps if you are doing a very popular sport, or if you produce something unique like Pidcock, Yee and the swimmers did."

"Appearances on TV shows such as Strictly Come Dancing, I'm a Celebrity, game shows and reality TV will also boost their incomes."

Swimmer Tom Dean has confirmed he will be on the next series of Strictly.

The table of big earners is topped by retiring tennis legend Sir Andy Murray. Behind him is veteran showjumper Ben Maher, with diving hero Tom Daley third.

john.ward@dailystar.co.uk



Picture: PA



## Dogg's horsing around

RAP star Snoop Dogg arrives ready for action at the dressage team grand prix special at the Olympics.

He wore breeches, a tailcoat and hard hat as he took a trip around the Chateau de Versailles venue with US businesswoman Martha Stewart.

Snoop said he would bring carrots and apples for the horses when he appeared with Stewart on NBC's Today show on Friday. Martha said: "We're going to have so much fun."



# End mob mayhem

**ANOTHER day and another almighty mess on the streets for local people to clean up.**

Folk in Sunderland said they were ashamed and embarrassed at the violence by mindless thugs who fought police, smashed windows and started fires in the city centre. The streets were littered with debris but hundreds came out to help fix the damage.

They follow the people of Southport who clubbed together to clean up the carnage left by a drunken mob that caused havoc earlier in the week.

There will be more to clean up today and in future as the mindless chaos spreads across the country.

The demonstrators say they are protesting against the murders of three young girls at a dance club. They say they are patriots and claim that "enough is enough". But they are nothing but hooligans and dangerous morons.

*Getting drunk and smashing up towns is in no way a tribute to the tragically slain Bebe King, six, Elsie Dot Stancombe, seven, and nine-year-old Alice Dasilva Aguiar.*

At a time when communities need to pull together more than ever, these hooded and masked criminals are tearing them apart.

They chant that they want their country back. And they're right. Decent Brits want their streets back from these louts.

**Enough is enough.**

# Why pint so fitting

**GOOD news if you're a fan of a tippie - it won't stop you getting superfit.**

Today we talk to a fitness boffin who banishes widely-held beliefs that drinking alcohol after exercise stops you getting fit. Prof James Betts says sinking a few beers after a workout won't undo the positive effects of training.

The booze can also help the body refuel and rehydrate.

*Fantastic news. It's possible to have a six pack on your belly and a six pack of beer.*

**Just remember to do the exercise before giving your drinking arm a workout.**

# Hot flush

**IT turns out Brits are brainier on the toilet, with people coming up with their best ideas there.**

*So keep a note next time you're on the bog - you could end up flushed with success...*



Picture: MEDIADRUMIMAGES.COM

# Jezza's £75k Ford Escort

★ A RARE Ford Escort RS Cosworth once owned by "Creepy" Jeremy Clarkson is up for auction for a cool £75k.  
★ The 1972 motor has done 82,000 miles and featured in TV's Clarkson's Car Years.

# 15 BARNSTORMING FACTS

# Owl about that



★ TWIT twoo! It's International Owl Awareness Day, reminding us of the importance of the loveable nocturnal critters, with a third of species around the world at risk.  
★ And it turns out that there are some amazing facts about the spooky, yet beautiful, winged wonders. Here **JAMES MOORE** gets the bird with 15 feathery owl facts...

- 1 wwwOwls have been around for at least 58million years and one ancient type, orinmegalonyx oteroi, stood nearly 4ft tall.
- 2 Today there are 220 different species across all continents, apart from Antarctica. The smallest is the five-inch elf owl which weighs just over an ounce and lives in cactus plants in the US and Mexico.
- 3 A group of owls is known as a 'parliament', while babies are called owlets.
- 4 It's a myth that they can turn their heads all the way round, but some can rotate them through a freaky 270 degrees.
- 5 Their eyes are fixed so they have to turn their heads to see things, yet they have the best night vision of almost any animal.
- 6 The tawny owl, Britain's most common type, makes the familiar hooting sound. Owls can be heard over a mile away, but are virtually silent when they fly.
- 7 Barn owls eat around 1,000 mice each a year. They gobble the mammals whole then vomit up the bits they can't digest as a pellet.
- 8 Thought of as a bad omen in many cultures, the ancient Aztecs and Mayans saw owls as symbols of death, while Egyptians believed that owls protected spirits on their journey to the underworld.
- 9 In Shakespeare's Macbeth the brutal murder of Duncan is heralded with the line: "It was the owl that shriek'd, the fatal bellman, which gives the stern'st good-night."
- 10 An owl call was said to have heralded Roman leader Julius Ceasar's death too, while reveller Romans used their eggs as a hangover cure.
- 11 Owls are often considered wise, as in AA Milne's Winnie The Pooh stories. The Greeks thought seeing owls was a good omen in battle.
- 12 Edward Lear's The Owl And The Pussy-Cat, written in 1870, has been voted the most loved children's poem.
- 13 The team behind TV comedy show Monty Python's Flying Circus originally considered calling it Owl Stretching Time.
- 14 Harry Potter's snowy owl, Hedwig, was named by author JK Rowling after a medieval saint.
- 15 Actress Salma Hayek has a pet rescue owl, but singer Eminem has a phobia of them.





## FOOD THIEF: Telly chef Zuu fails to deliver

BIG Zuu has admitted he used to scoff customers' food when working as a delivery driver.

The BAFTA-award winning TV chef and rapper said he would often nick fries and shakes.

The west Londoner, who worked for Uber Eats, told the Rylan: How To Be In The Spotlight podcast: "If you got a shake, you're not getting that shake."

"I used to go crazy with it what, oh my days."

Zuu told how he used to deliver food "all over the gaff", including "around High Street Ken" in London.

When asked if he ever ate the food, the 28-year-old added: "Especially when people order like Hakkasan's (Chinese) and that - the little prawns."

**BUY THIS**



**NINJA FOODI FLEXDRAWER 10.4L DUAL AIR FRYER**

### THIS is the absolute ultimate in air fryers.

Dual zones cook two different things at once, with different temperatures and settings, so pop your meat or main in one and sides in the other - the SYNC function can also have them ready at the same time.

Or remove the divider between the drawers to create a 10.4 litre mega-cooking zone which can whip up an entire roast dinner.

And it cooks 75% quicker than the average oven - perfect when there's rumbling tummies. On offer for £219, [currys.co.uk](http://currys.co.uk)

## FLY SWAT HORROR

A MAN'S eyeball was taken out to stop killer bacteria reaching his brain after he swatted an infected fly on his face in China.



# Foden's catch of the day

★ ENGLAND footie star Phil Foden nets again - but rather than angling for goals he was reeling in fish. The Man City ace hooked some whoppers at Linear Fisheries in Witney, Oxon. ★ Manager Chris Blunt said: "He always has time when anglers pop over to say hello. He's a top lad who loves his fishing."

Pictures: LINEAR FISHERIES



# Harry: Never kiss your dog on lips!



■ SNOGS NOT ALLOWED: With pooch

## 'IT COULD SPARK NEW PANDEMIC'

**HARRY Hill says dog owners should stop kissing their pets on the mouth - or risk starting another pandemic.**

The TV Burp star worked as a medical doctor before becoming a comedian.

And he refuses to smooch with his pooches, Snowy and Wilson, because he's worried

■ by JOHN WARD about the doggy germs they carry.

Harry believes the Covid outbreak in 2019 was caused by a virus being transmitted from animals to humans.

And he doesn't want another nasty disease to get passed on to us.

Speaking on the Oh My Dog!

podcast, Harry explained that's the main reason why he doesn't kiss his hounds.

He said: "I don't like all that, no. You know, you've got to have boundaries, I think."

"Also, I'm worried about - let's just cast our minds back for a second - how the whole Covid pandemic started.

"It was about cross-species

contamination. It started with a kiss. I never thought it would come to this. In the words of Hot Chocolate.

"But I think there is a risk. You might end up with some sort of canine cold sore.

"You don't want to be the smoking gun, do you? You don't want to be the super-spreader."

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**'HE WAS LET DOWN': Eric Trump lad: 'Dad's like Churchill'**

DONALD Trump's son Eric says his dad is "doing great" after the assassination bid - and compared him to Winston Churchill.

Arriving at the Trump International golf resort - set to open in Scotland next year - Eric Trump, 40, called his dad "the best president his country has seen ever". But he said Donald, 78, was "let down" over the shooting bid.

He said: "It should never have been allowed to happen. Somebody let him down - as his son I'm not very happy about it.

"When you spend three billion dollars on an agency, it was a failure that day. Those 48 hours could have been very different. He's doing great, he's out campaigning."

He added: "You could probably draw a lot of parallels with Churchill - funny and un-politically correct, and effective. He says what everyone's thinking. There will never be a better ally for the UK and the West than Donald Trump."

**Ops hit by docs crisis**

A SHORTAGE of anaesthetists has led to more than a million operations being cancelled each year.

The Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA) warned the Government another 2,000 specialists were needed.

In a letter to Health Secretary Wes Streeting, they said there were not enough training places - and called for more funding.

Dr Fiona Donald, President of the RCoA, warned: "The shortage has reached crisis levels and is preventing patients from getting the operations they desperately need.

"Unless government policies include plans for more anaesthetists, any attempt to reduce waiting lists will have little impact."

RCoA said nearly 1.4million ops have to be cancelled each year.

**TABLE FOR THREE**

A CHEF rustled up a surprise for his wife by letting her lover move in to help with the cooking and cleaning in Tokyo, Japan.



**BLACKPOOL**



**NOTTINGHAM**



**LIVERPOOL**

# Hate Britain

Picture: GETTY



**MAYHEM:** Thugs attack cops in Piccadilly Gardens Below, car torched in Sunderland

**MANCHESTER**



by DOMINIK LEMANSKI  
**BRITAIN** was hit by more violence yesterday as riots broke out across the country.

Police were attacked in a string of cities including Liverpool and Manchester.

Merseyside Police said a number of officers were injured during "serious disorder" in Liverpool city centre.

Trouble also flared in Nottingham, Blackpool,

## PM VOWS: WE'LL BEAT THE MOBS

Hull, Sunderland, Leeds, Stoke and Belfast. The violence followed fake news about the identity of the suspect in the knife killings of three girls at a Taylor Swift dance club in Southport.

PM Keir Starmer said po-

lice have his "full support" to take action against "extremists" attacking officers and attempting to "sow hate".

He held crisis talks with ministers, while Home Secretary Yvette Cooper pledged to ensure "conse-

quences, arrests and prosecutions" for those involved.

More than 35 so-called "Enough Is Enough" anti-immigration rallies were planned for this weekend.

Axel Muganwa Rudakubana, 17, from Lancashire and born in Cardiff, is accused of the Southport murders.

False reports spread online had suggested the attacker was an asylum seeker.

**The Star Says: Page 6**

news@dailystar.co.uk



CLIP: Rudakubana in BBC children's charity advert



## 'MURDERS LAD' IN DR WHO AD

THE 17-year-old accused of murdering three girls in Southport once starred as Doctor Who in a BBC Children In Need advert.

In a clip promoting the charity from 2018, Axel Rudakubana, then 11, is seen leaving the Tardis as

by GEORGE LITHGOW  
The Doctor and says: "It's that time of year again."

It is understood he was found through a casting agency. A Children In Need spokesman said: "We have removed the video from all of our platforms."



ACCUSED: In court



PET ROW: Affleck

## Bennifer dogfight

BEN Affleck and Jennifer Lopez are ready for a “divorce dogfight” over their nine pets, it’s claimed.

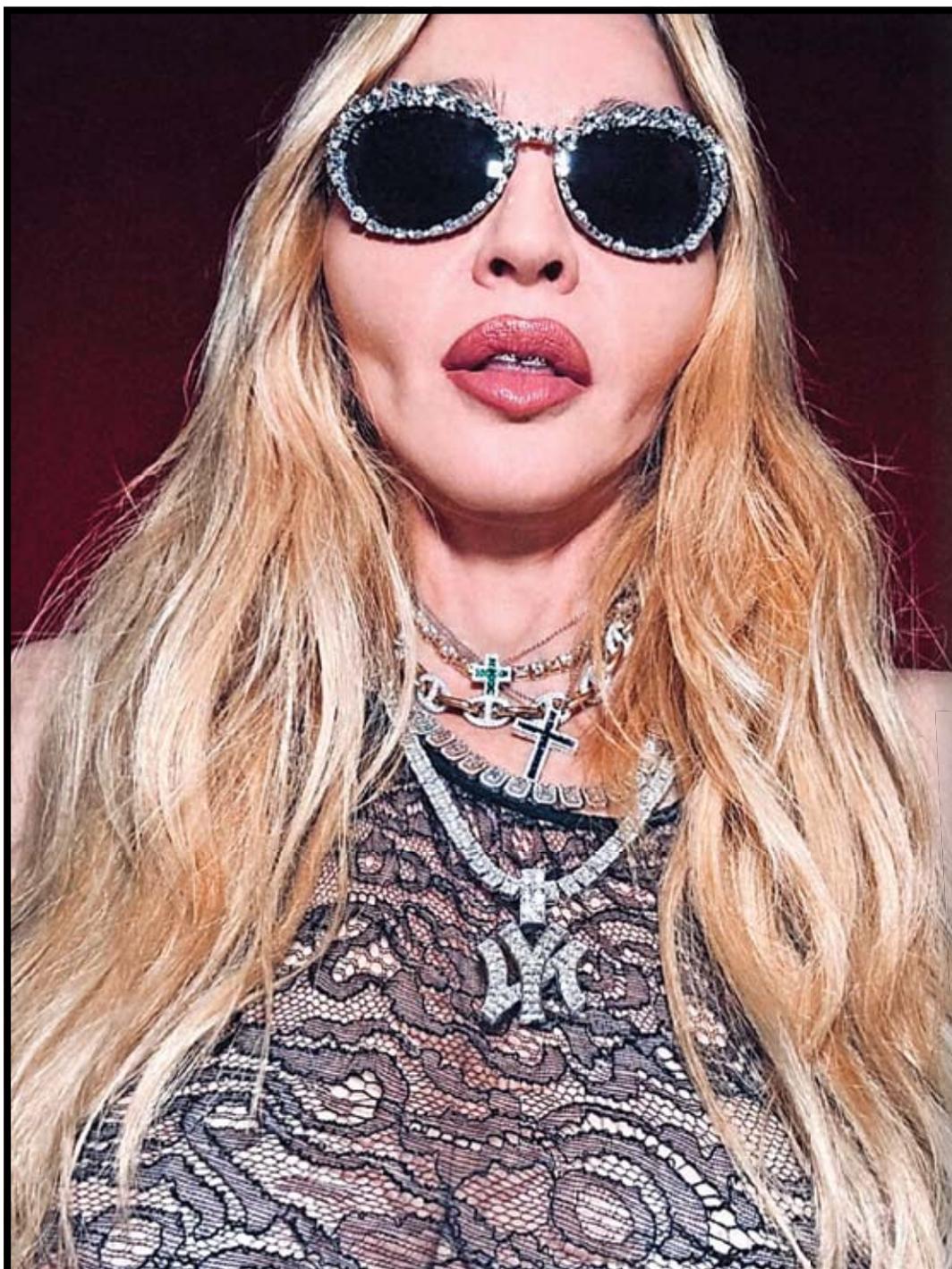
The Hollywood couple own eight dogs, and a cat called Hendrix.

And “both are ready to go into battle over who gets to keep them all”, says a business associate.

The stars have put their £53.5million Beverly Hills mansion up for sale.

Affleck, 51, has moved into a £16m house 12 miles away and taken a German shepherd and a golden retriever cross with him. J.Lo, 55, has kept custody of the six dogs she owned, plus the rescue cat they adopted.

But the source said: “She thinks all the animals would be better off with her – including Ben’s dogs.”



## Madge's glass act

MADONNA turns on the style in a pair of cool sparkly shades. But things soon hotted up when she went topless for one steamy snap. The megastar, 65, treated fans to the saucy sunny selection on Instagram. Singer Madge cheekily captioned the post: “Hot Fun in The Summer Time.”

## SIP THIS



### WONDERLAND COCKTAILS IN A CAN

SUN'S out, fun's out – so crack open these cracking cans.

Wonderland Cocktails by BrewDog Distilling Co. have released six new ready-to-drink treats.

The range consists of Cosmo, Whisky Sour, Strawberry Daiquiri, Watermelon Marg, Long Island Iced Tea and Mai Tai.

These handy bar-quality cocktails are ideal for throwing into a bag or picnic basket.

Just pour for perfection – and kid your mates into thinking you're a world-class bartender.

Buy at [brewdog.com](http://brewdog.com)

# SKYFALLEN: 007 MOVIE CHIEFS KILL PERV HUW



**DISGRACED** Huw Edwards faces fresh shame as James Bond film chiefs are set to digitally delete him from Skyfall. ■ by DOMINIK LEMANSKI

Our revelation follows a BBC decision to bin a Doctor Who episode from iPlayer featuring the former newsreader.

Aunty has also stopped broadcasting footage of him announcing the death of Queen Elizabeth in 2022.

Now Bond bosses are set to erase shots of Edwards seen reading the news in the 007 flick after he admitted having indecent images of children.

Bond fans at the “MI6 – The Home of James Bond

007” website said: “The situation creates a problem for James Bond producers.

“Do they leave his scene intact, or do they try to remove or replace him?”

The film nerds reckon it would be easy enough to swap Edwards’ voiceover but a close-up would be harder to remove.

Edwards has pleaded guilty to viewing 41 indecent images. He was bailed to appear in court again next month.

Ex-BBC boss Roger Bolton said the broadcaster should have laid out sooner “exactly what happened” in the Edwards probe.

[dominik.lemanski@dailystar.co.uk](mailto:dominik.lemanski@dailystar.co.uk)

## Edwards set to be digitally removed from Bond hit

### MASKED STRIP HELL

A NAKED sicko in a ski mask is chasing women home and demanding that they strip too in Mobile, Alabama, US.

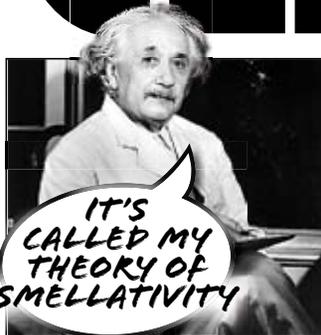
## We're not so bright

LEAVING lights and heating on in empty public buildings is costing taxpayers more than half a billion pounds per year.

New research for Vodafone UK found that linking smart sensors in buildings such as council offices, hospitals, libraries and schools could save £580million a year.

**HOPPY TO BE FIT**  
ENDANGERED frogs survive by doing underwater press-ups to absorb oxygen in South America's Lake Titicaca, boffins said.

# CLEVER BOGS



EINSTEIN A GO-GO: Genius

by ISOBEL DICKINSON

**LOO-REKA!** Brits are brainier on the toilet – with people naming it the best place to solve problems.

Over two-thirds of those asked say they dreamt up their best ideas there... although it's not clear if Einstein's theory of relativity came to him on the bog.

About 10% said the bathroom was where they felt most

## Toilet's the best place to come up with good ideas

thoughtful or creative, even more than the office.

Around one in five (18%) said they had made a "life-changing decision" on the throne. And

39% said the solitude made them feel more inspired due to being "free from distractions".

The survey, by eco loo paper brand Who Gives A Crap, also

found over a third have retreated to the bog while at work to puzzle over a job-related issue.

Some of the biggest decisions people have made on the toilet include opening their own business and having more kids.

David Titman, of Who Gives A Crap, said: "The loo provides a little moment to yourself where the mind can get creative."

**The Star Says: Page 6**

isobel.dickinson@dailystar.co.uk

**PICNIC 'N' MIX**

Mix and match across irresistible picnic and deli picks

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**SERIOUS ABOUT SUMMER**

**ASDA**  
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT

Selected stores and lines. Subject to availability. Serving suggestion. Asda Stuffed Jalapeños 150g, £2.50 (£1.67 per 100g). Asda Snack Sausage Rolls 16 pack 480g, £2.50 (52p per 100g). Asda Vine Leaves 150g, £3 (£2 per 100g). Asda Pesto Olives 150g, £3 (£2 per 100g). Pickle Pot 150g, £3 (£2 per 100g). Asda Pizza Parcels 100g, £3 (£3 per 100g). Asda Mozzarella Pearls with Pesto 130g, £3 (£2.31 per 100g). Asda Mediterranean Inspired Deli Platter 137g, £3 (£2.19 per 100g). Asda Stuffed Peppers with Cream Cheese 160g, £3 (£1.88 per 100g). Asda Semi-Dried Tomatoes and Mozzarella 150g, £3 (£2 per 100g). Asda Chargrilled Peppers 150g, £2.50 (£1.66 per 100g). Asda Garlic and Herb Olives 150g, £3 (£2 per 100g). Iberico Cheese and Chorizo Rollito 88g, £3 (£3.40 per 100g). May exclude Asda Express and small stores, see ASDA.com/smallstores

Pictures: LEON MARAIS/ MAGNUS NEWS

**BUSH LOOKER..**

★ A FAMILY of bush babies peek out from a metal fence tube as they emerge to begin a night of hunting. The critters seemed to have made their home inside protective tubing placed around a camp in the Kruger National Park, South Africa.

★ Leon Marais, who took the pictures, said: "They appeared to be all adults, probably part of an extended family group."

# RIOT MORONS BALLS IT UP

IT was upsetting to see a bunch of boozed-up morons start a riot in Southport as a community grieved for the kids senselessly killed at a dance club. But I was cheered up by seeing one of the idiots get hit in the head, and then in the Crown Jewels by bricks thrown by "pals" who were aiming for cops. Ooops.



# THE Ward on the street

HE'S FUMING, FEARLESS & FUNNY

## Dad joke

IF laziness was an Olympic sport, I would come in fourth just so I wouldn't have to walk up to the podium.

### of the week

## Salad bar! Truss snub at racing..

DURING the racing at Goodwood this week presenter Matt Chapman interviewed trainer James Hay in the parade ring. This is only worth mentioning as Chapman totally ignored the person next to him, who just happened to be the former Prime Minister "Lettuce" Liz Truss. Fantastic stuff. But it's a shame her shambles of a party didn't do a similar thing before she wrecked the country's economy.



## McClaren in a Jam

STEVE McClaren has been made the new boss of Jamaica. He famously made a pillock of himself by putting on a "Dutch" accent during press conferences when he was boss of FC Twente. I'm surely not the only one hoping he starts his next press conference with: "Wah gwan?"



**RIOTERS**  
THE balaclava-wearing, off-their-faces thugs who are throwing bricks and burning buildings aren't "patriots". They're embarrassing prats. Leave it out.

# You pay price of BBC's hypocrisy

NEARLY a thousand people a week are prosecuted for not having a TV licence.

And they don't discriminate. TV Licensing's prosecutions have targeted some very vulnerable people.

One man's licence ran out while he was in hospital for 11 weeks. He renewed it as soon as he was discharged, but was prosecuted six days later.

One woman with a brain injury was prosecuted when she forgot to pay.

For the BBC, breaking the rules is a big deal.

That is, of course, unless the rule breaker is their main news anchor who uses his spare time to chat up young men and look at child abuse images.

Then he is treated with the utmost respect. He is left on full salary and even gets a pay rise, despite serious allegations against him.

You could say everyone is innocent until proven guilty. That the Beeb had a duty of care for someone who claimed to

have mental health problems. But surely when the corporation found out the seriousness of the crimes Huw Edwards had been accused of they should have suspended his wages.

No. The BBC continued to employ him for five months after he was arrested on three counts of making indecent images of children, during which time he was paid £200,000.

And now they claim they won't be able to stop him living it large on a £300k-a-year gold-plated pension.

That money comes from us. The public. The mugs forced to pay £169.50 a year to watch a smug, outspoken big-eared ex-goalhanger get paid £1.35million to present football highlights.

Or to be able to watch a bunch of celebs get treated worse than a dressage horse to prance around a stage in glittery outfits at prime time on Saturdays. Don't

get me wrong, I'm largely a fan of the BBC. It is part of the fabric of Britain and its radio and TV output is unrivalled and vital. There is an important place for it.

But we live in an age where choice is wider than ever and we don't need to rely on the BBC.



Less than half of younger people now watch traditional TV - live and catch-up - on a set at home each week. Middle-aged and older viewers are turning off too.

The BBC needs to modernise. To stop jailing pensioners who can't afford to pay the fee.

It needs to slash the cost or abolish it and find new ways to fund its output. Because we are fed up of the BBC using our money to fund the lavish lifestyle of its stars and execs.

And it needs to get with the programme quickly. Before people switch off Auntie for good.

## LES TRICK'S A RAIL GEM



I WAS waiting for a delayed train the other day, which seems like a regular occurrence for anyone who uses the railways, and I've come up with a great idea to pass the time and make pals while you wait.

Pretend you're Les Dennis by putting your arm around someone looking up at the departure board and say: "Our survey said..."

## Bry's up (& down) for it

I WAS chuffed for Bryony Page, who won a stunning gold in trampolining in Paris. I'm sure it's inspired loads of kids to dust off the trampoline in the back garden, which will result in a major influx of broken bones cases at A&E.

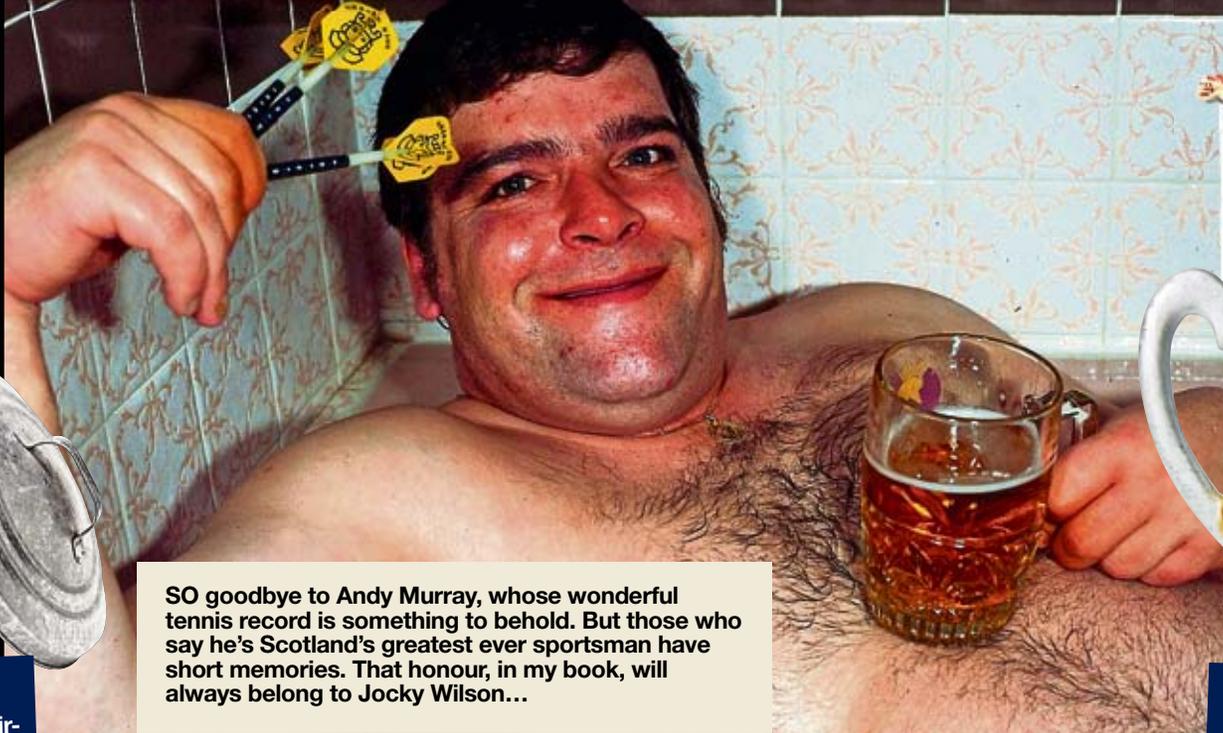
Bloody death traps those things. But congrats to Bryony for succeeding in a discipline with so many ups and downs.



## TEAM GB

WITH lots of grim news across the country, Team GB's Olympians have done wonders, reminding us all that there is so much for Brits to be proud of.

## ANDY HANDY BUT JOCKY BEST



SO goodbye to Andy Murray, whose wonderful tennis record is something to behold. But those who say he's Scotland's greatest ever sportsman have short memories. That honour, in my book, will always belong to Jocky Wilson...

To join the debate, email Wardy at [john.ward@dailystar.co.uk](mailto:john.ward@dailystar.co.uk)

## Snob hell next door

MILLENNIALS owning their first home are the least friendly neighbours.

They are concerned with keeping up appearances, the most likely to complain and least likely to take in a parcel, according to research by Purplebricks.

They are also the least willing to ignore a troublesome neighbour.

## SQUATTERS' FRIGHTS

PEOPLE have been told not to use bushes as loos after a 17ft python almost swallowed a squatting man in Madhya Pradesh, India.

# Carpet kippers

## 'LAZY FITTERS LOVE A NAP ON NICE BIT OF SHAG PILE'



**CARPET fitters take more work breaks than any other trade workers – with some even lying down on the job.**

Researchers quizzed 500 tradesmen and women to find out who sweated most at work.

■ by STIAN ALEXANDER

They found that carpet fitters only put in an average of 3h 12m a day of hard manual work.

At the other end of the scale, carpenters notched up 4h 53m of daily graft. The average tradie put

in "hard toil" for 3h 55m a day. Plumber Will Dawson, 36, from Northwood, north-west London, said: "I'm lucky if I have two tea breaks a day, and as for lunch forget about it."

"Carpet fitters though – I once

saw three of them putting in a shag pile and halfway through they all had a lie down and took 40 winks."

The study was carried out by insurer Direct Line.

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Picture: RAW IMAGE LTD



# Bra-vo Helen!

**HELEN Flanagan** flashes her bra as she strolls down a street. The ex-Corrie star, 33, was spotted in London in her revealing black dress. And she left little to the imagination as she strutted her stuff ahead of the final few weeks of filming for E4 show *Celebs Go Dating*.

\*Ends 12 August. Subject to availability. Prices may vary in B&Q Local stores. Some products available in selected stores. See diy.com



'UNNOTICED': Midler

## Bette: I feel I'm invisible

BETTE Midler feels "invisible" because of her age.

The 78-year-old actress has recalled being overwhelmed by fame during her younger years.

But Bette said her life had changed in recent decades.

Asked about her early experience of fame, she told The Hollywood Reporter: "I cannot say that it was the most thrilling thing that ever happened.

"It could be pretty scary. And when I watch old footage of The Beatles or Liz Taylor getting crushed, it's a little bit of a trigger for me, but fortunately, those days are past and I have a whole skill set of passing completely unnoticed."

Asked how she manages to remain "unnoticed," Bette replied: "Well, now I'm invisible because I'm old."



AN Argentine lake drake must have some big duck energy – their willies can measure up to a huge 16.7ins!

The discovery was reported in Nature magazine by Kevin G. McCracken of the Institute of Arctic Biology and Dept of Biology and Wildlife, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

### ON A LONG RIDE..

ENGINEERING fans have spent eight years building the world's longest bicycle – a huge 180ft 11in – in Prinsbeek, Netherlands.

# POND STRIFE

★ GREEDY seagulls are gobbling up thousands of pet fish across the nation.

Fish are known to "sunbathe" near the surface of ponds when the weather warms up to boost vitamin D levels.

★ But psycho gulls have cottoned on and are dive-bombing them.

Experts at Outdoor Guru say gulls are a "threat" to fish, and will "not pass up an easy meal".



