

‘Meg’s simpering serving of telly schmaltz collapsed like a soggy soufflé’



BY JANE MOORE SEE PAGE 17



SEX-TXT MoTD PUNDIT & ELLIE SPLIT



It's over... Jenas and Ellie had been together 16 years

JENAS DUMPED BY WIFE

Axed BBC star's break-up after 16yrs

By CLEMMIE MOODIE

FOOTIE pundit Jermaine Jenas and his wife have split up six months after he was axed by the BBC over sex texts.

Ellie Simmonds ended their 16-year relationship, leaving the ex-footballer “distracted”.

Jermaine, 42, was sacked from The One Show over texts to a female colleague. He was also axed from his punditry role on Match of the Day.

Full Story — Page Three

GOVT PLAN IS NEW BLOW TO BIZ

JUST GIVE 10 DAYS NOTICE TO STRIKE



Plans... Reynolds

BUSINESS leaders were dealt a fresh blow last night as Labour revealed plans to make it easier for union paymasters to strike. Unions will need to give employers only ten days' notice for industrial action in a workers' rights shake-up. The existing notice period is two weeks.

By RYAN SABEY and ASHLEY ARMSTRONG

Workers who vote to strike could authorise action for a year – up from six months. Bosses fear the workplace overhaul will leave them stranded in red tape, costing them £5 billion and thwarting plans to expand in a sluggish economy. Shadow Cabinet Minister Andrew Griffith said proposals drawn up by Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds were “directed by union paymasters”. Mr Griffith said: “No Government serious about growth

would be giving this flawed bill the light of day.” Ministers have tabled about 250 amendments to its Employment Rights Bill, after consultation with business groups and unions. Under the plans, expected to come into place next autumn, agency workers will be given contracts with a minimum number of shifts. The time for bringing tribunal claims will be extended from three months to nine. The Federation of Small Businesses said: “We hope the Government will move from asserting the changes are pro-

business to making it a reality.” The British Beer and Pub Association said: “Mandating that those who want flexible roles have to be offered fixed hours, including agency staff, will mean businesses with seasonal demand won’t always be able to offer them work.” But Trade Union Congress boss Paul Novak welcomed the end of the agency “loop-hole”. Deputy PM Angela Rayner said the measures were “the biggest upgrade in workers’ rights for a generation” but an assessment says it will cost businesses £5 billion.



Concerns... Chancellor

Reeves' fears on tariff war

By ASHLEY ARMSTRONG

RACHEL Reeves has warned tit-for-tat tariffs risk slowing down the whole global economy. The Chancellor said that even if the UK is not directly targeted by trade levies, they would still have a significant impact on us. She said: “We will be affected by slowing global trade, by a slower GDP growth and by higher inflation than otherwise would be the case.” It comes after US President Donald Trump imposed tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China this week, with Europe in his sights. Ms Reeves added: “We don’t want to see tariffs. I will continue to make the case with all my international counterparts for free and open trade.”

Sun Business – Page 41

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IPSO Regulated

Drivers denied fuel cuts

By MARTINA BET

DRIVERS are getting stung at the pumps as forecourts fail to pass on lower wholesale costs. Fuel for retailers has fallen 5p a litre since mid-January – yet petrol station prices remain at a six-month high, the RAC says. Petrol now costs at an average 139.65p a litre and diesel 146.48p – the highest since the summer. The AA’s Luke Bosdet blasted: “How much saving has been passed on to families with cars? Absolutely nothing.” But the RAC’s Simon Williams advised: “It pays to shop around because pump prices at super-market sites vary by as much as 13p a litre.”



MPs SMOKED OUT

By SAM CREED

THREE MPs were injured yesterday when smoke grenades and flares were let off and objects thrown by opposition politicians. The protest in Serbia’s parliament came during an “illegal” vote on education funding, with PM Milos Vucovic urged to quit.

JUSTICE ‘AGONY’

RECORD court delays are leaving victims traumatised and feeling justice is out of reach, a watchdog warns. Half of those waiting for cases to come to trial have had hearings pushed back at least once, the Victims’ Commissioner has found. The number of crown court cases adjourned more

than three times on the day of trial was four times higher in 2023/24 than in 2019/2020, courts and tribunal service data showed. Commissioner Baroness Newlove said: “For far too many, justice now feels out of reach. These delays don’t just prolong the process, they deepen the trauma.”

EATING HELP ‘CRISIS’ FEARS

MORE children with eating disorders could reach crisis point if “vital” services suffer funding cuts, leading medics have warned. The Royal College of Psychiatrists called for a national strategy that prioritises retaining and recruiting mental health staff.

IRAN SANCTION

TEHRAN’S tyrant government and their network of spies will be placed on the highest tier of a new scheme to protect Britain from foreign influence. Anyone undertaking business, trade or “political influence activities” for the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps must register them-

selves online or face five years in prison. Security Minister Dan Jarvis expects the Foreign Influence Registration Scheme to be operational by summer. He said: “The Iranian regime has become increasingly emboldened to advance their objectives and undermine ours.”

Rogan is R4 victor

MORE Brits now listen to US influencer Joe Rogan’s podcast than the BBC’s Haggish Today programme, a study found. A poll of 8,000 found ten per cent listen to The Joe Rogan Experience and 13 per cent to Radio 4. But communications firm Charlesbye’s Talking to the Nation report said: “This represents the entirety of the channel’s output, meaning Today would likely reach fewer listeners than Joe Rogan if polled separately.”

Sun WEATHER

TODAY: Rain showers in Western and Southern England, cloudy in Central regions, while Northern England experiences consistent rain.

TONIGHT: Rain in Western England, cloudy in Central areas. Fair conditions in the South, mostly dry overnight across Eastern regions.

OUTLOOK: On Thursday, cloudy skies cover much of England with mild temperatures. By Friday, clear skies emerge, turning colder as the day progresses.

THU 5° FRI 4° SAT 5° SUN 6°

Map showing weather forecasts for various UK locations:

- 8 ABERDEEN
- 6 GLASGOW
- 6 EDINBURGH
- 7 BELFAST
- 6 NEWCASTLE
- 8 LIVERPOOL
- 8 LEEDS
- 8 MANCHESTER
- 7 DUBLIN
- 8 BIRMINGHAM
- 8 NORWICH
- 9 CARDIFF
- 9 BRISTOL
- 10 PLYMOUTH
- 9 SOUTHAMPTON
- 9 LONDON

SEKUTA

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

	12	17	
	26	20	
9			4

PUZZLES: PAGE 38

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

ENGLAND and Man Utd footballer **HARRY MAGUIRE**, 32, left, comedian **MATT LUCAS**, 51, right, actress **EVA MENDES**, 51, singer **EDDY GRANT**, 77, and Red Hot Chili Peppers guitarist **JOHN FRUSCIANTE**, 55.

● Last night's Euromillions numbers: 15, 20, 29, 35, 42. Lucky Stars: 2, 9. Health Lottery numbers: 7, 11, 19, 29, 47. Bonus ball: 1.

JENAS SPLIT AFTER 16YRS



Apology... Sun in August

Before the split...
Jermaine and Ellie in
social media picture

Ellie decided
that enough is
enough..there is
too much water
under the bridge

— SOURCE, LAST NIGHT

Rough time...
no ring for star
on Thai golf trip



By CLEMMIE MOODIE

AXED Match of the Day pundit Jermaine Jenas “apologised endlessly” as he tried to save his marriage — but wife Ellie Penfold has had enough.

She called time six months after he was sacked from the BBC’s footie highlights programme and The One Show for sending “inappropriate texts” to female colleagues.

Last night a source close to devastated Jermaine, 42, said: “JJ has spent the past few months doing all he can to make it up to Ellie.

“He’s undergone therapy to work on himself and apologised endlessly.

“They managed to have an amazing family Christmas together, but earlier this year Ellie decided enough was enough. JJ is obviously devastated.

“There was too much water under the bridge but both parties will make things as amicable as possible. They are both focusing on the kids before any major or long-term decisions are taken concerning their future.”

Ellie revealed the split in a statement on Instagram yesterday. She wrote: “I never imagined I would have to share something so personal with the public, but given the situation, I feel it’s necessary.

“After 16 years together and four wonderful children, Jermaine and I have decided to part ways.

“We will remain friends and continue to co-parent.

“We kindly ask that you respect our children’s privacy during this challenging time.”

The couple, married 14 years, have three children together. Jermaine also has a teenage daughter from a previous relationship, whom Ellie has helped to raise.

The ex-England and Spurs midfielder was yesterday playing in a pro-am golf tournament in Thailand, without his wedding ring.

He was sacked from the BBC in August last year over allegations he had sexted junior members of staff on The One Show.

He apologised but said he had done nothing illegal.

Fired... Jermaine
lost pundit job on
Match of the Day

DETACH OF THE DAY

Millie Bobby Blast



SHE FIRES BACK AT CRUEL JIBES OVER HER NEW LOOK

PAGES 12 & 13

DUCHESS ROASTED OVER MEG'S ONLY



Stage-managed... guests clink glasses during typical 'syrupy' scene

EXCLUSIVE by MATT WILKINSON
Royal Editor

MEGHAN struggled to book Hollywood stars for her new "make or break" Netflix cookery show which came in for a roasting from critics yesterday.

A few pals and neighbours turned up and two celeb chefs the Duchess of Sussex had never met – but none of her A-list chums such as Oprah Winfrey or the Beckhams.

Instead, viewers see her with her make-up artist Daniel Martin and a sprinkling of other minor celebs in the eight-part cookery offering, entitled *With Love, Meghan*.

One reviewer called it "gormless" and "so pointless it might be the Sussexes' last TV show". Another complained that the "banter" between Meghan and her guests had "all the spark of a dead battery".

The series, in which Prince Harry, 40, is restricted to brief cameos, was filmed at a farmhouse near the Sussexes' mansion in Montecito, California.

It was the couple's second show for Netflix after Harry & Meghan in 2022 in which she mocked the late Queen with an elaborate curtsy during the six-part whinge-fest.

Meghan, 43, put out failed Spotify podcast *Archetypes* in the same year, which did at least draw big name stars including Mariah Carey and Paris Hilton.

This time, Abigail Spencer, who was in US drama *Suits* with Meghan, appears as well as neighbour Delfina Blaquier, wife of polo pal Nacho Figueras.

Mum-of-two Meg's LA pal Kelly Zafien also shows along with skincare tycoon Vicky Tsai, who also made an appearance in Harry & Meghan.

Actress Mindy Kaling, who was in the failed podcast, is in one episode.

When Kaling, star of the US version of *The Office*, refers to her as "Meghan Markle", the Duchess corrects her, saying: "It's so funny you keep saying Meghan Markle, you know I'm Sussex now."

Meghan, who has not visited Britain since Queen Elizabeth's funeral in September 2022, adds: "I didn't know how meaningful it would be to me but it just means so much to go 'This is our family name. Our little family name.'" Mindy replies: "Well, now I know."

Meanwhile, celebrity chefs Roy Choi and Alice Waters, who are only known to Stateside viewers, are in one episode each.

One reviewer said Meghan was so fawning over Waters that her guest appeared "faintly alarmed".

Among stars watchers may have expected to see were tennis pal Serena Williams, who appeared

Cut... Duchess shows the world how to slice an onion &, below, gives Harry a peck during one of his cameos

● Can't book VIPs for cooking show



Style over substance... Meghan cuts cake with make-up artist Daniel

● Critics slam *With Love* as 'cringe-fest'



with Meghan and Princess Lilibet on Instagram a few days ago, and George and Amal Clooney who were at the Sussexes' wedding.

A source told *The Sun*: "They struggled to book guests. They had a real hard time, and it shows."

Insiders believe Netflix's tie-up for *With Love*, Meghan and her *As Ever* lifestyle products brand is a "make or break" moment for her.

Sun columnist Jane Moore described the 33-minute episodes as

"boring". She wrote: "It's beautifully lit and the expert camerawork makes everything look like an M&S food ad on steroids, but never has the phrase 'style over substance' been so apt."

She went on: "There's nothing here that we haven't seen a million times before... and done better by true experts."

Giving it two stars, Anita Singh, the *Telegraph's* arts and entertainment editor, said it was an "exercise in narcissism filled with extravagant brunches, celebrity pals and business plugs".

She wrote: "The format is this:

MAKE-OR-BREAK SERIES

FLANS



Haz a cameo . . . at the end

The Mary Berry of Montecito



By
ROD MCPHEE
TV Editor

THE most eye-rolling moment in Meghan's new show comes when she presents a pot of boiled spaghetti and tomatoes like Moses delivering the Ten Commandments.

Yet here was a meal which I'm pretty sure every student in the world has made.

It's only towards the end of episode one you realise this isn't just her bid to flog some jams.

With Love, Meghan is a series of hints and metaphors designed to subtly change your mind about the Mary Berry of Montecito. The most glaring comes when she delivers her "vision" of a honey and lemon cake, saying: "She's so beautiful on the inside. You just don't know how good she is until you go deep."

OK, we hear you, Meg. Except the feeling you're left with isn't that she's incredibly deep, or good, or beautiful, it's just that this is a woman with too much money and time on her hands.

And she expects us to part with more of our pounds to be a part of it.

'Her tea is an insult'



By
ARTHUR EDWARDS
Royal Photographer

THE Duchess took an hour to show us how to make spaghetti, a cake and a cup of tea.

You'd have thought that after nearly seven years married to an Englishman she'd have learned how to make a proper cuppa — but if anyone presented me with such a terrible cup of tea I'd be insulted.

This is not real life as real people know it.



GRAPES OF WRATH

MEGHAN makes an intricate fruit rainbow — but is accused of ripping off the recipe from an LA food blogger . . . called Meg Quinn. A critic posted: "She couldn't even change up some of the fruits."



Happy clappy . . . smiling TV chef Roy Choi with Meghan



Food preparation . . . on show

FLOWER FOR A BIT OF DOUGH

THE show was a long advert for the product range Meghan launched on the same day that the series was released on Netflix.

The edible dried flowers sprinkled on nearly everything feature on her website for £20 a jar, right.

Honey, raspberry preserve and lemon ginger tea, all on asever.com, also featured.



Meghan invites people to her pretend house — the show is filmed in an \$8million farmhouse down the road from her \$14million home — and they tell her how amazing she is. This happens for eight episodes.

On Waters, she said: "Meghan didn't know Waters beforehand but love-bombs her to the point where Waters looks faintly alarmed."

In The Times, Carol Midgley wrote: "If you thought With Love, Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex's new lifestyle show, would be a smug, syrupy endurance watch, and that you would rather fry your eyeballs than sit through it, I have

news for you. It is so much worse than that."

Stuart Heritage wrote in The Guardian: "Kiss the Netflix deal goodbye! With Love, Meghan is so pointless it might be the Sussexes' last TV show." In The Spectator, Alexander Larman wrote: "There is a tangible desperation here."

The Irish Times described the episodes as "moribund" and "bland". It added: "It doesn't even rise to the status of a hate-watch."

However, the series, which aired in the UK at 8am yesterday, is expected to top the Netflix charts. matt.wilkinson@the-sun.co.uk

FEBRUARY 2025

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Protest... Khalid

Crown's Dodi in cop quiz over rally

By EMILY JANE HEAP

THE Crown star Khalid Abdalla has been summoned to attend a formal police interview over a pro-Palestinian protest.

The actor, who played Dodi Fayed in the Netflix drama, said on social media: "It remains to be seen if this will result in charges."

It relates to his attendance at January's Palestine Solidarity Campaign protest in London.

It was turned into a static rally when police curtailed plans for a march past the BBC and near a synagogue. But after the speeches, a large group headed towards Trafalgar Square.

Khalid, 44, said he received a police letter on Thursday. He added: "The right to protest is under attack in this country and it requires us all to defend it."

A Met Police spokesperson said: "We don't confirm identities of anyone under investigation."



Mammoth fur... mouse

Lab mice born with Ice Age beast fur

By MILLIE TURNER

SCIENTISTS say they are closer to bringing back the woolly mammoth after using gene editing technology to create woolly mice.

DNA modifications were used to create 100 mice with golden, thick and wavy fur like the prehistoric beast's.

Experts at Colossal Biosciences, the Texas firm behind the feat, say it proves that they have the capacity to bring the mammoth back to life.

They became extinct 4,000 years ago. Scientists used mice as they are born after just 20 days of gestation.

The challenge will be scaling up the process for elephants, which gestate for 22 months.

It would also take a decade to raise a mammoth to adulthood.

It comes after scientists last year recreated the genome of a 52,000-year-old mammoth that had been preserved in ice.

PAEDO KEEPS HUGE SALARY



Spotted... in The Sun last month

Free... Huw Edwards leaving court last year with suspended sentence

HAVE HUW NO SHAME?

- He STILL won't repay £200k
- Blasted by lad's mum & BBC

EXCLUSIVE by SCARLET HOWES

DISGRACED Huw Edwards has been blasted after BBC chiefs revealed he toyed with handing back £200,000 he was paid after his arrest on paedophile charges — then kept the cash anyway.

The Beeb's chairman told MPs yesterday there was a moment when he thought Edwards would "do the right thing for a change". But Samir Shah said the ex-News at Ten anchor instead decided to keep the disputed £200,000 chunk of his taxpayer-funded salary.

The mum who blew the whistle on Edwards, 63, after he paid her son £35,000 for sexual pictures, declared: "Does this man not have an ounce of shame? How can he keep this money after what he's done?"

BBC director-general Tim Davie added that the Corporation took legal advice but there was no more bosses could do to claw back the cash.

Mr Davie and Dr Shah faced the Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee to answer questions about reviews into recent scandals.

Asked whether they had been able to get back the cash from Edwards, Dr Shah admitted: "We have not."

"We've obviously asked many times, but he seems unwilling. There was a moment that we thought that he might just do the right thing for a change, then he decided not to."

"It's quite frustrating because I think he should have done it. He could still do it. It's not right. He's taken licence fee-payers' money and he knew what he'd done and he should return it now."

Edwards was on £475,000-a-year when he was arrested in November 2023 over child abuse images. He was not sacked, even though some senior BBC staff knew he had been held.

He was allowed to step down on medical grounds in April 2024. This was after The Sun separately revealed he paid a vulnerable young man £35,000 for sex snaps. Last July we told that he had been charged with making indecent images. In September Edwards admitted three counts and got a suspended six-month jail term.

The mum who shopped him said: "We're still feeling the effects of his actions while he's enjoying all that taxpayers' money. He's so arrogant it makes me sick."

Vaping Edwards was seen last month for the first time since the court case.

Dr Shah stressed that no talent is "bigger than the BBC", referencing Edwards, and DJs Tim Westwood and Russell Brand — who is accused of sex offences.

Mr Davie also agreed to messages to BBC staff is "everyone is dispensable".

He expects a review into misconduct claims against MasterChef host Gregg Wallace, over alleged inappropriate comments, to report within weeks.

Last month the BBC Board apologised after a review found it did not take adequate action on concerns about misogyny and bullying by Westwood.

In January, a review into Brand's conduct found staff felt he was untouchable. Wallace, 60, Westwood, 67, and Brand, 49, all deny the claims against them.

The Sun Says — Page Ten

GAZA TV 'DAGGER TO HEART'

By NOA HOFFMAN



Removed... Gaza doc

BBC bosses yesterday admitted their Gaza documentary blunder was a "dagger to the heart" of the corporation's claim to be impartial.

Chairman Samir Shah branded it a "really, really bad moment".

Director-general Tim Davie said it caused "a lot of frustration and disappointment". He told MPs on the Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee: "Nothing's more important

than being trusted. We're very sorry to the audience."

Gaza: How to Survive a Warzone was broadcast without any admission the child narrator was a Hamas official's son.

The documentary was removed from the BBC iPlayer and a fact-finding review is now under way. But critics have accused the Beeb of "marking its

own homework" and are demanding an independent investigation.

Mr Davie insisted the BBC maintained "very good" editorial standards — but he and Mr Shah offered support to a wider review into how the broadcaster reported on Israel and Palestine.

Meanwhile, counter-terror police are looking into whether producers broke the law by paying the boy's family.

The Sun Says — Page Ten

UKRAINE PRESIDENT IN

LET'S DO

● Zelensky 'ready to sign deal'

VOLODYMYR Zelensky last night made a desperate bid to reset relations with Donald Trump as the White House turned off the flow of weapons to Kyiv.

In an olive branch statement after their bust-up in the Oval Office last week, he gave his thanks to the US and pledged a "commitment to peace".

But Ukraine's president stopped short of saying sorry after being accused of showing disrespect – although he admitted their bad-

tempered meeting "did not go the way it was supposed to be".

Mr Zelensky added he was ready to sign the payback minerals deal put on ice after Friday's showdown as he sought to repair relations.

He went on: "It is regrettable that it happened this way. It is time to make things right. We would like future co-operation and communication to be constructive."

And following days of bickering between the pair, he thanked Mr Trump for Javelin missiles and the US for its support. In his first pub-

lic comments since the US President stopped military aid yesterday, Mr Zelensky insisted: "My team and I stand ready to work under President Trump's strong leadership to get a peace that lasts."

Following demands from Washington to confirm he was ready for peace talks, he added on X: "None of us wants an endless war."

"Ukraine is ready to come to the negotiating table as soon as possible to bring lasting peace closer."

In response to Trump's claims that he wanted to prolong the war, he insisted: "Nobody wants peace more than Ukrainians."

It came hours after Mr Trump

paused all military aid, claiming Mr Zelensky had to prove he was ready to make peace with Russian invader Vladimir Putin.

But in his apparent climbdown, the Ukraine leader went even further by outlining possible first steps to a ceasefire.

He said: "We are ready to work fast to end the war."

"The first stages could be the release of prisoners and truce in the sky – ban on missiles, long-ranged drones, bombs on energy and other civilian infrastructure – and truce in the sea immediately, if Russia will do the same."

In a clear attempt to get the

White House back on side, he went on: "We do really value how much America has done to help Ukraine maintain its sovereignty and independence."

"And we remember the moment when things changed when President Trump provided Ukraine with Javelins. We are grateful for this."

Referring to Friday's scenes, where he was ambushed by Mr Trump and Vice President JD Vance in front of the watching media, Mr Zelensky wrote: "Our meeting in Washington, at the White House on Friday did not go the way it was supposed to be."

He had been due to sign a min-

Minister's U.S. trip to boost ties



By **JEROME STARKEY**
Defence Editor in Dnipro

DEFENCE Secretary John Healey is to hold crunch talks at the Pentagon to try to bolster transatlantic defence ties.

He will also stress the need for a lasting peace in Ukraine.

Mr Healey is set to spell out ways Britain supports America – including military operations, peacekeeping, intelligence gathering and development of advanced technologies.

He is also expected to try to persuade the US to resume military aid to Ukraine.

The two-day trip comes after Vice President JD Vance sparked anger with a jibe suggesting the UK had not fought a war for more than 30 years.

Mr Healey insisted the special relationship was as strong as ever despite Donald Trump's tilt towards Moscow. The Kremlin sparked panic among Nato allies by saying President Trump's foreign policy vision "largely aligns" with its own.

Mr Healey will also urge Pete Hegseth, his US counterpart, to shore up ties with Nato after Elon Musk called on Trump to quit the defence alliance.

Speaking yesterday ahead of his trip, Mr Healey said: "It is crucial that the UK and Europe step up further to take more responsibility for our security – and we are doing so."

"In the face of increasing global threats, we are cementing our ties as Nato allies."

On finding a path to peace in Ukraine, he added: "We will advance that work in Washington over the coming days."

KING'S HISTORIC VISIT



Welcome aboard . . . Charles gets honour guard on HMS Prince of Wales



Fighting force . . . watching Lightning warplanes landing on aircraft carrier



CLIMBDOWN AFTER ROW

IT, DON

● Trump row 'regrettable'



Backlash... at Vance

No smear on Britain, claims JD

By HARRY COLE, JEROME STARKEY and JACK ELSOM

US Vice President JD Vance last night insisted he was not attacking Britain when he had a go at countries that "haven't fought a war in 40 years".

The denial came after his comments sparked outrage among veterans, Top Brass, and politicians of all stripes. After Britain led talks eyeing a ceasefire in Ukraine, Mr Vance said there were better ways to protect peace than "20,000 troops from some random country that hasn't fought a war in 30 or 40 years".

But he dismissed backlash from across the pond as "absurdly dishonest" — insisting he was not referring to Britain, even though it is the only country besides France to suggest such peacekeeping efforts.

He wrote on X: "I don't even mention the UK or France in the clip, both of whom have fought bravely alongside the US over the last 20 years, and beyond. But let's be direct: there are many countries who are volunteering (privately or publicly) to support who have neither the battlefield experience nor the military equipment to do anything meaningful."

It was still seen as disrespectful to the 636 Brits who died in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ex-First Sea Lord Admiral Lord West said: "It is utterly disgraceful that Vance ignores that and says such things. He is a ghastly man, I am afraid."

A No10 spokesman said: "The Prime Minister, and I think this whole country, is full of admiration for British troops who served, for instance, in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Top Tories and Reform leader Nigel Farage also rebuked the Vice President for his comment.

The Sun Says — Page Ten

An insult to 600 killed

By **ANDY McNAB**
SAS Gulf War hero

JD Vance may have served four years in the US Marine Corps but he went to Afghanistan only as a journalist.

His comments that the UK is "some random country that hasn't fought a war in 30 or 40 years" are an insult to the 600 men and women who have been killed on active duty.

I'd like Mr Vance to come to the UK and read the names on the memorials of those who have died, particularly the ones that shed their blood in the desert alongside the Americans.

erals deal with the US but was kicked out of the White House after the row. Yesterday, however, he said: "Regarding the agreement on minerals and security, Ukraine is ready to sign it in any time and in any convenient format."

"We see this agreement as a step toward greater security and solid security guarantees, and I truly hope it will work effectively."

No10 revealed that Sir Keir Starmer spoke to Mr Trump on Monday night but within hours it emerged that the US administration was stopping the flow of military aid to Ukraine.

Deputy Prime Minister Angela

Rayner said: "We are absolutely focused on making sure that we get that peace and the security guarantees as part of that."

"We won't be derailed or sidelined by commentary, ongoing commentary, but we will use our relationship, our long-standing relationship, with the US and our European allies to support Ukraine and President Zelensky in getting that peace deal and making sure those securities are part of that."

Mr Zelensky said he was ready to return to the negotiating table to find peace to end the three-year war with Russia.

He added: "I would like to reiterate Ukraine's commitment to peace."

Later, in his nightly address, he said he had instructed officials to find out more on the suspension of aid, adding: "People should not be left to guess."

Meanwhile, Reform UK leader Nigel Farage stepped into the row, saying any fall-out between the US and Ukraine "only helps Putin".

He said that he hopes Sir Keir can "use his new role to bring the two together and soon".

The PM and Mr Zelensky yesterday held their first phone call since the weekend summit of European leaders.

Afterwards, the Ukraine leader

said: "We discussed the current developments and exchanged views on the next steps. We are co-ordinating our positions and doing everything to achieve guaranteed peace as soon as possible and bring an end to this war."

"Peace is needed for all of us. A just peace with clear security guarantees. Together with the leadership of the US and all of Europe, this is absolutely achievable."

"I am grateful for the advice and support during this challenging time. We will always remember everything the British people have done for Ukrainians and our shared security."

jerome.starkey@thesun.co.uk

TO SERVING WARSHIP

By MATT WILKINSON, Royal Editor

THE King made a flying visit to a Royal Navy aircraft carrier on manoeuvres yesterday.

Charles was taken out to HMS Prince of Wales in the Channel — the first time in nearly 40 years that a reigning monarch has joined a Navy warship at sea.

His trip was in his role as the Honorary Commodore-in-Chief Aircraft Carriers before the £3billion vessel sails on an eight-month tour to Japan and Australia to bolster defences in the Indo-Pacific region.

King Charles, who served in the Navy in the 1970s, got a guard of honour and watched F-35B Lightning fighters landing.

His Majesty told personnel gathered in the aircraft carrier's hangar: "Your deployment comes amidst new challenges in an ever-changing and more unpredictable world."

"Your work helps to ensure the safety and prosperity of the United Kingdom, our allies and our partners."

"I can only say I take immense pride in you — the men and women who bring this vessel to life with such indomitable spirit — for your vital service on behalf of us all."

Commanding officer Captain Will Blackett said: "It was a great honour. I was able to show him first hand that HMS Prince of Wales is at high readiness, standing by to deliver for the UK when ordered."

On bridge... King with Capt Blackett & chatting to crew



THE Sun SAYS

BBC doc sham

BBC viewers – currently forced by law to hand over £169 a year for a TV licence – have been sickened by the Gaza documentary scandal.

The Corporation isn't just guilty of misleading the public. It actually handed over cash to the family of an official at Hamas, an evil terrorist organisation.

Yesterday the BBC's chairman Samir Shah said the sorry saga is a "dagger to the heart" of its claim to be impartial.

No other broadcaster or heavily-regulated newspaper would get away with such a debacle.

Yet the BBC is holding only a lengthy, low-key "internal review."

Accountability remains negligible.

During the same appearance before MPs, Mr Shah said he is "troubled" by the forced prosecution of non-payers of the licence fee, often in secret courts.

As it lurches from fiasco to shameful fiasco, shouldn't the Government be asking some serious questions of its own about the BBC's future?

Sick pay

TO the surprise of absolutely no one, vile paedophile Huw Edwards has refused to hand back part of his salary to the BBC.

Thanks to staggering incompetence from his bosses, the shamed star earned £200,000 **AFTER** he was arrested over child sex images.

The ex-presenter has since been living off his £300,000-a-year, gold-plated BBC pension.

Yesterday it was revealed that Edwards – displaying the classic control moves of the true narcissist – had initially indicated he might be willing to reimburse the public, only to change his mind and keep all the money.

We expect nothing better from a man who exploited the suffering of children and betrayed his family and admirers.

But, as with the Gaza shambles, we do have a right to expect the BBC not to be so inept at their viewers' expense.

