

THE Sun

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THE PEOPLE'S PAPER

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TOM'S OLYMPIC FINALE



Au revoir... Tom, above, and Team GB flag bearers Alex Yee & Bryony Page

MISSION COMPLETE

CLOSING CEREMONY SPECIAL
SEE PAGES 6 & 7

LAST-MINUTE STRICTLY TWIST

GIO PROBE IN CHAOS

EXCLUSIVE
by ELLIE HENMAN

THE probe into ex-Strictly pro Giovanni Pernice has been thrown into chaos after Amanda Abbington handed in more bombshell messages.

The BBC investigation was expected to conclude this week until a dramatic intervention from actress Amanda, who quit the show last year. A source said: "It has turned the course of the probe."

Full Story — Pages Four and Five

Amanda's shock new messages



BLITZ ON SHODDY FIRMS

COMPO DOUBLED FOR WATER FAILS



Action... supply trouble

HOUSEHOLDS blighted by shoddy service from water companies could soon get twice as much compensation.

Automatic payouts would be triggered over warnings to boil water, missed appointments and supply interruptions, under Government plans.

Environment Secretary Steve Reed insisted the crackdown on the "broken water industry" was long overdue. He said: "The new Government will

clean up the water industry and turn the tide on the destruction of our waterways, ensuring water companies protect the interests of their customers and the environment."

The proposals, heading into a consultation, would guarantee a minimum payout of £40 if the average water bill is £440. For issues such as low pressure, payouts could be up to £250 and severe flooding would be up to £1,000 to £2,000.

It comes after 16,000 residents in Brixham, Devon, were left without tap water

for eight weeks this year. They would have automatically received compensation for being forced to boil their water under the new rules.

The Consumer Council for Water said increasing payouts will incentivise firms to get things right the first time.

Spokeswoman Jenny Suggate added: "We're delighted the Government is fast-tracking efforts to improve the Guaranteed Standards Scheme, with the potential to boost compensation for hundreds of thousands of people each year when they are let down."

The scheme aims to ensure

water supply is quickly restored if cut off, and timely responses to complaints and sewer flood management.

It comes as water companies face mounting criticism over sewage spills.

Watchdog Ofwat has proposed a £104million fine for Thames Water, a £47million fine for Yorkshire Water and a £17million fine for Northumbrian Water.

The Labour Government has also introduced a Water Bill aimed at slashing spills and driving investment in infrastructure upgrades.

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By MARTINA BET



Fear... Ms Mahmood

Riots 'will hit justice for years'

By MARTINA BET

THE far-right riots will haunt the legal system for years, the Justice Secretary warned yesterday.

They will derail efforts to cut court backlogs and ease overcrowding in prisons, according to Shabana Mahmood.

She praised the Ministry of Justice for "bringing rapid charges against thugs and hooligans".

But writing in the Observer, she said: "The impact of the disorder will be felt for months and years to come."

"It has made the job of rebuilding the justice system harder.

"It's also a sobering reminder of how much worse things might have been had this Government not acted before it was too late."

More than 500 prison places have been made available to hold rioters.

Cop sites troll block

POLICE forces have blocked foreign users from their websites after far-right trolls made fake bomb and racist threats.

One false report, seen ten million times on X, said: "I've hidden bombs in three schools."

The Manchester and Cheshire forces were among those affected.

Police chiefs said: "There was a real risk of genuine reports not being received or responded to."

Thug rap for lad, 15

AN alleged thug aged 15 was among over a dozen people charged yesterday in a rioting crackdown.

The lad, from Toxteth, is accused of burglary in relation to disorder in Liverpool and is due at youth court today.

A girl of 17, of Thornton Cleveleys, Lancs, and 19-year-old Adam O'Brien, of Blackpool, were also among those charged.

At least 700 people have so far been arrested and more than 350 charged.

MAJORCA BEACH FURY



By LUKE CHAFER

ACTIVISTS occupied a beach in Majorca yesterday to protest against mass tourism on the Spanish island.

Locals have been demonstrating throughout the summer about "low quality" drunken visitors.

Protesters stood in the water on Arenal beach near Majorca's capital Palma — with one carrying a sign which read in Catalan "yes to Sunday trippers, no to tourists" and in English: "Tourist go home."

The demonstrators blame tourist numbers for the rising cost of living and a lack of housing for locals.

One said: "We're trying, for a few hours, to remember that these sandbanks are the property of all Majorcans, not just tourists. We can enjoy them too."



WEATHER

TODAY: A dry day for England and Wales, with lots of sunshine too. Heavy rain is expected across Scotland and Northern Ireland in the morning.

TONIGHT: It is going to be a dry night across the UK, with skies expected to remain predominantly clear. Becoming overcast in Northern Ireland.

OUTLOOK: A band of cloud and light showers will move eastwards across the UK tomorrow. Sunny in parts of England. A bright day on Wednesday with some patchy cloud.

TUE 29°

WED 26°

THU 25°

FRI 24°

SUJIKO

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

	24	16	2
4	23	18	

PUZZLES: PAGE 38

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

MODEL and actress **CARA DELEVINGNE, 32**, left, heavyweight boxer **TYSON FURY, 36**, right, The Book Of Clarence star **LAKEITH STANFIELD, 33**, Italian footballer **MARIO BALOTELLI, 34**, Baby Got Back rapper **SIR MIX-A-LOT, 61**, and presenter and Dick And Dom's **RICHARD MCCORT, 48**.



CHALK OF THE TOWN

By RHYS JAMES

MISS Universe Great Britain winner Christina Dela Cruz Chalk crosses her heart in this cutout swimsuit. The 30-year-old Scot, who has a degree in pharmacology from Glasgow University, triumphed in the pageant last month, *right*, and is now off to compete for the overall Miss Universe title in Mexico in November.



EXCLUSIVE

A bird in the hand is worth

£600



Flight of fancy ... canary bag

It's not going cheep

CLUTCH BAG IS BIG HIT

By JACK HARDWICK

A CANARY-shaped clutch bag has become a must-have accessory for the summer — costing £600.

The bright yellow feathered fashion folly is flying off the shelves, despite fans having to shell out a big chunk of their nest eggs.

At just 16cm wide and 10cm deep, it barely has room for a packet of cigarettes, let alone a mobile phone.

Contents are accessed by lifting the bird's wing — and it does not come with a strap, meaning its

proud owners have to sit with their bird in the hand.

Selfridges reports low stock, while designer JW Anderson's official website has sold out. One website is charging almost £1,000.

It comes after Queen's Gambit star Anya Taylor-Joy, 28, was spotted carrying one at this year's Wimbledon women's singles final.

The bird bag's designers previously launched a pigeon-shaped clutch, which still sells for £650.

Sex and the City star Sarah Jessica Parker carried one — in a major coo for the designers.

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Picture: OMBREX/REYES





EXCLUSIVE: DRAMATIC

By LUKE CHAFER

STRICTLY contestant and Love Island star Tasha Ghouri raises the tempo as she poses in a new undies range.

The 26-year-old was seen arriving for training in London last week for the new series of the BBC dance contest, below.

And today she is modelling a red lace body suit for Ann Summers' Sexy Lace Planet collection.

The reality TV star, who is deaf, said she is "dancing to represent and offer confidence to anyone, with a disability or not, that struggles to believe in themselves".



Picture: ANN SUMMERS

TASHA'S REDDY



PAIRING

Giovanni and Amanda are now at loggerheads

By ELLIE HENMAN

FORMER Strictly pro Giovanni Pernice was on the brink of being cleared by investigators until Amanda Abbington handed in more text messages, sources said last night.

They claim further revelations were discussed last week during a meeting with two police officers conducting the probe into Giovanni's behaviour on the BBC show.

The latest disclosures have thrown the investigation into chaos as they appear to show that his conduct fell short of what is expected from the Strictly pros.

However, insiders said the probe did not paint actress Amanda – who quit the show early last year – in a good light either.

A source said: "The investigation is set to conclude this week but it has been made more difficult by the new disclosure from Amanda."

"It has turned the course of the probe. It seemed Giovanni would be cleared but this new information has changed everything again."

"Giovanni, it seems now, did appear to step over the line of what is acceptable for a BBC representative but more discussions need to be had."

"Every time they seem to reach a conclusion, something else gets thrown in that throws the investigation in a new direction."

It comes after Amanda, 50, launched a complaint against Giovanni, accusing him of being "abusive, cruel and mean".

The dancer, 33, who quit the BBC show after nine years in May, has denied any wrongdoing.

It is believed six people were spoken to during the probe, including Laura Whitmore, Giovanni's dance partner in 2016.

The former Love Island presenter has also alleged inappropriate behaviour and told how she raised concerns at the time.

She said last month: "I am not looking for anything, just an acceptance that what happened to me in the rehearsal rooms during my time on BBC Strictly was wrong and that it won't happen to anyone else again."

Insiders said the investigation was due to conclude at the end of this week, with those involved to be handed the findings. It may now extend into next week.

Our source added: "This has been a very complicated investigation. And with Amanda handing over new information it has been drawn out and delayed again."

"The findings will be laid out to the people involved but it's likely a simple statement will be made by the BBC to the public."

Amid the investigation, fellow Strictly pro Graziano Di Prima was sacked by the BBC for gross misconduct after it emerged he kicked his celebrity partner Zara McDermott last year. The Sun went on to reveal how the BBC received two complaints about



Pain... Amanda revelation



Shock... Giovanni quits



Plot thickens... more claims

him but they were swept aside. Amanda told The Sun on Sunday last month that she had been sent death threats after speaking out, but wanted to prevent future contestants suffering.

She said: "I found Giovanni's behaviour unnecessary, abusive, cruel and mean. I couldn't sit back and let him do that to other people. I had to think long and hard about making a complaint because I knew the backlash I would get. But I would not have been able to live with myself for future people going on that show." She has also called for the

TWIST HITS STRICTLY



AMANDA TEXTS PUT GIO BACK IN FRAME

Fans still backing show in TV vote

EXCLUSIVE by FELICITY CROSS, Deputy TV Editor

STRICTLY Come Dancing is in the frame for a National Television Award thanks to viewers' votes.

The scandal-hit show has brought in chaperones after allegations against former pro dancers Giovanni Pernice and Grazianno Di Prima.

But it has still received enough votes to make the NTA shortlist for best talent show award.

A TV source said: "This is the clearest sign yet that the British public just want the sparkle and shine of Strictly back."

"Despite months of worrying claims, thousands have still named it their favourite talent show in the industry's biggest awards. It's a real show of support and will bring the BBC deep relief."

Strictly's celebrity line-up for its upcoming 20th anniversary series includes singer Toyah Willcox and Olympic swimmer Tom Dean.

Arsenal football great Paul Merson and DIY SOS host Nick Knowles are also lined up.

The NTA shortlists will be officially confirmed on August 20, ahead of the ceremony on September 11.



Torment . . . Amanda faced fierce backlash for speaking out

Probe was set to clear pro dancer

release of rehearsal footage, but says Giovanni has "blocked" it. The Sherlock star, who said she suffered from PTSD after her Strictly stint, added: "It's insane what has happened to me, with the death threats and backlash."

"I know the BBC knew about Giovanni's behaviour for years, people had complained about him and flagged his behaviour to producers in the past and nothing was done. It wasn't an isolated experience with me. I should never ever have danced with him. I know what is on those tapes and I'm not frightened of those

tapes being seen. It goes way beyond treading on my toe.

"I know what happened and the fact he is blocking the tapes says a lot."

This year's line-up features the fewest women in its 20-year history - with insiders blaming the bullying allegations. It will feature nine men and just six women - while previously there was a 50/50 split.

A TV insider said: "It's hard to see how the ongoing controversy over bullying could not have affected the recruitment process."

A spokesperson for Giovanni

said last night: "We are co-operating fully with the BBC's review process. All parties have been asked to respect this process and to not speak to the media before it concludes."

"Giovanni refutes any claim of threatening or abusive behaviour, and having provided the BBC with his evidence, is confident that the review will prove this."

The BBC added: "We will not be commenting on individuals or engaging in speculation."

Amanda's representatives would not comment.

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Thumbs up . . . Giovanni last month

SPECTACULAR END

PARIS 2024

FIRST TRIPLE IN 60 YEARS

By ROBIN PERRIE

CYCLIST Emma Finucane yesterday became the first British woman to win three Olympic medals in a single Games for 60 years.

The speed queen, 21, raced across the line at 42mph in the individual sprint to grab a bronze – which she will be keeping with her gold and another bronze.

Emma said: “The two medals are under my pillow, so this one will join them.”

“I’m really proud of myself. I gave everything for that bronze medal. This means everything to me.”

Emma, from Carmarthen, South Wales, won her gold in the team sprint and



Three glee . . . Emma

bronze in the keirin. She added: “In the moment you don’t think about history.”

“I hope I’m inspiring kids to get on a bike because it is really cool and I love women to get involved.”

Mary Rand won a gold, silver and bronze in 1964.



TEAM GB BEATS TOKYO HAUL



TEAM GB finished with 65 medals – topping 60 for the fourth Olympics in a row.

Britain had not passed that total in 104 years until London 2012.

It was also one more than the 64 won in Tokyo.

MEDAL TABLE		GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	United States	40	44	42	126
2	China	40	27	24	91
3	Japan	20	12	13	45
4	Australia	18	19	16	53
5	France	16	26	22	64
6	Holland	15	7	12	34
7	Great Britain	14	22	29	65



Stars . . . Tom high fives Team GB aces as he makes way out of stadium



Top up . . . Tom rides off with the Olympic flag through streets of Paris

LIFTER EM'S LION FLING

By JULIA ATHERLEY

WEIGHTLIFTING titan Emily Campbell hoisted the equivalent of a lion above her head yesterday – claiming bronze for Team GB’s final medal of the Games.

The 30-year-old lifted 162kg in the air – and did a cartwheel after failing 174kg.

She later held up her medal, with red, white, and blue ribbons and the Olympic rings braided into her hair.

Emily, from Nottingham, was beaten by the strongest woman in the world, Chinese Li Wenwen, 24, and Korean Park Hye-jeong, 21. She said after winning bronze: “I had so



Last medal . . . Emily

“It was like a British crowd today. These guys make absolutely everything.”

Emily was the only European athlete to qualify for the women’s 81kg event.



By ROBIN PERRIE and JULIA ATHERLEY at the Stade de France

TOM Cruise leapt off the roof of the Stade de France in a stunning Mission: Impossible-style stunt to close the Paris Olympics last night.

The biggest cheer of the night was saved for when the 72,000 crowd spotted Cruise on the roof.

He descended 115ft into the stadium to collect the Olympic flag from Simone Biles, the most decorated gymnast in history.

As he landed, athletes crowded round him and took selfies before he headed off into the night with the flag on a motorbike.

The action then switched to two huge screens which showed a pre-recorded film of the actor on the bike. It featured him riding through the streets of Paris and then flying to America.

He sky-dived to the Hollywood sign – which had been transformed into the five rings symbol. Cruise was shown passing the flag to a series of Olympians including track great Michael Johnson, 56.

Over the Red Hot Chili Peppers song By The Way, Johnson took the flag and ran through LA.

He gathered followers before arriving at a beach where the Chili Peppers were playing. The flag eventually arrived at the Memorial Coliseum, the stadium at the heart of the next Games.

The ceremony had begun with the extinguishing of the Olympic cauldron, a ring of fire 23ft in diameter, beneath a 100ft-high hot air balloon.

The Olympic flame – kept alight in a golden lantern – was taken away by French swimmer Leon Marchand, who won four golds, ready for its journey to America.

French president Emmanuel Macron was then introduced before an orchestra played the French national anthem.

Flag-bearers from the 205 countries who have competed in the games also entered the stadium.

The Union Jack was carried by gold medalist triathlete Alex Yee and trampolinist Bryony Page, who were dressed in Hawaiian-style floral shirts.

The athletes also joined in with a singalong version of Queen’s We Are The Champions.

The ceremony featured 270 singers, gymnasts, acrobats and dancers, including the Golden Voyager, who led a routine in which five giant Olympic rings were raised.

Other highlights included composer Alain Roche playing Hymn To Apollo on a piano suspended in the air and scores of white-clad gymnasts creating a 26,000sq ft map of the world.

French indie rock band Phoenix took things up a notch with a lively performance of their hit L’Istomama. The group were later joined by Ezra Koenig, lead singer of US band Vampire Weekend.

It was symbolic of the handover to the States for the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

In Paris, Team GB passed 1,000 medals in all Olympics – Britain is the only nation to have won gold at all modern summer games.

And the King and Queen sent a message of congratulations to our athletes. Charles said: “As we thank France for hosting such a wonderful tournament I can only say that you have all been an inspiration. Charles R.”

Tony Estanguet, president of Paris 2024, told the stadium that “the whole of France became Olympic” during the Games.

The closing ceremony was created by Thomas Jolly, whose opening ceremony triggered a backlash from Christians angry at a scene based on the Last Supper. Organisers later apologised.

But the Games had proved a big hit, with nearly nine million tickets sold – a Games record.

And TV coverage was watched by over half the global population – driven by the likes of Cruise and Snoop Dogg, attending events.

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Standard bearers . . . Team GB gold medallists Bryony Page and Alex Yee

TO THE FRENCH OLYMPICS

● TOM IN ROOF STUNT TO CLOSE
● FLAME PASSES TO L.A. FOR 2028

Top Tom . . . roof stunt



Stealing the show . . . Tom holds Olympic flag aloft last night



Tribute . . . Princess Kate and bearded Prince William

WILLS HAIR TO THRONE

By **ROBIN PERRIE** and **LUKE CHAFER**



'So proud' . . . Becks in clip

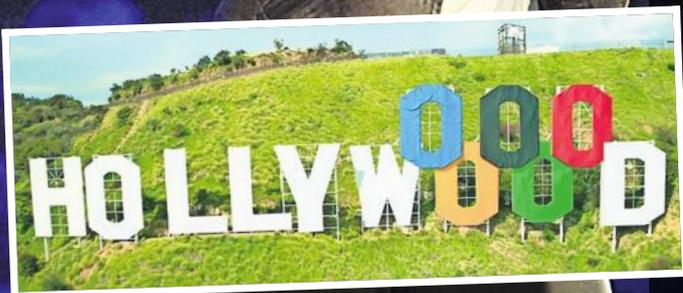
PRINCE William and wife Kate sent a message of congratulations to Team GB last night — with hunky Wills sporting a beard for the first time.

The royal video message was released as the Paris games drew to a close.

The star-studded clip posted on the couple's social media also included England football legend David Beckham.

Kate said: "From all of us watching at home, congrats to Team GB." William added: "Well done for all you have achieved. You have been an inspiration to us all."

Becks told the team: "Hey Team GB, we are so proud of you. Congratulations."



TOP GONG



HUNDREDS LINE FUNERAL ROUTE



Horse-drawn carriage with coffin . . . leads mourners wearing pink and white at funeral



Farewell to our perfect dream child

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FOR SOUTHPORT VICTIM, 9



By SARAH RIDLEY

THE parents of Southport stabbing victim Alice da Silva Aguiar paid tribute to their “perfect dream child” at her funeral yesterday.

Hundreds of mourners lined the streets as a white horse-drawn carriage carried the coffin of the nine-year-old girl killed at the Taylor Swift-themed dance class. Children holding teddy bears were among the 300-strong crowd, many wearing white and pink, to say their final farewells.

Her family carried the coffin into St Patrick's Catholic Church in Sefton, Merseyside, where the schoolgirl received her first Holy Communion three months ago.

In a statement read on their behalf, her parents, Sergio and Alexandra, said: “Dear Alice, you were our perfect dream child, everything was idyllic from the moment you arrived.

“A lover of animals and an environmentalist in the making. Being around you was a privilege. You completed us.

“How will we get answers? You were taken away from us too soon and we often ask why? Why here? Why us? Why you? We wondered if you felt any pain. We hope not my darling.

“For now, our beloved angel, keep dancing, mummy and daddy will always love you.”

Dance teacher Heidi Liddle described her as the “most kind-hearted child who danced as she walked”. Ambulance and fire crews who tried to save her life also attended.

Meanwhile, pictures released by Alice's family yesterday showed her eagerly waiting to get into the holiday club before the attack.

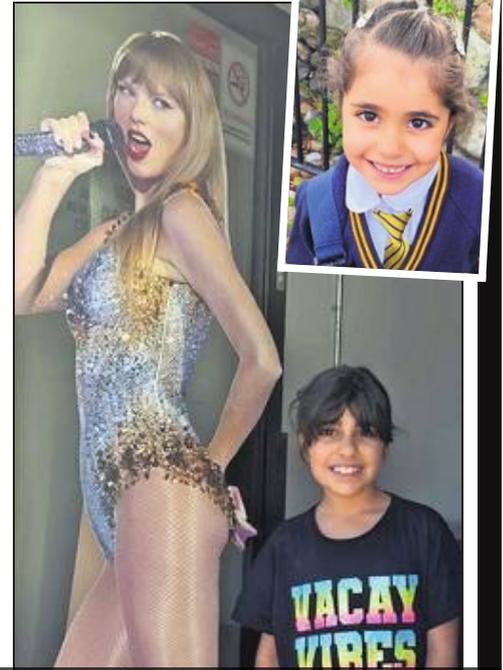
She can be seen posing with a life-size cardboard cut-out of the singer at Hart Space studio, two hours before a knifeman burst in.

Alice was one of three girls killed at the holiday club in Southport.

Bebe King, six, and Elsie Stancombe, seven, also lost their lives, while ten others were seriously injured in the attack on July 29.

Axel Rudakubana, 18, has been charged with three counts of murder and ten of attempted murder. He will next appear at Liverpool crown court in October.

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ALICE AT THE TAYLOR SWIFT-THEMED HOLS CLUB

Schoolgirl eagerly poses hours before the attack in Southport

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Olympic spirit

AS the sun set on a glorious Olympic Games for Team GB last night, our athletes showed the true face of Great Britain.

While thugs and morons rioted at home, Brit sportsmen and women took on the world showing bravery, skill, dedication and graft.

They proved you get nothing without hard work and commitment.

Back home Sir Keir Starmer deserves credit for his handling of his first crisis, especially getting courts and prosecutors to crack down hard on the violence and stop its spread.

Now comes the PM's real test, coming up with answers to the social problems behind the riots – mass immigration, unemployment, housing and a sense that some are being left behind.

Like our athletes, working class communities need Government help and support to transform their fortunes.

United in grief

THE pain being endured by the families of three little girls killed in Southport is unimaginable.

That last image of Alice da Silva Aguiar, posing next to a cardboard cut-out of Taylor Swift at the dance event where she died, will break the hearts of parents everywhere.

At her funeral yesterday, hundreds lined the streets for her.

The town of Southport is rightly desperate to show its dignity and respect after their mourning was hijacked.

Alice's mum and dad asked one simple question: "How will we get answers?"

At this stage, it's impossible to know. One thing is for sure.

In their darkest hour the families should know the whole country stands with them in their grief.

Electric shock

THERE are an increasing number of warnings that the UK cannot possibly hit its target of getting all petrol and diesel cars off the roads in just over a decade.

Rishi Sunak sensibly pushed back the original target by five years to a still-ambitious 2035.

But Labour has immediately reversed it back again.

Now a senior car industry boss says we will be lucky to get to half of all vehicles being electric by 2040.

There are nowhere near enough charging points and plug-in cars are still way too expensive.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan will also slap them with his daily £15 congestion charge next year, removing a further incentive for drivers.

So how does Energy Secretary Ed Miliband plan to do it – along with taking the whole National Grid to Net Zero, too

We are still waiting to hear.

TORY INSIDER ON LEADERSHIP BATTLE

Jenrick's in front...but he'd help himself by keeping quiet for a bit



A CONSERVATIVE leadership contest is defined by the structure set down by William Hague in 1998, when party members were first given a say.

MPs whittle it down to the final two, and then the finalists are put to the membership.

This means during the early rounds there are effectively two races going on, with candidates trying to consolidate support on one wing of the party or the other to get their place in the membership round.

It's no different this time. Of the six hopefuls vying to succeed Rishi Sunak, three (James Cleverly, Mel Stride, and Tom Tugendhat) are running broadly from the Left, and three (Kemi Badenoch, Robert Jenrick and Priti Patel) from the Right.

Of course, these slots aren't formally guaranteed to one wing or another.

In the MP rounds there is plenty of scope for personal relationships (and the trading of favours) to trump ideological considerations, and with the new leader not in place until November 2, a long race



By **HENRY HILL**

leaves plenty of time for an early favourite to stumble.

As it stands, it looks as if the final will be Tugendhat versus either Badenoch or Jenrick – and history suggests that whoever secures the Right's candidacy will probably win the membership vote.

(It says a lot about the past 14 years that of the six contenders, only two have held one of the so-called great offices of state – and given the state of the courts, police and immigration system, both Cleverly and Patel are more likely to find their time at the Home Office a hindrance than a help.)

On the One Nation side, Tugendhat does not decisively outpoll Cleverly among the public or party members. The two drew level in our most recent Conservative

Home survey of members' first preferences. But Tugendhat's campaign has been long in the making and he reportedly has a solid lead among MPs, which is what counts in these early rounds.

It isn't impossible for Cleverly to close the gap.

But he has come unstuck in the MP round before. In 2019, he called off his leadership campaign less than a week after launching it.

On the Right, Badenoch has been the clear early favourite.

In our most recent survey she gained seven points to take a full third of members' first preferences for leader.

But this has made her a target, both for malicious civil service leaks from her time in government and for public attacks from Tory MPs, most recently for her low-profile response to the riots.

Some right-wing MPs are also concerned that while Badenoch has been strong and articulate on cultural issues, they have heard very little from her on tax, economics, and the size of the state.

All this has helped Jenrick, who recently overtook her as the bookies' favourite.

Slick media blitz

Remarkably, this one-time Cameroon moderniser seems to have successfully transformed himself into the Right's favoured champion.

It hasn't hurt that he seems to have by far the best-prepared campaign, which opened with a slick media blitz and the only proper launch event of any of the candidates.

He also scored a big strategic win before the contest even started by winning over MPs such as Danny Kruger and Sir John Hayes, key allies of Suella Braverman, and torpedoing her own campaign before it left the harbour.

Yet like Badenoch, he's finding that life gets harder when you're out in front, and after a couple of self-inflicted injuries (most obviously saying he'd vote for Donald Trump), his supporters are hoping he'll try to keep a slightly lower profile for the next few weeks.

GIVE US HONESTY ON FUTURE

SO much for the horse race.

But speaking as a Tory member, the most important question is whether or not any of the candidates have what it takes to rebuild our party.

This is the most marginal parliament, in terms of individual majorities in seats, since 1945.

That means even a small revival could take a chunk out of Labour at the next election, but also that even a small slip could see an

even worse (and probably fatal) rout in 2029.

I'm looking for a candidate who has an honest and convincing explanation for how our party managed to achieve so little with 14 years in government. And an up-to-date diagnosis for what ails Britain today – not just another attempt to reheat the prescriptions Margaret Thatcher offered in 1975, or David Cameron in 2005.

Sadly, we haven't seen

much of that yet. The party understandably wants to avoid prolonged public bloodshed of the sort we saw between Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss in 2022.

But that risks suppressing a debate about ideas that the Conservatives urgently need to have. It is no use having a three-month debate on "competence" that avoids the question of what a properly delivered Tory programme ought to have been.

SABRINA HIT BY SHOW FIREWORK



By JACK HARDWICK

SINGER Sabrina Carpenter ran off stage screaming after a firework hit her in the chest mid-performance.

The Espresso star, 25, had wowed fans in a black glittering leotard and suspenders, *left*, before the incident.

Sabrina, dating Irish actor Barry Keoghan, 31, *below*, got too close to the pyrotechnics at the end of her set at a festival in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

As her band continued to play, the singer, who will kick off her first UK arena tour next March, ran off stage flanked by dancers. She was not injured.



Fright . . . shocked Sabrina rushes off stage after firework mishap

NAVY NUKE SCANDAL

PORNSUB

Captain sacked for making sex tape

EXCLUSIVE by JEROME STARKEY
Defence Editor

A SUBMARINE captain has been sacked for making a sex video while in command of nuclear missiles.

The officer was kicked out of the Royal Navy after top brass saw the X-rated footage.

He was in command of a Vanguard-class nuclear submarine armed with Trident Two doomsday weapons.

The captain shared the graphic film with a junior sailor who served aboard the same submarine.

Crewmates claimed the pair had an illicit physical relationship when the £4billion sub was at sea.

However, a Royal Navy source said sex on board did not form part of their investigation.

Navy chiefs accused the submarine captain of sharing X-rated selfies as well. The officer – who had met Princess Anne and was made an OBE



Plumbing new depths . . . nuclear sub

for top-secret work – had moved on to a desk job when the footage and photographs were revealed.

He was immediately suspended before being sacked shortly afterwards under a “zero tolerance policy” to sexually unacceptable behaviour.

The scandal is another major blow to the Navy amid a chronic shortage of submarine staff.

The officer had passed the gruelling

Perisher course to win command of a nuclear-powered submarine. He was one of the youngest officers to captain a hunter-killer vessel before taking over a Vanguard-class, known as a “bomber boat”.

The Royal Navy has four nuclear-armed submarines, with a vessel always at sea in readiness to launch against Britain's enemies in response to a nuclear attack.

The Vanguard sex footage follows claims that a different submarine captain put his manhood in the pocket of a female sub-lieutenant on board.

And in 2017, a sub captain and his deputy were accused of having affairs with two junior female officers on board HMS Vigilant.

The Royal Navy told The Sun last night: “All forms of unacceptable behaviour are taken extremely seriously and anything which falls short of the highest standards will not be tolerated.”

“Anyone who is found culpable will be held accountable for their actions, regardless of their rank or status.”

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ROVERSEAS TRIPS

Where are you going on hols? Isle of Dogs!



70% NEED PET SITTER

MOST dog owners refuse to holiday abroad if they have to leave their pet behind, a survey has found.

Nearly seven in ten will not travel for the sake of their dogs but half of those who did missed them more than they did their children.

And three quarters thought about their canine pals every

day while they were away. Adem Fehmi, of pet care website Rover.com, which did the poll, said: "It's natural to worry about leaving your dog behind when you go on holiday."

"However, you can ensure your dog remains happy and healthy in your absence – and feel like they've had their own holiday – by hiring a trusted, vetted home sitter." will.barker@the-sun.co.uk

By WILL BARKER



MOWTOR SPORT

By RHYS JAMES

MOWERHEADS take on the greatest race on turf in a Le Mans-style epic for charity.

More than 40 teams spent 12 hours racing ride-on mowers at up to 50mph in a field near Petersfield, Hants. It raised thousands of pounds for Prostate Cancer UK.



Delays... train strain

Rail faults '1m signs of failure'

By MARTINA BET

RAIL passengers have lost almost a million minutes to delays from signal failures.

They have been hit by 37,000 breakdowns, leading to 4,266 full and 10,078 part cancellations since 2018, figures show.

In total, commuters have endured 988,419 minutes of delays – the equivalent of 686 days or almost two years.

The Lib Dems, who compiled the figures, are demanding fares be frozen to stop passengers paying more for an "already poor service".

Transport spokeswoman Wera Hobhouse said: "These damning figures lay bare the state of neglect that the Conservatives left our railways in, leaving passengers to pay the price."

A GLOVELY DI OUT

Go-karting gloves worn by Princess Di in a 1992 race with William and Harry are set to sell for £9,000 in Ashorne, Warks.



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ACE 'SORRY' FOR HIPPIY CRACK



... time . . . Yves with balloon after match, left

Manic laughter . . . Spurs star in limo with pals on Saturday

TOTTENHAM CLUTSPUR

Bissouma does 'balloon' after game

SPURS ace Yves Bissouma filmed himself inhaling deadly laughing gas just days before the new season kicks off.

The £55,000-a-week Tottenham star laughed manically between taking hits from a balloon in footage which will dismay the footballer's boss and millions of fans. The midfielder last night apologised for his "severe lack of judgment".

He had headed out to party following his side's last pre-season warm-up match against Bayern Munich in North London on Saturday evening.

During a raucous booze-fuelled night, the star, 27, was seen taking nitrous oxide in a chauffeur-driven limo carry-

EXCLUSIVE by STEPHEN MOYES
Associate News Editor

ing him and pals. The player bafflingly shared the video of himself committing the crime to pals on Snapchat.

Possession of laughing gas with intent to get high was made illegal last year, with repeat offenders facing up to two years in jail and an unlimited fine.

A witness said: "It beggars belief any Premier League star would openly take hippy crack. It's a criminal offence and Yves now likely faces a police probe, let alone severe club sanctions."

"The new season kicks off next weekend and he has let down every single Spurs fan. Boss Ange Postecoglou will see red. Sharing, the footage himself is utterly brainless." Use of nitrous oxide

can lead to brain disorders, depression, memory loss, incontinence, hallucinations and nerve damage.

Last night, Bissouma said: "I want to apologise for these videos. This was a severe lack of judgment."

"I understand how serious this is and the health risks involved, and I also take my responsibility as a footballer and role model very seriously."

Tottenham Hotspur told The Sun: "We are looking into the events. This will be dealt with as an internal matter."

Bissouma, who joined Spurs from Brighton in 2022, is the latest in a long line of Prem stars to inhale the gas.

In May, it was revealed one unnamed player was treated by paramedics months after it emerged he had a nitrous oxide addiction.

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INSTA PEAKS PERIL

SOCIAL media influencers have been blamed for a surge in mountain rescues.

Their Instagram and TikTok photos and videos are said to encourage many unprepared visitors to head to the peaks.

Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue team in Snowdonia, North

Wales, expects a record-breaking year of call outs.

Chairman Chris Lloyd said: "People haven't seen how that original filmer was equipped and they haven't seen how experienced he was."

At least eight people died in Snowdonia in the past year.



'DON'T DO A ZETA AND WED OLDIE'

Fab DAILY PAGES 32 & 33

JAIL LETTER SO SPICY

A LENGTHY letter to a jail inmate aroused suspicion with guards - who found it soaked in zombie drug Spice.

The 20-page note arrived in the mail room at HMP Garth, Lancs, which holds 850 long-term and life prisoners.

Inspectors from the Inde-

pendent Monitoring Board revealed that drugs with a street value of £400,000 had been found on incoming mail - and paper had now been banned from entering the jail.

Spice can make users think they are invincible and gives them superhuman strength.



Rescue . . . French cops

Migrant pair die crossing Channel

By ANDY ROBINSON

TWO migrants died trying to cross the English Channel in a small boat yesterday morning.

Their dinghy, carrying more than 50 people, got into difficulty between Calais and Dunkirk.

A major rescue operation was launched and 54 migrants were returned safely to Calais.

But two were unconscious by the time rescuers arrived and died later, French officials say.

Theirs was among several small boats which tried to use the fine weather to get to England.

But it brought the number of those to die trying to cross the Channel this year to 25.

A total of 17,639 migrants in 343 boats have been detected successfully making the crossing so far in 2024, the Home Office says.

The last recorded arrivals were brought into Dover in windy conditions on August 6.



Display . . . at museum

Anger as treasures from Oz returned

By DANIEL HAMMOND

A MUSEUM'S plan to return two boomerangs to indigenous people in Australia has come back to haunt it.

The weapons are among ten sacred objects, including an axe, knife and sheath, that London's Horniman Museum and Gardens will give back to the Warungu people of Northern Territory.

But two Oxbridge history professors attacked the move. Lawrence Goldman, of Oxford University, said: "The point of a great collection is to show treasures from around the world."

David Abulafia, of Cambridge, said: "There is a danger we become disengaged from learning about ancient civilisations."

However, Michael Salter-Church, Horniman's chair of trustees, insisted: "These objects are of utmost significance for the Warungu people."

MODEL ON NEW TV SHOW THAT

I escaped kidnapper by being smart and brave yet people claimed I was in on it. I hope they realise now



FAME . . . on CBB with Jermaine Pennant



By EMMA COX

THE glamour model accused of faking her own kidnap for publicity hopes that a new drama about her ordeal will finally set the record straight.

Chloe Ayling – who some claimed was involved in the plot to boost her profile – has worked on the telly production to make sure the truth is told.

In July 2017, the then 20-year-old from South London was snatched from a location in Milan by two men in balaclavas.

She was drugged and shoved into a duffle bag in the back of a car before being held for six days at a remote farmhouse.

Her captor, Polish-born Lukasz Herba, said that unless her family paid a £230,000 ransom, she would be sold as a sex slave then fed to tigers when the gang he worked for – who he said were called Black Death – had tired of her.

By staying calm and promising herself to Herba if he let her go, wife Chloe, 27, managed to escape and return home to her mother and son.

Yet it was here that her troubles continued. Although Lucasz and his accomplice brother Michal were quickly arrested and charged, their lawyers claimed the kidnap was a joint ruse with Chloe to raise her public profile.

And much of the UK media and public believed them.

'Survival mode'

Now, BBC drama Kidnapped: The Chloe Ayling Story shows for the first time what really happened.

Nadia Parkes, 28, plays Chloe, following the story from the moment she flew to Italy thinking she had been booked for a modelling job, through to her safe return and the media frenzy that ensued.

Chloe, who was a consultant on the show, said: "Seeing it gave me chills because it's such a relief. People will see all the evidence laid out word for word, without bias."

"I hope that this changes people's views and now makes them see the story from my perspective."

"My kidnapper released me without the ransom being met because I was instinctively able to use emotions and sex appeal to get out."

"That seemed unbelievable to people. "It's important for me that people can now see all of those key details based on years of extensive research – and not a warped version of the truth."

Sceptics who doubted the authenticity of Chloe's story questioned if she



SETTING RECORD STRAIGHT . . . Nadia Parkes as kidnap victim Chloe in BBC drama

Says CHLOE AYLING

was really a victim after she smiled while chatting to reporters from her mum's garden about her safe return, wearing a tight vest top and skimpy shorts.

The drama recreates that scene. People also remarked on her being spotted publicly holding hands with Herba – who pals said she first met at a Paris photoshoot months earlier – while shopping for shoes during her time in captivity.

Chloe, a contestant on 2018's Celebrity Big Brother, insists she played along to convince Herba to free her.

She says now: "Hardly anyone knows that I had to stay in Italy for a pre-trial after being released by the kidnappers, which meant the interview outside my house was done weeks after my release."

"I didn't show my emotions in interviews. Since being a child, I have always hated the idea of people seeing me cry. I would always put on a brave face and cover things up with a smile."

"I saw signs that my kidnapper had a crush on me, so I had to use that to my advantage because I knew it would increase my chances of being released unharmed. It was me going into survival mode. That was my instinct in the situation. I couldn't tell

him I wasn't interested. I was in danger, I was just trying to survive."

"While nothing happened physically between us, I used his vulnerability and convinced him that it could and that we could be a couple if he released me."

"Instead of being praised for being smart, tactical and brave in doing this to survive, the media and public chose not to believe me and used this to say how holding hands with the kidnapper and not trying to escape was weird."

"Instead of sympathising with a victim, they created more hurt – so I hope they can learn something from watching the series."

A year after her release, Lucasz Herba, a Polish national living in the UK, was sentenced in a Milan court to 16 years and nine months, later

RETELLS HER HORROR ORDEAL IN ITALY



ON TRIAL . . .
Michal leaves court in Milan

REAL ABDUCTION



TERROR . . .
masked pair snatch Chloe

TV RECONSTRUCTION



CHILLING . . .
remote lair where Chloe was held



CAPTIVE . . .
model was held for six days



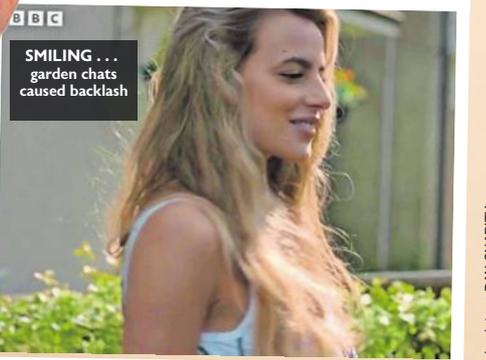
BRAZEN . . .
smug Lucasz grins in dock



SPOTLIGHT . . .
Chloe after TV interview



ORDEAL . . .
Chloe returns to farm with cops



SMILING . . .
garden chats caused backlash

BRAVE FACE . . .
survivor Chloe

reduced on appeal to 12 years and one month. His brother Michal got 16 years, cut to five years and eight months.

It emerged there was no Black Death sex gang. The brothers were acting alone, seemingly as Lucasz wanted a relationship with Chloe.

Conspiracy theories

Writer Georgia Lester's script is based on in-depth research, interviews, documented legal proceedings and Chloe's own book, *Kidnapped*.

The six-part drama features a gripping performance by Nadia, who has previously appeared in Netflix drama *The Bastard Son & The Devil Himself*.

The actress met Chloe several times and went to incredible

lengths to capture her voice and look, dyeing her hair, working with a dialect coach, wearing costumes that changed her body shape and even using Chloe's perfume while filming.

Nadia said: "There were a lot of public appearances and interviews available to me.

"So I had direct references to how Chloe looks and how she holds herself and how her voice sounds in the moment.

"But it was when I met her that I could really transform into her because I could pick up on her energy. I gave her a big hug.

"It was quite eerie at times, shooting in Italy, because we shot in similar locations to where some of the events happened.

"The farmhouse scenes were

difficult to film. I couldn't stop thinking about Chloe going through it alone and in real life."

Chloe and Nadia hope that audiences not only get to hear the model's story in full for the first time, but they also think twice about rushing to judge victims of crime.

Chloe refers to the recent disappearance of tragic Jay Slater, 19, in Tenerife, which sparked wild conspiracy theories about what had happened to him, only adding to his family's distress.

"Unless there's concrete evidence like CCTV, victims are not believed," she said.

Nadia added of the TV drama about Chloe: "It's about how lots of people perceive women in the media. We look into a lot of the

hate that she was receiving and the downside of the world of social media.

"People can hide behind these screens, sending hateful comments and messages to people and they fail to remember that there's a human sitting behind that."

Chloe has now moved to the Welsh countryside with her eight-year-old son and still models, mainly online and on OnlyFans. She also spends half the year at her house in Florida.

Meanwhile, Michal Herba was recently released from prison for good behaviour and is living with his mother in Poland.

Chloe has heard that Lucasz may also be freed soon. As convicted criminals, neither can return to the UK. Seven years on from her

traumatic ordeal, Chloe remains hopeful the BBC's drama will allow her to move away from the trolling, and that people may think twice before accusing other victims, in a similar position, of being dishonest.

She says of the TV series: "I hope it encourages people not to doubt victims based on the way they react to a traumatic experience, on the way they dress, their job or what they did to survive.

"I hope it encourages people to look deeper than headlines, not to judge a situation or story based on what you read, and to keep an open mind before jumping to conclusions."

●All episodes of *Kidnapped* are on BBC iPlayer from 6am on Wednesday, with episodes airing on BBC3 from 9pm that night.



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KYIV PUSHES INTO RUSSIA



As Goring . . . Crowe

Russell: I've aged like deep sea fish

By LUKE CHAFER

GLADIATOR star Russell Crowe says he has aged so badly he has a face like a deep-sea fish.

The actor, 60, said age and injuries have taken their toll and he now looks like a Grouper or Blobfish – one of the world's ugliest creatures.

He told GQ magazine he was shocked by his appearance after shaving his hair and beard to play Nazi war criminal Hermann Göring in new movie Nuremberg.

The craggy star said: "Have you ever seen one of those documentaries where James Cameron takes a camera down to the Mariana Trench and films these really weird-looking fish?"

"I looked like that. It took a number of days for my puckered skin to come back to looking human."

Crowe added: "I've also got ribs that just pop off the spine if I put them under pressure."



Rule . . . Network Rail

Diabetic rail man £66K for sacking

By DANIEL HAMMOND

A DIABETIC Network Rail officer has won £66,790 in compensation after he was sacked for speeding at work.

Mohammed Yusuf Ali won a discrimination case after telling a tribunal his blood sugar levels had plummeted.

The Lucozade tablets Mr Ali usually relied on were "stale" and "hadn't kicked in", so his senses were impacted, he said.

So he did not see a sign indicating a speed limit change from 60mph to 40mph.

He was snapped by a speed camera at 62mph. Mr Ali was fired in 2018 for breaching the company's "life-saving rule" to always obey speed limits.

But the East London employment tribunal judge decided his speeding was "inextricably causally linked" to his Type 1 diabetes.

A hearing last week ruled he would not get extra for loss of pension.



CIVILIANS FLEE

Evacuated Kursk residents arrive in Tula, 200 miles away



RUSSIANS CAPTURED

Prisoners on ground after raid by tanks, left, and troops

UKRAINE'S NUCLEAR GAMBLE

Vlad power station 'target'

By ANDY ROBINSON

VLADIMIR Putin's forces last night prepared to defend a nuclear power station from Ukraine's daring incursion into enemy territory.

The Russian tyrant was caught on the back foot by the push – involving a reported 10,000 troops – on the Kursk region.

The invaders have the nuclear plant in their sights, with Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelensky hoping its capture will give him a crucial bargaining chip.