# Hospital dash after psycho gull attack..

## BIRD SWOOPS ON HOLIDAYMAKER



MENACE: Gulls strike in Lyme Regis

■ by DOMINIK LEMANSKI

**A PSYCHO seagull put a young tourist in hospital when it swooped down to swipe her croissant.**

The Swedish holidaymaker was attacked in Lyme Regis, Dorset, by the winged menace, which cut her with its beak as it took the snack.

The visitor, whose age is unknown, was taken to hospital and given a tetanus shot.

It is the latest in a series of gull attacks to hit the resort, say locals and trippers. Deb Morrison said: "A seagull literally stalked a lady coming out of the bakery and stole her cake."

Matthew Lawrence said: "They stole two ice creams from us yesterday."

And Gareth Evans added: "Bought sausage and chips in Lyme Regis today, immediately got robbed of the sausage by a seagull."

Officials have tried using gull-proof bins, drones and bird handlers with hawks and eagles to scare off the pests. A Public Space Protection Order is also in place, meaning anyone caught feeding gulls can be fined £100.

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NEW comedy Piglets is a solid gold turkey. I really have no idea why anyone thought it was worth making.

The ITV series is meant to be satire about the police. But there's a big problem... it isn't remotely funny.

The jokes don't work, the characters are forgettable and the script is badly-written. Not even the talented Sarah Parish can save it.

I am completely baffled over how it got commissioned. How did no one realise how bad it was and say something?

Amazingly, it's got a primetime slot on Saturday

### OFF THE TOP OF MY

# ED

\*\*\*\*\*

nights. There are so many comedy writers who would kill for the chance to showcase their work, so it's criminal that such tosh is being aired.



## BE ON TV

ROSS Kemp is looking for people to be contestants on his quiz show Bridge Of Lies. A new series of the show is being filmed later this year. For details visit [bbc.co.uk/takepart](http://bbc.co.uk/takepart)

★ FIL

★ Z ★

★

# FREE 2024/25 PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES GUIDE

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## IT'S ABOUT TO KICK OFF

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# INSIDE NEXT FRIDAY'S



## Love Isle Liv's just tantastic

OLIVIA Bowen looks tickled pink as she toasts more success. The Love Island legend is helping promote a new range of instant tan brand Cocoa Brown. And it's already become a massive hit within days. An insider said: "Olivia has such a big following all over the world, so she's a dream for brands. "The reaction to her latest campaign has been incredible and it's boosting sales." Cocoa Brown is available at Superdrug stores.

Picture: BRETT COVE/BELLE PR

# GLEAVE

Out and about on the celebrity beat!

SHOWBIZ TELLY FILMS SHOWBIZ TELLY

## Beach life just Grand for Amy

**STRICTLY** star Amy Dowden is set to make a TV come-back on Susan Calman's latest travel series.

The dancer has been filming with the comedian, right, at the beach in Barry, south Wales.

It's just miles from where she grew up, so it's a place that's very close to her heart.

A show insider said: "Amy jumped at the chance to be part of the series."

"Amy and Susan talked about the history of the area and played a game of beach skittles."

It'll air on Susan Calman's Grand Day Out on August 15 at 9pm on Channel 5.



## A SINGLE HANDED TRIUMPH REVIEWED

**BLACK** Mirror star Paapa Essiedu is back in the West End with a performance that is nothing short of incredible.

The actor plays dad-to-be Delroy in play *Death Of England*, which tackles topics including racism, fatherhood and the police, head on.

It's a one-man show that has him on stage for a whopping 100 minutes.

And he isn't coasting... Paapa goes on an emotional roller-coaster that most actors would struggle to manage.

His performance is just staggering. It's one of the best I've seen.

There is no doubt he's going to become a big, big star in the future. It's part of a season of plays at @sohoplace until September 28.

Other shows star The Crown's Erin Doherty and Baby Reindeer actor Thomas Coombes.

# NOW THE CHASE GETS CUT SHORT

## Governess: Everyone's feeling cash squeeze

**QUIZ** show *The Chase* has been hit by budget cuts.

Bosses at ITV have been forced to slash the number of episodes due to be filmed in 2025 due to a downturn in revenue.

Show star Anne Hegerty told me: "We have plans for next year and we are doing fewer shows. All the streaming services are carrying adverts now."

"So channels like ITV are having to compete for advertising money. It means there is less money from adverts."

"We are still coming off the tail end of a pandemic that shut down the economy for two years. There is less money."

"It's like this all over the world. Every aspect of the media is feeling the pinch

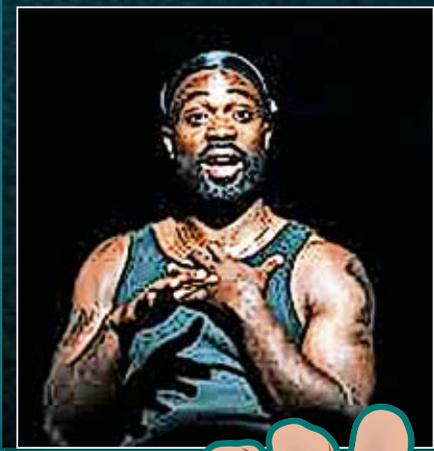
right now." Anne, who is nicknamed The Governess on the show, hosted by Bradley Walsh, left, is hoping *The Chase* won't be cancelled.

She added: "Things are so tough that quite a few shows are being axed."

"Obviously, one is always a little bit worried and one is always glad to hear there will be more episodes."

"I don't want to imagine life without *The Chase*. But we are doing better than most shows. It does the business in the ratings. So many people watch it."

*The Chase* was among the shows to bag a gong at the National Reality TV Awards last week.



**ED** Sheeran sparked a frenzy at the National Reality TV Awards... sort of.

Just before the bash was about to start, rumours started circulating that the chart-topper was in attendance.

People got very excited indeed. I went to investigate and it turned out it was just a lookalike.

Although in fairness, he was a dead ringer for the pop superstar.

I can see why people were fooled. But I'm not sure why they thought Ed Sheeran would be at an awards celebrating reality shows.



LOOKS LIKE ED'S GOT A DOUBLE ACT



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What they're really like

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# Go to the pub & get a six pack

## 'YOU CAN HAVE A PINT AND BE FIT'

by ROSS KANIUK

**SINKING** a few pints after exercising won't stop you getting fit, says a top boffin.

Many of us can't resist a trip to the pub after a game of footie, tennis or a gym session, but fear we're undoing all the hard work. But now recovery expert Prof James Betts says we have got nothing to fear.

The University of Bath boff said: "I wouldn't worry about it - have what you enjoy." He said the body had time to recover naturally by the next day, and only elite athletes should abstain.

Mr Betts explained: "We're often as sports nutritionists telling people to drink after exercise to rehydrate.

"There are slightly better ways to rehydrate with formal rehydration electrolyte drinks or even milk for example, but beer certainly isn't a lot worse than lots of other things.

"If you start drinking beers you will pee a bit more, but you're also drinking large quantities of fluids."

He said it is important to "refuel" by eating carbohydrates after exercise. But, he



**BAR LIFT:** Exercise

added, alcohol can increase appetite, and lead to people consuming more carbs than they would otherwise.

He added: "If you have a whole day or more to recover, as many non-elite athletes do, then I wouldn't worry about it."

**The Star Says: Page 6**

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# UNIQUE KELLY HOLMES

Olympic Golden Girl  
20th anniversary of a double Olympic gold medal win in Athens



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CHARLES TYRWHITT  
**SPORTS BOOK AWARDS 2024**

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# STUCK A DUCK

- ★ THE world's biggest rubber ducky squeezes through a car park in New York, US.
- ★ The 60ft Mama Duck, which weighs around 15 tonnes, floated into a water park in Long Island aiming to "spread kindness," said founder Craig Samborski.



Picture: ANADOLU/GETTY



**VOICE INJURY: Tyler Days of touring Aerover**

AEROSMITH have retired from touring over singer Steven Tyler's vocal injury. The US rockers cancelled dates on their farewell tour last year due to Tyler, 76, needing "ongoing care" for vocal cord damage and a fractured larynx. The band said on X the Walk This Way singer had been "struggling despite having the best medical team". They added: "Sadly, it is clear that a full recovery is not possible. We have made a heartbreaking and difficult, but necessary, decision to retire from the touring stage." The group, which includes Joe Perry, Tom Hamilton, Joey Kramer and Brad Whitford, said it has been "the honour of our lives to have our music become part of yours".

**PET OF THE WEEK**



**LUCKY** brothers Boris and Tigger live a lovely pampered life. Owners John and Rachel have had the eight-year-old cats since they were just eight weeks old. Despite loving their home comforts - including cuddling up for snuggles on their owners' bed - Boris once gave them a scare when he went missing for 10 days. Luckily he was found and although he'd lost half his body weight, he made a full recovery and is now spoilt rotten at home in Norfolk.

**Want to see your animal pal here? Email [pets@dailystar.co.uk](mailto:pets@dailystar.co.uk)**

**'DEAD MAN' HELL**  
A MAN, 40, stabbed teachers and held students hostage to prove he was alive after civil servants declared him dead in Balotra, India.

Picture: Bav Media/Splash News



**Old case for Helen**

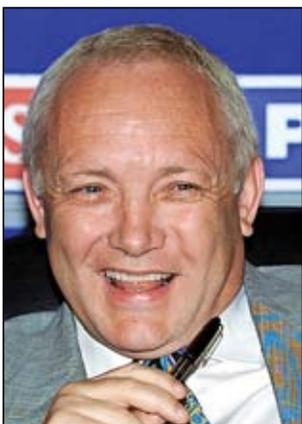
by JOHN WARD

- ★ DAME Helen Mirren looks unrecognisable on the set of *The Thursday Murder Club* as a retired spy who investigates unsolved killings for fun. The iconic actress, 79, was filming in Hertfordshire with Celia Imrie, below, for the Netflix adaptation of presenter and writer Richard Osman's hit novel.
- ★ Mirren plays former spook Elizabeth, while Imrie, 72, takes on the role of ex-nurse Joyce in the popular tale.



**GOGGLEBOXER**

**Kellie: Daytime telly showed me how to look like a lady..**



**DRESSING DOWN:** Kellie and, left, in her former life as Frank

**EX-BOXING** promoter Kellie Maloney watched daytime TV to learn how to dress like a woman. Kellie, formerly Frank, had no idea what to wear when she first dressed as a woman. The 71-year-old said: "I would think I needed high heels to go to the supermarket

but has rejected boxing, saying: "Now it's all about money." Knock Out Blonde: The Kellie Maloney Story will be available to stream exclusively on the IFC Channel from tomorrow, in Select UK Cinemas from September 9 and on Home Entertainment from October 7.

until a counsellor suggested I study women. "I began watching TV shows to see what they wore and when. "I realised you don't need to always dress up, it was OK to go to Tesco in jeans." Kellie guided Lennox Lewis to the world heavyweight title,

[isobel.dickinson@dailystar.co.uk](mailto:isobel.dickinson@dailystar.co.uk)

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Picture: MEDIADRUMIMAGES.COM

# HUGGY BEARS

■ by JOHN WARD

★ CUBS share a loving bear hug as they frolic in a field filled with flowers in the Finnish wilderness.

Wildlife photographer Valtteri Mulkahainen, 63, captured the scene in the Kainuu area.

★ He said: "It felt like they were sharing a secret with each other that no one else was privy to. It was too cute."



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## KAMILLE: MY RAYE OF LIGHT



**RAYE'S** success as an artist in her own right has inspired another huge hitmaker to the stars. Kamille, who for a while was known as the fifth member of Little Mix, is building a major following as a solo star and revealed: "Watching her fulfil what she's always wanted to do has been so inspiring." Kamille's new single Freak is out now.

### LISTEN UP: NEW ALBUM

X / SMOKE & FICTION ★★☆☆☆

A CELEBRATORY final set from the Hollywood rockers who have remained gloriously under the radar for five decades. Ruby Church is perhaps a slightly muted opener, but all is forgiven when Exene Cervenka hits full fury on Sweet Til The Bitter End. John Doe's rampaging riffs and twisted Americana holler on The Way It Is offer insights into their roots. It's been, and remains, a blast.



**SAM SMITH** ROYAL ALBERT HALL, LONDON

**SAM** Smith delivered a show-stopping performance at the BBC Proms. Looking sharp in a double-breasted suit the singer joked: "Don't worry I'm not going to get my bum out." Joined by the LJ Singers choir, Smith sounded soulful singing hits such as Like I Can and I'm Not The Only One.



The second half saw Smith, in a stunning crimson gown, ramp things up and close with a magical version of Somewhere Over The Rainbow. What a night, what a voice.

**ANGELA THOMPSON**



★ **EMPIRE** Of The Sun have returned to save mankind! Ask That God is out now and Nick Littlemore, one half of the Aussie duo, said: "These are songs that are good for humanity. For us, music is a way of conjuring magic and putting it back out into the world."



JAMES CABOOTER'S

# WIRED

@Caboots

## Weekend

**BRYAN** Adams almost joined Kiss in the 80s. The rocker dropped double A-side single War Machine and Rock And Roll Hell this week. The tracks were originally for Kiss's 1982 album Creatures Of The Night. Bri said: "I got a call out of the blue to see if I'd like to write for Kiss. I'm very grateful to the guys for giving me the chance back then."



# A festival of Blud & guts

## VICTORIA HAS GOT A REAL CHEEK

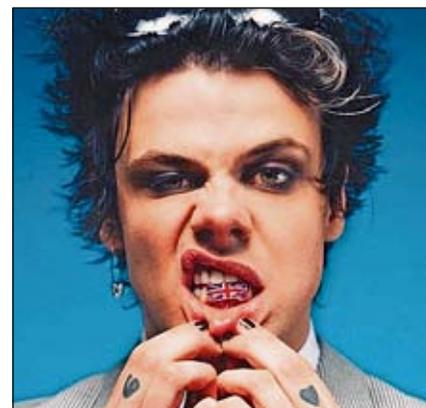
★ **VICTORIA** Monét shows a bit of cheek on stage. The singer wowed the crowd at the Lollapalooza music festival at Grant Park in Chicago. Victoria is preparing for a visit to the UK to perform at All Points East alongside Canadian producer and DJ Kaytranada on August 16 at Victoria Park in east London.

**GUITAR** virtuoso John Mayer kicked off a residency at the Sphere in Las Vegas by injuring his all-important left index finger. But instead of cancelling, he has practised using the other three fingers and said: "I have it sounding pretty good!" What a hero.



Picture: REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

## 'I PUT MONEY WHERE MY MOUTH IS..'



**YUNGBLUD** launches his first festival next weekend and it's all thanks to Dr Pepper and a bit of ADHD.

The punk star's BludFest rocks Milton Keynes Bowl on August 11 featuring a curated line-up and much more for the discerning YungBlud fan. It's all the brain-child of the boy born Dominic Harrison.

He said: "A lot of people don't believe that it comes out of my head, or think this has been a masterplan from some other entity, but it's just f\*\*\*ing ADHD, Dr Pepper, coffee and no sleep that gets this s\*\*t going."

Bludfest boasts 11 bands for £49.50 - a value-for-money event that he hopes will change how big event promoters do business. He added: "This is what I've wanted to do for my whole career - I want to change things and this is me putting my money where my mouth is."

"I took a f\*\*\*ing risk and I could have burnt a lot of bridges, but I always wanted to do it respectfully and say, 'Listen, you've got to look at what people's reality is right now.'"

**RIHANNA'S** fella **A\$AP Rocky** feels like a new artist since becoming a father of two.

The rapper told Zane Lowe on Apple Music 1: "I got more to say."



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Trustpilot

Rick Lyons is the...

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**WORRIER**

**Cycle of anger's so hard to break**



I WATCHED a video recently which shows the Mariana Trench-like depths of people's irrational hatred of cyclists.

An interviewer asks people on the street who they think poses a greater danger to their safety – cars or bikes?

More than half say bikes.

He then tells them the truth: vehicles kill 400 pedestrians a year and bikes kill two.

What are facts though when you have a bottomless well of cyclist-hatred to draw upon?

"I would say that those cars are killing people because bikes are forcing them over the middle of the road and causing problems," one woman says.

What she means is: "Although a driver hit a pedestrian and killed them, a cyclist must be to blame because I am convinced that cyclists are bad and wrong and that belief is more powerful than reality."

Where does such logic come from? What's so offensive about bikes – a 200-year-old technology that produces no pollution and makes people happy and healthy?

My view is that it's less to do with bikes and more with cars.

People are fine with kids riding bikes in the park. What they hate is bikes taking up space that they believe belongs to cars.

There's an assumption that cyclists on the road are intruders who should not be tolerated.

Cyclists have equal rights to the road though.

Another fact that will be dismissed.

**CHANGING IT**

PER hundred miles travelled, cyclists are 11.5 times more likely to be killed on UK roads than car drivers. Pedestrians are 13.5 times more likely to die and motorcyclists have a 61.5 times greater chance of meeting their end.

@ecoworrierRick

Picture: MEDIADRUMIMAGES.COM



**Kitchen sync for Keanu..**

★ THE face of Hollywood star Keanu Reeves is spotted in a kitchen worktop. Facebook user Jessica Miller posted the pic and asked: "Water marks

on my counter top. What can you see?????" ★ "Keanu Reeves," commented Karisma Shontia. Amy Richard replied: "My first thought as well."



**Sleepeaters**



PILLOW RICE: Sleeping chef

■ by ALUN PALMER  
SUFFERERS of a rare condition are scoffing dog food with their hands while they're in the land of nod.

The sleep-related disorder leads to them cooking and eating then going back to bed blissfully unaware.

Boffin Kelly Baron said some SRED sufferers unwittingly put themselves in perilous situations.

The clinical psychologist, who is director of behavioural sleep medicine at the University of Utah, said: "In some cases, the person could cook and injure themselves or run into things."

She added: "People can eat non-

**DOG FOOD ON MENU FOR DOZING COOKS**

food items at times. I wrote a case series with a colleague and one patient had eaten dog food in his sleep or a casserole with his hands, making a big mess."

Kara Becker, boss of eating disorder programs for Newport Healthcare in California, said: "Some may even consume hazardous substanc-

es at night without knowing, putting their health immediately at risk."

The scientists advise sufferers – who are more likely to be women under 20 – to take precautions at home, including installing locks on kitchen cabinets and fridges and removing dangerous obstacles.

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WITH a Strictly scandal rumba-ling, has taken a cha-cha-chance on another Arsenal footballing legend to boost the ratings. Paul Merson is Gunner hope he's got enough in his Arsenal to outdo Tony Adams. After beating booze addiction, here's a low-alcohol beer Paul could imMerse himself in. Buy at [deyabrewing.com](http://deyabrewing.com) for £4.75

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IT GLOBAL HIT: DATING NAKED UK



Wanna  
true love  
kit off



**EXCLUSIVE**

■ by ED GLEAVE

**RYLAN** Clark has discovered a saucy way to boost your chances of finding romance – meet people starkers.

The presenter saw first-hand how it can help while filming his new show Dating Naked UK.

Producers convinced a raft of sexy singletons to move into a luxury villa in the sun and strip fully nude.

They then continued to flash the flesh as they went on dates.

Rylan said: "It's like Love Island but everyone is naked. We know people are going to be thinking, 'I've got to see how this works'. And for the first five minutes, it's a bit shocking. But then it becomes quite normal.

"Willies start to look the same after a while. So it feels more like a regular dating show."

Rylan was amazed at how much the nakedness helped the contestants find love.

**Focused**

He added: "This show is a big social experiment. We aren't just stripping people off and putting them in the sun.

"There's more to it than that – it actually works! Because they were naked, they got to know each other a lot quicker.

"They weren't busy thinking about taking each other's clothes off because they were already naked, so they were more focused on getting to know each other.

"It was a really successful experiment. People did find love. Some are still together!"

Dating Naked UK is set to become a global sensation after it launches on August 23, as it will be streaming around the world on Paramount+.

Rylan is convinced it's going to remind viewers of the glory days of reality telly.

He said: "This show has everything. It's interesting, it's shocking and it's a bit like old Big Brother.

"There are lots of twists. There are some shocks along the way. People couple up and people go and then people come back. There's a lot of drama."

edward.gleave@dailystar.co.uk



**GAMES  
JAMES**

**INDUSTRY CUTS**

**NEWS** | BY JAMES WRIGHT



**BUNGIE SLUMP  
AS JOBS AXED**

IT'S been another sombre week across the video games industry following a series of job cuts and closures.

On Wednesday, Bungie announced it will lay off 220 staff, with a further 155 employees being "integrated" into Sony Interactive Entertainment.

Disgruntled employees took to X to denounce Bungie CEO Pete Parsons, who allegedly spent \$2.4million on vintage cars in the past two years.

The Bungie announcement also shocked many players, especially since Bungie's latest release, The Final Shape for Destiny 2, was hailed as a significant return to form for the series.

However, according to Stephen Totilo's Game File newsletter, these

cuts were planned well before The Final Shape's release in June.

According to Totilo's sources, Bungie has been consistently missing Sony's financial targets and has been losing money since the Lightfall expansion for Destiny 2 in early 2023.

Despite promises of autonomy when acquired by Sony in 2022, Bungie's management agreed last year that deep cuts were necessary to show Sony they were serious

about financial management.

This led to Bungie laying off around 100 staff in October.

Adding to the industry's woes, Game Informer magazine is closing after 33 years. A heartfelt letter posted online announced the closure. It will be sorely missed.



**News Bites**

- **OBSIDIANS** Avowed has been delayed until early 2025.
- **CIVILIZATION VII** will reveal its first game-play after Gamescom's Opening Night Live.
- **ELDEN** Ring's latest patch adds numerous buffs to make the game easier.

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## WINTER'S WILDLIFE



with **STUART WINTER**

### STIMULUS

Parents react to the red head of their young



## Ugly? Well, I'll still root for the coot

Baby coots have faces their parents should struggle to love.

Alongside downy ducklings and fluffy goslings, these diabolical creatures look as if they have crawled straight out of some mediaeval bestiary.

Scary sunken eyes set in blood-red skulls and straggly tufts of fiery feathering do little to endear the facially-challenged chicks to birdwatchers.

Adult coots, in truth, would also be excused parental duties for leaving ugly offspring fending for themselves in predator-packed wetlands.

Yet survival of the species trumps aesthetics in the world of a pilloried bird that gave rise to one of the most wounding similes in the English language: To be as bald as a coot...

Like most birders, I must admit to paying scant attention to rafts of coots in their black plumages and 'bald' white frontal

**“Baby coots rely on their parents for up to eight weeks after hatching**

shields as they bob and dive on open expanses of water, especially if there is chance of spotting a rare gull, wader or grebe nearby.

All this changed last week. It was a summer's day and the birding was far from easy at a local gravel

pit turned into a flourishing nature reserve. Soaring afternoon temperatures meant most of the local wildfowl had hunkered down in the weedy margins.

My binoculars soon focused on two adult coots busy at work feeding their brood.

The scarlet-headed chicks waited patiently while their parents sank below the surface and paddled away with green-lobed feet before returning with bits of vegetation to be popped gently into the youngsters' crimson bills.

Unlike self-sufficient ducklings that forage soon after breaking free from the egg, baby coots depend on mum and dad for food up to eight weeks after hatching.

Having neon bright heads instead of the camouflaged patterning of ducklings means parent coots can spot their young more easily.

Studies of the closely related American coot have revealed parents are innately programmed to feed youngsters with the brightest colouring and, as the last to hatch from a brood generally have brighter heads, this boosts the most vulnerable chicks' chances of survival.

# GROW



**Orange Ball Sylvia**



**Blue Bayou**



**Totally Tangerine**



**Tahiti Sunrise**

FOLLOW STUART ON TWITTER: **@BIRDERMAN**

FOR IT



with DIARMUID GAVIN

gardening@dailystar.co.uk

Sorry, Diarmuid cannot reply personally

# Hello, Dahlia

With 15 different types these beauties are a big national favourite



This week I'm delving into the world of dahlias. Members of the daisy family, their cheerful blooms have been a staple of the British garden for many years and in recent times have been enjoying a surge in popularity.

They are a fascinating group of plants – the shape and growth pattern of their petals is so diverse that there are 15 distinct types of dahlias, ranging from the simple single flowers to cactus, pompon, waterlily and many more. Size wise, they are available from dwarf bedding right up to the giant tree dahlia, *D. imperialis* which can grow up to three metres in height.

The single-flowered dahlias are the best type for pollinators as their open flowers make it easier for insects to access the nectar. The best known of these are the Bishop series, for example Llandaff which has scarlet flowers, Dover which has white petals with a faint lilac stripe, and the sunny yellow petals of York. What all the Bishops have in common is the striking dark bronze foliage which provides a great foil to these pretty flowers.

Also good for pollinators are the anemone type dahlias. These are also known as powder puff dahlias, an apt description of their central puff of ruffled flowers. These bi-coloured beauties come in many colours but my favourites

are 'Blue Bayou' a striking combination of mauve petals and a central purple puff and 'Totally Tangerine', a mouth-watering combination of pink and orange.

And then there's the really flamboyant types such as cactus, pompon, decorative and ball dahlias. These are more spherical in nature and some have petals that curve backwards making them very ornamental. Cactus and semi-cactus have a lovely shaggy appearance. I like the tropical colours of 'Tahiti Sunrise' and the sumptuous maroons of 'Chat Noir'. Contrast these with the fascinating geometry of a ball dahlia such as 'Sylvia' forming a perfect orange sphere.

Dahlias have their origins in Mexico which means they like lots of sunshine and cannot survive big freezes, which is why dahlias are traditionally lifted at the end of summer.

In milder coastal areas it is possible to leave them in the ground with a protective mulch but if you have cold soggy soil over winter, it's better to lift them.

You do this in late autumn when the

foliage has been blackened by the first frosts and then gently fork out the tubers. Lift and shake the soil from them and let them dry out. Once dry, you can store them in crates wrapped in newspaper, fleece or even some old clothes. You can also dust them with yellow sulphur which is a fungicide.

Leave them somewhere cool and dry, and preferably dark, where they can rest dormant until late March to early April of next year when you start potting them up before planting them out in late May when frosts are gone.

In the meantime, if you are currently growing dahlias, keep deadheading them so you squeeze every last flower out of them. When dahlias are going to seed, they close up and form pointy heads – leave the roundy ones alone as these are flower buds. A fortnightly feed of high potash will give them the energy to produce their delightful flowers until late

autumn.

And finally, did you know dahlias are edible? Their beautiful petals will add a colourful touch to your summer salads or as an unusual garnish for soup.

Bishop of York



“  
Deadhead regularly so you squeeze out every last flower

## JOBS for the week

■ Watering and feeding remains top priority, especially for pots, troughs, hanging baskets and containers.

■ August is a good time to sow fast-growing salad leaves and radishes that will extend your cropping season.

■ Spring cabbages can be sown directly outdoors.

■ Plant autumn flowering bulbs. *Colchicum autumnale*, also known as naked ladies, is a lovely crocus type bulb that will flower on bare stems in September.

■ Look after pond life – keep water levels topped up, remove blanket weed and cut back yellow foliage on pond plants.

■ You can plant annuals in situ



for spring flowering such as calendulas and forget-me-nots.

■ Trim hedges.

■ Dry weather is the perfect time for getting any paint jobs done such as sheds, fences or

## PLANT of the week



### Hemerocallis 'Golden Chimes'

The name *Hemerocallis* is derived from two Greek words meaning beautiful and day. That's an accurate description of this plant, also known as the daylily. Each flower lasts a day but there are always plenty more to come on this low-maintenance and hard-working perennial. It's generally fuss free, likes most soils, doesn't require staking and can tolerate drought – the perfect perennial? Available in lots of colours, 'Golden Chimes' is a warm yellow variety.

## YOU ASK

Hi Diarmuid

I saw this tree in France. What is it and would it grow here?

Thanks, Jordan

Hi Jordan

This is the Persian silk tree, *Albizia julibrissin*. It has acacia-like foliage and these gorgeous fans of fragrant pink flowers in summer. It's hardy in most parts of the UK but will perform best in a sunny and sheltered spot. Frost damage can be pruned out. There's also a lovely cultivar 'Summer Chocolate' which has bronze foliage.

Diarmuid



# Fiat fashions a cool tribute to Armani

Fiat is very good at special editions. Anyone remember the Panda with football hubcaps that was produced to celebrate the World Cup in 1990? Fiat is now bringing us a limited-edition 500e called the Giorgio Armani.

You have a choice of two special colours - green and one called "greige" which is a mixture of green and beige. The cars have special alloys which echo the Armani logo. Inside are top-quality materials, including a laser-cut wood insert on the dashboard and special embroidery.

The order books open later in the year with deliveries starting early next year. There's no word on price at the moment.



# MOTORING



## There's no icing on the cake for Ibiza's 40th

Here we have the Seat Ibiza Anniversary edition celebrating the 40th birthday of the firm's small hatchback. But, it has to be said, this is a rather lame effort on the company's part.

And it leads me to believe I might be more nostalgic and have fonder memories of the car than Seat does.

Let's start with the Anniversary's special paint job. It is grey, or graphene grey to be exact. It is metallic too, but hey, it's like giving someone a cupcake with no icing and a single candle on top of it for a major

birthday. And this for a brand that has an extraordinarily young customer base. The average age for a new car buyer in the UK is around 57.

For Hondas it is about 93. For Seat it was in the late 30s a few years ago.

I think young people deserve something a bit more adventurous than grey. Perhaps Sir John Major will buy one.

It hardly improves inside. You are greeted on the way in by shiny sill plates that have the word Anniversary on them. A slight improvement follows as you sit down

## NEW PUGS UP

The order books are open for Peugeot's new 5008 SUV. You've a choice of a hybrid powertrain which starts at £37,360, a PHEV version which costs £43,350, and finally an electric model starting at £48,550.

The latter has a range of 310 miles from its 73kWh battery - but later in the year a long-range version of the car with a 98kWh battery will have a very impressive range of 410 miles. No price



on that one though but it's likely to set you back more than £50,000 - which is a lot for a Peugeot.

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According to website CarGurus, the choice of convertibles has dropped by 41% since 2005 with iconic models like the Audi TT roadster no longer available. In raw numbers there are 22 new convertible models on sale today compared to 37 in 2005. There are only four electric convertibles available and they're the Fiat and Abarth 500e cabrios, the Mini Electric convertible, and the new MG Cyberster roadster.



# Birthdays falls flat



into a sports seat which hugs your body effectively and which looks more substantial than the standard seats. That's about it. No flashes of colour, no embroidered logos or coloured stitching on the steering wheel or gear lever.

The Ibiza on mainland Europe is available with Volkswagen's 1.5-litre TSI engine which produces 150PS – but in Blighty we're limited to a choice between two 1.0-litre three-cylinder engines with 95PS or 110PS. Our test car has the latter and can do 0-62mph in 9.7sec. Actually

I'm not bothered that the Anniversary isn't packing a bigger punch under its bonnet. Creating a fun, sparky and good-to-drive supermini doesn't need horsepower. Just ask Ford (before it axed the Fiesta) or Suzuki.

It's not all bad news because the Ibiza is still a good little car. The Anniversary is based on the FR model and has that car's more sporty suspension set-up.

It also has a generous equipment list that makes this £24,390 car good value and reasonably affordable for

the younger audience that so liked it. Our car has the 6-speed manual gearbox rather than the DSG auto that's optional with the more powerful engine.

The manual box suits the car's character and works better with the three-cylinder engine than the DSG. Economy is a wallet-friendly 50.4mpg which you should have no difficulty in achieving.

The Ibiza is a practical car with reasonable room and a 355-litre boot. There are separate buttons for climate controls but when it comes

to the infotainment system itself it feels like it has operating system software from a while back because the system is rather slow.