Lest U.S. forget

THE US Vice President provoked a huge backlash yesterday after appearing to suggest that Britain had not fought a war for 30 years.

JD Vance later backtracked, claiming his reference to "random countries with 20,000 troops" was not aimed at the Brits.

For the avoidance of doubt, let us spell out the sacrifices made by Britain since the horrors of 9/11 in 2001.

In Afghanistan, 457 of our brave troops died fighting the Taliban.

Another 179 were killed fighting insurgency in Iraq.

Each hero died for causes led by an American president.

They should never be forgotten – least of all by our friends in the US.

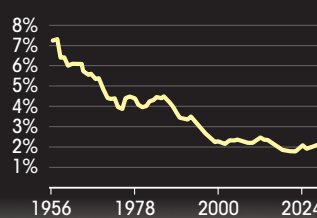
AS THE WORLD TURNS ON ITS HEAD

Defence spending

£ billions, adjusted to today's prices

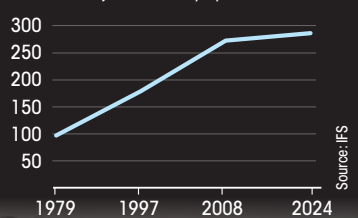


% of GDP



Social Security spending

£ billions, adjusted to today's prices



We need national security, not social security



SOLDIERING ON . . .
a British infantryman on Nato exercise in Romania last month

Europe has **7%** of the world's population but consumes **50%** of global spending on welfare

THE house of illusions has collapsed. The politics of fantasy are over.

For decades, the ruling elites of Britain and Europe have lived in a cocoon of irresponsibility.

They contracted out the defence of their realm to the US, while they postured on the global stage as green saviours of the planet and imposed their cherished theories about open borders and multiculturalism.

We are paying a terrible price for this decadence, as social solidarity breaks down and national identities are eroded.

Ours has been the age of make-believe economics in which essential industries are neglected but vast sums of taxpayers' money are squandered on lavish benefit systems and bloated state bureaucracies.

One graphic indicator of these warped priorities can be seen in the shocking revelation that Europe accounts for just seven per cent of the world's population and only 25 per cent of its output, yet it consumes more than 50 per cent of global welfare expenditure.

Less victimhood

But the fall-out from the Ukraine war has provided an injection of harsh reality.

In his dramatic rejection of traditional US foreign policy, President Donald Trump has made clear that he has no interest in paying for Europe's defence any longer.

The protection of US manufacturing through tariffs is of far more concern to him than the protection of European territory through military support.

Indeed, so many of the assumptions about Western co-operation have now crumbled.

Trump's belief in "America First" is a wrecking ball aimed at the transatlantic alliance that governed strategy since the end of the Second World War.

Similarly, after the row over whether or not Vice-President JD Vance had Britain in mind when he sneered about "a random country that has not fought a war for 30 or 40 years," the special relationship now looks to be on life-support.

Europe will have to stand on its own feet, and that is going to require a radical change right across our society, with more valour and less victimhood, more self-reliance and less self-indulgence.

A bold reset in the way we manage everything from our borders to our



By **LEO MCKINSTRY**

economy is needed. But given the Prime Minister's pledge to support Ukraine with boots on the ground and planes in the air, the first task will be a massive expansion of our Armed Forces.

The British establishment likes to blather about the importance of "soft power" in extending British influence across the world.

But the blood-soaked conflict on Europe's eastern frontier exposes the emptiness of that wishful thinking.

This is a moment for robustness, not more softness.

At a strength of just 74,000, our Army is at its smallest size since the beginning of the 19th Century, and that total is far too low to make a meaningful contribution to the fight in Ukraine.

At least the Government has promised to slash the foreign aid budget to provide an extra £13billion a year to the defence budget, but ministers will have to go much further.

It is also vital that in the drive for growth, the Ministry of Defence drops its fixation with diversity, which has done so much damage to recruitment, morale and effectiveness.

In one outrageous recent case, the RAF imposed a temporary ban on applications from white men.

This blatant discrimination was eventually declared unlawful, but the saga



BACK TO WORK . . . UK needs to get grafting

gave an insight into the twisted attitudes that exist in the top brass, who seem to view our defenders as a vehicle for social engineering.

Attracting new recruits will also require a return to traditional patriotism in place of the institutionalised denigration of our heritage. One recent survey found that just 11 per cent of Gen Z would be willing to fight for their country, but that should hardly be a surprise given that official woke propaganda paints Britain as a racist, oppressive country with a vicious colonialist past.

National pride should be restored and so should our industrial base.

We were the country that pioneered the Industrial Revolution and we can be the innovators and makers again. But to do so we will have to be competitive.

That means dropping the disastrous Net Zero green agenda, which has pushed energy prices artificially high and accelerated the process of deindustrialisation.

Perverse incentives

It also means building a better-trained workforce by shifting focus away from the university sector which has failed to provide the nation with the skills we need.

In the new, self-reliant Britain, we can no longer afford luxury, dogmatic beliefs like the green agenda, or the nonsensical claim that "diversity is our strength".

Nor can we afford the gargantuan welfare state which now, including pensions, swallows over £303billion a year, yet provides perverse incentives to mass unemployment.

There are more than nine million people of working age who are economically inactive, a spectacular waste of resources and human talent.

The lavish reach of the benefits system also acts as a magnet for many immigrants to this country.

Contrary to all the claims from the woke brigade about newcomers doing the jobs that Britons refuse, just 17 per cent of all those who arrived here from outside the EU in the past two years actually came here to work.

The unceasing waves of migration are not just a drain on the economy but also a potential source of crime and terrorism.

The problem is another illustration of why we must become keener on real security rather than social security.

We have come through crises before. We can do so again.

SWIMWEAR KIM ZEBRA BOSSING

By AMIR RAZAVI

SHAPELY Kim Kardashian proves to the world that she has earned her fashion stripes as she soaks up the sun in a stylish swimsuit.

The American socialite, 44, relaxed on a beach in the Caribbean in a zebra print bikini — before showing off a light blue number.

Both were examples of the latest swimwear available through the US businesswoman's brand, Skims.

Three-times married Kim travelled to Barbados to promote the line for the company which is worth a reported £3.1billion. She founded it just six years ago.

These snaps should ensure her fans go coco-nuts for the range...



Picture: SKIMS



My Dyer choices

ACTOR Danny Dyer has taken a swipe at his own career — describing most of his films as “s***te”.

He said he could not afford to be picky in his early days so “said yes to everything”.

The former EastEnders star, 47, said: “I started to make really s***te films.

“I would say I’ve made nearly 50 films and I’ve probably made about eight good ones.”

He said Human Traffic, The Football Factory, The Business and Mean Machine were all decent.

Ted talks potatoes

SINGER Teddy Swims served up a treat for his fans yesterday — with a surprise visit to TikTok sensation Spudman.

The American star — at the Brits at the weekend — was seen dishing out jacket potatoes from the van in Tamworth, Staffs.

The stunt attracted 2,000 people ahead of his gig in Birmingham.

Teddy, 32, said: “It’s so cool, I’m having a blast.”

He said Brum reminded him of home in Georgia, adding: “This is like the rednecks of the UK.”

FEARS DESPITE £2BN SALES

FAT JABS BATTER GREGGS

By ASHLEY ARMSTRONG

BAKERY chain

Greggs is considering smaller portion sizes as weight-loss injections are reducing people’s appetites.

Chief executive Roisin Currie said food and drink companies are having to look at the rising use of fat jabs such as Wegovy and Mounjaro.

She said that although users were eating less, “they still need to eat, so we are considering offering even more healthier choices”.

Ms Currie said: “We are considering smaller portions and we are talking about that and we are moving at pace.”

She also said there was huge demand for more protein and chicken options, which could also be linked to the weight-loss jabs.

In response Greggs has already added popcorn chicken and goujons, with more poultry-based snacks on



Sizeable sales... bakery Greggs

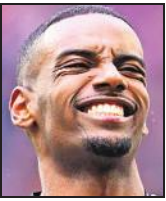
the way. But despite offering more healthy menu options, Ms Currie said the classic sausage roll was still Greggs’ biggest seller.

The chain yesterday revealed it had smashed the £2billion sales milestone for the first time last year.

It means a £20.5million bonus will be shared among the 26,400 employees who qualify as part of its commitment to hand back ten per cent of profits to staff.

ashley.armstrong@the-sun.co.uk

Store considers smaller portions as appetites fall



Striker... Alexander

Ace Isak 'targeted in Italian Job raid'

By SAM CREED

PREMIER League star Alexander Isak was targeted by a family of burglars who carried out a series of high-value raids, jurors were told.

The Newcastle United and Sweden forward was the third victim of the gang, who had already stolen £1million of jewellery and clothes from a Tyneside businesswoman.

Three members of the same family, living in Italy, have admitted conspiracy to commit burglary, Newcastle crown court heard.

But a fourth, Valentino Nikolov, 32, denies the charge and is on trial.

Dan Cordey, prosecuting, said the gang arrived in the UK via a ferry from Calais to Dover in a Citroen C3 and a Ford motorhome last March.

He alleged the car was used to drive to targeted properties and they slept in the motorhome. The trial continues.



Dangers... surgery

Brit ma's botched arm tuck tragedy

By SAM CREED

A BRIT mum who flew to Turkey for cosmetic surgery died after her wounds failed to heal.

An inquest heard that Anne Towlson, 58, planned to have a tummy tuck and liposuction in Istanbul last April.

But in a "last-minute decision", she also agreed to have an arm tuck.

Ms Towlson complained afterwards that her arm was hurting and a hand was seeping clear liquid.

Medics put eight drains in her. She was later given antibiotics and anti-inflammatories and flew back to Manchester.

Ms Towlson was found dead two weeks later.

A post-mortem was inconclusive. But Isobel Thistlethwaite, assistant coroner for Rutland and North Leicestershire, said the death "was caused or contributed to by the cosmetic surgery."

She sent a Prevention of Future Deaths report to the Health Secretary.

MILLIE BOBBY BROWN HITS BACK



SPEAKING OUT... Instagram video and statement, top right



SHAMED... joker Matt apologised for his comment



IN THE PINK... with husband Jake Bongiovi in the outfit that prompted Matt Lucas's cruel post

By JACK HARDWICK
Senior Showbiz Reporter

IT was a striking new look that left many of her fans the world over wondering what was going on.

Strutting down the carpet at The Electric State premiere in LA last week was a very different Millie Bobby Brown from the gap-toothed youngster who shot to fame as Eleven in hit drama Stranger Things.

Some American fans wistfully suggested the 21-year-old Brit had aged prematurely and had transformed into a "soccer mom".

"Had to double-check if she turned 21 or 40," sniped one person on X. Others cruelly wondered if Millie, who sported newly dyed blonde hair and a figure-hugging £8,000 gown, had had surgery.

Comedian Matt Lucas likened her second outfit of the evening — a pink jacket with slippers and hoop earrings — to his Little Britain character Vicky Pollard, retweeting a picture of Millie with Vicky's famous catchphrase, "No but yeah but".

Yesterday, however, Millie blasted back at her detractors, including Matt. In a post on Instagram, she fumed: "Disillusioned people can't handle seeing a girl become a woman on her terms, not theirs."

'I will not be shamed'

"I refuse to apologise for growing up. I refuse to make myself smaller to fit the unrealistic expectations of people who can't handle seeing a girl become a woman."

"I will not be shamed for how I look, how I dress, or how I present myself."

She also let rip at people leaping on Matt's catty remark, claiming by doing so they were "amplifying an insult rather than questioning why a grown man is mocking a young woman's appearance."

In her long Instagram video, which has since been liked by more than two million people, Millie hit out at critics for suggesting she should be "frozen in time".

She seethed: "I think it's necessary to speak up about this. I started in this industry when I was ten years old. I grew up in front of the world, and for some reason people can't seem to grow with me."

"Instead, they act like I'm supposed to stay frozen in time, like I should still look the way I did on Stranger Things season one. And because I don't, I'm now a target."

"We have become a society where it's so much easier to criticise than it is to pay a compliment."

"Why is the knee-jerk reaction to

Why can't people handle seeing a girl become a woman? I refuse to apologise for growing up

say something horrible rather than to say something nice? If you have a problem with that, I have to wonder, 'What is it that actually makes you so uncomfortable?'

"Let's do better. Not just for me, but for every young girl who deserves to grow up without fear of being torn apart for simply existing."

Embarrassed Matt — no stranger to remarks about his own appearance — was quick to apologise, taking to his own Instagram page to say sorry for any hurt caused.

After an attempt to explain the significance of his catchphrase quote, he added: "I thought you looked terrific. I would not have posted it if I had thought it would have upset you, but I realise it has and for that I apologise."

Millie's post quickly attracted support from some of the world's biggest

stars. Sex And The City actress Sarah Jessica Parker commented: "Enormously proud of you. xxx."

F1 ace Lewis Hamilton wrote: "So truly proud of you Millie."

British singer Pixie Lott replied: "You are a true class act and I hate that you or any young woman in the spotlight has to deal with this."

"So utterly ridiculous this happens — you are always beyond beautiful inside and out and a million things that should be celebrated and never torn down xxx. What a crazy world, Love u Millie."

Millie is having something of a moment as she blossoms into a fully fledged member of Hollywood's A-list.

The Electric State, the sci-fi comedy drama she was promoting when the row erupted, sees her in the lead role alongside Chris Pratt. Woody Harrelson and Stanley Tucci also star

in the Netflix movie, which will be released on the streamer in the UK on March 14.

Over her time on Stranger Things, her pay has rocketed from around £8,000 per episode for season one in 2016 to around £10million all in for the fifth and final season, due out this year.

She is already reported to be worth £11million, having also starred in two instalments of the Enola Holmes films, in 2020 and 2022, where she plays the teenage sister of Victorian detective Sherlock Holmes. She also landed a role in Godzilla: King Of The Monsters in 2019 and starred in Netflix film Damsel last year.

This is not the first time Millie has come under fire for her appearance.

After being bizarrely accused of looking like a 65-year-old as she promoted Enola Holmes, she used

OVER NASTY JIBES AT HER LOOKS



GOWN AND OUT
... Millie's new look at LA movie launch that sparked the criticism



2016
... as Eleven in season one of *Stranger Things*



JAN 2017
Screen Actors Guild Awards



OCT 2017
Live discussion on *Stranger Things*



2018
Stranger Things series 2 screening



2019
Beauty Inc. awards in New York



2020
Screen Actors Guild Awards



2022
Enola Holmes 2 premiere



2023
Glamour Women of the Year awards



2024
Launch of Netflix film *Damsel*

'They act like I should stay frozen in time. Let's do better. Not just for me but for every young girl who deserves to grow without being torn apart for simply existing'

Instagram to blast back: "Women grow!! Not sorry about it!"

Rumours have swirled that she has had everything from a nose job and lip fillers to veneers and even a boob job.

One plastic surgeon, Dr Paul Branwell, suggested last week: "Her cheekbones appear higher and her lips appear fuller, which could be the result of filler." She has never addressed the claims.

A lot has changed since Millie — who presented *Sabrina Carpenter* with the Global Success Award at the Brit Awards on the weekend — made her acting debut.

As well as revamping her image in recent months, she is also now married. In May last

year, *The Sun* revealed how she and Jake Bongiovi, who is the son of US rocker Jon Bon Jovi, had secretly tied the knot.

The couple wed in a low-key ceremony in America in front of close friends and family.

Millie and Jake, 22, a model, started dating in 2021.

Jake popped the question in spring 2023 by hiding a ring inside a shell during a scuba dive.

Jake's dad defended their decision to get married young and said they reminded him of when he and his wife Dorothea married in 1989, having met as teenagers.

Jon previously said of Millie: "I've gotten to know her in the last year, she works really hard and she and Jake will grow together in their own way."

"It is an accelerated version of

what I went through 40 years ago and I think, with the support of family around them, they're going to be great together."

Millie's dramatic new look comes after she openly spoke about wanting to play one-time pop princess Britney Spears in the singer's upcoming biopic.

Like Millie, Britney was also a child star who grew up in front of the world's media.

The singer also faced a backlash after sexing up her image as she moved into adulthood.

Millie told *The Drew Barrymore Show*: "I think her story resonates with me, growing up in the public eye."

They have both had their battles to face, but as her Instagram pushback shows, if anyone can cope with the struggle, Millie can.

NHS 'SUPER-PILL' FOR ALL OVER 50

ALL over-50s should get a four-in-one super-pill on the NHS to slash their risk of a stroke or heart attack, scientists say.

A polypill lowers blood pressure and cholesterol together and might cost as little as 30p a go.

Experts claim it could stop 80 per cent of the 200,000 strokes and heart attacks suffered in the

By **SAM BLANCHARD**

UK every year. The pill works by combining some of the UK's most common meds including a statin and calcium channel blocker.

Millions of older people already take them as separate prescriptions.

A team led by University College London said millions more could start taking the pill earlier to head off future woes.

Their report in the Brit-

ish Medical Journal said just eight per cent of over-50s need to take them for it to work better than the current NHS mid-life MoT scheme.

Prof Sir Nicholas Wald already runs a private service offering the pills, and he estimates it would cost the NHS 30p to 40p per patient per day.

He said in the report: "We have the means to prevent most heart attacks and strokes — many more than are currently being prevented."

80% of 200,000 heart attacks and strokes could be stopped



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- 2 Go to Offers, click Start Collecting on the Jet2holidays page.
- 3 Collect five Sun Savers codes, we will print one daily until March 13. You can find today's on page 24.
- 4 Enter or scan your five codes on the app or website by midnight on Friday, March 14.

OR Join Sun Club for £1.99 and you can enter without the need to collect any codes. Go to thesun.co.uk/club to sign up.

Terms and conditions: 18+ UK residents only (exc. NI, Isle of Man & Channel Islands). Multiple code collect March 1 to March 13. Online access required. Entry closes 11.59pm on March 14. Depart April 5, return April 12, 2025, only, flying from a selected number of UK airports used by Jet2. Prize is a place on a group trip. Maximum of two adults and two children (up to age 12). Ts&Cs apply, see sunsavers.co.uk or club. thesun.co.uk/sun-club. Sun Club: £1.99 per month for 12 months, £4.99 thereafter. T&Cs apply, see thesun.co.uk/club.



Hugs ... James Stunt

Stunt is clear on cash for gold rap

By SAM CREED

SOCIALITE James Stunt was yesterday cleared of taking part in a £200million money launder plot. A jury decided the former son-in-law of FI tycoon Bernie Ecclestone was not involved in turning criminal cash into untraceable gold.

The 43-year-old had been accused of allowing his posh London office to be used as "a trusted hub for money laundering".

Prosecutors said "dirty money" was brought to the Mayfair base and two other sites from across Britain from 2014 to 2016.

It was used to buy gold shipped to Dubai. But Mr Stunt insisted he never suspected he was entering a "criminal agreement".

Four other defendants were convicted of laundering and will be sentenced at a later date.

Mr Stunt, divorced from Mr Ecclestone's daughter Petra, hugged family outside Leeds crown court.



'Caring' ... Annabel

Mother's charged on pond tot death

By ALEX WEST

THE mother of a toddler who died after being found in a village pond has been charged with her murder.

Alice Mackey, 42, was remanded in custody yesterday and will appear before JPs in Basingstoke, Hants, today.

Two-year-old Annabel Mackey was reported missing from her home in the Hampshire village of Kingsley on September 10, 2023.

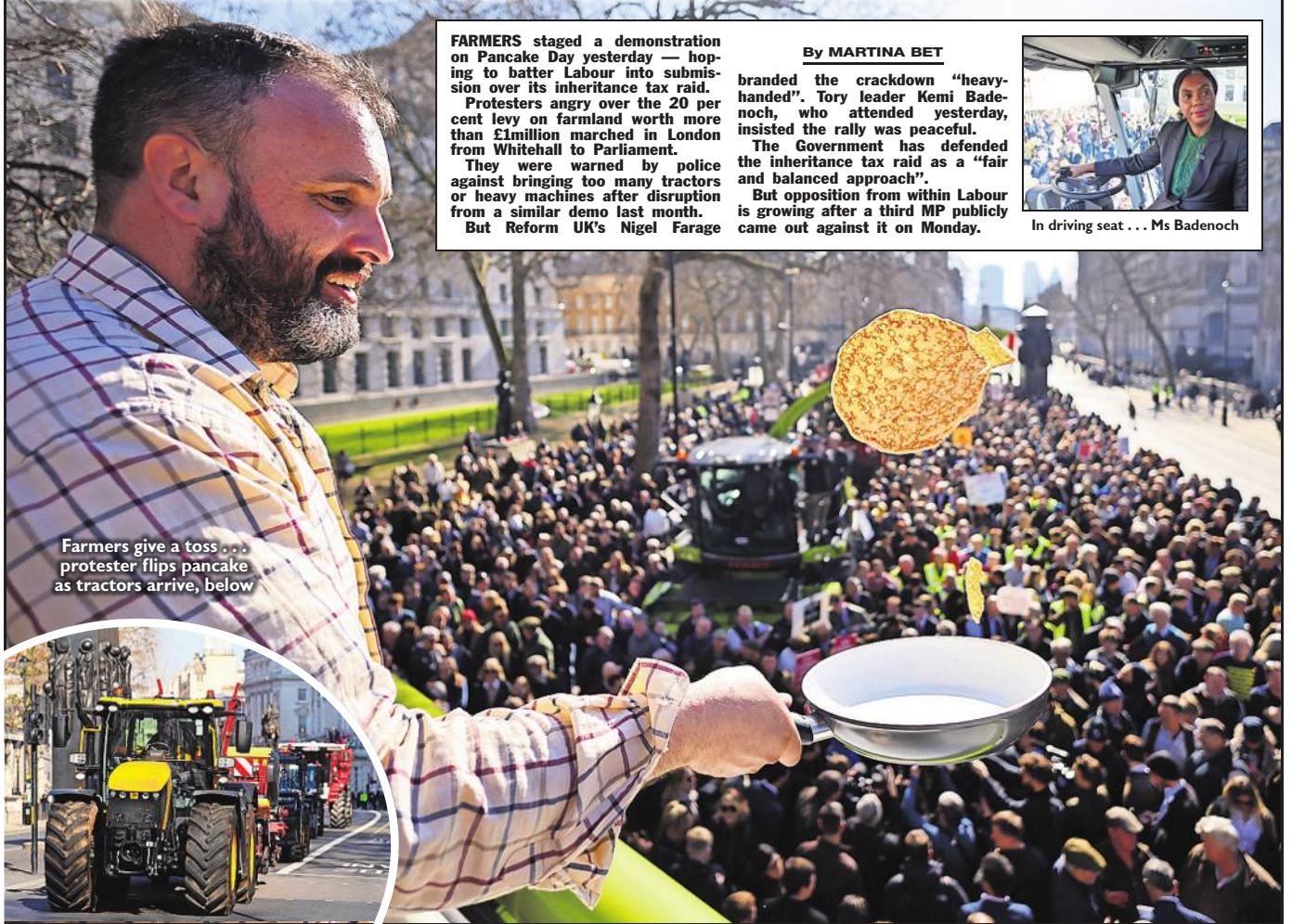
She was discovered lying in a pond half a mile away from her £600,000 family home.

The toddler died in hospital the next day.

In a statement released via Hampshire Police, her father Peter Mackey said: "Annabel was a beautiful, positive and very happy little girl."

"She had an incredibly pure and caring nature that we miss so much. "She loved story time, dogs and her dolly."

FARMERS FLIPPIN' MAD



FARMERS staged a demonstration on Pancake Day yesterday — hoping to batter Labour into submission over its inheritance tax raid.

Protesters angry over the 20 per cent levy on farmland worth more than £1million marched in London from Whitehall to Parliament.

They were warned by police against bringing too many tractors or heavy machines after disruption from a similar demo last month. But Reform UK's Nigel Farage

By MARTINA BET

branded the crackdown "heavy-handed". Tory leader Kemi Badenoch, who attended yesterday, insisted the rally was peaceful.

The Government has defended the inheritance tax raid as a "fair and balanced approach".

But opposition from within Labour is growing after a third MP publicly came out against it on Monday.



In driving seat ... Ms Badenoch

Farmers give a toss ... protester flips pancake as tractors arrive, below



CROSSBOW MURDERER ON TRIAL

FIEND'S 'FINAL ACT OF SPITE'

By MIKE SULLIVAN

A CROSSBOW killer raped and murdered his former girlfriend in a "violent, sexual act of spite", a court was told yesterday.

Jilted Kyle Clifford, 26, held Louise Hunt, 25, captive for almost three hours after deceiving his way into her family home.

He had stabbed her mum Carol, 61, to death with a butcher's knife before he bound and gagged Louise. After alleg-



Court snub ... Clifford

edly raping her, he shot her dead with a crossbow and used the weapon to kill her sister Hannah, 28, in Bushey, Herts, on July 9 last year. Clifford was captured the next day at a cemetery in Enfield, North London.

The three women were the wife and daughters of BBC racing commentator John Hunt. He was at Cam-

bridge crown court yesterday as jurors heard the killings came a fortnight after Louise had ended her 18-month relationship with ex-soldier Clifford.

He had sent her a message saying: "I am not going to take s*** from you."

He had ordered a crossbow online on July 3, as well as a knife, rope and duct tape.

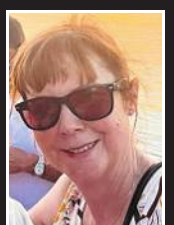
Prosecutor Alison Morgan KC said: "The defendant planned a terrible attack on Louise and her family, enraged as he was by her rejection of

him. That attack included an act of sexual violence, committed out of spite, when she was restrained and unable to escape from him."

Ms Morgan said forensic tests on Louise showed "beyond all reasonable doubt that penetrative sexual activity took place".

Clifford pleaded guilty in January to the three murders, false imprisonment and possessing the crossbow and knife.

But he denies raping Louise and refused to appear in court. The trial continues.



Victims ... from the top, Louise, Hannah, Carol

EXCLUSIVE NEW MEMBERSHIP



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Jane Moore



Meghan's piffling show grates long before the lemon zester comes out

STRAIGHT from The Duchess of Sussex's very own play-book, Netflix has attempted to "take something ordinary and elevate it".

But if I may use a soufflé analogy for this schmaltsy serving of supposedly original television, then it arrived in our living rooms full of fluffy promise before swiftly collapsing in a gloopy heap of "I told you so" as all the hot air slowly seeped through its sides.

A Martha Stewart for the modern age was perhaps the aim of this eight-part series called *With Love, Meghan*, but the content was as predictable as Sir Rod Stewart donning a kilt to sing *Auld Lang Syne* – and far less entertaining.

For despite her acting history, royal connections and obvious beauty, Meghan Markle just doesn't have the crucial component you need when selling an idea to the viewing public... authenticity. "I feel this is all fake," says her "bestie" and make-up artist Daniel Martin in the first episode.

OK, so he is referring to the stunning mountain backdrop as they enjoy afternoon tea in the back garden of the rented house Meghan films in, but I feel he inadvertently speaks for anyone who manages to endure the full 37 minutes.

Thankfully, I watched it as soon as it dropped at 8am. Had it been 8pm, I'd have nodded off at the first sign of Meghan making home-made bath salts for Daniel's sleepover.

Much is made of their closeness, yet curiously she doesn't know that he is left-handed, asks if he likes tomatoes, and feels the need to label the peanut butter pretzel snack she is putting on his guest bedroom tray because "you always want to be conscious if someone has a nut allergy".

But it rapidly becomes clear that Daniel is there to be a useful idiot who coos and wows every time Meghan does something as basic as making a "par-sta", as she calls it.

She cuts up raw vegetables for him and arranges them so they are "colourful and joyful," whatever that means, and he obliges with a reaction that suggests he is viewing the *Sistine Chapel* for the very first time.

WHEN she serves up the spaghetti, he acts like an alien who has just landed on Planet Earth after a lifetime of eating *Smash*. "Ooh, this looks soooo good!"

And don't get me started on the cake.

I swear to God I made something similar for my CSE cookery exam in 1980 and got a C. But Daniel acts like Meghan has invented the wheel when she slices off the top to level it out for icing.

"Can you eat that?" he asks.

Of course you can, duh. It's cake.

Daniel's breathless incre-

SCHMALTSY
... Meghan on
new Netflix
lifestyle show



FAWNING
... with
pal Daniel

OH, HONEY
... Meghan in
beekeeper
outfit

'AMAZED'
... Mindy
offers praise

when his subjects know that he is walking naked down the street, but go along with the pretence because they don't want to appear stupid, and it takes a child to blurt out the truth.

"Even when I get take-out, I will try to plate it beautifully," she purrs.

Truly, we're not worthy.

We learn that Harry and Archie are keen on fried eggs (hold the front page) and that she loves "making breakfast for my family".

"When I'm cooking bacon, my kitchen very immediately becomes full of my husband and three dogs... my bacon brings all my boys to the yard."

How very trad wife.

She tells us she listens to a lot of Seventies soft rock, a lot of "yacht rock" (nope, me neither) and "French dinner music" (sorry, lost me again) and dons a full beekeeper suit to watch a professional harvest honey from the apiary in the garden. As you do.

And what about the food? Fresh fruit laid out like a rainbow (seen a zillion times on TikTok etc), salt-baked branzino (seabass to you and me), Korean fried chicken, homemade coffee creamer and "sun tea". Well, it was never going to be PG Tips, was it?

FEEDING people, she tells us, is her "love language". I'm sure I read that on a bumper sticker once.

Just in case it all seems a little out of our league, Meghan shows us how to make grocery store flowers look "stunning and high-end" and that hand-writing our menus "adds a personal touch".

Next she will be telling us that onions make your eyes water.

"When you've had kids, you're used to balancing things on your hip," she says.

"We have a lot of arnica in my house. Toddler life! Lots of bumps and bruises," she adds later.

All of which is standard fare that could be overheard at any mother and baby group the world over, so when it is served up via a multi-million dollar TV deal, it feels insulting to viewer intelligence.

Then, of course, there is the elephant in the rented room. Is Meghan a deeply private individual who just wants to be left alone?