While Putin looked ashen-faced as he stammered through a press conference, satellite images yesterday showed protective fortifications being built south of the nuclear power plant in Kurchatov.

Military reinforcements were also reportedly being sent to the facility which powers the Kursk region.

And Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova promised a "tough response" yesterday, accusing Kyiv of "intimidating the peaceful population of Russia".

Ukraine's surprise attack began on Tuesday, forcing the evacuation of thousands of Russian civilians from Kursk. On Saturday, Mr Zelensky made the first public confirmation of Ukraine's raid – hailing his forces' efforts as they advanced more than six miles.

In an address to the nation, the president, 46, thanked them, saying: "Ukraine is proving that it really knows how to restore justice and guarantees exactly the kind of pressure that is needed – pressure on the aggressor."

He also thanked allies for implementing further sanctions on Moscow and called for decisions on long-range capabilities from the UK, US and France.

Images of deadly attacks on Russian columns and conscripts in Kursk

have emerged. But the long-term strategic purpose of the raid is still unclear.

One objective is said to be to draw troops away from the battlefield in Ukraine. Taking the power station is seen as a potential bargaining chip.

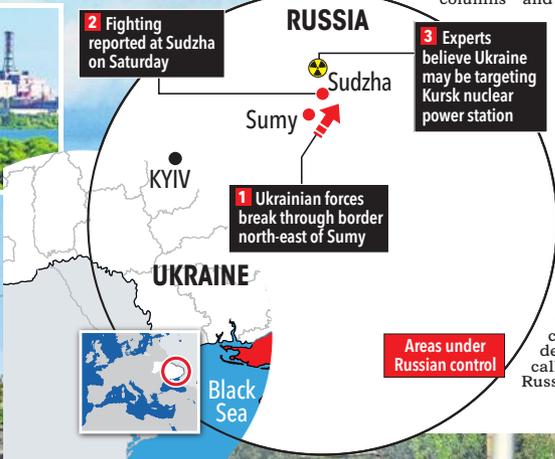
It could force Russian troops to leave the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, occupied since 2022, in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog is closely monitoring developments and has called for restraint from Russia and Ukraine.

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Danger . . . Kursk nuclear



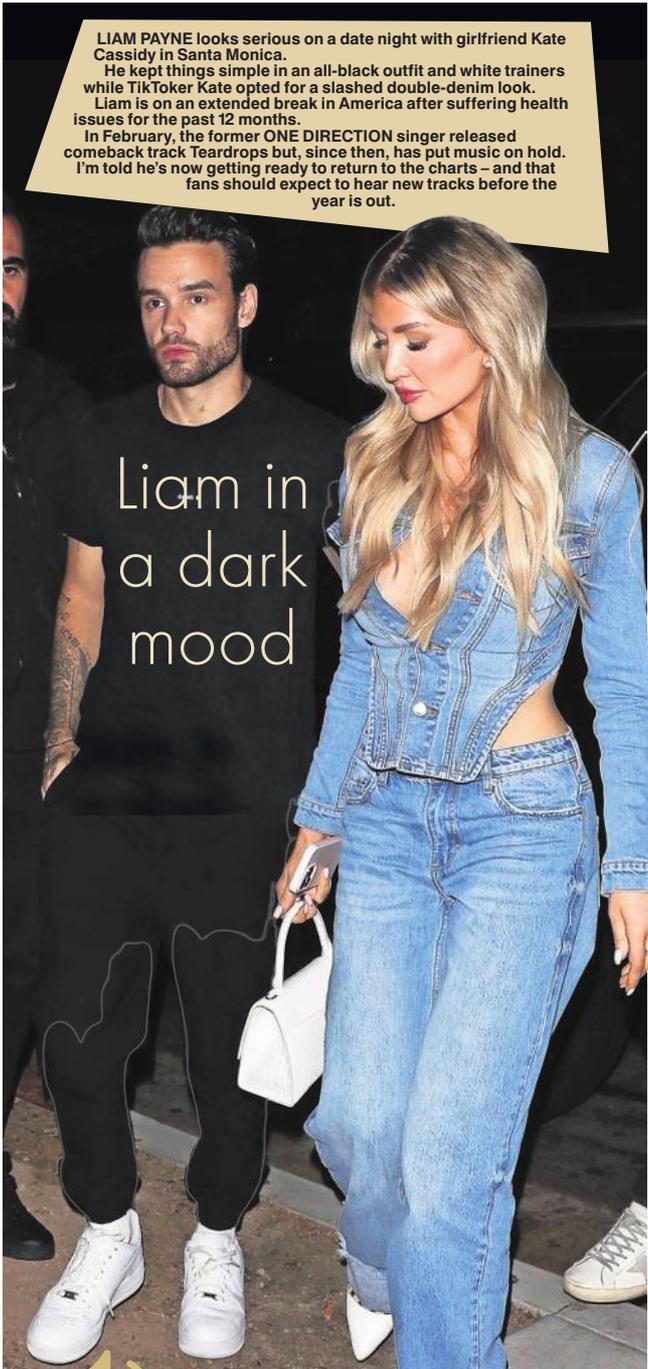
CONVOY HIT

Russian trucks wrecked by Ukrainian shelling in Kursk



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Liam in a dark mood

LIAM PAYNE looks serious on a date night with girlfriend Kate Cassidy in Santa Monica. He kept things simple in an all-black outfit and white trainers while TikTok star Kate opted for a slashed double-denim look. Liam is on an extended break in America after suffering health issues for the past 12 months. In February, the former **ONE DIRECTION** singer released comeback track *Teardrops* but, since then, has put music on hold. I'm told he's now getting ready to return to the charts – and that fans should expect to hear new tracks before the year is out.

NOEL: IT'S HIT ROCK BOTTOM

NOEL GALLAGHER says there are no bands at No1 in the charts at the moment as they are "s***t now". The 57-year-old, *below*, reckons guitar music is dying out because there just aren't any groups that can match what he did with **OASIS** – and they don't have enough great songs.

Noel doesn't accept guitar music has gone out of fashion and is the reason for a lack of indie and rock in the singles and album charts.

He said on the *Matt Morgan Podcast*: "There's the big debate now. Have you seen that thing – the 80s bands who spent weeks at No1?"

"It was 146 weeks. In the 90s it was 141. In this decade, which we're roughly halfway through, the No1 spot has been occupied by a band for three weeks. One of them was **THE BEATLES**, when they put that new tune out. One of them was Little Mix, which don't count, and one of them was the Radio 2 All Stars, some charity single."

"You're not telling me that the greatest band of the last five years is sat somewhere undiscovered and nobody knows anything about it. Bands are dead because bands are s***t now. I just think that there's not many great songwriters who are in bands."

Noel doesn't accept there is a new indie band with amazing songs just waiting to be discovered, because if they were good enough, someone would know about them.

He added: "I would struggle to accept that the gift that I had, I would just go and work in a f***ing garage and remain undiscovered or didn't follow a certain path – 'Oh, me uncle Noel died, he was 83, he was a great songwriter'."

"It's inconceivable. The good always comes out in the end, always. It just does."

HARRY SO HELPFUL

HARRY STYLES and **JAMES CORDEN**'s bromance is still going strong. The singer, *below*, sneaked into The Old Vic theatre in South London at the weekend for James' final performance in stage show *The Constituent*.

Before and after the performance, Harry was spotted backstage hanging out with the Gavin And Stacey actor before being snapped helping James carry some of his belongings out the back of the venue. What a top lad.



Hel of a dress for birthday bash

HELEN FLANAGAN made sure she ruffled things up as she celebrated her birthday.

The actress went braless in this statement pink gown and bejewelled heels as she partied at MNKY HSE in Manchester at the weekend.

Helen, who is on the upcoming series of *Celebs Go Dating*, says she has almost given up trying to find "the one".

She said on *CHARLOTTE DAWSON*'s *Naughty Corner* podcast: "There are some awful men out there."

"I used to have a celebrity dating app on my phone and my daughter Matilda used to sit next to me and want to look through all these boys."

"I would let her have a look. I don't have it any more. I did go on a few dates from there, but no. It was hilarious at the beginning."

Trust me, Helen, I can relate when it comes to awful men. But keep the faith and you will find the right one.

THE WEEK IN **bizness**

TOMORROW: SHAWN MENDES will deliver an intimate performance of his new self-titled album at London's Theatre Royal Drury Lane, ahead of its release in October. Among the tracks will be singles *Why*, *Why* and *Isn't That Enough*, which came out on Friday.

WEDNESDAY: Newly single Love Island host **MAYA JAMA**, *inset*, turns 30 and no doubt she will be planning a big blowout. She split from **STORMZY** last month but, as a party lover, will surely be letting her hair down.



THURSDAY: TAYLOR SWIFT is back in the UK for five sold out shows at Wembley Stadium. Following a string of concerts across Britain in June, she will bring her Eras Tour back to the capital with support from American rockers **PARAMORE**.

FRIDAY: Tune into singer and rapper **POST MALONE**'s new album *F-1 Trillion*, which features collaborations with country acts including **MORGAN WALLEN**, **BLAKE SHELTON**, **BRAD PAISLEY**, **CHRIS STAPLETON** and even **DOLLY PARTON**.

ELLIE HENMAN'S

amre

With
**HOWELL
DAVIES
& JACK
HARDWICK**

PHONE BAN AT WHAM! VID CLUB

FAMOUS Ibiza club Pikes has banned phones. The venue, which was the setting for WHAM!'s Club Tropicana video, has warned all music lovers to keep their devices out of sight. In an announcement, bosses said: "Keeping your

phone in your pocket and your mind on the music – and knowing that everyone around you is doing the same – opens up a whole world of freedom. Not only on the dancefloor but all around Pikes, so we've decided to introduce the

policy seven nights a week." **KYLIE MINOÛÛÉ** filmed the video for her new dance track, with DJ **THE BLESSED MADONNA**, at the club. Edge Of Saturday Night gets its radio debut as Radio 1's Hottest Record on Wednesday.

OH WICKED! ARIANA'S PLAYING UK

Star back here for gigs after filming musical

THE wait is almost over for ARIANA GRANDE'S British fans – as I'm happy to report she is about to perform here again for the first time in five years.

I can reveal the American hitmaker is currently in the early stages of planning a mini-tour with a scattering of giant gigs around the globe.

Her last gruelling trek, 2019's Sweetener world tour, saw her on the road for ten months and playing 97 arena-sized shows.

A source said: "Ariana really wants to get out there and perform for her fans but, at the same time, she hates life on the road."

"It may sound glamorous touring the world, but in reality it can be draining and you don't actually get to see much."

"Right now, plans are still in their early stages, but Ariana is determined to play a series of shows during 2025."

"One option that's on the table is to do a handful of stadium gigs – that way tens of thousands of her supporters can see her without her having to do night after night after night at smaller arenas. She's never

done UK stadium shows before. If she does, it almost certainly would be at Wembley and then the Etihad up in Manchester."

Teasing plans to hit the road, Ariana said: "I think it'd be a really lovely idea to be able to trickle in some shows in between the two Wicked films."

Meanwhile, Ariana, right, also plans before the end of the year to release a bumper deluxe edition of her latest album, the No1-selling Eternal Sunshine, which she put out in March.

She previously dropped a "slightly deluxe" edition which included collaborations with **MARIAH CAREY** and **TROYE SIVAN**.

Break-up

Ariana managed to stay pretty much off-radar when she relocated to London for more than a year while shooting upcoming movie blockbuster *Wicked*. She will play Glinda The Good Witch in the two-part film adaptation of the hit *West End* show.

During filming, she was living with her then husband, American luxury property broker Dalton Gomez. But their break-up and divorce last year inspired Ariana's latest album.

Part one of the musical fantasy movie drops on November 22, while the second part is expected to follow a year later.



JADE 'HELD BACK' ON MIX MUSIC

JADE THIRLWALL felt held back in **LITTLE MIX** because she could never write the tracks she wanted to sing.

The *Angel Of My Dreams* singer said of being a solo performer: "It's definitely liberating. That's probably one of the things I've enjoyed the most about doing my own thing – that it's all what I want to do. It's great."

"In a band, you have more generic concepts because it can't just be about what you want to write about."

"So it was important to me, especially with the first record, to give people an insight into my story and my musical journey from the beginning to now."

"When you're on your own, you can sort of push it a bit and be a bit cheekier. I can say what I want to say."

But Jade, above, added on radio in Australia: "You really appreciate, once you do your own thing, how lovely it is being in a group and having people around you to bounce off."

"Every decision is a joint decision, which is good and bad."

"If something doesn't work, you can be like, 'Well, it was all of us.'"



CELINE'S SINKING FEELING

CELINE DION wants **DONALD TRUMP** to know he's made a Titanic mistake by crossing her.

The *I'm Alive* singer, below, has taken a public swipe at the former President of the United States – after he used her mega hit *My Heart Will Go On* from the blockbuster film during a rally in Montana over the weekend.

Wasting no time speaking out, a post on her Instagram read this weekend: "In no way is this use authorised, and Celine Dion does not endorse this or any similar use."

Mocking the fact Trump used a song that was the soundtrack to the sinking of the passenger liner, the message was signed off: "... and really, THAT song?"

It's not the first time performers have distanced themselves from the Republican Presidential candidate, either.

Earlier this year, **SMITHS** guitarist **JOHNNY MARR** told the former *Apprentice* boss to stop playing the group's songs after *Please, Please, Please Let Me Get What I Want* was used at one of his rallies. Sounds like someone is getting fired...



DAN'S DILEMMA

THE SCRIPT's **DANNY O'DONOGHUE** is questioning the band's decision to stay together following the death of guitarist **MARK SHEEHAN**.

The group, which also features drummer **GLEN POWER**, will on Friday release *Satellites*, their first album without guitarist Mark, who died last year.

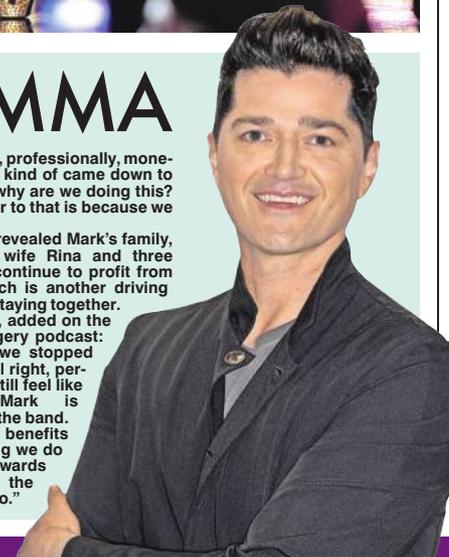
Asked if there was a conversation about ending the band, Danny said: "We talked about it for a long time and, to be honest, it's still an open question. Myself and Glen, we sat down and had a good chat about it and we were like, well, I feel like he'd want us to finish what we started."

"Selfishly, I think I could ride off into the sunset easily. I think Glen could do the same thing right now. We've achieved everything we need to do in our

lives musically, professionally, monetarily. I think it kind of came down to the question, why are we doing this? And the answer to that is because we love music."

But he also revealed Mark's family, including his wife Rina and three children, will continue to profit from the band, which is another driving force in them staying together.

Danny, right, added on the *Smallzy's Surgery* podcast: "I still feel if we stopped today, I'd be all right, personally. But I still feel like monetarily, Mark is always part of the band. "His family benefits from everything we do moving forwards and I feel it's the right thing to do."



CHASE & STATUS' collaboration with Stormzy, below, is on track to debut at No1 this week. Backbone is currently sitting ahead of last week's No3 *Good Luck, Babe* by singer of the moment, **CHAPPELL ROAN**.

Meanwhile, last week's chart-topper, **CHARLI XCX** and **BILLIE ELISH**'s *Guess*, has slipped to No3.

Former *Little Mix* singer **Jade Thirlwall** is also looking to re-enter the Top 10 with her brilliantly crackers debut track *Angel Of My Dreams*, rising ten places to No8.



THE Sun

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Lucky... Adriano

I missed doomed flight for a coffee

By RHYS JAMES

A PASSENGER who missed a flight that crashed said airline staff and coffee saved his life. Hospital worker Adriano Assis arrived late for the plane that came down in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Friday, killing all 62 people on board. He had gone for a coffee and narrowly missed check-in, where he argued with a worker from airliner Voepass. Adriano, from Rio de Janeiro, said: "He saved my life, man." He added: "I [would] hug him because he's done his job. If he hadn't done his job maybe I wouldn't be doing this interview today."

Eight of the 58 passengers were cancer doctors heading to a conference. Seven other specialists were also due to be on it but got an earlier flight.

Sick killer jail return

A KILLER Brit faces extradition to Spain – because he fled the country to have life-saving NHS treatment. Benjamin Da Costa, 36, was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer while in jail in Alicante for killing a man in a 2016 bar fight. He was paroled on medical grounds in January 2023 and flew to the UK for NHS treatment. But he was arrested on February 13 for breaching parole rules that banned him from leaving Spain. Da Costa, being held at HMP Wandsworth, faces an extradition hearing at Westminster magistrates court next Monday.

Job staff on strike

JOB Centre security guards will launch a fresh strike today in a long-running pay dispute. More than 1,500 GMB union members – employed by G4S on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions – will walk out all week. Andy Prendergast, GMB national secretary, said: "Job centre security guards do a difficult, often dangerous job. The least they deserve is decent pay." A G4S spokesman said: "We want to give our staff a pay rise and the GMB is holding this up. "The majority have not been on strike."

BOB'S OCCURRING
Gavin & Stacey star Joanna Page, 47, went skinny dipping exploring the Pembrokeshire coast for a new BBC series.

SECURITY BLITZ ON STAR

TAYLOR & CREW ON LOCKDOWN

EXCLUSIVE by JACK HARDWICK and ROB PATTINSON

POP superstar Taylor Swift and her Eras Tour dancers have been put on a security enforced lockdown ahead of her London shows this week.

The 34-year-old singer will kick off five sold-out nights at Wembley Stadium on Thursday – eight days after cancelling three shows in Vienna when police foiled an IS terror plot. Since then, no one has seen or heard from the multi-Grammy Award winner, with The Sun understanding strict "presidential level" security is now in

Fear after gigs targeted

place around the star. Reports claim additional private security specialising in counterterrorism will be deployed at the London gigs alongside the Met Police. Over the weekend, the mum of Sam McWilliams – one of Taylor's dancers – is reported to have told a fan: "They're all on lockdown but doing OK." And a source said: "Taylor's security and of those around her has always been paramount, but even more so now. "She and her dancers were told to 'go to ground for their own safety' in light of the Vienna threat. That's why nothing has been said about the cancelled

shows beyond the promoter's statement." Wembley increased security measures at the FA Community Shield final on Saturday, in a dry run for Taylor's gigs. Ticketless fans have also been asked not to congregate to listen outside. Yesterday, the lawyer for the 19-year-old arrested over the Austria plot claimed the teen was a fantasist who just wanted to be "cool". She said: "He says the bomb wasn't of good enough quality – it wouldn't have worked." But he had researched online on how to build a device, she added. *jack.hardwick@thesun.co.uk*

Gone to ground... Swift



FEELING HOT, HOT...HAT!

MANCHESTER
Binman in sombrero

PEAK DISTRICT
Pair at Hathersage lido

3-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	TOMORROW	WEDNESDAY
HIGH 33°C	HIGH 27°C	HIGH 24°C
Sunny	Sunny spells	Cloudy

CORNWALL
Hundreds on beach at Newquay for Boardmasters

Picture: IOANNIS ALEXOPOULOS/LNP

ENJOY SUN WITH HOMEMADE MOCKTAILS

Virgin Bloody Mary

MAKING this from scratch keeps it fresh. All you need are a few store-cupboard staples, tomato juice and some fun garnishes.

The blend of lemon, Worcestershire sauce, celery salt, black pepper and hot sauce is perfect seasoning for the tomato juice. Bottled tomato juice works fine, though canned is not great.

Serves 1

YOU NEED:

- 120–150ml fresh or bottled tomato juice
- 2 dashes hot sauce (Tabasco or Cholula)
- 15ml freshly squeezed lemon juice
- Dash Worcestershire sauce
- Pinch celery salt
- Pinch freshly ground black pepper
- Ice cubes
- 1 celery stick, pickle spear and lemon wedge, to garnish

METHOD: Pour the tomato juice into a tall glass and add the lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, celery salt, pepper and hot sauce. Fill the glass with ice and stir well (don't skimp on this – the ice dilution softens the tomato taste). Taste and add a few more dashes of hot sauce, if you like, then garnishes.

Natasha says: My least favourite – too strong and spicy. If I made it again, I'd put in less hot sauce and more ice.

2/5



MORE adults than ever are shunning booze and one in eight do not drink, or only very rarely. Generation Z are leading the way, with many citing health reasons.

But it need not kill the fun. Free Spirited, by Colleen Graham, is a new mocktail book with perfect recipes if another orange juice or sparkling water fails to appeal.

Colleen said: "The no/lo alcohol lifestyle is booming, as consumers seek fabulous mixed drinks that skip the alcohol. It is time for a revolution which combines non-alcoholic ingredients to create sensational drinks that rival any boozy Martini or Old Fashioned."

Here, Colleen introduces five of her mocktails and NATASHA HARDING, right, who rarely drinks, tries them and rates each out of five . . .

● Recipes from Free Spirited: 60 No/Low Cocktail Recipes For The Sober Curious, by Colleen Graham, £12.99 (HarperNonFiction).



Simple Syrup

Makes about 350ml

YOU NEED:

- 400g white granulated sugar
- METHOD:** To make a standard batch of syrup, bring 250ml water to a low boil in a small saucepan, then stir in the granulated sugar until dissolved.

Reduce the heat, cover and simmer for about five minutes before removing it from the heat and allowing it to cool completely. When bottled (use a glass or plastic container with a tight seal) and refrigerated, the syrup can last for up to two weeks.

Perfect Mojito

AH, the mojito – one of summer's favourite drinks. If you have fresh mint in your garden, you're ready to go.

The mojito is nothing more than a sparkling drink with rum, mint and lime, and easy to make without alcohol – just skip the rum. Use a zero-proof rum if you prefer but the drink is just as refreshing without it.

Toss a few berries into the middle, or any other seasonal fruit. There really are no rules with the mojito.

Serves 1

YOU NEED:

- 1 lime, cut into 4 wedges
- 30ml simple syrup
- 10 fresh mint leaves, torn
- Ice cubes
- 120–180ml soda, tonic or sparkling water
- 1 fresh mint sprig, to garnish

METHOD: Place three lime wedges, the syrup and torn mint leaves into a highball glass. Muddle well to release the citrus juice and mint essence. Fill the glass with the ice, top with soda water then stir. Garnish with the fourth lime wedge and the sprig of mint.

Natasha says: I love a mojito and this was easy to make. But I found the taste a bit too sweet. I'd try it again but reduce the amount of syrup and add in more soda water.

3/5



Chip thief . . . gull

Knock of seagulls smashes phones

By ANDY ROBINSON

MARAUDING seagulls have smashed thousands of smartphones, a poll reveals.

The birds, known for divebombing seaside visitors to steal their chips, were blamed for three per cent of repair claims in the past year.

They were said to have knocked phones out of their users' hands, smashing the screen.

Typical cost of a gadget repair reported in the MoneySuperMarket poll was £895.

And more than half of all gadget claims were for a mobile phone.

Although gulls were on the list of excuses, 40 per cent of cracked screens came about simply because of clumsiness.

And three per cent of users said their phones fell out of their pocket or bag and smashed on a trip to the loo.

Another recent study found half of us had been attacked by a gull.

Rest of summer looking very dry



White Grape Sundowner

ONE of my favourites. I've made it for a couple of decades and it's even more interesting today thanks to the non-alcoholic botanical spirit options. I strongly recommend those with a floral or citrus dominance.

White grape juice is key, and you should find it at a decent supermarket. It is light, refreshing and sweet. Try flavoured sparkling water or use the Sundowner to explore non-alcoholic sparkling wines.

The frozen grapes are the final piece to this drink – green or red work but I prefer green. They keep your drink chilled and look fabulous.

Serves 1

YOU NEED:

- 5-6 frozen grapes
- 45ml zero-proof gin or non-alcoholic botanical spirit
- 90ml white grape juice
- 90ml flavoured sparkling water or non-alcoholic sparkling wine
- 2-3 fresh mint leaves, to garnish

METHOD: Place the frozen grapes in a white-wine glass or champagne flute. Add the spirit and juice, and top with sparkling water or non-alcoholic wine. Add the fresh mint leaves as a garnish.

Natasha says: This looks so good and almost feels as though you're drinking booze, as it's served in a champagne flute. It has a delicious, light flavour and is one I can see myself making again.

5/5



Lemon Drop Martini

SWEET but tart, this is a taste sensation and an excellent dessert mocktail.

It needs a soft-flavoured, non-alcoholic botanical spirit to replace the vodka. Seek out those with florals, such as lavender and rose, and a dominant citrus profile. Avoid any with juniper or too many spices trying to replicate gin, as they overpower the lemon.

Essential are fresh lemon juice and simple syrup. As a final touch, the sugared rim gives a candy vibe.

Serves 1

YOU NEED:

- 1 lemon wedge
- Granulated sugar, for the rim
- 60ml softly flavoured, zero-proof gin or non-alcoholic botanical spirit
- 30ml freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 15-20ml simple syrup
- Ice cubes
- 1 lemon slice, to garnish

METHOD: Wipe the rim of a cocktail glass with the lemon wedge. Roll or dip the rim in a small dish filled with the sugar. Pour the liquids into a shaker filled with ice, shake vigorously, then strain into the prepared glass. Garnish.

Natasha says: I loved making this and it tasted just perfect. If you are a fan of more sour drinks, you'll definitely enjoy it.

5/5



Cranberry Basil Sangria

SANGRIA typically includes wine, but in non-alcoholic versions fruit juice does the trick. It's a great jug drink.

This recipe uses cranberry juice, or use non-alcoholic wine. Fresh or frozen cranberries work but do use fresh basil – easy to grow – and experiment with variously flavoured sparkling waters.

Serves 4

YOU NEED:

- 710ml cranberry juice (white or red)
- 120ml freshly squeezed orange juice
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 1 orange, sliced
- 1 apple, cored and sliced
- 100g cranberries, fresh or frozen
- 10g (packed) basil leaves
- 350ml sparkling water
- Ice cubes
- 3-5 cranberries, 1 orange slice and 1 sprig of fresh basil per glass, to garnish

METHOD: Combine the cranberry and orange juice, and sugar, in a jug and stir till the sugar dissolves. Add orange and apple slices and cranberries. Cover and place in the fridge overnight. To drink, pour into ice-filled glasses, top with sparkling water and garnish as above.

Natasha says: You must prep the night before – but refreshing.

4/5



Match fit . . . undies

Does my Arsenal look big in these?

By MICHAEL HAMILTON

NEARLY one in five fans of Premier League teams own a pair of club underpants, a poll shows.

The survey reveals 18 per cent possess up to three sets of branded briefs or boxer shorts.

Arsenal fans are the biggest devotees, with 23 per cent, followed by Manchester United (22 per cent) then Liverpool, West Ham and Man City (all 21 per cent).

Meanwhile, supporters of newcomers Ipswich Town are bottom of the club pants table on 14 per cent, just behind Chelsea and Brighton (both 15 per cent).

A two-pack of Arsenal Jersey Boxers costs £15 while Manchester United have slashed theirs from £30 per pair to £12.

Charlie Shakespeare of WhichBingo.co.uk, which polled 2,000 supporters, said: "The dedication of some fans is quite extraordinary."

VAPE MEDICINE

Scientists developing gadget to vaporise drugs

VAPES containing medicines are faster acting than pills and could be the future of prescriptions, inventors say.

Scientists are developing gadgets which could vaporise the drugs used to treat common ailments. They reckon painkillers, anti-

EXCLUSIVE by SAM BLANCHARD
Health Correspondent

depressants and migraine treatments could be inhaled, as well as drugs for lung conditions such as asthma and COPD.

It would make drugs kick in faster and help patients stick to doses by electronically restricting them to only a few puffs a day.

Dr Federico Buonocore, from Kingston University, South West

London, said: "This technology is very promising. The devices would fit in your pocket and be easy to use without any training. "This would help patients stick to their medication so we can reduce hospitalisations and save the NHS money."

Dr Buonocore published a study last year showing e-cig technology would work with asthma drug salbutamol. And US manufacturer Qnovia

hopes to get its RespiRx nicotine replacement device approved for prescription in the UK in 2026, to help smokers quit.

Boss Brian Quigley said: "One of the biggest benefits is speed of delivery to the bloodstream."

"Injection is the fastest and then inhalation comes next, before pills or skin patches. This could work in areas where you need immediate relief."

sam.blanchard@thesun.co.uk



'Medical aid'... vaping

E-cig rate at highest

THE proportion of Britons who vape has soared to its highest level, figures show.

One in nine — nearly twice as many as three years ago — use e-cigs.

It suggests 5.6 million people, the highest figure yet recorded, are vapers.

Most are former tobacco smokers, many using them to quit. But they are tending to use e-cigs for longer.

More than half have done so for at least three years, the research for Action on Smoking and Health reveals.

Ash welcomed the shift from tobacco but still wants tougher regulation to stop kids taking up e-cigarettes as "they are not risk-free".



ARTIST Banksy appears to have schooled the cops with his new artwork.

He confirmed he had spray-painted fish on a police box in the City of London — his seventh animal piece in the capital in a week. Meanwhile, his stretching cat on a billboard was removed by contractors as onlookers booed in Cricklewood, North West London.



Not feline the love... Banksy cat removed



Fan... Victoria

Brain aid of eating seaweed

By SAM BLANCHARD

EATING seaweed helps prevent Parkinson's disease, a study shows.

Ecklonia cava — a brown algae seaweed — was found to restore failing motor function.

It is a boost for the celebrity trend of eating seaweed, which has also been found to boost the immune system.

Victoria Beckham, 50, reportedly eats North Sea bladderwrack and Amal Clooney, 46, is said to have Korean seaweed soup for breakfast.

In the latest lab tests, mice who ate seaweed antioxidants showed signs of improved motor skills.

Their intestines and colons were also boosted.

Prof Akiko Kojima-Yuasa, of Osaka Metropolitan University, Japan, said: "Ecklonia cava antioxidants may reduce neuronal damage."

"It is hoped to be an effective ingredient in preventing Parkinson's."

89-yr-old raid terror

MASKED burglars bound the hands and feet of an 89-year-old woman before beating her and ripping off her wedding ring.

Anthony Foord, 45, and Amie Lynn, 38, also threatened to make their victim drink detergent if she did not pay them.

They then poured bleach around the house to destroy her belongings.

The victim said she had lived in a "state of panic" since her ordeal in Dymchurch, Kent, in April.

Foord got 15 years' jail and Lynn got ten at Canterbury crown court.

HOVER CRAFTED

Kestrels' ability to hover in the air provides clues to making drones more stable in wind, say Bristol University researchers.



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STAY fuzz free when you use the Bondi Body Mini Laser @ Home, previously £189, now £99, at Bondi-body.com. **SAVE: £90**



CHEAP TREAT



POUR a glass of the Aussie Andrew Peace Masterpeace Chardonnay, launching in Tesco today. Usually £6.50, but £5 with a Clubcard. **SAVE: £1.50**

LOOK GOOD FOR LESS AT LAST SUMMER SHOWS



Festivalue gear

STAND out from the crowd at music festivals and gigs with some clever crafting.

From Swifties gearing up for Taylor's shows to families hitting Camp Bestival and everything else in between, kit yourself out for a summer of fun on a budget with some DIY styling...

TEE-RIFIC TEES: Transform an old T-shirt into something concert-worthy with a pair of scissors. Slash the neck, chop off sleeves and you can even cut your own fringed hem by folding the T-shirt in half vertically and snipping 5cm straight lines along the bottom.

HATS OFF: Cowboy hats are an

ideal addition to any festival outfit. Pick up a second-hand Stetson at a charity shop or on Vinted and then head to The Works for a £1 pack of sticky gems.

You could add a bedazzled lyric or your own name by writing it in pencil first, then adding the gems. Another option is to paint the hat with PVC glue before shaking glitter over it.

GO GLAM: Have you got an old, forgotten denim jacket lurking in your wardrobe? Give it a glamorous makeover fit for a concert by adding sequins. Order a roll of sequin thread for £4.99 at Amazon and stitch it on in any design you want. Alternatively, sew individual sequins along the pocket, hem and cuffs.

HOT STUFF: Add a pop of personality to your clothes with iron-on patches. Whether it is a jacket, jeans or even a bag, patches are an easy and affordable

way to customise your outfit. Get a pack of iron-on stars, hearts or letter patches for as little as £1.49 at patchesrus.co.uk.

ADD SPARKLE: Nothing says concert camaraderie like friendship bracelets. Flying Tiger has sets for £4, which include string, beads and letter beads to spell out lyrics or pop stars' names. Or pick up the popular Deluxe kit from B&M. It is £20, but includes everything you need to make hundreds of bracelets and even four personalised scrunchies. Get the children involved and make it a family activity during the summer holidays.

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

TOP SWAP



£50

PACK everything into this cool black rucksack, above, £50 from Marks & Spencer, or get a similar version, below, at Primark for £16. **SAVE: £34**



£16

What's new?

MEXICAN restaurant Chipotle has launched Build Your Own tacos or quesadillas kids' meals.

And to celebrate, children eat free every Monday until September 9 with a purchase of a regularly priced main meal.



Little helper

TREAT yourself to new lingerie at Boux Avenue and, from today until September 1, get matching knickers free with selected bras, saving you up to £20.



THE Sun RAFFLE



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SHOP & SAVE



SIT down to dinner in style and comfort with this padded blue Ikea Klinten chair - was £50, now £25. **SAVE: £25**

HOT RIGHT NOW

SAVE up to half price on fitness and sports equipment at Argos. Sale includes e-bikes, Pilates bundles and home gym equipment.



Police... investigation

Man shot by police after fight in street

By **MIKE SULLIVAN**

POLICE shot a man in a village, leaving him in a critical condition. Officers responded to reports of an "altercation" in the street between two people, including a man armed with a weapon. One, aged in his 20s, was shot in Knaphill, Surrey, at half past midnight yesterday. He was taken to hospital, where he is in a critical but stable condition. A weapon was recovered at the scene. Both men are thought to be known to each other. Surrey Police referred itself to the watchdog and are looking for witnesses and any relevant CCTV footage. It added: "The thoughts of everyone at Surrey Police Federation remain with the officers, the member of the public involved and their family."

Have roo got lost?

A WALLABY has become an unexpected distraction to golfers. The kangaroo relative – dubbed Holly Wallaby after the former This Morning host – was first spotted at Oakmere Golf Club, Notts, on July 29. The county's Wildlife Trust believes the animal, native to Australia, may have escaped from a nearby private collection. Club director Daryl St John Jones said: "They aren't that interested in catching it as they said it eats grass and can live in the countryside. "It only seems to come out in the evening or early in the morning."

Mothers outlawed

MOTHERS-in-law are among the least popular house guests, a survey has confirmed. Thirteen per cent of adults do not want their partner's mum to stay in the summer holidays. Just ten per cent object to their other half's dad. More than one in ten of the 2,000 people in the Uswitch.com poll said they do not even want their own parents staying. And one in five would hate their friends to come and stay. Reasons for avoiding house guests include lack of space and privacy, tidying up and extra cost.

BLACKPOOLED OVER Blackpool has the most drink-drivers in Britain – with more than eight offenders for every 1,000 people, DVLA data shows.



By **JACK HARDWICK**

EVA Longoria chooses her tide after swapping a beach holiday for football at the weekend. The actress, 49, who was in Spain on Wednesday, joined Wrexham owners and actors Rob McElhenney, right, and Ryan Reynolds, left, at the win against Wycombe Wanderers.

3-2 Final!
@wrexham afc

TOT BORN IN BRA SECTION

I'VE HAD THE FIRST JOHN LEWIS BABY



A MUM gave birth in the bra section of a John Lewis – and wants to name her baby after the department store. Karisma Webster was shopping with her mum when her waters broke in the underwear aisle. The hotel worker, 32, said: "I wasn't due for another six days so it was a bit of a surprise. We told one of the ladies that worked in that section and she asked if we Good support . . . Karisma & tot

EXCLUSIVE by ROB PATTINSON needed an ambulance. I was in total shock, but the John Lewis ladies took me into a changing room and cordoned it off. "Then I started having contractions but there was still no sign of the paramedics. "Some other ladies who worked at the store came, and luckily one was an ex-midwife. "Then one of the ladies said 'Oh gosh, it looks like you are going to have a baby in John Lewis'. The paramedics finally arrived and she was born." Karisma, who gave birth to 6lb 3oz Cali-Blu-Rose, was wheeled out of the store in Solihull, West

Mids, last month – with Chanel and Dior goodies gifted to her by the staff. The mum of five, from Birmingham, says she will give her the middle names "John Lewis". Delighted Karisma added: "Apparently she is the first ever baby born in a John Lewis. "It's an amazing story to tell her when she is older. "They even gave Cali-Blu-Rose her first outfit – you don't get Chanel on the NHS." A John Lewis spokeswoman said: "Our partners were overjoyed to be part of such a special moment and we send our very best wishes to mum and baby." robert.pattinson@the-sun.co.uk



Shop till you pop . . . store



Accident... under pier

Woman's spine op after fall from pier

By SARAH RIDLEY

A WOMAN who fell 30ft through an open trapdoor on Blackpool Pier needed surgery to her spine, it has been revealed.

The unnamed woman, in her 50s, landed on the beach below and was taken to hospital.

Visitors were evacuated from the pier last Tuesday. She is believed to have fallen through an open service hatch.

Family friend Stephen Taylor has now set up a fundraiser for the mum of two — whose husband recently died from sepsis.

He wrote: "She will need a lot of support in the coming weeks."

"They were on a fun day out in Blackpool. Just queuing. She is now recovering from surgery to her spine and elbow."

Blackpool Council said the Central Pier would remain closed "until a survey on the structural integrity of the decking was complete."



Neigh bother... horses

New test reveals horses not fools

By ANDY ROBINSON

HORSES are far smarter than previously thought, scientists have discovered.

They found the animals can understand the rules of a game — but do not necessarily follow them unless it benefits them.

Researchers first gave them a treat if they nudged a card with their nose. Then they only gave the snacks when they touched the card while a light was switched off.

In this second round, the test horses ignored the light and kept nosing the card anyway.

But when they introduced a time-out penalty for not following the rules, the 20 horses quickly fell in line.

Louise Evans, a PhD candidate at Nottingham Trent University, said: "Animals usually need several repetitions, but our horses immediately improved."

"This suggests they knew what the rules of the game were all along."

THE GLAMOROUS PATHOLOGIST W



By **MIKE RIDLEY**

IT was two o'clock in the morning, in the days before mobile phones and satnav.

Once again, forensic pathologist Dr Helen Whitwell had got lost on the way to a murder scene.

Stopping at a pay phone in the middle of nowhere, she called Nottinghamshire police headquarters, who sent a detective to find her.

A while later, as the cop car she was travelling in finally reached its destination, Dr Whitwell spotted that TV crews and Press photographers were already swarming.

Quickly, she ordered the detective at the wheel to pull into the drive of a nearby house.

As she opened her bag, the officer expected to see it packed with the tools of her grisly trade.

Instead, the Home Office pathologist pulled out make-up, a hairbrush and perfume.

"If you think I'm going to face the Press at 3am without my slap on, think again," she told her bemused driver.

Female Sherlock

Adding the finishing touches, she then stepped out of the car to face the cameras as she dodged inside the police cordon to examine the corpse.

Nigel McCrery, a Nottinghamshire policeman at the time, recalls: "The pathologists I had dealt with up until then were crusty old men with beards and socket sets."

"And then Dr Whitwell turned up. She was young, beautiful, blue-eyed, with long blonde hair — not at all what you would expect."

"She was probably the cleverest woman I've ever met, with the intellect and the brain of a planet. But she was also eccentric. Helen loved Champagne and parties, but would often get lost on her way to murders."

A decade later, Nigel had left the police to become a writer, but he could never forget Dr Whitwell.

And she became the inspiration for the world's most famous fictional female pathologist, Sam Ryan, in TV's *Silent Witness*.

Now approaching its 28th series on BBC One, it is among the longest-running television crime dramas ever, alongside shows

KILLER CLUES...

Emilia Fox as pathologist Nikki Alexander. *Above left*, Amanda Burton as Sam Ryan and, *inset*, writer Nigel McCrery



such as the Seventies US detective classic *Columbo*, and has spanned more than three decades after the first episode showed in 1996.

For the first eight years, Sam Ryan was *Silent Witness*'s leading lady, played by actress Amanda Burton. Emilia Fox is now the star of the show as pathologist Dr Nikki Alexander.

She has also been modelled on Dr Whitwell, who died from cancer last month, aged 69. Paying tribute to Helen, who went on to become Britain's first

female professor of pathology, Nigel says: "I think she was quite flattered to be in *Silent Witness*. She was this incredible combination of things which makes a wonderful character. "A mixture of good-time girl, if you like, and this dedicated pathologist. It was a privilege to see her work, a female Sherlock Holmes, there's no doubt about that. She was an elegant woman in every respect, who enjoyed Champagne breakfasts, fine dining and high-quality wines."

Dr Whitwell, daughter of the mayor of Kendal in Westmorland, trained as a doctor before lecturing on the study of brain disease.

But she became fascinated by causes of death and, in 1988, was appointed as a Home Office registered pathologist. For the next decade she worked with police forces in the Midlands, carrying out up to 60 post mortems a year in cases of suspicious deaths. She said: "I used to have dreams of people waking up on the mortuary table."

"I know many think it's a macabre way to earn a living, but it's a lot easier than dealing with someone who's alive and suffering."

Dr Whitwell married senior police officer David Stokes in 1990, but they divorced four years later and had no children.

In 1995, when Nigel came up with the idea for *Silent Witness*, which started out as a series of novels, the doctor became his script consultant as well as the star character.

He says: "There's one case I remember where I sent her the manuscript and she came back to me and said, 'I find it very unlikely somebody would be garrotted in a graveyard at night?'. I said, 'Yes, but

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SILENT PARTNER... Emilia Fox has portrayed Dr Alexander since 2004

WHO INSPIRED TELLY HIT SILENT WITNESS

Face the Press without make-up? Over my dead body



JUSTICE FIGHT . . .
clockwise from top left, GP Harold Shipman, Sion Jenkins, Sally Clark and Tracie Andrews



INSPIRATION . . . Dr Whitwell during the trial of knife killer Tracie Andrews in 1997

just a book. You can exaggerate things a little'. So I went ahead and didn't think much more about it. I rang me some time later and she said, 'I've just dealt with a murder, the victim was garrotted in a graveyard at night'. I thought, 'Christ, we've got a cat killer, someone reading the book and killing people'. But there's never another one."

Passion for science

When *Silent Witness* began on TV, Dr Whitwell would visit the set to check that mortuary scenes were accurate. But she revealed in a 2016 interview that pathologists never go interviewing suspects, like on the show, which is aired in 235 territories around the world. They examine a victim and prepare evidence of how they died for the courts. Writer

Nigel, 70, says: "She would not take the side of the police and she would not take the side of the defence. It wasn't for her to cast an opinion. She presented evidence."

Dr Whitwell also became a world expert on shaken baby syndrome and, in 1995, she helped Kevin Callan, a lorry driver, overturn his conviction for murdering his disabled four-year-old stepdaughter by shaking her.

She gave evidence that helped nail murderer Tracie Andrews, who stabbed her fiancé Lee Harvey 42 times with a penknife in 1996, but claimed they were attacked in a road-rage incident by a "fat man with staring eyes" who killed Lee.

In 1999, Dr Whitwell appeared as a witness for the defence in the case of Sally Clark, a solicitor found guilty of murdering her two infant sons. Her conviction was overturned in 2003.

The professor was also an expert adviser to the inquiry into serial killer Harold Shipman, the Greater Manchester GP. And she testified in the case of deputy headmaster Sion Jenkins, from Hastings, East Sussex, who became the first man in British criminal history to be acquitted after three trials for the same crime – the alleged murder of his 13-year-old foster daughter, Billie-Jo, in 1997.

Dr Whitwell's home was a 17th-century thatched cottage near Bournemouth, Dorset, where she grew flowers with strong scents. Each plant was selected for its aroma. Nigel says: "I hadn't realised she was such a keen gardener. To my surprise, she replied, 'I don't like gardens, particularly'."

"Pathologists tend to lose their sense of smell and taste. Not because of the bodies. They're unpleasant, but the smell is natural. It's all the chem-

icals. As soon as she could no longer smell her garden, or the strong aromas dimmed, she'd retire. Some years later, she did."

Dr Whitwell packed away her scrubs for the final time in 2009 after osteoporosis in her hands meant she could no longer hold instruments to do autopsies.

But she did not leave behind her passion for science.

Instead, she wrote books on pathology and continued to travel the world giving lectures.

But, Nigel says: "In her final moments, her biggest regret was that she couldn't quite taste the Champagne any more."