The Ibiza was launched in 1984 (you can't fault my maths) and, although I wasn't a car journalist back then, I've driven all generations of Ibiza since then.

Seat has not said how long the Ibiza will remain in production, although with EV sales wobbly that might be longer than expected.

If it gets to 45 years old I'd like to see a bigger hurrah please, Seat.

## THE FACTS

**Seat Ibiza Anniversary**

**Price:** £24,390

**Engine:** 998cc, three-cylinder, petrol

**Power:** 115PS

**Torque:** 200Nm

**Top speed:** 123mph

**0-62mph:** 9.7secs

**Economy:** 50.4mpg combined

**CO2:** 126g/km

**For:** Good value and well equipped.

**Against:** Should be more special considering the occasion.

**Sum up:** Still a good practical supermini, though.

## Panigale bike is a stunner

Ducati is readying a new Panigale superbike that features some significant changes over the current model. Most obvious is the new swingarm which is now no longer a single-side unit.

The styling has also been changed, reducing drag by 4% while giving the bike echoes of the old 916 and 1098. There are

new headlamps and the mirrors are now mounted within the front fairing. The 1103cc V4 engine is Euro-5 compliant and 1kg lighter. Fitted with the optional track-only Akrapovic exhaust, the engine produces 224.9bhp.

No word on price yet or when this latest gorgeous Ducati goes on sale.



## T7 TEASER

Volkswagen has released photos of the interior and dashboard of its upcoming 7th-generation Transporter van. Good news is that the T7 designers have used a decent number of physical controls for heating and cooling as well as the audio system.

The manual handbrake has been ditched for a switch and the automatic gear change is now on the steering



column. Also fitted are numerous power points including the option of a 230V socket that can be used to run power tools. We'll have more details of the new T7 over the next few months.

# MOVIES

## STAR RATINGS

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



**STRANDED**  
 Michael has to adapt to island life

## KENSUKE'S KINGDOM

Cert PG ★★★★★  
 In cinemas now

After a particularly stressful day at work, a fractious family gathering or just the sensory overload of day-to-day urban living, it's easy to romanticise the tranquillity of sun-kissed seclusion on a deserted island.

For stranded fictional characters, there's often trouble in paradise. Tom Hanks' systems analyst loses his beloved volleyball companion Wilson and almost his sanity in *Cast Away*; surviving passengers of crashed Oceanic Airlines Flight 815 encounter otherworldly foes and a mind-boggling final episode in *Lost*; and all that glistens isn't gold in *Treasure Island*.

Faithfully adapted by screenwriter Frank Cottrell-Boyce from Michael Morpurgo's

children's novel, *Kensuke's Kingdom* is a poignant animated drama which strands an 11-year-old boy, Michael, (voiced by Aaron MacGregor) in the Indian Ocean with a canine companion.

A touching friendship with the island's other residents, including a family of orangutans, expands into a wider discussion of conservation, coexistence and cooperation, rendered by around 200 artists in a combination of expressive 2D hand-drawn and 3D animation with photographic real elements.

*Kensuke's Kingdom* took two-and-a-half years to realise under the direction of Kirk Hendry and Neil Boyle, and every minute resonates, especially a watercolour flashback that tastefully but powerfully

“It illustrates man's plunderous relationship with the natural world”

depicts the bombing of Nagasaki to illuminate the title character's heartrending backstory.

Cottrell-Boyce's script confidently sets sail through Morpurgo's text and illustrates mankind's plunderous relationship with the natural world in a way that will be easily accessible for audiences of all ages. A family-friendly 84-minute running time is

another buoyancy aid.

Composer Stuart Hancock's score ebbs and flows beautifully in extended silences between effective vocal performances and increases in urgency when invaders materialise on the shimmering horizon.

Against seemingly overwhelming odds, one tearful child separated from family and society can make a profound difference.

## HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON

Cert U ★★★  
 In cinemas now

In 1955, when illustrator Crockett Johnson published his children's book *Harold And The Purple Crayon*, the idea of a writing implement that conjures solid objects into existence by doodling in the air must have seemed like the height of fantastical whimsy.

Almost 70 years later, 3D printing pens are a reality but technological invention still pales next to the magical coloured wax in director Carlos Saldanha's briskly paced



**WONDER**  
 Zachary Levi, right, and co-star Lil Rel Howery

adventure, which transplants immortal cartoon characters into a cynical live-action world where every second is precious.

Screenwriters David Guion and Michael Handelman lean heavily into the undimmed

power of the imagination, peppering a haphazard central odyssey with otherworldly flourishes including a villainous librarian named Gary (Jemaine Clement), who dreams of ruling over the *Lord Of The Rings*-like

realm described in his unpublished novel.

Shazam! leading man Zachary Levi radiates unwavering optimism and childlike wonder in the title role and he catalyses delightful on-screen rapport with young co-star Benjamin Bottani, whose best friend is an imaginary dragon named Carl.

*Harold And The Purple Crayon* is a charming, family-friendly escapade that treads lightly when dealing with themes of grief and loss.

Saldanha's heartfelt picture punishes cruelty and rewards kindness.

Please ask Harold to draw a box of tissues.

## MY NEIGHBOUR TOTORO

Cert U ★★★★★  
 In cinemas now

In December last year, 82-year-old Japanese writer-director Hayao Miyazaki, co-founder of animation powerhouse Studio Ghibli, came out of retirement with the semi-autobiographical odyssey *The Boy And The Heron*.

It was hard to dampen down feelings of familiarity and disappointment with Miyazaki's handsomely crafted swansong. Striking imagery from his back catalogue replayed in that final tumble down the rabbit hole led by a spirited 12-year-old boy, mourning the loss of his mother.

One of those classic pictures from the treasure-crammed Studio Ghibli vault is the wondrous 1988 fantasy *My Neighbour Totoro*, which returns to cinemas this week in both subtitled and English dubbed versions.

Gorgeous, hand-drawn visuals bring to life the story of sisters Satsuki and Mei, who move into an old house in 1950s' Tokyo with their father, university professor Tatsuo, whose wife Yasuko is recovering from a serious illness. The children are delighted to discover that tiny dust creatures inhabit their new home, which are visible when the girls move between darkness and light.

*My Neighbour Totoro* is utterly beguiling and has aged gracefully over the past four decades. A new generation will be spellbound by the uncluttered but effective storytelling that reminds us to warmly embrace life and never let go.



**INSPIRATION** Ghibli classic



**MOVING**  
 Izaac Wang with Mahaela Park

## DIDI

Cert 15 ★★★★★  
 In cinemas now

Cultures clash and familial bonds are cherished in writer-director Sean Wang's wonderful debut feature, which draws inspiration from the filmmaker's upbringing to glimpse the messiness of boyhood through the eyes of a 13-year-old Taiwanese-American son of immigrant parents.

Set in the summer of 2008 when Facebook surpassed Myspace as the most-visited social media website and Barack Obama was fresh on the campaign trail for the White House, *Didi* is an unabashed love letter to the topsy-turvy relationship between mothers and their children.

Wang's script elegantly distils the exquisite pain and occasional hard-fought victories of adolescence with wry humour and piercing candour, recalling the film *Stand By Me* and TV series *My So-Called Life*.

Izaac Wang (no relation) perfectly captures the awkwardness, brashness and insecurity of a teenager clumsily navigating real and online worlds before he has a clear sense of his authentic self. He gels magnificently with veteran Chinese-American actress Joan Chen, playing his mother. Their scenes together are deeply moving but never feel emotionally manipulative.

Wang's semi-autobiographical picture sets itself apart by contemplating the persistent cultural tug of war between East and West. *Didi* instinctively knows when to trade in gentle comedy to salve a fresh wound, galvanised by Izaac Wang's unselfconscious lead performance.

# TRAVEL



Edited by  
**NIGEL  
THOMPSON**

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# It's a Clear winner

Dolphins, Dali, the best beach and endless sun... this Florida gem has it all, says **Tanveer Mann**

**W**ith sugar white shores, fiery sunsets and a Caribbean-like climate, St Pete/Clearwater is a top drink-in-hand, toes-in-the-sand destination.

Sitting on a sun-drenched peninsula between Tampa and the Gulf of Mexico, for decades travellers have been drawn to its 35-mile stretch of award-winning beaches, dreamy boardwalks, cool sundowner bars and a very competitive game of skill and strategy... shuffleboard.

The star of the show, Clearwater Beach, has repeatedly been crowned the best in America. With its impeccable good looks and seriously

cool vibes, it really does have everything.

As I step into the warm glass-like waters for the first time, a school of fish pass my feet and I can see every little detail on their backs. Clearwater really does live up to its name.

Getting out onto the water is equally as thrilling, as I discover on a dolphin-watching trip, which sets off from Clearwater Beach marina.

The tour begins with a disclaimer – there is no guarantee that we will see dolphins but you get your next trip free if you don't.

After some time on the boat and no dolphins in sight, I thought I'd be re-booking for another attempt, but

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE

**PEERLESS  
Sunset over  
Clearwater  
Beach pier**

A £45,500 holiday prize bonanza – including cruises, spending money, villas, staycations and more – can be won in the online public voting for the British Travel Awards. Voting open until September 29 with everyone taking part entered into the draw. See [britishtravellawards.com](http://britishtravellawards.com)

## CRUISE NEWS

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

There's a shark to the system waiting for thrill-seekers on MSC World America when she debuts in April.

Outdoor fun zone Family Aventura will feature The Harbour, a first of a kind for the MSC fleet, with a range of activities and experiences day and night including a water park, playground, rock climbing wall, high ropes course and the

11-deck dry slide Jaw Drop @ The Spiral.

A striking architectural masterpiece and one of the longest dry slides at sea, riders enter through the vast jaws of a shark and spiral down through the heart of the World Promenade.

The stainless-steel slide features dark and light sections so, if you dare open your eyes, there are glimpses



of sea views at the stern of the ship.

Family Aventura will also offer food and drink at The Harbour Bar & Bites, plus live musicians in the evening.

Cleaner LNG (liquefied natural gas)-powered World America will homeport in Miami, sailing an inaugural season in the Eastern and Western Caribbean with stops at Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve in The Bahamas. [msccruises.co.uk](http://msccruises.co.uk)

Inspired by the animated family film, Ozi: Voice Of The Forest, the Eden Project, Cornwall, has transformed its tipis into an immersive Ozi Zone. Running until September 8, visitors can walk through scenes like the orphaned orangutan's forest home. [edenproject.com](http://edenproject.com)



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The Czech Republic's capital is often called the City of a Hundred Spires. At well over a thousand years old, a holiday to Prague is a must for those who love history and architecture. Drink in city views from Prague Castle and stroll through Pruhonice Park - the largest landscaped park in Europe. The hotel is located just only in 5 minute's walk from the Czech National Museum which is just in front of Wenceslas Square.

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**HOTEL OF THE WEEK**  
BY MIKE WALTERS



**Hope Street Hotel, Liverpool**

**WHERE AND WHY**  
Hope springs eternal in the most blessed street in the country which has a cathedral at each end. Set between Liverpool's Anglican and Roman Catholic piles, the Hope Street Hotel oozes four-star inner-city chic.

The fusion of Cheshire red brick, iron pillars, pine beams and solid oak floors create a boutique vibe, and from our spacious corner suite the views were breathtaking - from the Pier Head Liver building to the Metropolitan cathedral standing guard over the Everyman Theatre, Philharmonic Hall, university buildings and bars of the Knowledge Quarter.

The en-suite's corner bathtub and lush walk-in shower were huge, with upmarket Temple Spa toiletries, robes and slippers. Added in 2021, the spa is a jewel in Hope Street's crown. Our two-hour thermal experience included the indoor swimming pool, outdoor vitality pool, herbal sauna, Himalayan salt sauna, aroma steam room and tepidarium. A full-day spa costs £200, half-day £140, evening (£90), Rasul spa day (£110) and a two-hour twilight spa is £70. There are also 50-minute facials (£90-£110), hands and feet (£25), waxing and tinting (from £15) and 80-minute signature treatments (£150).

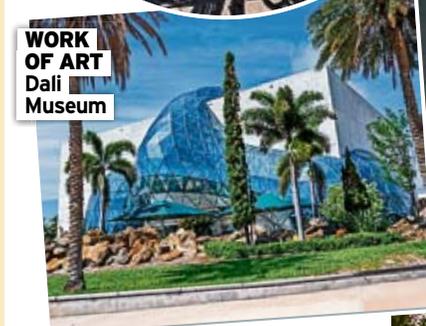
**ON THE MENU**  
If you're going for dinner before a performance at the nearby Philharmonic Hall or the Everyman, the 1931 (Noon to 9pm) serves pizza, pasta, salads and sharing boards. Our three courses in 75 minutes was just right time-wise. Our goats cheese flatbread (£12.50), 1931 Gamberoni pasta with king prawns, chilli, white wine, anchovies and capers (£16), and iced mango and passion fruit cheesecake all hit the spot.

For alternative opulence, the London Carriage Works restaurant which has two AA Rosette awards serves modern British dishes using fresh local produce. Starters from £12, with main courses from £17. The presentation of the lamb rack and halibut is mouthwatering.

**WHILE YOU'RE THERE**  
From the Beatles to Brookside, Liverpool's culture needs no amplifying. But before you go off to explore the city, the Philharmonic pub over the road is a good first stop with its ornate Victorian wood panels, mosaic tiling, stained glass and chandeliers.

Down on the waterfront, the Museum of Liverpool, Beatles statue and British Music Experience are all recommended.

**WAKE-UP CALL**  
Rooms start at £89 a night room-only. Hire the hotel's exclusive 39-seat cinema from £400. [hopestreethotel.co.uk](http://hopestreethotel.co.uk)



**CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**  
out of nowhere, our boat is suddenly graced with the most incredible display.

One after the other, bottlenose dolphins emerge from the sea as the captain creates a wake with our boat - a truly magical holiday experience.

Kayaking is another exhilarating way to experience the waters here, especially when you can see all the way through your kayak into the ocean. Sea Glass Kayaking provides the transparent vessels and expert guides which are full of insight to make your trip even more memorable.

If kayaking isn't your thing, a short drive away is Fort de Soto park where you can join an e-bike beach tour.

The 1,136-acre county park covers five islands with ideal terrain for bikes, plus you can make a stop-off at the Spanish-American War-era fort.

After a full day of activity, I take a stroll on vibrant Pier 60, the central hub of Clearwater which comes alive as the sun goes down.

Every evening, local business owners set up shop on the pier, selling everything from henna tattoos to up-market jewellery, while street performers such as contortionists and fire-eaters entertain the crowds. Being there at sunset to soak up the atmosphere is a bucket-list moment.

The Clearwater "strip" is home to some fantastic cuisine. Bob

# TRAVEL

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# For the love of Pete



**YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE**  
 Downtown St Pete

Heilman's Beachcomber is a family-run restaurant that has been feeding locals since 1920. The incredible Clams Casino, baked with fresh red, green and yellow sweet peppers, butter, garlic, shallots and bacon is addictive, and the baked Alaska is the biggest I have ever seen!

Frenchy's Rockaway Grill is a quirky spot for casual dining directly on the beach – try their fantastic Grouper burger – while Crabby's Bar and Grill has a great breakfast vibe.

Who knew sweet beignets – deep-fried, sugar-dusted square pastries – could taste so good at breakfast time?

At night, many restaurants and bars offer live music performances. Head down to Jamminz on Thursdays for half-price cocktails, or Jimmy's Crows Nest for unparalleled rooftop views of the beach.

If you fancy a bit of celeb-spotting, visit Hogan's Hangout, the restaurant of former WWE wrestler Hulk Hogan, who often visits on Mondays for karaoke night.

For my trip, I am based at Opal Sands Resort where every one of its 230 rooms faces the spectacular Gulf.

Mine is modern, with beach-chic vibes, and has a large balcony offering those incredible panoramic views.



**GULF VIEWS**  
 Opal Sands Resort



**RINGSIDE SEATS**  
 Hogan's Hangout

“Watching the street performers at Pier 60 is a bucket-list moment”

Sunsets are an occasion here, so I ensure I station myself at the hotel's Sandbar around 6pm, strawberry margarita in hand, ready to watch the kaleidoscope of colours streaking across the sky.

Then as the sun sinks behind the horizon, dinner is served at the hotel's SeaGuini restaurant. A starter of

cauliflower arancini, with a beautiful crisp coating around a cheesy filling, is followed by the most delicious crab and lobster cavatelli.

Nearby is the Opal Sands' luxurious sister hotel, the Sandpearl Resort. The family-oriented resort, which is directly on the beach, has recently been renovated and features Floridian-inspired decor and

private balconies with sweeping views of Clearwater, Mandalay Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

The best thing about Clearwater is the easy transition you can make from beach to city life in neighbouring downtown St Petersburg.

With skyscrapers, shopping streets and a buzzing nightlife – you'd be forgiven for thinking you'd stepped into a mini Manhattan. But this is no concrete jungle and the area has a special quirky feel to it thanks to its vibrant murals and young creative community.

The sun almost always shines on St Pete, which is known as Sunshine City thanks to its yearly average of 361 days of clear skies.

Just a stone's throw away is the Dali Museum, home to the

largest collection of Spanish surrealist Salvador Dalí's works outside of his home country.

The museum itself is an impressive piece of architecture, with an incredible staircase running through the middle.

Be sure to check out its newest show, Dalí Lives, a groundbreaking and exclusive AI experience that imagines Dalí welcoming you to the museum as if he were alive today.

A hidden gem just outside the heart of downtown are the beautiful Sunken Gardens. They are more than a century old and home to some of the oldest and most beautiful tropical plants in the state.

I'm in awe of the natural beauty here, as I walk meandering paths lined with exotic plants. The cascading waterfalls, abundance of flowers and the flamingos make my visit extra-special.

After a busy day exploring the city, I

## GET THERE

Return direct flights from London to Tampa are available with British Airways and Virgin Atlantic. [ba.com/virginatlantic.com](http://ba.com/virginatlantic.com)

## BOOK IT

Rooms at the Opal Sands Resort, Clearwater Beach, start at £305 a night. [opalcollection.com](http://opalcollection.com)

## MORE INFO

[visitstpeteclearwater.com](http://visitstpeteclearwater.com)

head back downtown to play shuffleboard. St Pete is home to the world's largest and oldest shuffleboard club, which is celebrating its 100th year anniversary this year.

St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club has 32 illuminated courts and a large grandstand. I quickly establish that I am not very good, but that doesn't stop me from becoming extremely competitive.

After building up an appetite, I head to the fantastic Brick And Mortar restaurant in the heart of downtown, where I have the most incredible garlic shrimps and parmesan fries.

This is followed by some creatively crafted cocktails and dancing at nearby 80s-themed club Good Night John Boy – a perfect ending to a truly fabulous visit to Florida's Sunshine City.



**AMERICAN DREAM**  
 Clearwater Beach

# TRAVEL

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Go nuts for this paradise spa resort on the heavenly isle of St Lucia

# I should Coco!

## VIBE

As the plane landed in St Lucia, the pilot said: "Welcome to paradise," which is spot-on for anyone staying at the Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa on the mile-long Anse de Sables Beach, on the island's south coast.

The VIP experience begins as soon as you touch down with reps meeting hotel guests at the airport.

Five-star, all-inclusive, and set within 85 acres, this resort really is the land of plenty with every base covered for however you like to holiday.

There's the adults-only oasis "Harmony" with its chilled cabana day beds, palm-fringed pool bar and luxury spa. "Splash" is a fun and welcoming family-friendly setting featuring St Lucia's biggest water park, CocoLand kids' club and mini zip wire.

Plus with eight restaurants, seven bars, cocktail parties, rooftop discos and lavish entertainment, you can indulge on every level.

## STYLE

The spectacular ocean views are what really set Coconut Bay apart with all 250 rooms and suites facing the Atlantic. While sounds of the sea fill the rooms, the decor is just as invigorating, with bright blues, lime greens and dazzling whites making feature walls and soft furnishings pop with colour. Upgrade to a junior suite and you'll get a sleek king four-poster bed and sitting area with a loveseat.

Adults-only and family-friendly premium rooms include private fast check-in, personalised bar, nightly turnaround and dedicated concierge services.

Meanwhile "Serenity" is a self-contained couples resort within Coconut Bay. The 36 suites look out on to private plunge pools and decks where outdoor showers, coconut palms and hammocks for two offer the perfect setting to enjoy island life. The resort is currently in the process of a complete overhaul of the rooms in a two-year project that will finish in 2025.

## FOOD AND DRINK

The fun begins at breakfast in Coconut Walk, the hotel's main restaurant, with made-to-order food stations including smoothies and French toast.

Calabash cooks up Caribbean and Latin-infused flavours for dinner and



**TOTALLY TROPICAL**  
The resort's a Caribbean wonderland

## HOT HOTEL

### Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa, St Lucia

BY CHARLOTTE MCINTYRE

adults-only breakfast with a sea view. Further dinner options include the Italian restaurant Trattoria, Asian-inspired Silk, alfresco dining at Veranda and La Luna, an oceanfront dining area for private dinners.

The Greathouse at Serenity is a sleek adults-only, fine-dining venue. Do order the catch of the day as each restaurant puts its own unique spin on fresh locally caught fish.

If you get peckish during the day, head for The Jerk Treehouse. The resort upgraded it from a small hut as lines for the jerk chicken, pork and fish would snake around the pool at lunchtime. Flip Flops, meanwhile, offers made-to-order pizzas and burgers during the day and at night for those who fancy a bite after enjoying a cocktail at one of the resort's seven bars, which serve premium brand spirits, wines, beer, juices and soft drinks.

Each bar mixes its own signature cocktail. Try them all and you'll soon discover a new favourite.

## SPA

Treat yourself to a relaxing full-body massage in an outdoor oceanfront cabana. Nothing says luxury like a

spa treatment as you listen to nature's most peaceful sounds.

There are also saunas, a steam rooms, a relaxation area, a salon and even a children's spa menu.

Therapies use a variety of local ingredients such as St Lucian cocoa, the calabash fruit from the national tree and Coconut Bay's very own spiced coconut milk body lotion.

## WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Amuse yourself with everything from yoga and paintballing to kite-surfing and snorkelling. The resort even has a petting zoo.

For night-time entertainment, there are two themed evenings a week with live performances and a barbecue.

The Caribbean night, with its flamboyant carnival, fire breathers and stilt walkers, is extraordinarily dazzling.

Or go in October when the resort hosts a Rum And Rhythms Festival showcasing Caribbean artists, themed dinners and special spa treatments.

## A DAY OUT

The Catamaran Sea and Land Adventure is the ideal way to take in St Lucia's most famous sites. It includes time for snorkelling, views



**SITTING PRETTY**  
The decor is calming and tasteful

of volcanic spires the Pitons, a tour of the drive-in Soufriere volcano and Toraille waterfall, as well as a mud bath at Sulphur Springs. Lunch at a local restaurant is also included and features local produce and specialities such as breadfruit,

plantain and banana cake.

The tour is led by a friendly guide who shares the island's fascinating history while pointing out all the lovely little goings-on around you, the highlight being the hummingbirds who are busy pollinating plants.

“

**It's the land of plenty with every base covered for however you like to holiday**



**TAKE THE PLUNGE**  
All ages can enjoy Splash zone



**BEST REST**  
Upgrade to get a sleek four-poster

## GET THERE

Fly from Heathrow to St Lucia with Virgin Atlantic or British Airways. [virginatlantic.com](http://virginatlantic.com) [ba.com](http://ba.com)

## BOOK IT

Rooms at the Coconut Bay Resort & Spa in St Lucia start at £527 a night on all-inclusive in high season, and from £203 in low season. [cbayresort.com/specials-uk](http://cbayresort.com/specials-uk)

## MORE INFO

[stlucia.org](http://stlucia.org)

# Baker treat

## BIG CUP WIN FOR GET IT AT 40-1

**GEORGE BAKER** pledged to party for days on end after 40-1 outsider Get It ran them ragged in the Coral Stewards Cup.

Local to Goodwood, the trainer had spent a lifetime seeing his runners hurtle down its six furlongs with no success.

But yesterday, his luck changed as the Pat Cosgrave-ridden long shot made every yard under the stands' -side rail.

Drawn highest in 28, he was chased home by next door stall neighbour Apollo One (14-1) and Billyjohn (13-2), best of a larger far side pack.

"I have never gone quiet at the furlong pole like I did today," said Baker (right), who watched the £250,000 feature from a lucky grandstand spot.

"I couldn't really believe it. "If I shout, it normally goes

by **MELISSA JONES** wrong so I just stood there in silence.

"We have been having a party here since Tuesday and it won't end until next week!"

Get It was quickest away of the entire field, as 9-2 favourite Purosangue hampered his chances with a restless beginning.

The 25 runners split into three groups, before jockeys drawn low to middle merged into one after a furlong.

Led by Lethal Levi, who had dumped rider Clifford Lee before the start, challengers amassed to play their hand.

Yet Cosgrave and Get It, carrying a 6lb penalty, were still rolling and passed the post half-a-length to the good over 2023 runner-up Apollo One.

"With all the cheers I felt I'd won the Derby," said the 42-year-old rider, mobbed by members of the My Racehorse microshare syndicate and other Baker supporters.

"I didn't go crazy early and never felt in any danger of losing to be honest.

"You hold on to him and when you let him go he's

like a little spring. I have been riding 25 years and this is a great day for George's team."

Term Of Endearment successfully stepped up in class in the Qatar Lillie Langtry Stakes.

Henry de Bromhead's mare had already won twice at Group Three level this season,

landing the Give Thanks Stakes at Cork and then the Bronte Cup when providing Grand National and Cheltenham

Gold Cup-winning jockey Rachael Blackmore with a notable success on her first ever visit to York.

Testing the water at Group Two level for the first time on the Sussex downs, Term Of Endearment was a 15-2 shot in the hands of Billy Lee and finished with gusto over the one-mile-six-furlong trip to get the better of Night Sparkle by three-quarters of a length.

River Of Stars was a third.



**LONG SHOT:** Pat Cosgrove steers Get It (40-1) to Stewards' Cup victory

**GLORIOUS WEEKS**

**TOP JOCKEYS:**  
4 - Oisin Murphy, Ryan Moore; 3 - Tom Marquand, Rossa Ryan; 2 - Jim Crowley, William Buick, James Doyle, Joe Fanning, Kieran Shoemark

**LEADING TRAINERS:** 4 - Mick Appleby, Aidan O'Brien; 3 - John & Thady Gosden; 2 - Charlie Johnston, Charlie Appleby, Ralph Beckett, William Haggas, Andrew Balding

## Broadway show

### HOT DOGS

WITH JONATHAN HOBBS

**BROADWAY MURTY** (3.29) can make a successful return to the track with victory at a hunting ground today in the Towcester Sprint over 270m, live on SIS.

Winner of the Northamptonshire Sprint over C&D earlier this year, Sean White's pride and joy should soon be pitching for the lead, running fresh and fast after decent comeback trials, and gets the vote over Keefill Rocky.

The latter is trained by Sheffield trainer Phil Milner who has a huge hand in the Towcester Standard with **AVONGATE VENUS** (4.07) set to lead home kennelmate Keefill Maverick.

The latter might be top gun if trapping, but Avongate Venus starred here a fortnight ago with an impressive 28.82sec victory and same again seals the deal.

Other picks are Roy Peckham's **TIFFIELD TARQUIN** (2.33) after some smart runs in better company of late, John Mullins' improving and well drawn **TOO WRIGHT** (3.11), and the latter's kennelmate **TROMORA REX** (4.44) over a trip which might well suit.

In association with [www.towcester-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.towcester-racecourse.co.uk) - home of the Star Sports and TRC Events & Leisure English Greyhound Derby. See website for racing information and bookings or call 0800 304 7700.

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# BE FAST OFF THE BLOCKS

THE Ahonoora Handicap at Galway has been dominated by veteran course and distance specialists down through the years, but this afternoon's renewal can go to the relative new kid on the block in **FAST TARA** (4.00).

Adrian McGuinness has won the race three times with Current Option and there will be a massive cheer should the eight-year-old make it four here.

But he has looked a shadow of his former self this season and it is the four years younger filly that gets the vote.

Having raced on deep ground for most of the back end of 2023 and this year, Fast Tara seemed to appreciate a slightly faster surface when running well behind Indigo Five in a fillies' handicap at the Curragh.

Young Wayne Hassett takes another 5lbs off her back here and I am sure that she can be

**JACOBS' Crackers**  
FIVE-TIME NAPS TABLE CHAMP  
MOORESTYLE'S BEST BETS...

competitive here back against the boys off a rating of 84 from a lovely sit in stall number nine.

The extended two and three quarter miles of the Galway Chase quite obviously found out the stamina of **SAINT ROI** (3.30) last week and the two and a quarter miles of the Lord Hemphill Memorial Handicap Chase looks a much better fit.

Young Aidan Kelly seems to get on well with the highest-rated horse in the race and he can successfully give 21lbs away to the light weight The Dasher Conway.

**EASY GAME** (2.55) looks a

shoo-in for the Kinlay Hostel Chase, while a better value play could well be the very lightly raced **BLADON** (5.00).

Joseph O'Brien's charge didn't get home over 13 furlongs last time out and a rapidly run mile should be more to his liking here.

There comes a time when a horse drops enough in the weights that I simply can't ignore him any more and **EXISTENT** (6.15) comes firmly into that category at Haydock this afternoon.

Following his close up fourth in the 2023 Group Two Temple Stakes at the Merseyside track, the selection was rated as high as 103, but a series of moderate efforts have seen his mark slip to a lowly 88.

With Connor Planas taking a

further 3lbs off his back and the promise of an unlucky-in-the-run fourth last time out at Ascot, he looks one of the better bets of the day at this Premier Raceday.

The step up to two miles should suit **PERCY SHELLEY** (5.45), while I shall also be supporting **TEMPLE CITY** (3.45) in the opening mile and a quarter handicap.

The last named looks nicely treated off a mark of 80 on the back of some very good maiden form.

At Chester, the feature Queensferry Stakes may go the way of the progressive **AL SHABAB STORM** (4.05).

The three-year-old landed a Listed contest over the course and distance last time out and he can run the legs off the frustrating Flaming Rib.

The Hugo Palmer-trained runner is unbeaten in two starts at the track.

**NEXT WEEK**  
Oppose the Aidan O'Brien team at the Curragh on Saturday with **AESTERIUS** in the Phoenix Stakes.

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# RACING

## HAYDOCK ALL RACES ITV4 & Racing TV Premier Raceday

### 3.45 SKY BET APPRENTICE HANDICAP Class 4 1m 2f (9 runners) £10,360

1 (8) 0105 LISEO (74)(D,A,S) T S & E Cristof 5 10 2..... F Daly (5) 84
2 (5) LL33 ZEALOT (28)(D3,A,W) M Appleby 6 10 2..... Tom Kieley-Marshall (3) 86
3 (4) 1450 FIRST OFFICER (16)(D3,G,S) J Chapple-Moore 5 9 11..... Sorin Moldoveanu (3) 85
4 (1) 2130 SOLOMON (23)(A)(H) W Haggas 3 9 9..... Ethan Jones 84
5 (9) 2624 SOWHAIW (6)(A) J Goldie 4 9 6..... Lauren Young (7) 85
6 (3) 105- THE NU FORM WAY (400)(D3,G,S) Mrs Stella Barclay 6 6 6..... Shariq Mohd -
7 (2) 3-02 TEMPLE CITY (53) K R Burke 3 9 4..... S Feilden 81
8 (7) 4L44 WHERE'S JEFF (13)(D3,A,G,S) M & D Easterby 9 9 2..... Lewis Chalkley (5) *87
9 (6) 2231 NIGHT BREEZE (18)(S) J Williams 4 9 0..... R Kavanagh (5) 83

Star Betting: 13-8 Solomon, 4 Temple City, 6 Night Breeze, 7 Sowhaiw, 10 Zealot, 12 Where's Jeff, 14 Liseo, 16 First Officer, 20 The Nu Form Way.  
2023: No corresponding meeting.