Or is she a public figure who gives tantalising morsels of her family life to lure us in to buying the latest version of herself that she is selling us?

Her husband Harry makes a brief appearance in the final episode, as part of a gathering of friends praying at the altar of Meghan's hospitality.

As someone more accustomed to seeing the finished product arrive upstairs from "downstairs" after being prepared by a team of chefs, he perhaps finds Meghan's fondness for home cooking revelatory.

Whether the rest of the world shares that view remains to be seen in the all-important ratings that will determine whether there is a second series of this oleaginous offering.

dulity, coupled with linen-swathed Meghan's sing-song tone and faux humility at her marvellousness, makes this performative piffle grate long before the lemon zester comes out.

It is beautifully lit and the expert camerawork makes everything look like an M&S food ad on steroids, but never has the phrase "style over substance" been so apt.

For quite frankly there is nothing here that we haven't seen a million times before...and done better by true experts. Sure,

Meghan once had a lifestyle blog called *The Tig*, which lasted just under three years before she closed it with a statement that suggested its demise was up there with Jeff Bezos pulling the plug on Amazon.

But I could chuck a Cath Kidston tablecloth down Notting Hill high street and capture at least a dozen influencers who do this kind of thing for a living, so why haven't they been rewarded with a highly lucrative Netflix deal?

Because they are not

married to a British prince, stoopid. Even one as devalued as Harry.

To be honest, even if her home tips were fresh, original and revelatory, the mere suggestion that people have the time or money to harvest their own honey or make bath salts is pretty jarring when many are struggling to put food on the table.

Dear reader, I only managed one episode in its entirety, such was my copy deadline.

But I skimmed through the others to check that

they were all similar in style and tone, and it seems they are.

From actress Mindy Kaling plumbing the depths of her thespian talents to exclaim, "You're kidding me" when Meghan says she has made her a frittata, to other friends responding to her every utterance as though Billy Connolly himself was in their midst, it is clear that every guest is there to pay homage to the Duchess of Sussex's, er, extraordinary talents.

It is all reminiscent of the Emperor's New Clothes

100 flags for Trust

STAFF from more than 100 different countries are working at a single NHS trust.

The Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust employs people from more than half of all the world's countries.

Its employment chief Hannah Foster said: "By recruiting people from around the world, they can help us address long waits and meet patient needs."

Since 2022, more than 60 per cent of direct care workers have been foreign-born.

LOST FOR WORDS

Nearly 1M people in England can't speak English

800K
admit they can't
speak English well,
while 140K can't
speak it at all

ALMOST one million people in England speak little to no English — causing concerns over migrants' integration.

Official statistics show that ten per cent of residents born overseas struggle with the language.

The majority of migrants aged over 16 are able to speak English, with 51.6 per cent stat-

EXCLUSIVE by JACK ELSOM

ing it as their main language, and 38.4 per cent saying they can speak it well.

But 8.6 per cent — equal to 794,332 people — "cannot speak English well"

And 1.4 per — equal to 137,876 — cannot speak it at all.

The startling figures have fuelled demands for stricter integration requirements.

Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp said: "It beggars

belief that so many people in the country can't speak English.

It shows Labour needs to get a grip on immigration, and fast."

The data was disclosed to the Tories by the UK Statistics Authority last month using figures from the 2021 Census when the party was still in power.

Party leader Kemi Badenoch has previously criticised the record of successive governments on integration.

Some visas require proof of English language proficiency,

including those coming on skilled worker or study tickets.

It was recently revealed the Department for Work and Pensions spent £27million on translators in the past five years.

PM Sir Keir Starmer has pledged to slash net migration by requiring bosses to train more home-grown workers rather than hiring from abroad.

He is due to unveil his blueprint to cut arrival numbers in the coming months.

jack.elsom@thesun.co.uk

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**HELLIDAY
RESORT**



**...BUT BRITAIN HAS
SPRING IN ITS STEP**

By CHRISTOPHE DOMEK

CARS are submerged and even washed away by flood waters which have devastated the Canary Islands.

Authorities in Telde, Gran Canaria, warned locals to stay indoors following Biblical levels of rainfall at the weekend.

The holiday hotspot later saw snowfall, caused by weather depression seen at high altitudes.

It meant any Brit holidaymakers would be better off enjoying the spring weather back home like in Sidmouth, Devon, yesterday, right.





Death fall... Payne

Liam pal: I refused his drug demand

By AMIR RAZAVI

A PAL of Liam Payne says the singer pestered him for drugs on the night he died — but he insists he refused to help. Business associate Rogelio Norez was speaking publicly for the first time since being cleared of the One Direction star's manslaughter last week.

The Argentinian said: "When he was like that, Liam would ask 40million people for drugs."

"He asked me but I never gave him anything. I never tried drugs. But he managed to get them."

Liam, 31, died in a fall from his hotel balcony in Buenos Aires in October. Two hotel workers face charges of supplying him cocaine but Mr Norez was cleared by a judge who said it was not his duty to keep him off drugs.

Mr Norez insisted Liam was fine the last time he saw him, adding: "It was impossible to think everything was going to end the way it did."



With Carl... Dolly

Parton in tribute as husband Carl dies

By ED SOUTHGATE

COUNTRY music superstar Dolly Parton has paid tribute to her husband Carl Dean following his death aged 82.

Dolly, 79, who married intensely private Dean in 1966, wrote: "Words can't do justice to the love we shared for over 60 years."

It was not said how Dean, who owned an asphalt business in Nashville, Tennessee, had died.

Dolly once revealed a bank worker who fancied him was the inspiration behind her "don't take my man" hit Jolene.

She said: "She got this terrible crush on my husband. He just loved going to the bank as she paid him so much attention."

Dolly said she met him outside a laundry in 1964.

She said: "I was surprised and delighted that he talked to me. He looked at my face (a rare thing for me)." She said he was her biggest fan "behind the scenes".

CARNIVAL GIRL IRIONA

By AMIR RAZAVI

STATELY Irina Shayk is the jewel in the crown as she prepares to take part in the Rio Carnival.

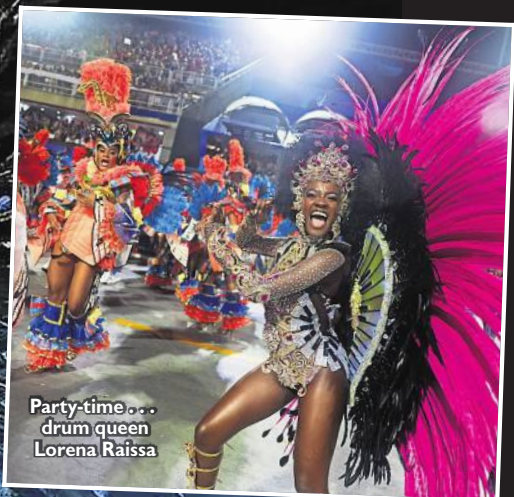
The Russian model, 39, dazzled in her barely-there blue costume in Brazil — and said it was a dream to have a chance to join in.

She described herself as "humbled" to be allowed to join the parade as well as "nervous and excited!"

Irina wrote: "What a great opportunity to be here, celebrating life and love!"

Her telling comment came amid reports she is back with American football great Tom Brady, 47.

They last dated in 2023, four years after her split from actor Bradley Cooper, 50, with whom she shares a daughter, Lea, seven.



Party-time... drum queen Lorena Raissa

THAT'S A CHRISTENING!

EXCLUSIVE by ALEX WEST

A MUM let her five-year-old son name her newborn baby — and he came up with "baby Jesus".

Lois Meads, 41, liked the idea — and used the Welsh spelling to call the new arrival Iesu.

She and partner Rhisiart Griffith, 36, also settled on the middle name Maahes — after the Greek god of war.

The couple love their choices — and older brother's Drago's involvement in naming him.

But they are aware it raises a few eyebrows in their home town in Denbighshire — where Welsh is widely spoken.

Lois said: "Everyone is quite shocked by his name to start with."

"I see them process and then say, 'I have never heard that.'"

Lois, a freelance photographer, and artist Rhisiart were keen to involve Drago, then five, in choosing his little brother's name when he was born two years ago.

Lois said: "I was speaking to Drago and said, 'What should we call the baby?'"

"He said, 'I think we should call him baby Jesus'. I was like, 'Hrm'. But we wanted him to feel included. 'In Welsh it is Iesu. I have never heard anybody called it. Everyone thought we were insane."

"Rhisiart really liked it straight away. He likes shocking people."

Their families were surprised by their choice — but could not have been happier when Iesu was born on March 9, 2022.

Lois, who says there are plenty of other unusual names in her family, picked his middle name in a nod to her love of Greek gods.

She said: "He's such a character. I couldn't imagine him with anything else."

The couple say it will be interesting when Iesu hears Welsh-speaking people using his name to swear.

Lois said: "People say 'Iesu' — like 'Jesus Christ'. 'Rhisiart would say it if he stubs his toe."

Figures suggest just a handful of babies in the UK are named Jesus each year.

But it is common in Spanish-speaking countries and widespread in the US.

OUR BABY JESUS



Happy family... Lois with Iesu and brother Drago

Mum lets son, 5 name little bruv

Picture: JOAOK

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PISTOLS KEEN FOR ROTTEN'S RETURN

A TRUCE has been called within the **SEX PISTOLS** as **STEVE JONES** says he is keen to make peace with **JOHN LYDON**.

Steve, who has been on tour with **PAUL COOK** and **GLEN MATLOCK**, with **FRANK CARTER** taking on Johnny Rotten's vocals, insists he is up for the punk legend to return.

He said: "It could happen. I've got no hard feelings towards John. It might not seem like that because I've not spoken to him since 2008.

I've been sober 34 years and I've learnt a lot about how to conduct myself. I don't want resentments – it's not healthy."

Among the band's dramas, John lost a legal action in 2021 to prevent Sex Pistols songs being featured in **DANNY BOYLE's** biographical TV series. Steve added of their tour: "We're just having a good time."

"From doing those shows last year in England, it's obvious people love it."

It's certainly food for thought for John.



RIFT... Johnny



OFFER... Steve

● **I AM told CHAPPELL ROAN** is more than likely to bag her first UK No1 on Friday with **Pink Pony Club**. The single came out in 2020 but is racing ahead of **KENDRICK LAMAR's Not Like Us**. On Monday, Official Charts data revealed the rapper was lagging behind by 1,300 sales.

● **TEDDY SWIMS** has made a refreshing admission – he can't afford to take paternity leave. The American singer, who is set to be away on tour when his partner is due to give birth in June, said: "If I stop touring, then we can't afford to have a baby."



bi

JUST GOOD FRIENDS... Sharon with ex Tim in 2018



IN SHARON LAND, LIFE'S HOTTING UP

SHE is one of the most in-demand women in showbiz, and **SHARON HORGAN** is getting as much attention off screen as she is on it.

A well-placed mole told me the actress and writer, who is the genius behind my favourite BBC TV show **Motherland** and its brilliant spin-off **Amandaland**, has grown close to a new man following her split from **THE CHARLATANS** frontman **TIM BURGESS**.

We revealed how the pair went their separate ways amicably earlier this year.

And now I am told that Sharon has caught the attention of **BARRY WARD** – and has visited him on the set of his new TV drama **Trespases**.

A friend told me: "Sharon is flying high in her career but her personal life is just as hot. "After things fizzled out with Tim, she caught the eye of Barry."

"They have worked on a few shows together, including **Dating Amber** and **Bad Sisters**, and they have been spending more time together recently."

"Everyone around them has commented on their chemistry, and Sharon and Barry certainly seem to be enjoying spending time together."

"Sharon is incredibly talented and is as bright as she is beautiful so it's no

surprise she caught his eye." We first revealed Sharon and Tim had become more than just good friends in 2022, having grown closer after her 2019 divorce.

But earlier this year insiders told us they had chosen to go their separate ways and they have since decided to remain good pals.

Barry's new TV show, **Trespases**, also stars **X Files** legend **GILLIAN ANDERSON**.

Adapted from the novel of the same name, it is a candid take on the religious tensions in Northern Ireland in the Seventies.

The love story sees a Catholic teacher and Protestant solicitor fall in love, as feelings in the region become increasingly hostile.

The show is nailed on to be a huge hit and I am sure it will give Sharon some inspiration.

She is currently writing a new drama for **Amazon Prime**.

With a schedule as busy as hers, I'm amazed she has got time to wash her hair, let alone go on a date.



VISITS... Barry

● **ONE of my favourite fellow journalists** has turned the cameras on herself.

AMELIA DIMOLDEN-BERG told **Cosmopolitan** UK, out Friday, she wouldn't mind catching the eye of one of her famous interviewees on **Chicken Shop Date**.

She said: "I love dating. If you meet someone and you fancy them, what's more fun than that?"

But she added: "There's a very small pool of men that would be suitable."



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ELLIE HENMAN'S

arrre

With
HOWELL
DAVIES
& JACK
HARDWICK

KATE WINSLET was left with bruises after filming a movie sex scene with **PATRICK WILSON**, he reckons.

Aquaman actor Patrick got intimate with Titanic star Kate for 2006 romantic drama Little Children.

American Patrick told the It Happened In Hollywood podcast: "Kate was so cool and gra-

cious and just a gamer – just like, 'Let's go for it'. There was never one awkward or weird moment. Never one. I loved it. I'm sure there were lots of bruises."

"Put it this way: I haven't done a scene like that since post-#MeToo and intimacy coordinators. I do feel a little bit like a dinosaur when it comes to those kind of love scenes."

A SETBACK FOR ED'S PLAY DATE

ED SHEERAN has confirmed his eighth album, *Play*, won't be coming quite as soon as fans may have hoped.

The Castle On The Hill singer says the record – his first since 2023's *Autumn Variations* – isn't due for at least another six months.



Updating his followers, Ed said: "New album, it will be in the autumn. But there will be new songs coming out very soon, very soon."

Ed, left, has been touring the globe since April 2022 thanks to his huge Mathematics world tour.

The global trek is due to end on September 7, after three nights in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Perfect timing for the new album, Ed. Who wants to take a break and put their feet up, anyway?



biz blinds

NAMING NO NAMES

A TELEVISION star was looking more youthful than ever when she was spotted at the Brit Awards.

The household name was showered with compliments about how good she looks and, boy, did she soak in those plaudits.

While [redacted] claims her taut face and neck are down to good genes, I'm told it is actually a top-secret facelift that has turned her into a real-life Benjamin Button.

If they stuck on in front of Artist Of The Year, she would definitely be winning.



Pictures: EROTEME.CO.UK

Tattoo pints, Yung?

I FIND a pint always helps when it comes to dealing with small pricks. And it seems **YUNGBLUD** agrees with me.

The punk rocker was spotted necking a Guinness as he got a new inking from Mark Mahoney.

The celebrity tattoo artist has previously worked with **ANGELINA JOLIE**, **DAVID BECKHAM** and **LANA DEL RAY**.

Mark put a wing design on Yungblud's shoulder during a late-night session in London.

Hopefully Mark, seen with Yungblud after he finished, right, abstained from joining the drinking session.

There are few things more embarrassing than a rubbish tatt.



Anitta's ready to rumble

ANITTA seems to have grappled for something to wear – appearing for all the world like an MMA fighter.

The Brazilian singer, who has collaborated with **RITA ORA** and **MADONNA**, wore the red and blue glittery bodysuit, with matching knee pads and gloves, for a gig in her homeland.

The performance in Sao Paulo came ahead of tomorrow's release of her Netflix documentary *Larissa: The Other Side Of Anitta*.

She said: "It's going to talk exactly about that – the part of me nobody knows, my true reality, my true self and me as Larissa, which is my real name, not Anitta. It's showing the real person behind the character and the image people see on stage."

CAMERAS ROLL WITH IT

Liam and Noel make gig movie

AS the saying goes, if you want a job done properly, do it yourself.

And it seems **NOEL** and **LIAM CALLAGHER** are doing just that after starting a new company to take control over a planned film about the **OASIS** comeback concerts.

I revealed in August that the brothers had production companies booting down their doors with huge offers.

But it looks like the pair, right, have chosen to keep things closer to home, as they have launched business Uprise North Ltd to oversee the film's creation and distribution.

Lucky fans who managed to get a ticket for the 17-date stadium tour this summer have now been told they will be filmed at certain shows, including the gig at Croke Park in Dublin on August 17.

A source said: "Noel and Liam's fractured relationship is properly mended and they're both fully committed to this tour."

"They had endless offers from companies wanting to make and distribute their come-

back film but by opening this new company, they appear to be taking total control.

"Noel and Liam set the narrative from the start on their comeback and they want to be in control of whatever happens during and after the shows."

"For them the focus remains on putting on the best show possible as Oasis."

"It has been a very long time coming and they do not want to disappoint."

Bit of jeopardy

In August I told you that streaming giants including Apple+ and Prime were keen to secure rights to the footage, with my insiders revealing that multiple bids had been put on the table.

Given the shows don't start until July 4, there is still plenty of time to weigh up the best offer. If I was Noel or Liam, I'd be holding out until the last possible moment to sign on the dotted line.

There's nothing like a bit of jeopardy to ramp up the bidding...



MEET THE TWO BEST PALS SET

Soldier's saved by a spaniel

By CHRISTOPHE DOMEQ

A FORMER soldier injured in a hiking fall told how a spaniel turned his life around and qualified for Crufts this week.

Rob McGill, 40, was left with limited mobility after taking the tumble in the Lake District last year.

He adopted nine-month-old cocker Islay and started training her.

Rob, from Newcastle, said: "Being ex-Forces it's always been hard to find something I really enjoy."

"My fall left me hospitalised with limited mobility. I was bedbound and looked into owning a dog. I never intended to show. But after seeing an event on Facebook we went with the intention of learning the basics."

"Beyond expectations, Islay was brilliant and we ended up qualifying for Crufts on her first outing."

Meanwhile, Poppy Coleby, 19 — who has physical and mental illnesses — said working with her Crufts spaniel Ara was "vital" in overcoming health challenges.



Picture: SOUTH WEST NEWS

Ready for the ring... Freddie with his 'best friend' Penny

WHO'S A GOOD BOY?

Freddie, 6, is Crufts youngest entrant

A BOY of six becomes Crufts' youngest entrant tomorrow when he takes to the show ring with the dog he calls his best pal.

Freddie Osborne and his smooth fox terrier Penny will compete alongside adults at the world-famous show.

He has been given time off school to compete at Birmingham's NEC, where he is tipped to be a star of terrier and hound day.

Freddie — who has had Penny, now eight, by his side since he was a baby — said: "Penny's not just my dog, she's my best friend."

By ALEX WEST

I am really looking forward to being with her in the arena."

Freddie, of Bobbington, Staffs, was two weeks old when he first went to Crufts with his parents, who breed smooth fox terriers.

He qualified for the show for the first time last year.

Now friends, family and fellow terrier owners will cheer him on when he enters the arena at 1pm.

Freddie said: "I like going for walks with Penny as they

are fun and get you fresh air. But I like doing the dog shows and getting prizes and rosettes."

Mother Kimberley, 34, said: "He has been given some great advice by veteran judges and best in class winners. He was also taught the right etiquette needed to impress the judges at Crufts."

"He has got his game face on and Penny looks better than ever."

She added: "In the 1930s smooth fox terriers were one of the most popular dogs but now they are endangered. But they're so loving as a breed."



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TO TAKE SHOW BY STORM



Pals . . . with Penny and, left, as toddler

Inseparable . . . in ring and, above, when Freddie was baby

'WOKE' ABRDN U-TURN

Now it's aberdeen

CITY firm Abrdn has had a vowel movement and changed its name to "aberdn group" after relentless mocking.

New boss Jason Windsor called the move a "pragmatic decision" to "remove distractions". It comes two months after he said "the name is the name and we will be continuing with it".

The Edinburgh-based fund management firm was ridiculed in 2021 when it underwent a woke rebrand and dropped most of the vowels from its name. It was the idea of a marketing agency following Aberdeen Asset Management's merger with Standard Life – and was described as a "bold move to stand out".

Stephen Bird, then-boss of Abrdn, tried to say it showed "clarity of focus". But it was widely branded the worst name change in history and led to people communicating with

By ASHLEY ARMSTRONG

the firm in messages with no vowels. Even dance act The Shamen, best known for their 1992 hit Ebenezer Goode, got involved, cheekily saying "dropping three Es" was a commendable notion.

Chief investment officer Peter Braner made matters worse last year by saying the teasing was like "corporate bullying".

The new aberdeen group name is not entirely woke-free – it has no capital letters.

Name . . Windsor



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CHEAP TREAT



ADD some flair to your dining table set-up with this three-pack of twisted candles, £1.93, from robertdyas.co.uk.

What's new?

MORRISONS cafes are offering eight pancakes – plus choice of dips and strawberries – for £3, until Sunday.



CHILDREN will be dressing up as their favourite fictional characters tomorrow to celebrate World Book Day.

The event can, however, put parents under pressure to splash out on new outfits.

Save your pennies and instead get creative with what you already have. Try one of these easy ideas...

MATILDA: All you need for this Roald Dahl schoolgirl character is a navy dress. Finish the look with a red bow, ribbon or band in your child's hair.

ANGELINA BALLERINA: If your child already does ballet, repur-

By LANA CLEMENTS

pose the outfit to become the dancing mouse from Katharine Holabird's series of books. Just add some white tights and use some old make-up to draw on whiskers and a pink nose.

FUNNYBONES: Dig out Halloween outfits for an easy win. Any skeleton costume can be used for Funnybones, the classic children's book by Allan Ahlberg.

You could also use a witch's outfit to represent the witch in Julia Donaldson's Room On The Broom.

And if you have a black cape from a vampire outfit, combine it with a school uniform to bring JK Rowling's Harry Potter to life. Draw on some black glasses as a final flourish.

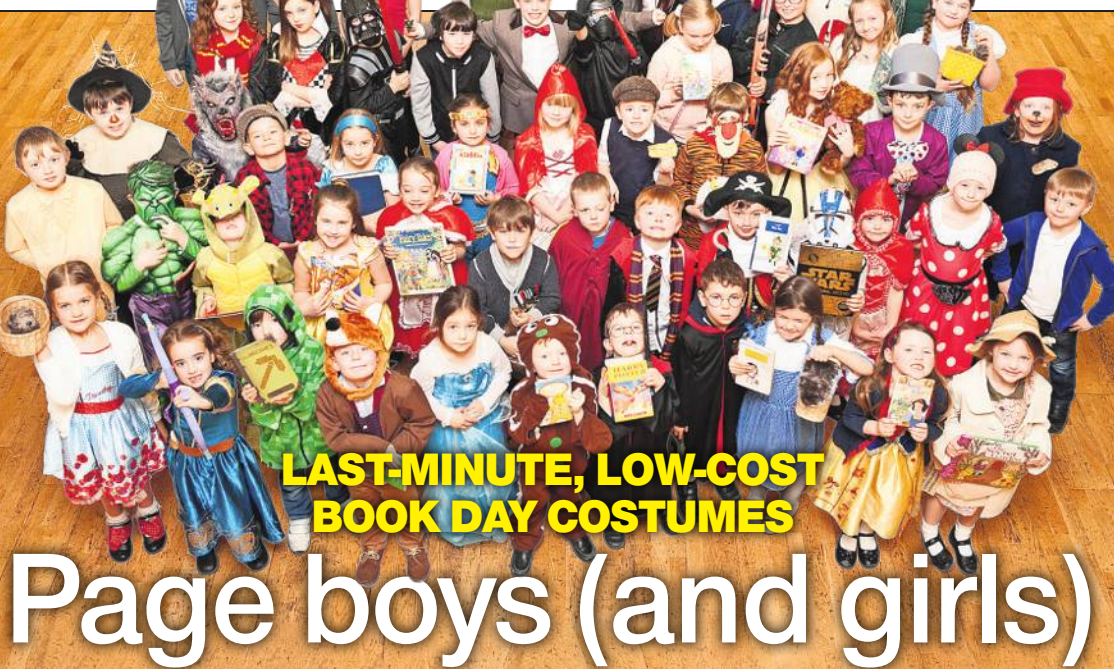
BUNNY UP: A pair of bunny ears lying around can be used to create the white

rabbit from Alice In Wonderland. Just draw on whiskers and a pink nose and dress your child in white. Or you could use the ears for Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit by matching with a blue jacket and brown trousers.

RAVI'S ROAR: Dig through your child's wardrobe and, if you have a pair of red shorts and a red-and-white-striped top, you'll be able to pull off the leading character from Ravi's Roar, the book by Tom Percival.

You could also take it up a step by drawing some orange and white stripes on the face to be the tiger he transforms into.

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



LAST-MINUTE, LOW-COST BOOK DAY COSTUMES

Page boys (and girls)

TOP SWAP



£7.25 WAKE up with Nescafe Azera instant coffee, above, £7.25, from Tesco. Or get your morning kick with Aldi's Alcafe version, below, £2.89. **SAVE: £4.36**



£2.89

Little helper

TACKLE tough pet odours at home with Febreze fabric freshener spray, down from £3.50 to £2.50 with a Nectar card at Sainsbury's.



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THE Sun

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4 DAYS **FOR** VE-DAY

Bank Holiday kicks off 80th anniversary party

BRITS will mark 80 years since the end of World War Two with four days of celebrations.

A grand military parade, a flypast, and a star-studded concert will lead the VE Day tributes kicking off on the early May Bank Holiday. Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy said it will be an opportunity to

By MARTINA BET

"pay tribute to those who served in the Second World War and reflect on values they fought for". She added: "People will be able to hear our veterans' stories and ensure stories of sacrifice and service are remembered." On Monday, May 5, the Cenotaph will be draped in Union Flags and a military procession will go from Whitehall to Buck-

ingham Palace, before a flypast of the Red Arrows and other aircraft. The following day, a poppy installation will be unveiled at the Tower of London. May 7 will mark the anniversary of Sir Winston Churchill's victory broadcast – as Westminster Hall hosts a special concert. But the main VE Day 80 event will be on Thursday, May 8, with a service for world leaders and veterans at Westminster Abbey.

Later, 10,000 will attend a concert at Horse Guards Parade. **HUNDREDS** of veterans are expected to join the VE Day anniversary celebrations. Recalling the day in 1945 itself, ex-Wrens signaller Marie Scott, 98, said: "London was manic, everyone kissing and hugging." But she added: "Within a foreseeable future, there will be nobody left to talk about their participation in World War Two."



Celebrations . . . in 1945

Biker pair horse rap

TWO motorbikers hurtled through a top horse trials – injuring a dog and narrowly missing spectators. Police arrested the pair at Burghley, Lincs, where Princess Anne and daughter Zara have competed. Reece Murray, 27, and Alfi Lleshi, 20, of Peterborough, brought "carnage" to last year's trials, JPs in the city heard. Both got eight-month suspended jail terms after admitting charges including dangerous driving.

WHOP CHEW IT

Fast food giant Burger King is giving away free Whoppers – usually £6.29 – to customers signed up to its app today.



'KOVA & OUT

By AMIR RAZAVI

STRICTLY dancer Nadiya Bychkova had better warm up after strolling through the street in a revealing two-piece outfit. The Ukrainian, 35, cut a stylish figure in London's Leicester Square to promote online contest The Best Dancer – where hopefuls recreate well-known routines or perform their own.

Picture: BACKGRID



Scene . . . cops yesterday

Boy of 16 killed in shooting

By JONATHAN KANENGONI

A BOY of 16 has died after being shot in broad daylight yesterday. Police were called at 3:21pm to reports of a lad being gunned down. Despite the efforts of paramedics the teen was pronounced dead at the scene in Paradise Road, Stockwell, South London. Last night, Met Police officers were working to identify him and contact his next of kin. Supt Gabriel Cameron said: "This is an enormously shocking incident which I imagine will cause huge distress to the local community. We will work around the clock to identify and find those responsible." No arrests have been made. A resident told The Sun: "Everyone around here knew him. – he was really nice. The fact that it's happened to one of our kids and on our estate – it's devastating."

A mouth to mouse

MICE can perform CPR on their pals in a crisis, according to a study. Scientists saw them lick and paw at lab neighbours who had been left immobile from drugs. They even pulled at tongues to clear airways – a key part of human resuscitation. It is thought to be the first proof of rodents carrying out CPR. The mice had not been trained so had an instinct for what to do in a crisis. Sedated mice that got CPR-style aid recovered from the drugs faster, the US researchers found.

BREASTPLATE

The licence plate 8008 S – which looks like the word 'boobs' – is up for grabs at a DVLA Auction, with bidding from £2,500.

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JAIL FOR CONVICT SEX ACT

A FORMER prison officer who boasted of performing a sex act on an inmate has been jailed for 21 months.

Mum-of-one Katie Evans, 26, wept in the dock as she was locked up over her relationship with burglar Daniel Brownley.

She was spared a longer term only as an act of mercy because of the potential harm to her young daughter, Judge Jeremy Richardson KC said. He added: "You were inexperienced and immature but that, however, is no excuse. Your misconduct materially affected the good order and discipline of the prison."

Evans was 21 when she went to work at Doncaster Prison where she began a relationship with Brownley, who was serving a 5½-year term. They had



Wept... Evans

By PAUL SIMS

more than 140 phone calls, while she moved money around for him and passed on info.

Evans, who admitted misconduct, told another ex-prison officer that she performed the sex act, Sheffield crown court heard.

Judge Richardson told her: "I'm entirely satisfied you were manipulated by an experienced criminal."

Big 'berg beached

THE world's largest iceberg is expected to finally break up and melt after running aground.

The trillion-ton "mega-berg" — known as A23a and twice the size of Greater London — split from an Antarctic ice shelf in 1986 and has been drifting since 2020.

It is now stuck 56 miles off the British-run island of South Georgia, where warmer waters, waves and tides will melt it down.

First spot of Nessie

THE first potential Loch Ness Monster sighting of the year has been reported — with images showing a "black mass" under the water.

It appeared for several minutes in "absolutely perfect conditions" at the loch's Dores Beach.