6am Breakfast (S)
9.30 Animal Park A new species predator is introduced to Longleat safari park, but the keepers may not be ready. (R,S)
11.15 Countryside Treasures (R,S)
11.00 Homes Under The Hammer Property auctions. (R,S)
12.00 Bargain Hunt Eric Knowles presents the show from Newbury, Berkshire. (R,S)
1.00 BBC News (S)
2.00 Money For Nothing Sarah Moore rummages through the rubbish at Wallyford Recycling Centre in East Lothian. (R,S)
3.00 Escape To The Country Nicki Chapman helps a young couple hoping to move to the Cheshire countryside. (S)
3.45 The Repair Shop A vintage globe is restored. (R,S)
4.30 The Finish Line Quiz contest in which contestants race in moving podiums across the studio floor to try and win £5,000. Hosted by Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene. (R,S)
5.15 Pointless (R,S)
6.00 BBC News (S)
6.30 Regional News (S)



9.30am Ben Fogle and Kate Humble present a new series of Animal Park
7.00 The One Show Alex Jones and Lauren Laverne present the first visit of the week to the One Show studio, featuring the usual mix of topical stories and celebrity chat. (S)
7.30 EastEnders Peter is jealous of Bobby's recent promotion but has suspicions about Cindy's motives and Nish attempts to upset Suki and Eve. (S)
8.00 Panorama In-depth current affairs report covering a story behind the headlines. (S)
8.30 Scam Interceptors A scam call centre is pretending to be a mobile provider to get control of UK phone accounts to steal customers' money. Can the Interceptors stop them? (R,S)
9.00 Death In Paradise (6/8) A desert island survival course goes wrong when the leader - a trained survival expert and ex-SAS soldier - is found dead in the forest of a remote island near Saint Marie. (R,S)
10.00 BBC News (S)
10.30 Regional News (S)
10.40 Have I Got News For You (2/10) David Tennant hosts the current affairs quiz with Richard Osman and Lucy Beaumont joining Ian Hislop and Paul Merton to poke fun at the week's headlines. (R,S)
11.10 Crazy Rich Asians Comedy starring Constance Wu. (2018) **FILM** **5.00** (S) Followed by **Weather For The Week Ahead**
1.10 -6am BBC News (S)

6.45 am Saturday Kitchen: Matt's Dream Dishes (R,S)
8.15 Sign Zone: Bridge Of Lies Quiz hosted by Ross Kemp. (R,S,SL)
9.00 BBC News (S)
1.00 Head Hunters (R,S)
1.45 Catchpoint (R,S)
2.15 A Countryside Summer (R,S)
2.45 Spy In The Wild (R,S)
3.45 B&B By The Sea The latest guest at the B&B is actor Larry Lamb, who is no stranger to Northern Ireland. (R,S)
4.15 Cornwall: This Fishing Life Restrictions begin to ease in Newquay after the coronavirus lockdown, and the town's fishermen have lost time to catch up on. (R,S)
5.15 Flog It! The experts search for items at Penrhyn Castle in north Wales, where David Harper looks at vintage Second World War posters and Claire Rawle is surprised by a watch. (R,S)
6.00 Robson Green's Weekend Escapes Double bill. The actor tries out landscape painting. Then, Robson and Rosie Ramsey enjoy a bushcraft lesson in Northumberland. (R,S)



8.30pm Amol Rajan returns to ask the questions on University Challenge
7.00 Iolo's Valleys (1/4) Iolo Williams explores the valleys north of Swansea where he finds dippers and kingfishers nesting. (S)
7.30 Mastermind (1/30) Clive Myrie returns with the quiz asking questions on Dad's Army, Liverpool FC under Jurgen Klopp, the life and works of Jane Austen, and Shania Twain. (S)
8.00 Only Connect (1/28) Victoria Coren Mitchell returns with the quiz based on patience and lateral thinking with the AI Frescans taking on the Midlanders in the first heat. (S)
8.30 University Challenge (1/37) Amol Rajan presides over the opening match of the first round, which sees Queen's University Belfast taking on the University of Liverpool. (S)
9.00 My Tiger Family The 50-year story of a wild tiger family in north-west India with the lives of the big cats documented by Valmik Thapar, who has dedicated his life to following them. (S)
10.00 Spent (6/6) Mia's romantic tension with Jo reaches a head. (S)
10.30 Newsnight (S) Followed by **Weather**
11.05 The Sense Of An Ending **FILM** Mystery drama starring Jim Broadbent and Charlotte Rampling. (2017) **5.00** (S)
12.50 Sign Zone: Countryside (R,S,SL) **1.45-2.30am** Clean It, Fix It (R,S,SL)

6am Good Morning Britain (S)
9.00 Lorraine Entertainment and fashion news. (S)
10.00 This Morning Celebrity chat and lifestyle features. (S)
12.30 Loose Women Celebrity interviews and studio discussion from a female perspective. (S)
1.30 ITV News (S)
1.55 Regional News (S)
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal David Dickinson is joined by experts Henry Nicholls, Stewart Hogarth, Tim Hogarth and Mark Stevens in Burton upon Trent to assess items brought in by members of the public. (R,S)
3.00 Tenable Five friends from Warwickshire University compete. (R,S) Followed by **Local Weather**
4.00 Tipping Point Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot. (R,S)
5.00 The Chase Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R,S)
6.00 Regional News (S)
6.30 ITV News (S)



5pm Bradley Walsh is joined by four more contestants aiming to win on The Chase
7.30 Emmerdale Noah asks Amelia if he can still be part of Esther's life. (S)
8.00 Coronation Street Leonne keeps her distance as Toyah undergoes an operation, Kit moves into the Rovers, Steve misleads Cassie with an invitation to an evening of culture, and Aadi cautions Amy against investing her inheritance from Deirdre in the Institute. (S)
9.00 Long Lost Family The stories of two women searching for siblings, including one who always had a feeling that she had a biological sister and has longed to meet her since being proved right. (S)
10.00 ITV News At Ten (S)
10.30 Regional News (S)
10.45 Mission: Impossible III **FILM** Former secret agent Ethan Hunt is called out of retirement when an ex-trainee is taken hostage by a ruthless arms dealer, but when the rescue operation goes wrong, the villain decides to target Hunt's fiancée. Action thriller sequel directed by JJ Abrams starring Tom Cruise, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Michelle Monaghan, Ving Rhames and Simon Pegg. (2006) **5.00** (S)
12.50 Shop On TV **3.00** Family Fortunes. Game show hosted by Gino D'Acampo. (R,S,SL) **3.50** Unwind With ITV (S) **5.05-6am** Jimmy's Taste Of Florida. Jimmy Doherty explores Central Florida, where he fires up the grill at a BBQ restaurant, getting grilling secrets from Chef Kyle. (R,S,SL)

6.20 am Cheers (R,S)
7.10 Everybody Loves Raymond Four episodes. (R,S)
9.00 Frasier (R,S)
11.00 The Simpsons (R,S)
12.00 C4 News (S)
12.05 Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet The Athletes (R,S)
12.10 A New Life In The Sun In Spain, a couple renovate a rustic property into a resort with a golf theme. (R,S)
1.10 Car S.O.S Tim and Fuzz are taking on their 100th car, which is also going to be their first electric conversion - a 1978 MG, which the owner inherited from her father. (R,S)
2.10 Countdown John Thomson is in Dictionary Corner. (S)
3.00 A Place In The Sun (R,S)
4.00 The Great House Giveaway A delivery driver and company owner transform a family home in Middlesbrough. (R,S)
5.00 A New Life In The Sun: Where Are They Now? Gite owners Mark and Lesley take flight with a new idea. (R,S)
6.00 Come Dine With Me (R,S)
6.30 The Simpsons (R,S)



8pm Hoteliers Luke and Steph feature in the documentary Yorkshire By The Sea
7.00 C4 News (S)
8.00 Yorkshire By The Sea (2/4) Whitby distillers Jess and Luke are creating their latest tippie from tasty foraged seaside ingredients. In Scarborough, pioneering sea-farmer Wave checks out his seaweed harvest of sugar kelp, while newbie hoteliers Steph and Luke prepare for a busy weekend. (S)
9.00 Emergency **NEW** A 38-year-old paratrooper arrives at the Royal London after a paragliding accident. He has lost sensation in his legs and needs specialist high-risk surgery to fix his compacted spine and pelvis if he's to have a chance of walking again. (S)
10.00 Murder Case: The Digital Detectives (1/3) Series exploring groundbreaking digital techniques helping police to solve murders. In this episode, a 17-year-old boy is chased down and stabbed in a vicious assault. (R,S)
11.05 Night Coppers (1/6) On the beat with the police officers of Brighton after dark. Dakota and Dan are assigned to a football fan who's been knocked out in the street. (R,S)
12.00 Murdered: The Baby On The Beach (R,S,SL) **2.40** Becoming Elizabeth (R,S,SL) **3.40** Grand Designs (R,S,SL) **4.35** Kirstie's Fill Your House For Free (R,S) **4.50** Frasier (R,S) **5.35** Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet The Athletes (R,S,SL) **5.40-6.20am** Countdown (R,S)

6am Milkshake!
9.15 Jeremy Vine (S)
11.30 Storm Huntley (S)
12.45 Friends Double bill. Ross's true feelings for Rachel are revealed. Then, Rachel struggles to deal with Ross's new relationship. (R,S)
1.40 5 News (S)
1.45 Home And Away Mackenzie is not in a forgiving mood. (R,S)
2.15 Gone Girl: The Disappearance Of Jennifer Dulos A wealthy Connecticut mother-of-five mysteriously vanishes in 2019, and the finger of suspicion points at her husband. Fact-based crime drama starring Annabeth Gish and Warren Christie. (2020) **5.00** (S)
4.00 The Cruise: Fun-Loving Brits At Sea The first day of cruising around the Mediterranean for the three groups begins with a trip to Athens. (R,S)
5.00 5 News At 5 (S)
6.00 World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys A trip through the Peak District at full steam, pulled by the Royal Scot. (R,S) Followed by **5 News Update**



8pm Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders follows the work of officers
7.00 Traffic Cops (3/20) A prolific car thief crashes and rolls a stolen car at over 100mph, while the hunt for a cloned car and disqualified driver leads to a high-speed pursuit. (R,S) Followed by **5 News Update**
8.00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders (8/10) Sgt Dave Roberts pursues a car suspected of having cloned number plates, but the driver refuses to stop despite two flat tyres and decides to drive the wrong way down the A1. (S)
9.00 Forensics: Murder Scene **NEW** (1/6) Documentary telling the inside story of forensics teams working alongside West Yorkshire police, beginning with a woman who has been stabbed in her home in Leeds. (S)
10.30 Police: Hour Of Duty (5/8) A woman arrives in custody after being arrested on suspicion of causing harm to her baby. (R,S)
11.25 Police 999: Clear & Present Danger (6/6) Police search for a missing pensioner, and become involved in a car chase. (R,S)
12.25 Traffic Cops (R,S) **1.20** PlayOJO Live Casino Show (S) **3.20** The Science Of Sleep: How To Sleep Better (R,S) **4.10** House Busters (R,S,SL) **5.05** House Doctor (R,S,SL) **5.30** Entertainment News On 5 (S) **5.35** Fireman Sam (R,S,SL) **5.45-6am** Paw Patrol (R,S,SL)



By **ROD McPHEE**
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Sun tvbiz

GLAM... avatar. Inset, Douglas

MONTELL WONDER WOMAN

GLADIATORS star Fire has already made her debut in a Strictly ballgown – in the virtual universe, that is. The former Team GB athlete – real name MONTELL DOUGLAS – was confirmed as the 12th celebrity contestant for the new series of the BBC One show last week.

But as part of her big reveal at Sheffield's Utilita Arena, she also made her debut on online platform Roblox in BBC's virtual reality game The Wonder Chase, where her avatar wears a flowing Strictly-style dress.

The Roblox platform already features BBC stars NCUTI GATWA, GARY LINEKER and LOUIS THEROUX and allows players to step into shows like Doctor Who, EastEnders and Match Of The Day via mini-games.

Discussing her Strictly unveiling last week, she said: "I feel like I belong here – I'm excited about the challenge."

MEDICAL documentary series Emergency is back this week, following The London as Major Trauma System as they help patients recover from serious injury. The first episode, at 9pm tonight on Channel 4, features a paragliding accident that leaves a dad in need of major surgery.

WILL: MY GARETH REMATCH

WILL YOUNG wants to stage an unofficial Pop Idol reunion with his old rival GARETH GATES.

The idea came about after Will realised he had accidentally moved to the same town as Gareth. The duo fought for the talent show crown on ITV 23 years ago.

Will revealed on Magic Breakfast: "I recently moved to the countryside. "It's not a big town and I got the train down from London. I get in the taxi and the cabbie says to me, 'Oh are you going to Gareth Gates' house?'"

"Gareth lives in the same town I've just moved to. What are the chances!" "I think we're going to turn up at the local talent show and I'm going to take him on again and win – absolutely!" Quick, call SIMON COWELL.



MOVE... star

This is getting on my Wicks!

TV EXEC FURY AT PETE SAS/STRICTLY CLASH

AN unlikely war has broken out between SAS: Who Dares Wins and Strictly Come Dancing – over reality hunk PETE WICKS.

The Towie star filmed for the challenge show in July 2023 in New Zealand – his second shot at the gruelling SAS selection process after broken ribs forced him to quit the previous year.

But Channel 4's production schedule means the series won't air until September, on the very same weekend that Pete begins his Strictly stint.

It's the second time SAS: WDW has been gazumped. In 2022, its star signing, shamed MP **MATT HANCOCK**, appeared on ITV's I'm A Celebrity before his endurance adventure was broadcast the following year.

The latest clash involving Pete Wicks has left C4 execs "furious" as their promotion plans for the upcoming SAS: WDW are now in tatters.

A TV source said: "Channel 4 were fuming when Pete was revealed as part of this year's Strictly cast. It's the second time they've been screwed over by another reality show."

'Redemption arc'

"After Pete was knocked unconscious and broke his ribs in 2022's series, his return to try to pass selection was a big deal and the first time [*ex-Special Forces lead instructor*] **BILLY BILLINGHAM** and the directing staff have allowed a celeb to try out twice.

"Bosses wanted his to be one of the main storylines on the show, a real redemption arc, but

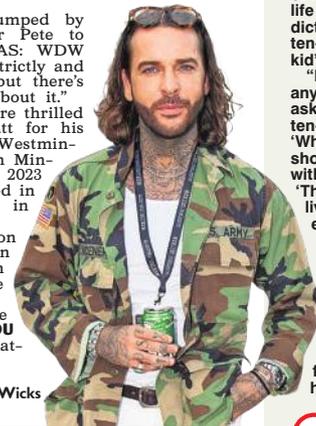
now they've been trumped by Strictly. All plans for Pete to give interviews for SAS: WDW will be overtaken by Strictly and bosses are furious – but there's nothing they can do about it."

SAS: WDW execs were thrilled when they landed Matt for his first reality stint post-Westminster. The former Health Minister appeared in their 2023 series, which was filmed in the Vietnamese jungle in summer 2022.

But he ended up on ITV's I'm A Celeb in November 2022 with SAS: WDW airing the following September.

Who would have thought **ANTON DU BEKE** would end up beating Billy in a fight?

SCHEDULE ROW... Pete Wicks



LUCIEN'S KING OF THE HILL

HE'S best known as LILY COLLINS' love interest, Alfie, in Emily In Paris – but LUCIEN LAVISCOUNT first found fame closer to home on school drama Grange Hill.

And he feels like he is living a schoolboy's dream thanks to his acting success.

Ahead of the Netflix rom com's new series landing this Thursday, he said: "I just feel so thankful."

"It's kind of weird. My life is kind of dictated by a ten-year-old kid's dream?"

"I think if anyone asked a ten-year-old, 'What should I do with my life?', you'd be like, 'That's crazy'. But, yeah, I'm living that kid's dream every day."

Lucien also revealed he has DAVID BECKHAM to thank for his career.

He was first scouted to appear in an ad for Golden Balls' clothing range with M&S.

No wonder Lucien is fast becoming TV execs' hunk of choice.



HIT... Lucien



MEET JUDE'S CREW

JUDE LAW is the latest star to appear in a galaxy far, far away for the latest Star Wars series on Disney+.

Skeleton Crew sees the British actor take a major role as lone Jedi knight, Jod Na Nawood, inset. The series –

which has been described as a blend of Star Wars and Netflix's Stranger Things – follows four children who make a mysterious discovery on their seemingly safe home planet and then get lost in a strange and dangerous galaxy. It is there

that they meet Jude's solitary and enigmatic character – along with a whole host of androids and bizarre creatures, of course.

Skeleton Crew will drop on Disney+ on December 4.

CELEBRITY Race Across The World star KELLY BROOK says the show – starting on Wednesday – was tougher than she expected. She was partnered with hubby Jeremy Parisi, who took it way more seriously. She said: "If Jeremy was doing the race alone, he'd have finished it in a week."

GRAY ON C4? RUDE NOT TO

CHANNEL 4 will air an award-winning comedy show – despite its star having attracted 1,500 Ofcom complaints.

Trans comic JORDAN GRAY scooped the Comedians' Choice gong at the 2022 Edinburgh Fringe with her show Is It A Bird?, but outraged viewers when she stripped naked on C4's Friday Night Live later that year.

Now the broadcaster will air Is It A Bird? as a one-off show.

Gray said: "This silly show has changed my life forever. The fact it's going on TV makes me so excited, I could cut the glass ceiling with my nipples."

Co-producer Ben Timlett added: "We look forward to re-upsetting those 1,500 Ofcom complainers and really getting to know the C4 legal team."



STRIP... comic

More listings:
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Monday

Sun TV 4-PAGE SECTION

FREEVIEW

BBC THREE *Freeview 23*

7pm Top Gear. A search for the world's best taxi. **8.00** Shark Tank: Dragons' Den US **8.40** The Catch Up **8.45** Press X To Continue **9.00** Stacey Dooley Sleeps Over **9.45** High: Confessions Of An Ibiza Drug Mule **10.30** Drugs Map Of Britain **11.20** Him & Her **12.20** Eating With My Ex **12.50** High: Confessions Of An Ibiza Drug Mule **1.35-2am** Drugs Map Of Britain

BBC FOUR *Freeview 9*

7pm Great British Railway Journeys **7.30** Gareth Edwards' Great Welsh Adventure **8.00** The Impressionists: Painting And Revolution **9.00** Call My Bluff **9.30** Going For A Song **10.00** The Sky At Night **10.30** Sex And Sensibility: The Allure Of Art Nouveau **11.30** Maggi Hambling: Making Love With The Paint **12.30** Romancing The Stone: The Golden Ages Of British Sculpture **1.30-2am** Great British Railway Journeys

ITV2 *Freeview 4*

6am CITV: Craig Of The Creek **6.15** Teen Titans Go! **6.40** Batwheels **6.50** Mr Bean: The Animated Series **7.25** Scooby-Doo! Mystery Incorporated **7.50** Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! **8.10** What's New Scooby-Doo? **8.35** Scooby-Doo And Guess Who? **9.00** World's Funniest Videos **9.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **10.00** Love Bites **12.00** Dress To Impress **1.00** In For A Penny **2.00** Supermarket Sweep **3.00** Charmed **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Dress To Impress **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase **7.00** Ant & Dec's Limitless **11.30** American Dadi **12.30** Bob's Burgers **1.30-2.35am** Deal Or No Deal

ITV3 *Freeview 10*

6am Classic Emmerdale **7.00** Classic Coronation Street **8.00** Poirot **10.00** Bless This House **10.30** The Royal **11.35** Heartbeat **1.40** Classic Emmerdale **2.40** Classic Coronation Street **3.50** A Touch Of Frost **6.00** Heartbeat **8.00** Vera **10.00** Cracker **12.05** Poirot **1.45-2.10am** Bless This House

ITV4 *Freeview 26*

6am Minder **7.05** The Professionals **8.10** Robin Of Sherwood **9.15** The Champions **10.20** Kojak **11.25** BattleBots **12.30** Robin Of Sherwood **1.35** The Champions **2.40** Kojak **3.50** Minder **4.55** The Professionals **6.00** BattleBots **7.00** The Chase Celebrity Special. With Cathy Akudolu, Andrew Pierce, Sonja McLaughlan and Jack Carroll. **8.00** King Of The Roads **10.05** FILM Rambo III. Action adventure sequel with Sylvester Stallone. (1988) **12.10** Motorsport UK **1.05** Auto Mundial **1.30** Motorsport Mundial **1.55-2.45am** From Dusk Till Dawn

E4 *Freeview 13*

6am Hollyoaks **7.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.00** The Goldbergs **10.00** Young Sheldon **11.00** Modern Family **12.00** The Big Bang Theory **2.00** The Goldbergs **3.00** Modern Family **4.00** Young Sheldon **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Hollyoaks **7.30** Second-Hand Showdown With Vicki Pattison. New series. Helping Ellie and Shay to find bold new styles. **8.00** Below Deck Adventure **9.00** Gogglebox **10.00** Naked Attraction **11.05** First Dates **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.05-2.05am** Brooklyn Nine-Nine

MORE4 *Freeview 19*

8.55am Food Unwrapped **9.30** A Place In The Sun **10.25** A New Life In The Sun

ENTERTAINMENT



Sky Witness 9pm **Thony** (above) and **Nadia** join forces in *The Cleaning Lady*

SKY SHOWCASE

6am Sky News Breakfast **7.00** Breakfast With Anna Jones **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Stargate SG-1 **11.00** Orangetan Jungle School **12.00** Supergirl **1.00** MacGyver **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 **4.00** S.W.A.T. **5.00** The Simpsons **6.00** The US Office **7.00** The Simpsons **8.00** UFO. The world reels from the New York Times bombshell. **9.00** Elizabeth Taylor: The Lost Tapes. A profile of the actress told through audio tapes discovered in the archive of journalist Richard Meryman, revealing the complex inner life and vulnerability of the star. **11.00** Last Week Tonight With John Oliver **11.45** Sex And The City **1.05-2am** Brit Cops: Frontline Crime UK



COPY CAKE . . . contestant Eileen with Jason and judge Bryan Ford

BLUE RIBBON BAKING CHAMPIONSHIP

Netflix
If the price for obtaining the rights to *The Great British Bake Off* is too steep, you may as well make your own version. That's what Netflix appears to have done with its new US-based baking show, which is almost identical. Hosted by American Pie star Jason Biggs, who took under three minutes to make a predictable pie gag in the series opener, the show sees ten state fair Blue Ribbon winners compete to be crowned the country's best baker and take home \$100,000.

last night

The set-up is all rather familiar. There is a pavilion rather than a tent as the base and the bakers are tasked with impressing "Queen Of The Fair" Sandra Lee and White House pastry chef Bill Yosses, who take on the roles of Prue Leith and Paul Hollywood. Each episode winner is rewarded with a Judges' Choice ribbon, while the baker who made the least impression is sent home. The remaining bakers are eventually whittled down to three for the big finale. What is obvious from the outset is the standard is nowhere near the level of Bake Off. Indeed, the opening challenge is fairly basic – an attempt to evolve "iconic fair food" on a stick, which saw the bakers take an hour to make desserts including brownies, doughnuts, waffles and "potato candy" in stick form. Jason attempts to humour the contestants while they tell him and the judges what they are planning, their designs

11.25 Find It, Fix It, Flog It **12.30** Come Dine With Me **3.10** Four In A Bed **5.50** Château DIY **6.55** Car S.O.S **7.55** Grand Designs. People building dream homes. **9.00** Car S.O.S **10.00** Holidays From Hell: Caught On Camera **11.05** 24 Hours In A&E **12.10** Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet The Athletes **12.15** Emergency Helicopter Medics **1.20-2.20am** 999: On The Front Line

SKY MIX *Freeview 11*

7am Border Security: Canada's Front Line **8.00** Nothing To Declare **9.00** Monkey Life **10.00** UK Border Force **11.00** Highway Patrol **12.00** Motorway Patrol **1.00** Border Patrol **2.00** Monkey Life **3.00** Nothing To Declare **4.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation **5.00** Star Trek: Enterprise **6.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine **7.00** Star Trek: Voyager **8.00** Hawaii Five-0. A pair of film-makers are killed. **9.00** Rob & Romesh Vs Team GB: Part 2 **10.00** A League Of Their Own **11.00** Killer In My Village **12.00** Caught On Dashcam **1.00-2am** Nothing To Declare



E4 8pm **Faye** joins as the crew as chief steward in *Below Deck Adventure*

U&DAVE *Freeview 19*

7.10am Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA **8.00** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **10.00** Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes **11.00** Rick Stein's Cornwall **12.00** Storage Hunters UK **2.00** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes **6.00** Rick Stein's Cornwall **7.00** Would I Lie To You? Comedy panel show. **7.40** Richard Osman's House Of Games **9.00** QI XL **11.00** Taskmaster **12.00** Mock The Week **12.40** Would I Lie To You? **1.20-2am** Room 101

U&DRAMA *Freeview 20*

7.10am London's Burning **8.00** Doctors **9.15** Classic Holly City **10.35** Classic Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40** Classic EastEnders

SKY ATLANTIC

6am Fish Town **8.10** Riviera **10.20** Britannia **12.25** Game Of Thrones **1.40** The Sopranos **3.55** Riviera **5.55** Britannia **7.55** Game Of Thrones. Jaime has a mission for Brienne. **9.00** Mare Of Easttown. Crime drama starring Kate Winslet. **10.05** The Last Of Us. Joel and Ellie encounter the most wanted man in Kansas City. **11.20** Succession **12.30-3am** The Leftovers

SKY WITNESS

6am Bondi Rescue **7.00** 999 Frontline **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Highway Cops **10.00** Caught On Dashcam **11.00** Bull **12.00** The Rookie **1.00** Chicago Fire **2.00** Caught On Dashcam **4.00** Nothing To Declare **8.00** The Equalizer. First episode of the crime drama starring Queen Latifah. **9.00** The Cleaning Lady. Arman goes missing. Crime drama, starring Elodie Yung and Martha Millan. **10.00** Coroner. Jenny and Donovan investigate the death of a homeless person. **11.00** Chicago Fire **12.00** The Good Doctor **1.00-2am** Elsbeth

GOLD

7.05am The Fosters **7.45** Dinnerladies Diaries **8.40** Keeping Up Appearances **9.20** Ever Decreasing Circles **10.00** Hi-De-Hi! **10.40** Still Open All Hours **11.20** Last Of The Summer Wine **12.40** Keeping Up Appearances **1.20** Ever Decreasing Circles **2.00** Still Open All Hours **2.40** Hancock's Half Hour In Colour **3.20** Hi-De-Hi! **4.00** Last Of The Summer Wine **5.20** Still Open All Hours **6.00** Keeping Up Appearances

2.00 London's Burning **3.00** Born And Bred **4.10** Howards' Way **5.25** Birds Of A Feather **6.05** Desmond's **6.40** Are You Being Served? **7.20** Last Of The Summer Wine **8.00** The Brokenwood Mysteries **10.00** New Tricks **11.20** Silent Witness **1.35-2.40am** Footballs' Wives

REALLY *Freeview 17*

6am Celebrity Fantasy Homes **7.00** Teleshopping **8.00** Salvage Hunters **10.00** A Place In The Sun **12.00** Money For Nothing **2.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** Celebrity Antiques Road Trip **5.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **7.00** Antiques Road Trip **9.00** The Derbyshire Auction House **10.00** The Repair Shop **11.00** Help! My House Is Haunted **12.00** Paranormal: Caught On Camera **1.00-2am** The Dead Files

U&YESTERDAY *Freeview 27*

6.10am Inside The Factory **8.00** Abandoned Engineering **10.00** World War Two From Above **11.00** Nazi Hunters **12.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **1.00** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** WW2: Frontlines **5.00** Nazi Hunters **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **8.00** Abandoned Engineering **9.00** A Very British Murder With Lucy Worsley **10.00** Bangers & Cash **11.00** Abandoned Engineering **12.00** Great American Railroad Journeys **1.00-2am** A Year On The Yorkshire Steam Railway

U&W *Freeview 25*

6.10am Inside The Ambulance **7.00** Property Brothers: Family Flashback **8.00** Tipping Point **11.00** DIY SOS: The Big Build **12.00** DIY SOS: Children In Need Special **1.00** Tipping Point **4.00** My Dream Home **6.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars **7.00** MasterChef Australia **8.40** Amanda & Alan's Italian Joy **9.20** Sort Your Life Out With Stacey Solomon. A couple hope to transform their chaotic two-bed home. **10.40** The Gentle Art Of Swedish Death Cleaning **11.40** Ambulance Australia **12.40** Bang On Budget **1.45-3am** 16 Kids And Counting

QUEST *Freeview 12*

6am Fantomworks **8.00** American Pickers **10.00** The Repair Shop **12.00** How Do They Do It? **2.00** Find It, Fix It, Drive It **3.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **5.00** Wheeler Dealers **7.00** Salvage Hunters: Classic Cars **8.00** Salvage Hunters: The Restorers **9.00** Outback Opal Hunters. Mark's inexperience with the dozer proves too much for Paul. **10.00** Outback Crystal Hunters **11.00** Bennetts British Superbikes **12.00** The Repair Shop **1.00-2am** Wheeler Dealers

6.35 Dad's Army: The Lost Episodes **8.00** Dinnerladies. Norman the breadman fails to deliver. **8.40** Ghosts. A ghostly photograph goes viral. **9.20** Harry Enfield And Chums. Featuring the Camp Jockeys, the Scousers and Kevin the teenager. **10.00** Bottom. Richie and Eddie celebrate Christmas. **10.40** The Royle Family. Denise and Dave visit with baby David. **11.15** Dinnerladies **11.55** Harry Enfield And Chums **1.05** Bottom **1.45-2.20am** The Royle Family

COMEDY CENTRAL

8am Home Improvement **9.00** Friends **11.00** New Girl **1.00** Friends **8.00** Most Ridiculous. **8.30** Most Ridiculous. **9.00** Lee Evans: Live In Scotland. A performance by the comedian. **10.25** Jimmy Carr: Making People Laugh. The comedian performs in Glasgow. **11.30** Jessica Fosterkey: Silence Of The Nans **12.30** Henning Wehn: It'll All Come Out In The Wash **1.25-2.25am** Jack Dee Live At The Apollo

ALIBI

7.10am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** The Doctor Blake Mysteries **10.00** Elementary **11.00** Hudson & Rex **12.00** Father Brown **1.00** Death In Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators **5.00** Father Brown **6.00** Hudson & Rex **7.00** Elementary. A botany professor and his students are killed by poisonous mushrooms. **8.00** Death In Paradise. Neville tries to solve the mysterious death of a nurse from his hospital bed. **9.00** Father Brown. A murder is blamed on a doctor.

SPORT



Sky Sports Main Event 7.30pm Tahiti Chong and Luton Town face Burnley

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6am Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **9.00** Good Morning Transfers **10.00** The Football Show **12.00** Transfer Talk **1.00** Lunchtime **2.00** Sports Desk **2.30** LIVE The Hundred. Birmingham Phoenix Women v Trent Rockets Women. Start-time at 3.00. Coverage of the match at Edgbaston. **6.00** LIVE The Hundred. Birmingham Phoenix Men v Trent Rockets Men. Start-time at 3.00. Coverage of the match at Edgbaston. **7.30** LIVE EFL. Luton Town v Burnley. Kick-off at 8.00. Coverage of the Championship match held at Kenilworth Road. **11.00** LIVE Tennis. The WTA National Bank Open presented by Rogers. **1.00-2.30am** LIVE Tennis. The ATP National Bank Open presented by Rogers.

SKY SPORTS PREMIER LEAGUE

6am PL Greatest Games **7.00** Premier League Stories **8.00** Premier League Best Goals **9.00** PL 100 Club **10.00** The Football Show **12.00** Gary Neville's Soccerbox **1.00** PL Years **3.00** PL Retro **5.00** Premier League Best Goals **6.00** PL 100: Petr Cech **6.30** PL 100: Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink **7.00** Premier League Preview **8.00** PL Years **10.00** Class Of '92: Full Time **11.00** PL Years **1.00-3am** PL Retro

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6am EFL Cup Highlights **8.45** EFL Greatest Games **9.00** Scottish Premiership Round-Up **9.15** SPFL Highlights **9.30** EFL Highlights **10.00** Championship Season Review **11.00** EFL Cup Highlights **11.30** EFL **12.00** SPFL **2.00** LIVE EFL Highlights. Blackburn Rovers v Derby County in the Championship.

10.00 Pretty Hard Cases. A cooler full of guns puts Sam and Kelly on the trail of 77 more black market firearms. **11.00** Elementary **12.00** Hudson & Rex **1.00-2am** Father Brown

SKY COMEDY

8am Will & Grace **9.00** The Conners **10.00** Crashing **10.30** Barry **11.50** Young Rock **12.50** Insecure **2.05** Barry **3.25** Young Rock **4.25** Crashing **5.00** Will & Grace **6.00** The US Office **7.00** The Conners **8.00** Will & Grace **9.00** Last Week Tonight With John Oliver. A satirical look at news and pop culture. **9.45** Silicon Valley **11.00** Last Week Tonight With John Oliver **11.45** Sex And The City **12.55-2.05am** Fantamas

DISCOVERY

6am How It's Made **7.00** How Do They Do It? **8.00** Blowing Up History **9.00** How The Universe Works **10.00** Iron Resurrection **11.00** Wheeler Dealers **1.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **3.00** Mystery At Blind Frog Ranch **4.00** Edge Of Alaska **5.00** Salvage Hunters **6.00** Iron Resurrection **7.00** Jeremy Wade's Dark Waters. A creature wiping out the fish in a Western Australian river. **8.00** Wheeler Dealers. Mike and Ant welcome a 1968 International Harvester Traveller to the workshop. **9.00** Shorty's Dream Shop. A big fan of 'Training Day' wants his '78 Monte Carlo built in the same vein. **10.00** Last Chance Garage. Tony travels to Tennessee to find out why a 2021 Jeep 6x6 is not running. **11.00** Outback Truckers **12.00** Mysteries Of The Missing **1.00-2am** Shorty's Dream Shop

RADIO



Radio 2 10pm Trevor Nelson introduces a mix of soulful tunes in Rhythm Nation

VIRGIN RADIO *DAB virginradio.co.uk*

6.30am Angela Scanlon On The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Steve Denyer On The Ryan Tubridy Show **1.00** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Olivia Jones **10.00-4am** Sean Goldsmith

TALKSPORT *DAB talkradio.co.uk*

6.30am Mike Graham **10.00** Julia Hartley Brewer **1.00** Ian Collins **4.00** Jeremy Kyle **7.00** Alex Phillips **10.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00** Paul Ross **5.00-6.30am** James Max

TALKSPORT *1053.1089MW talksport.com*

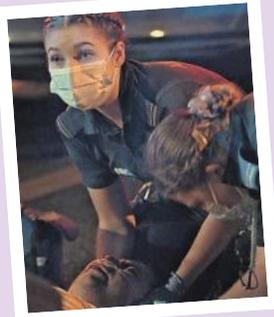
6am Breakfast With Jeff Stelling **10.00** Jim White And Simon Jordan **1.00** Hawksbee And Jacobs

illustrated on screen via hand-drawn animations on plates – another format nicked from *Bake Off*.

Each of the eight episodes has a new theme. One was dedicated to frying, which saw a baker dip Oreos in batter, while a further was dedicated to pies, sparking Jason to make another reference to his cult teen film with the admission: “No pies were harmed in the making of this show.”

The series flows nicely and has a warm feel, but the lack of ambition and originality ensures it won't stand out from the hundreds of other baking shows on TV.

STUART PINK



TO THE RESCUE . . . paramedics

EMERGENCY, C4, 9pm: “London’s crazy. This huge, busy, beast of a city. You do feel a buzz in the air. You can almost feel jobs waiting to happen.”

Yes, the documentary series that is both astonishing and reassuring returns. And you know that when they say “jobs”, we’re not talking about a taxi fare.

Hospitals see to 54-year-old Joao, who had his leg crushed under a bus, and 38-year-old paramedic Lance Corporal Lee, who shattered his spine after a paragliding accident and faces surgery at the Royal London.

Other patients include a 33-year-old asexual with potentially lethal pelvic injuries and 15-year-old Louie with an arterial bleed. Over four nights,

tv picks

we witness patients pass through the network that connects hospitals, paramedics and air ambulances: The London Major Trauma System.

ANIMAL PARK, BBC One, 9.30am: Presenters Ben Fogle and Kate Humble are back, along with newer team members Hamza Yassin and Megan McCubbin, to catch up with the residents from Longleaf Safari and Adventure Park.

Plus there is the chance to meet new adorable arrivals. But

there is drama from the word go, with tiger Rusty due for an operation. It is a tense time when his heart suddenly stops.

Meanwhile, Megan’s giving the Cuban crocodiles a shower and the ferret family are full of beans.

A must-watch for animal lovers. **SECOND-HAND SHOWDOVS WITH VICKY PATTISON, E4, 7.30pm:** While the terms “vintage” or “preloved” are more commonly used than “second-hand”, this returning series, hosted by Vicky Pattison, is

designed to inspire us all to step back from fast fashion. Stylists Sabrina Grant and Joey Bevan put together a wardrobe for colour-crazy nurse Ellie and play-it-safe hairdresser Shay, and they each choose one to keep, while the other is relisted.

FORENSICS: MURDER SCENE, C5, 9pm: This series goes behind the blue tape to watch a real forensic team at work.

This week, police investigate the case of a young woman murdered at home in Leeds. A man has been arrested but is keeping silent, meaning the CSI and blood analysis experts are more crucial than ever. And when they make a breakthrough, it paints a startling picture.

RIANNE ISON

TNT SPORTS 1

6am T20 Cricket Highlights **11.00** GT20 Cricket **12.00** One Day International Cricket **3.00** Test Cricket Highlights **4.00** GT20 Cricket **5.00** Between the Lines **5.30** Sign Up – Into Football **5.45** What I Wore **6.00** Premier League Stories **6.30** **LIVE** Ultimate Pool. Coverage of Group 9 of the Ultimate Pool Pairs Cup. **9.30** Premier League Preview **10.30** The Fantasy Show **11.00** WWE Raw Highlights **12.00** WWE SmackDown Highlights **1.00-4.15am** **LIVE** WWE Monday Night Raw. Wrestling action.

TNT SPORTS 2

8am AFL **2.00** What I Wore **2.15** The Football Archives: UEFA Champions League **3.15** UEFA Europa League Goals Reload **6.00** UEFA Champions League Goals Reload **8.00** MLB Highlights **9.00** Fishing: On the Bank **10.00** Test Cricket Highlights **11.00** GT20 Cricket **12.00** The Football Archives: UEFA Champions League **1.00** What I Wore **1.30** MLB Highlights **2.30-5.45am** **LIVE** MLB. San Francisco Giants v Atlanta Braves. Start-time at 2.45.

TNT SPORTS 3

6am Classic Premier League **1.00** Premier League Review **9.00** Fight Week **9.30** Tom Aspinall’s Fight Lab **10.30** UFC **1.30-2.30am** UFC: The Ultimate Fighter

PREMIER SPORTS 1

8am Desafio China By La Vuelta **9.00** Sporting Countdowns **9.30** Coppa Italia **11.30** LaLiga Specials **12.00** SPFL **2.00** LaLiga News **2.30** Coppa Italia **4.25** F1H2O World Championships **4.55** LaLiga Specials **5.25** **LIVE** Coppa Italia. Lecce v Mantova. Kick-off at 5.30. **7.55** LaLiga Specials **8.10** **LIVE** Coppa Italia. Cagliari v Carrarese. Kick-off at 8.15. **10.40** Copa America Highlights **11.00** F1H2O World Championships **11.30** URC Highlights **1.30-2.30am** Desafio China By La Vuelta

EUROSPORT 1

8am Modern Pentathlon: Summer Olympic Games **9.00** Olympic Games: Best Of Team GB **11.00** **LIVE** Cycling: Tour De France Femmes. Coverage of stage one. **3.00** Cycling: San Sebastian Classic **5.00** Olympics: Hall Of Fame **6.00** Olympic Games: Best Of Team GB **7.00** Climbing Show **7.30** Teqball Show **8.00** Cycling: Tour De France Femmes **9.00** Cycling: Tour De France Femmes: The Breakaway **9.30** Olympic Games: Best Of Team GB **11.30pm-12.30am** Cycling: Tour De France

4.00 Drive With Andy Goldstein And Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** The Sports Bar **1.00-5am** Extra Time With Paul Ross

TALKSPORT2 *DAB talksport.com*

6am Sportsday **9.00** TalkSPORT Exclusives **1.00** The TalkSPORT 2 Social **5.00** TalkSPORT Exclusives **6.00** TalkWRESTLING **8.00** TalkSPORT Exclusives **12.00** TalkSPORT Exclusives **5.00-6am** Early Sports Breakfast

TIMES RADIO *DAB thetimes.co.uk/radio*

6am Aasmah Mir And Stig Abell With Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Adam Boulton **1.00** Ayesha Hazarika **2.00** Jane Garvey And Fi Glover **4.00** Carole Walker With Times Radio Drive **7.00** Rosie Wright With The Evening Edition **10.00** Darryl Morris **1.00-1.30am** The Story

RADIO 1 *97.6-99.8FM bbc.co.uk/radio1*

6.57am Newsbeat **7.00** Breakfast With Greg James **11.00** Rickie, Melvin And Charlie **12.45** Newsbeat **1.00** Matt And Mollie **3.30** Newsbeat **3.32** Going Home With Vick, Katie And Jamie **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** New Music Show With Jack Saunders **10.00** Power Down Playlist With Sian Eleri **11.00** Rock Show With Daniel P Carter **1.00-2am** BBC Introducing Rock On Radio 1

RADIO 2 *88-91FM bbc.co.uk/radio2*

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Tina Dabelejo **2.00** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Jo Whitley **9.00** The Blues Show With Moby **10.00** Trevor Nelson’s Rhythm Nation **12midnight-2.30am** OJ Borg

MOVIES



Film4 9pm Gerard Butler heads the cast of the fast-paced thriller *Copshop*

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

11.05am *Trolls Band Together* (U, 2023) **★★★ 12.45** *Mean Girls* (12, 2024) **★★★ 2.45** *The Inventor* (PG, 2023) **★★★ 4.30** *Under The Boardwalk* (PG, 2023) **★★★ 6.00** *Uproar* (12, 2024) **★★★ 8.00** *Night Swim* (15, 2024) Horror, starring Wyatt Russell. **★★★ 9.45** *Parallel* (15, 2024) **★★★ 11.25** *Concrete Utopia* (15, 2023) **★★★ 1.35-3.10am** *Jericho Ridge* (15, 2023) **★★★**

SKY CINEMA ADVENTURE

10.05am *Hulk* (12, 2003) **★★★ 12.25** *Ready Player One* (12, 2018) **★★★★★ 2.50 *War Of The Worlds* (12, 2005) **★★★★★ 4.55** *Total Recall* (12, 2012) **★★ 7.00 *The Hangover* (15, 2009) Comedy, starring Bradley Cooper. **★★★ 8.50 *The Hangover Part II* (15, 2011) **★★★ 10.40 *The Hangover Part III* (15, 2013) **★★ 12.25-2.20am *Ocean’s 8* (12, 2018) **★★★★★************

SKY CINEMA ACTION

12noon *Paradise City* (15, 2022) **★★ 1.45** *Justice League* (12, 2017) **★★★★ 3.55** *Need For Speed* (12, 2014) **★★★★ 6.20** *Hancock* (12, 2008) **★★★★ 8.00** *Shazam! Fury Of The Gods* (12, 2023) **★★★★ 10.20** *Gladiator* (15, 2000) **★★★★★ 1.05-3.20am *Need For Speed* (12, 2014) **★★★★★****

FILM4 *freeview 14*

11am *Tad The Lost Explorer And The Secret Of King Midas* (U, 2017) **★★★ 12.40 *Little Monsters* (12, 1989) **★★★★★ 2.30 *Roman Holiday* (U, 1953) **★★★★★ 4.50 *We Bought A Zoo* (PG, 2011) **★★★ 7.10 *Made In Italy* (15, 2020) Comedy-drama, starring Liam Neeson. **★★★ 9.00 *Copshop* (15, 2021) **★★★ 11.10 *Nuns On The Run* (15, 1990) **★★★★★ 1.00-3.15am *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* (15, 2018) **★★★★★****************

TALKING PICTURES *freeview 82*

11.35am *The Outer Limits* **12.40** *The Gallant Hours* (U, 1960) **★★ 3.00 *The Saint* **4.05** *Steering Clear* **4.30** *Five Days* (PG, 1954) **★★★ 6.00 *For The Love Of Ada* **6.30** *Out Of Town* **7.00 *The Footage Detectives* **8.00** *Enemy At The Door* **9.05** *Cash On Demand* (PG, 1961) Crime thriller, with Peter Cushing. **★★★ 10.45** *Time Without Pity* (PG, 1957) **★★★ 12.25-2am *Kill Me Tomorrow* (PG, 1957) **★**********

GREAT! MOVIES *freeview 34*

10.55am *Gone: Finding My Daughter* (PG, 2018) **★★ 1.00 *In Bed With A Killer* (PG, 2019) **★★★ 3.00 *Solar Attack* (PG, 2006) **★★ 5.00 *Polar Storm* (PG, 2009) **★★★★ 7.05 *Garage Sale Mystery: The Wedding Dress* (PG, 2015) **★★★ 9.00 *Insomnia* (15, 2002) **★★★★★ 11.30pm-1.45am *Exposed* (15, 2016) **★★**************

GREAT! ACTION *freeview 42*

11.50am *Battle Honours* **1.00** *Ride In The Whirlwind* (15, 1965) **★★★ 2.50 *The Warrant* (12, 2020) **★★★ 4.45 *The Heroes Of WW2* **6.00** *Cops Uncut* **6.30** *Air Rescue* **7.00** *Coast Guard Alaska* **9.00** *Son Of A Gun* (15, 2015) **★★★★ 11.20pm-1.40am *Seraphim Falls* (15, 2006) **★★★********

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Fab DAILY

SEX & LOVE

Edited by
LYNSEY CLARKE
and **JOEL COOPER**

THE FAB DAILY TEAM: Digital Commissioning Editor Claire Dunwell, Contributing Editor Nikki Watkins, Senior Feature Writers Kirsten Jones and Alex Lloyd, Feature Writer Yasmin Harisha, Fashion Editor Clemmie Fieldsend, Deputy Fashion Editor Abby McHale

Janet, 51, regrets settling down with older husband, John, 76, and tells **KIRSTEN JONES** why she is on the hunt for a new toyboy

I'M in heaven watching my latest eye candy strip off to reveal his rippling six pack.