### 4.15 SKY BET NURSERY Class 4 2YO 6f (6 runners) £10,360

1 (2) 211 EDUCATING RITA (16)(D,G,S) M Dods 9 9..... C Beasley 79
2 (3) 341 AIRSPEED (22)(S) K R Burke 9 8..... D Tudhope *84
3 (1) 240 NAD ALSHIBA SNOW (44) M Appleby 9 8..... T Marquand 79
4 (4) 034 MAXIMUS ALEXIOS (15) R Hannan 9 4..... David Egan 82
5 (6) 022 QASEEM (23) K R Burke 9 4..... C Lee 83
6 (5) 2104 KISS ME MY LOVE (17)(D,G) C Johnston 9 1 J Fanning 82

Star Betting: 11-4 Airspeed, 3 Educating Rita, 4 Maximus Alexios, 11-2 Qaseem, 6 Nad Alshiba Snow, 8 Kiss Me My Love.

### 4.45 RESTRICTED MAIDEN STAKES Class 3 2YO 6f (12 runners) £11,340

1 (9) 34 ANGEL HUNTER (22) R Hannan 9 7..... D Tudhope *87
2 (11) 4 BATHUR (18)(H) C Cox 9 7..... J Crowley 65
3 (5) BADGE OF HONOR S & E Cristof 9 7..... C Shepherd 84
4 (10) 2 BOWEN ISLAND (38) K Ryan 9 7..... T Eaves 84
5 (8) 44 CAPTAIN PICKLES (22) Mrs Stella Barclay 9 7..... P Mulrennan 78
6 (6) 16 CASHLYN CAVALIER (15)(BF)(T) K R Burke 9 7..... C Lee 84
7 (4) 3 LEONARDO DAX (62) P Owens 9 7..... H Crouch 63
8 (3) 44 PENINSULA POWER (20) R Fahy 9 7..... J Garrity 70
9 (12) THE VITAL SPARK K Ryan 9 7..... S Gray 70
10 (2) 2 ZAYER (18) A Watson 9 7..... J Bryan 85
11 (1) MALDEVIOUS(H) H Palmer 9 0..... B Davies 85
12 (7) SAMUJANA W Haggas 9 0..... T Marquand 85

Star Betting: 7-2 Zayer, 4 Angel Hunter, 9-2 Bowen Island, 6 Samujana, 8 Leonardo Dax, 10 Badge Of Honor, 14 others.

### 5.15 SKY BET FILLIES' HANDICAP Class 3 7f (10 runners) £18,039

1 (9) 0-54 ZOUKY (15)(C,D,G,S)(T) P McBride 4 9 12..... D Tudhope 94
2 (3) 6-00 BACK SEE DAA (28)(G) K R Burke 4 9 10..... C Lee 91
3 (6) -212 KEY TO COTAI (39)(D,G,S) E Walker 3 9 10..... P Mulrennan 87
4 (10) 2134 NOT REAL (22)(S) R Varian 3 9 3..... J Mitchell 87
5 (5) 6121 MERESIDE DIVA (49)(CD,D,G,S) D & N Barron 4 9 3..... C Rodriguez 95
6 (8) -213 FAIR POINT (22)(BF,D,S) R Beckett 3 9 2..... H Crouch 94
7 (1) 4240 FLACCIANEO (11)(G,S) R Fahy 3 9 1..... David Egan *86
8 (2) 1400 MY MARGIE (16)(A) R Hughes 3 9 13..... F Marsh 94
9 (7) 6-00 INNSE GALL (162)(D,G,S) J Lidster 3 9 10..... F Norton *85
10 (7) 5404 ROCK MELODY (21)(D2,A,G) J Goldie 5 9 11..... A Waugh (5) 94

Star Betting: 7-2 Key To Cotai, 4 Mereside Diva, 5 Fair Point, 6 Sunfall, 7 Back See Daa, 8 Not Real, 10 others.

## CHESTER ITV4: 4.05 & 4.35 sky sports racing

<b>JASON HEAVEY</b>	<b>MOORESTYLE</b>
Princess Niyla 2.30	Royal Dream
Anthropologist 3.05	New Bombay (e/w)
Condotti 3.35	Hot Dancer
Al Shabab Storm (trb)	4.35 Al Shabab Storm
Topanga 4.35	Way To Dubai (e/w)
Dreams Adozen 5.05	Sea Grey

### 2.30 SPRINTER HANDICAP Class 4 1m 2f (10 runners) £7,644

1 (5) 5355 WOODSTOCK CITY (34)(D,A,S) J Williams 4 9 13..... Billy Loughnane 82
2 (3) 23-6 BOSQ GIRL (40) R Fahy 4 9 11..... Oisin Orr 83
3 (1) 322-6 EVOCATIVE SPARK (9)(BF,C2,G,S) D Holland 5 9 10..... S De Sousa 81
4 (7) 6-00 INNSE GALL (162)(D,G,S) J Lidster 3 9 10..... F Norton *85
5 (4) 0133 ROVAL DREAM (17)(D,G,S) T Dunlop 3 9 3..... Osborne 81
6 (8) 4-45 ORDER OF MALTA (50)(D,G,H) M Palmer 4 9 6..... J Hart 84
7 (2) 5541 GOLDEN MELODY (4)(CD,G,S)(B) T Easterby 6 9 6..... D Probert 80
8 (9) 0601 LUTLEY (10)(D,G,S)(P) A Whittle 7 9 6..... D Probert 80
9 (6) 03L0 TOBETSO (8)(G) D Carroll 4 9 4..... P J McDonald 83
10 (10) 5212 PRINCESS NYILA (4)(C,D,G) A Brown 4 9 4..... R Ryan 80

### 3.05 ARTHUR MAY MEMORIAL NURSERY Class 5 2YO 7f (9 runners) £7,644

1 (6) 4022 TACTICAL PLAN (11)(BF) E Dunlop 9 9..... S De Sousa 75
2 (4) 0610 DOLLYANA (10)(D,G) W Muir & C Grassick 5 9 9..... T Edmunds 73
3 (2) 3404 ANTHROPOLOGIST (23) C Johnston 9 9..... Billy Loughnane 73
4 (7) 5505 TUSCAN POINT (22) R Fahy 9 5..... Oisin Orr 74
5 (5) 3010 EIGHTEEN FORTY (22)(G) O Pears 9 4..... C Hardie 80
6 (1) 5053 ATOMIC MASS (22) M & D Easterby 9 2..... B Garrity *81
7 (8) 060 NEW BOMBAY (15)(H) A Balding 9 2..... D Probert 77
8 (9) 4051 LAW DEGREE (19)(D,S)(P) T Easterby 8 13..... D Allan 77
9 (3) 060 HERECOME THE BEAR (22) H Palmer 8 13..... J Hart 79

### 3.35 RESTRICTED MAIDEN STAKES Class 4 2YO 1m (5 runners) £7,644

1 (1) CAPTAIN HARRY A Balding 9 7..... D Probert 77
2 (4) CHELSEA OLD CHURCH M Beal 9 7..... D Muscatt 77
3 (2) HOT DANCER C Johnston 9 7..... Billy Loughnane 77
4 (3) NEARDOWN J Osborne 9 7..... S Osborne 77
5 (5) CONDOTTI H Palmer 9 5..... J Hart 77

### PAUL JACOBS' TOP TIPS

**BEST OUTSIDER**  
**NEW BOMBAY (3.05)** makes his handicap debut off only 68 in the Chester nursery.

**ANTE POST**  
**GHOSTWRITER** is too big at 16-1 for the Juddmonte International at York.

### JASON HEAVEY MOORESTYLE

Zealot 3.45	Temple City (nb)
Qaseem 4.15	Airspeed
Badge Of Honor 4.45	Badge Of Honor
Key To Cotai 5.15	Zouky
Letsbefrank (nap) 5.45	Percy Shelley
Squealer 6.15	Existent (nap)
Baba Reza (nb) 6.45	Admiral D

### 5.45 SKY BET ACCA FREEZE HANDICAP Class 3 2m (10 runners) £18,039

1 (6) -300 LAW OF THE SEA (47)(A,G) J Williams 6 10 2..... J Crowley 89
2 (10) 0200 SOLENT GATEWAY (23)(D,G,S)(P) H Palmer 6 10 1..... C Planas (3) 89
3 (4) 1-02 WIND YOUR NECK IN (50)(S) P Evans 5 9 13..... T Marquand 89
4 (1) 6035 PERCY SHELLEY (16)(S)(P) D O'Meara 5 9 12..... D Tudhope 89
5 (3) 0402 ARRANGE (16)(G,S) M Todhunter 6 9 11..... D Nolan 90
6 (7) 4113 LETSBEFRANK (22)(BF,C2,G,S) J Goldie 4 9 5..... P Mulrennan 86
7 (5) -4L4 AMERICAN AFFAIR (49)(D2,G,S) J Goldie 4 9 5..... P Mulrennan 100
8 (8) 3210 DIAMOND DE VINCEY (50)(CD,G,S) R Bevis 5 8 11..... J Doughty (5) 88
9 (9) -LLO PEACE WALK (28)(S)(P) C Johnston 3 8 8..... J Fanning 85
10 (2) 1230 FILIBUSTERING (29)(S) T Easterby 3 8 8..... D Pentimner 89

Star Betting: 2 Letsbefrank, 6 Arrange, Filibustering, 7 Solent Gateway, 8 Wind Your Neck In, 10 others.

### 6.15 SKY BET, FOR THE FANS HANDICAP Class 2 5f (10 runners) £38,655

1 (9) 0022 SQUEALER (30)(D,G,S) N Tinkler 4 9 12..... R Scott *105
2 (11) -242 EMPEROR SPIRIT (8)(A)(P,T) R Cowell 6 9 7..... T Marquand 101
3 (3) 2044 EXISTENT (8)(D2,A,S) S C Williams 6 9 5..... C Planas (3) 101
4 (6) 4166 WOODHAMPTON (49)(D2,G,S) J Goldie 4 9 5..... P Mulrennan 102
5 (10) -121 AMERICAN AFFAIR (49)(D2,G,S) J Goldie 4 9 5..... P Mulrennan 100
6 (7) 0-43 JER BATT (49)(D2,A,S) D & N Barron 4 9 4..... C Rodriguez 101
7 (4) 2051 HARVANA (30)(A,G) K R Burke 3 9 2..... C Lee 99
8 (5) 0636 INTERVENTION (3)(A,G)(P) M Appleby 7 9 1..... A Rawlinson 102
9 (1) 0205 ZARZYNI (8)(D,G,S)(E) D & N Barron 7 9 10..... C Beasley 104
10 (8) 3636 REBEL PATH (10)(G) S C Williams 5 8 6..... J Doughty (5) 103
11 (2) 1135 RHYTHMIC ACCLAIM (2)(G,S) P McBride 4 8 2..... DOUBTFUL

Star Betting: 7-2 American Affair, 5 Harvanna, 6 Squealer, 7 Emperor Spirit, 8 Jer Batt, Existent, 10 12 others.

### 6.45 SKY BET CLUB HANDICAP Class 4 6f (15 runners) £10,360

1 (9) 2145 KNEBORTH (107)(CD,D,A,S)(P) R Hughes 10 2..... E Jones (5) 87
2 (3) 0250 ADMIRAL D (14)(D,G,S) R Fahy 5 10 0..... J Garrity *91
3 (12) 4301 SERGEANT PEP (3)(CD,D2,A,G,S) C Cox 4 9 11..... C Lee 88
4 (6) 0013 GRANT WOOD (31)(C,D,G,S) P Midgley 5 9 10..... D Nolan 89
5 (2) 6L13 BE PROUD (27)(D2,A,G,S)(P) J Goldie 3 9 9..... P Mulrennan 89
6 (1) 1241 ROBERTO CARO (18)(D,A,S) A Keatley 3 9 9..... T Marquand 87
7 (13) 0-41 BABA REZA (16)(CD,D2,A,G) J Camacho 6 9 10..... C Rodriguez 90
8 (10) 50L1 ROUGH DIAMOND (23)(D2,A,S) T Davidson 7 9 5..... R Scott 87
9 (14) 4362 THANKYUPRECIATE (23)(D,G) D Carroll 4 9 2..... J Wheatley (3) 75
10 (15) 6LLO CALL ME GINGER (8)(D7,G,S) J Goldie 8 9 2..... A Waugh (5) 78
11 (4) 6664 TRILBY (22)(CD,D,S) S England 4 9 1..... J Fanning 88
12 (11) 8505 SPIRIT OF APPLAUSE (10)(CD,D,G)(P) T Easterby 4 8 12..... S Kinross 88
13 (8) 4026 LIHOU (8)(D,G,S) P Evans 8 8 12..... J Crowley 89
14 (7) 02L AL SHABAB STORM (1) J Williams 3 8 11..... P Mulrennan 85
15 (5) 6L16 ROUGE THUNDER (8)(A) P Morris 4 8 2..... J Doughty (5) 84

Star Betting: 6 Trilby, 13-2 Roberto Caro, 7 Sergeant Pep, Baba Reza, 8 Grant Wood, Knebworth, 10 others.

### 4.05 QUEENSFERRY STAKES (LISTED) Class 1 6f (9 runners) £28,010

1 (5) 5100 EMARATY ANA (47)(D,G,S)(P) J Osborne 8 9 5..... S Osborne 109
2 (9) -00L FLAMING RIB (43)(CD,G,P) S C Williams 5 9 5..... J Hart 109
3 (1) 6/40 HARRY THREE (43)(D5,A,G,S) C Cox 5 9 5..... B Loughnane 100
4 (2) 060L QUINQUALT (15)(D5,A,G,H,T) S C Williams 4 9 5..... M Ghiani 111
5 (8) -300 RUSSET GOLD (22)(G) R Varian 4 9 5..... S De Sousa 105
6 (4) 2211 AL SHABAB STORM (22)(CD,D,G,S) A Balding 3 9 4..... Jason Watson 109
7 (3) -22L FUNNY STORY (23)(D4,A,G,S) R Beckett 4 9 0..... R Ryan *115
8 (7) 0146 RADIO QOO GOO (8)(CD3,D4,A,G,S) P Evans 4 9 0..... P J McDonald 107
9 (6) 231L QUEEN'S GUARD (48)(BF,D2,G,S) M Beal 3 8 10..... D Probert 104

Star Betting: 13-8 Al Shabab Storm, 4 Emaraty Ana, 5 Funny Story, 7 Quinqualt, 8 Harry Three, 16 others.  
2023: Mitbaahy 4 9 5, Ray Dawson 10-1 (R Varian), 4 drawn (3, 6 ran).

### 4.35 HANDICAP Class 2 7f (12 runners) £15,288

1 (1) 2100 PERCY'S LAD (22)(C2,G) D & C Kubler 6 10 0..... Billy Loughnane 101
2 (6) -116 NEVER SO BRAVE (43)(C,D,G,S) Sir M Stoute 3 9 11..... S Osborne 97
3 (9) -613 DOCUMENTING (86)(D11,A,G) K Frost 11 9 10..... R Ryan 100
4 (7) -L10 TELEMARK (22)(BF,D2,S)(P) T S & E Cristof 9 7 5..... S De Sousa 101
5 (4) 1200 STREET KID (23)(D4,A,G,S)(P) K P De Foyle 6 9 6..... B Wyatt 102
6 (2) 0110 SPIRIT GENIE (22)(CD,D2,G,S)(P) J Canihhan 4 9 6..... S De Sousa 99
7 (12) 3052 YANFEE (23)(CD,D4,G,S) H Bebbell 6 9 5..... O McSwiney (9) *104
8 (5) 3026 WAY TO DUBAI (23)(D2,A,G) P Evans 5 9 5..... D Muscatt 100
9 (11) 0566 BARDMAN (15)(CD,D4,G,S) T Easterby 8 9 3..... D Allan 101
10 (3) 6-04 STONE SOLDIER (50)(C,D5,A,G,S)(P) R Fahy 7 9 3..... O Orr 103
11 (10) 0061 PAWS FOR THOUGHT (8)(CD2,C2,D2,G,S)(P) D McCrain 6 9 0..... F Norton 102
12 (8) SLL1 TOPANGA (30)(D2,A,G) P Balding 3 8 10..... J Walton 99

Star Betting: 9-4 Never So Brave, 11-2 Telemark, 6 Topanga, 8 Percy's Lad, 10 Paws For Thought, 12 others.  
2023: No corresponding race.

### 5.05 HANDICAP Class 4 1m 4f (6 runners) £7,644

1 (7) -411 SEA GREY (22)(C2,A,G,S)(P) D McCain 5 10 2..... C Maggs (7) 78
2 (3) 3140 DREAMS ADOZEN (22)(CD,C,G,S)(P) C Johnston 4 10 2..... Billy Loughnane 79
3 (2) -104 RICHARD P SMITH (16)(G,S)(P) E Dunlop 5 10 0..... DOUBTFUL 77
4 (5) 2128 CAMBRIA LEGEND (30)(BF,G) J Fanshawe 3 9 7..... D Muscatt 77
5 (6) 03L8 GREEN TEAM (8)(G) J Williams 5 9 5..... J Leavy (5) *83
6 (4) 05L6 DUNSTON (16)(D3,A,G) P Attwater 3 9 4..... W Cox 80
7 (1) 0330 SWORDSTICK (22)(A)(P,T) H Palmer 3 9 0..... J Hart 77

Star Betting: 11-8 Sea Grey, 11-4 Cambria Legend, 6 Swordstick, 7 Dreams Adozen, 10 Green Team, 12 Dunstan.  
2023: Alba Longa 3 9 7, Jim Crowley Evens Fav (R Beckett), drawn (6), 7 ran.

## YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

### GOODWOOD

1.50: 1, AL AASY (J Crowley 3-1); 2, Relentless Voyager (9-2); 3, Phantom Flight (5-1). 5-2 fav Aimeric, 11, nk, 5 ran. W Haggas. Tote: £4.00; pl £1.80, £2.00. Exacta: £16.40. Trifecta: £54.90. CSF: £15.64.

2.25: 1, ALIGN THE STARS (J Fanning 10-3 jfav); 2, Fairbanks (10-3 jfav); 3, Great Bedwyn (14-1), nk, 1/2, 13 ran. C Johnston. Tote: £4.34; pl £1.80, £1.80, £3.90. Exacta: £17.30. Tricast: £141.36. Trifecta: £191.40. CSF: £12.85. NR: Calling The Wind.

3.00: 1, TERM OF ENDEARMENT (W J Lee 15-2); 2, Night Sparkle (8-1); 3, River Of Stars (11-2), 11-4 fav Free Wind, 1/4, 1/4, 8 ran. H De Bromhead. Tote: £8.50; pl £2.20, £2.30, £2.00. Exacta: £55.60. Tricast: £353.92. Trifecta: £235.40. CSF: £62.57. NR: Divine Comedy, Sumo Sam, Sweet Memories, Oxford Comma.

3.35: 1, GET IT (P Cosgrave 40-1); 2, Apollo One (14-1); 3, Billyjoh (13-1); 4, Mostabshir (14-1). 9-2 fav Purosangue, 1/4, 1/4, ns, 25 ran. G Baker. Tote: £41.00; pl £7.50, £3.80, £2.40, £4.70. Exacta: £588.30. Tricast: £4165.67. Trifecta: £7534.90. CSF: £508.44. NR: Aleezdancer, Ferrus, Woda.

4.10: 1, WITNESS STAND (K Shoemark 40-1); 2, Piz Nair (9-1); 3, Cuban Tiger (6-1). 3-1 fav Arctic Thunder, 3rd, shd, 11 ran. Tom Clover. Tote: £41.00; pl £8.10, £2.70, £2.30. Exacta: £335.30. Tricast: £2489.25. Trifecta: £5619.20. CSF: £371.74. NR: Qirat, Serried Ranks, Spanish Blaze.

4.45: 1, HOTT SHOTT (Rossa Ryan 5-1); 1, SPELL MASTER (O Murphy 4-1); 3, Consolidation (2-1 fav), dht, 11, 11 ran. R Hughes, A Balding. Tote: Hott Shott £3.00, Spell Master £2.50; pl Hott Shott £2.00, Spell Master £1.80, Consolidation £1.40. Exacta: Hott Shott, Spell Master £13.70, Spell Master, Hott Shott £12.90. Trifecta: Hott Shott, Spell Master, Consolidation £33.20. CSF: Hott Shott, Spell Master £12.02, Spell Master, Hott Shott £11.54. NR: Angelo Buonarroti.

5.20: 1, PARADIAS (Rossa Ryan 3-1); 2, Native Warrior (7-4 fav); 3, Rowayeh (7-2), 1/4, nk, 11 ran. A King. Tote: £9.00; pl £2.40, £1.30, £1.90. Exacta: £28.90. Tricast: £59.95. Trifecta: £100.40. CSF: £21.24. NR: Alpha Crucis, Bluehight Bay, Dutch Decoy, Gloucestershire, Great Chieftain, Magic Memories, Versatile.

JACKPOT: Not won, pool of £29,065.02 carried over.  
QUADPOT: £80.20  
PLACEPOT: £66.70

### NEWMARKET

2.05: 1, MAGIC MILD (S Osborne 5-2 fav); 2, It Ain't Two (6-1); 3, Art Design (11-1), 1/4, 11, 10 ran. C Cox. Tote: £3.50; pl £1.50, £2.30, £2.90. Exacta: £18.70. Tricast: £140.54. Trifecta: £177.60. CSF: £17.82. NR: Ardeur, Naina.

2.40: 1, DIVINA GRACE (Billy Loughnane 6-1); 2, Place Of Safety (9-2); 3, Fairy Glen (6-1). 2-1 fav Lmay, 1/4, shd, 9 ran. R Guest. Tote: £7.10; pl £2.00, £1.70, £1.60. Exacta: £36.10. Trifecta: £226.20. CSF: £32.75.

3.15: 1, DESERT FLOWER (Billy Loughnane 1-4 fav); 2, Dash Of Azure (11-2); 3, Hot Like Me (28-1), 6/4, 4/4, 6 ran. C Appleby. Tote: £1.25; pl £1.10, £1.70. Exacta: £2.00. Trifecta: £11.00. CSF: £2.11.

# Dead-heat drama

★ **HOTT SHOTT and Spell Master** shared the honours after the judge was unable to split the pair in the British Stallion Studs EBF Maiden Stakes on the final day of the Qatar Goodwood Festival.  
★ It looked like the two horses at the top of the market, Ralph Beckett's 2-1 favourite Consolidation and 4-1 chance Spell Master, trained by Andrew Balding (above), would fight out the finish.



★ However, Rossa Ryan was not far behind the pair in third aboard the Richard Hughes-trained Hott Shott (5-1).  
★ Spell Master got the better of his protracted duel with Consolidation under Oisín Murphy, but was joined on the line by Hott Shott and after checking the photograph, a dead-heat was confirmed.

### THIRSK

2.10: 1, MADEMOISELLE (C Rodriguez 85-40 fav); 2, Bella Love (5-2); 3, Beerwah (22-1), 1/4, 1/4, 8 ran. G Scott. Tote: £3.13; pl £1.20, £1.20, £4.90. Exacta: £77.00. Trifecta: £62.80. CSF: £7.55. NR: Ziggy's Triton.

2.45: 1, BAREFOOT WARRIOR (D Tudhope evens fav); 2, King's Coronation (5-2); 3, Degale (300-1), 1/4, 1/4, 10 ran. D O'Meara. Tote: £1.85; pl £1.10, £1.10, £2.20. Exacta: £3.40. Trifecta: £309.70. CSF: £2.63. NR: Monsieur Fudge, Monsieur Fudge Rule 4 applies to All Bets, deduct 15p in the pound.

3.20: 1, ALLIGATOR ALLEY (D Tudhope 5-2); 2, Albegone (11-1); 3, Rock Of England (15-2), 9-4 fav Le Beau Garcon, 11, shd, 9 ran. D O'Meara. Tote: £3.50; pl £1.40, £3.00, £2.00. Exacta: £29.00. Tricast: £178.76. Trifecta: £185.00. CSF: £29.90.

3.55: 1, CERULEAN BAY (D Tudhope 7-4 fav); 2, Diamondonthehill (17-2); 3, Persustation (8-1), nk, 2/4, 8 ran. D O'Meara. Tote: £2.75; pl £1.30, £2.30, £1.90. Exacta: £17.70. Tricast: £94.42. Trifecta: £81.30. CSF: £17.63. NR: Lowtown.

4.30: 1, LA TRINIDAD (J Peate 14-1); 2, James McHenry (11-2); 3, Thunder Run (4-6 fav), htd, 11, 10 ran. R Fell & S Murray. Tote: £18.00; pl £1.10, £1.10. Exacta: £93.60. Tricast: £126.79. Trifecta: £184.40. CSF: £84.86. NR: Awaal, Brunch.

5.05: 1, NIGHT BREEZE (K Hardie

# RUGBY LEAGUE

**HULL FC ..... 6**  
**ST HELENS ..... 46**

By NEIL NAISMITH

**ST HELENS** head coach Paul Wellens said bigger challenges lie ahead after his side halted the club's worst run in Super League history with an easy win at Hull.

Saints headed to the MKM Stadium on the back of five straight defeats that left them in sixth place in the table, but they ran in eight tries at depleted Hull including two apiece for Lewis Dodd and Jake Burns.

It was their first win since mid-June when they thrashed London Broncos 52-6 and has lifted them up to fourth, although four of their play-off rivals below them have a game in hand.

Wellens said: "We've stopped a losing run, that's important. But by no means are we sat here now thinking we're the finished article.

"We've got a lot of improvement in us and we're going to have to get better. The challenges down the track that we're looking at are going to be tough, very tough.

"We've got to rise to those challenges, but I'm encouraged by what I saw today and I'm encouraged to see a group who, through five or six weeks, however long it's been since we last won, stuck together through tough times.

"That will stand us in good stead further down the line."

Despite missing England trio Jack Welsby, Jonny Lomax and Mark Percival, Saints were far too strong for Hull, with Tommy Makinson, Daryl Clark, Matt Whitley and Agnatius Paasi also crossing for tries.

Hull, without 10 injured players plus the suspended Ligi Sao, who was sent off in the 24-16 defeat at Catalans Dragons, scored a late consolation try through Jack Walker.

Hull's interim head coach Simon Grix was disappointed with the manner of his side's defeat after the game had remained scoreless for the first 27 minutes.

Grix said: "I thought the scoreline blew out disappointingly. To be 0-0 and to get a hiding like that is disappointing."

**MATT FINISH:** Logan Moy and Leon Ruan can't prevent Matt Whitley from scoring



# SAINTS 'N' WINNERS

## Dodd and Burns stop rot as Hull hammered



**SUCH CHARISMA:** Flintoff

## Freddie made to be new supremo

by GARY FITZGERALD

**ANDREW FLINTOFF** would be the ideal "infectious" character to succeed Matthew Mott and help rebuild England's white-ball outfit.

Flintoff is on the list of names to take over the role left vacant by the departure of Aussie Mott after the team's failure to retain their 50-over and T20 world crowns.

The former all-rounder has enjoyed a successful start to his coaching spell with Hundred side Northern Superchargers. And former Test paceman Steve Harmison believes Flintoff and Jos Buttler, who is staying as captain, can be the golden ticket for future silverware.

Marcus Trescothick has been left in temporary charge heading into the one-day and T20 clashes with Australia next month.

Managing director Rob Key has drawn up a list of potential replacements with Flintoff, Kumar Sangakkara, Jonathan Trott and Michael Hussey high on it.

But Harmison feels his good mate 'Freddie' would be perfect.

He said: "Who else is out there? Andrew has been in that dressing room. He has experienced what goes on and what is required.

"You need someone who can just come into the dressing room and make it a happy environment for players to really fulfil their outstanding skill sets.

"Jos Buttler has to be the driving force of the team. Joe Root and Ben Stokes have gone, Moeen Ali is going, and both Adil Rashid and Chris Woakes are likely to follow them.

"They have to be replaced by two men who are in sync. So why not Buttler and Flintoff?"

"Buttler is the best England player to play white-ball cricket while Flintoff one of the most charismatic, infectious people you could possibly want in the dressing room. It would be a good ticket."

## Watkins a Rhino hunter

**TWO-TRY** Kallum Watkins boosted the Red Devils' play-off hopes against his former club and grinned: "Little old Salford are doing really well at the minute."

Watkins' first-half double helped Paul Rowley's team come from 12-0 and 16-6 down to move fourth, four points off top spot.

Leeds stay seventh but are four points adrift of the top six having

by TREVOR BAXTER  
Salford 22 Leeds 16

played a game more. "It is a massive win," said Watkins, a three-time Grand Final winner during his Headingley career.

"We have got a resilient group of lads who have one common goal which is to be successful."

## WALLACE'S RIGHT CAT HOME

JARROD WALLACE felt like he had been "hit by a bus" after his Catalans debut in last Saturday's home win over Hull FC.

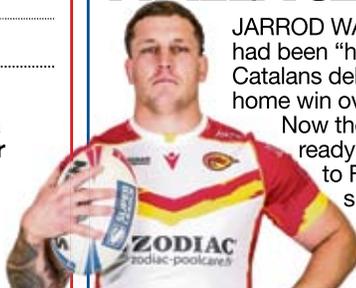
Now the Aussie prop (left) is ready to roll after his move to France from NRL side the Dolphins.

Ahead of today's trip to London, he said: "I got here last

London v Catalans  
Today, 3pm

Thursday after a long flight and then played on Saturday.

"On Sunday, I felt like I'd got hit by a bus because of all the flying and then the game was tough on my body. But I feel good now - the staff have put me in good conditions."



**SPORT IN BRIEF**

**cinch Scottish Premiership**  
**HEARTS (0).....0 RANGERS (0).....0**  
 Att: 18,478  
**MOTHERWELL (0).....0 ROSS CNTY (0).....0**  
 Att: 4,353

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hearts.....	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Motherwell.....	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Rangers.....	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Ross County.....	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Aberdeen.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Celtic.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dundee.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dundee Utd.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hibernian.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kilmarnock.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Johnstone.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Mirren.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**cinch Scottish Championship**  
**AIRDRIE (0).....1 RAITH (0).....0**  
 MacDonald 75 Att: 1,462  
**HAMILTON (0).....0 AYR (1).....2**  
 Stanger 18  
 Dowds 72  
 Att: 1,468  
**LIVINGSTON (0).....2 DUNFERMLINE (0).....0**  
 Pitman 49 Att: 917  
 Kelly 71  
**PARTICK (0).....0 MORTON (0).....0**  
 Att: 4,148

**cinch Scottish League One**  
**ALLOA (0).....0 QN OF STH (0).....0**  
**COVE (0).....1 ANNAN ATH (0).....3**  
 Marshall 86 T Muir 56  
 Todd 80  
 Zaid 90  
 Att: 452  
**INVERNESS (1).....1 DUMBARTON (0).....1**  
 Devine 44 Pignatiello 59  
 Att: 1,439  
**MONTROSE (0).....1 KELTY (0).....1**  
 Brown 59 Cunningham 68  
 Att: 516  
**STENHSMUIR (0).....2 ARBROATH (0).....1**  
 Taylor 51 Coulson 90  
 Banner 54 Att: 738

**cinch Scottish League Two**  
**BONNYRIGG (0).....0 PETERHEAD (0).....1**  
 Armour 90  
**EDINBURGH C (0).....1 STIRLING (0).....2**  
 Young 67 Kerr 86  
 Att: 243 Carrick 90  
**ELGIN (2).....4 EAST FIFE (0).....2**  
 Girvan 38 Munro 71  
 Murray 41 McManus 76  
 Dingwall 49 Att: 703  
 Sargent 85  
**FORFAR (0).....0 CLYDE (0).....0**  
 Att: 711  
**STRANRAER (2).....2 SPARTANS (0).....2**  
 Lang 20 P Watson 50, 74  
 Dunlop 26 Att: 470

**FRIENDLIES:** Birmingham 4 West Brom 1, Bristol City 0 Willem II 0, Coventry 1 Werder Bremen 2, Leeds 2 Valencia 1, Middlesbrough 1 Heerenveen 0, Norwich 1 St Pauli 3, Preston North End 0 Everton 3, QPR 0 Brighton 1, Reading 2 Hull 0, Stoke 0 AZ 1, Tottenham Hotspur 1 Bayern Munich 2, Watford 1 Brentford 1, Yokohama F. Marinos 2 Newcastle 0, Hoffenheim 0 Ipswich 1, Millwall 0 Southampton 1, Derby 2 Valladolid 1, Luton 1 Celta Vigo 3, Sunderland 2 Marseille 2, Augsburg 1 Leicester 0, Swansea 3 Rio Ave 0.