Nagina Ishaq, of the Loch Ness Centre in the Scottish Highlands, said the sighting — described as part of the body of Nessie — was "particularly captivating".

SHOCKING CONDITIONS



Words
OLIVER HARVEY

Photography
SIMON JONES

Chief Feature Writer In Calais

AMID the fetid gloom of a derelict wine warehouse, Ahmed Adam insists he will risk everything to reach Britain's shores.

And with prices for an illegal Channel crossing now around a **QUARTER** of the cost two years ago, his dream has become more affordable.

Starting out at rows of tents crammed into the ramshackle building, where the reek of urine outside is overpowering, the teenager admits forlornly: "It's true that many people drown at sea."

"But it would be better to die in the waves than live my life here."

His despairing words are a testament to the determination of tens of thousands to make the crossing from France, the world's seventh richest country.

Last year, 82 migrants perished in the freezing Channel waters, at least 14 of them children.

Officials believe the figures — a grim record — underestimate the true picture. Little wonder local mayor Stephane Pinto implored Sir Keir Starmer this week to "come and look at our beaches".

The official from Ambleteuse, 17 miles down the coast from Calais, told the BBC: "We must put in place measures to stop bodies on our beaches."

'Inhumane conditions'

Despite the dangers, and the UK government's repeated promises to smash the trafficking gangs, the cross-Channel trade in humanity is booming.

On Sunday, 11 flimsy dinghies evaded French police to bring 592 migrants into British waters.

Then yesterday, three more rickety boats carrying 182 people outwitted the millions of pounds worth of surveillance technology and manpower to make the crossing.

Ahmed and two friends, all from the north east African nation of Sudan, soon hope to join them.

Fleeing his homeland's brutal civil war, Ahmed, 19, told me: "I want to go to London because it's a safe place where I can study and then find work."

The former wine warehouse he is living in, not far from the site of the disbanded Jungle camp on Calais' northern fringes, is now a waystation for those looking to secure passage to Britain.

Where once plunk loved by British booze cruisers was stored, now dozens — perhaps hundreds — of migrants wait to strike a deal for a berth on a dinghy.

There are no toilets or running water, and a mound of rotting rubbish and discarded food attracts rats. Wet clothing has been placed on the barbed wire perimeter fence to dry in the cold breeze.

Doctors Without Borders coordinator Feyrouz Lajili said in January that migrants in Calais were "surviving in shameful, inhumane conditions".

Behind the cavernous warehouse, some migrants huddle around a small fire, while others kick a football in the late afternoon chill.

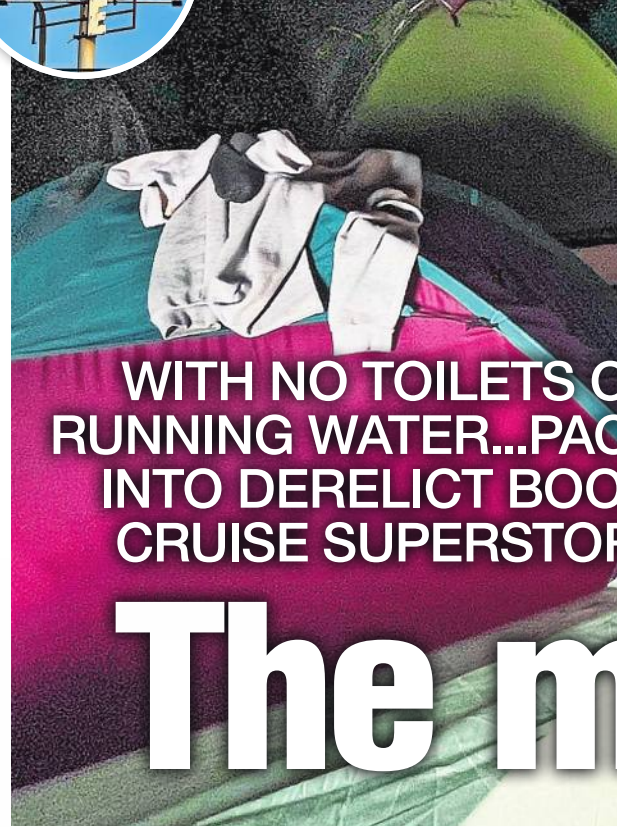
A pair of large white plastic tanks provide drinking water and there is kindling for fires.

The warehouse provides little respite from sub-zero night-time temperatures, but protects against

GRIM BOLTHOLE
... rubbish litters
warehouse site



LIVING HELL
... crammed
migrant camp.
Left, sign for
old booze cruise
warehouse



**WITH NO TOILETS OR
RUNNING WATER...PAC
INTO DERELICT BOO
CRUISE SUPERSTOR**

The m

the bitter squalls that blow in off the Channel. Ahmed's friend, dad-of-two Hatem Arman, 40, revealed: "The conditions here are very bad."

"I've been here for seven months to save for a place on a boat. It costs 1,000 euros (about £825)."

The cut-price deal compares to £1,500 widely quoted to me two years ago. In 2022, the going rate was £2,000, while at the start of 2020 it was £3,800.

Prices for a place on one of the deathtrap dinghies have fallen as greedy traffickers cram more migrants onboard.

Figures from France's Maritime Prefecture of the Channel and North Sea reveal the average number packed on to each boat has risen from 45 in 2023 to 54 last year. And people smugglers have also widened their choice of launch sites, with Dieppe, around 110 miles down the coast in Normandy, now

targeted. Deputy head of regional council Audrey Baconnier-Rosez said: "In January, we saved people. We have put more cameras and security around the Dieppe harbour."

"We want to safeguard life at sea and have increased surveillance."

On Monday, *Sun* photographer Simon Jones and I caught a glimpse of how some of the £500million gifted by British taxpayers is spent by French police.

We watched as ten van-loads of armed cops, many clutching shields, raided two open-air migrant camps on waste ground and scrubland not far from the warehouse.

Seemingly alerted to the gendarmerie's imminent arrival, many hurriedly left the camps, clutching their worldly possessions in black bin liners. One local humanitarian worker, in her 20s, told me: "We are here to monitor

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AS 100s WAIT TO BE SMUGGLED TO UK



STUCK IN LIMBO
... migrants wait for space on boat



SEEKING SAFETY
... teen Ahmed fled from Sudan

“I want to study and work in London. But it would be better to die in the waves than to live my life here”

— AHMED ADAM

OR
CKED
ZE
RE

migrant warehouse

what's going on. The police raid the camps three times a week. There's a lot of intimidation.”

Some tents were removed, but soon after the cops left the migrants began drifting back to their makeshift homes amid hawthorn trees.

Returning to one raided camp, Osman, 19, Nahom, 30, and Mohammed, 18, all from Eritrea, told me they had been in Calais for seven days. Osman gestured with his chin towards the disappearing police vans and said: “We want to get to Britain as soon as possible.”

In 2018, Britain's then-PM Theresa May signed the Sandhurst Treaty with French President Emmanuel Macron to help with the cost of policing the French shoreline. Over time, France was allocated half a billion pounds of UK taxpayers' hard-earned cash. A large portion of the money was spent on helicopters, motorbikes and cars, along

with surveillance equipment such as dash cams and drones. Other purchases were, perhaps, more questionable. In November 2023, it emerged that riding boots, micro-waves, e-scooters, phone chargers and vacuum cleaners had been snaffled up by the French.

‘Lack of co-operation’

Some of the funding was also spent on guarding France's border with Italy, which is around 550 miles from the English Channel.

Despite the millions spent and tough words and pledges from both Conservative and Labour politicians, migrants have continued to make the perilous journey. Home Office figures show 36,816 people crossed the Channel in small boats in 2024 — up from 29,437 in 2023.

Before Monday's figures were taken into account, 2,716 people had made the crossing this year — a 20

per cent rise on the same period in 2024, though lower than in 2023.

Calais MP Marc de Fleurian insists British and French authorities are doing a “great job” tackling traffickers, but says it is not always the case with their German counterparts.

“There's a lack of co-operation with the Germans to destroy the logistics of the Turkish and Kurdish networks based in Germany,” he said. The 36-year-old, who represents Marine Le Pen's far right National Rally party, added any plans to let UK cops patrol the beaches here would be unacceptable.

“It would be very disrespectful to the French people. They won't like it,” he told me.

“They like the British, of course, but they wouldn't like having a foreign uniform on their own coast. And that's something the British will easily understand.”

The former officer in the French

Foreign Legion estimates there are currently around a thousand migrants in Calais preparing to reach UK shores. After scrapping the Tories' Rwanda initiative, Sir Keir has put much faith in the forces of law and order to take out the people smugglers.

Yet, with both the Tories and Reform UK talking tough on migration, smashing the gangs is a policy the Prime Minister will be judged on come the next General Election.

Last week, Home Secretary Yvette Cooper met her French counterpart, Bruno Retailleau, in Calais.

They spoke with French military police, who now wear Nato-like “Mission Small Boat” sleeve badges.

In a move which may prove a game changer, Retailleau indicated French officers would start intercepting migrants in shallow water, a practice they currently refrain from.

Meanwhile, the Border Security,

Asylum and Immigration Bill currently being debated in the UK Parliament includes stronger powers to seize and search mobile phones.

It also features plans for new offences on selling or handling dinghies for smuggling purposes. A Home Office spokesman said they “will stop at nothing to dismantle the people smugglers' “business models and bring them to justice”.

Until they succeed — or if the stringent measures fail — much depends on the weather.

The smugglers are keen meteorologists and a glance at the Calais forecast this week shows sunshine and light winds expected.

In the streets around the old wine warehouse, migrants with packed bin liners wait for smugglers' calls.

Ready to take their place on a dinghy, despite the deadly risks and the might of two nations trying to stop them.

Wednesday


4-PAGE SECTION

TV GUIDE

BBC
ONE
BBC
TWO
itv1
4
5
6am Breakfast (S)**9.30 Morning Live** (S)**10.45 Crimewatch Live** Interpol appeals for help with Operation Identify Me. (S)**11.30 Homes Under The Hammer** Property auctions. (R,S)**12.15 Bargain Hunt** Danny Sebastian presents from Blackpool's newest museum. (R,S)**1.00 BBC News** (S)**2.00 Clean It, Fix It** A team of cleaners and DIY experts performs home makeovers. (S)**2.30 Money For Nothing** (R,S)**3.00 Escape To The Country** Alistair Appleton help an artistic couple escape to the Scottish Highlands. (R,S)**3.45 Make It At Market** Diane and Sam hope to turn their hobbies into businesses. (S)**4.30 Antiques Road Trip** Tahmina Ghaffar and David Harper are in Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. (S)**5.15 Pointless** Quiz show hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Anita Rani. (R,S)**6.00 BBC News** (S)**6.30 Regional News** (S)**9pm Anne** organises a camping trip to the New Forest in comedy Amandaland**7.00 The One Show**

Alex Jones and Clara Amfo present the magazine. (S)

7.30 EastEnders

Nicola finds herself in possession of important information and there's a big fall out between two family members. A fight breaks out at Beale's Eels. (S)

8.00 The Repair Shop

(8/25) Experts restore a carved wooden village sign, a handmade organ crafted from cardboard, a rusted-up shop till from the 1960s and some cinema seats from the 1940s. (S)

9.00 Amandaland

(5/6) Anne organises a camping trip to the New Forest but what should be a wholesome weekend away ends up being a nightmare including snakes, drugs and UTIs. (S)

9.30 Am I Being Unreasonable?

(5/6) Sparks fly between Nic and Jen when Ollie shares a revelation he heard from Harry and Jen and Suzie appear to have their own secrets. (S)

10.00 BBC News (S)**10.30 Regional News** (S)**10.40 UEFA Champions League MOTD**

Action from the last-16 first-leg matches, including Paris Saint-Germain v Liverpool, PSV Eindhoven v Arsenal, Club Brugge v Aston Villa and Real Madrid v Atletico Madrid. (R)

12.00 The Six Nations Greatest Moments (S) Followed by**Weather For The Week Ahead 12.35-6am BBC News** (S)**6.30 am Bargain Hunt** (R,S)**7.15 Antiques Road Trip** (R,S)**8.00 Sign Zone: Celebrity Antiques Road Trip** Anne Hegerty and Shaun Wallace hunt for antiques in the Home Counties. (R,S,SL)**9.00 BBC News** (S)**11.15 Politics Live** The latest stories from Westminster and beyond. (S)**1.00 Impossible** Rick Edwards hosts the quiz show. (R,S)**1.45 Bridge Of Lies** Quiz show hosted by Ross Kemp. (R,S)**2.30 The Tournament** Quiz show hosted by Alex Scott. (R,S)**3.15 The Farmers' Country****Showdown** Two families head to the Mid Devon Show. (R,S)**3.45 The Great Rift: Africa's Wild Heart** The grasslands of east Africa. (R,S)**4.45 Designing The Hebrides** Banjo Beale transforms an apothecary on the Isle of Harris. (R,S)**5.15 Flog It!** From Wolverhampton Art Gallery. (R,S)**6.00 Richard Osman's House Of Games** Double bill. Jimi

Famurewa, Harriet Kemsley, Colin Murray and Sara Pascoe compete. (S)

**7pm Rishi Sunak** shares his Lessons From Downing Street with Nick Robinson**7.00 Rishi Sunak: Lessons From Downing Street**

(1/2) Former UK prime minister Rishi Sunak sits down with Nick Robinson for the first half of a two-part conversation about his rise to power and his time as prime minister. (S)

8.00 Great British Menu

(17/29) Chefs from central and the east of England cook mains and desserts that celebrate Great Britons from their region. Presented by Andi Oliver. (S)

9.00 Surgeons: At The Edge Of Life

(2/6) At Edinburgh's Western General Hospital, Consultant Colorectal surgeon Danielle Collins operates on a patient who has an aggressive tumour that has doubled in size in two months. (S)

10.00 The Cockfields

(6/6) Simon and Esther decide to keep their news a secret from his parents. Simon and Sue get into an argument at dinner. Joe Wilkinson stars. (S)

10.30 NewsnightAnalysis of the day's events. (S) Followed by **Weather****11.05 Unspun World With John Simpson**

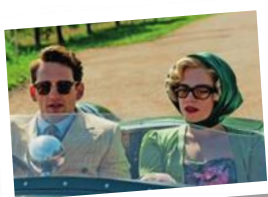
The week's major global news stories. (S)

11.35 Israel And The Palestinians: The Road To 7th October

(2/3) The political clashes between Benjamin Netanyahu and Barack Obama. (R,S)

12.35 Sign Zone: Great British Menu (R,S,SL) **1.35-2.35am Death In Paradise** (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** Another helping of topical studio discussion from a female perspective, featuring celebrity interviews. (S)**1.30 ITV News** (S)**1.55 Regional News** (S)**2.00 Tour De Fred: Northern Ireland**

The latest stage of Fred Sirieix's tour takes him to Belfast, where he visits Titanic Belfast and the International Wall. (S)

3.00 Lingo Adil Ray hosts as Joanna and her son Tom, Arun and his daughter Nikhil, and couple Billy and Lillie compete in the quiz. (R,S) Followed by **Local Weather****4.00 Tipping Point** Ben Shephard hosts the quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot. (S)**5.00 The Chase** Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh. (S)**6.00 Regional News** (S)**6.30 ITV News** (S)**9pm Lucy Boynton** and Laurie Davidson star in A Cruel Love: The Ruth Ellis Story**7.30 Emmerdale**

Jacob has a panic attack at work, and Sarah worries that she could be pregnant. (S)

8.00 Coronation Street

Kit encourages Daniel to find out who the daddy is, the Platts puzzle over some odd behaviour, but their questions remain unanswered when Daisy and David are both hit by a car and lie badly injured in the street. (S)

9.00 A Cruel Love: The Ruth Ellis Story

(1/4) The story of the last woman to be hanged in the UK. Ruth Ellis is arrested following the shooting of her lover David Blakely - she admits murder and the police believe it to be an open-and-shut case, but Ruth's solicitor John Bickford tries to understand how love turned to murder and comes to realise that there is more to David's death than meets the eye. Drama based on real events with Lucy Boynton and Toby Jones. (S)

10.00 ITV News At Ten (S)**10.30 Regional News** (S)**10.45 Peston**

Political magazine show hosted by Robert Peston. (S)

11.40 Made In Britain

A look at how the Henry vacuum cleaner is made. (R,S)

12.05 Shop On TV 3.00 Tonight: War: Would Britain Be Ready? (R,S,SL) **3.25** For The Love Of Dogs With Alison Hammond (R,S,SL) **3.50** Unwind With ITV (S) **5.05-6am** Judi Love's Culinary Cruise (R,S,SL)**6.25 am Cheers** (R,S)**7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond** (R,S)**9.10 Frasier** (R,S)**11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (R,S)**12.05 C4 News** (S)**12.10 Sun, Sea And Selling Houses** Double bill. Mother-and-son duo Sharon and Shaun catch up with love birds Janice and Bill, while husband-and-wife team Damon and Sophie visit ex-clients Lisa and Graham. Then, A sports fanatic wants a beachfront property in Málaga. (R,S)**2.10 Countdown** (S)**3.00 A Place In The Sun** (R,S)**4.00 A New Life In The Sun** It's opening day for a restaurant in France. (R,S)**5.00 Four In A Bed** Stuart and Amy host the third visit of the week at Tin Can Retreat. (S)**5.30 Come Dine With Me** Aodhan hosts a horror-themed party on the third night in Belfast. (S)**6.00 A Place In The Sun** Jean Johansson searches for a holiday home on Spain's Costa Blanca. (S)**9pm Tamara Lawrance** stars in the new crime noir thriller Get Millie Black**7.00 C4 News** (S)**8.00 Kirstie And Phil's Love It Or List It**

Kirstie Allsopp heads back to Altringham in Shropshire to catch up with Jamie Lea and Curtis, a couple who struggled in 2019 to decide whether to renovate or sell their home. (S)

9.00 Get Millie Black

(1/5) Ex-Scotland Yard detective Millie Black returns to Jamaica, where a missing persons case threatens to blow her world apart. Thriller starring Tamara Lawrance and Joe Dempsie. (S)

10.00 Seeking Satoshi: The Mystery Bitcoin Creator

Gabriel Gatehouse searches for the anonymous creator of Bitcoin, potentially one of the richest people on the planet, who has not been heard from since 2011. (S)

11.10 24 Hours In A&E

The stories of Queen's patients who are an inspiration to their loved ones and how they have jointly faced some of the biggest challenges of their lives. (R,S)

12.10 Super Surgeons: A Chance At Life The surgeons tackle tumours in difficult places. (R,S,SL) **1.05** Skinny Jab Scandal: Dispatches (R,S) **2.00** Ramsay's Hotel Hell (R,S,SL)**2.45** The Fear Clinic: Face Your Phobia (R,S,SL) **3.40** Kirstie's Fill Your House For Free (R,S)**3.55** Kirstie And Phil's Love It Or List It (R,S,SL) **4.50** Location, Location, Location (R,S,SL)**5.45-6.25am** Countdown (R,S)**6am Milkshake!****9.15 Jeremy Vine** (S)**11.30 Storm Huntley** (S)**12.45 GPs: Behind Closed Doors** Dr Aileen Abdul-Razak offers support to two cyclists. (R,S)**1.40 5 News** (S)**1.45 Home And Away** Rose alerts Remi, Theo and Justin to a noise complaint. (R,S)**2.15 The Body In The Attic**A wife convinces her lover to move into her attic. After finding his dead body, she fears her husband knows more than he is letting on. Thriller with Abigail Hawk, Donny Boaz and Marc Herrmann. (2023) **CCC** (S)**4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun** Mary hosts a fundraising event for a local animal charity, while Ant prepares for his housewarming. (R,S)**5.00 5 News At 5** (S)**6.00 Eggheads** Double bill. The Pedigree Chums try their luck against the Eggheads. Then, Team Wiki Woo takes on the team of experts. Jeremy Vine asks the questions. (R,S) Followed by **5 News Update****7pm Ortis Deley** takes a look at coffee machines in Shop Smart, Save Money**7.00 Shop Smart, Save Money**Gaby Roslin and Ortis Deley take a look at coffee machines with three coffee-loving teachers who trial three models, without knowing their brand or price tag. (S) Followed by **5 News Update****8.00 Charity Scams: Don't Get Caught Out**

Alexis Conran and his team take on the scammers who target the people making the world a better place - charities, campaigners for good causes and those support them. (S)

9.00 Prime Suspect: Hunting The Predators

(2/3) The crimes of serial catfish, blackmailer and convicted child abuser Anthony Burns, who controlled and abused his victims with deception and threats. (S)

10.30 Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts

(7/12) A 74-year-old with breathing difficulties is rushed into Barnsley Hospital, and registrar Dr Nick Mani considers placing the patient in a medically-induced coma. (R,S)

11.30 999: Critical Condition

(4/4) A man has been attacked with a machete. (R,S)

12.30 Friends (R,S) **1.00 PlayOJO Live** Casino Show (S) **3.00 Friends** (R,S) **3.50** Happy Campers: The Caravan Park (R,S) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (R,S,SL) **5.05** Divine Designs (R,S,SL) **5.30** Entertainment News On 5 (S)**5.40** Paw Patrol (R,S,SL) **5.50-6am** Pip And Posy (R,S,SL)

REGIONAL VARIATIONS

S4C: 6am Cwyl 11.00 Cwyl 12.00 Newyddion S4C A'r Tywydd 12.05 Sain Flagan 12.30 Heno 1.00 Codi Hwyl America 1.30 Cegin Bryn: Yn Ffrainc 2.00 Newyddion S4C A'r Tywydd 2.05 Prynhawn Da 3.00 Newyddion S4C A'r Tywydd 3.05 Noson Lawen 4.00 Awr Fawr: Og Y Draenog Hapus 4.30 Siero Yn Mynd I Ocidio 4.20 Elin Byd Bach 4.30 Twm Twrch 4.45 Kim A Cai A Cranc 5.00 Stwnsh: Larfa 5.05 Byd Rwysh Dai Polsh 5.20 Academi Gomeddi 5.40 Li Ban 5.50 Newyddion Ni 6.00 Sain Flagan 6.30 Rownd A

Rownd 6.57 Newyddion S4C 7.00 Heno 7.30 Newyddion S4C A'r Tywydd 8.00 Pobol Y Cwm 8.25 Cartrefi Cymru 8.55 Newyddion S4C A'r Tywydd 9.00 Troseddau Cymru Gyda Sian Lloyd 10.00 24 Awr Newyddion Gyrmy 10.45-11.45pm Gwesty Adunlad BBC ONE WALES: 10.40pm Scrwm V Top 5 11.00 UEFA Champions League MOTD 12.30am The Six Nations Greatest Moments 1.00-6am BBC News

FILMS ★★★★★ Brilliant ★★★★★ Very Good ★★★ Good ★★ Not Bad ★ Poor (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) Sign Language



ROVER RETURNS... Ryan and Corrie mum Sue in 2014 episode

RYAN TO BID 'MUM' FAREWELL

Soap return 1

RYAN THOMAS is going back to Coronation Street – eight years after quitting and later retiring from acting.

Ryan, who plays Jason Grimshaw, has agreed to a limited return later this month to give on-screen mum Eileen, played by SUE CLEAVER, a fitting farewell as she leaves the ITV show.

A source said: "It was a no-brainer for Ryan. It's all for Sue. She's like a second mum to him and he was willing to do anything to make her send-off as special as she deserves it to be."

Jason was last seen in 2016 but has been mentioned frequently over the years with news of his life in Thailand.

After leaving the cobbles, Ryan went on to appear in Neighbours and win both Celebrity Big Brother in 2018 and Dancing On Ice last year.

JAMES ACASTER has revealed Channel 4 will not be commissioning another round of his late-night game show People Person after a disastrous pilot episode. He told the Always Be Comedy podcast: "Everything that could have gone wrong went wrong and I absolutely loved it."

WARREN FILLS IN BLANKS

Soap return 2

JAMIE LOMAS is making a shock return to Hollyoaks.

He quit the Channel 4 soap in 2024 after almost 20 years as gangster Warren Fox.

Since Warren was seen fleeing abroad in September, the show has jumped forward a year.



His lover Mercedes has been battling bowel cancer, and his son Joel has had a drugs relapse. Now I can reveal Jamie has secretly reprised his role for a flashback episode to fill in the details of that "missing" year – and has already finished filming.

It will see Mercedes diagnosed in the early days of her cancer battle, and Joel as he succumbs to his heroin addiction once more. Fans will also see how Warren has fared since going on the run.

BACK... Jamie Lomas' flashback episode to fill in the details of that "missing" year – and has already finished filming.

It will see Mercedes diagnosed in the early days of her cancer battle, and Joel as he succumbs to his heroin addiction once more. Fans will also see how Warren has fared since going on the run.

More listings:
Pages 30 & 31

By **ROD MCPHEE**
TV Editor

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and **JESS LESTER**

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Call the spin-off

CALL The Midwife bosses may have confirmed a new series for next year, but that hasn't stopped speculation over the show's future.

After creator **HEIDI THOMAS** suggested the BBC One hit may be paused and replaced by a spin-off, I can exclusively reveal that it could take the form of a "casebook" featuring doctor Patrick Turner.

Sources reckon there is plenty of scope to expand the story of the much-loved medic, played by **STEPHEN MCGANN**.

A TV insider said: "The GP is an important character, but ultimately is a supporting character to the nuns and midwives

DR TURNER WOULD BE IDEAL MIDWIFE TONIC

of Nonnatus House. There's the feeling that his day-to-day work in the East End of London has huge potential to be adapted into a spin-off, because he will deal with a vast array of problems and ailments beyond delivering babies.

"So it would be linked to the heritage of Call The Midwife, but also be sufficiently different to make it worth exploring."

The 14th series of the period drama drew to a close on Sunday night and the show's official

account posted on social media: "See you again soon! x #Call-TheMidwife will return with a brand new Christmas Special, and Series 15 in 2026!"

Filming is due to start soon, but if the show was rested after that, I previously revealed that another option could be a spin-off about the early life of Trixie Franklin, played by **HELEN GEORGE**.

Heidi didn't give much away when she recently told the Radio Times: "I don't believe Call The Mid-

wife will ever end. But I do think we might take a break at some point."

"There is sort of an ongoing conversation we have at this point every year, which is, 'Is there an end point? What are we working towards?'"

"Increasingly, we do see opportunities to expand our storytelling world. So if we do take a break, it will be with a view to looking at other aspects of Call The Midwife."

When asked if that might lead to a spin-off being created, she teased: "Watch this space."

I'd say a show centred on Patrick Turner could be just what the doctor ordered.



STAR...
Stephen McGann as Dr Turner

MO LIFTS A MASK

MASKED Singer judge **MO GILLIGAN** has told how he battled depression after first finding fame.

He told **JAMIE LAING** on the Great Company podcast: "I lost myself, I struggled in a sense of, 'Wow, this is all I've wanted, I've got the big cheque, but I'm not in the happiest place'. I was massively depressed. That's when I started therapy."

"I didn't cry in my twenties, I put up a wall, and when I got depressed it all came out. Therapy helped me open up, not so much to my therapist but other people, to let my real personality out and connect."

SUE PERKINS wants new series, Chess Masters: Endgame, can be surprisingly attractive. Ahead of next Monday's debut on BBC Two at 8pm, Sue said: "It's gone from being a beloved board game to an online phenomenon, and it's also become sexy."

SOAP JOY FOR JANE

ITV has confirmed **JANE McDONALD** will reprise her role as host of the British Soap Awards when it returns later this year.

We were the first to tell you last week that Jane would be returning to the show, which she first hosted in 2023 before it was mysteriously cancelled last year.

She said: "I'm beyond excited to be hosting again, as I had such a ball last time."

"You all know I love my soaps, so to be giving recognition to the wonderful actors and their fantastic hard work is joyous. I can't wait to get my glittery frock on and celebrate with everyone."



THEM NEXT DOOR ARE BIT RUMPY

A **FIRST** look at the new series of The Couple Next Door sees newcomers **ANNABEL SCHOLEY** and **SAM PALLADIO** share a steamy kiss.

But Channel 4 will have to turn up the heat even more to compete with season one, which viewers coined the channel's raunchiest ever drama.

It saw neighbours **Danny** and **Evie**, played by **Outlanders**' **SAM HEUGHAN** and **One Day**'s **ELEANOR TOMLINSON**, share a full-on snog in the rain and plenty more besides. The new series

will now follow **Annabel** and **Sam** as new characters **Charlotte** and **Jacob**, a high-flying married couple whose lives are turned upside down as new hospital colleague **Mia** (**AGGY K. ADAMS**) rents the house next door then works her way into their home, and bed.

Meanwhile, **Charlotte** has to handle the reappearance of an old flame, **SENDHIL RAMAMURTHY**'s hunky **Leo**.