Tall, dark and handsome, this dreamboat is all mine for the night. I get lost tracing his perfect frame until a spluttering cough drags me back to reality.

It's not a 40-something hunk standing before me. It's my 76-year-old husband John rotting in his stained armchair, picking the crumbs of a digestive from his wobbling dentures. My daydream has been ripped away like a sticky plaster.

It's no wonder I'm desperate for my second sordid affair.

John stares into the distance, mouth agape as if catching flies as the cogs turn in his brain. It's the start of another day trapped in my age-gap marriage. This old man was once the love of my life. Now he feeds on my energy and sucks out my soul.

At 51 years old, I'm in the prime of my life. My hair is shiny, I'm in great shape and even young lads turn their heads when they see me. That's why I've finally had enough of my sexless marriage.

When it comes down to it, I'm shallow. If my husband paid attention to me and gave me the love I craved, it wouldn't make a difference.

The attraction has well and truly disappeared, along with his youthful good looks.

It's not as if he ever tries to touch me, anyway. We haven't had sex for eight years and, to be honest, I can't be bothered to try and have sex with a man who, quite frankly, revolts me.

Besides, perimenopause made me dry up like a prune and I had absolutely no sex drive. I didn't mourn the death of our sex life, but I did mourn what could have been if, maybe, I'd married a younger man.

We grew further and further apart and now I find myself sharing a home with a man I barely look at.

We can go days without speaking and, as for fancying him, I'm afraid that spark's long gone... with him anyway.

Nine months ago, I began HRT treatment to tackle my brain fog, hot flushes and terrible mood swings.

What I didn't realise was my sex drive would come back like a steam train.

Mind-blowing sex

All I wanted was an encounter with a hot man who knew how to satisfy me. No amount of increased libido was going to get me back into my husband's bed. Anyway, I'd probably have given him a heart attack, if he'd have been able to do the deed.

I had to do something about my insatiable desire, so I had an affair. In March, I met a tall, dark and handsome man on Illicit Encounters, a website for those looking for a rendezvous – and had mind-blowing daytime sex with him in a hotel room, once a week, for four months.

His ripped 46-year-old body was a serious turn-on compared to the withered old man I had at home.

Living so close to my secret fling meant we could have speedy sex without arousing suspicion. But sadly my affair died out – he was married, too, so it was never going to last – but I'm on the prowl for another price among the frogs.

It hasn't always been this way. I met my husband when I was 30 and he was 55. Back then, he was in his prime. Well-built, slick-back hair, sparkling eyes. I felt like I was dating a film star.

I used to think of us as like Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones. He whisked me away on summer holidays to Madeira, Italy and the South of France where we would drink cocktails on the beach. At home, he would surprise me with meals at fancy London restaurants and make me feel special doing silly little things like caressing my back while I did the washing up.

He was so much more mature than the childish guys I had dated before – and I was head over heels in love with him.

I thought we'd grow old together. We got married, had our amazing son, but that is where the magic died.

While Catherine and Michael have stood the test of time, our love has crumbled like my husband's teeth.

Looking back, I don't think we ever had anything in common. It was all those fancy

NEVER MARRY AN OLDER MAN...MY HUSBAND DISGUSTS ME AND I'M PLANNING AFFAIR No2

experiences with his money that kept us together. I was young, naive, foolish.

We got married in 2014, and two years in, the sex dried up completely and he suddenly morphed into an elderly stranger I didn't recognise.

I have to leave the room when he eats because, since his teeth have crumbled, he sounds like a cow chomping on grass. I despair as he pulls the same soup-stained polo shirt out of the laundry basket to wear for the tenth day in a row.

Is it really that much to ask to be able to watch some trash TV in my own living room without being interrupted by his disapproving tuts as he sucks another toffee?

He recently went up north to see his family and I couldn't wait to get rid of him. Four whole days without the golf blaring out of the TV speakers on maximum volume, no dirty hearing aids crumpled in used tissues around the living room. Of course, I moth-

ered him before he left. He's so old now I have to remind him to take his cocktail of medication and pack enough faded Y-fronts for a weekend trip.

I should be able to relax when he's gone but he winds me up so much I'm like a coiled spring ready to shoot through the ceiling. When I hugged him goodbye I felt nothing, just the knobles of his ribs through his threadbare sweater.

What happened to my well-groomed gentleman – and who is this crusty old man who's taken his place?

I cannot get him to change. His stubbornness is unrivalled, and despite being deaf as a post, he won't admit it. So I spend my days hollering the dinner menu at the top of my lungs when he asks for the umpteenth time, "What's for dinner?".

He never asks how I'm feeling or if I've had a good day. But he will blab on in great detail about how awful the weather is –

when he doesn't leave the house for weeks at a time.

He hates the '80s pop music I play in the kitchen and calls it a "racket". He only watches black-and-white movies and has no idea what Traitors is.

Stark reminder

Then there's his health. From countless hospital letters about blood pressure and prostate checks to his rattling pockets full of heart tablets – and, of course, his treasured bus pass – it's a stark reminder of my husband's ageing body.

I'm sick of having to do every little thing for him – it gives me the ick having to mother and fuss over an elderly man.

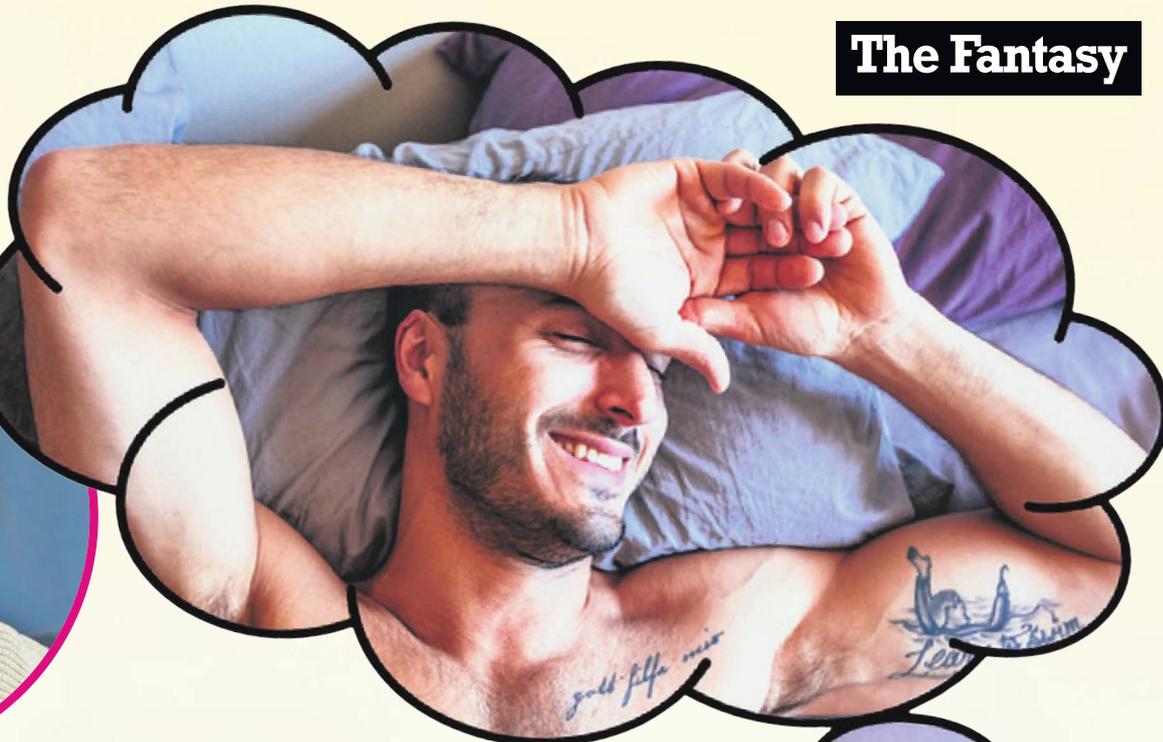
If you think an older man with money is going to take care of you, think again. The tables turn and suddenly, you are a full-time nurse. You're probably wondering why I am still with this old man. Like so many other



The Reality



The Fantasy



Pictures posed by models

women, I am trapped in a marriage because I feel too guilty about upsetting our child if we split.

Sure, my teenage son would probably get over it. But what if he didn't? And I do enjoy the time we spend together as a family.

Surely it's better for my husband to be with a younger woman who is happy but has a secret, than someone who is miserable.

I'll be on HRT for the next five years or so, until I come out of the menopause.

I don't know if I'll lose my sex drive when I stop it, and I'll be almost 60 by then.

No one wants to have sex with a wrinkly old lady, so I'm making the most of it while I can. Marriage is happier if you have an affair. Those little outlets of passion and flirtation, sex and dating. Any connection with another person makes

you feel better about yourself, and easier to live with. I suppose there are a few perks of staying with my elderly husband. I have a very nice roof over my head. I have financial security, I have my wonderful son. But that's where it ends.

How can I leave a frail old man on his own? What would people think of me? I feel trapped, with no way out.

Ladies, don't be fooled by these age-gap celebrity couples. You won't marry a Hollywood stud who defies the barriers of ageing. We mortals don't have millions of pounds to smooth over the cracks. They are selling the dream but the reality is a nightmare.

If you marry that old man and claim you are happy, you are only fooling yourself.

Think about your future. Don't make the same mistakes I did.

● Names have been changed



AGE-GAP DREAM...
Hollywood's Catherine and Michael

Fab DAILY HOT or NOT

GOING UP

ROSE FOR REFUGE

AROUND 1.4million women experience domestic abuse in the UK, and we can help support and keep them safe. Skincare brand Floragy is donating £5 to the charity Refuge for every bottle of Rose Edition Restore body oil (from £24) purchased. We're sold.



TAYLOR TOME

SWIFTIES will be hooked on Emily Layden's gripping novel *Once More From The Top*. The tale explores what would happen if Abigail from Taylor's hit song *Fifteen* was found dead in her hometown lake. Grab it for £15 at WHSmith.

RUN WITH IT

ATHLETES at the Paris Olympics have sparked a sexy new trend. "Runglasses" are the latest summer accessory, featuring wide frames and iridescent lenses, like this pair for £19.99 at Decathlon. We cannot compete with the 100m sprinters, but we can look just as cool.



NOT JELLY COOL

MEN in jelly shoes. Need we say more? It's the latest summer style to plague the high street. Our chaps are buckling up ick-worthy sandals, like this black pair from Office, £24. We think it's best to leave this ugly trend to our toddlers.



SINKING FEELING

SINK - or "single income, no kids" - is the latest unwelcome term for single, childless ladies who find themselves worse off than their coupled-up pals. They pay a premium for holidays, housing, and even restaurant bills. Give us a break.



IS THAT REALLY YOU?

THE "hot passport pic" trend has gone viral, making travel a nightmare. TikTokkers are sharing glam "passport make-up" and flashlights for the perfect shot. But you will look unrecognisable at airport security with a mum bun at 5am. Don't do it.

GOING DOWN

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Donald B. ★★★★★

"Extremely pleased with my hedge trimmer. My hedge which used to take a day to cut was completed in one full charge of the g tech."
William L. ★★★★★

The secret to a beautiful hedge is regular trimming – Gtech’s innovative cordless HT50 makes trimming hedges a pleasure.

No cord, no fuss

Moving around your garden is a joy with the HT50’s extended 60 minutes of run time.* There are no cables, or petrol engines to refill, just freedom to roam. A high torque 18V motor, supplies the HT50 with power directly when needed, while the lightweight but strong drive system is precise and quiet to run. But don’t be fooled – the laser cut precision blades power through branches up to 25mm thick – encouraging growth of a healthy, luscious hedge.

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With an adjustable head that rotates through 135°, the HT50 gives you ultimate control over cutting your hedge. Adjust the head downwards so you can cut the top of your hedge easily, and upwards to slice through thorny branches without scratching your arms. The 50cm blade helps you reach up to 10ft†, cutting flat along the top of hedges for an immaculate finish. Power through foliage, leaving behind clean cut, healthy stems which will bud into a beautiful, rich textured hedge.

Perfectly precise

Weighing only 2.94kg and accompanied by the harness, you can move freely around your garden without feeling anchored down. The HT50 is well balanced giving you a more enjoyable gardening experience without worrying about the weight.

Individual RRP of the HT50 is £249.99 and Branch Cutter is £24.99 which gives a total RRP of £274.98. Offers valid until 30/09/2024 or while stocks last and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. 30-day money-back guarantee, excluding £10 collection fee. Limited 2-year warranty. †Depending on the height of the user. Order before 7pm for Next Day Delivery to UK mainland (excludes Scottish Highlands) See website T&Cs for details. *Runtimes quoted may vary depending on condition of branches being cut.

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Inventor & Owner, Nick Grey

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Nick

www.gtech.co.uk

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Gtech's rating is 4.8 out of 5 after 130,000 reviews



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dear deidre

Edited by **SALLY LAND** No matter what the issue, I answer every single problem

Team: JANE ALLTON, HILARY FREEMAN, KALLY LEWIS, CATHERINE THOMAS, CHLOE STRATTON

OUR SEX ALWAYS ENDS IN BUST-UP

Dear Deidre

MY girlfriend has not been interested in sex for a while. It's like we are just friends without the benefits.

On the rare occasions we do have sex, she always complains about something. Either I am going too slow, or too fast or I climax too quickly or last too long. I can't win. I am 30 and my girlfriend is 29. We have been together for two years. She doesn't say a thing during sex. Her communication with me is non-existent, so I either go too fast and hurt her a bit or go too slow and she doesn't feel it enough.

We constantly fight after sex and I am at the stage where I am seriously considering leaving the relationship altogether. I have tried repeatedly to get her to talk to me but she always shuts down when I try.

Just don't know what to do. I really love her.

DEIDRE SAYS: A good sex life is all about communication. You need to find out where the negativity is coming from and why.

There may be underlying issues she is not prepared to talk about such as being traumatised by previous relationships, past guilt or shame. Calmly talk to her again and say you want to understand.

Some relationship counselling could help and you can arrange this via tavistockrelationships.org (020 7380 1960). If she is unwilling, she may not be the right person for you.

hot topic

FOR many people, summertime means holidays, warm weather, and a much-appreciated break from school or work.

But for people with an eating disorder, summer can often mean something much more difficult.

All the talk about bikini bodies, summer diets and showing more skin can be triggering and worsen eating disorder symptoms if left unchecked.

Is this an issue for you? My Eating Disorders support pack can help.

Dear Deidre

I BELIEVE my wife has remarried even though we are not officially divorced.

I am 47 and she is 45. We had been together for 20 years. We separated three years ago after I discovered she had been having an affair.

Since then we have split up and live in separate houses, but she has turned our son against me and I am heartbroken. My son is 17.

Last week, my solicitor told me the court still needs more information from my wife for the divorce to be processed.

I then found out a couple of days after that, that my wife has remarried, to the man she has been

Confidante pal bedded hubby

Dear Deidre

WHEN my marriage hit the rocks I did what any normal woman would do - I confided in my best friend. Little did I know she was having sex with my husband all the time.

I am 41 and my husband is 43. We have been married for 15 years, most of it happily.

Then a year ago, he seemed to change. I thought that perhaps he was depressed or going through some kind of midlife crisis.

My friend, who is divorced and 40, listened to my concerns and offered her support without giving a hint that they had just started sneaking off for afternoon sex.

I only discovered the truth when I had an emergency dentist appointment after a tooth broke.

I rushed into town and on my way to the surgery, I spotted my husband and best friend sitting in the window of a restaurant eating pizza together.

I realised in an instant what was

HERE TO HELP YOU



IF YOU are worried about anything please get in touch with my team of counsellors and we will do our best to help you. Every email receives a personal response within one working day.

deardeidre@the-sun.co.uk

going on and was nearly sick there and then.

I tackled my husband when he returned home. He admitted it straight away and told me their affair had been going on for 11 months. He was very apologetic and

ended it immediately. No matter how many times I ask, he cannot explain why their affair started.

My husband simply says she was a fun person to be around.

He has promised me that I am the one he wants to be with.

We are trying to make it work and he's making a big effort but my head is not in a good place?

DEIDRE SAYS: The two people you counted on the most have betrayed you. After such a devastating discovery, it's no wonder your confidence in your husband has been destroyed.

Be honest with him and explain how you feel - that your trust in him has been seriously eroded.

With the right support, it's possible to make it past an affair but you will both have to pull together and work out what's been going wrong.

My support pack Cheating, Can You Get Over It? will help.

He says your best friend was fun to be with, which suggests you had perhaps started to drift apart.

Professional relationship counselling would help too, and you can source this through tavistockrelationships.org (020 7380 1975).

FORCED OUT OF CHURCH BY A CREEPY PARISHIONER

Dear Deidre

I'VE been forced out of the church I love by another parishioner.

There is a man there who always stares at me and often stands in my way when I try to get past him. He makes inappropriate comments too. I feel intimidated by him.

None of the other churchgoers, apart from the minister, appear to be bothered by this or even notice.

I'm a 45-year-old single woman. I just cannot stand it any more. This man has been at the church for 20 years and it seems he has quite an influence there.

I'm disappointed and angry and can't understand why the minister and the church put up with someone like him.

I feel I've been driven out but at the same time it's a relief to be away from him. I don't belong in that environment any more but I'm really upset and angry.

I miss the services and a few of the other people even though I'll find another church in time.

DEIDRE SAYS: I am sorry that you feel you had no option but to leave the church you love. The reason that he made you feel uncomfortable may have far less to do with you than with him.

Still, nobody has the right to harass you and you can report it to the police.

They can charge someone with criminal harassment if this person has acted like this more than once and their behaviour has made you feel distressed or alarmed.

You can talk this through with victimsupport.org.uk (0808 16 89 111).

stories | deidre's photo casebook | YANNICK'S YOUNGER LOVER: DAY 1



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CONTINUES TOMORROW

COULD MY WIFE BE A BIGAMIST?

having the affair with. I don't know what to do because I don't know if it was a blessing or an actual marriage.

Do I tell the authorities, because if she has remarried she has committed bigamy?

I have sent a message to my wife and told her she needs to contact the court but I have not received any response from her so far.

Then I got a very nasty text from my son telling me to butt out of his mum's life. I don't want my ex

to go to prison, but I don't want to be involved in this either.

DEIDRE SAYS: You have to prove not only your name but date of birth and address to get married - in other words produce your passport, birth certificate etc. If your wife has remarried without being divorced it is a crime so her marriage is void.

Your son may have picked up on the anger you ex feels towards you, so is opting to reject you for fear of upsetting her, it's called parental alienation.

Families Need Fathers helps parents maintain contact with their children after separations and can advise you (inf.org.uk, 0300 0300 363).

GET IN TOUCH

If you are worried about something, my team is here to help. Please contact and follow us.
Online: thesun.co.uk/deidre **Instagram:** @dear.deidre **Facebook:** @DearDeidreOfficial
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“Finally, I can breathe easily... and no more coughing!”

New breakthrough device to help COPD, asthma, coughs, clear mucus and unblock airways and it's not an inhaler, in fact quite the opposite.

“I SUFFERED with breathlessness for years which I blame on my job as a plasterer. I think being on dusty sites for years took its toll on my lungs and now I am paying the price!

“Instead of enjoying my retirement, my health put a stop to doing all the things I had planned to do. My breathing was so bad that I'd be out of breath doing anything remotely active, even going up stairs. My GP sent me for all sorts of tests and as he suspected I was diagnosed with having Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

CHESTY COUGH

“It was so frustrating, I'd never smoked, yet I was constantly out of breath with a chesty cough that kept me and my wife Anna, awake almost every night. When we retired, we bought a mobile-home and planned to do lots of trips around the UK, exploring all

the places we'd never had chance to visit, but on the few trips we managed, I barely left the vehicle, and the last time we went, I ended up with a chest infection. Sadly, we reluctantly put it up for sale.

“It seemed our dream retirement was exactly that, just a dream! I was living in a nightmare and despite all the medication I was on, there was no change in sight.

STRENGTHEN BREATHING MUSCLES

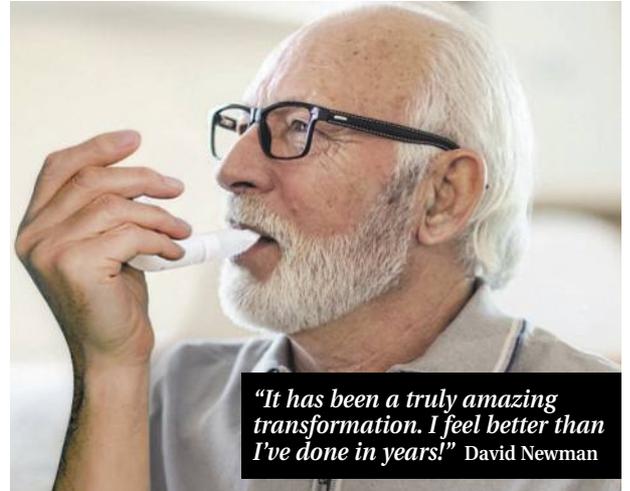
“God bless, Anna, she'd read about a device that could help COPD sufferers called *Breathe-Clear*, so she ordered one for me. She said it was scientifically proven to strengthen the breathing muscles. I was sceptical to say the least, it looked a bit like an inhaler, but without the Ventolin! What use was that? I thought, what a waste of money. Anna handed me the

instructions, and said, “give it a go, just for a few minutes a day, if not for you, then for me.” How could I refuse, my health was having a huge impact on her life too.

COUGHING LESS

“It was actually very simple to use, all I had to do was blow into the device hard enough to lift a ball bearing. It took a few attempts, but you know when you've done it as you feel a small vibration. I thought it was just a gimmick, but to keep Anna happy I tried it for a few days, and then something very unexpected happened. After 2 days of using it, I had a full night's sleep and after a week I found that I was coughing and wheezing less and less. I was struggling to believe this little device could make such a difference, but after just two more weeks my breathing was almost back to normal. It really was a dramatic change.

“That was three months



“It has been a truly amazing transformation. I feel better than I've done in years!” David Newman

ago and now I feel better than I've done in years, all thanks to the *Breathe-Clear*. I've since had my routine check-up at the hospital and they are amazed at my improvement.

BREATHE EASILY

“It has been a truly amazing transformation, I can now breathe easily, am much more active, and have even lost half a stone that I'd put on whilst sitting at home. Thanks to Anna's smart purchase and persistence I feel like we've

been given a second chance in life. And I am going to grab it!

“We had another blessing, our mobile home didn't sell so we've taken it off the market. I feel so happy that we are planning a trip to the Lake District in a few weeks. There is no stopping me now.”

■ **The *Breathe-Clear* is available on a 90-day Risk-Free Trial from Branshaws – to order call FREE-PHONE 0800 138 4900. They are running a special offer: BUY TWO AND GET ONE FREE.**

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Letters @the-sun.co.uk

The page where you tell Britain what you think

Time to face music, Katie

£50 LETTER

THERE is much to praise about Katie Price – she made her own money and has been a devoted mum.

But why has she become so financially irresponsible? Not turning up to court for a bankruptcy hearing, and instead going abroad for cosmetic surgery, is just crazy.

Would going to prison then writing about it for financial gain work out for her? I doubt the public would buy it.



DIANE SILVA
Bournemouth

She needs to take stock quickly and get her priorities in order.

THE best way to make sure Katie Price doesn't go abroad again, after she was bailed to reappear in court, would be to seize her passport. It's what they do to football yobs.

WELL done to Judge Daniel Schaffer for his no-nonsense message to Katie Price about her next court hearing later this month – telling her she must attend "no ifs or buts, no going abroad, no holidays".

But, sadly, she revels in publicity. Her absence from the news would be most welcome.

KATIE PRICE is out of hand. She will doubtless look on her latest legal wrangles as a potential book – and

money-spinner. I feel pity for her, as she is incapable of being content with her looks and life without spending more and more money.

THE Government needs to put legislation in place to stop thugs wearing masks at protest marches.

Over the last week we have seen our streets descend into chaos. These yobs are just out to spread violence and hate. "Face up" should be the new rule.

ACTION on the wearing of masks at demos is a must, to stop thugs hiding from the cameras.

I AM refusing to pay the increase in my water bill – over the sewage that has been dumped at my local beach. Also, because of the huge salaries and bonuses

water bosses continue to pocket. I will argue all the way.

THE record fines given by watchdog Ofwat to Yorkshire Water, Thames Water and Northumbrian Water for their shameful failings do not go far enough. Bosses continue to pocket huge bonuses, while passing on the costs of fines to customers.

If hauled into court, it might just make them think again.

Friendship and finance goals benefit from an overhaul, helping you stop spreading your energy too thin. Trust your instincts to choose what you should be aiming for. Then listen carefully to a long-time friend to help you decide how. Passion can be a priority all day, but in loyal ways that inspire you.

The moon and sun encourage you to devote the day to family issues. This time, keep on talking until you get a response. As you resolve half-done decisions on every life level, you can free up reserves of personal energy. Creative ideas you've had to set aside can take centre stage once you give them room to breathe.

The moon shines bright on your self-confidence sector – but this plays out only in the way you choose. So if you have a proposal to make, this can be the time. But do bear in mind that you can't possibly please all the people, all the time. Cash progress may be diverted but key goals can stay in sight.

If you're in love, put your own deepest desires first today and ask for the time, space or togetherness you know you need. If you're single, turn a jumble of uncertain feelings into one definite question. Travel plans could be held up – but when you keep your eyes on the destination prize, you can keep moving forward.

This can be an Aquarius day of chances in the morning and challenges in the afternoon – you'll benefit from both. Saturn's brakes come off, so you can keep trying new ways to break through a work or style barrier. While the deep vibe of Venus can leave love feeling more relaxed than recent days.

You're a fast learner and you are primed to gather excellent info – but do seek a second opinion on what you should do with it. You are now in a planet phase of thinking and planning for the long-term. A big passion gesture may be a surprise whether you make it or receive it – but yes, it's sincere.

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AS fast as Banksy puts up his street art, the greedy Philistines rip them down. Man's appetite for money is never satisfied – you cannot give man enough.

SYD VAUGHAN
Birmingham

IT seems Man United's Dutch manager Erik ten Hag is determined to hire more and more staff and players from the Netherlands – surely not right for an English club.

MALCOLM BALMFORTH
Keighley, West Yorks

DANNY CIPRIANI once had the world at his feet as a successful rugby player but thanks to drugs and philandering his world has come crashing down, and his wife wants a divorce.

Sounds like he needs rehab. He may only be 36 but the drugs will soon age him, and possibly kill him, if he doesn't seek help.

His wife, Victoria, deserves a loyal husband, not a flirt who still thinks he's 18.

SUZU SAUNDERS
Banbridge, Co Down

HOW can it cost £8,000 just to cover up a urinal in the Treasury?

We learned of the absurd figure after Chancellor Rachel Reeves wanted it taken out of her private bathroom.

Thankfully, she has seen sense and taxpayers won't be coughing up for it.

NIGEL COLEY
Leicester

email, fax, write or comment online

We pay £50 for our Star Letter of the day: Email letters@the-sun.co.uk. Fax us on 020 7782 4170 or write to Dear Sun, The Sun, 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF. Include your full name and address. You can share your views at thesun.co.uk

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Teaser
5 1 8 2 3 4 7 9
7 8 4 6 9 1 5 2 3
3 9 2 7 5 4 8 6 1
1 2 9 5 6 8 3 4 7
6 3 5 4 7 2 9 1 8
4 7 8 3 1 9 6 5 2
8 5 3 1 4 7 2 9 6
9 1 6 2 3 5 7 8 4
2 4 7 9 8 6 1 3 5

Set Square
7 - 2 x 9
+ \times + \times
1 \times 3 \times 4
+ \times + \times
6 \times 5 \times 8

Quizword
ACROSS: 1 Boston crab, 6 Dry goods, 12 Blues, 13 Redcoat, 14 Eddie, 15 Paignton, 16 Strychnine, 18 Karren, 20 Rebecca, 22 Alps, 25 Rib, 26 Ronni, 27 Dutch barn, 29 Leo, 30 Blackpool, 31 Naomi, 32 GMT, 34 Oaks, 36 Halogen, 37 Nevada, 40 Persian cat, 42 Strachey, 45 Extra, 46 Leg slip, 47 Skunk, 49 Everdene, 50 Rerelendum.
DOWN: 1 Bob, 2 Saudi Arabia, 3 Orson, 4 Carlow, 5 Aida, 7 Ratty, 8 Goethe, 9 Old Bill, 10 Stevenson, 11 Southend-on-Sea, 15 Poker, 17 Seville orange, 19 Eureka, 21 Cotton, 23 Angola, 24 Shilite, 25 Afghan hound, 30 Biosphere, 33 Tracy, 35 Kirstie, 38 Lizard, 39 Steppes, 41 Nolan, 43 Aisne, 44 Elle, 48 Kim.

Clue Square
Fried, Mined, Frond, Fined, Credo, Forced, Fomed, Minder, Ironed, Modern, Confide, Dornice, Informed, CONFIRMED

Brickwork
1 Ire 2 Rite 3 Tiers 4 Stride
5 Directs 6 Verdicts 7 Credits
8 Edicts 9 Sited 10 Edit 11 Tie

Minidoku
4 2 1 3 | 4 2 3 1
3 1 4 2 | 1 3 4 2
2 4 3 1 | 2 4 1 3
1 3 2 4 | 3 1 2 4

Arrowword
I N T E R N A T I O N A L
G E O G R A P H I C A L
R A I L W A Y S
A L M O N D T R E E
V I E W U M A J I V E
S E A N C L O W N I L
S T Y T O E U G L Y

Add Up
94, 43, 134

Wordsearch

Numberfit

Train Tracks

Missing Link
Safe, Lock, Loan, Crew, Mine, Pack, Sail, Body, Rock, King, Arm, Pick

Word Ladder
DAFT, Dart, Dark, Bark, Bank, Bunk, PUNK

NumberCrunch
Easy: 63
Medium: 486
Harder: 2238

Mini Jigsaw
PHONEY, UNREAL, MIRAGE, SHIFTY, FORGED, PSEUDO

Mind The Gap
Dedicates, Purchased, Unskilled, Artichoke, Crocodile, Embargoed, Finement, CHICORY

Mini Code
R A I L L
T R I F L
S L A T E
E A T E
M I S A I

Pathfinder
LIQUORICE, WINE GUMS, LOLIPOP PASTILLES, MINT, SHERBET, HUMBURG, TOFFEE BUBBLE GUM, JELLY BEANS, FUDGE

Pub Quiz
1 Kottarose Ross
2 Cher
3 Doctor Who
4 Swindon Town
5 Florence
6 Small intestine
7 Leonardo da Vinci
8 Peter Crouch
9 A volcanic discharge of carbon dioxide
10 Challenham
11 Ultra-high temperature (or, sometimes, ultra-heat-treated)
12 Play-Doh

Two-Speed Crossword
ACROSS: 1 Ring-o, 4 Enchant, 8 De-po-s-ed, 9 Spo-ok, 10 Obituary, 12 Cyan, 14 Damsel, 15 Encore, 18 Soda, 19 R-reversal, 21 Adage, 22 S-kipper, 24 Execut[ive], 25 Range.
DOWN: 1 Red-for-d, 2 Nap, 3 Ob's cured, 4 End-ure, 5 Case, 6 A-n-on-ym-ous, 7 T-ok-en, 11 M-mediate, 13 Infe-ric-r, 16 Enlarge, 17 Les-see, 18 Spare, 20 Beau (bow), 23 Pan.

Sun Suko 2
931
467
528

Suguru
1 3 1 4 1
2 4 2 3 2
1 3 5 1 4
5 2 4 2 3
4 1 3 5 1

SAGITTARIUS November 23 – December 21

CAPRICORN December 22 – January 20

AQUARIUS January 21 – February 18

PISCES February 19 – March 20

LIBRA September 23 – October 23

SCORPIO October 24 – November 22

LEO July 23 – August 23

GEMINI May 22 – June 21

TAURUS April 21 – May 21

ARIES March 21 – April 20

Virgo August 24 – September 22

Leo July 23 – August 23

Gemini May 22 – June 21

Taurus April 21 – May 21

Aries March 21 – April 20

Virgo August 24 – September 22

Leo July 23 – August 23

Gemini May 22 – June 21

Taurus April 21 – May 21

Virgo August 24 – September 22

Leo July 23 – August 23

Gemini May 22 – June 21

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Taurus April 21 – May 21

Virgo August 24 – September 22

Leo July 23 – August 23

Gemini May 22 – June 21

Taurus April 21 – May 21

puzzles

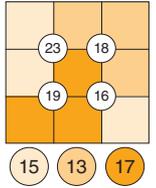
BRAINBUSTER

The following long-winded sentence can be read as what well-known saying?

Immediately upon becoming inbound to one auditory organ comes discharge via the supplementary one.

SUKO®

Enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of its four surrounding squares. Each coloured area should add up to the colour totals below.



We've got all your favourite brain teasers

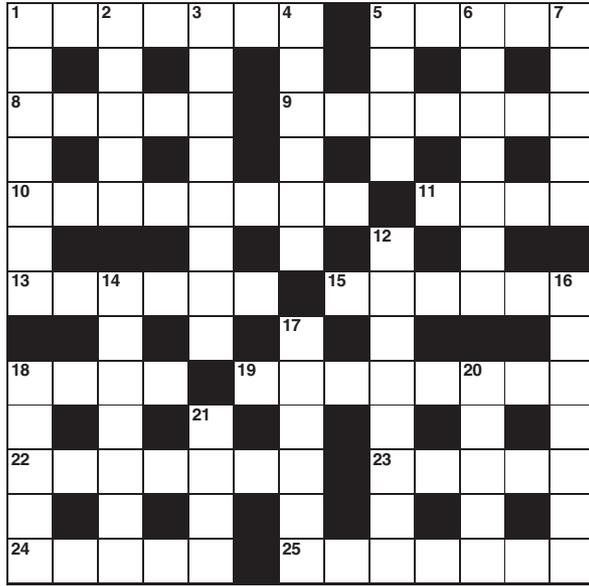
PAGE 2 **SUJIKO SOLUTION:** Top line 862 middle 735 bottom 491

TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD

Two sets of clues but the answers are the same

Cryptic clues

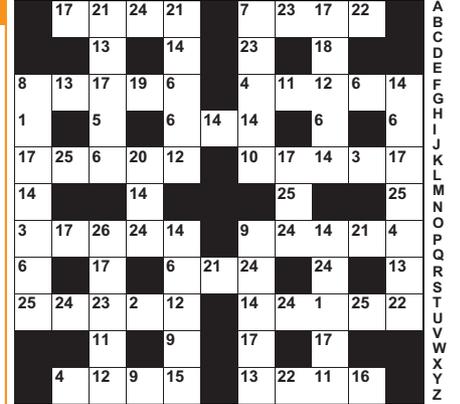
- ACROSS**
- Firm with thousand to spend has scope (7)
 - Drink rum spiked with arsenic (5)
 - Band music sent back (5)
 - Plain repair one botched (7)
 - Ready to accept cooked bean meal (8)
 - Marshal Tito's quit (4)
 - Doctor round hotel beginning to eat meal (6)
 - Afternoon service? (3,3)
 - Songbird having fun (4)
 - Explosive tea bag so brings destruction (8)
 - 1980s singer, man in Genesis, six-footer (4,3)
 - Surprise in a puzzle (5)
 - Opponent in Yemen prepared (5)
 - Set back? (7)
- DOWN**
- Sauce from copper with famous daughter (7)
 - Meet and join in summer generally (5)
 - Characters moving a table outside pub (8)
 - Stallone keeps up power source (6)
 - Small amount divided by Old Croaker (4)
 - The Red State? (7)
 - Surprise gift for nurse (5)
 - Wicked demon ale that refreshes (8)
 - A ranter forced to tell story (7)
 - They're wrong about British in consequence (7)
 - It flies on wing and prayer? (6)
 - Permission to go (5)
 - Entrance under a stone (5)
 - Month round north is plenty (4)



Coffee time

- ACROSS**
- Direction finder (7)
 - Browned bread (5)
 - Thong (5)
 - Grassland (7)
 - Open to suggestion (8)
 - Small railway station (4)
 - Evening repast (6)
 - Cups, saucers and plates (3,3)
 - Escapade (4)
 - Undermine (8)
 - Unyielding (7)
 - Astound (5)
 - Adversary (5)
 - Landscape (7)
- DOWN**
- Dessert sauce (7)
 - Amalgamate (5)
 - ABC (8)
 - Make available (6)
 - Amphibian (4)
 - Unpaid amount (7)
 - Minister to (5)
 - Citrus quencher (8)
 - Recount (7)
 - By that means (7)
 - Predatory insect (6)
 - Depart (5)
 - Chalcedony (5)
 - Myriad (4)

WORD WORKOUT



THIS is the world's best brain teaser. Each grid number in our Word Workout game represents a letter. So if you think 5 is the letter A, write A in all the squares with a 5. All the alphabet is used and we have supplied some letters to start you off. We will print the answers tomorrow.

YESTERDAY - ACROSS: Salami, Ernie, Bend, Coffee, Uncluttered, Jumble, Pawn, Yank, Unruly. DOWN: Have, Vandal, Discotheque, Serf, Sneeze, Nougat, Expire, Bike, Walk.

For 4 Extra Clues Call 0901 293 6299
Calls cost £1 plus network access charge.
or text **SUNWORD** to 64343.
Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.

DOUBLE SUNDOKU

TODAY'S TEASER Call 0905 757 0156 for clues or solutions. Cost £1 per minute plus network access charge.



TODAY'S TOUGHIE Call 0905 757 0152 for clues or solutions. Cost £1 per minute plus network access charge.



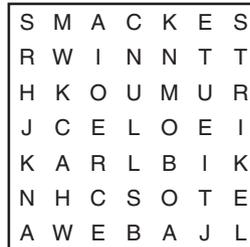
Calls for extra clues and answers last no longer than two minutes (Sundial answers may vary).
Helpline: 0333 202 3390 (9am-5.30pm).
Service provider: Spoke, W1T 4HD

WORDSEARCH

Find seven words meaning 'hit'. Words can run forwards, backwards or diagonally. Solution below.



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2023 was 45.5%



EACH clue leads to a well-known name. Put the initials or stated letters in the appropriate squares to identify a singer:



- Late Irish comedian and long-time team captain on Never Mind The Buzzcocks
- Mr Davies, Sgt. Major Williams in It Ain't Half Hot Mum (second and third letters of name)
- Mr Masfield, Poet Laureate 1930-1967 (second and last letters of name)
- Mr Berenger, Staff Sergeant Bob Barnes in Platoon (first two letters of name)
- The first winner of Pop Idol and singer of Evergreen
- Mr Burke, philosopher and 18th-century MP for Malton (first and fourth letters of name)
- Actor who portrayed Henry V in the Shakespeare series The Hollow Crown

● Yesterday: Rapper ASAP ROCKY (Romano Prodi, Alvaro (Morata), Antonio Carluccio, Stanley Kubrick, Yootha (Joyce)). Another Name Game in The Sun tomorrow.
■ If you can't wait until tomorrow for the answers, just call 0901 293 6299. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

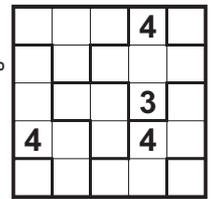
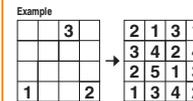
30-SEC NUMBERCRUNCH

HERE is our fantastic puzzle, the 30-second NumberCrunch. There's no better way to keep your brain trained than playing our great teasers. So if you want to stay ahead of the game, you will love this challenge. Starting at the left with the number provided, work your way across the three lines one at a time, applying all the mathematical instructions to your running total. Don't reach for your calculator - that would be cheating! Write your final answer in the last box of the line. You should be aiming to complete each round in about 30 seconds. Good luck! Answers below, right.

BEGINNER	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
38	147	779
- 29	÷ 7	- 529
× 6	+ 276	× 2/5
+ 265	÷ 11	Square root of it
÷ 11	+ 399	+ 3908
- 19	Half of it	÷ 6
× 9	+ 67	+ 4693
÷ 5	÷ 5	÷ 18
+ 255	- 47	- 88
÷ 3	× 9	÷ 19
ANSWER	ANSWER	ANSWER

SUGURU®

Each cell in an outlined grid must contain a digit: a two-cell block contains the digits 1 and 2, a three-cell block contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. The same digit must not appear in neighbouring cells, not even diagonally. Solution below.



SUNDIAL



SEE how many words of four or more letters you can "dial" using the one at the centre in each word. You can make at least one word using all of them. Don't use the letters more than once in any word. No proper names or plurals

BRILLIANT: 37. EXCELLENT: 31. GOOD: 23. GREAT SCORE FOR KIDS: 18.

YESTERDAY: Dale, deal, dealt, deflate, delft, delta, dental, elan, eland, elate, elated, feel, felt, felted, fetal, fettle, fettled, flan, flat, flatten, flea, fied, flee, fleet, lade, laden, ladette, land, lane, late, latent, latte, lead, leaden, leaf, leafed, lean, leant, leant, left, left, lend, lent, nettle, nettled, tale, talent, talented, teal, FLATTENED.

ending in 's'. Words from Collins Concise Dictionary.

Check today's answers by calling 0905 757 0156 before midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

Yesterday's solutions are on today's Letters page

Today's Solutions

Wordsearch

Suko

NumberCrunch

Brainbuster

In one ear and out the other.

91, 81, 11

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Canterbury, Simmonds Road CT1 3RH
Croydon, 230 Thornton Road CR0 3EU
Hayes, Hayes Road UB2 5BE
Maidstone, 48 Upper Stone St ME15 6HA
Milton Keynes, Erica Road MK12 6HS
Romford, Gallows Corner RM3 0BX

MIDLANDS

Brierley Hill, Dudley Road DY5 1HR
Leicester, St Georges Way LE1 15H

Lincoln, Bishops Trade Park LN2 4JZ
Nottingham, Castle Park NG2 1AH
Stoke, Tunstall Trade Park ST6 4SE

NORTH

Hull, Anlaby Trade Park HU10 6RJ
Leeds, Spence Lane LS12 1EF
Newcastle, Blyadon Trade Park NE21 5TR
Preston, 74-76 Blackpool Road PR2 6NY
Sheffield, Unit 3 Burton Street S6 2HH
Warrington, Gemini Trade Park WA5 7YF

SOUTH COAST

Bournemouth, Vulcan Way BH21 7BU
Brighton, 75 Upper Brighton Rd BN15 0JQ
Eastbourne, Hillier Garden Cntr BN24 5BS
Southampton, Romsey Road SO16 9GJ

* PLEASE NOTE: Prices exclude VAT and are available to those with a long term medical condition.

SOUTH WEST

Bristol, Taurus Road, Patchway BS34 6FB
Cheltenham, Kingsditch Rtl Park GL51 9LX
Exeter, Bridford Rd EX2 8QX

SCOTLAND

Glasgow, 324 Battlefield Road G42 9JD

WALES

Cardiff, Hadfield Road CF11 8AQ



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Sunday: 10am - 4:30pm
(10am - 10:30am viewing only)

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- ◆ Return Flights from UK*
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- ◆ Welcome Drinks
- ◆ Celebrity Yacht Cruise
- ◆ Racecourse Transfers
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FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HOW TO BOOK
CALL 0800 193 6646 OR VISIT
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*This is our average claim value as of 29/05/2024.



G-MAC HIT BY DOPING BAN

GRAEME McDOWELL has copped a one-tournament ban by LIV Golf for an anti-doping offence.

The Saudi-funded tour said G-Mac (right) used a decongestant containing a "banned substance" at an event in Nashville in June and fined him £100,000.