**RUGBY LEAGUE**  
**Betfred Super League**  
**HULL.....6 ST HELENS.....46**  
 Hull—T: Walker. G: Lane.  
 St Helens—T: Dodd (2), Makinson, Clark, Whitley, Burns (2), Pa'asi. G: Makinson (7).  
**SALFORD.....22 LEEDS.....16**  
 Salford—T: Watkins (2), Mellor. G: Sneyd (5).  
 Leeds—T: Frawley, Edgell, Croft. G: Martin (2).  

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull K R.....	20	15	0	5	503	258	30
Wigan.....	19	15	0	4	497	260	30
Warrington.....	20	14	0	6	504	267	28
Salford.....	20	13	0	7	377	382	26
St Helens.....	20	12	0	8	501	262	24
Catalans.....	19	12	0	7	365	274	24
Leeds.....	20	10	0	10	371	364	20
Leigh.....	19	9	1	9	392	286	19
Huddersfield.....	20	7	0	13	350	455	14
Castleford.....	20	6	1	13	336	523	13
Hull.....	20	3	0	17	274	612	6
London.....	19	1	0	18	198	725	2

**CRICKET**  
**THE HUNDRED—(Edgbaston): Men:** Southern Brave 169-2 (100 balls); J M Vince 90no; **Birmingham Phoenix** 137-9 (100 balls); B M Duckett 92). Southern Brave win by 32 runs.  
**Women: Birmingham Phoenix** 137-7 (100 balls); A E Jones 51; **Southern Brave** 121 (97 balls). Birmingham Phoenix win by 16 runs.  
 (Trent Bridge): **Men: Welsh Fire** 129-6 (100 balls); J M Bairstow 55; **Trent Rockets** 125-8 (100 balls). Welsh Fire win by 4 runs. **Women: Trent Rockets** 130-5 (100 balls); Welsh Fire 131-4 (98 balls); S J Bryce 51no). Welsh Fire win by 6 wickets.

**MOTORCYCLING**  
**MOTOGP OF GREAT BRITAIN**  
 (Silverstone)—**Sprint:** 1 E Bastianini (Ita) Ducati 19mins 49.929secs, 2 J Martin (Spa) Ducati at 1.094secs, 3 A Espargaro (Spa) Aprilia at 2.023.

**TODAY'S DIARY**  
 (3pm unless stated)  
**cinch Scottish Premiership**  
 Celtic v Kilmarnock (4.30).....  
 (Live on Sky Sports Main Event)  
 Dundee Utd v Dundee (1.30).....  
 (Live on Sky Sports Main Event)  
 St Mirren v Hibernian.....  
**Friendly Matches:** AFC Bournemouth v Rayo Vallecano, Cadiz v Burnley (5.30).



# JEREMY CROSS

CHIEF SPORTS WRITER X @CROSSYDAILYSTAR

## THE BACH LASH

### Games chief's disasterclass in handling crises

**THOMAS BACH probably feels like barricading himself away in his plush presidential suite at the five-star Hotel du Collectionneur.**

Because the outraged critics of the organisation he still runs are now beating a path to his door.

Not being able to get breakfast because staff have gone on strike due to low wages is the least of Bach's problems.

The same goes for how much E. coli is lurking in the river Seine.

Because Bach is now facing the sort of crisis of conscience that would force most people to take a long look at themselves in the mirror and say, 'I just got this call badly wrong.'

It's doubtful Bach had time to sit and watch the boxing bout between Angela Carini and

Imane Khelif last week, even if it did last less than a minute.

To recap, Carini quit after just 46 seconds because she feared for her life.

Khelif is one of two boxers allowed to fight at the Games despite being disqualified from the women's world championships in 2023 for failing testosterone and gender eligibility tests.

There were emotional scenes in the North Paris Arena, where Carini admitted she had pulled out of the fight after being hit harder than she'd ever been punched before.

"I had to preserve my life in that moment," she said through tears. "I have never felt a punch like this."

This might be because the person throwing

them shouldn't have been allowed to in the first place.

Khelif was banned from the Women's World Boxing Championships in New Delhi after failing to meet gender eligibility tests.

At the time of the disqualification, International Boxing Association president Umar Kremlev said that based on DNA tests, his organisation had "identified a number of athletes who tried to trick their colleagues into posing as women".

But this one is on the IOC chief. And it's one of the darkest moments in the long and storied history of the Games.

Bach defended the decision to allow the pair to take part yesterday.

He said: "We have

two boxers who have competed for many years as a woman.

"Allow me to say that what is going on in this context in social media with all this hate speech, with this aggression and abuse fuelled by this agenda is totally unacceptable."

Bach has plenty of power and privilege. Having travelled across Paris for the last week or so, then I don't blame Bach for not wanting to turn his back on a chauffeur-driven Mercedes, complete with police escort.

But it's impossible to see now how he should still belong as figurehead of the IOC.

This privilege should be handed to Sebastian Coe.

Because Lord Coe is the bloke who has the Olympic ethos running through his DNA, which is clearly a current point of concern.



**DOUBTING THOMAS:** Bach has questions to answer over river pollution (left) and also the eligibility of boxer Imane Khelif (right)

**SIMONE BILES**  
 The greatest gymnast of all time continues to collect more Olympic gold medals to enhance her legacy. A true phenom of 21st century sport.

**SAM TOMKINS**  
 Scored a try after coming out of retirement to help Catalans Dragons beat Hull FC in Super League. He's back and he's brilliant.

**TOM DALEY**  
 This, surely, will have been his last Olympics and to walk away after completing his collection of a medal of every colour was the perfect ending.



**ERIK TEN HAG**  
 The season hasn't even started yet and the Manchester United boss is seeing some of his star names drop like flies because of injuries.

**JAKE WIGHTMAN**  
 The GB medal hopeful in the men's 800m had to pull out of the defining race of his athletics career after suffering a hamstring injury.

**MATTHEW MOTT**  
 Had no choice but to stand down as England's white-ball cricket head coach after failing to defend either of the limited overs World Cups.

## SHAKESPEARE WAS ONE OF GOOD GUYS



FOOTBALL has lost one of the true good ones following the death of Craig Shakespeare. The tributes to him have been flooding in after Shakespeare succumbed to cancer at the age of just 60. Football's loss will no doubt be heaven's gain. Because Shakespeare (left) wasn't just a great coach and manager, he was also a great bloke too. When Leicester produced the most incredible Premier League title win of all time back in 2016,

manager Claudio Ranieri got most of the plaudits. Which is natural. But make no mistake, one of the greatest sports stories wouldn't have even happened had it not been for Shakespeare. Talk to those who were part of the team and they all say Shakespeare's input was immense. What he was part of in the Midlands will always be what defined him. Yet it shouldn't be. The manner in which he conducted himself throughout his time in football should be.

# CHAMPIONSHIP

## BLACKBURN

**Manager:** John Eustace  
**Key Man:** Arnor Sigurdsson  
**Title odds:** 50-1

**Verdict:** Have endured a difficult summer and likely to lose Sammie Szmodics' goals to a Premier League suitor. Rovers look set for another season of hardship and could struggle.

## BRISTOL CITY

**Manager:** Liam Manning  
**Key Man:** Jason Knight  
**Title odds:** 40-1

**Verdict:** The Robins will be among the teams who fancy gatecrashing the top six. Have strengthened in key areas and could be dark horses in the play-off race.

## BURNLEY

Fancied by many for an instant return to the Premier League but it's been a summer of change at Turf Moor. Scott Parker knows the level and the Claret's should be in the title picture.

**Manager:** Scott Parker  
**Key man:** Sander Berge  
**Title odds:** 13/2

## CARDIFF CITY

Erol Bulut made a big impression last year but a dearth of signings is likely to hamper any chance of progression.

Will be safe and steady.

**Manager:** Erol Bulut  
**Key man:** Chris Willock  
**Title odds:** 40/1

## COVENTRY CITY

Have made some shrewd additions to bolster a squad which was already highly competitive. Look a good bet for another top-six finish.

**Manager:** Mark Robins  
**Key man:** Haji Wright  
**Title odds:** 16/1

## DERBY COUNTY

Momentum from promotion will be with them but the Rams could do with some more new faces.

**Manager:** Paul Warne  
**Key man:** Eiran Cashin  
**Title odds:** 40/1

## HULL CITY

The Tigers have rolled the dice with their managerial change and have lost key players. Will struggle unless there is a flurry of transfer activity.

**Manager:** Tim Walter  
**Key man:** Jean Michael Seri  
**Title odds:** 22/1

## LEEDS UNITED

Have lost key players but Daniel Farke still has an embarrassment of riches at his disposal though and Leeds should

land the title.

**Manager:** Daniel Farke  
**Key man:** Georginio Rutter  
**Title odds:** 3/1

## LUTON TOWN

Will have the resources to compete after relegation and not many will fancy a trip to Kenilworth Road. Have a squad to challenge for promotion.

**Manager:** Rob Edwards  
**Key man:** Carlton Morris  
**Title odds:** 10/1

## MIDDLESBROUGH

Missed out on the play-offs last season but should go better this time around. Boro boast a proper goalscorer in Emmanuel Latte Lath.

**Manager:** Michael Carrick  
**Key man:** Emmanuel Latte Lath  
**Title odds:** 11/1

## MILLWALL

The Lions have a wafer-thin squad but finished strongly under club legend Neil Harris last term. Unlikely to trouble the play-offs.

**Manager:** Neil Harris  
**Key man:** Zian Flemming  
**Title odds:** 50/1

## NORWICH CITY

Will be expected to challenge after changing manager. A lack of business

means top-six will be a tall ask.

**Manager:** Johannes Hoff Thorup  
**Key man:** Josh Sargent  
**Title odds:** 16/1

## OXFORD UNITED

The U's have done some shrewd business but will be up against it after winning the League One play-off final. Will surprise a few.

**Manager:** Des Buckingham  
**Key man:** Cameron Brannagan  
**Title odds:** 200/1

## PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

Argyle rolled the dice on Wayne Rooney and all eyes will be on the England legend. Feels like the tide has turned.

**Manager:** Wayne Rooney  
**Key man:** Morgan Whittaker  
**Title odds:** 100/1

## PORTSMOUTH

Pompey won League One at a canter and have a real talent at the helm in John Mousinho. Will stay up.

**Manager:** John Mousinho  
**Key man:** Conor Shaughnessy  
**Title odds:** 28/1

## PRESTON NORTH END

PNE are usually solid but lack the firepower to trouble the top six. That doesn't seem likely to change.

**Manager:** Ryan Lowe

**Key man:** Mads Frokjaer-Jensen  
**Title odds:** 50/1

## QUEENS PARK RANGERS

Looked doomed until Marti Cifuentes was drafted in mid-season. He looks a cut above.

**Manager:** Marti Cifuentes  
**Key man:** Ilias Chair  
**Title odds:** 28/1

## SHEFFIELD UNITED

Been a difficult summer following relegation but have made some quality pick-ups. Will challenge for play-offs.

**Manager:** Chris Wilder  
**Key man:** Gustavo Hamer  
**Title odds:** 14/1

## SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Danny Rohl worked wonders last season and has overseen a positive summer. No danger of the drop.

**Manager:** Danny Rohl  
**Key man:** Di'Shon Bernard  
**Title odds:** 25/1

## STOKE CITY

Struggled last season and more will be expected of Steven Schumacher this term. Need more from key players.

**Manager:** Steven Schumacher  
**Key man:** Viktor Johansson  
**Title odds:** 22/1

## SUNDERLAND

Summer break has been dominated by tedious manager search. Will have their work cut out to make the top six.

**Manager:** Regis Le Bris  
**Key man:** Jack Clarke  
**Title odds:** 22/1

## SWANSEA CITY

Another club who could do with a flurry of activity before the deadline. Unlikely to trouble the play-off picture but won't be looking over shoulders.

**Manager:** Luke Williams  
**Key man:** Matt Grimes  
**Title odds:** 33/1

## WATFORD

Fell short of expectations last year and won't be fancied by many to challenge this time around. It's been a poor window.

**Manager:** Tom Cleverley  
**Key man:** Wesley Hoedt  
**Title odds:** 33/1

## WEST BROM

The Baggies probably have the best manager in the Championship in Carlos Corberan. Will be in the mix for the top six.

**Manager:** Carlos Corberan  
**Key man:** John Swift  
**Title odds:** 14/1

# Hard Mann

## LIAM CAN'T PICK A WINNER

**CITY BOY:** Fally Mayulu signs for the Robins and (inset) boss Manning

**BRISTOL CITY** coach Liam Manning admits that the Championship is "too hard to call" as the Robins bid to make the new season one to remember.

An ultra-competitive line-up sees Burnley, Leeds and Sheffield United all vying for a Premier League berth.

And after securing a top-half finish last year, Bristol City are among the cluster of clubs expected to push for a top-six finish in a campaign which kicks off on Friday.

Manning said: "I think it's too hard to call. Last year people said, 'Oh it's definitely these going up', and then in the last 10 games the top four were losing to the bottom four regularly.

"I think the Championship is the hardest division in the world.

"The biggest thing for me is that we beat last year. We had a strong finish to last season. It was the highest for the club in quite a while and it's now about bettering that."

Manning, 38, has beefed up his attacking options with the captures

## EXCLUSIVE

by DAN MARSH

of Fally Mayulu, Sinclair Armstrong and Yu Hirakawa. He is still looking to add a playmaker but the transfer market has proved difficult with Championship teams often fighting each other for the same targets.

"I've definitely had days where I've felt like smashing my head against a wall but I'm really pleased with what we've been able to do," he added.

"We started working on targets before the end of last season.

"You don't get a definitive end and start to the following season. It's just continuous. Especially for a head coach, you roll straight into recruitment meetings.

"I've tried to earn a bit of credit back with the family but at the same time they understand it's a 24/7 job.

"I've probably got a little bit better at time management. I try to have no phones in the evening at dinner time

but I don't always abide by that!" Manning was poached by the Robins from Oxford in November and the former City Football Group disciple has earned a reputation as one of the Football League's most progressive young coaches.

After arriving midway through last year's campaign, he is relishing the chance to get his principles across in pre-season as he bids to fulfil the club's "huge potential".

He said: "I think some teams in the Championship ended up having three or four managers last year so it's obviously a very difficult industry to come in and get your ideas across straight away.

"I know a lot of people have said it, but this is a club with huge potential with a terrific fan base and top facilities.

"In such a difficult division, it becomes a case of how do you turn that potential into consistent performances and results? That's the bit that we're working hard to try and achieve."



## STEF'S SPECIAL County set fair

**NEW** boy Stefan Thordarson is hoping to bring a special slice of Scandinavian style to Preston North End.

The midfielder, 25 (right) was part of the Iceland team which beat England 1-0 at Wembley before Euro 2024.

Now Thordarson is hoping to make his mark in the Championship with the Lilywhites who fended off competition from a string of second-tier clubs to secure his signature.

He said: "The experience of playing against England, it's made me want to achieve more in my career. I want to achieve great things with Preston."

NEIL GOULDING



**AMBITIOUS** Stockport owner Mark Stott is confident the club will be promoted to the Championship within the next few seasons.

County stormed to the League Two title last season and have secured two memorable promotions in three years.

"We're definitely ahead of the curve," said Stott, who took over the Edgeley Park outfit in 2020 with a seven-year vision to get it into the second tier.

"We're probably a year ahead of schedule, we're left with three years now to get to the Championship. It's going well."

NEIL GOULDING

## BINKS BLESSED Billy cleans up

**LUIS BINKS** won't be fazed by a promotion push after spending his career rubbing shoulders with the elite.

The defender has signed for Coventry from Bologna and Mark Robins' side are expected to be among the clubs in the Championship promotion mix.

But Binks, 22, is already primed for the Premier League after coming through the ranks at Tottenham and playing alongside Cesc Fabregas in Italy at Como.

Binks, who was coached by Thierry Henry after moving to the MLS as a teenager, said: "I think where I've grown up at Tottenham and been around big players like Gareth Bale, I don't get starstruck."

DAN MARSH

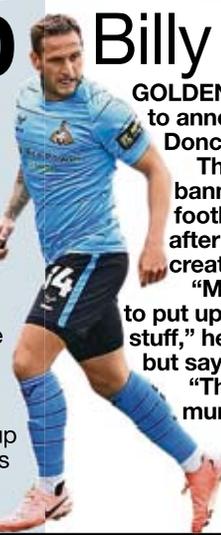
**GOLDEN** oldie Billy Sharp hopes to annoy his wife Jade by firing Doncaster to promotion.

The striker, 38 (left) is banned from displaying his footballing mementos at home after being told they would create too much clutter.

"My missus doesn't allow me to put up all the old photos and stuff," he said. "She's supportive but says it messes the places up. "There's quite a lot at my mum and dad's house.

"It's nice to look at them and think about the journey I've been on."

NEIL GOULDING



# Result's a Drag but Radu vows to prove his worth

RADU DRAGUSIN played 45 minutes for Spurs in their 2-1 defeat by Bayern Munich in Seoul before insisting he is ready to shine after his superb European Championships.

The Romanian international barely figured for Ange Postecoglou (right) following a £25million arrival in January, making only four league starts.

However, having starred in his nation's

by **HARRY PRATT** excellent run at the Euros, Dragusin has returned in an upbeat frame of mind.

The ex-Genoa defender said: "We have two weeks left before our first game in the Premier League and we're going full on to be at the highest level possible."

"I feel the guys are already in great condition. I'm trying to



catch them up but we'll be 100 per cent for that first game."

There is a second meeting against Bayern on Saturday when when Harry Kane should make his return to N17.

Gabriel Vidovic and Leon Goretzka put Bayern in charge before Pedro Porro's rocket reduced the deficit.

Elsewhere, goals from Dominic Calvert-Lewin,

with a first-half penalty, Jake O'Brien and summer signing Jesper Lindstrom gave Everton a 3-0 win at Preston.

Brentford drew 1-1 at Watford after Kevin Schade gave them the lead. Moussa Sissoko levelled with a deflected finish on his Vicarage Road return after two seasons away.

Ipswich finished their German training camp with a 1-0 win against Hoffenheim, with Jack Taylor on target.

Newcastle were beaten 2-0 by Yokohama F Marinos in Tokyo, while Brighton beat QPR at Loftus Road, Danny Welbeck's penalty the game's only goal.

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**CALL SIGN:** Slot has contacted Nunez to say he will spearhead the Reds' revolution

## PREMIER LEAGUE



# GOOD



**MANCHESTER UNITED'S** new £36.5million striker Joshua Zirkzee has revealed how Man City legend Vincent Kompany helped him become good enough for Old Trafford.

Zirkzee, 23, emerged a teenage sensation at Bayern Munich when he made his debut against Tottenham in the Champions League at the age of 18 before scoring last-minute winners in his first two Bundesliga games.

But it was the season he spent on loan under Kompany at Anderlecht that had the biggest impact on his career.

Zirkzee scored 16 goals and provided nine assists for the Belgian club after Kompany brought him in from Bayern in the summer of 2021.

And the new United forward said: "Kompany was the coach who explained so much to me about the game and the small details."

"That year under him was very important for my development - and he also made sure I played all the time."

"I took some significant steps forward during that season. Things went so much better for me."

"In my time at Bayern, I wasn't that player. There I was

**RED ALERT:** Zirkzee could make his first United start against City at Wembley

# Still on Mar-ket

by RYAN TAYLOR

**ARSENAL** have left the ball in Marseille's court after rejecting a third bid for Eddie Nketiah.

Marseille's first two offers fell notably short of the Gunners' £30million asking price – which they believe reflects fair market value.

While the third proposal worth £23m also failed to satisfy their valuation.

Now the French giants could ditch the deal altogether after opening talks to sign Borussia Dortmund's Youssoufa Moukoko on an initial loan with a buy-option.

Moukoko has already agreed to the move.

Arsenal remain ready to do business but will not sell the England striker on the cheap. Crystal Palace showed interest at the beginning of the transfer window but are yet to make a formal approach.

# A press gang Slot for Nunez

## EXCLUSIVE

by SIMON MULLOCK

LIVERPOOL boss Arne Slot has already phoned Darwin Nunez to tell the Uruguayan striker he wants him to be the frontman for his Reds revolution.

After being asked to fill the huge void left by Jurgen Klopp's Anfield exit, Slot knows the £85million forward became disillusioned under the German last season.

One of Slot's first jobs after landing in Liverpool was to call Nunez during his preparations for Copa America to assure him he sees him as capable of playing a significant role.

Nunez's selfless running will be crucial to Slot's plan to press from the front – and the star was delighted to hear his new boss recognises what he can bring to the Liverpool team.

The forward, 25, is taking time off to recover from a dismal Copa America which ended with him leaping into the stand to trade blows with Colombian fans after a bitter semi-final defeat.

With Diogo Jota arriving for Liverpool's pre-season US tour

after his efforts playing for Portugal at the Euros, Slot can now step up his plan to get his frontline to trigger the press.

One senior player joked the Dutchman was "a madman" after being told to put in more of the hard yards in the States.

Slot has been showing his team videos of how Manchester City and former club Feyenoord are able to squeeze opponents

into making mistakes. The Reds are yet to enter the transfer market but Dutchman Slot's happy to keep his powder dry until a player that will fit into his system is available.

Slot (right) grew a reputation in Holland for delivering results on a shoestring – a major factor in the decision to tempt him away from Feyenoord.

In six seasons as a boss at Cambuur, AZ Alkmaar and Feyenoord he has not spent more than £7m on a single transfer. By focusing on

improving talent he inherited he was able to secure a higher finish than all the coaches he succeeded.

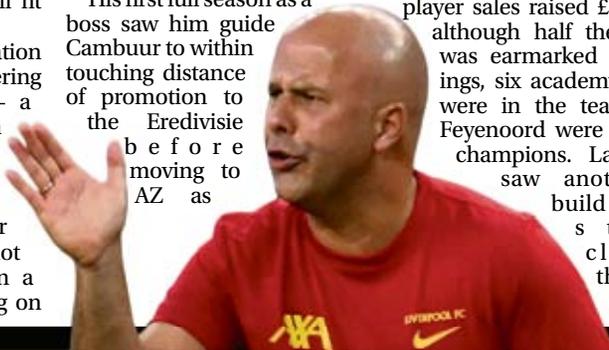
His first full season as a boss saw him guide Cambuur to within touching distance of promotion to the Eredivisie before moving to AZ as

assistant coach. When he succeeded John van den Brom in 2019, he masterminded a shock title charge that saw the club battle Erik ten Hag's Ajax before the season was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Alkmaar made almost £50m through player sales during Slot's time at the club.

In three years at Feyenoord, it was a similar pattern with 16 players either sold or released when he took over. Yet despite a budget of just £6m, Slot still guided them to the Conference League Final, losing to Jose Mourinho's Roma.

The following season 15 more player sales raised £70m and although half the money was earmarked for signings, six academy players were in the team when Feyenoord were crowned champions. Last term saw another rebuild yet they still clinched the Dutch Cup.



# KOMPANY

## I'm Vin form of my life thanks to City legend says ace Zirkzee

## EXCLUSIVE

by SIMON MULLOCK

too much in awe. I should have believed in myself more. Back then I thought I was okay, but now I have a different mentality. I don't know how else to explain it.

"I think back then I wasn't even half the player I am now. I thought I was good enough to become Bayern's first striker right away, but I wasn't ready

for that at all. It was very good that I took a step back to find out what it really takes to succeed at the top."

Zirkzee is in line to make his United debut against rivals City in the Community Shield on Saturday after being put through his paces at Carrington after the Euros, while the rest of Erik ten Hag's squad are on tour in the United States.

He came through the youth ranks at Feyenoord before walking out at the age of 16 to sign for Bayern. The Dutchman

was part of the squad that won the Bundesliga, Champions League and German Cup Treble in 2020 but was loaned out to Parma and Anderlecht before joining Serie A side Bologna.

Eleven goals and five assists last season persuaded United to splash out after Zirkzee saw just a minute of action at the Euros as a sub in Holland's semi-final defeat to England.

Zirkzee has promised to dip into his bag of tricks to thrill the Old Trafford fans. He said: "I

want to play a pure game. Nutmegs, chops and back heels are moments that belong in football. It's the soccer kid in me because it's supposed to be fun too, isn't it?"

"You have to pick the right moments. It's intuition. But the fancy footwork is part of my game at the end of the day.

"I occasionally drop down to midfield. I don't do that for myself but to help the team. I am what I call a false striker. Not a No.9, not a No.10. I am a 9.5! That's my game."



**KOMPANY MAN:** Zirkzee learned his trade under ex-City man at Anderlecht

# Harry's game for more after US tour

RISING young stars at Manchester United need only look at England's Euro 2024 squad to show them how quickly they can make it to the top.

Kobbie Mainoo and Cole Palmer – two of England's stand-out performers as Gareth Southgate's side came agonisingly close to Euros glory – have both enjoyed meteoric rises.

A year ago, Palmer scored for Manchester City in the Community Shield and UEFA Super Cup, before moving to Chelsea, where he scored 25 goals in an outstanding debut season.

Palmer's heroics for Chelsea earned him a call-up to Southgate's England squad, where he continued his heroics, scoring in a penalty shoot-out win over Switzerland and in the final against Spain.

Mainoo did not feature for United until last November, after suffering an injury in pre-season, but swiftly established

from DAVID McDONNELL in South Carolina

himself as a starter for Erik ten Hag and for England at Euro 2024.

A trio of United youngsters – Harry Amass, Toby Collyer and Ethan Wheatley – have impressed on the club's US tour, after being given significant game time by boss Ten Hag.

With injuries to some players and others on extended breaks after the Euros, they may get their chance to shine in the Community Shield against Manchester City at Wembley on Saturday.

With Luke Shaw not yet back for pre-season after featuring for England at the Euros and Tyrell Malacia still out long term, left-back Amass (below) is in the frame to start against City.

Amass, 17, said: "If the opportunity comes, I've got to take it. It could change my career. I'm just waiting for that moment and I'm ready.

"It's a good experience for me.

Being with good players, you learn a lot."



**TRANSFER TALK**

**DOM WILL COST YOU**

by RYAN TAYLOR

TOTTENHAM will have to get creative if they wish to land Bournemouth striker Dominic Solanke. The Cherries insist the striker, 26, will only depart if his £65million release clause is matched.

Spurs are unlikely to put the cash on the table and they could seek to include players in a swap deal package to try and get close to the eye-watering figure.

Liverpool are set to receive a 20 per cent cut of any profit made by Bournemouth.

Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou admitted in midweek that he was prioritising the signing of a new striker.

**BRIGHTON are set to pip West Ham to the £15million signing of Inter Miami midfielder Diego Gomez, 21.**

**O'Neil a big deal**

by DARREN WITCOOP

WOLVES want to tie boss Gary O'Neil down to a long-term deal before the start of the season.

O'Neil has held talks over a fresh contract, which will include a big pay rise, as a reward for his impressive debut campaign at Molineux.

He signed a three-year deal last summer but led the club to a mid-table finish and an FA Cup semi-final. His initial brief was simply to help Wolves avoid relegation.

**NORWICH midfielder Gabriel Sara, 25, is set to join Galatasaray. The Canaries are expected to pocket up to £20million.**

**VIOLA DE GEA PLAY**

by RYAN TAYLOR

FIORENTINA are thinking of handing David de Gea a lifeline contract.

The Spaniard, 33, has been without a club since his release last summer by Manchester United.

De Gea had recently been in talks to join Fiorentina's Serie A rivals Genoa but the move collapsed over wages.

Now La Viola have shown interest but the goalkeeper is waiting to hear if they will push ahead with the move.

**BIRMINGHAM are poised to sign Wales Under-21s midfielder Luke Harris, 19, on a season-long loan from Fulham.**

**PREMIER LEAGUE**

**GUARDIAN**

**of THE**

**GALAXY**

**Josko wants Pep to reign at City empire for decade**

**JOSKO Gvardiol** has revealed that Manchester City's players are desperate for Pep Guardiola to extend his reign at The Etihad to a decade and beyond.

City's brilliant Croatian defender, 22, credits Guardiola with his transformation from ruthless centre-half to goalscoring left-back as the Blues lifted the Premier League for a record fourth consecutive time in his first season in England following his £77million arrival from RB Leipzig.

Gvardiol now wants to make even more history - but would also love nothing more than to see his manager end speculation about his future by signing a new contract.

Guardiola's current deal is up next summer but Gvardiol has seen nothing to suggest that the Catalan's appetite for success has diminished during City's pre-season tour of the United States.

He said: "Pep is always passionate and focused. He's constantly innovating and motivating us. We would all love for him to stay longer because he brings out the best in us and has built something special here.

"Working under Pep is so rewarding. He constantly pushes us to reach our full potential and be perfect in every aspect of our game.

"His high standards and incredible attention to detail have helped me grow



**REAL BELTER:** Gvardiol scores against Madrid

**EXCLUSIVE**

by SIMON MULLOCK

as a player and as a person." Guardiola, who has won six titles in eight years in Manchester, has insisted his future will be decided by the hunger shown by his players.

Gvardiol certainly has unfinished business, despite joining City's

pantheon of Premier League champions in his first season in England.

The Zagreb-born defender also lifted the Club World Cup and European Super Cup in the last campaign - but there were disappointments.

City were beaten on penalties by Real Madrid in the quarter-finals of the Champions League while Gvardiol's mix-up with keeper Stefan Ortega led to Manchester United's first goal in their

shock 2-1 FA Cup Final victory over their rivals.

The two Manchester clubs return to Wembley for the Community Shield on Saturday afternoon.

And Gvardiol said: "I've enjoyed living in Manchester, the city's football culture is incredible. The passion for football here is as intense as I expected. "It's a vibrant place with friendly people. The weather was a bit of a surprise but I've adjusted.

"Winning the Premier League four consecutive times was a historical achievement. But this season, as always, I will push my limits and try to give my best. The Premier League has been everything I expected - intense and highly competitive.

"The biggest surprise has been the physicality and pace of the games, which require you to be at your best in every match.

"We have a talented squad and a very strong team spirit.

"The key will be staying focused, maintaining our high standards, and taking each game one at a time."

Gvardiol's had to wait until his 33rd appearance before scoring his first City goal in a thrilling 3-3 draw with Madrid in The Bernabeu. That started a run of five goals in seven games.

He added: "Winning the Champions League would be a dream come true."