CHEATS...
neighbours
Danny and
Evie in
series one



Wednesday


**4-PAGE
SECTION**

FREEVIEW

BBC THREE *freeview 23*

7pm Zen Motoring **7.15** Top Gear; The Catch Up **8.20** Ghosts US **9.00** Zara McDermott: Disordered Eating. Exploring the huge rise in eating disorders among children and young people. **10.00** Disclosure: Kids On The Psychiatric Ward **11.00** Normal People **12.00** Boot Dreams: Now Or Never **1.00-2am** Top Gear

BBC FOUR *freeview 9*

7pm Climbing Great Buildings **7.30** Who Do You Think You Are? USA **8.00** Himalaya With Michael Palin **9.00** Being Bridget Jones **10.00** The Ruth Ellis Files: A Very British Crime Story **11.00** Fannies: Play Of The Week **12.05** Monitor **12.50** Climbing Great Buildings **12.10** Who Do You Think You Are? USA **1.50-2.50am** Lee Miller: A Life On The Front Line

ITV2 *freeview 4*

6am CITV: Teen Titans Go! **6.25** Batwheels **6.55** Looney Tunes Cartoons **7.20** Scooby-Doo! Mystery Incorporated **7.45** Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! **8.10** What's New Scooby-Doo? **8.35** Scooby-Doo And Guess Who? **9.00** World's Funniest Videos **9.55** Love Bites **12.00** Dinner Date **1.00** Deal Or No Deal **2.00** Supermarket Sweep **3.00** Charmed **4.00** Gilmore Girls **5.00** Dinner Date **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase **7.00** Deal Or No Deal **8.00** Ant & Dec's Limitless Win **9.00** Hell's Kitchen **10.00** Olivia Atwood: Getting Filthy Rich **11.05** Family Guy **12.05** American Dad! **1.05-2.05am** Bob's Burgers

ITV3 *freeview 10*

6am Classic Emmerdale **7.00** Classic Coronation Street **8.10** Inspector Morse **10.35** The Royal **11.40** Heartbeat **1.40** Classic Emmerdale **2.40** Classic Coronation Street **3.40** Inspector Morse **5.55** Heartbeat **8.00** Grace **10.00** Endeavour **12.00** Trial & Retribution **1.15** Never The Twain **1.45-2.30am** Unwind With ITV

ITV4 *freeview 26*

6am Minder **7.00** The Sweeney **8.00** Robin Of Sherwood **9.15** Magnum, P.I. **10.15** Kojak **11.20** BattleBots **12.30** Robin Of Sherwood **1.35** Magnum, P.I. **2.40** Kojak **3.45** Minder **4.50** The Sweeney **6.00** Beat The Chasers **7.00** The Motorbike Show **8.00** British Rally Championship **9.00** FILM Live And Let Die. James Bond adventure starring Roger Moore. (1973) **11.40** All Elite Wrestling: Collision **1.35-2.25am** Dark Side Of The Ring

E4 *freeview 13*

6am Hollyoaks **6.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **8.00** The Goldbergs **9.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** Young Sheldon **11.00** Married At First Sight Australia **12.35** The Big Bang Theory **2.00** Young Sheldon **3.00** Modern Family **4.00** The Simpsons **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** The Simpsons **7.00** Hollyoaks **7.30** Modern Family **8.00** The Simpsons **9.00** Married At First Sight Australia **10.35** Gogglebox **11.35** First Dates **12.40-2.10am** Married At First Sight Australia

MORE4 *freeview 18*

8.55am Kirstie's Vintage Gems **9.15** A Place In The Sun **10.05** A New Life In The Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **1.05** Car S.O.S **2.05** Four In A Bed **4.50** Château Duff **5.50** Car S.O.S **7.55** Grand Designs **9.00** Griff's Great Australian Rail Trip. Griff's journey begins on The Gold Coast. **10.00** Car S.O.S **11.05** 24 Hours In A&E **1.15-2.20am** Emergency Helicopter Medics

ENTERTAINMENT



Sky Showcase 11.35pm Deborah and Marty put their differences aside in Hacks

SKY SHOWCASE

6am Sky News Breakfast **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Stargate SG-1 **11.00** Super Shark Highway **12.00** The Flash **1.10** Hawaii Five-0 **3.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **4.00** Magnum P.I. **5.00** The Simpsons **6.00** The US Office **7.00** The Simpsons **8.00** Landscape Artist Of The Year. From Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. **9.00** Rob Beckett's Smart TV. New series. Comedy panel show celebrating the small screen, with Richard Osman, Danny Dyer, Motsi Mabuse and Richard Ayoade joining team captains Alison Hammond and Josh Widdicombe. **9.50** Micky Flanagan: An' Another Fing Live **11.35** Hacks **12.55** An Idiot Abroad **1.50-2.40am** Road Wars



SLIM JAB STING . . . reporter Ellie Flynn with teen who went undercover

SKY MIX *freeview 11*

7am Nothing To Declare **9.00** Bondi Rescue **10.00** The Force: Manchester **11.00** Highway Patrol **12.00** Motorway Patrol **1.00** Border Patrol **2.00** Bondi Rescue **3.00** Nothing To Declare **4.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation **5.00** Stargate SG-1 **6.00** Stargate Atlantis **7.00** Star Trek: Voyager **8.00** Landscape Artist Of The Year. From Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. **9.00** The Rookie **11.00** Britain's Most Evil Killers **12.00** Snapped **1.00-2am** Nothing To Declare



BBC Three 9pm Zara McDermott explores the rise in Disordered Eating

U&DAVE *freeview 19*

7.20am Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown **8.00** The Force: Behind The Line **10.00** American Pickers: Best Of **12.00** Storage Hunters UK **2.00** James May's Toy Stories **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best Of British **6.00** Rick Stein's Spain **7.00** Would I Lie To You? **7.40** Richard Osman's House Of Games **9.00** Q! XL **10.00** Have I Got A Bit More News For You **11.00** Taskmaster **12.00** Mock The Week **12.40-2am** Would I Lie To You?

U&DRAMA *freeview 20*

7.10am All Creatures Great And Small **8.00** Doctors **9.15** Classic Holby City **10.35** Classic Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40** Classic EastEnders **2.00** Eldorado **3.20** Bergerac **4.20** All Creatures Great And Small **5.25** One Foot In The Grave **6.00** As Time Goes By **6.40** Last Of The Summer Wine **8.00** The Marlow Murder Club. Judith Potts's evening in Marlow is shattered when she witnesses her neighbour's murder. **10.00** New Tricks **11.20** Bergerac **12.20-2.40am** Lovejoy

REALLY *freeview 17*

6am Fantasy Homes By The Sea **7.00** Teleshopping **8.00** Salvage Hunters **10.00**

SKY ATLANTIC

6am Urban Secrets **8.00** True Blood **10.00** Six Feet Under **12.20** Game Of Thrones **1.25** Big Love **3.35** True Blood **5.40** Six Feet Under **7.50** Game Of Thrones. Tyrion walks the Long Bridge of Volantis. **9.00** The White Lotus. Mike White's drama anthology following the dark secrets and twisted truths of the guests, the staff and the locale of a resort in Thailand. **10.10** Homicide: Life On The Street. A good Samaritan is found dead. **11.10** Gangs Of London **12.10-2.35am** Succession

SKY WITNESS

6am Stop, Search, Seize **7.00** Motorway Patrol **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Border Security USA **10.00** Border Security: America's Front Line **11.00** New Amsterdam **12.00** The Good Doctor **1.00** The Cleaning Lady **2.00** Chicago Fire **3.00** Stop, Search, Seize **4.00** Nothing To Declare **8.00** Matlock. Olympia asks Matty to get closer with their current client. **9.00** The Equalizer. The team rescue a hacker who is being forced to work for criminals. **10.00** Elsbeth. A bar owner seeks revenge on behalf of a bullied customer. **11.00** The Rookie **12.00** Law & Order: Organized Crime **1.00-2am** FBI: Most Wanted

U&GOLD

7.05am Last Of The Summer Wine **8.25** The Green Green Grass **9.00** On The Up **9.40** Are You Being Served? **10.20** Still Open All Hours **11.00** Last Of The Summer Wine **12.20** The Green Green Grass **1.00** On The Up **1.40** Dad's

Money For Nothing **12.00** Escape To The Country **2.00** Antiques Road Trip **5.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **7.00** Antiques Road Trip **9.00** Body Bizarre **11.00** Dr Pimple Popper **12.00-2am** Help! My House Is Haunted

U&YESTERDAY *freeview 27*

6.10am Antiques Roadshow **8.00** World War Weird **9.00** WW2: Battles For Europe **10.00** Secrets Of The London Underground **12.00** Mediterranean With Simon Reeve **1.00** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** World War Weird **5.00** WW2: Battles For Europe **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** The Boat That Guy Built **8.00** Great Coastal Railway Journeys **9.00** Great Canal Journeys **10.00** Bangers & Cash **11.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **12.00** Mediterranean With Simon Reeve **1.00-2am** The Architecture The Railways Built

U&W *freeview 25*

6.10am Inside The Ambulance **7.00** My Dream Home **8.00** Tipping Point **11.00** DIY SOS: The Bigger Build Ireland **1.00** Tipping Point **4.00** My Dream Home **6.00** DIY SOS: The Bigger Build Ireland **7.00** MasterChef USA **8.00** Cops On The Rock **9.00** Hungry For It. The cooks level up vegetarian junk food. **10.15** At Home With Katherine Ryan **11.15** First Responders **12.15** Inside The Ambulance **12.45** Wedding Valley **1.45-3am** Alex Jones: Making Babies

QUEST *freeview 12*

6am Chasing Classic Cars **8.00** American Pickers **9.00** Aussie Gold Hunters **12.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** Shed And Buried **4.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **6.00** The Repair Shop **8.00** Salvage Hunters **10.00** Salvage Hunters: Georgian House Restoration **11.00** How Do They Do It? **1.00-2am** Chasing Classic Cars

THAT'S TV *freeview 58*

8am That's 60s: Best Music Live! **8.05** Birds Of A Feather **8.35** Never The Twain **9.00** Duty Free **9.30** Rising Band **10.05** Home To Roost **10.35** Just Good Friends **11.10** You Rang, M'Lord? **12.15** Whatever Happened To The Likely Lads? **12.50** Yes Minister **1.25** Joanna Lumley's Nile **2.25** WWII: D-Day And Normandy **4.40** Victoria's Empire **5.50** That's 60s: Best Music Live! **6.10** Steptoe And Son **6.45** Bread **7.20** On T he Buses **8.25** Whatever Happened To The Likely Lads? **9.00** Benidorm **9.55** Shameless **10.55** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em **11.35** Whatever Happened To The Likely Lads? **12.15** Benidorm **1.10-2.10am** Shameless

DISPATCHES: SKINNY JAB SCANDAL Channel 4

THEY'RE the wonder drugs of the moment – a "low-risk" quick fix that claims to take you from fat to thin with minimal effort.

But the reality is the world of weight-loss injections is much murkier than the glistening ads we see all over the internet.

It's an industry where getting hold of a so-called skinny jab is easier for teens than buying a bottle of wine at Tesco.

This documentary, hosted by journalist Ellie Flynn, wastes no time getting to the shocking stuff. An undercover 16-year-old is followed by hidden cameras as she buys weight-



last night

loss drugs from a Boots pharmacy, not once but twice, just by giving her fake date of birth.

There is no ID check and no fuss – despite warnings on the very box she was handed over the counter that it's unsafe for children.

It's a big "oops" moment for the high-street giant. The investigation also uncovered NHS nurses privately selling weight-loss injections without doing proper medical checks. Undercover

reporters who didn't meet the medical requirements were handed prescriptions, sometimes without being weighed at all – or with comments about how they "didn't need to lose much".

Elsewhere, a woman who actually needs the drugs to be treated for her cancer – after losing weight for vital surgery – reveals she can't afford the online £200 price tag.

And then there's the truly terrifying bit – unregulated versions of these drugs are

SPORT



Sky Sports Main Event 7pm Catarina Macario and Chelsea face Leicester City

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6am Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **8.30** **LIVE** ICC Champions Trophy Cricket. South Africa v New Zealand. **5.30** Sports Centre **7.00** **LIVE** WSL. Chelsea v Leicester City. Kick-off at 7.30. **10.00** Natasha Jonas: Off Limits **10.30pm-6am** **LIVE** Tennis. The Indian Wells Open. Coverage of day one of the WTA 1000 and ATP 1000 event, a hard-court tournament that takes place in Indian Wells, California.

SKY SPORTS PREMIER LEAGUE

6am PL Greatest Games **7.00** PL Legends **8.00** PL Best Goals **9.00** Premier League 100 Club **10.00** The Football Show **12.00** Gary Neville's Soccerbox **1.00** Premier League Years **3.00** Premier League Retro **5.00** Premier League Best Goals 11/12 **6.00** Premier League 100: Peter Schmeichel **6.30** Premier League 100 Club **7.00** Premier League Stories **7.30** Premier League 100: Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink **8.00** Gary Neville's Soccerbox. With Matt Le Tissier. **9.00** Premier League Stories **9.30** PL 100: Peter Crouch **10.00** Premier League Icons **11.00** PL Years **1.00-3am** PL Retro

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6am Championship Retro **8.45** EFL Greatest Games **10.00** EFL Cup Highlights **11.00** SPFL Special: Celtic's Invincibles **12.00** EFL **2.00** Bundesliga Highlights Show **3.00** EFL Highlights **4.15** Scottish Premiership Round-Up **4.30** SPFL Highlights **5.00** WSL **5.30** EFL Highlights **6.30** WSL **7.00** **LIVE** WSL. Chelsea v Leicester City. Kick-off at 7.30. Coverage of the Women's Super League match

from Kingsmeadow. **10.00** EFL Greatest Games **10.30** EFL Highlights **12.00** WSL **12.30** EFL Highlights **1.30-2.30am** EFL Play-off Final League 1 15/16

SKY SPORTS ACTION

6am Betfred Super League Highlights **7.00** Fight Night International **9.00** Betfred Super League Highlights **10.00** Fight Night International **12.00** Betfred Super League Highlights **1.00** Good Morning Football **3.00** Fight Night International **4.00** Betfred Super League Highlights **4.15** Top Rank Boxing Archive **5.30** Betfred Super League Highlights **6.00** NBC's Pro-Football Talk **8.00** Fight Night International **9.00** Fight Night **10.00** The Rugby Championship **12.00** The Insiders **1.00-2.15am** Top Rank Boxing Archive

SKY SPORTS +

6am Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **8.30** Premier League Darts **12.45** My Icon: Deta Hedman **1.00** Lunchtime **2.00** Sports Desk **5.00** Sports Centre **7.00** **LIVE** Tennis. The Indian Wells Open. Coverage of day one of the WTA 1000 and ATP 1000 event, a hard-court tournament that takes place at Indian Wells, California. **2.00-6am** **LIVE** Tennis. The Indian Wells Open. Coverage of day one of the WTA 1000 and ATP 1000 event, a hard-court tournament that takes place at Indian Wells, California.

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6am Best Of ICC WT20 **6.30** ICC Champions Trophy Cricket **8.30** **LIVE** ICC Champions Trophy Cricket. South Africa v New Zealand. Coverage of the second semi-final from Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. **5.30** Best Of ICC WT20 **6.00** ICC Champions Trophy Cricket **10.00** IPL **11.00** ICC Champions Trophy Cricket **1.00-4.40am** WPL

SKY SPORTS GOLF

6am PGA Tour Golf **11.00** Ladies European Tour Golf **12.00** On The Road With Iona Stephen **1.00** TGL **3.00** Ladies European Tour Golf **4.00** On The Road With Iona Stephen **5.00** PGA Tour Golf **6.00** PGA Tour: The Cut **6.30** Golf's Greatest Holes **7.00** TGL **9.00** On The Road With Iona Stephen **10.00** The Players Championship **10.30** Golf's Greatest Holes **11.00** PGA Tour Golf **12.00** DP World Tour Golf **12.30** PGA Tour: The Cut **1.00-2am** PGA Tour Golf

RADIO



Virgin Radio 10am Damien Molony chats with Ryan Tubridy about Bergerac

VIRGIN RADIO *DAB virginradio.co.uk*

6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** The Ryan Tubridy Show **1.00** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Leigh Francis **7.00** Graeme Smith **10.00** Olivia Jones **1.00** Sean Goldsmith **4.00-6.30am** Steve Denyer

TALKRADIO *DAB talkradio.co.uk*

6am Mike Graham **10.00** Julia Hartley Brewer **1.00** Ian Collins **4.00** Jeremy Kyle **7.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **10.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00** Paul Ross **5.00-6am** Through The Front Pages

TALKSPORT *105.3 108.9MHz talksport.com*

6am TalkSPORT Breakfast With Alan Brazil **10.00** Jim White And Simon Jordan **1.00**

being flogged on social media and in beauty salons, with one woman ending up in hospital after injecting a dodgy version she bought via Instagram.

Because if there's one place to trust for medical advice, it's definitely your favourite influencer (*spoiler: it's not!*).

The Advertising Standards Authority is now cracking down on shady online sellers. But with weight-loss jabs becoming a social-media obsession, if this documentary has shown anything it's that hard-pressed regulatory boards have their work cut out.

Let's hope it helps curb the appetite for such a risky fix.

JESS LESTER



BRILLIANT . . . Lucy as Ruth Ellis

A CRUEL LOVE: THE RUTH ELLIS STORY, ITV1, 9pm: In 1955, when we lived in a world even more divided along class lines than we do today, nightclub hostess Ruth Ellis shot her racing driver lover David Blakely outside a Hampstead pub and was sentenced to hang.

Now famous for being the last woman to be executed in Britain, this drama sheds a different light on the story, one in which toffs closed ranks to protect Blakely, who was abusive and violent.

In court, Ellis was painted as a scarlet woman who got what she deserved, and Blakely's behaviour went unsaid.

Laws were eventually changed, but it was all too late for Ruth Ellis. Lucy Boynton is brilliant as

Ellis, with Laurie Davidson playing Blakely.

GET MILLIE BLACK, Channel 4, 9pm: This new drama is a sort of anti-Death In Paradise as, even though it is set in the Caribbean, there are no cosy crimes here.

We're in Jamaica, where ex-Scotland Yard detective Millie, (Tamara Lawrence) has returned to the island after the death of her mother.

She soon finds herself on the trail of a schoolgirl who has gone missing after being mixed up in something very dodgy with her

Sun picks

older, wealthy, white boyfriend. This story of skullduggery and murder is utterly gripping and will have you racing to stream the rest of the five-part series.

MISS SCARLET, Alibi, 9pm: Another crime drama, yes, but decidedly different.

This really does count as cosy crime, with the terribly jolly Eliza Scarlet (Kate Phillips) returning for a new series of the Victorian-set police procedural.

Tonight, having waved off former work colleague The Duke for a new life with the New York

police department, Kate remains in London and welcomes his replacement, DI Alexander Blake (Tom Durant-Pritchard).

The pair don't hit it off immediately, but will he find he can't crack the case without her?

CHARITY SCAMS: DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT, Channel 5, 8pm: Scammers' methods get more and more sophisticated, leaving us unable to really trust anyone.

In this one-off special, Alexis Conran looks at how advances in tech are conning people into thinking they're donating to a charity when, in fact, the money is lining the pockets of criminals.

Plus, how we can make sure we don't fall victim.

JON PEAKE

TNT SPORTS 1

6.30am LIVE Snooker World Grand Prix. Coverage from the third session. **9.00** PL Stories **9.30** Crouchy and Cole **10.00** Superbike Rewind **10.15** MotoGP Rewind **10.30** Women's Cycling Pro Series **11.30** Men's Cycling Pro Series **1.30** LIVE Men's Cycling Pro Series. The Laigueglia Trophy. **3.30** MotoGP **4.30** MotoGP Chequered Flag **5.30** Superbike Rewind **5.45** Serie A - Full Impact **6.15** Under the Lights **6.30** What I Wore **7.00** LIVE UEFA Champions League. Paris Saint-Germain v Liverpool. Kick-off at **8.00**. **10.30** UEFA Champions League Highlights **11.30** Snooker World Grand Prix **1.30** MotoGP Highlights **2.30-5am LIVE** NBA. Milwaukee Bucks v Dallas Mavericks.

TNT SPORTS 2

9am Reload **9.15** A-League Highlights **9.45** A-League Women Highlights **10.15** Women's One-Day International Cricket **11.15** MotoGP Rewind **11.30** LIVE Snooker World Grand Prix. Coverage from the fourth session. **3.30** UEFA Europa League & Conference League Magazine **4.30** UEFA Champions League Highlights Show **5.00** LIVE UEFA Champions League. Feyenoord v Inter Milan. **8.00** LIVE UEFA Champions League. Bayern Munich v Bayer Leverkusen. **10.00** MotoGP **11.00** Fight Week **11.45** UFC Countdown **12.45** TNT Sports Reload **1.00** Fishing: On the Bank **5.00-9am LIVE** Snooker World Grand Prix

TNT SPORTS 3

9am UEFA Europa League & Conference League Magazine **10.00** Serie A **12.00** Classic Premier League **12.30** UEFA Champions League Show **1.00** LIVE UEFA Youth League. TSG 1899 Hoffenheim Under-19s v Manchester City Under-19s. **3.00** UEFA Champions League Highlights Show **3.30** NBA **6.30** TNT Sports Reload **7.00** MotoGP Rewind **7.15** Training Day **7.30** In My Blood **7.45** LIVE UEFA Champions League. Benfica v Barcelona. **10.00** Fight Night Live **12.00-4am** UEFA Champions League

PREMIER SPORTS 1

9am Surfing **10.00** LaLiga **11.00** URC In 60 **12.00** MotorSport **1.00** NHL On The Fly **2.00** LaLiga **3.00** NASCAR **4.00** Surfing **5.00** LaLiga **7.30** Women's Football Weekly **8.00** URC In 60 **9.00** LaLiga **10.00** Surfing **11.00** Asian Le Mans Series **12.00** Transworld Sport **1.00-1.30am** Women's Football Weekly

Hawksbee And Jacobs **4.00** TalkSPORT Drive With Andy Goldstein And Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** The Sports Bar **1.00** Extra Time With Paul Ross **5.00-6am** Early Sports Breakfast

TALKSPORT2 *DAB talksport.com*

8am On Track **9.00** Women's Football Show **10.00** EFL All Access **11.00** Fight Night Extra **12.00** Following On **1.00** Racing Live **3.00** The Social **5.00** Fight Night Extra **6.00** Following On **7.00** Cult Heroes **7.30** Champions League Live **10.00** Women's Football Show **11.00** EFL All Access **12.00-8am** My Sporting Life

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

6am Kate McCann And Stig Abell **10.00** Hugo Rifkind **1.00** Andrew Neil **2.00** Jane Garvey And Fi Glover **4.00** John Pienaar **7.00** Kait Borsay **10.00** Carolyn Quinn **1.00** The Story **1.30** The Best Of Times Radio **5.00-6am** Rosie Wright

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

7am Greg James **10.30** Rickie, Melvin And Charlie **12.45** Newsbeat **1.00** Jerry And Emil: The Relatable Game **3.30** Vick, Katie And Jamie **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Jack Saunders **8.00** Jodie Bryant **10.00** Sian Eleri **11.00** Benji B **1.00-2am** Big Weekend-Live Sets

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

6.30am Scott Mills **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00** Trevor Nelson **4.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Jo Whalley **9.00** The Folk Show **10.00** DJ Spooky **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00** Sounds Of The 90s (R) **4.00-6.30am** Jason Mohammad

MOVIES



Sky Cinema Premiere 6.15pm June Squibb stars in comedy *Thelma*

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

8.55am *Thelma* (12, 2024) ★★★★★
10.40 *Black Dog* (12, 2024) ★★★ **12.40**
Fight Or Flight (15, 2024) ★★★ **2.30**
The Bikeriders (15, 2023) ★★★★★ **4.30**
The Garfield Movie (U, 2024) ★★
6.15 *Thelma* (12, 2024) ★★★★★ **8.00**
Fight Or Flight (15, 2024) ★★★ **9.45**
Black Dog (12, 2024) ★★★ **11.45**
MaXXXine (18, 2024) ★★★★★ **1.35-3.45am**
A Place Called Silence (15, 2024) ★★

SKY CINEMA ULTIMATE ACTION

8.05am *Bloodshot* (12, 2020) ★★★ **9.55**
Fight Or Flight (15, 2024) ★★★ **11.40**
Terminator Salvation (12, 2009) ★★ **1.40**
The Meg (12, 2018) ★★★★★ **3.40** *Meg 2: The Trench* (12, 2023) ★★★★★ **5.45** *Jack Reacher* (15, 2012) ★★★★★ **8.00** *Bad Boys II* (15, 2003) ★★★★★ **10.30** *S.W.A.T.* (12, 2003) ★★★★★ **12.30-2.15am** *Fight Or Flight* (15, 2024) ★★

SKY CINEMA MARTIAL ARTS

9am *The Big Boss* (18, 1971) ★★ **10.45**
Once Upon A Time In China III (PG, 1992) ★★ **12.40** *Once Upon A Time In China And America* (15, 1997) ★★ **2.25**
The Karate Kid Part II (PG, 1986) ★★★★★ **4.20** *The Karate Kid Part III* (PG, 1989) ★★★★★ **6.15** *Hero* (12, 2002) ★★★★★ **8.00** *The Equalizer 3* (15, 2023) ★★★★★ **9.55**
Oldboy (18, 2013) ★★★★★ **11.45** *Yes, Madam!* (18, 1985) ★★ **1.25-3.15am**
Dragon Lord (15, 1982) ★★

FILM4 freeview 14

1pm *The Cockleshell Heroes* (U, 1955) ★★★★★ **3.00** *Comanche Station* (PG, 1960) ★★★★★ **4.35** *Jubal* (PG, 1956) ★★★★★ **6.40** *Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle* (12, 2017) ★★★★★ **9.00** *Nightmare Alley* (15, 2021) ★★★★★ **11.55** *Ready Or Not* (18, 2019) ★★★★★ **1.45-3.55am** *The Oath* (15, 2016) ★★

TALKING PICTURES freeview 82

1.55pm *The Brothers* **3.00** *Ghost Town* *Law* (U, 1942) ★★ **4.15** *Ghost Towns Of Death Valley* **4.35** *The Life And Legend Of Wyatt Earp* **5.10** *The Texan* **5.45**
Night Was Our Friend (PG, 1951) ★★ **7.00** *Z Cars* **8.00** *Manhunt* **9.05** *Maigret* **11.00** *In Suspicious Circumstances* **12.05-1.10am** *Maigret*

GREAT! MOVIES freeview 34

1pm *Text To Kill* (12, 2015) ★★ **3.00** *Woman On The Edge* (PG, 2018) ★★ **5.00** *Lost Letter Mysteries: Lost Without You* (PG, 2016) ★★ **7.00** *Sue Thomas: FBEye* **9.00** *Max Payne* (15, 2008) ★★ **11.00pm-1.25am** *The Expatriate* (15, 2012) ★★

GREAT! ACTION freeview 42

1pm *Return Of The Seven* (PG, 1966) ★★ **3.05** *Death Rides A Horse* (18, 1967) ★★ **5.30** *Wanted: Dead Or Alive* **7.00** *The High Chaparral* **8.00** *The Avengers* **9.00** *Danger Close: The Battle Of Long Tan* (15, 2019) ★★★★★ **11.30pm-1.40am** *First Kill* (15, 2017) ★★



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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 and KATE TAYLOR

IN DESPAIR OVER WORK I CAN'T DO

Dear Deidre

IN the biggest mistake of my life, I have starting work in a new company and I absolutely hate it.

I'm a 42 year-old woman and live alone. Work is everything to me.

I was a cashier in a bank that closed. My friend told me of a vacancy in her company, working in its accounting department. I told her I hadn't got the right experience but she persuaded me to "blag it".

Having got the job, I've been thrown in at the deep end. I'm expected to work on spreadsheets but don't understand the software.

It's making me sick with worry. I'm not sleeping and this job is way above my head.

■ DEIDRE SAYS: If you worked at the bank for a long time, you'll be feeling like a fish out of water. That's normal. It's still early days so don't throw away a good job yet.

Talk to your line manager. Explain that you did things differently in your other role so you may need time to settle in and understand the requirements.

Ask if anyone can help you learn the software and write things down so you feel confident as you learn.

Give yourself six months and if you still feel the same, start looking for something else.

Odd-job playboy so handy in bed

Dear Deidre

MY handyman friend helps me out with odd jobs around the house - and gives me great sex, too.

I know I'm just one of a list of bored women he is having fun with.

But the truth is, I have feelings for him.

I'm a 48 year-old divorced woman with two grown-up children.

It started when a note was pushed through my door about clearing my gutters.

My roof was, indeed, in a mess, so I phoned the guy. He turned up the next day.

He looked to be in his early 40s and he was really lovely. Afterwards, I offered

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.
dearheidre@the-sun.co.uk

him a cup of tea in my kitchen because it was so cold working outside.

We got along like a house on fire.

He talked about his wife, how she was from India and she was beautiful, but he said they didn't "have much of a sex life".

I don't know what I was thinking, but I blurted out, "tell me about it", as I hadn't had sex for years.

He told me he also did decorating and asked if I would be interested in that,

so when I mentioned my bedroom, we went upstairs.

He made a pass at me and before I could catch my breath we were in bed together.

I thoroughly enjoyed myself.

I thought it would be a one-off, but he now makes regular visits to do work for me and we have the sex thrown in as a bonus. It's great.

Now, though, I don't know how to deal with the situation. I want this man, but get the impression he is

sleeping with other lonely women. The thought of him with somebody else makes me feel sad and depressed.

■ DEIDRE SAYS: You latched on to the thrill of no-strings sex, but really you know nothing about this guy.

The "my wife doesn't understand me" line may be something he says to everyone - but it doesn't mean it's true.

He's not looking for a relationship, just a booty call. But if you're ready to date again, why not do it?

Find somebody who puts you at the top of his list of priorities. That's what you deserve.

Casual sex isn't your style and it's making you feel low.

My support pack, Finding The Right Partner For You, explains how best to avoid these dead-end relationships.

ISOLATED AFTER MY DIVORCE

Dear Deidre

AFTER being widowed young and then divorced, I feel so lonely.

I am a 60-year-old man. I was married to my beautiful wife for eight years but she died aged 38, having been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Our two children were only three and six. I was left to raise them. I worked so hard for them for 18 years, making sure they didn't go without.

A few years ago I went to the Philippines to visit a mate who lived there.

I met a woman working at a bar, fell in love and for the next two years travelled back and forth to see her. She visited me here in the UK too.

We married but she wanted children and as I'd had a vasectomy that couldn't happen. We ended up divorcing and I found myself alone. I don't know what to do. Can you help?

■ DEIDRE SAYS: Making new friends might help you feel less alone. Check out meetup.com, which shows local events and clubs.

Look into volunteer work opportunities near you.

You could also visit your nearest Men's Shed (menssheds.org.uk). These are free, fun spaces all over the UK where men get together to complete useful projects for their community.

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stories deidre's photo casebook | **SOPHIE'S SWORN TO SECRECY: DAY 3**

YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING ME!

UHHH...HI SOPHIE...