The Northern Irishman, 45, said: "I was struggling with severe congestion that was affecting my sleep. In an effort to manage it, I used a



generic nasal decongestant without realising it might be on the banned list.

"As a pro golfer, I understand the importance of checking all medications and option to apply for a Therapeutic Use Exemption."

The former US Open champ will miss this week's event in West Virginia but can return for the season finale in Chicago from September 13.

TEST CAPTAIN INJURED



WALKING WOUNDED... England skipper is helped from the field of play

Stokes crock shock BEN HAMMY HELL

SPORTS ROUND-UP: RESULTS & FIXTURES

FRIENDLY MATCHES

CRYSTAL PAL 1 **NANTES** 1
Kamada 61 Castelletto 18

LIVERPOOL 4 **SEVILLA** 1
Jota 30 Peque Fernandez 66

Diaz 39, 45
Nyoni 67

CHELSEA 1 **INTER MILAN** 1
Ugochukwu 90 Thuram 26

Warwickshire v Yorkshire
(Twenty20) **Race 2** - 1 R Vickers (GB) Yamaha 13m 13.054s, 2 MCoock (GB) Kawasaki +0.531s, 3 D Kent (GB) Yamaha +0.873s. **Race 3** - 1 Vickers 25:34:560, 2 Kent +0.150secs, 3 B McConnell (Aus) Honda at 2:103, 4 K Ryde (GB) Yamaha +2.999.

Standings - 1 Bredwell (GB) 24pts, 2 Ryde 223, 3 C Iddon (GB) 213.

CRICKET

THE HUNDRED MEN

Manchester Originals v Northern Superchargers
Emirates Old Trafford: Manchester Originals 152-7 (100 balls; P D Salt 61; M J Santner 3-24); Northern Superchargers 156-3 (97 balls; N Pooran 66no). **Northern Superchargers (2pts) win by 7 wickets.**

Oval Invincibles v London Spirit
The Kia Oval: London Spirit 96 (82 balls; S M Curran 3-10; A Zampa 4-17); Oval Invincibles 100-1 (63 balls; J M Cox 61no). **Oval Invincibles (2pts) win by 9 wickets.**

P W T L NR RR Pts

Invincibles 7 6 0 1 0 0.753 12
Brave 7 5 0 2 0 0.595 10
Schargers 7 4 0 2 1 0.684 9
Phoenix 6 4 0 2 0 0.283 8
Rockets 6 3 0 3 0 0.480 6
Fire 7 2 0 4 1 0.214 5
Originals 7 1 0 6 0 0.823 2
Spirit 7 1 0 6 0 0.884 2

WORLD SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIP
GRAND PRIX OF PORTUGAL (Portimao): **Race 2** - 1 T Razgalliglu (Tur) BMW 33m 49.138s, 2 N Bulega (Italy) Ducati +0.035s, 3 A Lowe (GB) Kawasaki +6.299, 6 J Piza (GB) Yamaha +11.428. **Standings** - 1 Razgalliglu 365pts, 2 Bulega 273, 3 A Bautista (Spain) 223, 4 Lowe 213, 5 A Locatelli (Italy) 155.

THE HUNDRED WOMEN

Manchester Originals v Northern Superchargers
Emirates Old Trafford: Manchester Originals 151-3 (100 balls; B L Mooney 99no); Northern Superchargers 134-8 (100 balls; K E Evans 5-13). **Manchester Originals (2pts) win by 17 runs.**

Oval Invincibles v London Spirit
The Kia Oval: London Spirit 120-8 (100 balls); Oval Invincibles 121-2 (91 balls; L Winfield-Hill 61no). **Oval Invincibles (2pts) win by 8 wickets.**

P W T L NR RR Pts

Fire 7 4 0 2 1 0.086 9
Invincibles 4 1 2 0 0.016 9
Schargers 7 3 1 2 1 1.266 8
Spirit 7 3 1 3 0 0.087 7
Rockets 6 3 0 3 0 0.562 6
Originals 7 3 0 4 0 0.398 6
Phoenix 6 3 0 3 0 0.816 6
Brave 7 1 1 5 0 0.493 3

WORLD SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIP
GRAND PRIX OF PORTUGAL (Portimao): **Race 2** - 1 T Razgalliglu (Tur) BMW 33m 49.138s, 2 N Bulega (Italy) Ducati +0.035s, 3 A Lowe (GB) Kawasaki +6.299, 6 J Piza (GB) Yamaha +11.428. **Standings** - 1 Razgalliglu 365pts, 2 Bulega 273, 3 A Bautista (Spain) 223, 4 Lowe 213, 5 A Locatelli (Italy) 155.

ONE-DAY CUP - GROUP A

Kent v Durham
Canterbury: Durham 307 (50 overs; B S McKinney 115); Kent 300-9 (50 overs; H Z Finch 104, J A Leaning 81; G S Drissell 4-38). **Durham (2pts) bt Kent by 7 runs.**

Middlesex v Somerset
Lord's: Middlesex 138 (33.3 overs; R P Meredith 4-27); Somerset 138-2 (27 overs; J E K Rew 53no). **Somerset (2pts) bt Middlesex by 8 wickets.**

Northamptonshire v Lancashire
Northampton: Lancashire 240-9 (50 overs; G P Bailenson 53); Northants 236-8 (50 overs; J Broad 63). **Lancs (2pts) bt Northants by 4 runs.**

Worcestershire v Hampshire
New Road: Hampshire 164 (47.4 overs); Worcs 165-2 (36.2 overs; E J Pollock 87). **Worcs (2pts) bt Hampshire by 8 wickets.**

P W T L NR RR Pts

Somerset 8 6 0 2 0 1.217 12
Worcs 7 5 0 2 0 0.659 10
Durham 7 4 0 2 1 0.027 9
Hampshire 7 4 0 3 0 0.171 8
Derbyshire 7 4 0 3 0 0.026 8
Middlesex 7 3 0 3 1 0.835 7
Kent 7 3 0 4 0 0.155 6
Northants 7 1 0 6 0 0.299 2
Lancashire 7 1 0 6 0 0.977 2

BETFRID SUPER LEAGUE

LEIGH (12) **42 HULL** (12) 12
Leigh - Triès; O'Donnell (4), Halton, Hardaker (2), McIntosh. Goals: McIntosh (3), Hardaker (2).
Hull - Triès; Moy, Barron. Goals: Charles (2).
LONDON BR (10) **22 WARRINGTON** (22) 26
London Br - Triès; Rourke, Bienek, Davis, Tison, Goals: O'Leary (3).
Warrington - Triès; Tai, Ashton (2), Vaughan, King, Holroyd. Goals: Drinkwater (6).

P W D L F A Pts

Hull KR 21 16 0 5 539 264 32
Wigan 21 16 0 5 529 296 32
Warrington 21 15 0 6 540 289 30
St Helens 21 13 0 8 518 278 26
Catalans 21 13 0 8 398 308 26
Salford 21 13 0 8 393 399 26
Leeds 21 11 0 10 401 368 22
Huddersfield 21 10 1 10 440 322 21
Castleford 21 7 1 14 372 478 14
Castletief 21 6 1 14 342 359 13
Hull 21 5 0 16 286 354 6
London Br 21 2 0 19 232 77 4

THE PITCHING IN SOUTHERN PREMIER
CENTRAL: Barwell v Banbury Utd. Redditch Utd v Halesowen, St Ives v Lowestoft.

THE PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN PREMIER:
Carshalton Ath v Wingate & Finchley.

CRICKET

The Hundred: Birmingham Phoenix v Trent Rockets (Edgbaston, Women 3pm, Men 6.30pm).

SPEEDWAY

Premiership Birmingham v Leicester (7.30), Belle Vue v King's Lynn (7.30).

TENNIS

ATP National Bank Open (Montreal).
WTA National Bank Open (Toronto).
ATP & WTA Cincinnati Open (Ohio).

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE - York Valkyrie 48 Huddersfield 10.

WARRINGTON 19 10 0 9 472 375 20
Hurricanes 19 10 0 1 668 238 36
Toulouse 19 13 1 5 572 260 27
Sheffiel 19 13 0 6 516 345 26
Bradford 19 11 2 6 483 321 24
Widnes 19 11 1 7 434 327 23
Featherstone 19 10 0 9 472 375 20

By JOHN ETHERIDGE

BEN STOKES is a huge doubt for the second half of England's Test summer after suffering a hamstring injury in The Hundred.

The England captain collapsed in pain clutching his left leg after running a leg bye, threw away his glove in fury and needed to be helped from the field by medical staff.



FEELING DOWN... Stokes on the deck

Playing against Manchester Originals at Old Trafford, it was the third of Stokes' four scheduled Hundred matches for Northern Superchargers.

Stokes, 33, is struggling to be fit for the First Test against Sri Lanka at Old Trafford starting a week on Wednesday - and maybe for the entire three-match series.

If Stokes is ruled out, vice-captain Ollie Pope would lead England.

Stokes was in obvious pain with his damaged hamstring. At least it was not the left knee on which he underwent surgery last November - an operation that has allowed him to bowl again as a fully fledged all-rounder.

A spokesperson for The Hundred said: "Ben Stokes is having his hamstring injury assessed. Further updates will be available on Monday."

After Superchargers won by seven wickets, Stokes hobbled around the boundary edge on crutches as he shook hands with the Originals players. He

and Sky cricket pundit Michael Atherton said: "This is an issue, a real issue. It does not look good.

"It looks as though his hamstring has properly gone and this is a significant moment in the season.

"He holds England together as captain and as an all-rounder."

Stokes is playing in The Hundred for the first time since 2021 because he has previously managed his workload and mental health.

He opted out of this year's Indian Premier League and the T20 World Cup in order to prioritise Test cricket.

Stokes' three innings for the Superchargers so far have been nought (a golden duck), two and two retired hurt. And he has not taken a wicket.

England are already without opener Zak Crawley, who broke a finger dropping a catch in the Third Test against West Indies at Edgbaston.

Surrey's Dan Lawrence will open with Ben Duckett in the three Tests against Sri Lanka, with uncapped Jordan Cox of Essex brought into the squad.

Stokes has played in every Test of the Bazball project, which started when he and head coach Brendon McCullum took charge in 2022.

He would be severely missed as England's all-rounder

England have a three-Test tour of Pakistan, beginning on October 7, and another three Tests in New Zealand before Christmas.

BURGESS IN BLAST OFF



By CARL LONG

SAM BURGESS blasted Wolves' display despite a win that took them within two points of Super League's joint leaders.

Warrington boss Burgess said: "We were way off today and the players are disappointed - but we did get the two points.

"We never really controlled the game. London have been really good recently and improved a lot."

Warrington clinically punished Broncos' errors, with Matty Ashton and Toby King scoring long-range tries from interceptions, while

London Broncos.....22
Warrington.....36

Rodrick Tai and Paul Vaughan went over from close range.

Josh Rourke and Lewis Bienek kept London in the game at half-time. But Wolves had some breathing space after the restart when Adam Holroyd's score was cleared by the video referee.

London hit back with two more tries from Sam Davies and Ugo Tison. And Warrington's nerves were settled by a Josh Drinkwater

penalty to leave them just behind Hull KR and Wigan. Ashton's late second try added to London's pain.

Broncos coach Mike Eccles groaned: "We're playing better but we made too many mistakes."

Kai O'Donnell ran in four tries as **LEIGH** crushed Hull FC 42-12 to keep their play-off hopes alive.

Hull scored twice through Logan Moy and Harvey Barron - wiping out a 12-0 Leopards lead from O'Donnell and Frankie Halton.

But O'Donnell added three more, Zak Hardaker passed 150 career tries with a double and Darnell McIntosh also crossed.

Andersen offer KO'd by Palace

FULHAM had a £20million bid for Joachim Andersen rejected by Crystal Palace.

By CHRIS HUGHES

in a £17m deal from Lyon in 2021 and they will not sell without a hefty profit.

The Eagles value the Denmark centre-back, 28, closer to £40m and the Cottagers are expected to return with an improved offer.



Fulham need to bolster their back line after Tosin joined Chelsea on a free and Tim Ream joined MLS-side Charlotte.

Fulham also had a bid rejected earlier this month for Aston Villa's Brazilian defender Diego Carlos.

But boss Marco Silva has signed centre-back Jorge Cuenca from Villarreal.

And left-back Ryan Sessegnon is back at Craven Cottage after an injury-hit spell at Tottenham.

Andersen (above), who had a loan spell at Craven Cottage, arrived at Palace

PREMIER LEAGUE



IT'S

Feel no



PEP TALK MADE ED STAY PUT

By MARTIN BLACKBURN

MANCHESTER CITY ace Ederson has revealed how a heart-to-heart with Pep Guardiola convinced him to stay at the Etihad this summer.

The Brazil keeper was the subject of two bids from clubs in Saudi Arabia and was interested in a move to the Middle East for family reasons. But neither came close to City's asking price and boss Guardiola took the opportunity to tell his No1 how much he wanted him to stay.



SILVA'S SWEET SPOT ... Bernardo celebrates his goal against United to leave boss Pep Guardiola smiling



Ederson, key to a penalty shoot-out win over Manchester United in the Community Shield final on Saturday, says his mind is now made up.

He said: "I spoke with some players, the coach and to my family. It was a joint decision and we will stay more years here."

"There were offers but I had already decided my future, especially after the conversation I had with Guardiola. He expressed what he wanted, the decision he wanted, and he asked me to think carefully and make the best decision for my family."

"I guess this chat was fundamental to my decision to stay. I'm focussed on the season and going in search of more titles. Let's go in search of the next title."

Ederson (above) joined seven years ago from Benfica and Guardiola says their success would not have been possible without his terrific footwork.

GAMES STATION

CITY could play a staggering 75 fixtures in all comps this term.

MAN CITY MAXIMUM FIXTURES 2024-25

Premier League	38	Carabao Cup	6
Champions League (incl KO play-offs)	17	Community Shield	1
Club World Cup	7	POTENTIAL TOTAL GAMES	75
FA Cup	6		

Beam me up, Scotty

CLARETS BOLDLY GO WHERE THIS MAN HAS GONE BEFORE

Luton v Burnley
8pm, sky sports football & talkSPORT

EXCLUSIVE by JUSTIN ALLEN

SCOTT PARKER is known as the Championship's version of Star Trek's Captain Kirk.

The new Burnley boss takes his team to Luton tonight chasing a third promotion to the Premier League.

And having previously guided Fulham and Bournemouth to the top-flight at the first attempt, he is becoming known as Beam Me Up, Scotty.

Even the Starship Enterprise's Kirk would be hard-pressed to navigate the Championship cosmos as impressively as Parker.

However, the 43-year-old failed to keep the Cottagers up and was sacked by the Cherries after just four top-flight games.

Yet the former Newcastle, West Ham, Tottenham and England player insists he is more than a second-tier specialist.

Parker told SunSport: "I've had one full season in the Premier League."

"You must put things into context with that Fulham team when you consider the finances we had."

"The next time I was in the Premier League I had four games. We beat Aston Villa in the opener but then played Man City, Liverpool and Arsenal!"

"There's a narrative around me that I'm a Championship boss. I see it differently. The world misses context."

"You're talking about going up against teams that have been in the Prem for years, building squads over time. It's difficult for teams coming up from the Championship."

"You're up against teams better than you and trying to go toe-to-toe - it's hard." All three clubs that went up from the Championship two seasons ago - Burnley, Sheffield United and Luton - all crashed back down last term.

Yet ex-Clarets boss Vincent Kompany landed a marquee job at Bayern Munich, while Rob Edwards was being touted as a contender for manager of the season had he kept the Hatters up.

Parker said: "The fact is, if you stay in the Premier League, it's amazing. If you don't, you're a Championship manager. It's a massive challenge."

Burnley romped to the Championship title with 101 points two years ago and are among the favourites again.

Parker added: "I understand this league. It is tough and intense."

"With knowledge and experience behind me, I know what's needed to be successful."

BRUNO No1 DEAL

From Back Page

in the world who wants to win more than the people in our dressing room.

"We know it was a really bad season last year and we want to add a different dimension."

The Fernandes deal would be a lift for boss Erik ten Hag as there were fears last season the midfielder was thinking of leaving.

As recently as May, Fernandes said he would consider his future after Euro 2024. But on the eve of that month's FA Cup final win over Manchester City, he wrote an open

letter to United fans explaining how much the club means to him.

Now he has told fans to be heartened by the performance in Saturday's Community Shield - which ended in defeat to City on penalties - ahead of Friday's Prem opener at Fulham.

Fernandes told MUTV: "Now it is on us to keep that excitement because the fans want to be entertained and to see their team win."

Meanwhile, co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe says Ten Hag will be better supported this campaign.

Ratcliffe told The Times: "Erik

had been doing his best but doing too much. He was trying to sort out the squad and fix leaks in the roof at the same time."

Chief executive Omar Berrada, technical director Jason Wilcox and director of football Dan Ashworth have all been drafted in.

And Ratcliffe added: "It's a big responsibility to return the club to where it should be. Performing at least in the top eight in Europe."

United full-back Aaron Wan-Bissaka, 26, will have a West Ham medical today ahead of a £15million move.



RATCLIFFE... support

A SLOG BUT CITY...

Bernie out

SILVA'S FIRED UP FOR A GRUELLING SEASON

By **MARTIN BLACKBURN**



BERNARDO SILVA says Manchester City are ready for a marathon campaign that could see the champions play more than 70 games.

Boss Pep Guardiola has given his squad extra days off this summer to prepare for what will be the club's longest-ever season.

The four stars who featured in the Euro 2024 final – John Stones, Phil Foden, Kyle Walker and Rodri – do not even report back until today.

No doubt they need the extra rest given the demanding schedule that stretches out into mid-July next year.

Yet any rivals hoping they can capitalise on City's heavy workload may need to think again.

A scratch side just about did enough to win the Community Shield against neighbours Manchester United on Saturday – thanks in no small part to Bernardo's late equaliser.

And the 30-year-old Portuguese is sure they will be raring to go by the time the big kick-off comes around for them at Chelsea on Sunday.

On the players' time off ahead of the new campaign, Bernardo said: "Pep was very generous."

"He understands we are playing with the crazy schedule we have because of Fifa, Uefa, Premier League and all the cups we have."

"It's 70, 80 games a season – which is not easy for the players."

"It is now our job to be serious, to prepare well – and to come



WINNERS... City with the Fifa Club World Cup

back as fit as possible for another long season. We know our rivals came back a little bit earlier and maybe their physical condition is a bit better than ours.

As well as the 38-game Prem schedule, the expanded Champions League involves at least two extra group games and a possible play-off round.

Then there are the two domestic cups while City will also be heading to the Club World Cup in the USA in June – which could see them play seven more games.

That could yet be changed – with the PFA and FIFpro having both made their feelings known about the workload on their players.

But Bernardo insists City will head into the season looking to extend a winning streak which has seen them win the last four Prem titles.

The former Benfica man added: "We are going to be ready. The players in our team don't like to lose."

"We don't like to lose, and we are going to be ready for the season knowing that it's going to be tough because all seasons are very tough."

"You cannot win forever. One day we will lose."

"Hopefully not this season, but one day it will. It will happen to us."

"It's another season that our rivals

sign new players. They look stronger. Arsenal look better and better year after year. We know that. Liverpool are always very strong."

"All the rest I can say Tottenham, Chelsea, Man United."

"Obviously they didn't finish the season as strong as Liverpool and Arsenal. But we are ready."

Guardiola gave a host of young players an opportunity during their pre-season tour of America – with several of them taking their chance to shine.

James McAtee, Nico O'Reilly, Rico Lewis and Oscar Bobb all staked their claim for further first-team game time while the regulars put their feet up after playing for their countries at Euro 2024.

Meanwhile new £33.6million winger Savinho showed his quality as a second-half sub against United.

And Bernardo believes the rising stars have a contribution to make over the course of a gruelling season.

He said: "I'm happy that these young kids bring us this new blood that the team needs every season to look alive."

"Oscar and Savinho and these young players, they bring that to the team and hopefully they can keep it that way for the season."

"If we bring more players in who can help us, even better – but if not we are fine with what we have."

Bernardo came off the bench in the second half of the Community Shield and gave City some bite which helped them take the game to penalties.

His tasty challenge on United's goal-scorer Alejandro Garnacho whipped things up – and minutes later he got on the end of Bobb's cross to cancel out the Spaniard's opener.

And Bernardo admitted his equaliser was a sweet moment after their shock FA Cup Final defeat to Erik ten Hag's men back in May.

He said: "It wasn't revenge. But after losing a cup final against probably your biggest rivals, you always want even more to win the game after against them. And this was the case."



END OF AN ERA... Southgate and Kane with England

Kane's not had contact with Carsley

HARRY KANE has opened up about his post-Euros heart-to-heart with Gareth Southgate – and revealed he is yet to speak to new interim England boss Lee Carsley.

Bayern Munich's Kane captained the Three Lions to last month's final which they lost 2-1 to Spain.

Two days later, Southgate called time on his eight-year stint as the national manager.

Kane had forged a deep connection with the 53-year-old as they came a whisker away from glory after reaching two major finals, a semi-final and a quarter-final together. The said: "I spoke to Gareth after the final. Then we spoke on the phone after he made his decision."

"Me and Gareth spent so many years together, we had so many good times together."

"We were obviously both still disappointed with the way it ended for us. But Gareth will always be someone I stay in touch with."

Under-21s chief Carsley has been put in interim charge for next month's Nations League games against the Republic of Ireland and Finland.

The 50-year-old could even continue on a caretaker basis for the other four Nations League fixtures in October and November if a new boss has not been found.

Munich man Kane, who has a record 66 goals in 98 caps for his country, added: "With Lee, no I haven't had contact yet."

"I know him from the 21s so I'm sure we'll be

By **TOM BARCLAY**

in touch before we meet up. No, I don't have any say (in who the next manager will be)."

Kane, 31, came off the bench on Saturday to help Bayern beat Spurs 3-2 in a friendly.

Dominic Solanke, 26, was presented to the fans as Tottenham's new striker before kick-off, after he completed his £65million switch from Bournemouth.

And Kane, who is Spurs' greatest scorer with 280 strikes for the North Londoners in 435 games, said: "Dom plays with high intensity, high speed – a good signing."

The Englishman blasted 44 goals in 45 games in his first season in Germany. Yet his wait for silverware continues.

He added: "The main objective is to get Bayern back to winning trophies. That's the goal."

Bissouma shame – Page 13

Andoni: New Dom can wait

ANDONI IRAOLA warned his Bournemouth board not to rush to replace Dominic Solanke.

Solanke's club record-breaking £65million move to Tottenham has left the Cherries without a recognised striker.

Reserve Enes Unal is out of action for several weeks following surgery on a foot.

Iraola (right) experimented by asking midfielder Phillip Billing and then winger Antoine Semenyo to lead the line in Saturday's 3-2 friendly win over LaLiga's Girona.

Spanish boss Iraola said: "The club is going to try to sign a forward this week but we cannot rush

By **GRAHAM NICKLESS**

it because he has to be ready for his first game.

"I prefer we lose two weeks and make the correct call. I will try to help give my opinion and analyse the profiles they

have been studying. "I know they're working hard, I trust them."

The Cherries, who face Nottingham Forest in their opening fixture, know any potential signing may now cost more after banking Solanke's big fee.

Iraola added: "For sure, the club know that now we have sold expensively."

"It's getting the best striker we can who is hungry to play here."

JACK'S SAVING RACE

JACK GREALISH is still trying to get fit for Manchester City's opening game of the season at Chelsea on Sunday.

And Pep Guardiola admits he has been wowed by new wide man Savinho in the Brazilian's first few days at the Etihad.

Record signing Grealish was due to play in the Community Shield on Saturday after impressing boss Guardiola in pre-season.

But as SunSport revealed, he felt discomfort in his hamstring in training and doctors decided it was not worth the risk.

Guardiola is confident he will have the £100million ace back within a fortnight – but says he

By **MARTIN BLACKBURN**

is unsure if he will be ready at Stamford Bridge next weekend. He said: "The last two days before the game, he didn't feel good – discomfort."

"Especially Friday, his feeling wasn't good. We talked with the doctors and it was not right so we didn't want to take a risk."

"Maybe against Chelsea he will be ready or if not I'm pretty sure against Ipswich."

"If he'd played on and got injured now, it could be three weeks or a month out."

"It's a blow because he played all pre-season, had the rhythm

and was aggressive. The third or fourth game was really good."

It is a setback for Grealish, who has looked fit and eager to bounce back from a disappointing end to last season.

He barely featured as City romped to a fourth straight title and was axed from England's Euro 2024 squad.

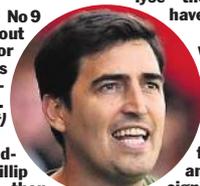
On Saturday, Jeremy Doku was drafted in to start at late notice while £33.6m ace Savinho caught the eye as a second-half sub.

Guardiola said of the winger: "Some can just play left or right but Savinho can play on both sides. His impact has been good."

"It was a good transfer deal for the club and I'm really pleased."



GREALISH... fight to get fit



experimented by asking midfielder Phillip Billing and then winger Antoine Semenyo to lead the line in Saturday's 3-2 friendly win over LaLiga's Girona.



COOPER... desperate

Cooper's buy plea

By GRAEME BRYCE

DESPERATE Steve Cooper has pleaded for some new signings — seven days before Leicester's opening game against Tottenham.

Boss Cooper admits he longs for a signing spree, just two seasons after he was famously swamped by 23 new arrivals at Nottingham Forest!

The Foxes have crashed to three pre-season defeats on the trot without scoring a goal.

But they face a potential points deduction after being charged with breaching Profit and Sustainability rules and have tightened their belts.

Facundo Buonanotte became their fifth summer signing last week on loan from Brighton.

Yet Lens thumped City 3-0 on Saturday and Cooper, 44, said: "We're all crying out for some fresh blood — especially the players."

"In certain areas of the pitch, we're desperate and have been for a while."

"I don't think it would be right to put a number on it, but it's certainly more than a couple."



PATRICK VIEIRA, the legendary Arsenal No 4, is one of three players to be sent off a record eight times in the Premier League — he is tied with Duncan Ferguson and Richard Dunne.



Twice as nice, Slot

ARNE SLOT ran the rule over THIRTY-TWO stars as Liverpool played two friendlies in the same day. First Anfield hosted a 4-1 friendly win over Sevilla in front of more than 59,000 fans.

Then new Kop boss Slot picked an entirely different team for a 0-0 draw behind closed doors with Las Palmas.

Luis Diaz netted twice against Sevilla after a spectacular Diogo Jota volley, with sub Trej Nyonni adding the fourth.

Slot said: "We saw a lot of good things but I can also make a big list of things we have to improve. "Even being far from perfect we can score four."

PREMIER LEAGUE BRIDGE

Neto got caseo of the Blues!

PEDRO'S WOLVES GOODBYE TEARS

PEDRO NETO was heartbroken as he bid a tearful farewell to Wolves on the eve of his £54million move to Chelsea.

Wanderers sporting director Matt Hobbs revealed the winger, 24, shed buckets of tears as he said his goodbyes on Friday after five years at Molineux.

Hobbs confessed: "As hard as it was for us, I think it was probably harder for Pedro. Tears all morning at the training ground."

"I don't think Pedro wanted to leave Wolverhampton Wanderers and I've spoken to him since and he'll always love the club."

"It's a hard one to talk about because I was really close to Pedro and he was such a good person to have around the training ground. Everyone knows the player

he is — he's a world-class winger who has been so unlucky with injuries.

"It was a tough one but it felt fair because of what Pedro had been through, with the various injuries and it's a great opportunity for him."

"The deal is one that works for us and for Pedro but by no means does it make it any easier."

Neto's switch to Stamford Bridge takes the London club's total spend on players since the Todd Boehly-led consortium paid £4.25billion for the club in May 2022 to a massive £1.238bn.

And Wolves are now flush with cash, so boss Gary O'Neil can invest in new talent. The club have banked £91m from the sales

of Neto — who is off for £51m up front — and 27-year-old defender Max Kilman, who joined West Ham for £40m last month.

Despite the tears, Hobbs consoled himself with the knowledge Portugal international Neto deserves to play on a bigger stage — with Blues unveiling him yesterday.

Chelsea finished sixth last season and face a two-legged play-off to make the new league stage of the Uefa Conference League.

Hobbs added: "Whilst it's disappointing for us, because everyone wants world-class players, timing wise, it felt right."

"Pedro gets to go and compete in European football — Chelsea, with the amount of money they spend, have to be under pressure for titles and Champions League football."

"So, he'll get that opportunity but nobody should think this was easy for him. It was right for everyone but also really upsetting for everyone."

"It's hard when it's someone everyone has so much affinity for, to look at it as a business."

● Spain youth striker Samu Omorodion, 20, saw his £34million move from Atletico Madrid to Chelsea collapse last night.

By GRAEME BRYCE



ALL FIOR ONE

MIKEL ARTETA believes Riccardo Calafiori has an "unbelievable platform" after being serenaded by supporters on his Arsenal debut.

The Italian international — signed from Bologna for £42million last month — came on as a 64th-minute sub during the Gunners' 2-0 Emirates Cup victory over Lyon in North London.

After initially playing at left-back, the versatile defender (right), 22, switched to centre-back in the closing stages.

And his name was chanted from the stands during a memorable first appearance.

He is in contention to feature in Arsenal's Premier opener at home to Wolves on Saturday. And boss Arteta said: "I just love it when the fans react like that

By JORDAN DAVIES

to one of your own. The way you feel it straight away, it is love, you are respected, they are right behind you."

"And that's an unbelievable platform for someone."

Both Arsenal goals came via Declan Rice corners, with William Saliba heading home on nine minutes before Gabriel added a second in the 27th minute.

Arteta had planned for a post-match penalty shootout whatever the result, but SunSport understands that French outfit Lyon decided during the game they did not want to take part.

Full-back Jurrien Timber (foot) and playmaker Fabio Vieira (hip) were absent but both should return to the squad this weekend, although defender Takehiro Tomiyasu (knee) remains out.



BUILDING



BACK OF THE NETO . . .
Pedro Neto looked to be over his tearful Wolves farewell as he was unveiled by Chelsea yesterday

BELL GONG

GEORGIA TO HOLLYWOOD

She's ready for big party in LA

GEORGIA BELL'S coach dismissed her as a posh party girl when they first met.

But now he is backing Britain's miracle 1500 metres medallist to win gold at the LA Olympics in 2028.

The 30-year-old Games debutant grabbed an extraordinary bronze on Saturday, despite having been away from the track for five years and only getting back into athletics via public Park Runs.

And coach Trevor Painter, who also schooled Keely Hodgkinson to 800m gold in Paris, says she can now emulate Kelly Holmes' Athens heroics by becoming an Olympic champion at the age of 34.

Painter said: "She is 30 but Kelly Holmes was 34 when she did the double gold [800m and 1500m] in 2004.

"And Georgia is very lightly raced, she had a lot of years

By DAVE KIDD

out of the sport so her body is not hanging on like some people of her age."

Painter trained Bell in her early days before she went into the US college system, where she suffered injuries and quit.

He recalled: "The first time she came, I thought she was like a society girl, like Tamara Beckwith, a glamorous girl.

"But when I saw her run, I thought, 'Oh, all right'.

"She very quickly rose through the development but the next thing she was off to do a Master's in the States.

"You don't want to hold people back but I was gutted when she went because you could see something special.

"She had too many injuries and she fell out of love with it."

Bell was off the track between 2017-22, when she

entered a Park Run in London's Bushy Park with her boyfriend.

Painter added: "During Covid he said, 'Shall we go for a run?' and she said, 'You don't want to run with me - I used to be all right'.

"She destroyed him. After that, she started training."

Bell, who lives in Clapham, may now quit her job as a cyber security expert to become a full-time athlete.

Until now she has been training with male runners in Battersea Park, outside of the occasional weekends with Painter and his partner, former world 800m bronze medallist Jenny Meadows.

Meadows said: "She tees people up to train with in Battersea Park - some club-standard boys.

"Keely's gold was expected but this was not."



SHE'S NOT FLAGGING . . .
Georgia Bell's coach Trevor Painter thinks she can do better than her Paris bronze by winning gold at LA in 2028

Hassan seals historic treble

SIFAN HASSAN capped a remarkable week as she added Olympic marathon gold to her two long-distance track bronzes.

Barely 36 hours after claiming third spot in the 10,000 metres final, Hassan won the marathon in an Olympic record of 2hrs 22min 55sec.

The Ethiopia-born Dutch runner, who clinched bronze in the 5,000m on Tuesday, is the first woman to claim

By ROSS GREGORY

Games medals in all three distances and first athlete since Czech Emil Zatopek in 1952.

She also became Europe's first winner of the marathon since Romania's Constantina Dita-Tomescu in 2008.

Hassan already a double Olympic champion with Tokyo 2020 gold in the 5,000m and 10,000m,

defeated Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa by three seconds in a sprint finish as Kenya's Hellen Obiri took bronze.

Hassan said: "I feel like I am dreaming."

"At the end I thought, 'This is just a 100m sprint. Come on, Sifan. One more. Just feel it, like someone who sprints 200m.'"

She had initially signed up for the 1,500m as well before deciding that three

events would be enough of a challenge.

Hassan added: "Every step I challenged myself, and now I am so grateful I didn't push myself too much on the track."

The Ethiopian team had a protest turned down after Hassan and Assefa traded elbows late on.

Great Britain's Clara Evans finished 46th, ten minutes off Hassan's time but still a season's best.

Rose Harvey was 78th and Calli Hauger-Thackery did not finish.



OLYMPICS 

CAMPBELL DOES

STRICTLY BUSINESS

Em weights for TV call

RECORD-BREAKING Emily Campbell celebrated Olympic weightlifting bronze with an on-stage CARTWHEEL.

Then she issued a come-and-get-me plea to Strictly Come Dancing.

Campbell, 30, backed up her silver at Tokyo with a Parisian bronze in the +81kg category as China's Li Wenwen retained gold.

The Nottingham lifter's total of 288kg was a new personal best and British record and included lifting 126kg in the snatch for the first time.

She went for broke with a whopping 174kg attempt on her final clean and jerk in a desperate bid to overtake Park Hye-jeong of South Korea on 299kg but settled for third.

That saw her become Britain's first double Olympic weightlifting medallist since Louis Martin in 1964 and clinch the 65th and final Team GB medal of 2024.

Campbell, sporting her technique hair incorporating a five-ring Olympic tribute, said: "Obviously it was the best cartwheel you've ever seen! It was a

From **JOSHUA JONES**

in PARIS



tribute to my coach. We're very silly in training and have fun.

"I did it one day and he said I needed to do it after a last clean and jerk. Where better than the Olympics? If Strictly want me, I wouldn't say no.

"I had so much fun getting ready doing my hair and make-up. It took a good three hours yesterday.

"I came out with a showstopper. My good friend is a celebrity hairstylist. She came and did



GEORGIA TO HOLLYWOOD

SEE PAGE 45

HAIR-RAISER . . . Brit star Campbell lifts her way to a bronze medal and (inset) her red, white and blue and Olympic rings-themed hairstyle

 **YOUR PLAY SUPPORTS**

 **TEAM GB**

 **ParalympicsGB**

Win at gifting

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CARTWHEELS OVER BRONZE

it, we stitched in the rings this morning. It is a little heavy but it was perfect."

Campbell was fully energised thanks to her 3,300-calories-per-day diet and ability to sleep anytime, anywhere.

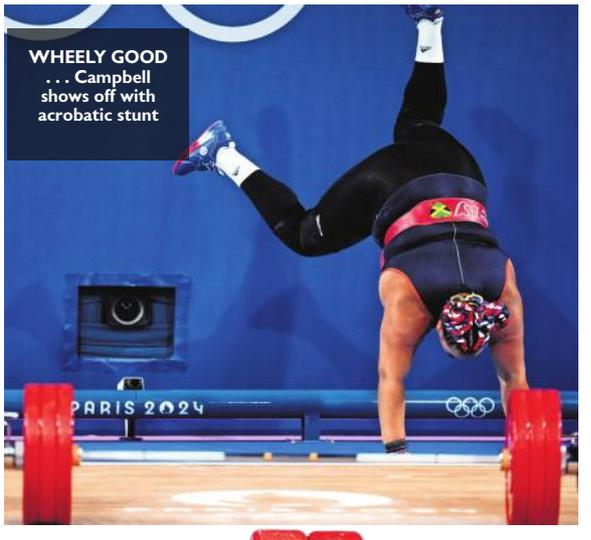
But she was not caught napping, nailing all three snatch attempts – a continuous lift from the floor.

Then Campbell successfully hoisted up 162kg in her first clean and jerk – where lifters rest the barbell across the chest and shoulders then push up – to secure at least bronze, before faltering at 169kg and the ambitious 174kg.

She added: "We've achieved this goal of a medal in Paris. I just got a bonus one along the way in Tokyo. This one came from the heart."

"I knew I had to bring out the big guns today in a tougher field. It was a PB performance, so I cannot complain."

"I have been away for a while and these girls have forgotten what I could do. I wanted to remind them. My Tokyo medal's got a friend now."



WHEELY GOOD
... Campbell shows off with acrobatic stunt



KHELIF ... 'harassed'

Legal bid by Khelif

OLYMPIC boxing champ Imane Khelif has filed a legal complaint in France for online harassment.

The Algerian fighter says she was subject to a rain of criticism and false claims about her sex during the Paris Games.

Khelif – at the centre of a gender storm – won women's welterweight gold on Friday despite the IBA disqualifying her from their world championships for failing a sex test.

Her lawyer Nabil Boudi described the cyber-harassment as misogynist, racist and sexist.

It is now up to prosecutors to decide whether to open an investigation.

On Saturday, Khelif, 25, said: "All that is being said about me on social media is immoral. I want to change the minds of people around the world."

Khelif and Lin Yu-ting, who also won gold, have slammed the IBA's testing – which highlighted male chromosomes and raised testosterone.

Coe's keen on top job

From **ROB MAUL** in Paris

SEB COE will give "serious thought" to mounting a bid for the top job in world sport. President Thomas Bach stands down after 12 years at the helm of the International Olympic Committee in 2025.

Double 1500 metres Olympic champion Coe has run World Athletics since 2015 having helped oversee the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics.

Under IOC rules, no candidate can declare for the job until three months before the election – with the next due in March.

The British administrator, 67, said: "I've always made it clear that if the opportunity arose, I'd obviously give it serious thought."

"The opportunity has arisen. Clearly I need to think about that."

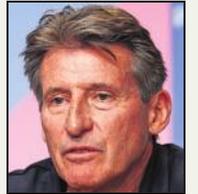
"The charter is clear about timings here so this is at best a consideration."

"I've been involved in the Olympic movement for the larger part of my life. I've chaired an Olympic Games from bid through delivery and two years of legacy after that."

"I've been privileged to compete in two Olympic Games."

"I've chaired a National Olympic Committee and I now have the best job in the world as president of the No 1 Olympic sport."

"These are experiences I think would be beneficial to the role." Other candidates could include vice-



COE ... candidate

presidents Nicole Hoewertsz from Aruba and Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr of Spain, whose late dad was IOC boss for 21 years.

If elected, Coe is ready to address IOC regulations surrounding gender eligibility.

Paris gold medal boxers Imane Khelif and Lin Yu-Ting were cleared to fight by the IOC despite failing IBA gender eligibility tests at last year's World Championships.

Coe insisted: "I have a responsibility to preserve the female category. If you don't do that, then no woman will ever win another sporting event."



BEST GIFT EVER

18+ GIFT RESPONSIBLY



ROONEY... solid plan

Rooney was relay prepared

By SAM ALEXANDER

TEAM GB relays coach Martyn Rooney said their "plan" worked after they won five Olympic medals.

The women's 4x100 metres crew took silver, with bronze medals for the men's 4x100m group and the mixed, women's, and men's 4x400m teams.

Rooney, 37, a 4x400m bronze winner at Beijing 2008, said: "Having the experience of being out there, I know how to structure a race, that is what I have learnt over the years. "I know how to get the most out of myself and I'm just trying to translate that to the athletes.

"It's still not perfect and there is still a lot to be done but I think the athletes understand I have given them a plan.

"If they follow the plan they should do well — it's been all right so far!"

Matthew Hudson-Smith, Charlie Dobson, Alex Haydock-Wilson and Lewis Davey ran a new British 4x400m record of 2min 55.83sec, breaking the previous best of 2:56.60 set at Atlanta 1996.

Rooney added: "National records was a big thing for us to get done and now they need to push it on.

"They're hungry, which I really like. I'm really lucky to work with them.

"But it's all been very emotional and my throat was gone after all my screaming and shouting!"

Sprinting to screen

A NEW athletics series on Netflix was filmed in Paris — with TV bosses planning to get it on screen in just six weeks.

The first series of Sprint has been the No1 sports show on the streaming service this summer.

That followed the world's fastest runners from the United States and Jamaica at the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest.

Producers intend to get the fresh material from the Stade de France ready to watch by the end of September to maintain the momentum.

World Athletics CEO Jon Ridgeon — a former 100 metres hurdles world medallist — said: "We're told the amount of Sprint that has been consumed has been much more than an average series.

"People have engaged with the whole six episodes. It's wonderful."

Lyles, Biles and smiles



GOLDEN GIRL... Team GB star Keely Hodgkinson celebrates on the podium during the 800m medal ceremony in Paris

MEDAL TABLE

	G	S	B	TOT
USA	40	44	42	126
China	40	27	24	91
Japan	20	12	13	45
Australia	18	19	16	53
France	16	26	22	64
Holland	15	7	12	34
Great Britain	14	22	29	65
South Korea	13	9	10	32
Italy	12	13	15	40
Germany	12	13	8	33
New Zealand	10	7	3	20

OUR GB MEDALLISTS AT PARIS 2024



GOLD 14

- July 29 Equestrian (Team Eventing) Ros Canter, Laura Collett, Tom McEwen
- July 29 Cycling (Men's cross country) Tom Pidcock
- July 30 Shooting (Men's trap) Nathan Hales
- July 30 Swimming (Men's 4x200m freestyle relay) Matt Richards, Duncan Scott, Tom Dean, James Guy, Kieran Bird, Jack McMillan
- July 31 Triathlon (Men's triathlon) Alex Yee
- July 31 Rowing (Women's quadruple sculls) Lauren Henry, Hannah Scott, Lola Anderson, Georgie Brayshaw

- Aug 2 Rowing (Women's lightweight double sculls) Emily Craig, Imogen Grant
- Aug 2 Gymnastics (Women's trampolining) Bryony Page
- Aug 2 Equestrian (Team jumping) Scott Brash, Ben Maher, Harry Charles
- Aug 3 Rowing (Men's eight) Sholto Carnegie, Rory Gibbs, Morgan Bolding, Jacob Dawson, Charles Elwes, Tom Digby, James Rudkin, Tom Ford, Harry Brightmore (cox)
- Aug 5 Cycling (Women's team sprint) Sophie Capewell, Emma Finucane, Katy Marchant
- Aug 5 Athletics (Women's 800m) Keely Hodgkinson
- Aug 8 Sailing (Women's kite) Ellie Aldridge
- Aug 9 Sport Climbing (Men's boulder +lead) Toby Roberts

SILVER 22

- July 27 Cycling (Women's road time trial) Anna Henderson
- July 28 Swimming (Men's 100m breaststroke) Adam Peaty
- July 29 Diving (Men's synchronised 10m platform) Tom Daley, Noah Williams
- July 29 Canoeing (Men's slalom C-1) Adam Burgess
- July 29 Swimming (Men's 200m freestyle) Matt Richards
- July 31 Cycling (Men's BMX freestyle) Kieran Reilly

- Aug 1 Rowing (Women's four) Helen Glover, Esme Booth, Sam Redgrave, Rebecca Shorten
- Aug 2 Rowing (Men's pair) Ollie Wynne-Griffith, Tom George
- Aug 2 Swimming (Men's 50m freestyle) Ben Proud
- Aug 2 Swimming (Men's 200m individual medley) Duncan Scott
- Aug 4 Shooting (Women's skeet) Amber Rutter
- Aug 4 Golf (Men's individual) Tommy Fleetwood
- Aug 5 Canoeing (Men's KX-1) Joe Clarke
- Aug 6 Cycling (Men's Team sprint) Jack Carlin, Ed Lowe, Hamish Turnbull
- Aug 6 Athletics (Men's 1500m) Josh Kerr

- Aug 7 Athletics (Men's 400m) Matthew Hudson-Smith
- Aug 7 Cycling (Men's Team Pursuit) Ethan Hayter, Dan Bigham, Ethan Vernon, Charlie Tanfield, Oliver Wood
- Aug 9 Cycling (Madison) Elinor Barker, Neah Evans
- Aug 9 Athletics (Women's 4x10m relay) Dina Asher-Smith, Amy Hunt, Imani Lansiquot, Daryll Neita, Desiree Henry, Bianca Williams
- Aug 9 Athletics (Women's heptathlon) Katarina Johnson-Thompson
- Aug 10 Artistic Swimming (Women's duet) Kate Shortman, Isabelle Thorpe
- Aug 10 Taekwondo (Men's +8-kg) Caden Cunningham

LETTER FROM PARIS

GLORIOUS GAMES HAD EVERYTHING

WHEN the city of love embraced the Olympic Games, it was a match made in heaven.