**PROBLEM:** Maresca

**MARESCA SEEKING SOLUTION**

**ENZO MARESCA** insists Chelsea are continuing to hold talks with Conor Gallagher amid continued uncertainty over the England midfielder's future.

Gallagher is reportedly considering joining Atletico Madrid having turned down two new contract offers from

the Blues of up to three years in the hope of landing a longer-term deal.

Maresca is believed to view the academy product, 24, as a squad player because of the playing style he will use at Chelsea.

"The only thing I can say is I know he is in contact with the

club to find a solution," Maresca told reporters on Chelsea's pre-season tour to the United States.

"The club offered him a new contract but this is, at the moment, the only news I received.

"In football, every summer, different clubs have some

problems with some players and then at the end, they find a solution and everyone is happy.

"Hopefully the same can happen in this situation.

"The squad we have, they are all players that if they are in the squad, I will do my best to try to use them and help



**MASTER AND APPRENTICE:** Guardiola and Gvardiol

## Gunner go for Alvarez

**From Back Page** could open the door for Mikel Arteta to raid his former club for a third time following the Spaniard's swoops for Gabriel Jesus and Oleksandr Zinchenko – but it would have to be at the right price.

Suggestions from The Etihad that the champions will demand a deal, including add-ons, of around £80million for the Argentine World Cup winner would be too rich for the Londoners.

But they would have funds to table a significant bid if homegrown forwards Eddie Nketiah and Reiss Nelson follow midfielder Emile Smith Rowe out of the club.

Arsenal have already invested £70m to recruit defender Riccardo Calafiori from Bologna and made keeper David Raya's move from Brentford permanent.

The Gunners were not expecting to make any further big-money buys – but that could change if Alvarez is made available.

The South American ticks a lot of the boxes for the Gunners. At 24,

he is still some years away from his peak, his two seasons in Manchester have realised back-to-back titles and he has also lifted the Champions League and FA Cup.

He would also guarantee Arteta goals having scored 20 in 44 Premier League starts.

Alvarez, who joined City in a £14.1m deal from River Plate, voiced his dissatisfaction over his manager's reluctance to start him in big games like the Champions League Final and FA Cup Final.

He knows that Erling Haaland remains the club's No.1 striker and his threat to leave has not been well received in Manchester.

Alvarez's gold medal dream was ended by France on Friday and he will now be given three weeks off by his club after virtually three years of playing without an extended break.

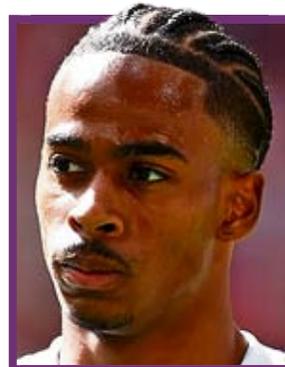
Chelsea, Paris Saint-Germain and Atletico Madrid are also big admirers of the City striker.



**PAIR:** Haaland and Alvarez



★ Josko Gvardiol is the new face of 'Protect your Craft', a new series of designs launched by luxury outerwear brand Mackage. He said: "Mackage's collection is perfect for Manchester's rainy weather. The stylish and functional designs keep me warm and dry, whether I'm on my way to training or just out in the city. It's great to have gear that combines fashion and quality."



**RISING STAR:** Summerville

## Irons get their big Summer signing

by RYAN TAYLOR

**WEST HAM** have completed the signing of Leeds forward Crysencio Summerville on an initial five-year deal with a 12-month option.

Chelsea, Brighton, Roma, Aston Villa, Stade Rennes and Fulham had all shown interest in the Dutchman, who has also been scouted by Liverpool, this summer.

But last week the Hammers pounced to agree an undisclosed fee for Summerville, 22, after he hit 20 goals and registered nine assists in the Championship last season.

Borussia Dortmund striker Niclas Fullkrug (below) and Guido Rodriguez, a World Cup and Copa America winner with Argentina who left Real Betis at the end of June, also flew in for medicals yesterday in a further boost for new Irons manager Julen Lopetegui.

Fullkrug netted 15 goals in 46 games at Dortmund, finishing the season as a Champions League runner-up, after moving from Werder Bremen for £12.6million deal last summer.

He also scored twice in hosts Germany's run to the quarter-finals at Euro 2024 despite not starting a game.

Dortmund said yesterday: "Niclas Fullkrug has left training camp in Switzerland on Saturday morning. Borussia Dortmund have allowed the striker to leave for talks with another club."

West Ham's next transfer priority is Manchester United right-back Aaron Wan-Bissaka.

They have already seen one bid rejected for the defender and are now pressing to reach an agreement with the Red Devils.



# TO GALLAGHER'S SITUATION

them to understand the way we want to play."

Gallagher has been at Chelsea since he was eight and spent time on loan at Charlton, Swansea, West Brom and Crystal Palace from 2019 to 2022 before securing a solid place in the Stamford Bridge club's first-team

set-up. He has played 95 games for the Blues, scoring 10 goals.

He played in 50 of Chelsea's 51 games last season, starting in 46 of them.

The only match he missed was following a red card against Brighton.

When asked if he would like

to keep Gallagher (right), Maresca replied: "I would like to have all of them."

"If you ask the same question to the other managers, they will answer the same. It's the same problem as always.

"Until the transfer window isn't open, anything can

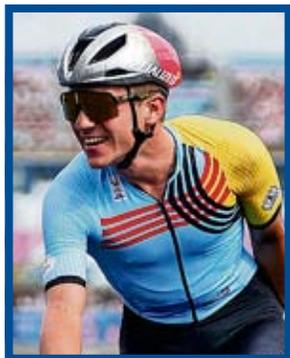
happen, to bring players or sell players.

"Unfortunately, until the last day, something can happen."

"The main focus in this moment for the club, for Conor and for me is they are going to find a solution. This is the main target."



# OLYMPICS 2024



**GOLDEN RIDE:** Evenepoel

## Birthday overload blows it for Tom

### CYCLING

by **JEREMY CROSS**

**TOM PIDCOCK** had his cake and ate it – but it ruined his chances of winning back-to-back gold medals in Paris.

Pidcock has spent the last few days celebrating his birthday, coupled with the fact he defended his mountain bike title in stunning fashion at these Games.

But he revealed he wasn't in the best shape, both mentally and physically, to secure another triumph in the men's road race.

The Leeds speedster never threatened to get on the podium again, let alone win the gruelling eight-hour race around the French capital.

That privilege went to Belgium sensation Remco Evenepoel, who charged to his second gold of the Games, having already won the time trial.

Pidcock finished 13th and revealed he felt sluggish and mentally exhausted.

He said: "I didn't really get much sleep after the mountain bike thing. Too many people gave me birthday cake."

Pidcock also said ongoing contract talks with Sir Jim Ratcliffe's cycling team INEOS had left him "frazzled".

Fellow Team GB riders Stephen Williams, Fred Wright and Josh Tarling finished 31st, 43rd and 47th respectively.

Evenepoel crossed the line first ahead of nearest challengers, French duo Valentin Madouas and Christophe Laporte.

And it capped a remarkable summer for the 24-year-old, who also finished third on his debut in the Tour de France.

Evenepoel, though, had to survive a huge scare to secure double gold.

He suffered a puncture to his back wheel in the closing stages.



**OAR YES!** Carnegie, Gibbs, Bolding, Dawson, Elwes, Digby, Rudkin, Ford and cox Brightmore

# Grreight Brits

## BRIGHT SPARKS REPEAT OF 2000

**TEAM GB** used inspiration from the past to help storm to gold in the men's eight rowing final.

Morgan Bolding, Sholto Carnegie, Jacob Dawson, Tom Digby, Charlie Elwes, Tom Ford, Rory Gibbs and James Rudkin held off Holland and the United States to win in five minutes 22.88 seconds – adding an Olympic title to their world and European honours.

The win, Team GB's 10th gold in Paris, came just 20 minutes after the women's eight won bronze.

Cox Harry Brightmore revealed they had been sent a good luck video ahead of the final from the men's eight team which won gold in Sydney in 2000.

This, along with some attempted mind games from the Americans at the start line, fired them up.

He said: "We had a message from the

### ROWING

from **JEREMY CROSS** in Paris

Sydney eight and the coach as well. We wanted to say a massive thank you to those guys.

"It was one hell of a ride. We knew the start would be close – the Americans were giving it a lot of shouting, which we were ready for.

"We knew what they were going to do and we executed it perfectly.

"It was a bit of a sprint to the death, we just took it by the scruff of the neck. "You can't ask for more. I'm so proud and trying to not cry".

Ford's sister Emily was part of the women's eight alongside Heidi Long, Holly Dunford, Lauren Irwin, Eve Stewart, Annie

Campbell-Orde, Hattie Taylor and Rowan McKellar.

Last year, when Long's father died, he left a folder with log-ins for Paris tickets and accommodation for the family so they could watch her fulfil her Olympic dream.

British rowing legend Matthew Pinsent revealed: "Heidi read his last text message to her and went out to win a medal today."

Henry Fieldman basked in the "honour of his life" after becoming the first person to win an Olympic medal in the men's

and women's rowing regatta. Cox Fieldman was a member of the men's eight boat who won bronze in Tokyo three years ago and he repeated the feat with the women's crew yesterday.

Fieldman, 35, said: "They only changed the rule back in 2017.

"Someone was going to do it and it happened to be me.

"There's a really talented cox with the men's eight and the thinking was that Harry would be a better fit for the men and I'd be a good person to bring some experience into the women's eight."



**BRONZE:** GB women celebrate

## Argentina stick it to us

**GREAT BRITAIN** women slumped 3-0 to Argentina in their final pool game before advancing to the quarter-finals at Paris 2024.

After Giselle Ainsley hit the post for Team GB in the first half, Argentina took control with two goals in as many minutes early in the second from Valentina Raposo and

### HOCKEY

by **MIKE WALTERS**

Agustina Albertarrio, Zoe Diaz adding a third late on.

Britain had already done enough to advance to the last eight but this was a reminder of the calibre of the teams above them in the competition that they'll face in the coming days.

Pick up your ultimate guide to the games. This brilliant day by day rundown tells you what's on when. Simply scan the QR code or visit: [Reachshops.co.uk/olympics](https://Reachshops.co.uk/olympics)

## KHELIF SINKS HAMORI

**CONTROVERSIAL** Algerian Imane Khelif is guaranteed an Olympic medal after punching her way into the semi-finals.

Khelif won her quarter-final against Hungarian Anna Luca Hamori with a unanimous decision in the 66kg division at North Paris Arena.

Khelif is one of two

### BOXING

by **JEREMY CROSS**

athletes, along with Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting, who have been cleared to compete in the Games despite having been disqualified from the 2023 women's World Championships after failing gender eligibility tests.



IN THE MIX: Fleetwood

# Tommy gunning for big targets

**GOLF**

by NEIL McLEMAN

**TOMMY FLEETWOOD** will have the fervent backing of the French crowd as he bids to chase down double Major winners Jon Rahm and Xander Schauffele to win Olympic gold today.

But Team Ireland's Rory McIlroy is also in with a chance of a medal on a leaderboard packed with the world's best players.

Team GB's Fleetwood made a 6ft par saver on the last hole for his 69 to stay one shot behind Rahm (66) and Schauffele (68) on 14-under par.

The three will go out together in the blockbuster final group today.

But the Southport star, who has won the French Open and Ryder Cup here, is the adopted home favourite with no French players in contention.

The world No.14, who was cheered on every tee and green by the 25,000 noisy fans, said: "Hideki (Matsuyama) and Wyndham (Clark) said over the first two days, 'Is this your home country?'"

"To be playing the Olympics, to be in contention and to have the support that you have, they are things that you dream of."

Nine players are within four shots of the lead, including McIlroy who carded a 66. Ryder Cup star Nicolai Hojgaard is tied fourth after his 62.

# WHIT'S ENDED

## Max bows out in tears



DENIED: Whitlock

**MAX WHITLOCK** broke down in tears after missing out on a medal and more history in the final act of his glittering career.

But Simone Biles was in seventh heaven after claiming another gold medal to make it a hat-trick here.

Whitlock had been desperate to become the first gymnast ever to win medals on the same apparatus at four successive Olympics.

But his performance on the pommel was only good enough to see him finish in an agonising fourth place in the Bercy Arena.

The Team GB star was cheered on by his daughter Willow but could only score 15.200.

His main rival, Team Ireland's Rhys McClenaghan, produced a stunning performance to take the gold ahead of American Stephen Nedoroscik and Nariman Kurbanov of Kazakhstan.

An emotional Whitlock said: "It's very raw at the moment. I'm done now. I'm not a gymnast any longer."

"I've done this sport for 24 years. I've always said I want to have children young so my child can watch me compete. And she has done."

"I feel very fortunate to have done a sport I've loved since I was seven."

"One of the best

**GYMNASTICS**

from JEREMY CROSS in Paris

comments I've heard about me is that I've inspired young children to get into gymnastics."

Biles, meanwhile, had won golds in the women's team and all-around finals while Tom Cruise, Bill Gates and Steph Curry looked on from the stands to become the most decorated American gymnast in Olympic history.

Now she was bidding to land a third one in the vault final, which she also won in Rio in 2016.

The Texan had leapt to the defence of her husband, Green Bay Packers star Jonathan

Owens, who was criticised for wearing her gold medal last week. And she will now have another one to hang round his neck.

Reigning champion Rebeca Andrade submitted a vault no one had ever done before in a bid to take down her main rival.

But when Biles scored an average of 15.300 from her two vaults, the Brazilian had to settle for silver.

In the individual floor event, Team GB's Jake Jarman took bronze to secure his first-ever Olympic medal. His routine included a triple-twisting double-back somersault for a score of 14.933 behind the winner, Carlos Yulo from the Philippines.



THE JAR'S A STAR: Jake Jarman on the floor on his way to a bronze medal

## YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

**ARCHERY**

**Women's Individual 1/8 Elimination Round:** S Lim (Kor) bt M Havers (Gbr) 7-1.

**Women's Individual Bronze Final:** L Barbelin (Fra) bt H Jeon (Kor) 6-4.

**Women's Individual Final:** S Lim (Kor) bt S Nam (Kor) 7-3.

**ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS**

**Men's Floor Exercise Final:** 1 C Yulo (Phi) 15.000pts, 2 A Dolgopyat (Isr) 14.966, 3 J Jarman (Gbr) 14.933, 4 I Kovtun (Ukr) 14.533, 5 M Karimi (Kaz) 14.500, 6 L Whitehouse (Gbr) 14.466, 7 R Zapata (Esp) 14.333, 8 B Zhang (Chn) 13.933.

**Men's Pommel Horse Final:** 1 R Mc Clenaghan (Iri) 15.533pts, 2 N Kurbanov (Kaz) 15.433, 3 S Nedoroscik (Usa) 15.300, 4 M Whitlock (Gbr) 15.200, 5 O Verniaiev (Ukr) 14.966, 6 T Sugino (Jpn) 14.933, 7 W Hur (Kor) 14.300, 8 L de Munck (Ned) 13.733.

**ATHLETICS**

**100m Round 1 - Heat 1: DQ: J Azu (Gbr).**

**100m Round 1 - Heat 3: 1 L Hinchliffe (Gbr) 9.98secs.**

**100m Round 1 - Heat 8: 3 Z Hughes (Gbr) 10.03secs.**

**Men's 1500m Repechage Round:** 3 G Mills (Gbr) 3mins 33.56secs.

**Women's 100m Semi-Final 1:** 5 D Asher-Smith (Gbr) 11.10secs.

**Women's 100m Semi-Final 2:** 5 I Lansiquot (Gbr) 11.21secs.

**Women's 100m Semi-Final 3:** 2 D Neita (Gbr) 10.97secs.

**BADMINTON**

**Women's Doubles Bronze Final:** N Matsuyama & C Shida (Jpn) bt P Tan & M Thinaah (Mas) 2-0.

**Women's Doubles Gold Final:** Q Chen & Y Jia (Chn) bt S Liu & N Tan (Chn) 2-0.

**BASKETBALL**

**Women's Group A:** China 80 Puerto Rico 58, Serbia 62 Spain 70.

**BOXING**

**Women's 60kg - Semi-finals:** W Yang (Chn) bt S Wu (Tpe) 5-0.

**CANOE SLALOM**

**Men's Kayak Cross Round 1 Heat 1:** 1 J Clarke (Gbr).

**Men's Kayak Cross Round 1 Heat 8:** 4 A Burgess (Gbr).

**Men's Kayak Cross Repechage:** 2 A Burgess (Gbr).

**Women's Kayak Cross Repechage 1 Heat 3:** 1 M Franklin (Gbr).

**Women's Kayak Cross Repechage 1 Heat 5:** 1 K Woods (Gbr).

**CYCLING ROAD**

**Men's Road Race:** 1 R Evenepoel (Bel) 6hrs 19mins 34secs, 2 V Madouas (Fra) 6:20:45, 3 C Laporte (Fra) 6:20:50, 4 A Valtter (Hun) 6:20:50, 5 T Skujins (Lat) 6:20:50, 6 M Haller (Aut) 6:20:50, 7 S Kueng (Sui) 6:20:50, 8 J Tratnik (Slo) 6:20:50, 9 M Jorgenson (Usa) 6:20:50, 10 B Healy (Iri) 6:20:54, 11 J Alaphilippe (Fra) 6:20:59, 12 M van der Poel (Ned) 6:21:23, 13 T Pidcock (Gbr) 6:21:24, 14 M Vacek (Cze) 6:21:25, 15 M Matthews (Aus) 6:21:47, 29 L Kubis (Svk) 6:23:16, 30 M Mikhels (Est) 6:23:16, 31 S Williams (Gbr) 6:23:16, 43 F Wright (Gbr) 6:26:57, 47 J Tarling (Gbr) 6:26:57.

**EQUESTRIAN**

**Dressage Team Grand Prix Special:** 1 Germany 235.790pts, 2 Denmark 235.669, 3 Great Britain 232.492, 4 Netherlands 221.048, 5 Belgium 215.714, 6 France 215.289, 7 Sweden 212.811, 8 Finland 212.036, 9 Austria 211.505, 10 Australia 207.203

**GOLF**

**Men's Individual Stroke Play Third round:** 1 J Rahm (Esp) 199, 2 X Schauffele (Usa) 199, 3 T Fleetwood (Gbr) 200, 4 N Hojgaard (Den) 202, 5 H Matsuyama (Jpn) 202, 6 R McIlroy (Iri) 203, 7 S Scheffler (Usa) 203, 8 T Kim (Kor) 203, 9 T Detry (Bel) 203, 10 L Aberg (Swe) 204, 11 J Day (Aus) 204, 12 J Niemann (Chi) 204, 13 C Bezuidenhout (Rsa) 205, 14 T Olesen (Den) 205, 15 V Perez (Fra) 205, 16 E van Rooyen (Rsa) 205, 17 B An (Kor) 206.

**HOCKEY**

**Women's Group A:** Netherlands 5 Japan 1, China 7 France 1.

**Women's Group B: Great Britain** 0 Argentina 3, Australia 3 Spain 1, USA 1 South Africa 0.

**JUDO**

**Mixed Team Matches for Bronze Medals:** Korea 4 Germany 3, Brazil 4 Italy 3. **Mixed Team Final:** Japan 3 France 4.

**ROWING**

**Men's Single Sculls Final:** 1 O Zeidler (Ger) 6mins 37.57secs, 2 Y Zalaty (Ain) 6:42.96, 3 S van Dorp (Ned) 6:44.72, 4 T Brys (Bel) 6:48.44, 5 T Mackintosh (Nzl) 6:49.62, 6 S Ntouskos (Gre) 7:02.05.

**Men's Eight Final:** 1 Great Britain 5mins 22.88secs 2 Netherlands 5:23.92, 3 United States 5:25.28, 4 Germany 5:29.80, 5 Romania 5:30.15, 6 Australia 5:31.79.

**Women's Single Sculls Final:** 1 K Florijn (Ned) 7mins 17.28secs, 2 E Twigg (Nzl) 7:19.14, 3 V Senkute (Ltu) 7:20.85, 4 T Rigney (Aus) 7:21.38, 5 K Kohler (Usa) 7:25.07, 6 D Angelova (Bul) 7:33.19.

**Women's Eight Final:** 1 Romania 5mins 54.39secs, 2 Canada 5:58.84, 3 Great Britain 5:59.51, 4 Australia 6:00.73, 5 United States 6:01.73, 6 Italy 6:07.51.

**SAILING**

**Men's Windsurfing - Final:** 1 T Reuveny (Isr) 1pts, 2 G Morris (Aus) 2, 3 L van Opzeeland (Ned) 3, 5 S Sillis (Gbr) 88..

**Men's Dinghy - Opening Series:** 4 M Beckett (Gbr) 36pts.

**Women's Windsurfing - Final:** 1 M Maggetti (Ita) 70pts, 2 S Kantor (Isr) 49, 3 E Wilson (Gbr) 18.

**Women's Dinghy - Opening Series:** 8 H Snellgrove (Gbr) 24pts.

**Mixed Multihull - Opening Series:** 6 J Gimson & A Burnet (Gbr) 10pts.

**Mixed Dinghy - Opening Series:** V Heathcote & C Grube (Gbr) 15pts.

**SHOOTING**

**Skeet Women's Qualification:** 2 A Rutter (Gbr) 74pts.

**SWIMMING**

**Men's 4 x 100m Medley Relay - Heat 2:** 2 Great Britain 3mins 32.13secs.

**Men's 1500m Freestyle - Heat 1:** 8 D Jervis (Gbr) 15mins 03.75secs.

**Women's 50m Freestyle - Heat 9:** 4 A Hopkin (Gbr) 24.72secs.

**Women's 4 x 100m Medley Relay - Heat 2:** 5 Great Britain 3mins 58.34secs.

## BEST OF TODAY'S ACTION

**ATHLETICS**

**09:55:** Women's 200m Round 1

**10:50:** Men's 110m Hurdles Round 1

**11:35:** Women's 400m Hurdles Round 1

**18:05:** Men's 400m Round 1

**18:50:** Women's High Jump Final

**19:00:** Men's 100m Semi-Final

**19:30:** Men's Hammer Throw Final

**19:40:** Women's 800m Semi-Final

**20:15:** Men's 1500m Semi-Final

**20:55:** Men's 100m Final

**BADMINTON**

**14:00:** Men's Doubles Bronze Medal Match

**15:10:** Men's Doubles Gold Medal Match

**CYCLING ROAD**

**13:00:** Women's Road Race

**EQUESTRIAN**

**09:00:** Dressage Individual Grand Prix Freestyle

**GOLF**

**08:00:** Men's Round 4

**HOCKEY**

**09:00:** Men's Quarter-final

**SWIMMING**

**17:30:** Women's 50m Freestyle Final

**17:36:** Men's 1500m Freestyle Final

**18:12:** Men's 4 x 100m Medley Relay Final

**18:35:** Women's 4 x 100m Medley Relay Final

# WIPEOUT LEAVES WILSON IN THIRD

**EMMA WILSON** had to settle for a second consecutive Olympic bronze after falling away dramatically in the women's windsurfing final off the coast of Marseille.

Wilson, 25 (left) had dominated the qualification process, winning eight of the 14 races, and had been a heavy favourite to claim an

**WINDSURFING**

by LIAM SHAW

elusive first major title. But despite holding a narrow lead at the halfway stage, she finished well behind eventual winner Marta Maggetti of Italy, with Israel's Sharon Kantor taking silver. The final had been held

over from Friday due to light winds and Wilson had to watch as her rivals got to grips with the conditions during yesterday's quarter-finals and semi-finals.

Wilson has bossed her discipline since 2021 but fell foul of a new rule which means qualifying results are wiped out for the final.



OLYMPICS 2024 

SPECIAL EFFORT: Moody

## Hester and Co in hell of a finish

### EQUESTRIAN

by ANDY WILLIAMS

CARL HESTER says Team GB put a difficult week behind them to secure a dressage medal yesterday.

Hester, along with Charlotte Fry and Becky Moody, claimed bronze in the Grand Prix Special.

The British team qualified in third place behind Germany and Denmark but took an early lead after Moody scored 76.489 per cent aboard Jagerbomb.

Hester on Fame slightly bettered Moody's mark with 76.520 before Fry was last to ride for Team GB with Glamourdale.

While she secured a score of 79.483, it wasn't enough as Germany took gold and Denmark silver.

The bronze came after a testing period for the British equestrian team, with three-times dressage gold medal winner Charlotte Dujardin having withdrawn from the Games just days before the opening ceremony, meaning reserve rider Moody stepped in.

Dujardin was provisionally suspended by the International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI) pending an investigation into a video from 2020 which showed her repeatedly hitting a student's horse with a whip.

Hester, who enjoyed a long relationship with Dujardin as her mentor, said: "It's been really difficult, very hard and we've had to put it out of our minds.

"I've had to concentrate on the team and I'm lucky in a way that I had Becky to deal with every day and help, which helps me focus on something else.

"It's been a long week but I feel fantastic now it's done."

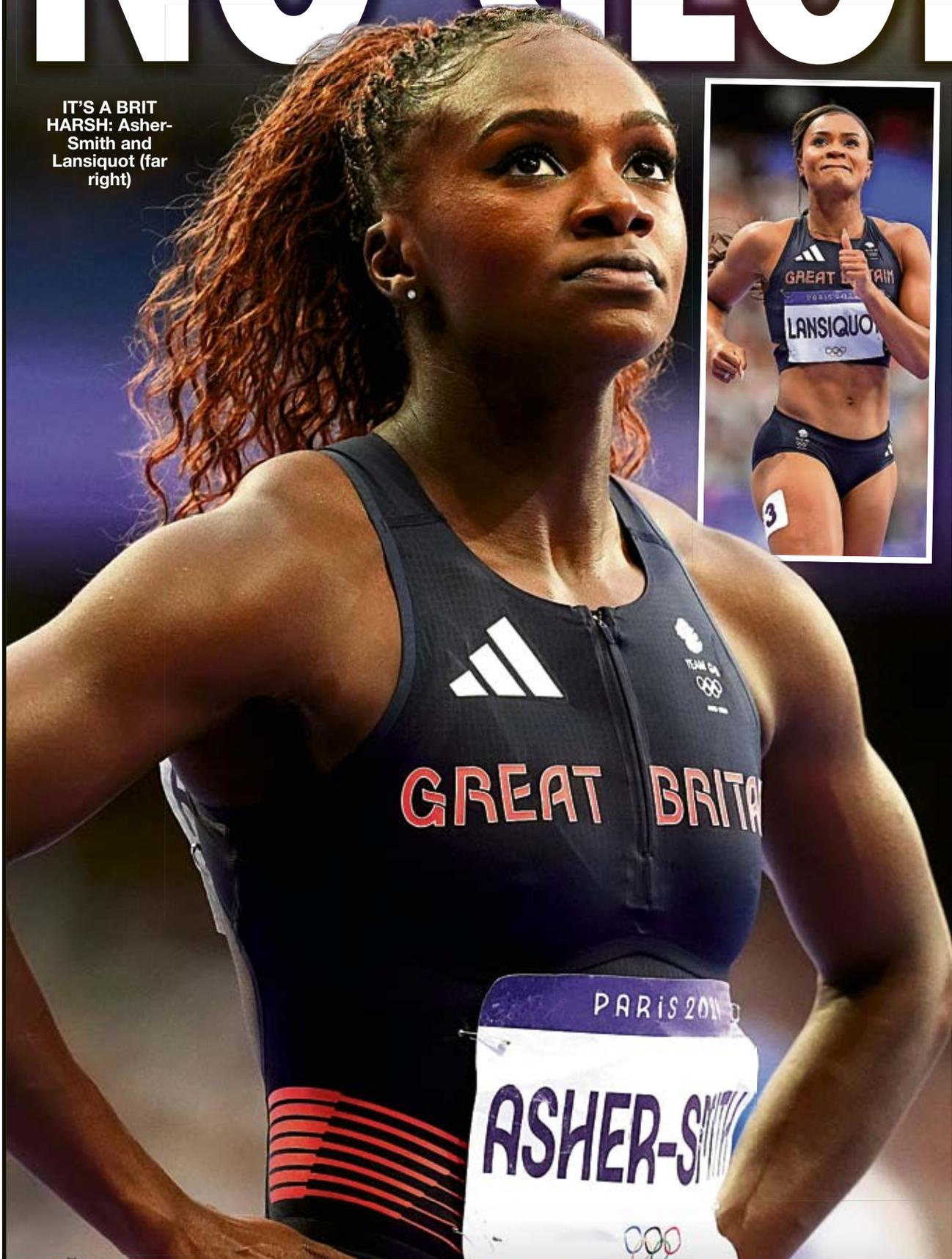
Moody said: "My horse was a total legend.

"He's just a total dude – a lovely, lovely horse.

"He's been quite spicy here this week and Carl has helped me out an awful lot to find that inner calm in both of us."

# NO GLORY

IT'S A BRIT HARSH: Asher-Smith and Lansiquot (far right)



BY the time Julien Alfred was crowned the world's fastest woman, Dina Asher-Smith was already doing her best to forget.

The British record holder shrugged her shoulders over and over as she tried to explain a one-paced semi-final run of 11.10secs that left her "incredibly shocked".

For once she was lost for words as the brutal reality sunk in that a glorious opportunity to win an individual Olympic medal was spurned. Asher-Smith was, by her own admission, in a great place mentally and physically.

But on the purple track that manufacturers claim offers a two per cent better energy return to previous models, she coughed up her slowest time for two years.

"I'm disappointed," she said six times in 90 seconds. "I really expected to make the final."

So when the moment of truth arrived 90 minutes later and her training partner, Alfred, geared up to win the title, Asher-Smith was not even on the start line.

Instead team-mate Daryll Neita ran 10.96secs for an agonising fourth place in a race where Alfred and America's Sha'carri Richardson always appeared on a higher level.

"I'm finding it hard to find the words for that, literally speechless," Neita said. "So close to the medal, so close. But I still think fourth in an Olympic final is something to be proud of."

St Lucia's Alfred clocked a sublime 10.72secs with world champion Richardson 0.15secs behind for silver. Melissa Jefferson took bronze, 0.04secs ahead of Neita.

There was a growing expectation before the semi-finals that Neita would be the most likely Brit to prosper.

And the semi-finals offered definitive proof. She looked smooth and controlled when running 10.97secs, making her fourth fastest in the phoney war.

As Neita afforded herself a brief moment to celebrate before refocusing, Asher-Smith was completing her media duties after placing fifth in such astonishingly sluggish fashion.

There were, notably, no excuses.

## Louie all smiles as Lyle's left in sprinter's wake



LOUIE HINCHLIFFE blitzed sprint star Noah Lyles to storm into the men's 100m semis.

Hinchliffe won his heat in the Stade de France with a 9.98 second run, to shine on his Olympic debut.

In the process he left reigning world champ and American gold medal favourite Lyles in his wake. The British champion, 22,

### ATHLETICS

from JEREMY CROSS in Paris

(left) was all smiles as he left the track, and is confident he can book his place in the blue-ribbon final today.

Lyles recovered after a shaky start to finish second, with a time of 10.04, while Hinchliffe's time was just short of his

personal best of 9.95, but there was heartbreak for Team GB speedster Jeremiah Azu.

He was disqualified from his heat in round one following a false start, which he blamed on a noise from the crowd.

Azu lodged a failed appeal, leaving his Olympic dreams in tatters in just a few seconds.

Azu – the only Welshman in history to ever run 100m in

under 10 seconds, said:

"Honestly, I just reacted to a sound. It's a shame, the crowd are so excited and the fans are in here. I was saying I wanted to run, despite the appeal, but this is the Olympics and clearly it's different rules."

Fellow Brit Zharnel Hughes also made it through to the semis, despite having one of the toughest heats.