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HANNAH! THAT'S HIS BROTHER! DO YOU WANT TO IMplode OUR FRIENDSHIP GROUP?

I WAS DRUNK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME!

YOU HAVE TO TELL MATT, IT'S NOT FAIR

BUT IT'LL RUIN EVERYTHING

Clothes by Boohoo and BoohooMAN

CONTINUES TOMORROW

Dear Deidre

ALTHOUGH I love a curvy woman, my wife has taken things to extremes.

She has become the fried-chicken queen - and sadly, it's showing in her ever-expanding body. I'm a man of 41 and she is 38. When we met 15 years ago, she looked incredible.

I loved everything about her, including her womanly curves. She was fun and beautiful. She had hang-ups about her body but I loved her for who she was. I even loved her tummy - it was something to cuddle.

When lockdown happened, we hardly went out and were trying to home-school two kids in our little flat. My wife developed a love for fried chicken and the weight started to pile on. Since then, she orders

JUNK FOOD FAN'S TOO FAT FOR SEX

a takeaway at least three nights a week. The kids are ten and eight and even they know she's unhealthy.

We have booked to go to Spain in the summer but I'm worried she won't fit in the airline seat.

Sex is now so difficult for us. We can't get in the right position to make it comfortable so just aren't bothering.

I want her around for a long time. How can I tell her that she's fat, without hurting her feelings?

■ DEIDRE SAYS: She already knows. You can't insist that she loses weight but you don't have to

eat the takeaways. The kids could be encouraged to stop eating them too.

It's easy to be tempted with so many fast food places on our streets but recipes for "fakeaways" are all over the internet, and are healthier and cheaper too.

Joe Wicks has some suggestions that are easy to make (thebodycoach.com/resources). You could prepare them with the kids.

Tell your wife what you told me - that you're worried about her.

Explain how changes would improve your relationship and that you want to set a good example for the children by eating healthily.

You can check out food choices when shopping via the free NHS app (nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/nhs-food-scanner-app).

GET IN TOUCH

If you are worried about something, my team is here to help. Please contact and follow us.

Online: thesun.co.uk/deidre **Instagram:** @dear.deidre **Facebook:** @DearDeidreOfficial**X:** @DearDeidre **Post:** Dear Deidre, The Sun, 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF

FabDAILY

HOMES & FAMILIES

Kelly Crosskey, 32, was thrilled when she got the keys to her new flat...but an obsessive neighbour turned her dream home into a living hell. This is her story



TERROR...
Darren in Halloween mask. Left, Kelly

OPENING up the blinds, I closed my eyes as I felt the warm sunlight flooding into my flat.

I'd moved in just a week earlier and absolutely loved my new pad in the seaside town of Eastbourne, East Sussex.

It was the first flat I'd rented on my own and I was surrounded by trees and close to a golf course. I was 28 and single and I couldn't believe my luck.

The block was mostly made up of council apartments, but a few, including mine on the first floor, were privately rented. I loved my job in recruitment – and now I had my own gorgeous flat to come home to, life was even better.

Slinging my handbag over my shoulder, I grabbed my keys and locked up before heading downstairs. "Oh, good morning," I said as I spotted my neighbour, Darren, loitering in the communal hallway.

"Morning," he smiled back. Darren lived in the flat directly below mine and although he was friendly enough, he seemed a bit odd.

A good ten to 15 years older than me, he was well over 6ft tall, with wild, unkempt hair and dead eyes. He dressed scruffily, like a down and out, and I couldn't help noticing that he didn't smell great.

Walking past him towards the main entrance, I felt uneasy. I was pretty sure he didn't work, so I couldn't think of any reason he'd be in the lobby first thing in the morning.

In fact, whenever I popped out, Darren would conveniently appear. But not wanting to get on the wrong side of my new neighbours, I was always friendly and polite.

Give me the creeps

However, over the next six months, things became increasingly weird.

I'd often find Darren busying himself in the hall whenever I was coming or going, but now he'd begun finding reasons to pop upstairs to mine.

"I found this in the car park. Is it yours?" he asked one day. In his palm was a small link to a bracelet or necklace. But it looked old and tattered, not like something shiny that you'd suddenly spot on the ground.

"No, I don't recognise it. Thank you, though," I replied, closing the door to my flat.

I heard his footsteps padding back downstairs and breathed a sigh of relief. Darren was starting to give me the creeps.

A few days later, he knocked on my door again and offered me a pot plant. "I've been growing them. I've given everyone in the building one," he said as he passed it to me.

"Oh, thanks. That's kind," I told him.

I said goodbye and put the plant on the windowsill. I couldn't shake the feeling that Darren was fishing for any excuse to knock on my door.

His haunting face and cold, dark eyes sent chills down my spine and I wished he'd just leave me in peace.

"He's not the kind of guy you'd want to meet down a dark alley," I told my friends when they popped round one evening. "He scares me."

I remained polite, hoping that Darren would back off – but things escalated.

"Do you want to be in a relationship?" Darren blurted out when he appeared at my door one day.

"What do you mean?" I gasped.

"It would be an exclusive relationship, we couldn't see other people. But it would be platonic, so we wouldn't have sex," he explained. I couldn't believe

Continues on next page



HAUNTING...
Darren acting strangely

Main picture by
DAVID CUMMINGS

'I heard his footsteps padding back downstairs and breathed a sigh of relief'

MASKED UP AND HOLDING A DRILL...THE NIGHT MY STALKER CAME FOR ME

The sisters who breastfeed each other's baby boys. At fabulousmag.co.uk

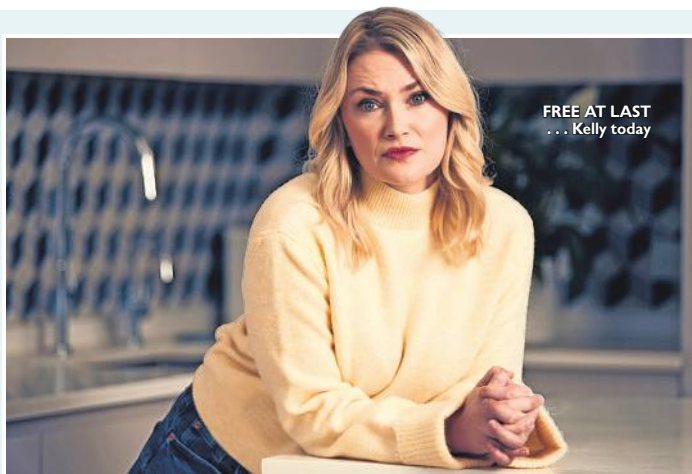
Fab DAILY

HOMES & FAMILIES

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Our writer knows
what it's like to be
demonised as a
'homewrecker'
after an affair
even though
he was married
...not her



'I STILL SUFFER NIGHTMARES'

From previous page

what I was hearing, but he was serious. "No," I told Darren firmly. I closed the door, but I had a horrible feeling this wasn't the end of it.

I was right. Darren started playing loud music at all hours and began crashing and banging around his flat.

Next, he bombarded me with terrifying texts and messages on Facebook.

He'd got my mobile number from a neighbour I'd swapped details with in case my alarm went off while I was away.

"You've hurt my feelings. I want you to feel as bad as I do," Darren wrote in one message.

It was unbelievable. He was behaving as if I'd jilted him after a relationship.

Deciding I'd had enough, I went to speak to him.

"Let's pretend this never happened. We can be civil, but this has to stop," I said. "Please, Darren."

I told him that if he didn't leave me alone, I'd call the police.

But my pleas fell on deaf ears. Darren appeared in the hallway every time I left my flat and would scream and shout abuse at me, calling me a bitch.

I became paranoid, thinking he'd somehow been inside my flat, as when I got home from work I could swear his smell was lingering in there.

I knew he was monitoring my movements and I was so desperate to avoid him, I'd move around as quietly as I could, hoping he couldn't hear me.

I even went to stay with my parents or friends on occasion, just to get away.

Eventually, after Darren picked up my bike and threw it across the road, I installed a doorbell camera to keep an eye on any comings and goings.

"Just f--- off," I yelled at him the next time I saw him.

I was constantly on edge and after he followed me to the local shop, I reported his harassment to the police.

I showed the policeman the sinister voicemails, texts and Facebook messages Darren had sent.

But it didn't seem as if there was much the police could do.

"Stalking cases are highly unusual between people not in a relationship," the officer explained. But I worried he'd

convinced himself we were in some kind of relationship.

I felt trapped, a prisoner in my own home.

One night I got a notification from my doorbell app. Someone was at the door.

Staring at the image on my phone, I noticed that Darren appeared to be holding a drill.

My heart hammered in my chest as he sniffed around for a bit before going back downstairs.

But my relief was short-lived. Moments later, he was back at my door again.

I called the police and told them I was scared.

"Stay on the phone with me Kelly, in case he comes through the door. We're sending help," an officer replied.

"In case he comes through the door?" I thought to myself, terrified.

The third time Darren appeared, I'd never been so scared in my life. He was dressed completely in black and was wearing a sinister Halloween-style mask.

And he was still clutching the drill.

At that moment, several police officers showed up and stormed the hallway.

"I didn't do anything wrong," I heard Darren cry as he was arrested.

Two months later, in December 2021, Darren Cartwright, then 43, appeared at Brighton magistrates' court, where he denied

stalking involving serious alarm and distress.

He was found guilty and remanded in Lewes Prison before he was slapped with a ten-year restraining order, banning him from contacting me.

Even though I had mixed emotions about leaving my lovely flat, I felt I had to get out. So I decided to move out permanently and bought a mobile home, which I still live in today.

I want to be able to move around if I need to as I still suffer from nightmares.

Darren was the neighbour from hell and I don't think I'll ever forget the day he arrived on my doorstep dressed like something from a horror movie.

Looking back, I wished I'd contacted the police sooner – the whole ordeal has put me off wanting to live alone again.

As told to: **HELEN O'BRIEN** and **MARTHA CLIFF**

● If affected by stalking or harassment you can call the National Stalking Helpline, 0808 8020 300.



LET'S get one thing straight: Danny Jones is married, Maura Higgins is not.

The former Love Island star is young, free and single, and in my book that gives her carte blanche to do whatever she wants.

Danny, the McFly guitarist who won I'm A Celeb last year, is a husband and father – a man who should, and must, do, better.

But guess what? Following THAT apparent drunken kiss at a Brit Awards after-party, social media is resounding with the usual cries of "homewrecker" as people take potshots at the woman for another man's behaviour.

Or, as one online commentator described it: "Homewrecker: A term used to blame the single woman for the married man's choices."

Spot on.

And while there is no suggestion Danny or Maura were having a relationship, and that this was nothing more than a drunken kiss, I know from bitter experience that it is almost always the mistress who takes the flak.

In my early twenties I was in a relationship with a married man who was 20 years my senior.

He had been married for over a decade and had two young children. When his marriage ended it was me who got the disapproving comments and the raised eyebrows.

Firing line

I received anonymous letters from his friends calling me a homewrecker, a bitch and a slut. And, of course, it was me who the wife blamed, not her own husband.

But I didn't know his wife and I had nothing against her. And I hadn't made or broken any vows.

I also hadn't set out to break up anyone's marriage or wreck anyone's home.

My married lover (a colleague) had pursued me relentlessly until I finally agreed to go for a drink.

But I knew he was married and I didn't want to get involved, until he assured me it was over with his wife.

In the case of Maura, 34, and Danny, 38, it is totally unfair to dub her a homewrecker.

She is footloose and fancy-free, while Danny has a wife of ten years and a son, seven.

When it comes to partners playing away, the statistics are telling: Within marriages, it is estimated that 20 per cent of men will cheat on a spouse, compared with 13 per cent of women.

Women also do the majority of the housework and childcare. In other words, men have far more opportunity and freedom to cheat outside a long-term marriage than women.

There is no indication that Maura and Danny was anything more than a brief, drunken kiss that everyone involved will agree was a mistake.

Danny and Georgia have been married since August



CRITICISM...
Fearné faced a
backlash for
moving on after
marriage split

2014, while Maura – who bonded with Danny during their stint on I'm A Celebrity last year – has recently had a messy break-up with reality star Pete Wicks.

But predictably enough, she is the one in the firing line.

Online comments went straight for the jugular, with rants including: "Maura could have literally any man and she's kissing a married man who has children?"

But why is Maura getting it in the neck, and not Danny?

She was called a "homewrecker" and a "garbage person". Another snide comment was: "She can't keep a man anyway."

And trolls have been swift to rake through her relationship history, looking at all the times she supposedly wrecked other marriages, with one common theme running throughout – it is as if the men played no part.

"She's done it before, she was the



SCANDAL . . .
Danny and Maura
appear to kiss
at afterparty



KING OF THE JUNGLE . . .
Danny, Georgia and their
son on I'm A Celebrity

AFTER **THAT** BRITS KISS IT SHOULD BE MARRIED DAD DANNY UNDER FIRE, NOT MAURA

CLOSE . . . Maura
and Danny leaving
the Brit Awards
after-party on
the weekend

reason her Dancing On Ice's partner's marriage ended," one detractor claimed.

Then the inevitable blow: "Maura has never been a girl's girl."

It's time for a reality check. We need to stop blaming women.

Again and again in these situations, we see the man and the woman treated differently. The man is given, if not a free pass, at least an indulgent shake of the head.

Messy affair

"Boys will be boys... he probably had a few too many drinks... a lad sowing his wild oats."

Men's dalliances are usually met with leniency — a privilege rarely extended to women.

In the case of Maura's Brits clinch, it is her revealing outfit, her "eye-popping cleavage", HER behaviour that is scrutinised.

We don't know what is going on with Maura and Danny, or what is

happening with Danny and former Miss England Georgia behind closed doors, though we do know they are now said to be "in talks" about the crisis.

But let's be crystal clear about who made what promise — and who appears to have broken it.

When you get hitched, you commit to one person for your lifetime, which is precisely what Danny did when he said his vows.

He pledged "till death do us part", so let's not be foolish and forget that Maura has made no such promise.

Yet, even in 2025, this still makes no difference. A bit like blaming witches when things go wrong in medieval villages, we still blame the woman. Especially if she's young and attractive.

I know first hand that being someone's mistress isn't fun and most women don't want to get caught up in that kind of messy

affair. I'd never do it again. Why do we assume "the other woman" is some kind of temptress who entices the man away from domestic bliss and the marital bed?

That he's perfectly happy until she leads him astray and forces him to cheat?

Instead of looking at the marriage itself, we assume everything was fine until **SHE** came along.

Maura is not alone. In the past few days Fearné Cotton, has been vilified for enjoying her newly single status. Fearné was pictured on a night out in Soho "sharing a passionate kiss" with TV director Elliot Hegarty, a few weeks after she announced the end of her ten-year marriage with Jesse Wood.

According to reports, Hegarty ended his marriage to his wife (and mother of his three children) on Boxing Day, ten days after Fearné confirmed her own marital split.

On social media, the backlash

against Fearné was ferocious. Eamonn Holmes' new girlfriend Katie Alexander has had similar harsh criticism for getting together with the 65-year-old TV presenter.

They went public in May last year following his split from Ruth Langford after 14 years of marriage. Instead of asking what went wrong in Ruth and Eamonn's marriage, public scrutiny has very much been on 43-year-old Katie.

Higher moral standards

She is called a gold digger and a marriage wrecker, because Eamonn and Ruth were one of TV's most adored couples. But no one blames Eamonn himself.

Why do women get so enraged by other women? Is it envy, or a territorial "keep your hands off my man" sense of threat?

Overwhelmingly the trolls attacking Maura are female — and on social media that's usually the case.

For all our claims of gender equality, us women are still far more critical and nastier about other women than we are about men.

We expect higher moral standards from the fairer sex.

Women are supposed to be virtuous and ladylike and not "wreck" other women's homes or marriages.

Of course, it is understandable that a betrayed wife feels angry at the woman who has "taken her man".

If you are a long-suffering wife looking after the home and bringing up the children, it is no wonder you would hate the woman who has stolen your husband. Especially if they are drop-dead gorgeous, like Maura.

It is easier to attack the other woman than look at what's lacking in your own marriage.

But any wife who blames the mistress is seriously in denial. After all, it takes two to tango.

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letters

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The page where you tell Britain what you think

I DESPAIR of today's portrayal of "glamour".

Having just returned from a break in a hotel at which Frank Sinatra and Ava Gardner once stayed, and where portraits of Sophia Loren, below, adorn the walls, I can say these were the truly glamorous stars - in an age of genuine style.

Provocative underdressing today draws the wrong kind of attention.

MARY WINDSOR
Mansfield, Notts

WHY are people at all surprised by the rail fare hikes? After all, someone has to pay for

the train drivers' pay rise, no matter how good the service is or is not.

NICK HAMMOND
Brighton

WHY is Hannah Ingram-Moore, below right, publishing a book about her grief over the death of her fundraiser dad Captain Sir Tom Moore, other than for the money?

Most people will deal with grief in their lives and most don't plunder the memory of their dead family to benefit.

SUZANNE LAMBERT

Thirsk, North Yorks
CONGRATULATIONS to Mikey Madison for getting Best Actress at the Oscars for her role in rom-com Anora.

The film shows that you don't need a massive production budget to triumph in awards season.

A good story and great acting is what you need.

NICK FLETCHER
Mallon, North Yorks

HE may be the world's richest man but it's sickening how much influence the unelected Elon Musk is having on American

MIKE HARREAVES
Wrexham

USA not in our corner

£50 LETTER

HOW much more evidence do we need that America under Trump is not our ally?

The US President and his sidekick JD Vance manipulated a row with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky in the Oval Office so they would have an excuse to stop sending aid to the country.

Meanwhile, Trump is planning to lift sanctions on Russia and has stopped looking into cyber crime coming from there.

He is dealing with Vladimir Putin over the heads of European leaders, too. He is not our friend and there are signs in his fawning behaviour that he may even support Putin militarily in future.

So defending Europe's border with Russia ourselves must be our number one priority today.

SALLY WILTON
Bournemouth

BY cutting military aid to Ukraine, the US President seems to have thrown the country - and democracy - under the bus just because he can't have his own way about his mineral deal.

JOHN THOMAS
Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan

SO after sucking up to Trump and showboating with his EU mates, Keir Starmer has produced... nothing.

There is no definite plan on Ukraine from European leaders and now Trump has suspended military aid to Ukraine.

And to think there are some idiots who are stupid enough to call Starmer the new leader of the free world.

STEWART LOVATT
Leicester

KEIR STARMER is being praised for taking the lead between

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TRUMP is only upset because Putin, not himself, is the puppet master on the global stage.

BERT, Todmorden, West Yorks
MANY Labour MPs objected to a reduction in foreign aid, but they backed the loss of the winter fuel payment for OAPs.

JAY, Saltash, Cornwall
WITH 592 migrant arrivals from France on Sunday, the French are not fulfilling their promise to turn back boats in shallow water. But they still take our money.

CT, Mansfield, Notts
WITH all these migrants there'll soon be no room left for us Brits.

VIC, Kidderminster, Worcs

Ukraine and Russia. But by promising to send troops to Ukraine, he is making Britain the number one target for Russia for when, not if, a world war starts.

STEPHEN ROBBINS
Rhonda Cynon Taff

WHERE is the PM finding the money we are giving to Ukraine? How many thousands of pensioners went without heat this winter because he stopped the winter fuel payment? Obviously a stop to the war between Russia and Ukraine is needed, but it's not for the UK to fund it.

DEAN JOHNSON
Rye, East Sussex

THIS week a strike on a training base near Dnipro killed 30

Ukrainian soldiers and left over 100 wounded. It doesn't sound like Putin wants peace at all.

He clearly has no intention of surrendering gains won during his illegal invasion.

Trump wants to go down in history as a "peacemaker" but he is dangling on Russia's strings like a puppet at present.

With these circumstances, I applaud Keir Starmer for slashing foreign aid to strengthen Britain's defences.

GILLY HOLLANDS
Bromborough, Herts

MEGHAN MARKLE gushes about how meaningful her title of the Duchess of Sussex is. Great, she's recognised its importance at last.

Oh no, wait a sec, she is just promoting her money-spinning Netflix lifestyle and cookery show.

Having spent just six hours in Sussex, seven years ago, it just smacks of self-indulgence, again.

There are no lengths this woman won't go to as long as it serves Planet Markle.

STEPHEN TURNBULL
Consett, Co Durham

AS someone born and bred in West Sussex, I was never happy with Meghan being made Duchess of the county, especially as she has only spent a few hours there. I don't see why she is so joyful at still being Duchess of Sussex, unless it gives her an air of importance, of course.

JANE BIRD
Eastleigh, Hants

MEGHAN Markle sure is hilarious. Her new Netflix show is full of wonderful wisdom, such as how she occasionally gets a Chinese takeaway but "I'll try to plate it beautifully".

I don't think I'll ever look at a Chinese takeaway the same way again.

ANNMARIE FORRESTER
Ballymena, Co Antrim



Mystic Meg

with **MAGGIE INNES**

ARIES March 21 - April 20



Do your money thinking in the morning as a moon and Uranus mix intensifies your instincts for the right deal at the right time. You may not have all the passion facts you require yet, but if love needs you to commit, when you look deep in your heart, you find the confidence. Prizes linked to words find you later in the day.

TAURUS April 21 - May 21



You might assume a secret skill is worth nothing, but making more of this talent can be smart. Your personal planet power is impressive, but even better is your ability to adapt what you say and do to any situation. So you can turn back a deal, and find a unique place within it. But don't delay, this is a day for firm action.

GEMINI May 22 - June 21



Doubts in the morning can turn into direct action later, so try not to brush off any concerns - give them full, creative attention. You are programmed to find solutions where others see only problems. This can apply to work, but also to your love life. Sharing words you love, perhaps on screen, can start a cash trail.

CANCER June 22 - July 22



When you call on Mercury, the communication planet can be right there for you - keeping words clear and calm but also sticking to an important message strand. This time, emotional pressure can simply fall off you, because you are sure about what you need, and why. A former boss can make a tempting offer.

LEO July 23 - August 23



There's a natural wanderlust in your chart - and this could include partners spending time apart. Approaching this in the right way means keeping emotional bonds strong to cope with practical challenges. Secrets have no place in this process. Single? The One has strong links to Australia.

VIRGO August 24 - September 22



You've spent a long time learning, in both head and heart - and now is the time to put it into practice. At work, showing what you can do is easier when you trust your judgment to choose the right time. In love? Asking for change is a right, not a privilege. Single? Love is close when classmates reconnect.

LIBRA September 23 - October 23



Thinking of yourself as someone with the ability to change and grow is your mindset move to leave an overwhelming situation. No one will rescue you, but you can save yourself - by playing to your optimism and energy. The stamina to keep going is the gift of your chart. Love is hot in an aisle of fridges.

SCORPIO October 24 - November 22



When work spills into private time, you sense you may have a problem - but your chart offers the solution. It's not easy for you to separate different aspects of your life, but today you can make a start, and find ways to divide your time more fairly and with more room for fun. Passion is Mars-led and adventure-rich.

SAGITTARIUS November 23 - December 21



Co-operation can take many forms - loud voices and difficult characters can be tamed when you push forward with a plan. So even if you are tempted, try not to pull back today. The moon brings you a sense of knowing what's needed, especially in love - your challenge is to turn this emotion into effective action.

CAPRICORN December 22 - January 20



Those dreams of the perfect property get a practical nudge from planet Mercury - and when you start a search again from scratch the results could be a surprise. Instead of sticking to a set path, stay strong but flexible. As for love, the more Venus challenges a bond, the more you value it, even in its early days.

AQUARIUS January 21 - February 18



Neptune's gentle influence softens your stricter rules around cash - by tonight you can have an array of spending ideas. But you also have the strength to resist using money to feel good, when what you really need is richer feelings. Testing loyalty, perhaps your own, can lead to an emotional crossroads.

PISCES February 19 - March 20



What love gives you matters just as much as what you offer. If this is out of balance, your chart suggests a fix today. Mars is outspoken but fair, Mercury brims with brilliant ideas, and Venus reviews past questions to find future answers. How you bring these together can leave you back in charge of your own future.

Phone Meg's psychics for a chat on **0905 005 8102**

Or to pay by credit/debit card call **08000 356 684** or mobile users call **020 7111 6406**

Text a psychic. Just text **MEG** then a space and your question to **60016**

Calls cost £1.50 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. You must have bill payer's permission. Calls recorded for your protection. Max call duration 19 mins for 0905 numbers. Over 18s only. These services are for entertainment only. SMS cost £1 per received message, max 3 messages per reply. UK only. To opt out of three promo messages call Helpline: 0330 114 0300. SP: Inverack.com, PO Box 10015, CM1 9HH.

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18+ BeGambleAware.org

puzzles

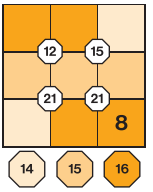
BRAINBUSTER

Insert vowels and spaces into this sequence of consonants to make a well-known phrase.

LTTHPRFCTBTHNMYYFTHGD

SAKURO

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 **SEKUTA SOLUTION:** Top line 127 middle 635 bottom 984

TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD

Two sets of clues but the answers are the same

Cryptic clues

ACROSS

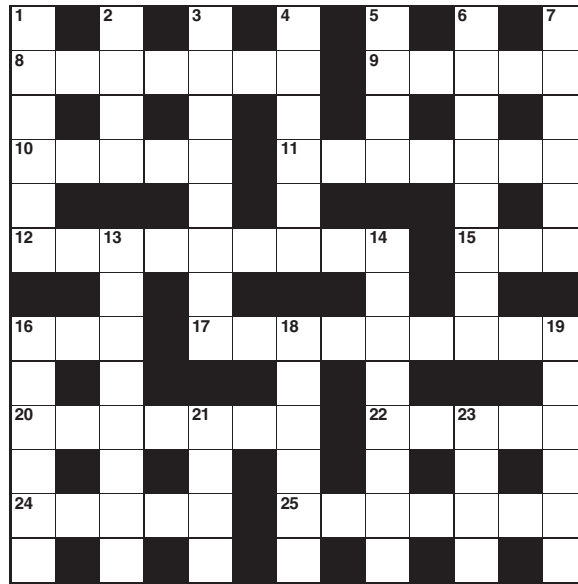
- 8 Travelling in Marseilles? (2,5)
9 Article with silly cost in Berkshire town (5)
10 It takes ages to manage rearing horse (5)
11 One feels worker wants girl back (7)
12 AA named us in error time after time (2,7)
15 There's rubbish in Truro today (3)
16 Glutton held back by Luigi Pirandello (3)
17 Cook or warm the fisherman's bait? (9)
20 Pound as wage for academic (7)
22 Individual in Greece: person with no future (5)
24 Nurse in Montmartre attractive (5)
25 Honest one in screen adaptation (7)

DOWN

- 1 Money once raised in late September (6)
2 Trend initially used by City Group (4)
3 Construction you once put in river (8)
4 Be back in charge giving discount (6)
5 Dressmaker's fold with belt or zip (4)
6 Cast iron case for storyline? (8)
7 Channel having no bends, we hear (6)
13 Chopped oregano brought to a restricted region (2-2,4)
14 Wood in Hogmanay, reshaped (8)
16 Courteous Rod welcoming Italian (6)
18 Artist having meal wants edible root (6)
19 Exchange old German coin and French (6)
21 Message posh school sent over (4)
23 A Coward for Christmas? (4)

Check today's answers before midnight by calling 0905 757 0150 for Across and 0905 757 0151 for Down. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

Purchase the latest Sun Puzzle Books, including crosswords, wordsearches & sudoku, for as little as £4.99 from the HarperCollins website harpercollins.co.uk or phone 0141 306 3100



Coffee time

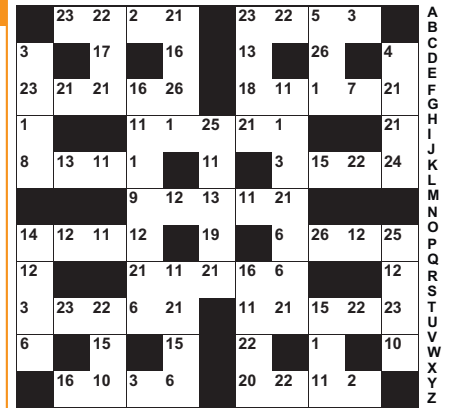
ACROSS

- 8 In transit (2,5)
9 Royal racecourse (5)
10 Historical period (5)
11 Aerial (7)
12 Excessively (2,7)
15 Decompose (3)
16 Farm animal (3)
17 Garden burrower (9)
20 Erudite (7)
22 Doomed person (5)
24 Surprise gift (5)
25 Free from deceit (7)

DOWN

- 1 Old Spanish coin (6)
2 Small group (4)
3 Shed (8)
4 Partial refund (6)
5 Small arrow (4)
6 Movie plot outline (8)
7 Narrow waterway (6)
13 Danger zone (2-2,4)
14 Reddish-brown (8)
16 Civil (6)
18 Salad vegetable (6)
19 Offer for sale (6)
21 Distinction (4)
23 Liam's Oasis brother (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 4 is the letter A, write A in all the squares with a 4. All the alphabet is used and we have supplied some letters to start you off. We will print the answers tomorrow.
YESTERDAY - ACROSS: Imp, Grub, Export, Survives, Feast, Jetty, Draughty, Quorum, Willy, Eli. DOWN: Bronze, Ibis, Pearl, Sprite, True, Spy, Fad, Square, Tackle, Chime, Rout, Yowl.

For 4 Extra Clues Call 0901 293 6299

Calls cost £1 plus network access charge.

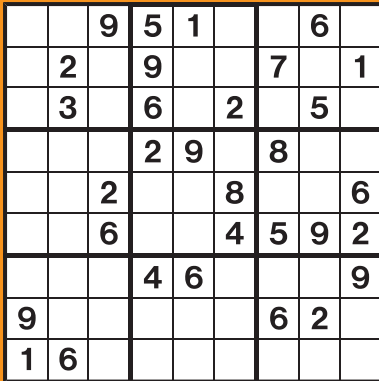
or text SUNWORD to 64343.

Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.