The home of the Mona Lisa and the Can-Can hosted the kayak cross and taekwondo and the result was 16 days of entrancing sport which brought us Simone Biles, Noah Lyles and miles of smiles.

All human life was here in the French capital – the great and the good, the bad, the ugly and the downright absurd. Everywhere you looked there were tales of speed and endurance, of strength in adversity, of silliness and sewage.

For Team GB, this Eurostar journey from London to Paris was the best of times and the worst of times.

A British medal count of 65 equalled London 2012 and bettered Tokyo three year ago.

But only 14 were gold and so, from a height of second place in Rio, Britain were reduced to seventh in the medals table – below the Dutch and the dreaded Aussies.

If the golden age of the British Olympic movement isn't over, it is certainly waning.

Yet the bronze age is here. Only the United States earned more third-placed finishes.

And every piece of precious metal, whatever the colour, means the world to those who wear them around their necks.

By DAVE KIDD
CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

Take Olympic debutant Georgia Bell, 30, who watched the last Olympics from her sofa having fallen out of love with her sport, but returned to win a miraculous 1500m bronze.

Britain continued to excel in 'sitting down' sports – three golds in rowing boats, two each on bikes and on horseback.

Elsewhere, there were too many 'oh so nears', including track silvers for Josh Kerr, Matt Hudson-Smith, Katarina Johnson-Thompson and the women's sprint relay team.

Some of our most famous Olympians bowed out without adding to their gold tallies – from swimmer Adam Peaty to gymnast Max Whitlock to diver Tom Daley to Andy Murray's long goodbye at the tennis.

Charlotte Dujardin, who hoped to become the most decorated British woman in the history of the Games, didn't even make it here after a video of her repeatedly whipping a horse was published online, leaving the disgraced dressage rider's reputation in tatters.

It was only the start of the controversy. From the inclusion

of a Dutch beach volleyball player who is a convicted child-rapist, to the international culture war sparked by two female boxers who won gold medals, despite having failed gender tests at last year's World Championships.

But there were new champions for Britain to cherish, from teenage climber Toby Roberts, taking gold in something called the 'boulder and lead' to Bryony Page, the trampolinist who wants to join the circus, to Emma Finucane, who pedalled to three medals in the velodrome.

There were thrilling comeback golds for Tom Pidcock, hauling in a French rival on his mountain bike. And Alex Yee, who had swam through the Seine sludge and cycled over cobbles to defeat New Zealand's Hayden Wilde with a remarkable sprint finish.

The triathlon showcased both sides of this great city – from the majesty of its architecture to the excrement of its main waterway, which forced the event to be delayed over the threat of E. coli poisoning.

Paris was a sensational host, with its spectacular water-logged, opening ceremony, its magnificent Grand Palais, staging the fencing and taekwondo, and the equestrian out at the Palace of Versailles.

Every venue was packed and the locals loved it. Except for the taxi drivers whingeing about road closures.

The Stade de France's purple running track was lightning fast and the crowd noise was deafening.

It was there that American showman Lyles was crowned as the world's fastest man by just five thousandths of a second in a 100m final for the ages, only to test positive for Covid and settle for bronze at 200m.

Keely Hodgkinson lit up the Stade, striking gold over 800m for Britain on the same night that Armand Duplantis set a new world pole-vault record to gasps of disbelief.

Then there were the extremes in human grace that only the Olympics can provide.

From the stunning Biles winning three more gymnastics golds to the hapless Australian break-dancer called 'Raygun', who introduced a brand new move called the 'Dying fish on a trawler deck' and scored nul points.

'Vive la difference', as they say around these parts.



FAST SHOW . . . Noah Lyles (left) pips rivals for 100m gold



TEARY . . . Murray bows out



ILL . . . Covid-hit Lyles in 200m



SIM-PLY THE BEST . . . Biles with another gymnastics gold



BREAK UP . . . 'Raygun' with a bizarre break-dance routine



HOD GIVEN POWERS . . . Hodgkinson's joy at winning the 800m

ATHLETICS

Women's Marathon Final: 1 S Hassan (Ned) 2hrs 22mins 55secs, 2 T Assefa (Eth) 2:22:58, 3 H Obiri (Ken) 2:23:10, 4 S Lokedi (Ken) 2:23:14, 5 A Shankule (Eth) 2:23:57, 6 Y Suzuki (Jpn) 2:24:02, 7 D Meng'ara (Rwa) 2:24:56, 8 S Chesang (Uga) 2:25:01, 46 **C Evans** (Gbr) 2:33:01, 78 **R Harvey** (AUS) 2:51:03.

BASKETBALL

Women's Final: France 66 USA 67. **Bronze:** Belgium 81 Australia 85.

CYCLING TRACK

Men's Keirin Final: 1 H Lavreysen (Ned), 2 M Richardson (Aus), 3 M Glatzler (Aus), 4 J Carlin (Gbr) dnf, 5 S Nakano (Jpn) DNF, 6 M Sahrom (Mas) relegated. **Semi-Final 2:** 4 H Turnbull (Gbr) dnf.

Women's Sprint Final: E Andrews (NZ) bt L Friedrich (Ger) 2-0. **Bronze Final:** E Finucane (Gbr) bt H van de Wouw (Ned) 2-0.

Women's Omnium Final Standings: 1 J Valente (USA) 144pts, 2 D Pikulik (Pol) 131, 3 A Wollaston (Nzl) 125, 4 L Kocopyc (Bel) 116, 5 G Baker (Aus) 108, 15 **N Evans** (Gbr) 52.

HANDBALL

Men's Final: Germany 26 Denmark 39. **Bronze:** Spain 23 Slovenia 22.

MODERN PENTATHLON

Women's Individual Final Standings: 1 M Gulyas (Hun) 1461pts, 2 E Clouvet (Fra) 1452, 3 S Seong (Kor) 1441, 9 **K Bryson** (Gbr) 1404.

VOLLEYBALL

Women's Final: United States 0 Italy 3.

WATER POLO

Men's Final: Serbia 13 Croatia 11. **Bronze:** United States 11 Hungary 8.

WEIGHTLIFTING

Women's +81kg: 1 W Li (Chn) 309kg, 2 H Park (Kor) 299, 3 **E Campbell** (Gbr) 288, 4 L Ayovi Cabezas (Ecu) 283.

WRESTLING

Women's Freestyle 65kg Bronze Medal Matches: S Rivera (Pur) bt T Tumur Ochir (Mgl), I Dudaev (Alb) bt I Muszukajev (Hun). **Final:** K Kiyooka (Jpn) bt R Amouzadkhalili (Ir).

Men's Freestyle 97kg Bronze Medal Matches: M Magomedov (Aze) bt M McHeldidze (Ukr), A Azarpir (Iri) bt K Snyder (USA). **Final:** A Tazhudinov (Bm) bt G Matcharashvili (Geo).

Women's Freestyle 76kg Bronze Medal Matches: T Remera (Cub) bt G Reasco Valdez (Ecu), M Marin Potillo (Cub) bt A Medet Kyzy (Kgz). **Final:** Y Kagami (Jpn) bt K Blades (USA).

SATURDAY

ARTISTIC SWIMMING

Duet Final: 1 L Wang & Q Wang (Chn) 56:47.33pts, 2 **K Shortman & J Thorpe** (Gbr) 55:53.67, 3 B de Brouwer & N de Brouwer (Ned) 55:39.63.

ATHLETICS

Women's 1500m Final: 1 F Kipyegon (Ken) 3mins 51.29secs, 2 J Hull (Aus) 3:52.56, 3 **G Bell** (Gbr) 3:52.61, 5 L Muir (Gbr) 3:53.37.

Men's 4 x 400m Relay Final: 1 United States 2mins 54.43secs, 2 Botswana 2:54.53, 3 **Great Britain** 2:55.93 (A Haydock-Wilson, M Hudson-Smith, D Lewis, C Dobson).

Women's 4 x 400m Relay Final: 1 United States 3mins 15.27secs, 2 Netherlands 3:19.50, 3 **Great Britain** 3:19.72 (V Ohuruogu, L Nielsen, N Yeargin, A Anning), 4 Ireland 3:19.90.

DIVING

Men's 10m Platform Final: 1 Y Cao (Chn) 547.50pts, 2 R Tamai (Jpn) 507.65, 3 **N Williams** (Gbr) 497.35, 11 **K Kothari** (Gbr) 401.55.

SPORT CLIMBING

Women's Boulder Final: 1 J Gambrett (Slo) 84.4pts, 5 **E McNeice** (Gbr) 59.5. **Lead Final:** 1 A Mori (Jpn) 96.1pts, 6 **E McNeice** (Gbr) 68.1. **Overall:** 1 J Gambrett (Slo) 168.5pts, 2 B Raiboutou (USA) 156.0, 3 J Pitz (Aut) 147.4, 4 A Mori (Jpn) 135.1, 5 **E McNeice** (Gbr) 127.6.

TAEKWONDO

Men's +80kg Gold Medal Contest: A Salimi (Iri) bt C Cunningham (Gbr) 2-1. **Women's +67kg Bronze Medal Contests:** N Kus Aydin (Tur) bt R McCowan (Gbr) 2-1.

BRONZE 29

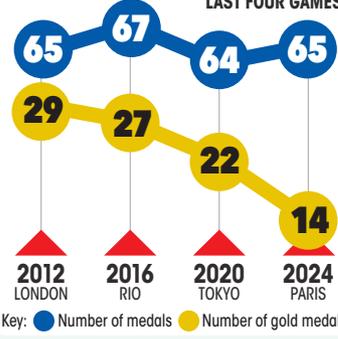
- July 27 Diving (Women's 3m synchronised springboard) **Anthony Harding, Jack Laugher**
- July 27 Diving (Women's 10m synchronised platform) **Andrea Spendolini-Sirieix, Lois Toulson**
- July 28 Canoeing (Women's slalom K-1) **Kimberley Woods**
- July 29 Equestrian (Individual eventing) **Laura Collett**
- July 31 Triathlon (Women's triathlon) **Beth Potter**
- July 31 Diving (Women's 10m synchronised platform) **Andrea Spendolini-Sirieix, Lois Toulson**
- Aug 1 Rowing (Women's Double sculls) **Becky Wilde, Mathilda Hodgkins-Byrne**
- Aug 1 Rowing (Men's four) **Oli Wilkes, David Ambler, Matt**

- Aldridge, Freddie Davidson
- Aug 2 Diving (Men's 3m synchronised Springboard) **Anthony Harding, Jack Laugher**
- Aug 3 Rowing (Women's eight) **Heidi Long, Rowan McKellar, Holly Dunford, Emily Ford, Lauren Irwin, Eve Stewart, Hattie Taylor, Annie Campbell-Orde, Henry Fiedman (cox)**
- Aug 3 Sailing (Women's IQFoil) **Emma Wilson**
- Aug 3 Equestrian (Team dressage) **Lottie Fry, Carl Hester, Becky Moody**
- Aug 3 Gymnastics (Men's floor) **Jake Jarman**
- Aug 3 Athletics (Mixed 4x400m relay) **Sam Reardon, Laviai Nielsen, Alex Haydock-Wilson, Amber Anning, Nicole Yeargin**
- Aug 4 Equestrian (Individual dressage) **Lottie Fry**

- Aug 4 Gymnastics (Men's vault) **Harry Hepworth**
- Aug 5 Triathlon (Mixed relay triathlon) **Alex Yee, Georgia Taylor-Brown, Sam Dickinson, Beth Potter**
- Aug 5 Canoeing (Women's KX-1) **Kimberley Woods**
- Aug 6 Skateboarding (Women's park) **Sky Brown**
- Aug 6 Boxing (Men's welterweight) **Lewis Richardson**
- Aug 7 Cycling (Women's Team pursuit) **Elinor Barker, Josie Knight, Anna Morris, Jessica Roberts**
- Aug 8 Cycling (Women's keirin) **Emma Finucane**
- Aug 9 Athletics (Men's 4x100m relay) **Jeremiah Azu, Louie Hinchliffe, Zharnel Hughes, Richard Kilty, Nathaneel Mitchell-Blake**

- Aug 9 Cycling (Men's sprint) **Jack Carlin**
- Aug 10 Diving (Men's 10 metre platform) **Noah Williams**
- Aug 10 Athletics (Women's 1500 metres) **Georgia Bell**
- Aug 10 Athletics (Men's 4x400m relay) **Lewis Davey, Charlie Dobson, Alex Haydock-Wilson, Matthew Hudson-Smith, Toby Harries, Sam Reardon**
- Aug 10 Athletics (Women's 4x400m relay) **Amber Anning, Laviai Nielsen, Victoria Ohuruogu, Nicole Yeargin, Yemi Mary John, Hannah Kelly, Jodie Williams, Lina Nielsen**
- Aug 11 Cycling (Women's sprint) **Emma Finucane**
- Aug 11 Weightlifting (Women's +81kg) **Emily Campbell**

HOW GB COMPARE LAST FOUR GAMES



Track star test failure

SPRINTER **Dominique Lasconi Mulamba** has been provisionally suspended after testing positive for a banned substance. The Congolese went out in the first round of the 100 metres in Paris, finishing seventh on August 3. A positive sample was collected a day later, according to the International Testing Agency. Mulamba has the right to challenge the decision. There have been only a handful of positive tests reported at the Games.

OLYMPICS

UPS AND DOWNS



ANSON... LA vow

JOY

From Back Page

necks, which is 40 per cent of the team.

"We had 18 sports represented in the medal table, which is brilliant and one more than last time.

"We would have liked to be in the top five again.

"It's not happened but the breadth of medals is incredibly important."

Only the USA and China won more medals but the gold count was down to 14 — eight fewer than in Tokyo three years ago and four behind the Australians — as GB dropped to seventh in the table.

Anson added: "It's been fantastic. The level of sport has been incredible and that gives us even more reason to celebrate.

"So, the message from here is, 'Bring on Los Angeles!'. I can't wait.

"We're going to get back at the Aussies and get back up that medal table.

"It felt like the knife-edge moments went our way in Tokyo and they didn't here in Paris.

"So it's about fine-tuning, sitting down calmly and figuring out what can be done better."

Olympic triathlon champ Alex Yee — who carried the GB flag with trampoline gold medallist Bryony Page at last night's closing ceremony — said: "It's also about inspiring a generation and people watching at home. Everyone has done their best."

UK Sport boss Dame Kath Grainger — who won a rowing gold at London 2012 — added: "We have an ambition to be in the top five but after USA and China, third to eighth is incredibly congested.

"The feeling we have is, 'It could be better yet' and that's a really exciting place to be."

Glasgow to rescue

GLASGOW is set to save the Commonwealth Games after being lined up to host the event in 2026.

The future of the tournament, first held as the Empire Games in 1930, was in severe jeopardy after the Australian state of Victoria pulled out last year, citing concerns.

Glasgow, which hosted the event in 2014, is now ready to step in and will be announced as the host in the next few days.

Scottish Government chiefs must pledge £100m to cover the likely shortfall in the £400m budget.

Team Scotland boss Ian Reid said: "Glasgow has a fantastic track record of delivering large sporting events."

FLYING THE FLAG... cyclist Finucane celebrates winning Olympic bronze for Team GB

Emma left

EMMA FINUCANE "cried a lot" due to exhaustion on her way to becoming Britain's first Olympic hat-trick heroine for 60 YEARS.

Nobody in the 327-strong Team GB squad has put in a greater shift during the Paris Games than its fastest-moving female on wheels.

In the furnace of the Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines Velodrome, the Welsh woman, 21, rode 17 races over a seven-day period across three events, culminating in yesterday's individual sprint showdowns.

And that tenacity and commitment on her debut appearance was rewarded with three medals — one gold and two bronze.

It means she is the first woman with the Union Jack on her chest to bring home three medals from the same Olympics since athlete Mary Rand.

The Somerset athlete, now 84, collected a swag bag of gold (long jump), silver (pentathlon) and bronze (sprint relay) from the Tokyo 1964 Games. It is no



PARTY



Jack's track horror as



TURN FOR THE WORSE... Hamish Turnbull (above) takes a tumble in keirin semi-final and rips skinsuit (inset)

PAIN GAME... GB's Jack Carlin crashes during the keirin final at the Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines Velodrome

FOR BRITS AS GAMES END

weary, teary & cheery after treble

From **ROB MAUL**



in PARIS

wonder that Finucane's exploits left her feeling emotionally, physically and mentally drained.

Finucane, who sleeps with her medals under her pillow, revealed: "I wish I'd got a book from someone to tell me how to get through an Olympic week."

"I've cried a lot this week, not at the pressure, I was crying because I was exhausted."

"My mind was telling me, 'You can't do it' and my legs were screaming at me to stop."

"There have been many emotions. But I've wanted to keep going and it shows I'm strong enough to get it out and reset. I've been exhausted but I got up every day and kept fighting."

"I'm really proud of myself. I gave

everything for today's bronze medal. This has been a whirlwind of a week. I can't believe it's over."

Finucane, who rides up to 44mph on two wheels, was unfortunate to face talented 24-year-old New Zealander Ellesse Andrews in yesterday's sprint semi-finals and she was comfortably beaten in the best-of-three heats.

But Finucane then beat Holland's Hetty van de Wouw in the bronze medal race.

She now adds that to her bronze in the women's keirin and gold in the women's team sprint.

None of British Cycling's saddle sisterhood – the likes of Laura Kenny, Becky James and Victoria Pendleton for example – had won three medals at the same Games.

Finucane added: "I've learned emotions aren't a negative and they don't mean you're weak."

"For me to cry and then get on the track and go again, that's really important. I've raced for seven days now

and my mind's been on a mad one. I've learned a lot about myself that I'll take forward for the coming years."

"I've dealt with the pressure pretty well and when I'm in this Velodrome, I'm on it. Now I'm going to live my best life after the Games."

Finucane – the great niece of Irish Second World War RAF pilot Wing Commander Brendan 'Paddy' Finucane – celebrated with her family who had made the journey from Wales in a camper van.

She might not be able to go more than 20mph when she visits her hometown of Carmarthen due to draconian speed limits.

But on the boards, she is one hell of a competitor and there is a chance, if she stays fit, she could eclipse Dame Laura's mark of six medals (five golds).

British Cycling Performance Director Stephen Park said: "Emma is a superstar."

"At 21, three medals, she's easily got two or three more Games in her."



GONGS GALORE... Finucane with her two bronzes and a gold



FRENCH... tummy bug

Kate has sickener

From **MARTIN LIPTON**

KATE FRENCH'S dream of retaining her Olympic modern pentathlon crown was ended when she could not get out of bed.

Tokyo star French, 33, had struggled through Saturday's semi-final and was due to start the final in third position.

But French was up all night with a stomach bug and left "devastated" at being unable to compete.

Her team-mate Kerenza Bryson started in fifth.

But after two fences down in the show-jumping and struggling to 15th in the swim, she began the decisive laser run 61 seconds off the pace.

Bryson dropped to 12th after the shooting range and recovered to finish ninth as Hungary's Michelle Gulyas took gold.

Bryson said: "I thought I was capable of a medal but it didn't go to plan."

"I'm trying to remember I'm an Olympian, a doctor and an army officer."

"There is more to life than sport and medals."



CLASH... the headbutt

Butt-row Jan fined

From **ROB MAUL**

A DUTCH cyclist was fined £1,000 for HEADBUTTING Brit ace Ollie Wood during a mad men's madison.

Wood said he "felt like a crash test dummy" after being hit by Jan-Willem van Schip with 40 laps left of Saturday's 100-lap race.

After reviewing footage, officials kicked out Van Schip, 29, for "improper conduct and behaviour that endangers another rider – blow with the helmet".

Wood and Mark Stewart were bumped up to ninth after Van Schip and Yoeri Havik were disqualified.

Wakefield's Wood, 28, who limped off with a hurt knee, said: "All I know is I got hit really hard from behind by literally the biggest rider on the track."

"Everyone's cognitive functions started to decline rapidly. You could see there were people having lapses of concentration."

"When there are people all over the track, it's inevitable some will collide wheels or whatever."

CRASHER

cycling trio suffer a painful final day



BATTERED Jack Carlin limped away from a terrifying 44mph cycling crash which cost him a keirin medal.

The Scotsman, 27, ripped his skin, suffered bruises and injured his groin following a huge three-way smash involving Japanese rider Shinji Nakano and Malaysian Muhammad Shah Firdaus Sahrom.

Carlin lay motionless on the Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines Velodrome track for a while.

But he was then helped to his feet by medics – who initially brought out a neck brace – and then managed to hobble back to the pit area.

It was Team GB's **THIRD** track cycle crash on the final day of the Paris Olympics after Neah Evans' fall in the women's omnium and Hamish Turnbull's in the men's keirin semi-final.

As Carlin looked at his wrecked skinsuit, he suddenly felt faint and sick and had to be checked over by the team doctor but did not require a hospital visit.

And Carlin revealed: "I am all right. I am a bit sore but that is part and parcel of racing."

"I mucked it up a bit. I was on the back foot and then two riders collided in front of me and your day is done after that. It is what it is."

"I've done well but I was hoping for more."

"This is the one I felt

From **ROB MAUL** in Paris

really confident about and I was doing really well.

"I just got it wrong and I paid the consequence for that."

Carlin later took the mickey out of himself on Instagram, adding: "I am in one piece, just a little battered from appearances in Tokyo and Paris."

"Shall get back to you all in time, time for a pint or five."

It has been an eventful Games for Carlin, who claimed silver in the team sprint and bronze in the individual sprint.

Yet complaints had been made about him by baffled Dutch team officials, who accused him of "rugby on wheels" during a fierce contest with one of their riders on Friday.

He was even booed as he collected his medal by supporters from the Oranje-wearing nation.

Britain won gold in the keirin at the previous four Olympic Games – Sir Chris Hoy in 2008 and 2012 and Sir Jason Kenny 2016 and

2020 – but this time the title went to Harrie Lavreysen from Holland.

Lavreysen, 27, took gold ahead of Australian pair Matthew Richardson and Matthew Glaetzer, who had been sixth but took advantage of the three-man crash.

It means Lavreysen has five gold medals and one bronze from appearances in Tokyo and Paris.

Team GB's first crash of the day came when 34-year-old Scotswoman Evans slid down the track after being leaned into by German Franziska Brausse.

It was in almost the same spot where Ollie Wood had been headbutted by a Dutch rider the day before.

Former vet Evans finished a disappointing 15th in the 22-rider omnium.

Then Turnbull also suffered nasty skin gashes in the second semi-final of the men's keirin.

The British star tried a desperate manoeuvre to avoid German faller Luca Spiegel, who crashed on the last bend of the final lap.

As Turnbull went straight up the bank, it became too steep and soon gravity played its part as he crashed on his head and he came off his bike.

Britain did not lead the track cycling medal table as they all got on the Eurostar to return home.

Their tally of one gold, three silvers and four bronzes left them fourth with Holland top with three golds, one silver and one bronze.



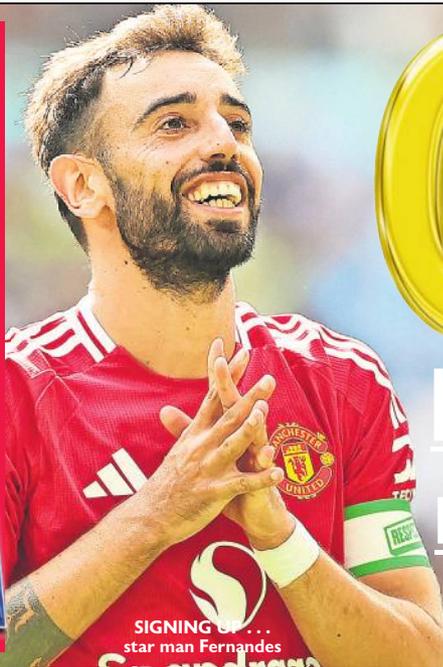
EVY FALL... Evans hits deck

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Sun Sport

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GOLD

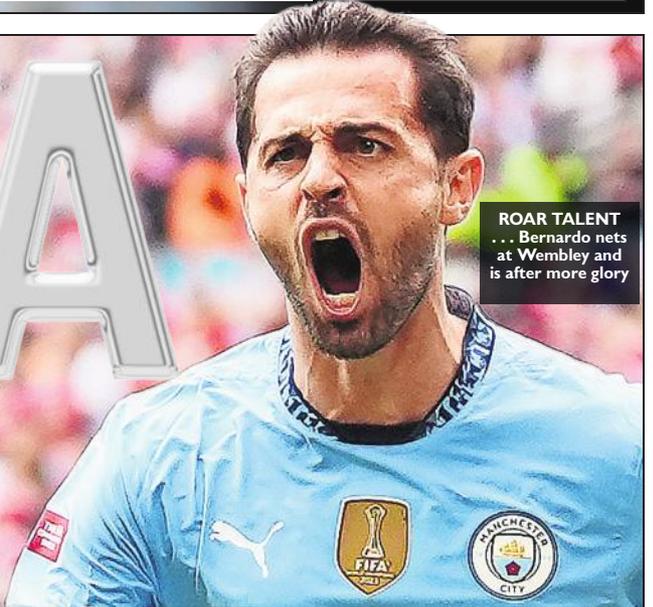
Bruno deal to make him No1 earner at Utd

By MARTIN BLACKBURN
BRUNO FERNADES is set to sign a new contract making him the highest-paid player at Manchester United.
 The deal – which would tie him to the club until summer 2027 with the option of a further year – is set to eclipse the £325,000 per week earned by Marcus Rashford.
 Fernandes, 29, has again underlined his commitment to United, saying: "There is nobody
Turn to Page 42

By MARTIN BLACKBURN
BERNARDO SILVA has sent a chilling warning to Manchester City's title rivals: Even a "crazy" 70-game season won't stop us.
 Pep Guardiola's side are bidding to be Prem champions for a record **FIFTH** successive time despite a fixture pile-up of league, cup, European and Fifa Club World Cup games.
 And midfielder Bernardo, 30, said: "We are playing with a crazy schedule, 70, 80 games, but we're going to be ready. We don't like to lose."
 City won their first trophy of the season at Wembley on Saturday, beating bitter rivals Manchester United 7-6 in a Community Shield penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw.
 The Portuguese star, who grabbed City's late leveller, added: "You cannot win for ever. One day we will lose, it will happen to us. Hopefully not this season."
Feel no Bern out – Page 42, 43

SILVA

Bernardo: 70-game season won't stop us



ROAR TALENT
 ... Bernardo nets at Wembley and is after more glory

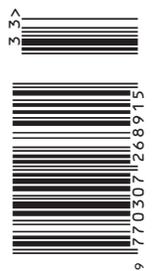


ALL SMILES ... proud GB duo Emma Finucane and Emily Campbell beam as they show off medals

BRONZE

Joy for Emma & Emily as GB hail 65 medals

From MARTIN LIPTON in Paris
TEAM GB chiefs hailed a "fantastic" Paris Olympics and promised: We'll be even better at LA 2028.
 Bronze medals for cycle queen Emma Finucane and weightlifter Emily Campbell yesterday took the tally to 65 – one more than in Tokyo three years ago and the same total as London 2012.
 The haul has only been bettered in modern times by the 67 earned at Rio 2016.
 British Olympic Association chief executive Andy Anson said: "Winning 65 medals, on foreign soil, is incredible."
 "In total, 131 out of 327 athletes will come home with medals around their
Turn to Page 50



Favourite

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John and Ryan have a top Man

RYAN MOORE and John Gosden were out of luck with *Inspiral* in the big one at Deauville — but they were still best buddies.

Unbeaten Godolphin starlet *Ombudsman* was given a peach by Moore as he took the step up to Listed company for Gosden (*below*) in his stride.

It was a rare ride for the 'Boys In Blue' for Moore who was patient in the ten-furlong race before the three-year-old got clear in the straight to win by over three lengths. Gosden said: "That was a lovely ride by Ryan and he said to keep him at this trip for now.

"Ombudsman was immature last year and had problems with his knees so he couldn't run, but he's done everything right. "It was run at a proper pace and the ground was fast enough. I'm pleased."



MAR-VELLOUS... joy for Silvestre De Sousa (below) after Jacques Le Marois magic on Charyn

By TOM PEPPER
CHARYN was a Marois marvel as he conquered France and made trainer Roger Varian cry.

Cool jockey Silvestre De Sousa saluted the Deauville crowd after a bloodless three-length win in the £1million showpiece.

The manner of it was enough to reduce a grown man to tears. That was emotional Varian (*below*) who said: "I don't know what to say. He made me cry. He's such a beautiful horse."

De Sousa and Charyn took it up two furlongs out and powered clear to easily beat French 2,000 Guineas ace **Metropolitan**.

Ryan Moore, replacing Kieran Shoemark on dual Jacques Le Marois heroine *Inspiral*, got off to the worst possible start as she was left flat-footed at the start.

The pair were always playing catch-up and, in the end, Moore did well to rouse her at all to finish third. But it is doubtful if, even with a better start, she would have been able to get close to Charyn.



There was drama before the race too when Richard Hannon's *Haatem* was a last-second withdrawal after jockey James Doyle felt something wasn't right with his colt on the way to the start.

Charyn, the 9-10 favourite, was in a different county as De Sousa's fairytale season continued with another mighty Group 1 win following the pair's Queen Anne success at Royal Ascot.

Varian's four-year-old grey has not put a foot wrong and is now Europe's dominant miler. Varian said: "I'm looking forward to seeing the race replay. I'll watch it a few times!

"He's a great horse and seems to be getting better and better. He makes my job look easy! "He is the finished article.

"I'm delighted for owner Nurlan Bizakov and his family. "I'm also really pleased for Silvestre who has struck up a fantastic relationship with Charyn. These great horses don't come along often."

CHARIOT OF FIRE

Roger in tears after star miler's magic in Marois



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GOING GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES)

2.25 BRITISH STALLION STUDS FILLIES' NOVICE STAKES (Class 4); 2-y-o; winner £4,320; 7f. (5 runners)

- 2) 44DY FIRST 30 A Watson 9-2 Hollie Doyle 88
- 1) 52 SHINING PEARL 24 K Burke 9-2 Clifford Lee 89
- 5) SILENT AFFAIR J Butler 9-2 Connor Beasley
- 4) SOUTH ROAD 50 L Russell 9-2 Oisín Orr 90
- 3) 34 WHO WANTS ME 32 J Jardine 9-2 Andrew Mullen 94

BETTING: 5-4 Shining Pearl, 9-2 Rusty First, 6 Who Wants Me, South Road, 10 Silent Affair
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: abd 1 2 3
2023: Francophone 9-2 Joe Fanning 5-1 (C Johnston) drawn 1, 7 ran.

3.00 WESTERN HOUSE HOTEL CLASSIFIED STAKES (DIV 1) (6); value to the winner £3,664; 1m. (9 runners)

- 6) 004070 BELIEVE ME NOW 34 (T*) J Jardine 4-9-9 Andrew Mullen 80
- 4) 4736463 CHINESE SPIRIT 7 (CD) L Perratt 10-9-9 Paul Mullen 97
- 1) 8106595 DESERT DREAM 14 (D) S Spencer 10-9-9 Dale Swift 95
- 5) 0009703 OUR NOBLE LORD 21 Russell 5-9-9 Clifford Lee 78
- 2) 070506 REBECCA'S GIRL (V/BP) G Rutherford 4-9-9 Oisín Orr 80
- 3) 5382666 WALLAROO 16 F Taylor 6-9-9 Elie-Muñoz Crot (7) 89
- 7) 2585630 LITTLEMAN 38 S West 3-9-2 Jason Hart 92
- 8) 0655236 MILLBUIE 2 E Williams 3-9-2 P J McDonald 97
- 9) 879371 ROCK AND ROYAL 13 (H/D) D Cunha 3-9-2 Billy Loughnane 99

BETTING: 6-4 Rock and Royal, 4 Our Noble Lord, Wallaroo, 5 Littleman, Millbuiie
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2 3
2023: Retirement Beckons 8-9-9 Mathers 10-3 (Miss L Perratt) dr 6, 8 ran.

3.35 WESTERN HOUSE HOTEL CLASSIFIED STAKES (DIV 2) (6); value to the winner £3,664; 1m. (9 runners)

- 5) 6670-DARK ECLIPSE 35 F Watson 8-9-9 Cam Hardie 72
- 4) 632888 DARKER 21 R Carr 5-9-9 James Sullivan 90
- 3) 800570 KEEP ME STABLE 16 L Perratt 4-9-9 Tommie Jakes (5) 84
- 1) 0092604 LUNA LARGE 12 Jardine 12-9-9 Mohammed Tabti (5) 98
- 8) 387667 RETIREMENT BECKONS 7 (CD) L Perratt 9-9-9 Paul Mullen 94
- 7) 3542235 ASPIRE TO GLORY 13 (H) A Haynes 3-9-2 Hollie Doyle 89
- 6) 093299 CHRIS'S MATE 7 (H) W Harrison 3-9-2 Paula Muir (3) 89
- 2) 06900 ODETT'S BEAU 21 (B*) M Dods 3-9-2 Connor Beasley 70
- 9) 504404 SHOMETHEWAYHOME 10 E Williams 3-9-2 P J McDonald 97

BETTING: 11-4 Aspire To Glory, 4 Retirement Beckons, 8 Darker, Keep Me Stable
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: abd 2023: See Division 1.

4.10 BOOK FOR VIRGIN BET AYR GOLD CUP DAY HANDICAP (6); £3,664; 7f (14 runners)

- 664402 NOVAK 10 (CD) J Jardine 5-10-2 Mohammed Tabti (5) 97
Runs: 4 Wins: 5 (2F,A,2G) Places: 14 £48,839
Losing streak at 16, last win came here and now 9lb lower, on shortlist
- 13575 NONHAMMER 14 (CD) L Perratt 6-10-1 Billy Loughnane 96
Runs: 34 Wins: 4 (F,G,S,2G) Places: 11 £31,877
Back stop to same mark as win here in May, in-form jock up, chance
- 776856 TRAIS FLUORS 9 (D) L Perratt 10-10-0 Tommie Jakes (5) 89
Runs: 74 Wins: 10 (2F,A,G,S) Places: 12 £420,415
Well handicapped but last three runs here drive, looks on downgrade
- 17985 JKR COBBLER 7 (CD) J Jardine 5-9-13 Andrew Mullen 90
Runs: 30 Wins: 5 (A,G,S) Places: 5 £27,433
Loves track, trip suits, won't last year but others better handicapped
- 106880 AHAMONT 20 (CD) D & N Barron 5-9-13 Clifford Lee 85
Runs: 19 Wins: 3 (2F,A) Places: 2 £16,137
From fallen a cliff this year, decent mark but needs big revival, oppose
- 434068 BLACK FRIDAY 28 (CD) R Smith 9-9-12 Joanna Mason 93
Runs: 64 Wins: 7 (4S,G,2G) Places: 12 £65,142
Now 5lb lower than track and trip win in Aug last year, not one to trust
- 257040 COLOUR CODE 2 (H) L Perratt 3-9-10 Tommie Jakes (5) 78
Runs: 7 Places: 2 £5,855
Failed to beat a rival home last four, tough mark, easily scratched off
- 32295 DARBUCKS 40 (D) C Kellett 5-9-10 Connor Beasley 90
Runs: 29 Wins: 2 (S,G) Places: 9 £24,731
Course form is 23222 but last win was in 2022, happer no help, e-w
- 8-7780 AGNES GREY 49 J & S Quinn 4-9-10 James Sullivan 91
Runs: 12 Wins: 3 Places: 3 £8,893
Fair in 2023 but gone backwards fast despite slipping mark, oppose
- 80-4122 SIR GARFIELD 2 (BF; B;D) J & S Quinn 3-9-9 Jason Hart 89
Runs: 6 Wins: 1 (S) Places: 1 £5,846
Stuck at his task well last twice to back up Carlisle win, one to beat
- 210-49 BANNER ROAD 30 (C) L Russell 5-9-9 Oisín Orr 91
Runs: 19 Wins: 2 (S,S) Places: 5 £17,288
Still 4lb above last year, will need happer to relent more, not today
- 592676 ANGEL OF THE BAY 22 D & N Barron 3-9-4 Sam James 80
Runs: 8 Places: 1 £23,04
Running out of excuses and no better last time, this too competitive
- 223423 BRAES OF DOUNE 2 (BF,C) J Goldie 6-9-3 Paul Mullen 97
Runs: 17 Wins: 1 (G,S) Places: 9 £14,390
In super form, workable mark, has won over 1m2z solid each-way call
- 07-781 LUMENBOURG 9 (V;D) J Camacho 3-9-0 non-runner 98
Runs: 13 Wins: 1 (F) Places: 1 £4,711
Came good on Donny, only up 3lb, got speed and stays well, ruled out

BETTING: 7-2 Sir Garfield, 9-2 Novak, 5 Braes Of Doune, 13-2 Nonhammer, 12 Darbucks, 14 Banner Road, Agnes Grey
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: abd 4 1 3
2023: Jkr Cobbler 4-9-8, A Mullen evens fav (J Jardine), dr 6, 8 ran.

Sunracing FORM

NOVAK (9-13) 20-1 ran, on btn 1/1 by Profit Street (9-9) **JKR COBBLER** (10-0) 25-1 no show, 8th (btn 5) (14 ran) (Newcastle 7) hcap (6) £2,983 AW.
NONHAMMER (9-3) 5-1 kept on, 5th of 8 (btn 5/4) to He's a Gentleman (10-1) (Ayr 7) hcap (4) £4,711 good.

TRAIS FLUORS (9-2) 33-1 6th of 7 (btn 5/4) to Lunario (10-2) (Hamilton 1m hcap) £5,928 good to firm. (kept on one pace, 7th of 10 (btn 6/4) to Rory (9-7) **AHAMONT** (9-5) 18-1 ran, always behind, last (btn 13) (Musselfburgh 7) hcap (5) \$4.18 good.)

BRAES OF DOUNE (8-4) 9-1 headway 1/1 out, one pace, 4th of 9 (btn 7/4) to My Harrison George (9-8) **BLACK FRIDAY** (9-3) 20-1 every chance, held, 8th (btn 3/4) **JKR COBBLER** (9-8) 8-1 no threat, last (btn 6/4) (10-0) no show, 8th (btn 5) (14 ran) (Newcastle 7) hcap (6) £2,983 AW.)

DARBUCKS (9-5) 15-2 kept on, 5th of 10 (btn 5) to Code Purple (9-3) (Musselfburgh 7) hcap (6) £5,804 good.)

SIR GARFIELD (9-7) 9-2 led until final close home, btn 1/4 by Havana (9-5) 8-1 **ANGEL OF THE BAY** (9-9) 22-1 ridden 2/1 out, outpaced 1/1 out, rallied, 8th (btn 5/4) (14 ran) (Redcar 7) hcap (6) £3,140 good.)

BRAES OF DOUNE (9-5) 3-1 fav led final 110 yards, hard ridden, beaten on nod, btn 1/4 by Pembrokehire (9-3) (12 ran) (Ayr 7) hcap (6) £3,664 good.)

LUMENBOURG (8-12) 25-1 made all, 8th (btn 12) to Mustard (8-5) (Doncaster 7) hcap (6) £4,711 firm.)

TEMPLEGATE TOM PEPPER

2.25 Shining Pearl 2.25 Who Wants Me
3.00 Millbuiie 3.00 Rock And Royal
3.35 Aspire To Glory 3.35 Darker
4.10 Sir Garfield 4.10 Novak
4.40 Pol Roger 4.40 Aviemore (nb)
5.15 Atomise 5.15 Pembrokehire
5.45 Crocodile Power 5.45 Crocodile Power
6.15 AyR Poet (nb) 6.15 Dingwall

TEMPLEGATE'S TRIO: Elmonjed (Windsor) and AyR Poet (double, AyR) with Piranha Rama (Windsor).
TOM PEPPER'S DOUBLE: Caprelo (Kempton) and Aviemore (Ayr).
SUNRATERS' NAP: GET IT (7,10 Windsor).
SIRIUS: Sun On Sunday, nap: HAYMAKER (7,10 Windsor)

4.40 STAYCATIONS AT WESTERN HOUSE HOTEL HANDICAP (4); £4,711; 1m 2f (10 runners)

- 445362 FAYLAQ 9 (BF) J Goldie 8-10-2 Paul Mullen 96
Runs: 41 Wins: 3 (A,G,S) Places: 9 £112,529
Losing streak at 35, now, flat finisher, a threat but finds new ways to lose
- 711222 POL ROGER 14 (CD) M Dods 4-10-2 Connor Beasley 92
Runs: 20 Wins: 4 (F,G,S,2G) Places: 5 £35,662
Track ace, holds form well, just nudged late, high in weights after 4lb rise
- 2190-0 CAVALLO PAZZO 23 D Bourke 5-10-2 Jason Hart 85
Runs: 12 Wins: 2 (2S) Places: 3 £19,001
Struggled badly on first run since ex JP O'Brien, can only watch today
- 7476-YORKSHIRE LADY J191 (CD) M & D Easterby 6-10-2 Joanna Mason 89
Runs: 23 Wins: 5 (F,S,2G,S,G) Places: 3 £75,450
Last seen winning novice hde, this looks a lever for hde campaign
- 332/ STAND STRONG 667 (BF) E Williams 4-10-1 Pawan Scott -
Runs: 3 Places: 2 £9,205
8,000gns buy from Godolphin in March, clearly had issues, need this
- 583008 TOSHIZOU 31 (P*) Fel/Murray 6-9-12 Billy Loughnane 88
Runs: 26 Wins: 1 Places: 7 £51,355
Talented but record says it all, last three runs poor, headgear on, oppose
- 02251 AVIEMORE 28 (CD) C Johnston 3-9-10 Franny Norton 99
Runs: 5 Wins: 1 (G) Places: 2 £8,402
Straightforward win on second hcap, up 5lb, looks an improver, fancied
- 804-00 JOHN CHARD VC 47 Fel/Murray 4-9-9 Hollie Doyle 80
Runs: 9 Wins: 1 (G) Places: 3 £12,819
Switch to this yard not worked, will need more help from happer
- 245976 BASHFUL 67 (CD) J Jardine 6-9-7 Andrew Mullen 86
Runs: 36 Wins: 6 (2S,A,2G,S) Places: 9 £53,731
Last win was over 6lbs, mark has fallen on Flat, best in mud, down list
- 78575 STRAYA 9 K Scott 3-9-2 Sam James 78
Runs: 7 Places: 1 £4,483
Poor in Ireland, no better on first run here, very poorly handicapped

BETTING: 12-5 Pol Roger, 3 Aviemore, 9-2 Faylaq, 7 Yorkshire Lady, 8 Toshizou, 12 Stand Strong, Straya, 20 Cavallo Pazzo
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 3
2023: Glasses Up 8-8-1, B Curtis 3-1 (R M Smith), dr 7, 5 ran.

Sunracing FORM

FAYLAQ (10-2) 7-4 fav tracked leaders, stayed on, btn 7/4 by Bringback-memories (9-4) (Hamilton 1m 5f hcap) £4,711 good to firm.)

POL ROGER (9-8) 7-2 handy, led 2f out, headed 6f out, ridden 2f out, faded, 8th of 7 (btn 5/4) to Wild Star (9-1) (Ayr 1/4m hcap) £4,639 good.)

CAVALLO PAZZO (9-6) 20-1 rear, some headway 2f out, kept on one pace, last of 11 (btn 18) to On The River (8-4) (Ripon 1m hcap) £4,731 good.)

YORKSHIRE LADY (9-8) 13-2 led, headed 6f out, ridden 2f out, faded, 8th of 7 (btn 5/4) to Wild Star (9-1) (Southwell 1m hcap) £10,308 AW.)

STAND STRONG (9-7) 2-1 fav led final furlong, headed close home, btn nk by Quantum Get (9-7) (9 ran) (Whampton 1m faved) £5,672 AW.)

TOSHIZOU (9-9) 11-2 every chance, ridden 2f out, faded, 8th of 11 (btn 20) to Lieber Power (10-0) (York 1/4m app hcap) £10,468 good to soft.)

AVIEMORE (9-5) 5-1 made all, ridden and hard pressed 1f out, stayed on well, bit Empire Of Light (9-2) nk (1 ran) (Ayr 1/4m hcap) £5,187 good.)

JOHN CHARD VC (9-8) 2-1 pushed along and outpaced 3f out, 15th of 17 (btn 18) to On The River (8-4) (Carlisle 1m hcap) £15,702 good to firm.)

BASHFUL (9-9) 4-1 rear, pushed along 3f out, not trouble leaders, 6th of 7 (btn 8) to Hay (9-7) (Hamilton 1m faved) £5,926 good.)

STRAYA (9-0) 4-1 ran in snatches, outpaced 2f out, plugged on, 5th of 8 (btn 8) to Waleley (9-3) (Doncaster 7) hcap (4) £5,653 good to firm.)