**PARIS**  
 DAY EIGHT

# FOR DINA

## Alfred's great as Neita the bright spot for GB



**FOURSOME:** Neita (left) comes fourth as Richardson (centre) is beaten by Alfred (right)

### ATHLETICS

from **ALAN SMITH** in Paris

"It's frustrating, full stop, whether it's a mind-blowing time or it's not," she added.

"I fully know that I should have been able to produce right now."

Yet there is little time to ruminate because she returns to the track late this morning for the heats of the 200m. Gabby Thomas

and Shericka Jackson are favourites for gold but only four women in the field have gone faster than Asher-Smith this year.

"I love the 200m," she said. "But mentally I was very much in this one. I was fully fixed on doing well in the 100m."

Perhaps this was a one-off blip and she can bounce back instantly. But last night's sense of deflation was exacerbated by her

sacrificing so much for this moment. Last year she decided to move to Texas, taking the difficult decision to part ways with long-time coach John Blackie.

Embracing the uncomfortable has formed part of the thought process because for Asher-Smith an individual Olympic medal would mean everything. And make no mistake this represented her best chance. Tokyo champ

Elaine Thompson-Herah was not here because of injury and Shelly-Ann Fraser Pryce, the other Jamaican superstar, withdrew moments before her semi-final with a hamstring complaint.

Instead it was down to the imperious Alfred.

Asher-Smith will be pleased for her but the nagging doubts over what might have been should linger for a long time to come.



**GREAT SCOTT:** Swimming star Duncan Scott

# SCOTT: I'M NOT QUITE A SIR BRAD

### SWIMMING

by **MIKE WALTERS**

**DUNCAN SCOTT** insists he belongs to the supporting cast of Team GB Olympic greats.

After adding an individual medley gong to his stash of medals – now two gold and six silver – Scott moved level with cycling knight rider Sir Bradley Wiggins in Britain's all-time list of multi-medallists.

Scott overtook fellow Scot Sir Chris Hoy, but the Alloa man modestly claims his numbers don't add up to greatness.

He said: "I'm in a completely different bracket to those guys."

"They have come into the Olympics and absolutely dominated – Sir Jason Kenny, Sir Chris Hoy and the others."

"You guys can compare the medals by numbers, but don't put me in comparison to these guys."

"They are people that have inspired me through my Olympic journeys."

"When I was a young kid I watched Andy Murray."

"He's only just stepping away from the sport."

"The fact is I'm 27 now and this is my third Games."

"But when I was young he was the one that I was looking up to and he was doing it against the best players in the world on the world stage."

"They've come in and won gold after gold while I'm scraping silvers and jumping on the backs of others in relays."

Scott's humility should not be

mistaken for superficial deference.

"He has been at the heart of British swimming's revival after Michael Jamieson's silver and Rebecca Adlington's pair of bronze medals amounted to their poor return at London 2012."

The dearth of medals at a home Games led to a root-and-branch inquest, although Adlington – whose two gold medals in Beijing four years earlier had proved a false dawn – criticised the review for failing to consult elite swimmers and coaches.

Meanwhile, Scott enjoyed his duel with French superstar Leon Marchand on Friday night in front of President Emmanuel Macron – even though he came up just short in the 200m medley.

Marchand has been the face of Paris 2024, and Scott said: "I would like to think I went head-to-head with Leon for a little bit of the race."

"But, look, the guy is the best 200m breaststroker in the world, the best 200 butterfly swimmer in the world, the best 400 individual medley swimmer in the world and the best 200 medley swimmer in the world."

"That race is the second fastest I've ever gone."

"It was almost the same as I went last time so to be able to be at my best again, when it matters, I'm really happy with that."

# QUARTET'S BRONZE AS DUTCH BOL-ITZ WORLD

BRITAIN'S 4x400m mixed medley relay team claimed an impressive bronze with a national record of 3:08.01.

But it was Holland superstar Femke Bol who stole the show and the gold medal by producing a supreme closing leg to overhaul the United States. Bol clawed back a deficit

by **ALAN SMITH** of more than 10 metres to beat crestfallen American Kaylyn Brown.

The British four closed well, too, thanks to solid outings from Samuel Reardon and Laviai Nielsen.

Alex Haydock-Wilson ran a storming leg before Amber Anning came home in third.



# GUNNER GO FOR JULIAN

ARSENAL are monitoring Julian Alvarez's fall-out with Pep Guardiola at Manchester City with a view to a deal.

The Gunners are ready to go into the new season without signing a new striker to lead

## EXCLUSIVE

by **SIMON MULLOCK**

the line at The Emirates – but Guardiola's cutting response to Alvarez's revelation that he

will decide on his future after the Olympics could prompt a change of plan.

City's Catalan boss' stance that he will never prevent an unhappy player from leaving  
**Turn to Page 43**



**FUTURE UP IN THE AIR: Julian Alvarez**

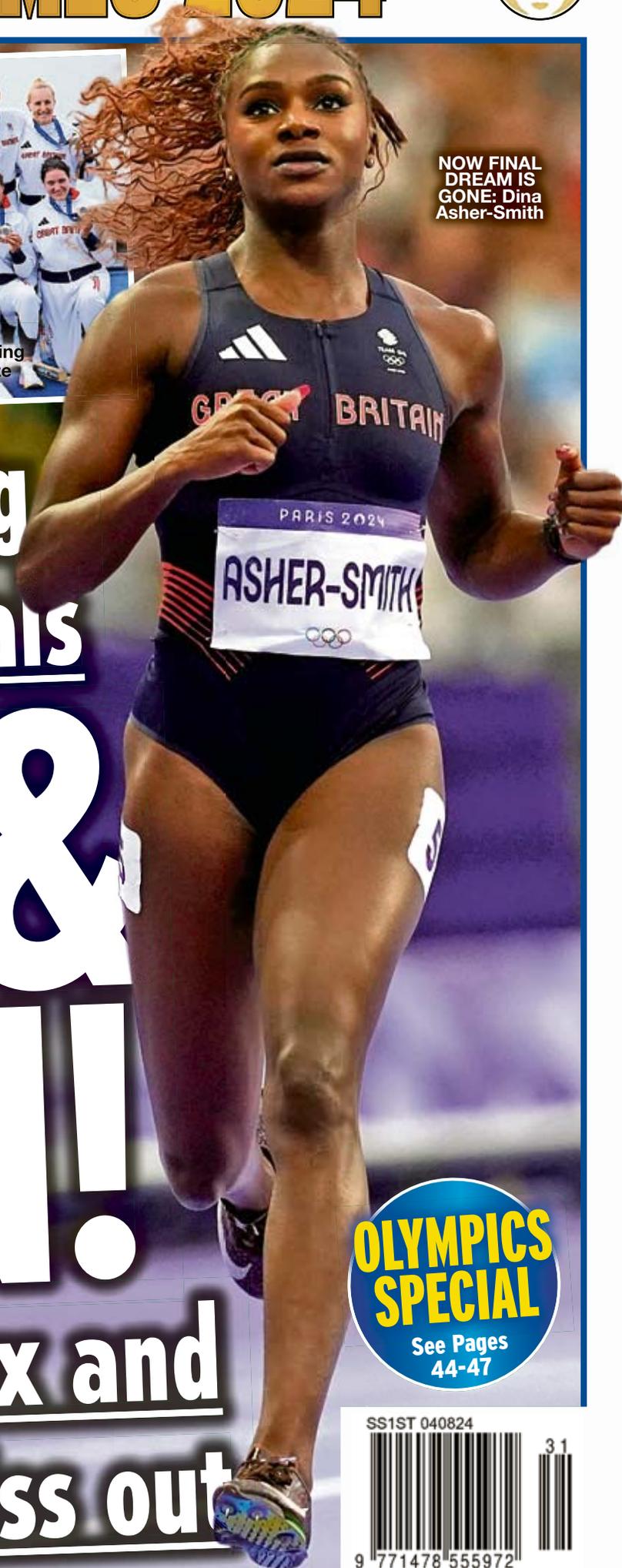
# PARIS OLYMPIC GAMES 2024



**ALL OVER: Max Whitlock**



**TAKING HOME THE HARDWARE:** Team GB men's rowing gold (left), floor gymnast Jake Jarman with his bronze and the women's rowing team with their bronze



**NOW FINAL DREAM IS GONE: Dina Asher-Smith**

**Brits putting pedal to medals**

# JOY & PAIN!

## But Max and Dina miss out

**TEAM GB** went through heaven and hell on a dramatic day at the Paris Games.

A surreal Saturday kicked off with Britain winning a gold – the 10th of the Olympics – in the men's eight rowing final.

The women's eight, windsurfer Emma Wilson, the dressage team and gymnast Jake Jarman also claimed bronzes.

But Max Whitlock ended his

■ from **JEREMY CROSS** in Paris

glittering career empty-handed, finishing fourth in pommel horse.

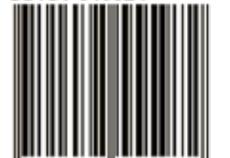
Dina Asher-Smith also failed to even qualify for the women's 100m final, while Tom Pidcock came 13th in the men's cycling.

Samuel Reardon, Lavai Nielsen, Alex Haydock-Wilson and Amber Anning won bronze in the mixed 4x400m relay.

**OLYMPICS SPECIAL**

See Pages 44-47

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3 1

# TWELVE PAGES FULL OF GAMES AND TEASERS

Find the  
daffodil



EXTRA

# PUZZLE PLANET



## CELEBRITY CROSSWORD



Rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to spell out the name of the celebrity in the centre of the grid

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sweet \_ (Are Made Of This), vintage Eurythmics hit (6)
  - 4 & 15 Across The Rise And Fall Of A Midwest Princess recording artist (8,4)
  - 10 Kourtney and Khloé's sister, \_ Kardashian (3)
  - 11 Jenna \_, The Jetty actress expecting her first child (7)
  - 13 Elementary actor who starred in Notting Hill, Rhys \_ (5)
  - 14 The younger of Janet Jackson's older sisters, La \_ (4)
  - 15 See 4 Across
  - 16 The youngest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York (7)
  - 18 Mr Bellingham, England footballer (4)
  - 19 BBC executive and presenter, Alan \_ (6)
  - 21 English performance poet, John \_ (6)

- 22 The Trouble With \_ Cole, Dawn French comedy-drama (6)
- 24 Maureen \_, veteran actress appearing in Coronation Street (6)
- 25 BBC Breakfast presenter, \_ Munchetty (4)
- 29 Simon Cowell's X Factor assistant who was once a pop star herself (7)
- 32 See 37 Across
- 33 Alex James and Damon Albarn's musical group (4)
- 35 Surrey and England cricketer, \_ Pope (5)
- 36 & 21 Down Eddie Murphy action film with a current third sequel (7,5,3)
- 37 & 32 Across Nicola Coughlan series on new channel Tubi (3,4)
- 38 Welsh actress who starred in Torchwood (3,5)
- 39 Gilmore Girls star, \_ Bledel (6)

- DOWN**
- 1 Chris Martin's girlfriend who watched his set at Glastonbury, \_ Johnson (6)
  - 2 Patrick Grant's fellow Sewing Bee judge (4,5)
  - 3 Simply Red's lead singer, \_ Hucknall (4)
  - 5 Being \_, drama about a ghost, a vampire and a werewolf (5)
  - 6 Lucy \_, glamour model and reality TV participant (6)
  - 7 Last name of the family who live at Southfork Ranch, Dallas (5)
  - 8 Country-singing sensation, \_ Rimes (5)
  - 9 Avengers \_, UK name for the 2012 movie The Avengers (8)
  - 12 Madonna's eldest daughter, Lourdes \_ (4)
  - 17 Only Murders In The Building actress, \_ Gomez (6)

- 20 Actress who starred in 2001's Disco Pigs, \_ Cassidy (6)
- 21 See 36 Across
- 23 Channel 4's observational documentary series featuring people watching TV (9)
- 26 Norman Cook's performing alias, \_ Slim (3,3)
- 27 Terrestrial TV Channel launched in 1982 (4)
- 28 Raymond \_, creator of The Snowman (6)
- 30 Tropic Thunder and Cape Fear actor, Nick \_ (5)
- 31 Natasha Bedingfield's chart topper from 2004, \_ Words (5)
- 32 The Emoji \_, cinematic offering from 2017 (5)
- 34 Meera \_, awarded the BAFTA Fellowship in 2023 (4)

To hear individual answers or the full solution call 0905 789 4164.

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke. Helpline: 0333 202 3390.

## FAMOUS FACES

Identify the five celebrities, take their initials and put them in the correct places in the numbered boxes. These letters will spell the name of a celebrity.

5	6	3	7	4	10
8	1	9	2		



## BATTLESHIPS

Find where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A					●						2
B											2
C							●				2
D											1
E								●			4
F											1
G											2
H		●									2
I							■				1
J					■						3
	1	5	1	2	2	0	2	2	4	1	

1 x Battleship      2 x Cruiser  
 3 x Destroyer      4 x Submarine

## WORD SPIRAL

Starting from 1, fill in the grid in a clockwise direction with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the seven-letter keyword in the shaded boxes. Keyword clue: A bird

- 1 Italian capital
- 2 Way out
- 3 Informed
- 4 Cheerless
- 5 Forehead
- 6 Compass point
- 7 Burial place
- 8 Footwear item
- 9 Roman garment
- 10 Slightly open
- 11 Lion's cry
- 12 Wealthy
- 13 Drag
- 14 Reluctant
- 15 Fifty percent
- 16 Effervesce

1			2			3
	9			10		
	14			15		
8					11	4
			16			
	13			12		
7			6			5

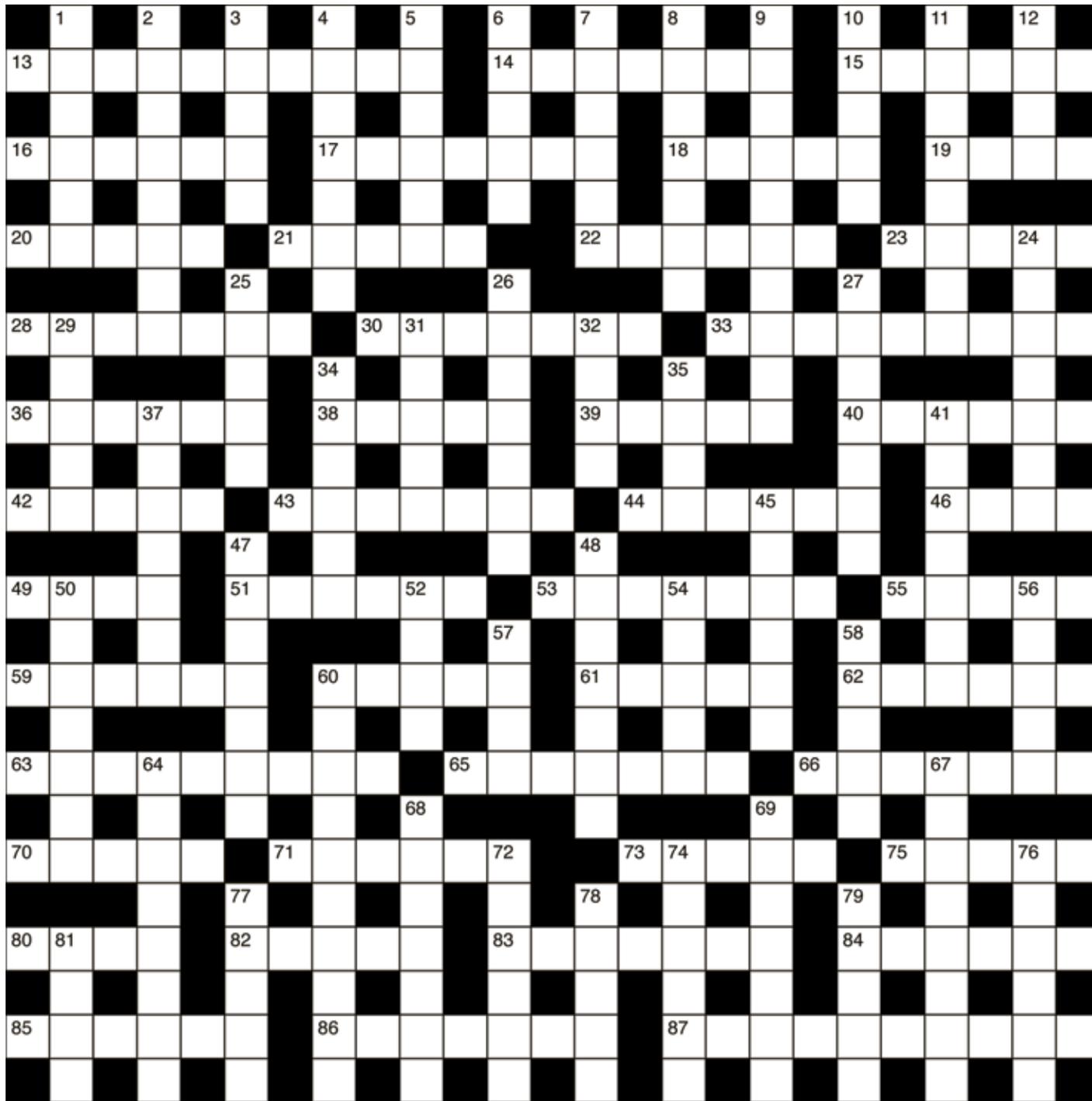
**SOLUTIONS NEXT WEEK**



# PUZZLE PLANET



## GIANT CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**

- 13 Permitted (5,5)
- 14 Vegetation (7)
- 15 Rang (6)
- 16 Booths (6)
- 17 Delivers (5,2)
- 18 Likewise (5)
- 19 Act (4)
- 20 Teach (5)
- 21 Strong point (5)
- 22 Alight (6)
- 23 Learned (5)
- 28 Menaces (7)
- 30 By (7)
- 33 Prepared (4,5)
- 36 Refuse (6)
- 38 Roughly (5)
- 39 Creature (5)
- 40 Artist (6)
- 42 Post (5)
- 43 Hair (7)
- 44 Hit (6)
- 46 Nonsense (4)

**49 Drive away (4)**

- 51 Stupid (6)
- 53 Vegetable (7)
- 55 Taut (5)
- 59 Gain (6)
- 60 Shattered (5)
- 61 Chatter (5)
- 62 Respond (6)
- 63 Headgear (6,3)
- 65 Antagonistic (7)
- 66 Braces (7)
- 70 Impertinence (5)
- 71 Dusky (6)
- 73 Pool (5)
- 75 Thicket (5)
- 80 Hence (4)
- 82 Leading (2,3)
- 83 Vehicle (7)
- 84 Hide (3,3)
- 85 Summary (6)
- 86 Assembly (7)
- 87 Fed up (7,3)

**DOWN**

- 1 Sharp (6)
- 2 For now (8)
- 3 Type (5)
- 4 Drawing (7)
- 5 Hush-hush (6)
- 6 Game (5)
- 7 Buzzes (6)
- 8 Command (7)
- 9 Lunatic (6,4)
- 10 Seat (5)
- 11 Rational (3,5)
- 12 Nigh (4)
- 24 Rectify (7)
- 25 Open (5)
- 26 Unfriendly (7)
- 27 Climate (7)
- 29 Raise (5)
- 31 Honks (5)
- 32 Diversion (4)
- 34 Bird (6)
- 35 Mongrel (4)
- 37 Doff (4,3)

**41 Refuge (7)**

- 45 Pressed (6)
- 47 Twist (7)
- 48 Cracked (7)
- 50 Port (7)
- 52 Attempt (4)
- 54 Burdens (5)
- 56 Material (5)
- 57 Conduct (4)
- 58 Stream (5)
- 60 Have patience (4,4,2)
- 64 Endures (5,3)
- 67 Augurs (8)
- 68 Fluttered (7)
- 69 Charged (7)
- 72 Nice scrap (6)
- 74 Complete (6)
- 76 Ridicules (6)
- 77 Intimidated (5)
- 78 Fruit (5)
- 79 Level (5)
- 81 Cad (4)

## DITLOIDS

If 3 B M = Three Blind Mice and 101 D = 101 Dalmatians, can you solve the following set of six devious Ditloids?

**6 B in a C O**

**A 1 is A F D**

**1564: B of WS**

**1620: The P F L at P R**

**1 M N by PC**

**T Of A 4th G N by JB**

## DEFINITIONS

Can you guess the correct meanings of these tricky words?

**COLIBRI**

- A Italian dish
- B Hummingbird
- C Naughty child

**ELEUTHERIAN**

- A Eastern secret society
- B One who lives on an island
- C Freedom-giving

**RESPLEND**

- A Utter liturgical responses
- B Shine brilliantly
- C Temporary cessation

## BRAIN BUSTERS

Can you tackle these four tantalising teasers?

- 1 Can you work out the shock result of today's Grand Prix? The only driver in the top four whose name doesn't end with 'i' took the bottom step on the podium. Buemi and Liuzzi had a close finish. Trulli finished three spots behind his fellow Italian. Buemi's country border's (the German) Glock's.
- 2 Which two words meaning 'peel' and 'hard stone' combine to make one meaning 'miser'?
- 3 Which countries are concealed in the following anagrams?  
a) SAFARI TOUCH,  
b) LANTERN SHED,  
c) ODD NUKE TIMING
- 4 Tony thinks Kevin's dice are loaded to give sixes more often than fair dice. In one game he rolled three double sixes in a row. What are the odds of this happening with fair dice?

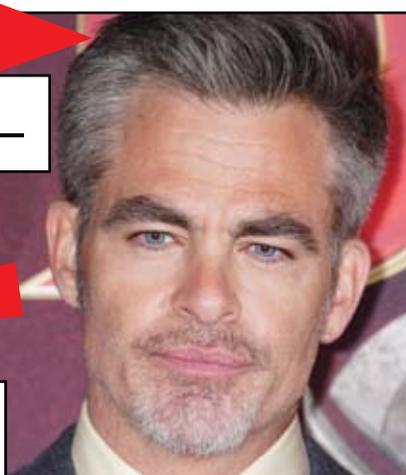
**SOLUTIONS  
NEXT WEEK**

# PUZZLE PLANET



## MOVIE LINKS

Name the movies in which these stars appeared together to link Denzel Washington to Adam Sandler.

 →   
 ←   
 →   
 ←   
 →

## JIGSAW SUDOKU

Fill in the rows, columns and boxes with the numbers 1 to 9 without the same number appearing twice in any row, column or box.

8		9				4		2
9								3
	1			6			3	
			6		3			
		7				6		
1								8
	2			4			1	
		1				9		
			8		1			

## ANAGRAM CROSSWORD

Fill in the grid using anagrams of the listed words. There may be more than one option for each word.

1		2		3		4	5		6		7
8						9					
						10					
11						12					
		13					14				
15		16							17		18
19				20			21				
22						23					
		24					25				

- |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>         | <b>DOWN</b>  |
| 1 SEEM AS             | 2 ELSE IF    |
| 4 BETA                | 3 I'M A TEEN |
| 8 TAILED              | 5 BINGE      |
| 9 RETIED              | 6 RETURN     |
| 11 A PAIN             | 7 IT'S DEW   |
| 12 SINGERS            | 8 EDDA       |
| 13 THE GOLD (2 words) | 10 HE IS FEY |
| 19 OR A HYMN          | 14 TALLIER   |
| 21 TO PUT (2 words)   | 15 HER AWL   |
| 22 INSOLE             | 16 SARNIE    |
| 23 CITRIC             | 17 ASTUTE    |
| 24 YARN               | 18 CEPS      |
| 25 LEE GAL            | 20 OUR DO    |

## KILLER SUDOKU

Killer Sudoku is based on the traditional grid and every column, every row and every 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 to 9. But the dotted shapes must be filled with numbers that add up to that in the left corner.

7		8		10	17	14		14
	18	15	8			16		
					11		10	
7		18					7	
9	11	15	3		10		13	
			14		7			13
14		5		13	8	20		
24		6	20				3	
						17		

## SOLUTIONS NEXT WEEK

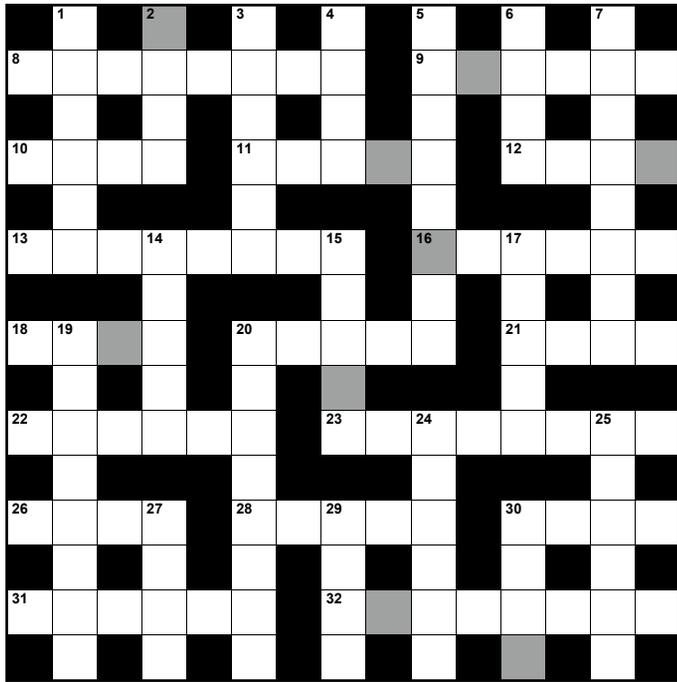
Test your knowledge with *Jay's Virtual Pub Quiz Book*, available from Mirror Books. Call 01256 590490 or order online at [mirrorbooks.co.uk](http://mirrorbooks.co.uk). (Free P&P on orders over £15.)

# PUZZLE PLANET



## QUIZ CROSSWORD

Rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to reveal the name of a TV presenter (5,4)



### ACROSS

- 8 Louisiana \_, the 1803 acquisition of Louisiana by the United States from the French First Republic (8)
- 9 American golfer who won the Tour Championship in 2017, \_ Schaufele (6)
- 10 *Mein* \_, a song from the 1966 musical *Cabaret* (4)
- 11 Caribbean country whose capital is Port-au-Prince (5)
- 12 1816 novel by the English author Jane Austen (4)
- 13 The centre of a target in sports including darts (8)
- 16 French impressionist painter of the 19th and 20th centuries, Pierre-Auguste \_ (6)
- 18 Immanuel \_, German philosopher who was one of the central Enlightenment thinkers (4)
- 20 British actress whose films include 1961's *The Parent Trap*, Hayley \_ (5)
- 21 Moulding with a cross-section in the form of a letter S (4)
- 22 Anna \_, English author who wrote the 1877 novel *Black Beauty* (6)
- 23 Prehistoric period that ended with the advent of metalworking (5,3)
- 26 1952 novel by the US author John Steinbeck, *East Of* \_ (4)
- 28 The 1945 Second World War Allied discussion of postwar reorganisation, \_ Conference (5)
- 30 Ukrainian boxer who has been the undisputed heavyweight champion, Oleksandr \_ (4)
- 31 Ancient Greek town which was the seat of Pythia the oracle (6)
- 32 Children's book series by Katharine Holabird and Helen Craig, \_ *Ballerina* (8)

### DOWN

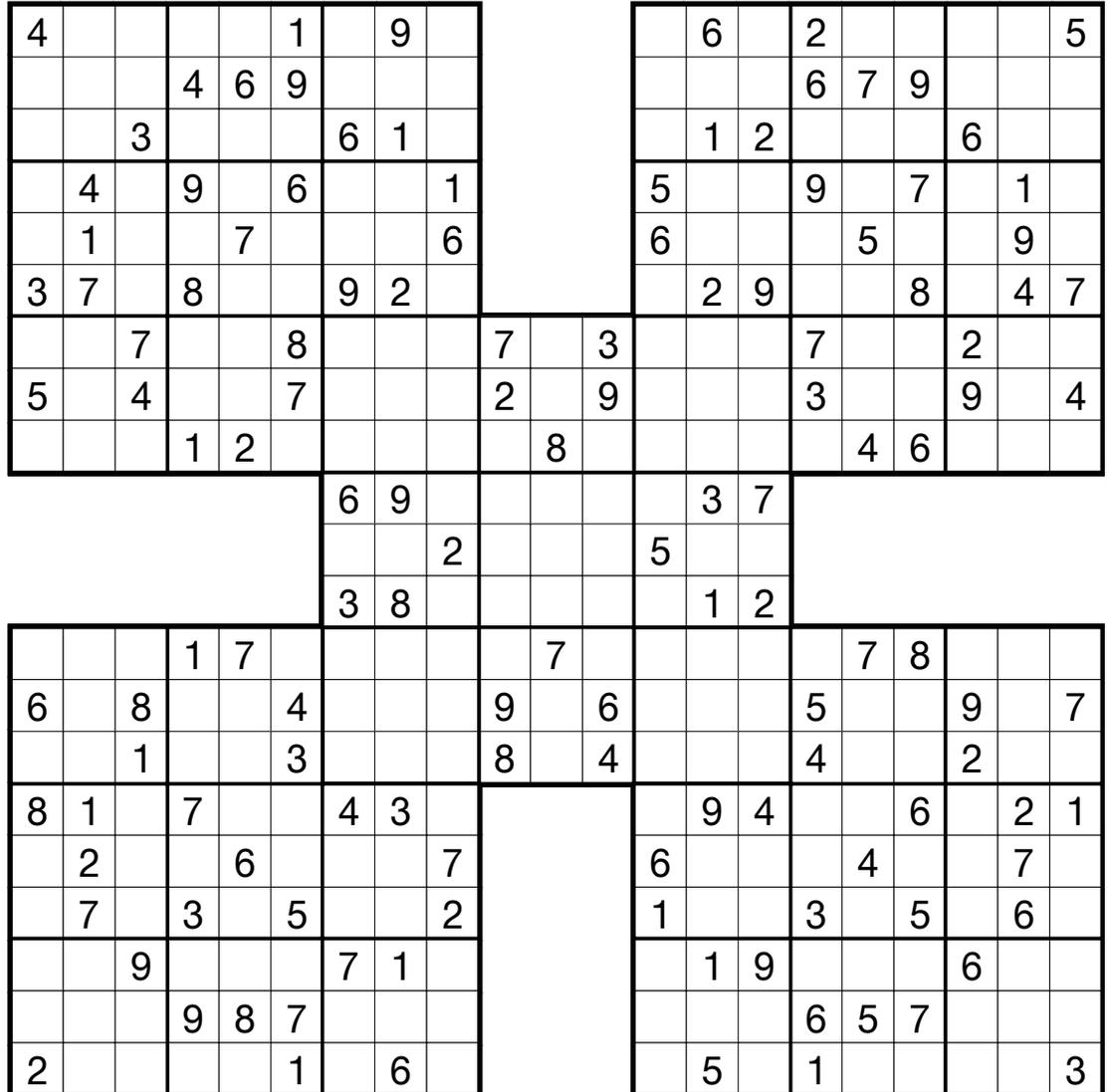
- 1 The principal federal law enforcement agency of the USA, Federal \_ of Investigation (6)
- 2 Genus of trees and shrubs commonly known as maples (4)
- 3 Author of novels including 1938's *Rebecca*, \_ du Maurier (6)
- 4 Beautiful winged spirit originating in Iranian mythology (4)
- 5 Label identifying the owner of a book in which it is pasted (2,6)
- 6 Leg joint in humans and other primates (4)
- 7 Feminist and author of 1970's *The Female Eunuch*, \_ Greer (8)
- 14 Footballer who is a defender for Arsenal WFC and the English national team, \_ Wubben-Moy (5)
- 15 Pen name under which the author Edith Pargeter wrote *The Cadfael Chronicles*, \_ Peters (5)
- 17 In Greek mythology, the daughter of Tantalus who was punished for her hubris (5)
- 19 The third most-populous city in Scotland (8)
- 20 Southeast Asian country whose capital is Kuala Lumpur (8)
- 24 The third most-populous county in California (6)
- 25 South American country whose capital is Georgetown (6)
- 27 The back of the neck (4)
- 29 Shakespearian tragedy about an insane monarch, *King* \_ (4)
- 30 Citrus fruit also known as the Jamaican tangelo (4)



To hear the across and down solutions call 0907 181 1080. Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

## SAMURAI SUDOKU

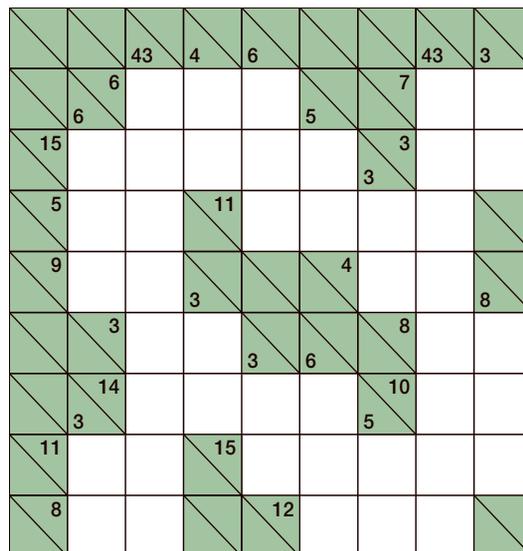
In Samurai Sudoku, normal sudoku rules apply for all five 9x9 sudokus, but the 9x9 inner sudoku shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outside sudokus.