DOUBLE Sun DOKU

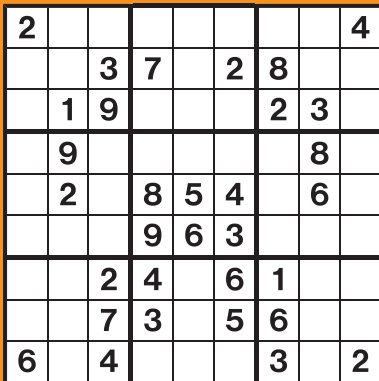
TODAY'S TEASER

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 about organs. Words can run forwards, backwards or diagonally. Solution below.



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT
RECYCLING

The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2023 was 45.5%



THE NAME GAME

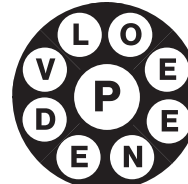
EACH clue leads to a well-known name. Put the initials or stated letters in the appropriate squares to identify a former footballer:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

8	Lead singer of eighties pop group Kajagoogoo
6 & 9	Mr Porter, composer whose hits included I Get A Kick Out Of You and Well, Did You Evah! (second and last letters of name)
3 & 2	Russian owner of Chelsea FC from 2003 to 2022
1 & 5	Mr Griffiths, the bartender of Channel 4's First Dates (first and last letters of name)
7 & 4	Mr Crouch, author of the Wayward Pines series of novels (first and fourth letters of name)

● Yesterday: Swimmer EMMA MCKEON (Eric Cantona, John Higgins), Eddie Mair, Michael (Collins), Mark Kermode). Another Name Game in The Sun tomorrow.
■ If you can't wait until tomorrow for the answers, just call 0901 293 6298. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

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: 21. EXCELLENT: 18. GOOD: 13. GREAT SCORE FOR KIDS: 10.

YESTERDAY: Anion, anno, anoint, anon, anti, aorta, aria, arrant, atria, iota, naan, naira, nana, nation, natron, rain, raita, rani, rant, rata, ratio, ration, roan, roar, rota, tarn, taro, tiara, train, NARRATION.

ending in 's'. Words from Collins Concise Dictionary.

Check today's answers by calling 0905 757 0155 before midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

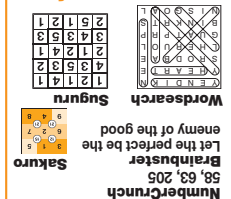
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Teaser	8 1 9 4 3 7 2 5 6 5 2 7 8 9 6 1 4 3 4 3 6 1 5 2 9 8 7 9 5 8 2 7 4 3 6 1 3 6 2 9 1 5 4 7 8 1 7 4 3 6 8 5 2 9 6 9 5 7 4 1 3 2 7 8 3 5 2 9 6 1 4 2 4 1 6 8 3 7 9 5
Toughie	8 2 3 7 9 4 5 6 1 1 6 5 3 8 2 7 9 4 9 4 7 1 6 5 3 2 8 4 9 1 5 3 6 2 8 7 7 8 6 2 4 1 9 5 3 3 5 2 9 7 8 4 1 6 2 1 4 6 5 7 8 3 9 6 7 9 8 2 3 1 4 5 5 3 8 4 1 9 6 7 2

Two-Speed Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Ma-gp-i-e, 5 Rabbit, 6 Para, 9 Nestling, 10 Imperial, 11 Ab-ba, 12 Gig-o-i-o, 15 Eagle, 17 Spud, 19 Absolute, 22 Semolina, 23 Iota, 24 Aste-rn, 25 Hag-g-i-s.
DOWN: 2 A-i-arm, 3 Place-bo, 4 E-n-nui, 5 Re-solve, 6 Balsa, 7 Ignoble, 13 Impress (empress), 14 O-val-i-on, 16 Gal-din-g, 18 D-o-ve, 20 S-i-ash, 21 Tut-st.

Today's Solutions



NumberCrunch
58, 63, 205
Brainbuster
Let the perfect be the enemy of the good
Sakuro

Own the complete collection of the new United Kingdom coins today – featuring 13 2025-dated coins



Queen Mother £5



Modern Railway £2



Royal Observatory £2



Red Arrows 50p



World War Two 50p



It is with much excitement that the Royal Mint has released the official collection of United Kingdom coins for 2025 – with the new Queen Mother Commemorative £5 Coin taking centre stage.

The 2025 collection features a total of 13 new British coins from the Royal Mint – including FIVE one-year-only commemorative releases for 2025 that appear alongside 8 further definitive coins from the £2 coin down to the penny, all newly designed for the reign of King Charles III.

The perfect memento for 2025, at the centre of the collection is the new UK £5 Coin that commemorates this year the 125th Anniversary of the birth of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Four more coins commemorate key anniversaries for the Modern Railway; The Royal Observatory and The Red Arrows – as well as a new 50p Coin that has been released to coincide with the 80th Anniversary of the end of World War Two.

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Sun business

By **ASHLEY ARMSTRONG**

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🐦 @AArmstrong_says

£ =
€1.21 \$1.27
OIL
\$71.62
Brent Crude barrel
Petrol: **139p**
Diesel: **146p**



Checkout . . at supermarket

SNACKING TRIPS DIP FOR BRITS

BRITS are snacking less and taking fewer trips to the supermarket than before the pandemic, stats show.

Consumers had 330million fewer "snack occasions" last year compared to in 2020, according to KANTAR.

Meanwhile households are buying fewer ingredients as they want simpler meals and spend less time preparing dinner, research found.

It comes as food inflation remained steady at 3.3 per cent in the four weeks to the end of February with prices rising fastest in chocolate, juices, buyers and spreads.

ASDA remains the worst performing supermarket with sales dropping by 5 per cent, while all its rivals have remained in growth.

TESCO'S sales rose by 5.8 per cent over the same period. LIDL'S 8.1 per cent increase means that it is now growing at almost twice the rate of the 4.9 per cent growth reported by rival discount retailer ALDI.

SHARES

BARCLAYS
down 18.70 to 292.40
BP
down 24.75 to 408.00
CENTRICA
down 0.40 to 147.25
HSBC
down 26.20 to 916.30
LLOYDS
down 0.92 to 71.42
M&S
up 11.30 to 376.00
NATWEST
down 17.40 to 462.90
ROYAL MAIL
down 0.40 to 361.60
SAINSBURY'S
down 3.40 to 250.00
SHELL
down 88.50 to 2568.00
TESCO
up 10.70 to 388.70

BANK ON A REVAMP

HSBC is looking for a new UK boss — after the CEO was moved in a fresh bank reshuffle.

Former boss Ian Stuart will now be group customer and culture director under overall group CEO Georges Elhedery.

Mr Elhedery said being "consumer-centric" and "high-performance" is "vital to the long-term success of HSBC." He has announced sweeping changes since landing the top job, including plans to cut £1.2billion in costs by 2026.

BIGGER PAY GAP

WOMEN are more likely to be in low-paid work than men and the gap is growing, new research suggests.

Around 18.7 per cent of jobs held by women pay below the voluntary so-called "Real Living Wage", compared with 12.6 per cent of those held by

men, said the Living Wage Foundation.

Director Katherine Chapman said: "Despite progress in previous years, the gender low pay gap is widening again."

The Real Living Wage is currently set at £12.60-an-hour and £13.85 for London.



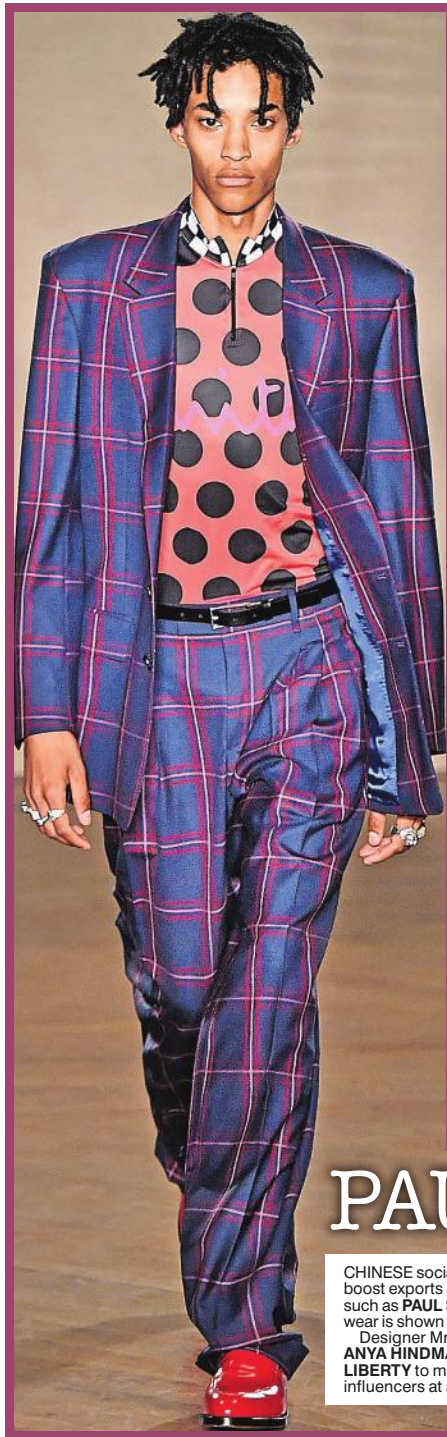
UK firms in take-overs plunged at the end of last year, show. The numbers of mergers and acquisitions fell to just 65 in December — a sharp drop from 151 in November and just over half the total at the end of the previous year, ONS stats reveal.

CONFIDENCE DIP

BRITAIN'S biggest maker of dips has warned prices will have to rise, after it settled strike action over pay.

Hummus giant **BAKKAVOR** resolved the dispute — which caused a taramasalata shortage last year — a day before it reported its results to the

City, yesterday. It said its cost base rose by £59million last year and it faced a further £15million National Insurance bill. The firm said it was already engaged with all the major supermarkets on "price recovery" — a phrase used for passing on higher prices.



CHANCELLOR ON MILITARY SPEND



Vow . . Ms Reeves yesterday

SMALLER British firms will see increased government spending funnelled towards them to create more innovative weapons, Rachel Reeves said yesterday.

The Chancellor pledged to "fire up" the British defence industry. She argued the rise in military investment to 2.5 per cent of GDP will come from spending cuts rather than Brits being saddled with further tax rises.

At a conference for manufacturing lobby group **MADEUK**, she said: "We now need to spend more money on defence to keep our country secure, to keep Europe secure. In fact, a strong defence sector is the bedrock of a strong economy."

The Government has said it will review "single source" contract rules — where certain contracts are not open to competition over national security — and overhaul procurement guidelines to make it easier for smaller firms to win business from the Ministry of Defence.

Defence minister John Healey admitted small firms bagged just four per cent of MoD deals.

Ms Reeves said: "We want to stimulate innovation and innovation often comes from smaller firms, particularly between defence and technology."

She said more money from the National Wealth Fund would be funnelled towards defence spending, alongside UK

Reeves: Defence fires up small biz

Export Finance. The Chancellor added: "I want to make sure as we spend more on defence, it is used to support British jobs and British industry."

Ms Reeves revealed she was working with UK defence companies on how to increase capacity and capability, and that a defence innovation hub will help smaller businesses benefit from the extra spending.

But she will not completely rule out foreign firms. Ms Reeves added: "We'll always need to buy things from abroad. I don't want to pull up the drawbridge, but as we spend more on defence, I want that to benefit the UK economy."

APPRENTICE PLANS PUSH

RACHEL Reeves has said getting more young people into apprenticeships will help fix a skills-gap shortage in the manufacturing industry.

The Chancellor said that relaxing "absolutely crazy" rules on apprentices requiring maths or English qualifications is vital.

She said apprentice roles can create "both vocational and an academic route".

PAUL OF CHINA

CHINESE social media influencers could boost exports of British luxury brands such as **PAUL SMITH**, whose fashion wear is shown by a catwalk model, left.

Designer Mr Smith, right, joined **ANYA HINDMARCH**, **JÓ MALONE** and **LIBERTY** to meet a host of Far East influencers at a Department for Busi-

ness and Trade campaign launch. **BURBERRY** used to rely on wealthy Chinese shoppers for about 40 per cent of revenue. The Chinese luxury market was last year estimated to be worth £43billion.

Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds hailed "China's fast-growing appetite for our world-renowned products".



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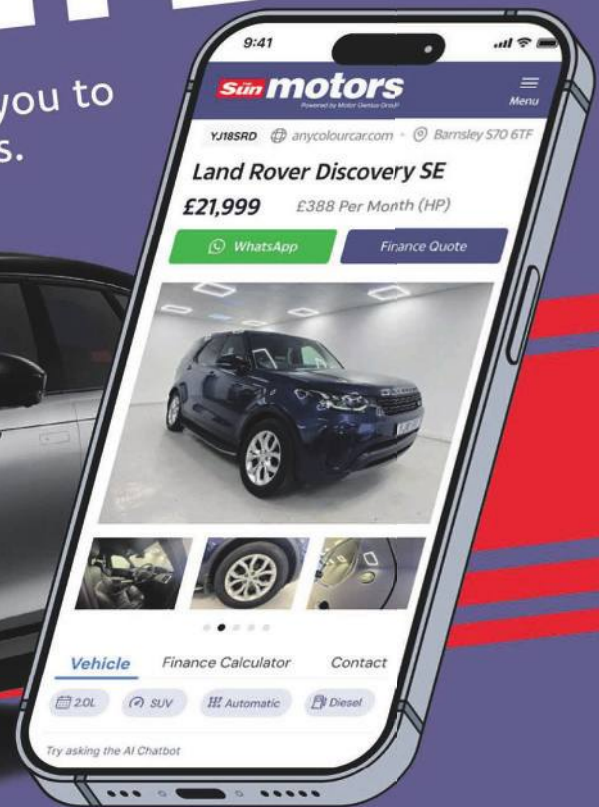
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WADE... licks world No 1

Wade in lick stick

By ROB MAUL

JAMES WADE was branded "disgusting" for licking **Luke Humphries** as he sweats on facing possible disciplinary action.

He got caught on camera touching Cool Hand's neck with his tongue as they embraced before Sunday's UK Open quarter-final at Butlin's Minehead.

Wade, 41 — who won the clash 10-9 — clearly annoyed Humphries, 30, with his antics.

In a since-deleted social media post, the world No 1 said he "wasn't going to give someone who didn't deserve my respect after what he was doing through the game a hug and be all happy about it".

Ex-player Paul Nicholson, now a respected radio pundit, said in his *Sporting Life* column: "James sticking his tongue out and touching Luke's neck was disgusting. 'I wouldn't be surprised if it was investigated."

"The fact Luke left the stage in the manner he did after the match wasn't anything to do with being a 'bad loser'."

PDC chiefs have yet to confirm if they will take action against Wade.

SPORTS ROUND-UP: RESULTS & FIXTURES

CRICKET

ICC Champions Trophy - Semi-final

India v Australia

DUBAI: India beat Australia by four wickets

AUSTRALIA

T Head c Gill b Chakravathy	39
C Connolly c Rahul b Shami	0
S Smith b Shami	73
M Labuschagne lbw Jadeja	29
J Inglis c Kohli b Jadeja	11
A Carey run out	61
G Maxwell b Patel	7
B Dwarshuis c Iyer b Chakravathy	19
A Zampa b Pandya	7
N Ellis c Kohli b Shami	10
T Sangha not out	1
W	7

Total (49.5 overs).....264

Fall: 4-34, 110, 144, 198, 205, 239, 249, 262

Bowling: Shami 10-0-48-3, Pandya 5.3-0-

40-1, Yadav 8-0-44-0, Chakravathy 10-0-49-2,

Patel 8-1-43-1, Jadeja 8-1-40-2.

INDIA

R Sharma lbw Connolly	28
S Gill b Dwarshuis	8
V Kohli c Dwarshuis b Zampa	84
S Iyer b Zampa	45
A Patel b Ellis	27
K Rahul not out	42
H Pandya c Maxwell b Ellis	28
R Jadeja not out	2
W	3

Total (6 wks, 48.1 overs).....267

Fall: 30, 43, 134, 178, 225, 259.

Bowling: Dwarshuis 7-0-39-1, Ellis 10-0-

49-2, Connolly 8-0-37-1, Zampa 10-0-60-2,

Sangha 6-0-41-0, Maxwell 6-1-0-35-0, Head 1-0-6-0.

Umpires: C Gaffaney & R Illingworth.

SNOOKER

WORLD GRAND PRIX (Kowloon, Hong Kong): 1st Rnd - J Lisowski (Eng) bt A Zhang (Chn) 4-2; S Bingham (Eng) bt M Williams (Wal) 4-2; D Gilbert (Eng) bt C Wakelin (Eng) 4-3; S Murphy (Eng) bt B Woollaston (Eng) 4-3; J Trump (Eng) bt G Wilson (Eng) 4-2; J Higgins (Sco) bt A Carter (Eng) 4-3; K Wilson (Eng) bt M Selt (Eng) 4-3; Y Wu (Chn) bt J Pang (Chn) 4-0.

TODAY'S SPORT

BASKETBALL

SLB (7.30): London Lions v Bristol Flyers, Caledonia Gladiators v Cheshire Phoenix.

CRICKET

ICC Champions Trophy - Semi-final: South Africa v New Zealand (Lahore, 9.0am).

ICE HOCKEY

Elite League (7.30): File Flyers v Cardiff Devils, Manchester Stars v Dundee Stars, Nottingham Panthers v Glasgow Clan.

TENNIS

BNP Paribas Open (Indian Wells).



DRIVE TO SURVIVE

By ISABELLE BARKER

CHRISTIAN HORNER says "f*** all of them" as bombshell unseen footage of his 'sexting' scandal is aired in *Drive to Survive*.

Netflix's hit fly-on-the-wall series, which airs its new season this Friday, captures the moment he realises a collection of WhatsApp messages allegedly between Horner and a female colleague were being shared between journalists and F1 bigwigs.

When Horner touched down in Bahrain for the season opener last March, he had allegations of "coercive behaviour" with an unnamed female colleague hanging over his head.

The allegations were dismissed but one day later a cache of messages allegedly between Horner and the female colleague was released.

The Red Bull boss, who denied the accusations, was cleared of the allegations twice after a private, independent investigation.

But he has not been able to hide away from it in the new series of *Drive to Survive*, with his rivals, McLaren chief Zak Brown and Mercedes supremo Toto Wolff, lapping up the drama.

In a teaser for the show, Horner says: "The higher you rise, the sharper the knives."

"I've reached the top of my game



WHEEL SPIN...

Horner, with wife Geri (left), feels the heat in new series on Netflix



and I never thought in a million years I'd have a challenge like this in my career.

"It was obvious that the end goal was for me to leave Red Bull.

"It's a crucial time of year in a job that I do. You're the front face of the organisation. "You can either hide away or you can get out there and face it."

In a press conference, Brown said it was crucial to "make sure that all the racing teams and the personnel and the

drivers and everyone else involved in the sport are operating in a manner which we all live by".

Mercedes boss Wolff also called Red Bull's transparency into question.

Horner, who looks flustered throughout the first episode, got his claws out, saying: "Zak's a p***. I'll get through it."

"You find out who your friends are, don't you?"

Horner and Red Bull blocked out the noise to secure a one-two finish

— with Max Verstappen and Sergio Perez leading home the rest in the Bahrain opener.

And Horner roared: "That's the best way to f*** them all. Shut the f*** up."

The show captures the moment that Horner and his Spice Girls wife Geri Halliwell arrived at the paddock, putting on a united front as they walked hand in hand.

The series documents the mounting pressure on Horner to stand down, with Verstappen's dad, Jos, claiming the team would "explode" with Horner still in charge.

Eyebrows have been raised over a potential motive as to why someone leaked the WhatsApp messages.

Meanwhile, episode one, titled 'Business as Usual', also captures Lewis Hamilton's 2025 move to Ferrari which sent shock waves through the world of F1.

The series shows more unseen footage of how it went down at Mercedes.

Wolff reveals: "After 12 years together, Lewis tells me 'I'm going to Ferrari' ... really?"



RADUCANU... ordeal

EMMA

From Back Page

him first game of the match, and I was like, I don't know how I'm going to finish.

"I literally couldn't see the ball through the tears. "I could barely breathe, like I was playing Karolina who's, like, top 17 in the world or something. I can't see the ball."

The fan, who was released without charge after signing a document that said he would stay away from her in future, had been following Raducanu for months travelling from events in Singapore to Abu Dhabi to Doha before landing in Dubai.

He approached her twice away from the courts before coming to her second-round match.

The 22-year-old, set to face Japan's Moyuka Uchiyama in the first round at Indian Wells, spotted him in the first game of the match and that is when the tears started.

The match was stopped, the man — who has still not been named — was removed from the stadium and then, somehow, Raducanu managed to play on.

She was recalling her horrific experience as she prepared for the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells.

She was watched over by two burly security guards who now follow her everywhere here.

The Brit said: "This is my favourite tournament. If it was another tournament, I'm honestly not sure I'd be playing, but I'm very happy I made that decision."

"Since being here I have definitely come into myself a lot more and feeling happier, feeling more like myself again."

"I'm always with someone who could raise the alarm or could help."

"I'm always very aware and very alert and sensitive and don't really go anywhere on my own."

Rahul's final say

KL RAHUL finished off Australia as India won by four wickets to book their place in the Champions Trophy final.

The Delhi Capitals ace smashed one for six to send India through with 11 balls to spare in Dubai.

They will face the winner of today's South Africa v New Zealand clash in Sunday's showpiece.

India limited their rivals to 264 all out.

Aussie captain Steve Smith and Alex Carey passed 50 but failed to convert those scores into triple figures.

Australia took two wickets inside the powerplay to make things interesting.

But star man Virat Kohli held the Indian innings together with his 84 runs — while Rahul fended off a fightback with 42 not out.



RUGBY UNION

Back to my Roots



GEORGE'S JOE INSPIRATION

By ADAM HATHAWAY

JAMIE GEORGE'S comeback from being dumped as England captain was inspired by Joe Root's resurrection in Test cricket.

Ton-up George has knocked it out of the park, off the bench, in wins over France and Scotland since losing the armband in January. The hooker thought his Red Rose career could be over after his brief 'break-up' chat with boss Steve Borthwick. He then missed the Ireland opener with a calf injury before bouncing back. Yet on Sunday, George is set to win his 100th England cap, against Italy, after showing the same resilience as Root. Yorkshireman Root (above) resigned as Test skipper in 2022, then got back to the top of the red-ball world batting rankings. Cricket-nut George, 34, said: "It hurt, it really did. I was gutted – I felt like I had a lot more to give."

"When I was reflecting on it, I took a bit of inspiration from Joe Root. I look at him now and the freedom he has, and the way he has kicked on to become the best batsman in the world arguably. That is the sort of trajectory I aspire to be on."

"It has freed him up and allowed him to play even better than he already was. That is how I would love it to be (for me)."

The forward admitted he was hit for six by Borthwick's bombshell, delivered in a St Albans cafe before the boss announced Maro Itoje as his new skipper.

George added: "It wasn't a two-way conversation, it was very one way. I don't think you can plead your case like in a break-up!"

"I wasn't expecting it but at the same time I understood it. Steve has always been very honest with me."

"Now, I want to play for England as long as I can."

"The World Cup is definitely an ambition of mine and I would love to put my name in the hat for another Lions tour."

"Hopefully my performances over the next couple of weeks will put my name in the conversation."

TON OF TRAINING... George in Bagshot yesterday

GET UP 'N ADAM

By DAVID FACEY

WALES aim to "put the frighteners" on Scotland — after rediscovering a feel-good factor despite a horror run of 15 successive Test defeats.

Assistant coach Adam Jones, who won 11 of his 12 games against Scotland as a player, says there is real belief they can cause a Six Nations upset at Murrayfield on Saturday.

Dragons caretaker boss Matt Sherratt saw his side push Ireland before losing 27-18 in his first game last month. Jones (right) said: "There was real momentum from the performance against Ireland, and a feel-good factor about the way the boys played."



Matt got a great buy-in into his attacking ideas, and we played with a lot of belief.

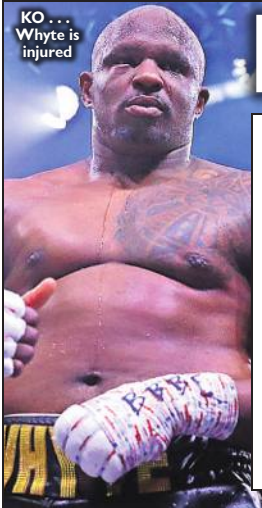
"There's no pressure on us, not after 15 defeats on the bounce. There's pressure on Scotland. This is probably one of the best sides they've ever had, if not the best. They'll be expecting to beat us pretty comfortably."

"We'll go up there to put the frighteners on them a bit."

"There's no point going up there and being in awe of them."

"We're going up there to win – we're not going up there to make up the numbers."

KO... Whyte is injured



NEW DILL FOR JOE

DILLIAN WHYTE has pulled out of his heavyweight bout against Joe Joyce due to a finger injury.

The 36-year-old was set for a highly anticipated all-British clash on April 5 in Manchester.

Whyte (right) will now fight dangerous super-sub Filip Hrgovic on the same night.

Whyte's injury is a huge blow as he needed a marquee clash after a failed drug test killed off his mega-money rematch with Anthony Joshua in 2023.

Whyte has lost three of his last four fights since claiming the vacant WBO interim heavyweight title against Joseph Parker in 2022.

The Putney ace, 39, could have cherry-picked an easier opponent.

By WALLY DOWNES Jr

But respected Croat Hrgovic – who took four rounds off Daniel Dubois in June before the Brit stopped him in the eighth – got the gig.

A source said: "If there is one thing British boxing fans know about Joe, it's that he will fight anyone."

"Joe has no interest in dropping below world level."

"And choosing Filip Hrgovic – with an 18-1 record and his only loss coming to world champion Dubois, proves it once again."

Whyte beat Hrgovic on a split decision as an amateur in 2013.

The bill also includes the former world cruiserweight king Lawrence Okolie and Richard Riakporhe.



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AKE... had surgery

Pep has a back problem

By MARTIN BLACKBURN

PEP GUARDIOLA faces an injury headache over his defence as he looks to salvage something from Manchester City's season.

Nathan Ake had surgery on Monday on a broken foot — and there is no time frame on his return.

But with just under 11 weeks left of the domestic campaign, Ake faces a battle to play any further part in it.

He joins fellow defenders John Stones and Manuel Akanji — who were injured in the Champions League defeats to Real Madrid last month — on the treatment table.

England ace Stones, 30, will not have an op on his thigh injury but is likely to be out for two months.

Swiss star Akanji, 29, did go under the knife but his rehab will likely be similar to Stones'.

That leaves City chief Guardiola with just Ruben Dias — who has also had injury problems — Josko Gvardiol and new boys Abdou Diallo, Khusanov and Vitor Reis to choose from.

Both have impressed during their short time at the Etihad but will now have to be used more than was first planned when they arrived in January.

Guardiola could use Gvardiol as a centre-back — though the Croatian has been required at left-back in recent weeks and has not had many opportunities to rest.

But with City going for the FA Cup and needing points to stay in the top four, he will have to play there are no more injuries.

While the Premier campaign finishes on May 25, City compete in the Club World Cup three weeks later.

Monga wonga

EXCLUSIVE
By ANDREW DILLON

MANCHESTER CITY are ready to make a move for Leicester wonderkid Jeremy Monga.

The winger has featured on the Foxes' first-team bench despite being only 15 — and has captained England Under-16s.

That has caught the eye of some of Europe's top clubs, with reigning Premier League champions City hoping to tie up a move this summer.

Leicester are five points adrift of safety and looked doomed to relegation.

But they remain keen to hang on to talents like schoolboy Monga.

Because of his age, any deal would have to go through a tribunal, with mega-rich Manchester City forced to pay compensation to Leicester.

PREM ELLO, ELLO, ELLO



FRONT-LINE OF DUTY... our mock-up of Officer Wissa

BOBBEE ON THE BEAT

Wissa: I thought I'd be a copper... not Prem striker

BRENTFORD striker Yoane Wissa believed he would be tackling crime rather than Premier League defenders when he was growing up.

But Wissa is now one of the most lethal hitmen in the country.

The 28-year-old has formed a deadly partnership with Bryan Mbeumo — making up for the loss of talisman Ivan Toney to Saudi Arabia last summer.

His 13 Prem goals have him joint-seventh in the scoring charts and have put the Bees in with a shout of Europe.

But as a kid, the frontman thought he would be "just another guy on the street" — until things quickly changed.

Wissa told SunSport: "When I was growing up, I expected to be a random guy, maybe a policeman. Why not?"

"But once I saw the small light that I could be here, I took it."

"It sounds crazy when I say that to people, but the truth is I'm not the

EXCLUSIVE by RAHMAN OSMAN

most talented guy. What keeps me going is that I love to work hard."

France-born Congo international Wissa started out as a goalkeeper and progressed into midfield before settling as a forward.

He came through the ranks at Chateauroux before moves to fellow French sides Angers and Lorient and eventually Brentford for about £8million in 2022.

Wissa said: "The first time I thought I could be good at football was when I was 16. Then I went to the academy, which is considered late because most of the others were about 14."

"But then I started to feel that there could be something for me here."

"Some will say it's a dream come true but it won't even a dream because I didn't expect to be a footballer."

"I don't take that for granted. I didn't expect to be here — yet now I'm here

with boss Thomas Frank and the guys. I just work hard and that's why, when I speak, I do so with a smile."

Since Toney's departure to Al-Ahli last summer, Wissa and Mbeumo have become the faces of Brentford.

They are the most lethal duo in the Premier League this season with a combined total of 28 top-flight goals for the Bees.

Asked what makes playing together with Mbeumo so smooth, Wissa said: "He's a top player, so that's the first thing that makes it very easy."

"What I do is try to help him. I make sure to position myself in a way that if he needs me, I'll be there."

"It also helps that we've played together for a while."

But it is not just Mbeumo that Wissa gets along with easily.