5.15 SUNDAY MARKET AT AYR RACECOURSE HANDICAP (DIV 1) (6); winner £3,664; 6f. (9 runners)

- 336824 PEMBROKEHIRE 21 (H-C,D) J Jardine 4-9-13 Andrew Mullen 87
- 223334 ATOMISE 7 (B*+D) M Dods 5-9-9 Connor Beasley 96
- 7-02975 MAJESTIC NEWLAW 32 J Jardine 4-9-7 Mohammed Tabti (5) 92
- 553697 WARMISTER 14 (CD) K Scott 4-9-6 Sam James 97
- 0518480 IGNAC LAMAR 40 (D) J Goldie 4-9-5 Ryan Sexton 86
- 70860412 SOUND OF IONA 2 (BF,CD) J Goldie 9-9-4 Billy Loughnane 89
- 4334858 SIXCOR 2 (V,C) L Perratt 6-9-1 Billy Loughnane 85
- 507898 GLEAMING ARCH 1145 F Watson 10-8-12 Cam Hardie -
- 5-04644 EARN YOUR STRIPES 14 (CD) R Smith 6-8-12 Andrew Breslin (3) 89

BETTING: 2 Pembrokehire, 5-2 Sound Of Iona, 11-2 Atomise, 10 Earn Your Stripes, Sixcor, 12 Majestic Newlaw, 14 Warmister, 20 Gleaming Arch, 25 Ignac Lamar
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: abd 2023: No corresponding race.

Sunracing FORM

PEMBROKEHIRE (9-13) 5-1 front mid-division, headway 2f out, not clear run, ran on gamely, won on the nod, bit Braes Of Doune (9-5) hd (12 ran) (Ayr 7) hcap (6) £3,664 good.)

ATOMISE (9-10) 5-1 mid-field, shaken up 2f out, ridden 1f out, ran on, 4th of 10 (btn 2/4) to Water Of Leith (10-3) (Carlisle 6f hcap) £3,664 good.)

MAJESTIC NEWLAW (9-3) 22-1 pressed leader, pushed along 2f out, weakened 1f out, 5th of 6 (btn 4/4) to Boteman (9-3) (Carlisle 7) mdn hcap (5) £4,187 good to soft.)

SOUND OF IONA (9-0) 5-2 fav disputed lead, led 2f out, pushed along 1/4 out, 8th of 14 (btn 12) to Mustard (8-5) headed closing stages, btn 1/4 by Biplane (9-11) **EARN YOUR STRIPES** (8-6) 20-1 rear, in touch, pushed along 2f out, stayed on final furlong, never on terms, 4th (btn 3) **WARMISTER** (9-9) 17-2 tracked leaders, pushed along 2f out, no extra, last (btn 9/4) (Ayr 6f hcap) £3,664 good.)

PEMBROKEHIRE (9-6) 7-1 went 2nd 1f out, stayed on, btn 1/4 by God Purple (9-3) **IGNAC LAMAR** (9-0) 20-1 no show, last (btn 12) (Musselfburgh 7) hcap (6) £3,664 good.)

SIXCOR (8-4) 7-1 ran in snatches, 4th of 10 (btn 12) to Mustard (8-5) (Hamilton 6f hcap) £2,322 good.)

5.45 SUNDAY MARKET AT AYR RACECOURSE HANDICAP (DIV 2) (6); winner £3,664; 6f. (9 runners)

- 4472226 RAMON DI LORIA 14 (BF,D) E Williams 6-9-12 P J McDonald 93
- 8948541 THE GAY BLADE 25 (D) J Jardine 5-9-8 Andrew Mullen 97
- 848-8707 IVA BATT 2 (D) R Watson (ire) 6-9-7 Paula Muir (3) 91
- 3434557 PIPER'S FORT 2 (D) K Scott 3-9-5 Sam James 99
- 5923685 INANNA 30 J Goldie 4-9-5 Paul Mullen 90
- 4384623 CROCODILE POWER 12 S Spencer 6-9-4 Dale Swift 87
- 7-869022 SEE MY BABY JIVE 2 (CD) D Williams 8-9-0 Jason Hart 92
- 00777048 ONTHEBUNNY 2 (E) Perratt 4-8-12 James Sullivan 78
- 785-48 SHATN VENTURE 21 L Perrot 3-8-8 Andrew Breslin (3) 87

BETTING: 2 The Gay Blade, 5 Crocodile Power, 13-2 Ramon Di Loria, 8 See My Baby Jive, Inanna, 10 Piper's Fort, Shatin Venture, Iva Batt, 14 Onthebunny
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: abd 2023: See Division 1.

Sunracing FORM

RAMON DI LORIA (9-12) 13-8 fav ridden 2f out, 6th of 11 (btn 6) to Zu-folo (9-5) (Ayr 5f hcap) £3,664 good.)

THE GAY BLADE (9-8) 5-1 mid-field, driven along 2f out, good headway 1f out, ran on well final 110yds, dd-ht with Stormy Pearl (9-2) (3 ran) (Hamilton 6f hcap) £3,664 good.)

IVA BATT (9-9) 18-1 one pace, faded, 11th of 18 (btn 5/4) to Akeela (8-2) (Kilbeggie 5f hcap) £2,840 good.)

RAMON DI LORIA (9-10) 7-2 tracked leaders, ridden 1f out, kept on, btn 1/4 by Eternal Sunshine (9-9) **PIPER'S FORT** (9-4) 33-1 chased 1/4 out, one pace, 5th (btn 6/4) (8 ran) (Ayr 6f hcap) £3,664 good.)

INANNA (9-9) 4-1 led 4f out, headed final 2f, weakened, last of 5 (btn 13) to Jumeira Vision (9-12) (Hamilton 1m hcap) £3,664 good to soft.)

CROCODILE POWER (9-7) 12-1 every chance, kept on, 3rd of 11 (btn 4/4) to Stormy Pearl (9-4) (Redcar 6f hcap) £3,400 good to firm.)

SEE MY BABY JIVE (9-6) 22-1 stayed on but always held by winner, btn 7/4 by Barossa (9-9) (8 ran) (Newcastle 7) hcap (6) £3,664 good.)

ONTHEBUNNY (9-9) 22-1 14th of 7 (btn 3) to Doomsday (9-9) (Musselfburgh 7) hcap (6) £3,664 good to firm.)

SHATN VENTURE (1-11) 18-1 tracked leaders, ridden 1f out, stayed on, 4th of 8 (btn 2/4) to Tayer (9-6) (Ayr 5f hcap) £3,664 good.)

6.15 AYRSHIRE CANCER SUPPORT HANDICAP (6); winner £3,664; 1m 2f (14 runners)

- 77724 BEARAWAY 38 (D) S Spencer 6-10-1 Dale Swift 90
Runs: 21 Wins: 2 (S,F) Places: 4 £23,730
Poor strike-rate but on a good mark, signs of life last time, more needed
- 270863 AYR POET 7 (CD) J Goldie 9-10-0 Paul Mullen 93
Runs: 58 Wins: 12 (S,G,S,2G,S) Places: 17 £62,900
4lb below win in this year, 32nd race here, encouraging latest, e-w
- 722331 WE STILL BELIEVE 35 (CD) D Bourke 6-10-0 Jason Hart 98
Runs: 45 Wins: 6 (F,G,S,G,S) Places: 17 £42,082
Stepped up on good runs at shorter to win this trip here latest, stays well
- 113535 LEDGER 25 (B) L Russell 4-9-12 Oisín Orr 92
Runs: 24 Wins: 4 (S,2A,G) Places: 5 £22,527
First run here, been in grip of happer since Hamilton win, tough task
- 365654 GLASSES UP 3 (CD) R Smith 9-9-10 Joanna Mason 95
Runs: 79 Wins: 9 (S,3F,G,S,3C) Places: 17 £123,301
Getting on these days, dropping in weights but lacks zip of old, oppose
- 346464 JAMINOZ 30 (B;C) L Russell 5-9-10 Archie Young (5) 90
Runs: 28 Wins: 3 (S,G,S) Places: 6 £22,445
Losses stacking up, frustrating, drop in trip may help but others better
- 294-6 CATRAKE FORCE 206 G Tuer 4-9-10 Sam James 90
Runs: 4 Places: 1 £2,408
Hardly seen, plenty to do on form book, easily ruled out on turf debut
- 7-1825 GOLDEN VALOUR 14 (C) R Smith 8-9-8 Andrew Breslin (3) 95
Runs: 49 Wins: 3 (F,2A) Places: 10 £38,510
Old timer who is a bit of a thinker these days, in and out, risky bet
- 7553 MEADE GOLD 19 D & N Barron 3-9-6 Clifford Lee 89
Runs: 4 Places: 1 £1,027
Too keen on turf hcap debut over 1m4f, failed to see it out, lot of prove
- 55-775 DINGWALL 36 (H;CD) J Jardine 3-9-6 Andrew Mullen 99
Runs: 6 Wins: 1 (G) Places: 1 £4,512
Up to this trip and new headgear saw him win, can do more damage
- 017-06 RECORMAN 24 (D) I Furtado 5-9-4 Elie-Muñoz Crot (7) 85
Runs: 28 Wins: 2 (2S) Places: 4 £29,966
Back to winning mark but doesn't take her racing well, hard to fancy
- 605251 CARVALHAL 9 (V) M Dods 3-9-4 Connor Beasley 98
Runs: 9 Wins: 1 (F) Places: 1 £5,801
Up 7lb after mixing rivals at Hamilton, still well treated, dangerous
- 6-74 MIX DE GRIS 25 L Russell 3-9-0 non runner 90
Runs: 3 Places: 1 £4,706
Slowly improving but this looks a tall order from hcap mark, ruled out
- 807134 GREGORINA 21 (V;D) A McGuinness (ire) 3-8-10 B Loughnane 97
Runs: 21 Wins: 1 (G) Places: 3 £13,663
Been in decent form in fair company in Ireland, potentially well treated

BETTING: 7-2 Carvalhal, 6 We Still Believe, Dingwall, 7 Gregorina, 8 Jaminoz, AyR Poet, 10 Glasses Up, 12 Ledger, Golden Valour
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: abd 9 5 5
2023: AyR Poet 8-10-4, P Mullen 5-2 (J Goldie), dr 5, 7 ran.

Sunracing FORM

BEARAWAY (10-2) 17-2 4th of 7 (btn 7) to Walter Fairlight (9-5) (Beverly 1/2m hcap) £3,664 good to firm.)

AYR POET (9-0) 12-1 ran on, 3rd of 7 (btn 2) to Finn Russell (9-7) (Carlisle 1m faved) £5,234 good.)

WE STILL BELIEVE (9-9) 4-1 jv fav led 1f out, stayed on well, bit Rich Harry (9-2) 1/4 **GLASSES UP** (9-13) 9-2 led until 8f out, 6th (btn 4/4) **AYR POET** (9-9) 9-1 faded, 8th (btn 8) led 110 yards out, btn 1/4 by **RECORMAN** (10-0) 4-1 4th of 11 (btn 11) to Fougere (9-11) (Nottingham 1/4m hcap) £3,664 good.)

MEADE GOLD (8-1) 8-1 faded, 3rd of 4 (btn 7/4) to Thrilling Dream (9-4) (Leicester 1/2m hcap) £3,140 firm.)

DINGWALL (8-3) 15-2 led 110 yards out, btn 1/4 by **CARVALHAL** (9-0) 14-1 led until 10 yards out, kept on, 2nd of 19 (Ayr 9) (Ayr 1/4m hcap) £3,664 good.)

RECORMAN (10-0) 4-1 4th of 12 (btn 11) to Fougere (9-11) (Nottingham 1/4m hcap) £3,664 good.)

CARVALHAL (9-2) 9-2 made all, clear 1f out, easily, unchallenged, bit Temp Trap (9-9) (6 ran) (Hamilton 1m faved) £3,664 good to firm.)

GREGORINA (8-4) 4-1 kept on, 4th of 7 (btn 3) to Dont Do Dramas (9-1) (Ballinrobe 1/4m hcap) £6,600 soft.)

TIC-TAC: Left-handed oval course of 14 f, races of 1m 3f start on a chute, straight 6f track, DRAW: Middle to high best in sprints, low best on round course. **FAVOURITES:** (2019-2024): 374 have won out of 1,064 races (35%).
LIVE ON RACING TV

HOT 'N' NOT

TRAINERS with best record in last 14 days: I Furtado 3 winners from 11 runners; M Dods 7 from 31; J Camacho 4 from 19; K R Burke 9 from 5; D Cunha 3 from 22; J Goldie 4 from 33; R Carr 3 from 25; A Haynes 3 from 28; A Watson 4 from 40; C Johnston 5 from 74. **JOCKEYS with best record in last 14 days:** R Scott 5 wins from 23 rides; P Mullen 7 from 41; C Lee 5 from 31; J Mason 6 from 39; B Loughnane 8 from 59; H Doyle 6 from 48. **TRAINERS who have had the most runners since last win:** R Watson 135; W Harrison 107; F Watson 53. **JOCKEYS who have had the most rides since last win:** M Tabti 36; C Beasley 23.

TOP TRAINERS

2019-2024 J Goldie 70-622, I Jardine 48-424, R M Smith 34-433, M Dods 27-258, K R Burke 20-142, J Scott 14-117, K R Burke 9 from 5; A Watson 15-44, K Scott 14-117, C Johnston 13-64. **THIS SEASON:** M Dods 9, J Goldie 9, Jardine 4, A Haynes 4.

TOP JOCKEYS

2019-2024 P Mullen 65-614, A Mullen 35-268, J Hart 27-213, C Beasley 21-189, H Doyle 12-45, S James 11-110, O Orr 11-116, C Lee 10-85, P Mullen 9-115, A Breslin 7-68. **THIS SEASON:** P Mullen 10, C Beasley 7, O Orr 4.

TRAINER TRACE

FIRST RACE FOR NEW YEAR: 3.00 Believe Me Now A Slattery (Ire) to I Jardine; **Rebecca's Girl** Kinirons (Ire) to G Rutherford; **4.40 Stand Strong** S bin Suor to Ewan Williams; **5.45 Inanna** B Toomey to J Goldie. **RACEFAX:** J Goldie won the 6.15 in 2022 & 2023. **LONGEST TRAVELLERS:** **Aspire To Glory** (3.35) trained by A Haynes, Newmarket, round trip of 720 miles; **Rock And Royal** (3.00) trained by D Cunha, Newmarket, round trip of 720 miles; **Silent Affair** (2.25) trained by J Butler, Newmarket, round trip by A Watson, Jiggan Lough, round trip of 714 miles; **Wallaroo** (3.00) & **Recorman** (6.15), I Furtado, Wiseton, round trip 502 miles.

IN THE MONEY

MONEY TALKS: Stand Strong (4.40) opened 10-3, second at 2-1f; **Rock And Royal** (3.00) opened 14-1, won at 7-1; **Southern Cross** (2.25) opened 14-1, unplaced at 17-2; **Sound Of Iona** (5.15) opened 3-1, second at 5-2f; **Inanna** (5.45) opened 5-1, unplaced at 4-1; **TOP EARNERS:** 4.10 Trais Fluors £240,415; 6.15 Glasses Up £12

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GOING: STANDARD TO SLOW

TEMPLEGATE

2.10 Aleishka
2.45 Daymer Bay
3.20 Likely Perspective
3.55 Brize Norton
4.30 Amilloc
5.00 Pure Of Heart
5.35 Umbria

TOM PEPPER

2.10 Aleishka
2.45 New Kings Road
3.20 Addenda
3.55 Portnoy
4.30 Amilloc
5.00 CAPRELO (nap)
5.35 Maritme Lady

TIC-TAC: Right-handed Polytrack all-weather course. 1m round with tight turns and a 3f run-in. **DRAW:** No advantage. **FAVOURITES:** (2019-2024): 940 have won out of 2,804 races (34%).

HOT 'N NOT

TRAINERS with best record in last 14 days: W Haggas 16 wins from 38 runners; D Menusier 4 from 13; R Beckett 10 from 42; G Scott 5 from 22; M Bell 6 from 35; S & E Crisford 4 from 24; E J-Houghton 5 from 30; A Balding 6 from 7; R Hannon 4 from 50; C Johnston 5 from 74. **JOCKEYS with best record in last 14 days:** J Leavy 4 wins from 8 rides; T Marquand 14 from 61; R Ryan 9 from 51; D Muscutt 7 from 40; M Ghiani 4 from 23; J Fanning 5 from 32; O Murphy 10 from 69; K O'Neill 3 from 27; D Egan 4 from 40. **TRAINERS who have had the most runners since last win:** K Jewell 35; A Perrett 37. **JOCKEYS who have had the most rides since last win:** S De Sousa 27; F Larson 22; T Whelan 20.

TOP TRAINERS

2019-2024 A Balding 90-570, R Hannon 58-533, R Beckett 48-296, W Haggas 43-226, J Fanshawe 42-274, C Cox 41-311, M Botti 39-353, S & E Crisford 36-165, R Hughes 35-277, J Butler 36-445. **THIS SEASON:** A Balding 16, R Hughes 8, E J-Houghton 7, R Hannon 6.

TOP JOCKEYS

2019-2024 O Murphy 106-536, D Muscutt 81-632, T Marquand 77-580, R Ryan 68-502, D Egan 39-309, S De Sousa 26-155, M Ghiani 23-207, J Fanning 19-135, F Marsh 16-112, G Rooke 14-252. **THIS SEASON:** O Murphy 20, T Marquand 15, R Ryan 11, D Muscutt 10.

TRAINER TRACE

FIRST RACE FOR NEW YARD: 5.35 At A Pinch H Eustace to T Lawes. **RACEFAX:** None. **LONGEST TRAVELLERS:** Sun Petal (2.10), Neoma (3.20), Alpen Power (5.00) trained by C Johnston, Middleham, round trip of 490 miles; Mbappe (2.45) trained by M Loughnane, Kidderminster, round trip of 248 miles.

IN THE MONEY

MONEY TALKS: Alacrity (5.35) opened 7-1 unplaced at 4-1j. Maritme Lady (5.35) opened 7-2, won at 11-4. **TOP EARNERS:** 5.35 Measured Moments £32,978; 5.35 Pink Lily £29,822; 5.00 Alpen Power £19,871; 5.35 At A Pinch £19,770.

UNDER ORDERS

SEVEN-DAY WINNERS: None. **FIRST TIME BLINKERS:** 2.10 Matharu; 2.10 Keep Singing; 2.10 Aleishka; 5.35 Bittlemon. **FIRST TIME VISOR:** None. **FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OP:** None. **WEIGHTWATCHER:** None. **JOB JOCKEY:** O Murphy rides Pure Of Heart (5.00) for O Sangster, 4 from 14, 29%. S De Sousa rides Felina (3.20) for D Menusier, 6 from 21, 29%.

S BEST BETS

★ **PIRANHA RAMA** looks razor sharp (5.40 Windsor, treble). She had plenty in hand when scoring at Ffos Las two runs ago and that form is working out. She was a bit free when a close-up fourth at Donny last time and is better than we saw on Town Moor.

★ **UMBRIA** looks good for the Lucky 15 (5.35 Kempton). She needed her debut at Goodwood in May and looked a much smarter prospect when scooting on at Wolverhampton last time. She starts handicapping from a fair mark of 66 and has more to offer.

2.10 TRY UNIBET'S NEW ACCA BOOSTS NURSERY (Class 6); 2-y-o; value to the winner £9,140; 1m. (14 runners)

1 (10)	66644 BEAUHAATHER 19 (7*) A Murphy 9-9	Frederick Larson (3) 98
2 (12)	650 HOLBROOK 26 O Sangster 9-7	Nicola Currie 81
3 (13)	0777 LAZIELUNCH 19 (B) S Woods 9-6	Daniel Muscutt 76
4 (11)	879 EYE PUZZLE 30 D Holland 9-5	Ray Dawson 60
5 (4)	865 MATHURU 16 (B*) R Hughes 9-4	Finley Marsh 85
6 (8)	000 PERFECT RUBY 24 R Hannon 9-3	Joe Leavy (5) 75
7 (1)	5698 SUN PETAL 17 (H) C Johnston 8-13	Joe Fanning 86
8 (7)	593 BOWNDER 80 J Portman 8-12	David Egan 84
9 (8)	059565 BRIGHT ERA 13 J Moore 8-2	Shane Kelly 81
10 (14)	8603 ALEISHKA 27 (B*) J Moore 8-9	Silvestre De Sousa 99
11 (9)	008 KEEP SINGING 51 (B*) J Moore 8-9	William Cox 77
12 (2)	600 MY CANDY GIRL 27 K Jewell 8-9	George Rooke 74
13 (3)	6977 GOOD CALL 19 J Moore 8-9	Georgia Dobie 80
14 (5)	099 INNOCENT SETTLER 76 (P*) A Haynes 8-9	Kieran O'Neill 79

BETTING: 15-8 Aleishka, 7-2 Beauhaather, 13-2 Holbrook, 12 Lazielunch, Bright Era, Matharu, 14 Eye Puzzle, 16 Sun Petal, Perfect Ruby.

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2

2023: American Tale 9-11 Tom Marquand 13-8 (B Meehan) drawn 2, 6 ran.

2.45 UNIBET SAFE GAMBLING HANDICAP (5) 3-Y-O; winner £4,187; 1m (13 runners)

1	14141 MBAPPE 13 (C,D)	Ray Dawson 99
(2)	M Loughnane 9-11	Places: 1 £12,419
(3)	Progressive and versatile, up 6lb for latest win, can find the net again	
2	53-255 MILLITERRIES 25 (BF)	Ross Coakley 85
(12)	J Fanshawe 9-11	Places: 2 £3,703
(6)	Will win races but has lacked tactical speed, been costly to follow	
3	00-784 ONTHEMONEYHONEY 32	Ross Ryan 89
(9)	C Cox 9-10	Places: 1 £4,188
(1)	Debut win promised much, delivered little since, well held this grade latest	
4	335 FIOR DI BOSCO 23	Tom Marquand 86
(6)	W Haggas 9-10	Places: 1 £10,952
(8)	Makes hcap debut on workable mark, back in trip, needs to improve	
5	313661 NEW KINGS ROAD 9 (D)	J Leavy (5) 97
(13)	R Hannon 9-10	Places: 2 £10,349
(9)	Runs 9 Wins: 2 (2F)	
(2)	Got run of race in front latest but always doing enough, just 2lb higher	
6	74562 DAYMER BAY 14	Georgia Dobie 94
(7)	E J-Houghton 9-8	Places: 2 £15,084
(1)	Fair mark and improved for AW switch, has race in him but not yet	
7	659- MAITH AN FARHH 289	Daniel Muscutt 86
(3)	J Ferguson 9-8	Places: 1 £0
(8)	Plenty to prove on what we have seen for hcap debut, needs lot more	
8	858163 TRIBAL CHIEF 39 (BF,D)	Harry Davies 94
(4)	D Menusier 9-6	Places: 1 £4,752
(9)	Twice a beaten fave after Notts win, worth a try over further, e-w shot	
9	524-85 TACTICAL CONTROL J59	Jack Gilligan 88
(10)	B Brookhouse 9-6	Places: 1 £3,979
(8)	Dropping in weights but needs more help from hcapper, exposed	
10	57262 NEVER MIND ME 12 (V)	Oisin Murphy 93
(5)	A Balding 9-4	Places: 2 £4,303
(6)	Enjoyed step up to 1m latest but other rival found more, tough task	
11	453012 MORE THAN A FEELIN 14 (H)	Kieran O'Neill 96
(1)	A Haynes 9-2	Places: 1 £6,695
(8)	Has change of gear and likes this surface, needs some luck, prospects	
12	964 SORONTAR 129	Kevin Stott 89
(11)	H Main 9-1	Places: 3 £463
(3)	Been gelded after three mediocre efforts, will surely be outclassed	
13	0-6860 GOLDEN ARC 21	David Egan 72
(8)	A Perrett 8-11	Places: 1 £302
(5)	Beaten miles last two in lesser grade, little to offer, nearer last than first	

BETTING: 9-2 Mbappe, 5 New Kings Road, 6 Tribal Chief, Fior Di Bosco, 10 Milliterries, More Than A Feelin, Never Mind Me, Daymer Bay, 12 Maith An Farhh, Onthemoneyhoney, 20 Tactical Control

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2 3 9 FE 2

2023: Playupskyblues 9-9, K O'Neill 5-1 (Alice Haynes), dr 7, 14 ran.

3.20 UNIBET/EBF NEWCOMERS' MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES (4); 2-y-o; winner £5,346; 7f. (14 runners)

1 (7)	ADDENDA M Botti 9-2	Marco Currie 97
2 (5)	DARN HOT MYSTERY H Candy 9-2	Nicola Currie 96
3 (3)	FELINA D Menusier 9-2	Silvestre De Sousa 96
4 (2)	NEOMA C Johnston 9-2	Joe Fanning 96
5 (10)	QUICK TO DECIDE J Ferguson 9-2	Daniel Muscutt 96
6 (9)	TABBY D Quinn 9-2	Tom Marquand 96
7 (6)	TEMPTED O Sangster 9-2	Kevin Stott 96
8 (11)	TERMINATOR R O Cole 9-2	Adam Farragher 96
9 (3)	ESTIMATED K Jewell 9-2	George Rooke 96
10 (8)	EVANKA P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	Ray Dawson 96
11 (4)	LADY MANZOR A Perrett 9-0	David Egan 96
12 (1)	LIKELY PERSPECTIVE R Hughes 9-0	Oisin Murphy 96
13 (12)	VIA LUNA H Charlton 9-0	Trevor Whelan 96
14 (14)	WHERE'S THE PIGNIC E Smyth-Osbourne 9-0	Georgia Dobie 96

BETTING: 7-2 Likely Perspective, 4 Quick To Decide, 6 Darn Hot Mystery, 8 Neoma, 10 Addenda, Felina, 12 Via Luna, Tempted

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2

2023: Hala Abrar 9-0 Luke Morris 7-1 (G Kelleway) drawn 7, 11 ran.

3.55 UNIBET/EBF NEWCOMERS' MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES (DIV 1) (4); 2-y-o; winner £5,346; 7f. (9 runners)

1 (6)	BEAR ISLAND D Menusier 9-7	Harry Davies 96
2 (2)	BRIZE NORTON R Beckett 9-7	Ross Ryan 96
3 (7)	HAMDANI CRUISER J Horton 9-7	Adam Farragher 96
4 (8)	KAYTWO A Murphy 9-7	Silvestre De Sousa 96
5 (4)	PORTNOY G Scott 9-7	David Egan 96
6 (1)	SHRIMP SHADY A Balding 9-7	Oisin Murphy 96
7 (3)	HARRYELLA J Fanshawe 9-5	Daniel Muscutt 96
8 (9)	MAKES ME WONDER D Simcock 9-5	Georgia Dobie 96
9 (5)	OBSIDIAN DREAM J Moore 9-5	Shane Kelly 96

BETTING: 5-2 Brize Norton, 3 Shrimp Shady, 6 Portnoy, 7 Kaytwo, 10 Harryella, 12 Bear Island, Hamdani Cruiser, Makes Me Wonder, 14 Obsidian Dream

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 3

2023: Caelan 9-5 Stefano Cherchi 22-1 (M Botti) drawn 9, 10 ran.

4.30 UNIBET/EBF NEWCOMERS' AIDEN STAKES (DIV 2) (4); 2-y-o; value to the winner £5,346; 7f. (9 runners)

1 (7)	CAPTAIN BRETT D Simcock 9-7	Georgia Dobie 96
2 (5)	CARBINE HARVESTER W Haggas 9-7	Tom Marquand 96
3 (9)	NOTIMEFORCHITCHAT R Hughes 9-7	George Rooke 96
4 (4)	PICKERING CASTLE (H*) D Simcock 9-7	Joe Haynes 96
5 (1)	ZOU'S YOUR DADDY S Pearce 9-7	Ray Dawson 96
6 (2)	AMILLOC R Beckett 9-5	Ross Ryan 96
7 (3)	BRUCE BANNER G Brown 9-5	Nicola Currie 96
8 (6)	KING KERNOU J Moore 9-5	Shane Kelly 96
9 (8)	UPPERCASE H Eustace 9-5	George Wood 96

BETTING: 9-4 Carbine Harvester, 4 Amilloc, 11-2 Notimeforchitchat, 6 Captain Brett

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED AND 2023: No corresponding race.

5.00 UNIBET MORE EXTRA PLACES HANDICAP (5) 3-Y-O; £4,187; 1m 4f (8 runners)

1	9-317 CHERRY BURTON 93 (D)	Daniel Muscutt 88	
(7)	S Woods 9-9	Places: 1 £5,766	
(4)	Donny mdn win this trip promising, gone for a burton latest, lot to prove		
2	1-855 PRINCE RASAM 42	Kevin Stott 81	
(4)	M Bell 9-9	Places: 1 £6,144	
(6)	Poor latest but step up in trip will suit better, mark overestimates ability		
3	4-5264 PURE OF HEART 23	Oisin Murphy 90	
(6)	O Sangster 9-9	Places: 1 £4,901	
(5)	No threat recently, jury out on trip, attitude and ability, must improve		
4	695-12 CAPRELO 84 (C)	David Egan 99	
(2)	H Morrison 9-9	Places: 1 £6,250	
(5)	Did well to chase strong galloper latest, lot more to offer, one to beat		
5	595 ENVIRONMENT AMIGO 14	J Fanshawe 9-8	Silvestre De Sousa 85
(8)	J Fanshawe 9-8	Places: 1	
(3)	Been friendless in market all runs, better latest after wind up, down list		
6	547 FAR LANE 25	Tom Marquand 90	
(3)	W Haggas 9-6	Places: 1 £4,663	
(3)	Hinted at some ability in mdns on turf, possibilities off opening mark, e-w		
7	294358 ALPEN POWER 18	Joe Fanning 93	
(1)	C Johnston 9-5	Places: 1 £19,871	
(13)	Runs: 13 Wins: 1 (A)		
(8)	Decent level of low-grade form but vulnerable to an improver here		
8	7-6755 SURREY FORCE 37	Harry Davies 91	
(5)	K De Foy 8-7	Places: 1 £419	
(5)	Best effort so far last time after gelding op, offers more, outrun odds		

BETTING: 5-2 Caprelo, 4 Pure Of Heart, 13-2 Environment Amigo, Far Lane, 7 Prince Rasam, Cherry Burton, 8 Alpen Power

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED AND 2023: No corresponding race.

5.35 UNIBET ZERO% MISSION FILLIES' HCAP (5) winner £4,187; 1m 3f (12 runners)

1	210/7- AT A PINCH J67 (H;C,D)	Trevor Whelan 82
(8)	T Lawes 6-10-4	Places: 3 £9,784
(1)	Spends most of her time over jumps, trip suits, betting will be best guide	
2	331148 PINK LILY 28	Alec Voikhansky (3) 95
(9)	R Hannon 4-10-2	Places: 1 £29,822
(2)	Couple of wins around this trip, any ground, each-way contender	
3	333225 GOLD AURA 46 (H)	Ross Ryan 96
(3)	J Jones 4-10-1	Places: 1 £19,601
(8)	Solid form without winning, went close last run off this mark, e-way	
4	406362 MEASURED MOMENTS 25	David Egan 99
(12)	J Butler 5-9-11	Places: 1 £32,978
(2)	Best form on the AW, went close latest, trip suits, high on the shortlist	
5	234361 MARITIME LADY 19	Silvestre De Sousa 95
(10)	J Owen 3-9-8	Places: 1 £10,286
(8)	Easy win off front latest, SDS stays on board, trip suits, can go close	
6	51-448 ALACRITY 38 (BF)	Oisin Murphy 98
(11)	A Balding 3-9-7	Places: 1 £8,696
(6)	Won on last AW run, stays well, down weights, fair each-way price	
7	36253 CARPATHIAN 25	Daniel Muscutt 97
(5)	J Ferguson 3-9-7	Places: 3 £4,626
(8)	Running well without winning, looks a stayer, yard in decent form	
8	5878 CAKEWALK 21 (BF)	Harry Davies 90
(4)	S & E Crisford 3-9-6	Places: 1 £275
(4)	Shown little so far and hammered on handicap debut last time out	
9	91 UMBRIA 43	Callum Hutchinson (3) 93
(6)	E Walker 3-9-5	Places: 1 £3,942
(2)	Improved to score at Wolver, longer trip fine, looks on a fair mark	
10	6533 BITTALEMOM 14 (B*)	Tom Marquand 93
(2)	W Haggas 3-9-4	Places: 1 £1,759
(4)	Tyrod yard but showed little on hcap debut, blinkers to concretize his mind	
11	5-5928 TAMBOURINE DREAM 14 (H)	Ross Coakley 96
(1)	J Fanshawe 3-9-3	Places: 1 £1,474
(5)	Went close on last run here, yard in form, fair mark, another to consider	
12	877 AUTUMN'S BREEZE 27	Finley Marsh 85
(7)	G & J Moore 3-9-1	Places: 1 £0
(3)	Three quiet runs in maidens, watch betting on this handicap debut	

BETTING: 4 Maritme Lady, 6 Gold Aura, 13-2 Umbria, 7 Measured Moments, 8 Pink Lily, 10 Carpathian, 12 Bittlemon, Alacrity

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1

2023: Mildyama 3-9-9, H Crouch 5-2 Fav (R Beckett), dr 2, 13 ran.

EACH-WAY THIEF

MBAPPE (2.45 Kempton) has won three of his past five and will go close again. Have an each-way double with **BITTALEMOM** (5.35 Kempton) who is improving with every run and was in the frame at Southwell latest.



DESERT DREAM (3.00 Ayr) has been knocking on the door in similar all-weather contests at Wolverhampton and looks a big price on this return to turf.

goals

Monday, August 12, 2024

in association with



What an Owl!

ROO'S NIGHTMARE DEBUT

WAYNE ROONEY watched his Plymouth team get trounced in his first game in charge – then fumed: **“This is a wake-up call.”**

The England and Manchester United legend said there were too many unacceptable performances at Hillsborough.

One of those displays was from the kitman, who misspelled both

By JUSTIN ALLEN

Ibrahim Cissoko and Adam Forshaw's surnames on the back of their shirts.

Jamal Lowe opened the scoring for the Owls ten minutes before the break before a miserable second half saw Brendan Galloway nod past his own keeper, with Josh Windass and sub Michael Smith completing the rout. Rooney said: “I’m disappointed

and angry after everything I’ve seen this pre-season.

“We expected a tough game and good atmosphere and it was important to get through the first 20 minutes and get some composure and calmness to the game – but we didn’t manage to do that.

“The basics of the game were not good enough. We spoke about crosses and cutbacks and they scored four goals from crosses

Turn to Page 3

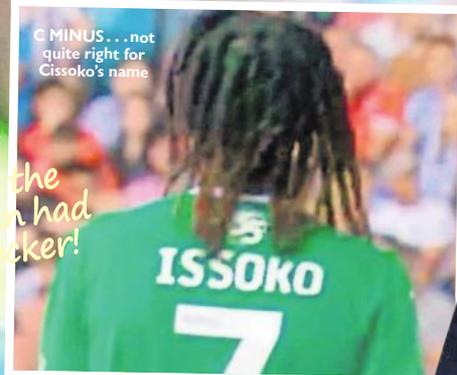
AARGH-GYLE . . . pain for Roo as his Plymouth are thrashed by the Owls

UNSHAW . . . extra letter on Forshaw’s Plymouth shirt



And the kitman had a shocker!

C MINUS . . . not quite right for Cissoko’s name



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GOALS CHAMPIONSHIP



THE home side has won each of the last seven league meetings between Sheffield Wednesday (4) and Plymouth (3) since the Pilgrims won 4-2 at Hillsborough in 2011.

THE WEEK AHEAD

TONIGHT

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP
Luton v Burnley 8.0
THE PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN PREMIER - Carshalton Ath v Wingate & Finchley.

THE PITCHING IN SOUTHERN PREMIER CENTRAL - Barwell v Banbury Utd, Redditch Utd v Halesowen Tn, St Ives Tn v Lowestoft Tn.

TOMORROW

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 3RD QUALIFYING ROUND 2ND LEG
Rangers (1) v Dynamo Kiev (1)

EUROPA LEAGUE 3RD QUALIFYING ROUND 2ND LEG
New Saints (0) v Petrocub (1)..... 6.30

CARABAO CUP FIRST ROUND

Barrow v Port Vale.....

Bolton v Mansfield.....

Bristol City v Coventry.....

Bromley v AFC Wimbledon.....

Burton Albion v Blackpool.....

Cambridge Utd v OPR.....

Cardiff v Bristol Rovers.....

Carlisle v Stoke..... 7.30

Charlton v Birmingham.....

Cheltenham v Reading.....

Crawley Town v Swindon.....

Derby v Chesterfield.....

Fleetwood Town v West Brom.....

Grimsby v Bradford.....

Huddersfield v Morecambe.....

Ley Orient v Newport City..... 7.30

Lincoln City v Harrogate Town.....

Northampton v Wycombe.....

Norwich v Stevenage.....

Oxford Utd v Peterborough.....

Portsmouth v Millwall.....

Preston v Sunderland.....

Rotherham v Crewe.....

Salford City v Doncaster.....

Sheff Utd v Wrexham..... 8.0

Shrewsbury v Notts County.....

Stockport City v Blackburn..... 7.30

Swansea v Gillingham.....

Tranmere v Accrington.....

Walsall v Exeter.....

Watford v MK Dons.....

Wigan v Barnsley.....

SPFL TRUST TROPHY SECOND ROUND - North:

Dundee Utd U21 v Dundee U21, East Fife v St Johnstone U21, Elgin v Banks Odeh, Fraserburgh v Forfar (8.0), South - Albion v Cowdenbeath, Dumbarton v Berwick, Stranraer v Bonnyrigg Rose.

THE PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN PREMIER

Bognor Regis Tn v Lewes, Bowers & Pitsea v Chesham, Canvey Island v Hashtag United, Chatham Tn v Billerica, Cray Wanderers v Cray Valley (PM), Dartford v Potters Bar Tn, Dover v Folkestone Invicta, Dulwich v Hendon, Horsham v Chichester City, Whitehawk v Hastings Utd.

THE PITCHING IN NORTHERN PREMIER

Bamber Bridge v Hyde Utd, Basford Utd v Leek Tn, Blyth Spartans v Hebburn Tn, FC United of Manchester v Workop Tn, Gainsborough Trinity v Morpeth Tn, Macclesfield v Prescott Cables, Matlock Tn v Whitby Tn, Mickleover v Ilkeston Tn, Warrington Rylands v Ashton Utd, Workington v Lancaster City.

THE PITCHING IN SOUTHERN PREMIER CENTRAL

AFC Sudbury v Biggleswade Tn, AFC Telford v Stourbridge, Alvechurch v Harborough Tn, Bedford Tn v Royston Tn, Bromsgrove Sporting v Stratford Tn, Kettering v Spalding Utd, Leiston v Bishop's Cleeve, Stamford v Hitchin Tn.

THE PITCHING IN SOUTHERN PREMIER SOUTH

Basingstoke Tn v Swindon Supermarine, Frome Tn v Merthyr, Gloucester v Plymouth Parkway, Hanwell v Bracknell, Hungerford v Gosport Borough, Poole v Taunton, Sholing v AFC Totton, Tiverton Tn v Dorchester Tn, Walton & Hershaw v Marlow.

WEDNESDAY

UEFA SUPER CUP
Real Madrid v Atalanta..... 8.0

CARABAO CUP FIRST ROUND

Hull v Sheff Wed.....

Leeds v Middlesbrough..... 8.0

Plymouth v Cheltenham.....

SPFL TRUST TROPHY SECOND ROUND SOUTH

Glyde v Rangers, East Stirling v East Kilbride.

THE PITCHING IN NORTHERN PREMIER

Stockton Tn v Guiseley.

THE PITCHING IN SOUTHERN PREMIER SOUTH

Havant and W v Chertsey Tn, Winchester City v Wimborne Tn.

THURSDAY

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE 3RD QUALIFYING ROUND 2ND LEG
Shamrock R (0) v CM Celje (1)..... 8.0

UEFA EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE THIRD QUALIFYING ROUND SECOND LEG
Brann (1) v St Mirren (1)..... 6.0

Larne (1) v Balkoma (0)..... 8.0

S Baku (0) v St Patricks (1)..... 5.0

Tromso (2) v Kilmarnock (2)..... 6.0

FRIDAY

PREMIER LEAGUE
Man Utd v Fulham..... 8.0

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP

Coventry v Oxford Utd..... 8.0

JD CYMRU PREMIER - Aberystwyth Tn v Connah's Quay Nomads (8.0), Bala Tn v Briton Ferry, Cardiff Met Utd v Barry Tn United, Flint Tn United v The New Saints FC, Penybont v Newtown.

(3.0 unless stated)

SATURDAY

PREMIER LEAGUE
Arsenal v Wolves.....

Everton v Brighton.....

Ipswich v Liverpool..... 12.30

Newcastle v Southampton.....

New Forest v Bournemouth.....

West Ham v Aston Villa..... 3.30

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP

Bristol City v Millwall.....

Burnley v Cardiff..... 12.30

Derby v Middlesbrough.....

Norwich v Blackburn.....

Plymouth v Hull.....

Portsmouth v Luton..... 12.30

Sheff Utd v OPR.....

Swansea v Peterborough.....

Watford v Stoke.....

West Brom v Leeds..... 12.30

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

Blackpool v Stockport County.....

Cambridge Utd v Crawley Town.....

Charlton v Leyton Orient..... 12.30

Huddersfield v Stevenage.....

Lincoln City v Barnsley.....

Mansfield v Burton Albion.....

Northampton v Exeter.....

Reading v Wigan.....

Rotherham v Bristol Rovers.....

Shrewsbury v Peterboro..... 12.30

Wycombe v Birmingham.....

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

Accrington v Harrogate Town.....

Bradford v Salford City.....

Bromley v AFC Wimbledon..... 12.30

Cambridge Utd v OPR..... 12.30

Colchester v MK Dons.....

Crewe v Chesterfield.....

Grimsby v Cheltenham.....

Morecambe v Gillingham.....

Newport County v Doncaster.....

Port Vale v Tranmere.....

Swindon v Walsall.....

PREMIER SPORTS CUP SECOND ROUND

Aberdeen v Braintree, Ching v Yeovil, Dundee v Airdrieonians, Falkirk v Hearts, Rangers v St Johnstone (5.45), Spartans v Ross County.

WILLIAM HILL CHAMPIONSHIP - Ayr

v Hamilton.

WILLIAM HILL LEAGUE ONE - Alloa

v Stenhousemuir, Arbroath v Kelty Hearts, Cove Rangers v Dumbarton, Inverness CT v Montrose, Queen of South v Annan Athletic.

WILLIAM HILL LEAGUE TWO - Clyde

v Stirling, East Fife v Forfar, Edinburgh City v Bonnyrigg Rose, Peterhead v Stranraer.

VANARAMA NATIONAL - Boston Utd

v Forest Green, Braintree v Queen's Park, Eastleigh v AFC Hyde, Ebbsfleet United v Barnet, FC Halifax v Aldershot, Hartlepool v Southend, Rochdale v Dag & Red, Solihull Moors v Maidenhead Utd, Sutton Utd v Altrincham, Wealdstone v Oldham, Woking v Gateshead, York v Tamworth.

VANARAMA NORTH - Alfreton Tn

v Kings Lynn Tn, Buxton v Farsley Celtic, Chester FC v Brackley Town, Hareford FC, Kidderminster v Radcliffe, Leamington v Spennymoor Tn, Needham Market v Southport, Oxford City v Darlington, Scarborough Athletic v Rushall Olympic, Scunthorpe v Marine, South Shields v Curzon Ashton, Warrington Tn v Peterborough Sports.

VANARAMA SOUTH - Avelley v Tonbridge

Angels, Bath City v Welling, Chelmsford v Hampton & Richmond, Chesham Utd v Boreham Wood, Dorking Wanderers v Chippenham, Enfield Town v Weston-S-Mare, Farnborough v Torquay Hornchurch v Eastbourne Borough, Maldenstone v Truro City, Salisbury FC v Slough, St Albans v Worthing, Weymouth v Hemel Hempstead.

THE PITCHING IN ISTHMIAN PREMIER

Billerica v Dover, Bowers & Pitsea v Chatham Tn, Chichester City v Carshalton Ath, Cray Valley (PM) v Chesham, Dartford v Canvey Island, Dulwich v Whitehawk, Hastings Utd v Bognor Regis Tn, Hendon v Cray Wanderers, Horsham v Potters Bar Tn, Lewes v Hashtag United, Wingate & Finchley v Folkestone Invicta.

THE PITCHING IN NORTHERN PREMIER

Bamber Bridge v Workop Tn, Basford Utd v Morpeth Tn, Blyth Spartans v Lancaster City, FC United of Manchester v Ilkeston Tn, Gainsborough Trinity v Ashton Utd, Macclesfield v Guiseley, Matlock Tn v Hyde Utd, Mickleover v Hebburn Tn, Stockton Tn v Prescott Cables, Warrington Rylands v Whitby Tn, Workington v Leek Tn.