For extra clues call 0905 789 4163. Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

## KAKURO

Fill in each series of blank squares using the numbers 1 to 9. Each series – across and down – must add up to the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of the series. A number may be repeated in each line but not in a series.



## PATHFINDER

Starting with the highlighted letter, follow a path to find 20 boys' names beginning with P. The trail passes through every letter box (but only once) and may go up, down, left or right, but not diagonally.



# PUZZLE PLANET



## ALPHAPUZZLE™

Alphapuzzle® tests your logic and word power. Each grid number represents a letter. Each letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. Can you beat the Target Time? Call for an Extra Letter Clue if you get stuck. Solution tomorrow. **DIFFICULTY:** 10/10; **TARGET TIME:** 30 minutes  
**CLUE:** Bird swallows 50; it's broken.

5	23	10	10	2	22	8		3	7	1	22	25
17		16		17		7		7		22		7
7	22	25	8	7		17	22	23	19	11	9	21
10		9		20		15		17		8		26
24	22	12	26	8	6	9	25		9	25	11	22
9			26			21		26		22		
21	9	16	7	3	2		10	19	7	8	16	24
		22		9		5		14				23
24	9	7	25		17	7	18	23	25	19	23	3
7		13		8		17		26		22		18
8	25	26	4	26	7	17		25	9	4	9	17
9		19		17		22		9		9		9
21	26	11	26	8		12	7	21	21	17	9	21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			V							G		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**  
**Across:** Mystify, Warm, Image, Equerry, Spiel, Hour, Whimsy, Avenge, Whet, Jaunt, Drizzly, Flash, Wake, Analogy.  
**Down:** Willow, Widow, Year, Limerick, Trespass, Flexed, Canyon, Eventful, Airborne (clue), Bang, Mayor, Earthy.

### EXTRA CLUE LETTERS: 0907 181 2628\*

(Deduct two minutes from target time for each extra letter heard.) FULL SOLUTION: 0907 181 2629\*  
\*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge.  
Alternatively, for six extra clues to your mobile, text DSSALPHA to 64343.  
Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.

## SUDOKU

	3			5		1	6
1						8	7
		9	1	4			3
6			8		4		
	8	4		3	6		
5	3		6				8
9			5			1	
	5	4			9		2
1		7					6

Fill the grid so that every column, row and 3x3 square includes all the digits from one to 9.  
**LEVEL:** Gentle  
**TARGET:** 16 mins  
**Solution tomorrow**

#### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

4	1	9	8	6	5	7	3	2
6	3	5	2	9	7	1	8	4
7	8	2	4	1	3	9	6	5
5	7	6	1	2	9	8	4	3
1	9	8	5	3	4	2	7	6
2	4	3	7	8	6	5	9	1
8	2	4	6	7	1	3	5	9
3	5	1	9	4	8	6	2	7
9	6	7	3	5	2	4	1	8

Extra clues: 0901 322 5604

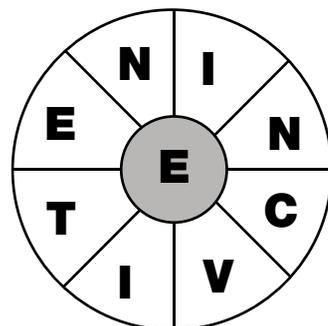
Today's Solution: 0907 181 2630

\*Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390

\*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

## WORDWHEEL

Using only the letters in the wordwheel, take 10 minutes to find as many words as possible, none of which may be plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. Each word must contain the central letter and at least three others. Letters can only be used once in every word. There is at least one nine-letter word in the wheel.



To hear the full solution call 0907 181 1078.

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390.

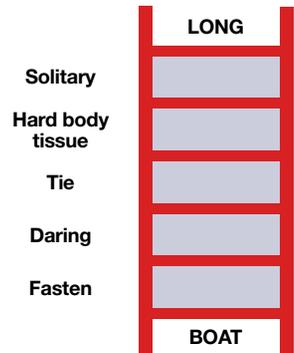
## LOSS WORD

L E E S D E S O R S  
L V L I L P E O N Y  
E O T L O U T A R R  
W L S L G U P L E U  
D G I Y I D R I D P  
E X H R R A E L N S  
E O T A A I T A E K  
P F G M M S S C V R  
S O L A I Y A P A A  
N D A F F O D I L L

Welcome to our Wordsearch with a difference. Not only are there 15 lost words hidden in the grid, written forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally, but if you find them and cross them out, the letters that remain will spell out a further related word. As usual, we're not going to tell you what the lost words are, but they do all have a strong connection. The hidden word may come from Amsterdam – and that's a clue!

## WORD LADDER

Using the clues provided, fill in each step of the ladder with a new word, changing one letter at a time.



## SOLUTIONS NEXT WEEK

Call 0907 181 2588

for today's solution. \*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

## TWO-WAY TEASER

### CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Doctor has evil disposition? Nonsense (6)
- 4 Address for delivery? (6)
- 7 Unusual mix of artist and engineer (4)
- 8 Giving attention to gin and tonic that's drunk (8)
- 9 Working as a shopkeeper, closing after five (7)
- 12 Toy revolver (3)
- 14 Zodiac sign incorporating a strong woman (6)
- 15 Put right and couple up again (6)
- 16 Be prone to untruth? (3)
- 18 Shouted when given medical attention (7)

- 22 What the driver needs on the whole is to be sober (8)
- 23 Wet pedestrian crossing (4)
- 24 On which to get wind of something? (6)
- 25 Paper required – the first edition (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Stuntman accepted a challenge to live roughly (9)
- 2 River seen swirling backwards (2,7)
- 3 Given material backing? (5)
- 4 Sat upon an evil character (5)
- 5 Terrible ache in a head (4)
- 6 Defraud and leave an overseas banker (5)
- 10 Near to the start of darkness (5)

- 11 Striking makes audible rasping sound (5)
- 12 Predators moved to show signs of distress (4-5)
- 13 First on the list of Christmas presents (9)
- 17 Conception many find perfect (5)
- 19 Moving arm up and down (5)
- 20 Share out a tax rise (5)
- 21 Store between 180 and 270 degrees (4)

- 15 Mend (6)
- 16 Untruth (3)
- 18 Stood a drink (7)
- 22 Abstaining from alcohol (8)
- 23 River crossing (4)
- 24 Telephone (slang) (6)
- 25 Gauze (6)

### QUICK CLUES

- 1 Nonsense (6)
- 4 Oration (6)
- 7 Unusual (4)
- 8 Observing (8)
- 9 Selling (7)
- 12 Summit (3)
- 14 Strong woman (6)

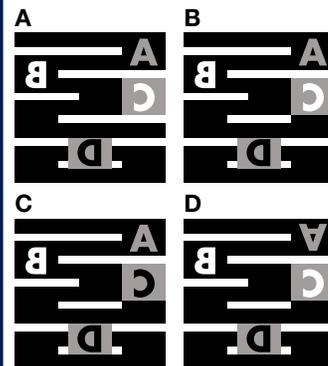
- 1 Adventurer (9)
- 2 Going backwards (2,7)
- 3 Careworn (5)
- 4 The Devil (5)
- 5 Every (4)
- 6 African river (5)
- 10 Darkness (5)
- 11 Illustrious (5)
- 12 Tears (4-5)
- 13 Game bird (9)
- 17 Perfect (5)
- 19 Helicopter blade (5)
- 20 Distribute (5)
- 21 Pack (4)

Two sets of clues but the answers are the same ANSWERS TOMORROW

1		2		3		4		5		6	
7				8							
		9		10				11		12	13
14								15			
16	17			18	19		20				
22										23	
24											25

## MIRROR IMAGE

Which of the four shapes below is an exact mirror image of the one to the right?



**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION ACROSS:** 1 Bandaged, 5 Fire, 8 Live, 9 Turnkeys, 10 Orleans, 12 Spell, 13 Notice, 15 Maggot, 17 Drift, 18 Affects, 22 Calm down, 23 Tutu, 24 Tosh, 25 Dreamers. **DOWN:** 1 Balloon, 2 Novel, 3 Get on, 4 Dire, 6 Iceberg, 7 Easel, 11 Ascot, 12 Staff, 14 Trifles, 16 Tissues, 17 Ducat, 19 Fence, 20 Crude, 21 Gold.

Test your knowledge with Jay's Virtual Pub Quiz Book, available from Mirror Books. Call 01256 590490 or order online at mirrorbooks.co.uk. (Free P&P on orders over £15.)





# PUZZLE PLANET



## LOGIC

Can you match each princess to their preferred bedding?

Prince Harold is hosting five fussy princesses at his castle. Each princess has made demands regarding their sleeping arrangements. The castle offers five sizes of beds, increasing in size from single, double, queen, king to super king. Harold is eager not to get anything wrong.

One of the princesses has requested satin sheets for her queen-sized bed. She will be having two more pillows than Bonny.

Dolores claimed that she wouldn't get a single wink unless she had at least four pillows, and she certainly wouldn't be happy with linen sheets on her double bed.

Surprisingly, one of the princesses asked for a single bed as she said it was cosier. Despite this, she also asked for the most pillows of them all.

Emma prides herself on being an eco-conscious princess and so opted for the bamboo sheets. She requested one fewer pillow than Alba.

The princess who will be sleeping on Egyptian cotton sheets will be in a smaller bed than the princess with silk sheets. Clara won't be in either of these beds.

Harold needs to ensure that the largest bed is provided with two pillows.

Can you help Harold with the sleeping arrangements before it turns into a royal mess?

	Single	Double	Queen	King	Super king	1 pillow	2 pillows	3 pillows	4 pillows	5 pillows	Silk	Cotton	Satin	Linen	Bamboo	
Alba																
Bonny																
Clara																
Dolores																
Emma																
Silk																
Cotton																
Satin																
Linen																
Bamboo																
1 pillow																
2 pillows																
3 pillows																
4 pillows																
5 pillows																



## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot six differences between these two pictures of Stanley Tucci?



## GOGEN

Place all the remaining letters of the alphabet (except Z) into the grid to form the listed words, moving between adjacent cells horizontally, vertically or diagonally in any direction.

**1**

V		H		B
T		D		K
M		G		P

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y

**2**

W		C		F
J		B		P
G		L		Q

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y

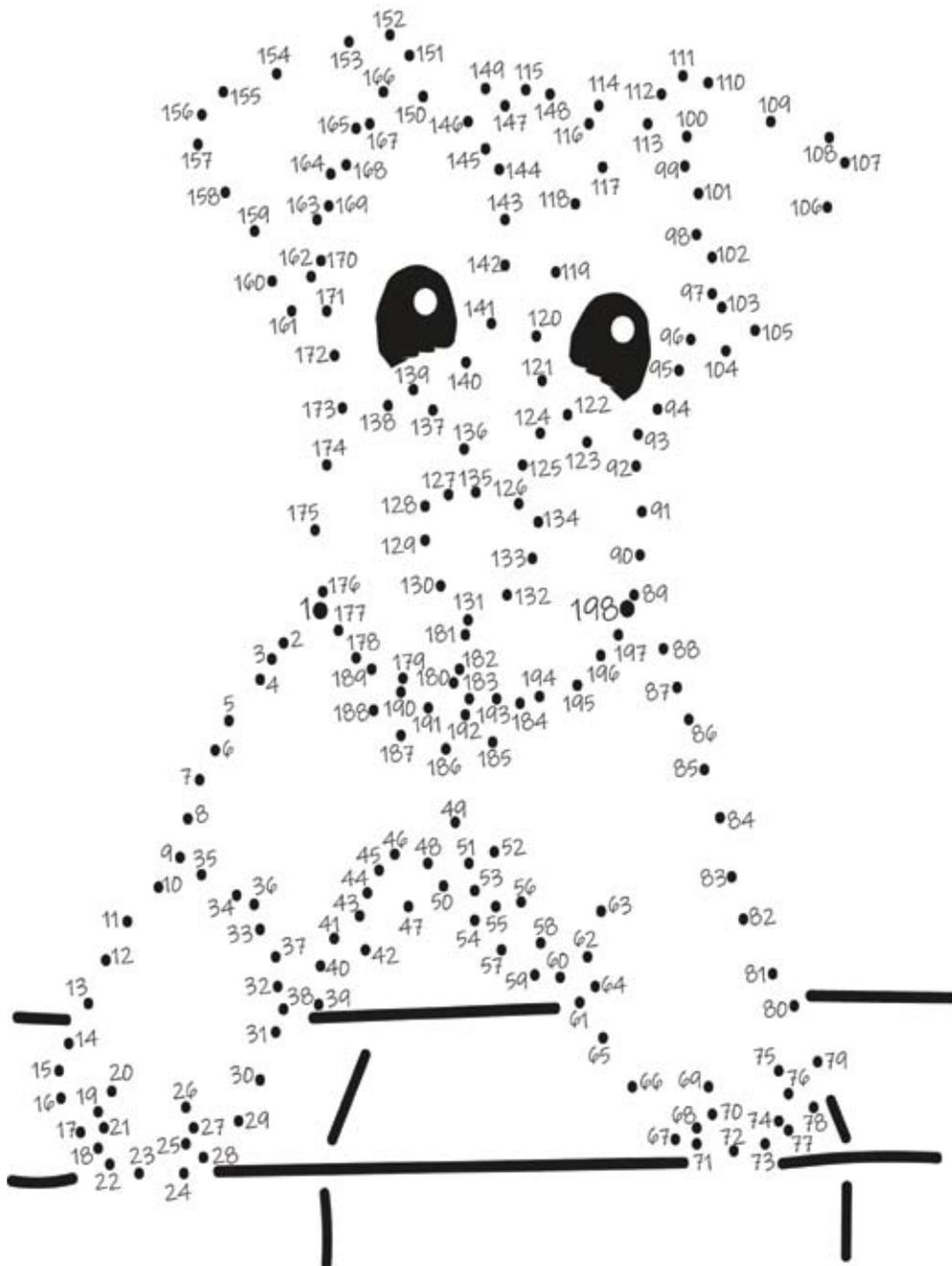
**SOLUTIONS NEXT WEEK**

# PUZZLE PLANET



## DOT-TO-DOT

Brush up your fine motor skills by joining up the dots from number 1. Try gliding smoothly from dot to dot without taking your pen or pencil off the paper.



## WORDSEARCH 2

Can you find all of these German cities in the grid? Words may appear forwards, backwards or diagonally.

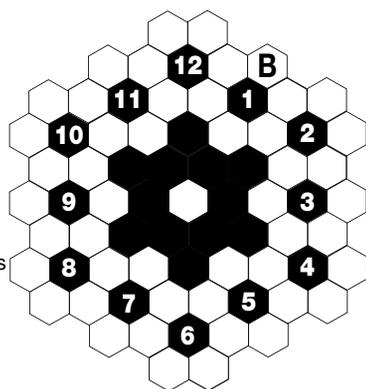
D	Q	W	B	G	R	U	B	E	D	G	A	M	O	X
U	F	S	T	H	Z	J	R	K	R	X	B	N	N	V
I	R	Q	P	T	U	A	C	W	K	J	V	T	R	M
S	O	P	I	K	T	O	K	W	N	U	B	O	T	I
B	D	A	S	Z	T	J	X	O	E	V	U	O	T	E
U	L	B	Y	S	L	M	G	L	K	C	N	R	N	H
R	E	V	O	N	A	H	N	F	C	L	I	E	E	N
G	S	R	X	Z	C	H	E	S	U	E	L	T	D	N
X	S	A	M	N	I	L	M	B	R	R	R	S	A	A
J	U	C	U	N	W	P	E	U	B	Q	E	N	B	M
G	D	C	H	D	E	C	R	R	R	R	B	U	S	T
E	C	R	C	E	K	S	B	G	A	Q	S	M	E	E
E	N	G	O	L	O	C	S	V	A	H	G	D	I	Z
L	I	C	B	K	I	E	L	E	S	H	J	J	W	W
S	T	U	T	T	G	A	R	T	H	Q	C	N	C	C

- |            |           |             |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| BERLIN     | ESSEN     | ROSTOCK     |
| BOCHUM     | HANOVER   | SAARBRÜCKEN |
| BONN       | KIEL      | STUTTGART   |
| BREMEN     | LÜBECK    | TRIER       |
| COLOGNE    | MAGDEBURG | WIESBADEN   |
| DUISBURG   | MANNHEIM  | WOLFSBURG   |
| DUSSELDORF | MÜNSTER   |             |

## HONEYCOMB

All the solutions read clockwise around their numbers. The solution to clue number 1 starts from the given letter.

- 1 Fractured
- 2 Citrus fruit
- 3 Exit
- 4 Salver
- 5 Relaxed
- 6 Steal
- 7 Seller
- 8 Strangeness
- 9 Reliable
- 10 Season
- 11 Plaster
- 12 Required



## CELEB WORDMATCH

Find a word that can follow the word on the left and precede the word on the right. When you have filled in all the answers, the name of a celebrity can be read from top to bottom in one row.

FOOD	■					MAIL
SHORT						HANDS
BLUE						ONE
STEP						HOOD
WIND					■	OUT
BILL						CHILD
SNOW						MAN
RATTLE	■					CHARMER
FINGER						CAR
APRIL						CURTAIN
DEMON						SHOP
SUPER					■	HOME

## ARROWWORD

COMPLETE the puzzle, then rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to find the name of an actor (3,6).

Mosquito-borne disease		African expedition		Cigarette, informally	Tool		Aged		Late, delayed
							Tyler, US actress		
Father, informally		Slightly wet		Compass point	Food fish				Age
				Rounded frying pan			Cereal plant spike		
Uncommon					Rip into small pieces				
				Health resort			Carpenter, former Neighbours character		
_Vine, comedian	Shop Boys, band				John Westons actor				

To hear the solution call 0907 181 1079. Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

## SOLUTIONS NEXT WEEK

Test your knowledge with *Jay's Virtual Pub Quiz Book*, available from Mirror Books. Call 01256 590490 or order online at [mirrorbooks.co.uk](http://mirrorbooks.co.uk). (Free P&P on orders over £15.)

# LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

## FIND THE...

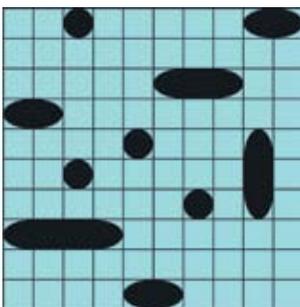


## CELEBRITY CROSSWORD

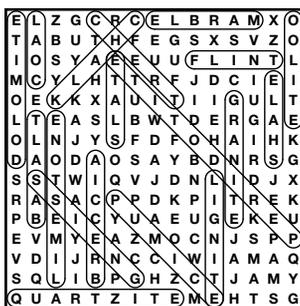


Celebrity is **Kathy Burke**

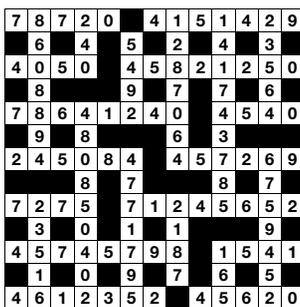
## BATTLESHIPS



## WORDSEARCH 1



## NUMBERFIT



## FAMOUS FACES

Emma Thompson, Naomi Osaka, Nicola Walker, Karl Urban, Evangeline Lilly; **LUKE NEWTON**

## WORD SPIRAL

1 Vest; 2 Tine; 3 Ewer; 4 Road; 5 Derv; 6 View; 7 Wise; 8 Evil; 9 Limo; 10 Oslo; 11 Omit; 12 Tiff; 13 Fact; 14 Trio; 15 Odds; 16 Skua.

Keyword solution: Ecuador

## TRAIN YOUR BRAIN

BEGINNER: 60  
INTERMEDIATE: 121  
GENIUS: 18

## CLOCKWORD

1 Toucan, 2 Option, 3 Mitten, 4 Warren, 5 Indian, 6 Lichen, 7 Kitten, 8 Impugn, 9 Norman, 10 Solemn, 11 Obtain, 12 Nation.

CELEBRITY: Tom Wilkinson.

## NAME GAME

THE WITCHES

1H, 2I, 3T, 4W, 5H, 6S, 7E, 8T, 9C, 10E.

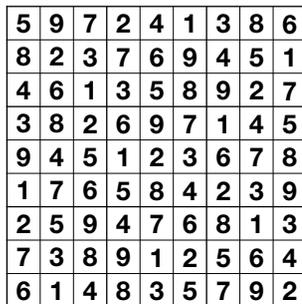
## GIANT CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 12 Fall through; 13 Sonata; 14 Roller; 16 Mean; 17 Retriever;

## JIGSAW SUDOKU



## KILLER SUDOKU

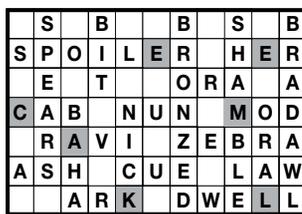


## QUIZ CROSSWORD



Actress is **Ruth Wilson**

## ARROWWORD



Comedian is **Lee Mack**

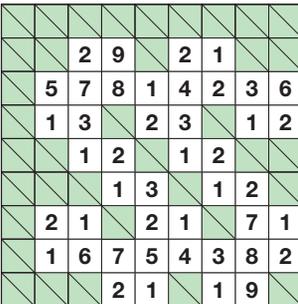
## LOGIC

Name	Luggage item	Country	Gate
Amy	Skis	Italy	A
Brandon	Bike	USA	D
Carly	Guitar	France	C
Dennis	Pram	Australia	E
Emma	Surfboard	Portugal	B

18 Clout; 19 Tell; 20 Howsoever; 22 Green; 23 Awe-struck; 27 Siamese; 30 Reveal; 31 Hand; 32 Ruddy; 35 Rein; 36 Painter; 38 Will; 39 Springy; 42 Across; 45 Darts; 46 Tripper; 47 Edam; 48 Mass; 50 Fairway; 52 Got on; 54 Darned; 56 Angered; 57 Wolf; 59 Tarnish; 61 Good; 64 Plain; 66 Fool; 67 Normal; 69 Swithin; 72 Rough idea; 73 Aside; 74 Cold scent; 79 Well; 81 Ghost; 82 Hanging on; 83 Must; 85 Pursue; 86 All-out; 87 Close season. DOWN: 1 Safe; 2 Blinds; 3 Charge; 4 Loathed; 5 Again; 6 Poor fellow; 7 Catch; 8 War on want; 9 Protest; 10 Flat; 11 Replaced; 15 Averse; 21 Olive; 24 Routine; 25 Setter; 26 Chill; 28 Mango; 29 Sap; 33 Disdain; 34 Spared; 37 Rusty; 40 Grate; 41 Open-air; 43 Chain; 44 Suffer; 46 Tight; 49 Seeking; 51 Wholly; 53 Tartan; 55 Right; 58 Finest hour; 60 Hew; 62 Onion; 63 Forewoman; 65 Looked up; 68 Rodent; 70 Singlet; 71 Congest; 75 Danish; 76 Combat; 77 Still; 78 Billy; 80 Lash; 84 Stop.

**DITLOIDS** 12 Inches in a Foot  
020 is the Dialling Code for London  
Starter For 10 by David Nicholls  
1 Step Beyond by Madness  
The 6th Sense, Starring Bruce Willis

## KAKURO



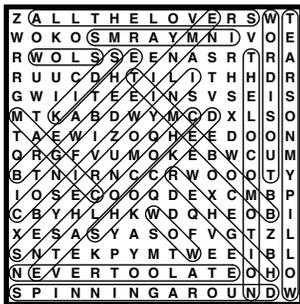
## PATHFINDER



## DOUBLE JIGWORD



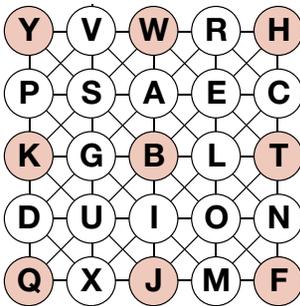
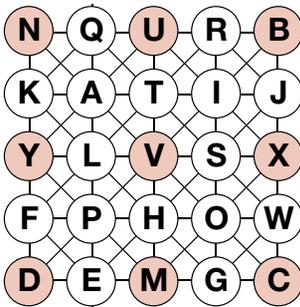
## WORDSEARCH 2



## CELEB WORDMATCH

TIME	TABLET	TENNIS
STOCK	MARKET	SHARE
ROLLER	BLIND	ALLEY
DOG	PADDLE	WHEEL
STOOL	PIGEON	HOLE
ROUGH	SKETCH	SHOW
BLUE	BOTTLE	TOP
BLACK	COFFEE	CUP
DAWN	CHORUS	LINE
FLICK	KNIFE	CRIME
HAPPY	MEDIUM	RARE
SLOW	DANCE	PARTNER

## COGEN



## WORDWHEEL

9-letter word is **TRITENESS**

## WORD LADDER

Bomb, Tomb, Tome, Time, Tide, Side, Site.

## LOSS WORD

ANSWERS: The lost words are **BLACKMAIL, I CONFESS, LIFEBOAT, MURDER, PSYCHO, REAR WINDOW, REBECCA, ROPE, SABOTAGE, SUSPICION, THE BIRDS, THE LODGER, TOPAZ, Al** Alfred Hitchcock films. The hidden word is **FRENZY**.

## MIRROR IMAGE: D

## EMOJI QUIZ

*Greensleeves*  
Cairo  
Bikini  
Red pepper  
Barnaby

**CIRCLEGRAM** The letter represented by the question mark is **P**. Pointer, Spaniel, Whippet, all breeds of dog.

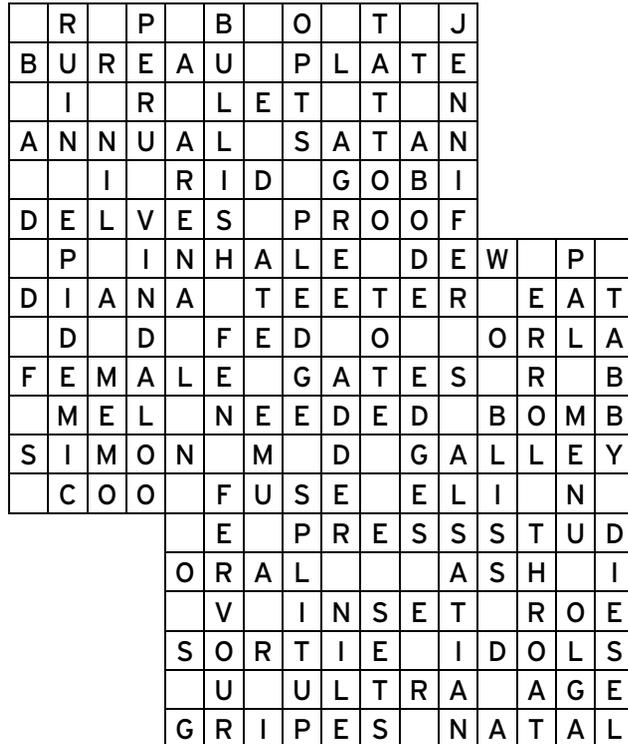
## WORD BUILDER

Rap, Pear, Recap, Scrape, Spear, Spar, Sap

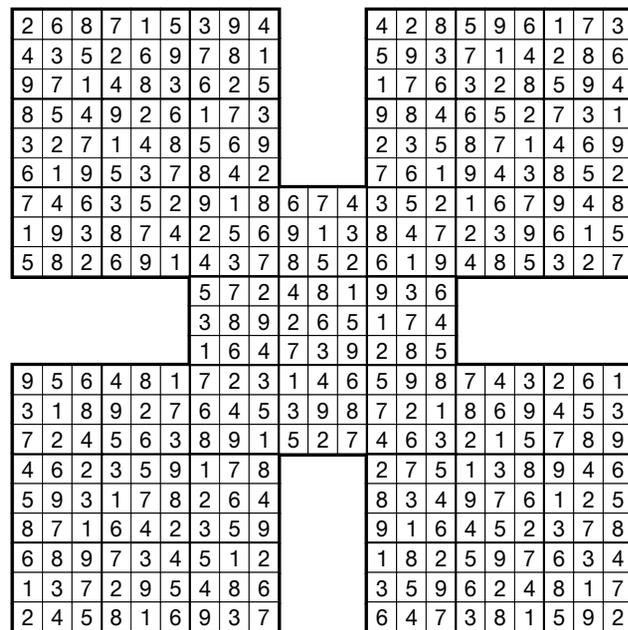
## PUB QUIZ

1 Philip Larkin, 2 Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, 3 Diego Velázquez, 4 Edgar Allan Poe, 5 Alan Ayckbourn, 6 Rudyard Kipling, 7 Pakistan, 8 Canada, 9 Montevideo, 10 Zimbabwe, 11 North Sea, 12 Giant's Causeway, 13 Mildew, 14 Elephant, 15 Pangolin, 16 Salmon, 17 Hermit crab,

## GIANT ARROWWORD



## SAMURAI SUDOKU



18 Swan, 19 The Netherlands, 20 Discus, 21 Golf, 22 Three, 23 Alex Higgins, 24 Australia, 25 The Pentagon, 26 Nazareth, 27 Courgette, 28 Arc de Triomphe, 29 Sheerpa, 30 Merlin.

## SHOWBIZ QUIZ

1 *The Lost Boys*; 2 Denise Nolan; 3 Abi; 4 Status Quo; 5 *Bridgerton*; 6 Rihanna; 7 *The Bikeriders*; 8 Leona Lewis; 9 Ed Sheeran; 10 Liam Charles.

## SUMTHING

1. 8+9=17, 4x3=12, 4x6=24  
2. 5x7=35, 4x4=16, 9x3=27

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Edith has one darker lens; there's an extra triangle on her shirt cuff; hole in the 'R' in the background is filled in; there's an extra button on her jacket; bottom of jacket is sticking out on the right; blue shape on collar is now purple.

## HONEYCOMB

1 Muffin. 2 Fumble. 3 Elapse. 4 Spread. 5 Append. 6 Pimple. 7 Pencil. 8 Nitric. 9 Rhombi. 10 Modern. 11 Ration. 12 Little.