THE PITCHING IN SOUTHERN PREMIER CENTRAL

AFC Sudbury v Hitchin Tn, Alvechurch v Biggleswade Tn, Barwell v Lowestoft Tn, Bromsgrove Sporting v Spalding Utd, Kettering v Stratford Tn, Leiston v Harborough Tn, Redditch Utd v Bishop's Cleeve, St Ives Tn v Banbury Utd, Stamford v Stourbridge, Halesowen Tn v Bedford Tn.

THE PITCHING IN SOUTHERN PREMIER SOUTH

Basingstoke Tn v Dorchester Tn, Frome Tn v Bracknell Tn, Gloucester v Wimborne Tn, Hanwell Tn v Swindon Supermarine, Havant and W v Plymouth Parkway, Hungerford Tn v Taunton Tn, Poole Tn v AFC Totton, Sholing v Marlow, Tiverton Tn v Chertsey Tn, Walton & Hershaw v Merthyr Tn.

JD CYMRU PREMIER

Caernarfon Tn v Haverfordwest County (2.30).

SUNDAY

PREMIER LEAGUE
Brentford v Crystal Palace..... 2.0

Chelsea v Man City..... 4.30

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunderland v Sheff Wed..... 12.0

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

Bolton v Wrexham.....

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

Notts Cty v Fleetwood Town..... 1.0

PREMIER SPORTS CUP SECOND ROUND

Colchester v Hilbert, Dundee v St Mirren (2.0), Motherwell v Kilmarnock (2.0).

THE PITCHING IN SOUTHERN PREMIER

Winchester City v Gosport Borough.

(7.45 unless stated)

MONDAY

PREMIER LEAGUE

Leicester v Tottenham..... 8.0

VANARAMA SOUTH - Avelley v Tonbridge

Angels, Chelmsford v Tonbridge

Hempstead.

RACK'N



GALL WRONG
... Galloway nods into his own net

MATCH STATS		SHEFF WED	V	PLYMOUTH
30	SHOTS			5
10	SHOTS ON TARGET			1
59%	POSSESSION			41%
372	PASSES			277
300	COMPLETED PASSES			203
62	TOUCHES IN OPPOSITION BOX			8
15	CORNERS			1
15	FOULS CONCEDED			14
1/0	YELLOW/RED			1/0
MATCH TIME: 100m 25s				
BALL IN-PLAY: 46m 30s				

CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff Wed	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Blackburn	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
West Brom	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Sunderland	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Oxford Utd	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Watford	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Middlesbro	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Stoke	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Sheff Utd	1	1	0	0	2	0	1
Portsmouth	1	0	1	0	3	1	1
Leeds	1	0	1	0	3	1	1
Bristol City	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Hull	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Burnley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Millwall	1	0	1	0	2	3	0
Coventry	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Swansea	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Derby	1	0	1	0	2	0	0
OPR	1	0	1	0	1	3	0
Cardiff	1	0	1	0	2	0	0
Norwich	1	0	1	0	2	0	0
Preston	1	0	1	0	2	0	0
Plymouth	1	0	0	1	4	0	0

ROO'S LAST 16 GAMES AS EFL BOSS GOALS SCORED: 15 CONCEDED: 34

L	L	L	L	D	L	W	L	D	L	W	L	D	L	L	L
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

GRAND FOR AIDAN

By COLIN YOUNG
USA star Aidan Morris is ready to make his mark at Boro after becoming the 1,000th player to represent the club.
The international made his debut in a relatively straightforward win following his £3.14million switch from Columbus Crew.
Although Morris, 22, almost gifted Swansea an early opener, he settled into his partnership with Hayden Hackney and also saw a deflected strike hit the woodwork.
The midfielder is eager to improve under Riverside boss Michael Carrick, who made the new signing a history maker.

Middlesbrough.....1
Swansea.....0
Morris said: "I was told about it on Friday night and it was pretty cool.
"This is such a special club, as you can see today with the atmosphere and how much the football means here.
"So to be able to be that number is unique and I'm grateful.
"It was an amazing day. This is everything I dreamed of as a kid.
"I'll try to give my everything for this club from this point on."
Emmanuel Latte Lath's 24th-minute penalty sealed the win after

Isaiah Jones was fouled. It was his seventh goal in seven games.
Jones was a nuisance all afternoon and Carrick said: "Izzy has come back terrifically well. He's made a big effort and certainly jumped a level.
"There's still more to come from Izzy, but it was a really good start."
Eom Ji-sung went close with a curling free-kick for Swans but gaffer Luke Williams needs reinforcements, with Liverpool winger Kaide Gordon expected on loan.
Williams said: "It's clear looking at the squad that we have to continue to try and strengthen - and there's no question there will be more players arriving."



LATTE LATH ... on the spot

STAT ATTACK

LEADING GOALSCORERS
 Josh Maja (West Brom).....3
 Callum Lang (Portsmouth)....2
 Duncan Watmore (Millwall)..2

35
 GOALS SCORED

AVE PER GAME
3.1

MOST SHOTS
30
 SHEFF WED v Plymouth

35

0

in association with



ROO IN

Wayne on the ropes after Wednesday KO his Argyle

By **JUSTIN ALLEN**

BOXING fan Wayne Rooney was forced to watch Plymouth get punch drunk in this first bout in charge.

They were already on the ropes when Jamal Lowe netted on his Sheffield Wednesday debut to put the hosts into a 35th-minute lead.

And Rooney's men were down for the count when Brendan Galloway nodded past his own keeper seven minutes after the break.

They staggered about after that before Josh Windass floored them again with 10 minutes left and then Michael Smith landed a final knockout in stoppage time.

There was so much hype about Rooney's appointment — but the simple fact is that success on the Devon coast is simply surviving in the Championship.

Anyone of an Argyle persuasion will tell you that a mid-table finish would be unbelievable.

On the evidence of what was served up here at Hillsborough, Rooney will have his work cutout achieving that. But

Sheffield Wednesday.....4
Plymouth.....0

Wednesday are being tipped as a dark horse to gatecrash the promotion picture. What Danny Rohl has delivered so far in South Yorkshire has been nothing short of miraculous.

He took over with the Owls seven points adrift at the **BOTTOM** of the Championship last term — and somehow kept them up against all the odds.

And with some fresh investment with **EIGHT** new signings — as well as making two loans permanent — there is fresh momentum at this success-starved club.

Rooney himself gave five starting debuts — Nathanael Ogbeta, Ibrahim Cissoko, Darko Gyabi, Muhamed Tijani and Victor Palsson.

While Rohl handed four players — Max Lowe, Svante Ingelsson, Jamal Lowe and Yan Valery — their first games for the club.

Plymouth had to weather a storm and keeper Conor Hazard did well to keep

out an angled Ingelsson effort. And Di'Shon Bernard then sent a bicycle kick over the bar.

Anthony Musaba had the visiting defence back-peddling but his finish was tame.

Rooney will not have been happy with what he had seen up to the players taking a short drinks break — so he took the opportunity to rally his troops.

Adam Forshaw attempted a shot from a 25-yard free-kick but his effort was like giving keeper James Beadle catching practice.

But Wednesday moved into a 35th-minute lead with two wonderful passes — and a great poacher's finish.

Barry Bannan sent Ingelsson free on the right. And his first time cross was perfect for Jamal Lowe to run on to finish from just six yards out.

Rooney will have had a lot to say to his team at the break — but will not have been happy with the response as they got off to a terrible start to the second half.

Max Lowe delivered a cross which was met by a header from his namesake Jamal — and Galloway, trying to clear, nodded past his own keeper.

And Wednesday should have wrapped up the game moments later when Musaba scuffed a volley wide.

Rooney had seen quite enough and made a triple substitution just 12 minutes into the second half.

Callum Wright, Ryan Hardie and Bali Mumba were all sent on.

Musaba almost scored a brilliant goal with a mazy run around two defenders before shooting just wide. Then he lashed a shot sky-high when well placed.

But any comeback hopes ended when Wednesday added their third goal.

It was all too easy as Musaba got to the byline untracked before cutting back a pass for Windass to slam home.

Morgan Whittaker — who netted 20 goals last season — finally had a shot but his effort almost hit the corner flag.

Then sub Smith shot home after his initial effort was blocked.

A lot for Rooney to think about — but at least he had a 280-mile trip back down to the Devon coast to pick the bones out of this one.

Roo's Owler

From Page 1

and cutbacks. We must move on quickly, sit down with the players, go through the game.

"It's not a good afternoon for us.

"That performance can't happen. The players know that. Hopefully that is the last time.

"I told the players if I see a performance like that from any player, they will be out of the team.

"You can lose games but must make sure they run, get

tackles in. I was surprised but this performance is a wake-up call."

For Sheffield Wednesday, however, the good times could be back.

Fans jubilantly sang "Danny Rohl" to the tune of Boney M's 1970s hit Daddy Cool as the Owls boss, who kept them up last season, left the pitch.

The German said: "The fans can dream. We have high expectations. It is just the start, we want more."



DREAM BIG
 ... boss Rohl

CATS IN BRISNESS

By **IAN MITCHELMORE**

SUNDERLAND skipper Dan Neil says this gritty win is proof they have improved under new boss Regis Le Bris.

Luke O'Nien and Jack Clarke struck to give Frenchman Le Bris victory in his first competitive match in charge of the club.

The Black Cats won just two of their final 15 league games last term so Neil was pleased.

He said: "The performance was not as good as we would have hoped but we would have lost these types of games last year.

"It shows how far the group has come and the experience we have

Cardiff.....0
Sunderland.....2

gained in the last two years. We came away with a result and it wasn't our best performance."

Midfielder Neil, 22, wants to see more progress when they host Sheffield Wednesday next weekend.

He added: "We need to improve on that game model we have been working on.

"That was the first time it was put in competitive action with something on the line.

"Everyone can see there is room for improvement. We have to keep getting better but we have to keep

winning games and we have managed to do that today."

Bluebirds boss Erol Bulut said it will take time for ex-Arsenal ace Aaron Ramsey to rediscover his best form.

The midfielder, 33, ditched his summer holiday plans to get fit after last season was plagued by injuries and played 90 minutes for the first time since September.

Bulut said: "He has to stay healthy. Today he tried a lot but we have to manage it.

"He knows about that and he wants to be fit for the team, and to work for the team.

"He can play every week but two or three times a week? That we must manage."



BIG LIFT ... Clarke and O'Nien



BALL CONTROL ... Maja with his signed hat-trick ball

Ballboy is a Maja star

By **IAN McCULLOUGH**

JOSH MAJA had a ballboy for rescuing his hat-trick ball.

The forward scored with two superb headers and an acrobatic close-range finish as West Brom came from behind at Loftus Road.

Maja, 25, endured an injury-hit debut at The Hawthorns last term after signing from Bordeaux.

And his decision to undergo a punishing pre-season campaign while his team-mates were on holiday paid dividends.

Albion boss Carlos Corberan substituted him 14 minutes from time to rapturous applause from the travelling supporters.

But Maja's joy almost turned to despair at the final whistle when he approached referee David Webb for the match ball.

Maja revealed: "I was having a bit of difficulty getting the ball. Usually,

QPR.....1
West Brom.....3

at the end the referee is holding the ball — but he didn't have one.

"By the time I went to the fans one had appeared, maybe it was a ballboy.

"I just wanted a ball to take home. It was my ball.

"I have a couple of other hat-trick balls and some player of the month awards. But this is the sweetest one."

QPR struggled without injured Morocco midfielder Ilias Chair.

Lucas Andersen's header gave the hosts a 16th-minute lead.

He said: "It was a big disappointment. We had some good phases but, overall, were too passive.

"We know what decides games, sharpness at both ends in the boxes. We performed below our level."



FORMER midfielder **NIGEL QUASHIE** gives his views on two of his old teams QPR (1995-98 & 2010) and West Brom (2006-07).

IT'S JOSH THE BEGINNING

AFTER missing out in the play-offs last season, striker Josh Maja could not have given West Brom a better start than an opening day hat-trick at QPR on Saturday.

I am absolutely delighted for him, too, after a stop-start career that has led him to missing so many matches through injury.

I hope this will be the start of a longer spell of games. He is such a talented player.

Both of these former clubs shaped my career and my life in so many ways.

I owe QPR so much as it's where I started and made my pathway into the game — from my debut for R's at Manchester United in 1995. I had three wonderful years at the club.

I might have only spent a season at West Brom but it's where I met my partner Kerry.

What I like about both of these teams is that they seem to have re-connected with the fans and have two outstanding young bosses.

I am convinced R's will bounce straight back after Saturday's 3-1 defeat.

Interview: RUSSELL LANNING

goals CHAMPIONSHIP

2

INCLUDING the end of season play-offs, Daniel Farke's Leeds have won only two of their last ten games — recording three draws and five defeats.

FA COMMUNITY SHIELD

MAN CITY (0) 1 MAN UTD (0) 1
Bernardo Silva 89 Garnacho 82
Att: 78,146
Man City win 7-6 on penalties.

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP

SHEFF WED (1) 4 PLYMOUTH (0) 0
J Lowe 35 Att: 29,538
Galloway 52 (og)
Windass 82
Smith 90

CARDIFF (0) 0 SUNDERLAND (1) 2
O'Nien 18
Clarke 89
Att: 21,401

HULL (0) 1 BRISTOL C (0) 1
Estupinan 90 (pen)
Mayulu 84
Att: 21,011

LEEDS (1) 3 PORTSMOUTH (2) 3
Struijk 10 (pen)
Gnonto 46
Aaronsen 90
Lang 41, 90 (pen)

MIDDLESBRO (1) 1 SWANSEA (0) 0
Latts Lath 25 (pen)
Att: 26,610

MILLWALL (0) 2 WATFORD (1) 3
Watmore 74, 88
Kaye 22
Chakvetadze 55
Rajovic 90
Att: 16,456

OXFORD UTD (1) 2 NORWICH (0) 0
Harris 28
Brannagan 58
Att: 11,333

QPR (1) 1 WEST BROM (1) 3
Andersen 16
Maja 26, 51, 65

STOKE (0) 1 COVENTRY (0) 0
Baker 78
Att: 25,037

Played Friday

BLACKBURN (1) 4 DERBY (0) 2
Dolan 19
Nelson 67
Weimann 72
Wilson 88
Szmodics 77
Onashi 84

PRESTON (0) 0 SHEFF UTD (1) 2
Arbaster 12
Hamer 55
Att: 17,948

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 READING (1) 1
May 87 (pen)
Ehikhatorhan 42
Att: 27,985

BRISTOL R (0) 1 NORTHAMPTN (0) 0
Akono Bilongo 90
Att: 8,529

BURTON ALB (2) 2 LINCOLN C (2) 3
O'Connor 9, 86
Dakin 22

CRAWLEY TN (2) 2 BLACKPOOL (0) 1
Hepburn-Murphy 16
Fletcher 74
Oulima 33
Att: 2,718

EXETER (0) 1 ROTHERHAM (0) 0
Watts 71

LORIENT (1) 1 BOLTON (1) 2
Kelman 38
Charles 8
Adeboyojo 75
Att: 7,835

PETERBORO (0) 0 HUDDERSFLD (2) 2
Evans 36
Willies 45
Att: 7,924

STEVENAGE (0) 1 SHREWSBURY (0) 0
List 58
Att: 3,357

STOCKPORT (1) 2 CAMBRIDGE (0) 0
Barr 5
Wootton 76
Att: 9,457

WIGAN (0) 0 CHARLTON (0) 1
Jones 81
Att: 9,564

WREXHAM (2) 3 WYCOMBE (0) 2
Cleworth 9
Marniotti 29
Vokes 89
Fletcher 83
Att: 13,214

Played Friday

BARNSLY (1) 1 MANSFIELD (2) 2
Cornell 32
S Quinn 13
Gregory 18

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

AFC WIMB'DN (3) 4 COLCHESTER (2) 2
Ball 13
Reeves 30
Stevens 38 (pen)
Bugiel 54
Att: 7,924

BARROW (1) 1 CREWE (0) 0
Vassell 22
Att: 3,585

CHELTHAM (2) 3 NEWPORT (2) 2
Colwill 22, 90
Baker-Richardson 31 (pen)
Dulson 27
Greaves 43
Att: 4,613

DONCASTER (1) 4 ACCRINGTON (0) 1
Molaynoux 43, 62
Gibson 68
Sharp 87
Att: 4,423

FLEETWOOD (1) 1 GRIMSBY (0) 0
Helm 18
Att: 3,525

GILLINGHAM (1) 4 CARLISLE (0) 0
Dieng 2
Mellish 65
Watt 47, 037
Att: 7,037

J Williams 87

HARROGATE (0) 0 BROMLEY (0) 2
Cheek 62
Grant 71

MK DONS (1) 1 BRADFORD (2) 2
Gibey 20
Pattison 3
Sherring 5 (og)
Att: 7,561

SALFORD (0) 0 PORT VALE (1) 2
Garrity 45, 69
Att: 3,318

TRANMERE (0) 0 NOTTS CO (0) 0
Att: 8,198

WALSALL (1) 1 MORECAMBE (0) 0
Allen 20
Att: 5,226

Played Friday

CHESTERFLD (1) 1 SWINDON (0) 1
Wright 64
Dobra 15
Att: 9,262

JD CYMRU PREMIER - Briton Ferry 0 Penybont 2, Connaught Quay Nomads 0 Haverfordwest County 1, Barry Town United 1 Bala Town 1, Flint Town United 1 Cardiff Met Uni 2, Newtown 4 Aberystwyth 1.

WILLIAM HILL PREMIERSHIP

ABERDEEN (1) 3 ST MIRREN (1) 1
Gueye 39 Ousanya 45
McGrath 54 Att: 17,057
Besujen 81

HIBERNIAN (0) 0 CELTIC (2) 2
Kuhn 3
McGregor 19
Att: 17,918

KILMARNOCK (0) 0 ST JOHNSTONE (2) 3
Siddbeh 3, 33
Mbuga-Kimpoka 81 (pen)
Att: 4,843

DUNDEE (3) 3 HEARTS (0) 1
Tifoney 23
Kent 61
Taylor 45 (og)
Att: 7,266

RANGERS (2) 2 MOTHERWELL (1) 1
Dessiers 13
Cerny 24
Att: 48,529

ROSS CNTY (0) 1 DUNDEE UTD (0) 1
Hale 90
Babuski 48
Att: 4,169

WILLIAM HILL CHAMPIONSHIP -
Dunfermline 0 Falkirk 2, Morton 0 Hamilton 0,
Raith 1 Partick 0, **Played Friday** - Ayr 5
Airdrieonians 0, Queen's Park 1, Livingston 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ayr	2	2	0	0	7	0	6
Falkirk	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Livingston	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Raith	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Airdrieonians	2	1	0	1	1	5	3
Morton	2	0	2	0	0	2	0
Queen's Park	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Partick	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Hamilton	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Dunfermline	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

WILLIAM HILL LEAGUE ONE - Annan Athletic 1 Inverness CT 0, Arbroath 0 Montrose 0, Dumbarton 3 Alloa 3, Kelly Hearts 2, Stenhousemuir 0, Queen of South 2, Cove Rangers 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Annan Ath	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Kelly Hearts	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Queen of Sth	2	1	0	1	2	1	4
Stenhousemuir	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Dumbarton	2	0	2	0	4	2	0
Alloa	2	0	2	0	3	2	2
Montrose	2	0	0	2	1	2	0
Arbroath	2	0	1	1	2	1	1
Inverness	2	0	1	1	2	1	1
Cove Rangers	2	0	0	2	2	5	0

WILLIAM HILL LEAGUE TWO - Clyde 1 Stranraer 0, East Fife 2 Edinburgh City 0, Peterhead 2 Forfar 1, Spartans 2 Bonyrigg Rose 0, Strirling 0, Elgin 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Elgin	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Peterhead	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Spartans	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Clyde	2	1	1	0	1	4	4
East Fife	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Strirling	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Stranraer	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Forfar	2	0	1	1	2	1	1
Edinburgh	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Bonyrigg R	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

VARANAMA NATIONAL - AFC Fyvie 3
Salford 2, Aldershot 3 Forest Green 3, Altrincham 1 Woking 0, Boston Utd 0 Rochdale 3, Dag & Red 2 Wealdstone 1, FC Halifax 2, Barnet 1, Gateshead 5 Ebbsfleet United 1, Maidenhead Utd 0 Eastleigh 2, Oldham 3, Braintree Town 0, Southend 1 York 1, Tamworth 1 Sutton Utd 1, Yeovil 0 Hartlepool 1.

North - Brackley 0 Scunthorpe 3, Buxton 2 Leamington 1, Curzon Ashton 3, Needham Market 0, Darlington 1 Kidderminster 2, Hereford FC 3 South Shields 0, King's Lynn Town 3 Warrington Town 1, Marine 1 Oxford City 1, Peterborough Sports 0 Chorley 1, Radcliffe 3 Scarborough Athletic 3, Rushall Olympic 2 Farsley Celtic 3, Southport 3 Alfreton Town 1, Spennymoor Town 3 Chester FC 3, **South** - Boreham Wood 1, Bath City 0, Chippenham 1, Farnborough 2, Eastbourne Borough 1, Chesham Utd 1, Hampton & Richmond 1 Hornchurch 3, Hemel Hempstead 2 Salisbury 2, Slough 2 Chelmsford 1, St Albans 0 Maidstone Utd 1, Torridge Angels 3 Weymouth 2, Torquay 2 Enfield Tn 1, Truro City 1 Dorking 2, Welling 1 Aveley 0, Weston-S-Mare 3 Worthing 4.

NORTHERN PREMIER - Ashton Utd 2 Blyth Spartans 2, Guseley 2 Workington 0, Hebburn Town 1 Warrington Rylands 0, Hyde Utd 1 1 Mickelover 1, Ilkeston Town 2 Gainsborough Trinity 2, Lancaster City 2 Basford Utd 2, Leek Town 0 Stockton Town 2, Morpeth Town 0 FC United of Manchester 1, Prescott Cadets 0, Matlock Town 0, Whitby Town 1 Bamber Bridge 2, Workop Town 0 Macclesfield 1.

SOUTHERN PREMIER: Central - Banbury Utd 1 AFC Sudbury 1, Biggleswade Town 1 AFC Telford 1, Bishop's Cleeve 2 Alvechurch 1, Halesowen Town 2 Kettering 1, Harborough Town 0 Stamford 1, Hitchin Town 1 Bromsgrove Sporting 3, Lowestoft Town 0 Redditch Utd 1, Royston Town 3 Barwell 2, Spalding Utd 1 Bedford 2, Folkestone Invicta 1, St Ives Town 0, Stratford Town 3 Leiston 0.

South - AFC Totton 1 Walton & Hersham 0, Bracknell Town 0 Poole Town 0, Chertsey Town 4 Hungerford Town 1, Dorchester Town 1 Havant and W 1, Gosport Borough 0 Frome Town 1, Marlow 1 Winchester City 1, Merthyr Town 6 Tiverton Town 0, Plymouth Parkway 1 Eastingstone Town 3, Swindon Supermarine 1, Sholing 2, Taunton Town 3 Gloucester 3, Wimborne Town 1 Harwell Town 0.

ISTHMIAN PREMIER - Billericay 3 Whitehawk 0, Cheshunt 3 Bognor Regis Town 2, Chichester City 2 Carvey Island 1, Gray Valley (PM) 1 Dartford 2, Folkestone Invicta 1, Carshalton Ath 1, Hashtag United 0 Gray Wanderers 2, Hastings Utd 2, Horsham 0, Hendon 2 Bowers & Pitsea 1, Lewes 2 Chatham Town 0, Potters Bar Town 0 Dover 6, Wingate & Finchley 3 Dulwich 2.

HIGHLAND LEAGUE - Banks Odde 4 Nairn County 0, Brora 6 Formartine United 2, Fraserburgh 0 Brechin 0, Huntly 0 Buckie Thistle 1, Inverurie Loco Works 2 Clackmannand 0, Rothes 0 Keith 1, Strathgryth Thistle 1, Forbes Mechanics 6, Turf United 1 Lossiemouth 0, Wick Academy 0 Deveronvale 1.

LOWLAND LEAGUE - Berwick 1 Broomhill FC 1, Boness Utd 2 Albion 1, Broxburn 3 Dumfries City 0, Caledonian Braves 3, Civil Service, Celtic B 5 East Stirling 1, Cowdenbeath 4 Gala Fairydean 1, East Kilbride 7 Stirling Univ 0, Gretna 2008 1, Linlithgow 3.

Played Friday - Hearts 8 0 Tranent 1.



CLEVERLEY... looking up

CLEVER DEAL ON WAY

By BEN BACON

TOM CLEVERLEY hopes three new faces could propel Watford into the promotion mix.

The Hornets showed their fight by edging this five-goal thriller thanks to Mileta Rajovic deep into injury time.

And rookie boss Cleverley, 35, claimed: "We can finish in the top ten with what we have in the building now."

"But if we're good in the last few weeks of the window those expectations can increase. I expect

Millwall.....2

Watford.....3

added: "Winning games like this will help create it, especially when you get a character check at 2-2."

"It's something I grew up with as an academy player and I'm trying to create that mindset now."

Duncan Watmore netted twice to almost rescue a point for the Lions, who paid a moving tribute to keeper Matija Sarkic.

The 26-year-old died of heart failure in June and boss Neil Harris admitted: "It was a difficult day."

"We certainly didn't envisage losing our first home game. Maybe the emotion was too much for us."

MESLIER IS THE

Farke backs blunder keeper and says he's No1 in defence



FARKE CLOUDS... Leeds boss cannot look as his team missed another chance in the home draw with Pompey

By JUSTIN ALLEN

DANIEL FARKE has leapt to hail Meslier's defence — and hailed him as "the best keeper in the Championship".

Leeds keeper Meslier was heavily at fault for Portsmouth's first goal in a frenetic 3-3 draw.

The French stopper, 24, should have saved Elias Sorensen's effort, which was hammered straight at him.

Pompey only had three meaningful shots on target at Elland Road on Saturday, with all three beating Meslier.

But after his side fought back from 3-2 down to grab a late point, Leeds boss Farke defended his No1, despite concerns over his performance and concentration levels.

The German said: "The topic concerning concentration is valid but he's a great shot stopper. In fact, Illan is the best keeper in the Championship."

"He made unbelievable saves for us last season."

"We had the problem in the first half, where we were on the front foot so much. Then the first shot on target, we've cleared the set-piece and perhaps he wasn't 100 per cent focussed."

"He's probably upset to have conceded in such a situation because he always saves such shots."

"Today was not perfect. But even the best players in the world are guilty of mistakes."

"Illan is still young and can learn that even if you're not too much involved in a game you must always be switched on to

Leeds United.....3

Portsmouth.....3

chances so it's collective — it's the penalty, it's better. It was "It's one of finish with the teams. To and concede t Portsmouth opening 20 m home to Ham not see out d looked like th Boss John I debut striker account off th The Dane, 2 young pro at loan to Black great run to s to pick up M And Mousi socks off. He try a week a Championship "He had b second divisio Esbjerg, so to that quickly, foot through back of the r "He picked hope he'll be And Lang's drawer, with he was more than the won He said: "C before taking temperament back so sharp



FIRST GOAL... Harris

CAM'S WRITE AS RAIN

By GARETH DAVIES

CAMERON BRANNAGAN fired Oxford to a sparkling first-day victory then told the rest of the Championship: "Just keep writing us off."

Midfielder Brannagan is revelling in United's tag as underdogs, which they just love proving wrong.

They were not expected to win promotion via last season's play-offs, but they swept aside fancied Peterborough and Bolton.

Des Buckingham's men were not

Oxford.....2

Norwich.....0

Brannagan said: "People outside Oxford look at us as a team who will be fighting to survive."

"But just keep writing us off, no problem. The lads don't mind that."

Norwich right-back Jack Stacey, 28, said: "We're disappointed — we did not perform the way we can."

The Canaries host Stevenage in the League Cup tomorrow, while Oxford are home to Peterborough.

Stacey said: "We need to go away and reflect on this performance."

One player City will not have is winger Jonathan Rowe, 21, who is expected to join Leeds or Marseille.

in association with



1

OXFORD won their opening league game of the season for the first time in seven years, since a 2-0 victory at Oldham in League One on August 5, 2017.

22

AGED 22 years and 26 days, Fally Mayulu was the youngest player to score on his league debut for Bristol City since Louis Britton v Brentford in May 2021 (20y 52d).

CORNERED . . . Kayembe's set-piece for the Hornets goes straight into the net



BEN'S A BONUS

STEVEN SCHUMACHER says Ben Gibson is the "old school" defender Stoke have been looking for.

The two-time Championship promotion winner left Norwich on a free transfer this summer.

Boss Schumacher immediately made Gibson, 31, his skipper — and he showed why on Saturday.

Stoke looked watertight at the back as Coventry struggled to find an opening before Lewis Baker's

Stoke.....1
Coventry.....0

78th-minute goal sealed the points for the Potters.

Schumacher added: "When I spoke to Ben earlier this summer, I told him that I needed a leader. "He's of the old school. We felt we were short of that type."

Coventry boss Mark Robins groaned: "We didn't show enough quality."

THE BEST

keeper

division

It's hard to criticise as a goalkeeper as individual things like saves are punished. Small mistakes. I set my tasks and targets to be the best defensive record of all then start in the first game. Three, it's not what we want." I rode their luck in the minutes — but ended up going to Walsley disappointed they did the game after scoring what was the winning goal so late. Mousinho was delighted that Sorenson got his Portsmouth record mark.

24, who spent five years as a goalkeeper at Newcastle and went out on loan to Cardiff, made a name for himself behind the Leeds defence. Carlisle Pack's wonderful pass, he said: "He worked his socks out. He has only been in the county and is looking to adjust to the Championship." "I've been playing in the Danish league for the last two seasons at the moment. I was able to get up to speed quickly because of the problems and put his hands on the ball to send it into the net was brilliant. I was up a groin strain but we were back on Saturday." "My performance was also top of the league. The Pompey boss revealing he was impressed with his penalty taker strike. "Callum had to stand around that pen and showed great composure to put it away. He's come back this summer."



EL FOR LEATHER . . . Dane Sorenson hits Pompey's first goal and (inset) gloom for Meslier after conceding



A GR-EIGHT HIT . . . Brannagan puts Oxford in control

I WILL NOT FAIL

FORMER Chelsea star Damien Duff warned Will Jarvis not to fail at Hull.

Jarvis, 21, kicked off this month on loan with Duff's Shelbourne side in the Uefa Conference League against FC Zurich.

And he was in action for the League of Ireland leaders in Monday's top-of-the-table clash with Derry City.

But after being recalled to Hull, the forward said: "Damien thanked me for what I did but told me he

Hull City.....1
Bristol City.....1

didn't want to see me back in Ireland because that would mean I had failed — and I agree!"

Oscar Estupinan's injury-time penalty earned Hull a point after Fally Mayulu struck in the 84th minute.

Bristol City chief Liam Manning said: "Fally is very technical, as he demonstrated with his goal."

STATS LIFE

Compiled by Russell Lanning

THREE CHEERS FOR JOSH

JOSH MAJA became only the third player since the Championship rebrand in 2004-05 to score a hat-trick in second-tier opening games.

HAT-TRICKS IN CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON OPENERS

(Since league rebrand in 2004-05)

2007-08	2016-17	2024-25
James Scowcroft (Crystal Palace) at Southampton	Grant Ward (Ipswich) v Barnsley	Josh Maja (West Brom) at Watford

WAT A HIT

LONGEST-RANGE EFL GOALS THIS WEEKEND

WATFORD hit two of the three longest-range goals at the weekend — Edo Kayembe's 22nd-minute opener at Millwall measuring over 35 yards.

Edo Kayembe (Watford) at Millwall	35.5yds
Luke Molyneux (Doncaster) v Accrington	33.3yds
Giorgi Chakvetadze (Watford) v Millwall	30.8yds
Louie Barry (Stockport) v Cambridge	29.1yds
Dion Charles (Bolton) v Leyton Orient	26.1yds

TOP OF THE BILL

BILLY SHARP'S goal against Accrington was his 250th in English league football — the first player to reach this milestone since the EFL rebrand in 2004-05.

SHARP'S LAST 21 LEAGUE SEASONS

SEASON	GAMES	GOALS	SEASON	GAMES	GOALS
2004-05	18	9	2015-16	44	21
2005-06	37	23	2016-17	46	30
2006-07	45	30	2017-18	34	13
2007-08	29	4	2018-19	40	23
2008-09	22	4	2019-20	25	3
2009-10	33	15	2020-21	16	3
2010-11	29	15	2021-22	39	14
2011-12	35	19	2022-23	38	2
2012-13	41	10	2023-24	11	0
2013-14	26	6	2024-25	1	1
2014-15	33	5	TOTAL	642	250

THROUGH THE AGES

WITH the EFL season off and running, it is managers in the Championship who boast the youngest average age in the top four divisions — by more than three years.

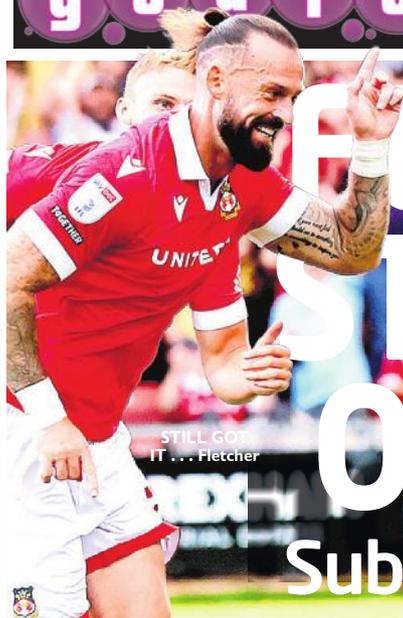
AVERAGE AGE OF MANAGERS 2024-25

47y 93d	43y 296d	47y 193d	47y 19d
Premier League	Championship	League One	League Two

PREM & EFL BOSSES THIS SEASON

OLDEST	YOUNGEST
Steve Evans (Rotherham) 61y 286d	Fabian Hurzeler (Brighton) 31y 167d

goals LEAGUE ONE



FLETCH'S STAND-IN OVATION
Sub Steve feels love

BET BUILDER XTRA

WIN 25% MORE

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goals LEAGUE TWO

STAT ATTACK

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Ben Goodliffe (Colchester)	2
Joel Colwill (Cheltenham)	2
Ben Garrity (Port Vale)	2
Luke Molyneux (Doncaster)	2



Southgreat for Woody

GARETH INSPIRES BEST PAL ANDY TO VICTORY

By KEN LAWRENCE

GARETH SOUTHGATE'S fingerprints were all over Bromley's first victory in the EFL.

Even though Harrogate are the nearest club to his home, the former England manager was not there to see best pal Andy Woodman oversee victory on the Ravens' League Two debut.

But boss Woodman and his friend of almost 40 years have had countless chats this summer – especially since Southgate left the Three Lions.

He said: "He sent me a text this morning and I know there will be another text waiting for me when I check my phone. Gareth has probably

Harrogate	0
Bromley	2

been more interested in my journey and our first season in the EFL than in his own situation.

"That's just classic Gareth and it means so much to me.

"We've talked a lot, not just about football but about life, problems, how to handle situations.

"We're there for each other, we bounce things off each other. It's what best friends do."

Southgate does not live far from the Sulphurites' neat Exercise Stadium – where Michael Cheek made history by heading Bromley's first fourth-tier goal in the club's 132-year history.

That momentous second-half strike

was quickly followed by Kamarl Grant's clincher as around 350 Bromley fans celebrated.

There will be plenty more at Hayes Lane tomorrow night for the EFL Cup visit of AFC Wimbledon.

That is followed by another clash between the local rivals in Bromley's first-ever home League Two game this Saturday.

The win in Yorkshire was the perfect birthday present for Woodman, who turned 53 yesterday.

But the man who took Bromley up via the National League play-offs in May insisted: "All these 'first-overs' are not about me.

"I'm just happy to see everyone else happy – that's where I get my satisfaction from.

"I'll be happy, too, when Gareth gets back into the game and I hope

he'll be back soon because he's ready for any big job.

"Gareth's a football man, a good football man and a decent human being, somebody that if you're a footballer you would want to play for.

"It would be a travesty for someone like him not to be at the top level of football – like he was with England.

"He's enjoying a bit of family time. His family have sacrificed a lot and it's very important that right now he gets that balance again.

"He gave everything for England and everything for the FA for the last ten years so he deserves his break.

"But he will be back. I've no doubt about that."

Disappointed Harrogate boss Simon Weaver, who took his own club into the EFL for the first time four years ago, said: "We were powder-puff."

FLYING START ... Woodman oversaw the Ravens' victory

STAT ATTACK

LEADING SCORER
Paudie O'Connor
(Lincoln)
2

29
GOALS

AVE PER GAME
2.42

MOST SHOTS
22

STOCKPORT v Cambridge

46 **0**

in association with



By **GRAEME BRYCE**

STEVEN FLETCHER revealed a standing ovation at training opened the door for his triumphant Wrexham return.

Wrexham striker Richard Kone had just halved the home side's lead when anxious Red Dragons manager Phil Parkinson played the ace in his pack.

His decision to send on Fletcher, 37, for Ollie Palmer, with the match balanced on a knife-edge, was a big gamble. The striker had only managed 24 minutes of pre-season action before injuring his groin.

However, his sublime touch and half-volley turned out to be the defining moment of this five-goal thriller.

Parky said: "Fletcher only trained for two

Wrexham.....3
Wycombe.....2

days. But he showed us what he's all about.

"He's immense. He joined in training and scored a hat-trick and all the goals were all as good as that one!

"He's a real maestro and what a player to be able to bring off the bench when there's tired legs on the pitch."

This is Fletcher's 22nd season in pro football and he has scored goals in every one.

Yet he admits he broke new ground in that sensational training performance last week.

He said: "I got on the bench because of that training session.

"I hit a hat-trick and got a standing ovation from all the boys - it is a first for myself!" After

back-to-back promotions Wrexham could be forgiven for using this season to draw breath and find their feet.

Instead, Hollywood star co-owner Rob McElhenney said: "What can we hope for in League One? To win!"

"What can I say about Fletch? Whenever he's on, anything can happen."

Wrexham roared into a two-goal lead through Max Cleworth and Jack Marriott (right) before Kone's goal caused a wobble.

Fletcher restored their two-goal cushion, which was crucial because sub Sam Vokes struck late.

Fletcher added: "I'll just keep playing until someone tells me it's time to pack it in.

"This goal means I've scored in all four divisions of English football now."

LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Huddersfield	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Stockport City	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Lincoln City	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Wrexham	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Bolton	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Mansfield	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Crawley Town	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Charlton	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Bristol Rovers	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Exeter	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Stevenage	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Reading	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
Birmingham	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Wycombe	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Burton Albion	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Blackpool	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Barnsley	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Leyton Orient	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Northampton	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Rotherham	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Shrewsbury	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Wigan	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Cambridge	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Peterborough	1	0	0	1	2	0	0



This shot May sting a bit



WINNER...
May beats Pereira with his penalty

ALFIE MAY says his late penalty for **BIRMINGHAM** was a bit of payback.

It cancelled Kelvin Ehibhatiomhan's **READING** goal in a 1-1 draw and went past keeper Joel Pereira — whose shootout save knocked May, then at Charlton, out of last term's EFL Trophy.

May said: "He was giving me some so it was nice to put it away."
Debutant Bryant Bilongo scored in

By **JON WEST**

BRISTOL ROVERS' 1-0 win against **NORTHAMPTON** and said: "I wanted to jump into the crowd!"

LEYTON ORIENT'S Zach Hemming gifted **BOLTON** a 2-1 victory.

The keeper dropped a cross at Victor Adebeyejo's feet for the ex-O's man to win it — just 30 seconds after coming off the bench.

TAP BOOST ON YOUR BET

33
GOALS SCORED

AVE PER GAME
2.75

MOST SHOTS
18
CARLISLE at Gillingham

42 **0**

LEAGUE TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Doncaster	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Gillingham	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
AFC Wimbledon	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Bromley	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Port Vale	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Cheltenham	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Bradford	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Barrow	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Fleetwood	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Walsall	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Swindon	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
Chesterfield	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
Notts County	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
Tranmere	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
Newport City	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
MK Dons	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Crawley	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Grimsby	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Morecambe	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Colchester	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Harrogate	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Salford City	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Accrington	1	0	0	1	4	0	0
Carlisle	1	0	0	1	4	0	0

Neville bossed by Vale skipper

BEN GARRITY was thrilled to ruin Gary Neville's first game as **SALFORD'S** majority shareowner.

Garrity (right) marked his elevation to the **PORT VALE** captaincy with both goals in a 2-0 win.

He said: "It was boss! It was like my debut, that sort of buzz and excitement for myself."

Billy Sharp celebrated his 250th league goal as **DONCASTER** thumped **ACCRINGTON** 4-1.

Prolific poacher Sharp, 38, capped his fourth Rovers spell with an 87th-minute strike.

Luke Molyneux netted twice and hailed the veteran, who has now scored in 21 consecutive

By **JON WEST**

seasons. Molyneux said: "Sharp is a big character and the fans absolutely adore him.

"When he can contribute goals like that it's huge for us."

MK DONS lost 2-1 at home to **BRADFORD** hours after Pete Winkelman sold the club to a Kuwaiti consortium.

City led 2-0 after five minutes thanks to a long-ranger from Alex Pattison (left) and Sam Sherring's own goal.

Alex Gilbey pulled one back after 20 minutes but promotion favourites Dons could not force a leveller.



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Justin Allen



HERE'S something I've never come across before — a manager being BOOED by the fans after the first game of the season. Ryan Lowe was heckled after Preston's awful performance against Sheffield United at Deepdale on Friday, their sixth loss in a row including last term. Fans were fed up with him back then and called for his sacking. Could he be the first managerial departure?

IN A LEAGUE OF HIS OWN @justinallen1976

CHRIS WILDER is bringing the feelgood factor back to his Sheffield United side.

And he could yet stun the Championship by leading an immediate return to the Premier League next summer.

Friday's opening-night 2-0 win at Preston gave Blades supporters some much-needed cheer.

Throughout the game fans were chanting, "He's one of our own" in homage to their Sheffield-born-and-raised boss.

Wildier will forever be a legend at Bramall Lane after taking the team from League One to the top flight and guiding them to a ninth-place finish in 2020.

And the work he has done this summer to the backdrop of a long-projected takeover has looked bang-on.

It was a pathetic campaign in the top flight last season, finishing rock bottom with a measly 16 points. Many in football circles feared they were in serious danger of crashing into League One next season.

The way current owner Abdullah bin Mosaad Al Saud has run the club left many fans feeling short-changed.

They feel his reluctance to put his hand in his pocket to back bosses with quality signings has paralysed the club.

When Paul Heckingbottom led the Blades to promotion two seasons ago — bouncing back to the Premier League at the second attempt — you would have thought the owners would back their manager by strengthening their squad.

But no — Prince Abdullah sanctioned the sales of star players Sander Berge to fellow newly-promoted side Burnley — a relegation rival — and Iliman Ndiaye to Marseille.

And their investment in the transfer market after losing two huge

WILDEST DREAMS

Chris' Blades happy again

players was underwhelming at the least.

Whenever have you heard of a club that **WEAKENED** their squad following promotion to the Premier League?

You can now answer with confidence — it's the Blades.

It's no wonder a Sheffield taxi driver told me Prince Abdullah is known as the 'Skint Sheikh' in the Steel City.

But there is hope that finally United can be rid of the Saudi prince with an American consortium — a capital investment fund — trying to get a takeover deal across the line.

That would be worth £100million to the Blades and free up substantial funds for Wildier to add strength to his streamlined squad.

The business the club has done so far, without decent backing, has looked sensible by Championship standards.

Bringing in left wing-back Harrison Burrows, 22, from Peterborough was an inspired piece of business because the Posh academy product has all the potential to reach the top from the games I saw him play.

Already he has an

impressive 186 appearances to his name and captained his hometown club, as well as lifting the Football League Trophy for them at Wembley last season too.

Then they have brought in midfielder Callum O'Hare, 26, from Coventry on a free transfer after his contract expired.

Sky Blues boss Mark Robins was gutted to lose a player who has been huge for him in the past four seasons.

O'Hare played a huge part in turning Coventry from a League One side to one who have been competing to get into the third tier.

And striker Kieffer Moore, 32, from Bournemouth might not seem a sexy signing but, believe me, the impact he had at Ipswich during the second half of last season on loan was crucial in helping them get across the line to grab automatic promotion.

Wildier told me at Deepdale he has not set any expectations this season, because there are so many unknowns.

There is the not knowing whether the club are going to be

taken over — especially with the process taking so long.

And even if the deal does get done, will it be ahead of the current transfer window closing?

But Wildier is operating right now in the worst-case scenario, which is a sensible approach.

What he wants to do as a minimum is create a team who enjoy playing football for Sheffield United in the right environment.

It looked like that at Preston on Friday and if they carry on in that same vein, I would not be surprised if they can surprise a few people this season.

Wildier has done it before — and can do it again.

And if the takeover does happen sooner rather than later, it might be a whole new ball game for the long-suffering Blades.



IT'S A VIN... Wildier celebrates victory over Preston on Friday with midfielder Vinicius Souza

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