As the interview continues, manager Frank comes by to pat him on the back — and I asked what the Brentford manager is like behind the scenes.

His response gives an indication of the strong bonds within the club, saying: "Thomas is a friend. That's what he's good at. He's a guy who is open to talk and everyone loves him."

"He's always positive — not just in the good times — and this is why it's very good for us."

"But I have to say this — it's easier to speak to someone who is always playing, but he also likes to make sure people who feel a bit isolated are taken care of."

"That, for me, is also very crucial. So, if I can say something about him, Thomas Frank is just a friend to us."



ANTONY... loan add

Flop Ant 'stay' hint

By MARTIN BLACKBURN

MANCHESTER UNITED flop Antony has told Real Betis he is open to extending his loan by another year.

The Brazilian winger, 25, endured a nightmare stay at Old Trafford after a £85.5million move from Ajax in summer 2022.

Antony agreed to move to the Spanish club on loan in January — and so far the move has worked out well, with two goals and two assists in five LaLiga matches.

Betis chief executive Ramon Alarcon said: "The other day Antony told me that he wanted to stay another year."

"The player is very comfortable here and was surprised by the facilities we gave him to settle in the city when he arrived."

As things stand, Antony will stay with Betis until the end of the season and then return to United — but a longer spell in Spain has not been ruled out.

Sport

PHILIPPE CLEMENT insisted Rangers hold "a special place" in his heart despite his brutal sacking nine days ago.

He said: "It's taken me a few days to accept the end of my time with this exceptional club."

SHORT



LINDELOF... on move

Benfica's Lindeloff

By MARTIN BLACKBURN

VICTOR LINDELOF could return to Benfica when his Manchester United deal expires this summer.

The Sweden defender, 30, spent five years at the Portuguese club before a £31million move to Old Trafford in July 2017.

This season he has been hit by injuries and is yet to start a Prem game for the Red Devils.

And his campaign took a turn for the worse on Sunday when he missed his penalty as United crashed out of the FA Cup to Fulham in a shootout.

West Ham were one of the clubs who showed an interest in taking him on loan in January but he looks likely to move as a free agent.

Benfica are on the lookout for a replacement for ex-Manchester City man Nicolas Otamendi.



PARTNERS IN CRIME...
Mbeumo and Wissa



PREM

OLD TRAFFORD REVOLT

FANNING THE FLAMES...
United supporters are planning to protest on Sunday



ROONEY... jibe

FANS

From Back Page

lies squarely at the current ownership model.

"In many ways, this is the biggest crisis United have faced since the Munich air disaster which inspired our name.

"The club is facing financial armageddon. Debt is the road to ruin.

"Sir Matt Busby would be turning in his grave at the plight of one of the world's greatest football institutions which is being brought to its knees and in many ways becoming a laughing stock.

"We urge fans to rise up, united and join us to march and protest against the despised Glazers and the club's deliberate assault on fan culture. This is more than just a club to us. We are more than just a number on a seat.

"We cannot heal as a club or fan base until the Glazers are gone. Let's fight for a better future."

Recent figures showed United — 14th in the Prem and out of the FA Cup, leaving the Europa League as their only route to silverware and Europe next season — are £731million in debt with another £300m owed on transfer fees. Supporters have had

BACK FROM THE RED

FEELING THE HEAT... Utd bigwig Ratcliffe

DUCK 'N COVER
... Avram (left) and Joel Glazer

How chiefs can resurrect United to win support

BUILD, BABY BUILD

Starting work on the "new Old Trafford" would be a visible and popular signal of the club's ambition.

Confirming a new 100,000-capacity stadium, at the heart of an entertainment and regeneration complex on land adjoining the club's home since 1910, would certainly alter the dynamics of the conversation.

The long-term benefits on income streams — likely to see an uplift to £8m in gate money every game — would be felt by the club's power in the transfer market.

In addition, the current site would have a significant redevelopment value as well. Win-win for everybody.

IT'S GOOD TO TALK

Fans are desperate to feel wanted by the club — and better communication might have an immediate effect.

Justifying ticket-price increases, a second round of job cuts and cost-cutting by email and press release was hardly going to bring a feel-good factor.

Raising the lowest price ticket to £66, with Ratcliffe having argued they should not be cheaper than at Fulham — their FA Cup conquerors on Sunday — will raise around £2million, seen by fans as a drop in the ocean given the latest record income of £662m.

With bitter rivals Liverpool having recently announced a freeze on season-ticket prices for next term, following that lead and explaining how much they value supporters would be a welcome, if unlikely, move.

But equally important, for many fans, would be actually hearing from the men at the top. It is felt that

MANCHESTER UNITED fans are being urged to make their feelings clear at Sunday's Premier League clash with Arsenal.

The green and gold protests against the Glazer takeover are long gone, with supporters now being told to wear funeral black.

But what could Sir Jim Ratcliffe, Ineos, or even the Glazers do to bring the increasingly angry fans back into the Old Trafford fold?

SunSport's MARTIN BLACKBURN and MARTIN LIPTON look at the various moves that might be possible — and assess how realistic they are.

Ratcliffe and Ineos sporting chief Sir Dave Brailsford are reluctant to give out any information — over long or even short-term plans — when supporters are crying out to see a real vision for the club.

For many, it represents no change from the remote Florida-based ownership they became used to when the Glazers were in full control.

SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE

MUST — the Manchester United Supporters Trust — has long been urging a new share issue to allow fans to invest and take a tangible stake in the club.

United do not have a shortage of wealthy fans who might be ready to put hands in their pockets even if Ineos retained full control of the sporting side of United.

GET THE GLAZERS GONE

Probably the biggest demand of many fans — but also the least likely.

The Glazer family have used United as a lucrative cash cow, taking a staggering £1.3bn from share sales and dividend payment — while late patriarch

Malcolm paid less than £800m to buy the club in 2005.

They earned £715m from selling Ratcliffe his stake 12 months ago and have continued to rake in the cash over the past year.

But so far there is no reason whatsoever for the Glazers to sell their remaining 75 per cent shareholding — and even less when it is Ratcliffe and Ineos who are now getting it in the neck from supporters and not them.

A PROPER STRATEGY

United's shocking transfer market record over the past few seasons has left a squad that does not seem fit for purpose — and definitely unsuited to Ruben Amorim's preferred 3-4-3 formation.

What the fans want to see from this summer is a coherent and structured approach to the market. Supporters recognise that not every signing will work out. But they want to see

players arrive who have a clear and defined role and who are part of a focused and not scattergun approach.

If it looks like every new player shares an agent with the manager — which many felt was the case under Erik ten Hag — that is bound to cause concern.

Likewise, there needs to be a clear chain of command and responsibility — the club must be the one to blame if things go wrong, not necessarily the manager.

Paying out millions every 18 months to the latest managerial fall-guy is hardly a smart play — and increases the pressures over Profitability and Sustainability Rules as well.

United fans, arguably more than supporters of any other club, want to see the Carrington production line bearing fruit.

The proposed sales of Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo this summer would be viewed as a massively retrograde step.

United should be cultivating the crop for their own use, not be a producer for other clubs to benefit from their efforts.

GET IT RIGHT ON THE PITCH

A winning side, under a manager with authority, can provide cover to let the other longer-term issues be fixed with far less scrutiny on them.

Ruben Amorim arrived with expectations that have not been met and doubts are starting to swirl around the Portuguese.

But assuming he gets this summer to reshape his squad, the next step must be to show obvious positive signs on the field.

Without that, the mood can only become increasingly mutinous.



TOUGH START
... Amorim will recruit in summer

The club is facing financial armageddon

— SUPPORTERS GROUP THE 1958

enough and the protest will start from the Tollgate pub at 3.15pm before the Old Trafford clash against Arsenal in what The 1958 hope will be their biggest protest ever.

Part-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe, who increased ticket prices to £66 with no concessions, has seen his popularity plummet after club redundancies headed towards the 450 mark.

After their dismal fifth-round FA Cup exit to Fulham on Sunday, they visit Real Sociedad in the Europa League tomorrow.

United's all-time leading scorer Wayne Rooney — with 253 goals — called manager Ruben Amorim 'naive' for stating the long-term goal is to win the Prem title again.

But Portuguese Amorim said: "I understand what people are saying."

"If you look at how our team is playing and the results, it's hard to imagine big things in this moment for our club."

"But in the darkest moment we have to have a light in the path, and that is clear here."

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

PSG v

Reds must beware of 'Kvaradona'

GEORGIAN star Khvicha Kvaratskhelia was given the nickname "Kvaradona" by Napoli fans.

His dribbling style looked similar to the legendary Diego Maradona — who dragged the Italian club to not only its first-ever Serie A title in 1986-87 but also its second two years later.

Comparisons of that sort do not come lightly but, as Kvaratskhelia lines up for Paris Saint-Germain against Liverpool at the Parc des Princes tonight, the Reds may wonder what might have been.

The Anfield club were long-time admirers of this brilliant Georgian talent but he instead joined PSG from Napoli in January for £66million.

Kvaratskhelia was sensational against the Reds back in September 2022 when Napoli ran out 4-1 winners in the Champions League group stage.

And now he is a huge threat to Arne Slot's European hopes as Liverpool face off with PSG in the last 16, first leg.

Kvaratskhelia, 24, arrived in France seen as one of the world's best left wingers but he could be on the right against the Reds.

That follows a tactical switch by PSG boss Luis Enrique, which has let him fit his star players in the same team.

Fears that PSG would struggle after Kylian Mbappe's departure have been unfounded.

They actually look MORE balanced now, 13 points clear at the top of Ligue 1 and on a run of TEN straight wins in all competitions.

And PSG have scored 105 goals across 39 games overall.

Kvaratskhelia helped Napoli to the Serie A title in 2023 — their first since the late Maradona was there.

And he had arrived for only £10m from Georgian top-flight side Dinamo Batumi just the previous summer.

Once he landed at PSG, coach Enrique faced a selection problem as picking a him meant axing Bradley Barcola who has done well since moving from Lyon.

So the former Barcelona boss tried Kvaratskhelia out the

By CHARLIE WYETT

right and he has gone down a storm.

Barcola remains on the left with back-in-form ace Ousmane Dembele as the No9.

Kvaratskhelia (below) boasts two goals and four assists from his ten games and is thriving in the French capital.

He said: "Everything is going very well. It's never easy to arrive in a new country, a new league.

"It's really different but I work hard, it's my job."

Enrique had wanted to sign the winger last season and thinks he can make PSG even stronger.

The Spaniard said: "He's not quite at 100 per cent yet. We're focused on finding the team solution that ensures the best in every match."

"It is good that he can play in any position. In midfield, down the left, as a No9 and also on the right flank."

Enrique certainly has options tonight as Desire Doue, 19, is also pushing to feature either in midfield or attack.

But PSG are wary of Slot's side, who have won all but one of their Champions League games this season.

Midfielder Joao Neves — who joined from Benfica in a £58m deal last summer — said:

"Liverpool are a very good team and finished top of the league stage.

"We have to avoid conceding a goal early on. And must try not to give them the ball."



HAPPY DIAZ ... Reds duo Diaz and Nunez have some fun yesterday ahead of the Paris Saint-Germain clash

MANAGER FEWEST DAYS TO WIN THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Manager	Date took charge	CL final win	Days in charge
1 Roberto Di Matteo	Mar 4, 2012	May 19, 2012	76
2 Thomas Tuchel	Jan 26, 2021	May 29, 2021	123
3 Zinedine Zidane	Jan 4, 2016	May 28, 2016	145
4 Vicente del Bosque	Nov 8, 1999	May 24, 2000	198
5 Hansi Flick	Nov 3, 2019	Aug 23, 2020	294
6 Jupp Heynckes	Jul 1, 1997	May 20, 1998	323
7 Carlo Ancelotti	Jun 25, 2013	May 24, 2014	333
8 Luis Enrique	Jul 1, 2014	Jun 6, 2015	340
9 Rafa Benitez	Jun 16, 2004	May 25, 2005	343

Enrique's vow to avoid any card tricks with Kop

LUIS ENRIQUE claims he will not be telling his Paris Saint-Germain stars to deliver dirty tricks against Liverpool tonight.

Ibrahima Konate, Andy Robertson and Harvey Elliott have all been booked twice for Arne Slot's side in Europe this season.

That means one more yellow card at the Parc des Princes would see them banned for next Tuesday's second leg at Anfield.

PSG boss Enrique said: "I don't waste my energy on players who are a yellow away from a suspension — that's not important for me.

"What really interests me is

By CHARLIE WYETT

the confidence we have to face this team."

Yet there is no doubt that a potential ban will be hanging over all three Kop stars — who will have to remain calm in what is expected to be an intense atmosphere.

Enrique (right), who has a full squad to select from, also stressed he has been impressed by Anfield chief Slot.

He said: "The job that Arne has done since Jurgen Klopp left has been very good.

"It seemed it would be hard to improve in one season but he has

built an almost perfect team. They press without problems and are dangerous in attack.

"They have lots of options with players like Salah, whose figures have been exceptional for years.

"They are a complete team. The match is an opportunity for us to show we, too, are at a high level.

"We're very similar in terms of pace and intensity. We may not be as strong physically but we have a very high tempo.

"We're one of the best teams with the ball. It's going to be intense and difficult, two teams with a lot of strengths going head-to-head."



Napoli (2022-25)	KVARATSKHELIA RECORD SINCE 2022	PSG (2025-present)
107	Games	10
8,118	Mins played	658
30	Goals	2
24	Assists	3
150	Mins per goal/assist	132
191	Chances created	21
55%	Win rate	90%

LIVERPOOL-PSG HEAD-TO-HEAD



APR 10, 1997	CWC – semi-final
PSG	(2) 3
Liverpool	(0) 0

APR 24, 1997	CWC – semi-final
Liverpool	(1) 2
PSG	(0) 0

SEP 18, 2018	Champs Lge – group
Liverpool	(2) 3
PSG	(1) 2

NOV 28, 2018	Champs Lge – group
PSG	(2) 2
Liverpool	(1) 1





LIVERPOOL

8pm, TNT Sports 1
and **talkSPORT**

SLOT IN

Arne can become rapid Euro winner

TONIGHT in Paris, a manager with the world at his feet will step into uncharted territory.

The Champions League knock-out stage – the apex of club football – represents a new frontier for Arne Slot.

While his Liverpool team are running away with the Premier League in the Dutchman's maiden campaign at Anfield, a last-16 clash with Paris Saint-Germain will be the biggest of Slot's career.

Could this essentially quiet man – with an ego about as apparent as his non-existent hair – really carry off the two biggest available prizes in his first season on Merseyside, and as a Champions League rookie too?

When he was appointed to succeed Jurgen Klopp, Slot's lack of Champions League experience – he had never played or managed among Europe's elite – seemed an obvious negative.

Yet Liverpool topped the 36-club table in the new group format – winning their first seven matches.

And besides, managerial experience is over-rated in the Champions League. This is not necessarily a competition in which a manager has to build long and hard for.

Both Thomas Tuchel and Roberto Di Matteo lifted Old Big Ears after just months in charge of Chelsea – for Di Matteo in 2012, an interim who had managed only MK Dons and West Brom, that glory was particularly unexpected.

Likewise, Spaniard Rafa Benitez experienced the Miracle of Istanbul in his first Liverpool season in 2005. And none of those newcomers



By DAVE KIDD

CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

boasted a team anywhere near as good as Slot's – neither of Chelsea's European champion sides, nor Benitez's men who defeated AC Milan, had finished in the top four of the Premier League.

For players, Champions League experience is undoubtedly valuable. Five of Slot's team – Alisson, Virgil van Dijk, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Andy Robertson and Mo Salah – won Liverpool's sixth European Cup against Spurs in 2019.

Ibrahima Konate and Luis Diaz were also on parade for the narrow defeat by Real on a chaotic night in Paris for the 2022 final.

Slot has enjoyed a glorious inheritance but has built upon Klopp's foundations impressively.

That absence of ego is key. Most new managers would seek to make sweeping changes. To put their own indelible stamp on a squad.

Instead, the 46-year-old former Feyenoord chief adheres to the 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' approach.

Liverpool's playing style is less manic now. After Klopp's 'heavy metal football', the Dutchman is more of a balladeer.

As Reds midfielder Curtis Jones explained in pre-season: "We're not in a rush to attack. In the past, it was a rush to get the ball back, a bit too direct, up and down."

"Now we want to have all the ball and completely kill a team."

While Slot's F-word tirade at ref Michael Oliver after last month's draw at Everton proved he does have a combustible side, he is a level-headed, fine-details coach. A

facilitator rather than an innovator, much like Carlo Ancelotti – who has a record five European Cups.

It helps that Salah has elevated himself to Ballon d'Or level, but Slot has turned his compatriot Ryan Gravenberch into the team's midfield conductor.

Slot's more measured approach is better suited to Europe.

Of their 15 remaining rivals for the trophy, only Real Madrid – whom Liverpool would meet in the semis, if at all – have more Champions League knowhow.

Tonight's opponents PSG are in white-hot form, with ten straight wins. Yet France's dominant club so often arrive in the knock-out stages under-cooked from a lack of serious domestic competition, losing in the last-16 six times in nine seasons.

History tells us both Benitez and Joe Fagan won the European Cup for Liverpool in their first seasons.

And that Bob Paisley conquered Europe in his first campaign in the competition – his third season after succeeding Bill Shankly.

Paisley bears the most obvious comparisons with Slot – an unassuming man succeeding a bombastic Messiah-like figure, for Shankly, read Klopp.

Slot, who leads Liverpool out for the Carabao Cup final on Sunday week, has a long way to go before he emulates Paisley's three European Cups and six league titles in nine years.

But there is little to suggest that tonight's journey into the unknown will faze him.

For the quiet man of Anfield, it shouldn't be much more than a pleasant trip to Paris in the springtime.



DUTCH OF CLASS... boss Slot leads the training session



BOSS BLAST

From Back Page

you'. It is alleged Arne Slot turned to the assistant ref and shouted twice it was 'a f***ing disgrace'. He was shown a red card."

Slot's assistant coach Sipke Hulshoff also got a two-match touchline ban and £7,000 fine for his behaviour on February 12.

Everton were fined £65k and Liverpool £50k for failing to control their players.

The panel added: "Hulshoff is alleged to have entered the field of play to confront the ref in an 'extremely aggressive manner'."

"It is alleged he said the ref was 'f***ing s***', 'gave them everything' and was a 'f***ing disgrace'."

The chaos at Goodison Park began after James Tarkowski's last-gasp equaliser for Everton.

Liverpool were adamant the goal should have been disallowed because of a shove by Beto on Reds defender Ibrahima Konate.

Toffees star Abdoulaye Doucoure celebrated in front of away fans at the end before being confronted by Curtis Jones – with both sent off for second yellow cards.

Both Slot and Hulshoff admitted to their misconduct raps, yet the manager "disputed"

Oliver's version of events. He claimed he actually said, "If we don't win the league, I will have you to thank for that" but conceded his actions were "unacceptable".

Slot was asked about the FA's written reasons at his pre-match press conference in Paris last night.

He said: "The moment it happened, I was quite emotional."

"I chose to go on the pitch instead of staying calm, staying inside and then talking to the ref."

"I should now set a better example. It's clear what I've said and what Michael has written and what I've written."

"Michael has been in the news quite a lot recently and I don't think it helps if I add something to that now."

Slot confirmed forward Cody Gakpo has suffered a fresh ankle injury so is unlikely to feature tonight.

The Reds chief is also wary of PSG attacker Ousmane Dembele.

Slot said: "If you look at the quality Dembele brings to the team at the moment, it's impressive."

Meanwhile, ref Oliver has not been given a Prem game this weekend – after missing Liam Roberts' kung-fu kick.

Oliver needed VAR to persuade him to give the Millwall keeper a red for a crazy tackle on Crystal Palace's Jean-Philippe Mateta.

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HAILS

From Back Page

yourself in a position to go to the next round. That's the reality. For it to be a landmark, you have to make it a different level.

"This team has done a lot that hasn't been done for many years — or in the history of the club.

"It means a lot but that's not what we want. We want to achieve things far more important."

Arsenal were 3-0 up inside 31 minutes before four second-half strikes after Noa Lang's penalty for PSV Eindhoven on the stroke of half-time.

The Gunners look set to face Real Madrid or Atletico Madrid in the last eight next month.

Skipper Odegaard, who left Real for Arsenal back in August 2021, said: "It would be special to go back there. Whoever we get we will be ready.

"We have to finish our job at home first."

Declan Rice added: "We had the drive and hunger, it's the knockout rounds of the Champions League.

"We pushed on and you saw that with the goals we scored in the second half. A massive performance."

Gunners defender Timber said: "We have shown what we are capable of."

Myles Lewis-Skelly and Nwaneri also became the first English teenagers to combine for a Champions League goal.

And Nwaneri, 17, is now the youngest-ever Arsenal starter in the competition.

Lewis-Skelly was subbed after 35 minutes having come close to being sent off for a second yellow.

Odegaard said: "He took that really well. He knew it was a tricky position to be in. I'm sure he will learn from that, too."

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



PSV

LANG 43 (pen)



0-1

DUTCH MASTER . . . Gunners defender Timber nods in the opener on return to his homeland



0-3

IN GOOD MIK . . . Merino shows his newfound striker's instincts to slide home No 3



0-2

MATCH STATS		
PSV	V	ARSENAL
12	SHOTS	15
2	SHOTS ON TARGET	8
53%	POSSESSION	47%
445	PASSES	400
365	COMPLETED PASSES	330
18	TOUCHES IN OPPOSITION BOX	34
5	CORNERS	3
9	FOULS CONCEDED	10
1/0	YELLOW/RED	3/0

Sport

BRAHIM DIAZ hit the winner as Real Madrid beat city rivals Atletico 2-1 in their first leg. Rodrygo opened the scoring for the hosts at the Bernabeu. Julian Alvarez levelled before Diaz's stunner won it.

SHORT

Sun rated real deal

By ROB MAUL

SIMON JORDAN revealed his old Crystal Palace stars used SunSport's player ratings when trying to negotiate new contracts.

The London-born businessman, 57, was Palace chairman from 2000-2010.

And on his talkSPORT show Jordan recalled that back when players got a mark out of ten alongside a match report, some would use them as a bargaining tool.

Jordan — a former Sun columnist — said: "I had players come to me with The Sun's ratings as a reason they should be given a new contract.

"I had a player on two occasions going, 'I got an eight in The Sun this week. That means I should be given a new contract, shouldn't I?' (Get) Out!"

Jordan added: "Can you imagine if an owner was asked for a ranking of his players? There would be outrage."

**INTER THE
QUARTERS**
Gunners' goal blitz tops Milan

7 ARSENAL scored seven in a Euro away game for the first time since Nov 1993 (7-0 v Standard Liege) on their way to winning the Cup Winners' Cup that year.

3 PSV conceded seven goals in a game for only the third time in their history — also against GVAV in May 1958 (7-1) and Feyenoord in June 1960 (7-1).

20 THE GUNNERS have won each of their last five games in the Champions League, scoring 20 goals and only conceding three times in the process.

1 ARSENAL 7

TIMBER 18; NWANERI 21; MERINO 31; ODEGAARD 47, 73; TROSSARD 48; CALAFIORI 85

in association with

William HILL



NWAN-TWO ...
Nwaneri combines with fellow academy star Lewis-Skelly to double early lead



1-4

MART FINISH ... Odegaard restores the visitors' three-goal cushion on 47 minutes



1-5

LEO SLAYER ... Trossard chips home a minute after Odegaard's first as Arsenal cruise



ISAK ... in demand

Buoyant Toon Sak off sales

By GARY STONEHOUSE

NEWCASTLE gave a hands-off warning to Liverpool, Arsenal and Manchester City over Alexander Isak and Bruno Guimarães.

Just 12 months ago, the club warned stars may be sold to meet PSR rules — but chief exec Darren Eales said there is now NO WAY any would have to go.

He stated the Saudi PIF owners are ready to "spend to the max" to make Eddie Howe's Magpies champions.

Eales yesterday unveiled last term's accounts with a loss of £11.1million — down from £73.4m a year ago.

He said: "We've got that desire to keep key players, they have long contracts."

"We've no intention at all of moving them on and we're not under the gun."

"We've got an ambitious ownership that wants the best for the club. So it'd be crazy to consider it."

On 22-goal, top-scorer Isak being linked with Prem rivals, Eales said: "It's part of football. We know he's world class."

Eales even confirmed SunSport reports they will be looking to tie down the £150m-rated Swedish hotshot, 25, to a new deal.

After three windows with no major additions, Eales assured the Saudi owners are still eyeing the top.

He declared: "The ownership has committed to spending to the maximum amount within the rules."

"If the rules weren't there we'd spend more."

"Ultimately we want to be winning the Premier League but we have to do it within the constraints."

● **NEWCASTLE** will not appeal Anthony Gordon's red card against Brighton.

The winger's three-game ban now sees him miss the March 16 Carabao Cup final against Liverpool.

Defender Lewis Hall, 20, is also out of the Wembley clash with an ankle issue.

It's a Kulu shaker...

TOTTENHAM have been rocked by another injury blow after star man Dejan Kulusevski picked up a foot problem.

The Swedish attacker is having tests to discover the extent of the damage.

But he looks set to miss tomorrow's Europa League last-16 first leg at AZ Alkmaar in Holland and Sunday's home Prem clash with Bournemouth.

Kulusevski, 24, posted a picture on Instagram in which he appears to be wearing a protective boot on his left foot.

Spurs have suffered huge injury problems this term. But long-term absentees Dominic Solanke, Cristian Romero and Micky van de Ven could soon return.

MIKEL ARTETA'S goal-crazy Arsenal can smell the quarter-finals after a stunning result that even eclipsed one of the club's greatest European nights.

Arsene Wenger's side battered Inter Milan 5-1 at the San Siro back in November 2003 — with Thierry Henry running rings around Javier Zanetti and Co.

Twenty two years on and a woeful PSV outfit could have done with Zanetti — even at his current age of 51 — at the back as the Gunners went two better with a seven-goal Euro humbling on the road.

While Wenger had Henry, Robert Pires and Freddie Ljungberg, Arteta has pulled off the same feat without a recognised striker and Mikel Merino leading the line.

The Spanish midfielder got in on the act with a strike, alongside Jurrien Timber, Ethan Nwaneri, Leandro Trossard, Riccardo Calafiori and a Martin Odegaard double.

It is the first time Arsenal have scored more than three goals in a Champions League knockout game away from home.

Regardless, Arteta will be praying to have the likes of Bukayo Saka and Gabriel Martinelli back for a near-confirmed blockbuster last-eight clash with either Real Madrid or Atletico Madrid next month.

The last meeting between Arsenal and PSV in December 2023 produced one of the dulllest group-stage dead-rubbers in living memory, ending 1-1.

Fifteen months on, PSV's Philips Stadion redeemed itself by hosting a real humdinger of a last-16 first leg. The Dutch giants did their best to give the Gunners a near-perfect European away-day with some diabolical defending. But Arteta's

From JORDAN DAVIES

in EINDHOVEN



boys love to flirt with danger, as Myles Lewis-Skelly somehow escaped a **THIRD** red card in 38 days for two quick-fire fouls before being hauled off after 35 minutes.

The visitors should have been home and hosed after Merino's 31st-minute strike made it 3-0. But a clothesline of Luuk de Jong in the box from Thomas Partey handed PSV a lifeline in the form of Noa Lang's penalty before the break.

Arteta labelled this game a "big moment" in Arsenal's season and they produced one of their best performances for months. Two

minutes into the second half, Odegaard and Trossard ensured it was job done, with the skipper later grabbing another and sub Calafiori making it 7-1 late on.

Whisper it quietly, but in this sort of form, could Arsenal produce a special European journey this season? Perhaps, but they will come up against better defences than this in their own training sessions.

Arteta made two changes from the drab 0-0 at Nottingham Forest last week, bringing in Lewis-Skelly for Calafiori and Partey for Jorginho.

And despite failing to score in their last two Prem outings with the makeshift front three of Trossard, Nwaneri and Merino, that trio was entrusted again for this one.

Nwaneri's start broke more records, becoming Arsenal's youngest-ever player to start in a Champions

League knockout game at 17 years and 348 days.

The teen started with a swagger, a beautiful cross to the far post almost putting it on a plate for Gabriel.

Arsenal were purring. Declan Rice found the net but for a very tight automated offside call.

It almost came back to bite them with PSV's Ismael Saibari smacking the post in the 16th minute.

Two minutes later, and Arsenal were ahead — Rice's peach of a delivery headed in by Timber. The away end was still bouncing when Lewis-Skelly and Nwaneri combined to add another.

But Lewis-Skelly, 18, showed his immaturity with two clumsy tackles inside two minutes that should have resulted in a red card.

Spanish ref Jesus Gil Manzano decided to show leniency by only issuing one booking for the teen.

That was warning enough for Arteta, wisely subbing off the kid for Calafiori on 35 minutes.

The worst defending of the lot gave Merino a third goal in four games in all competitions.

The penalty for Lang would have angered Arteta but he was soon smiling again in the second half with PSV keeper Walter Benitez gifting Odegaard one before Trossard tucked away No5 in the 48th minute.

Even the Arsenal fans were losing count. Odegaard made it six in the 73rd minute while Calafiori also had time to get in on the act. Eat your heart out, Arsene. This is a **REAL** Champions League romp.

HOW THEY LINED UP

PSV: Benitez; Ledezma (Karsdorp 65), Flamengo (Nagalo 46), Boscaigi (Obispo 82), Malacia, Schouten, Saibari (Veerman 82), Perisic, Til, Lang, De Jong (Bakayoko 66).
ARSENAL: Raya; Timber (White 77), Saliba, Gabriel, Lewis-Skelly (Calafiori 35), Partey (Zinchenko 71), Odegaard, Rice, Nwaneri (Sterling 71), Merino (Tierney 77), Trossard.



1-6

JOY OF SIX ... Odegaard hits double



FINAL CAL ...
Italian Calafiori completes rout

1-7

+ YOUNGEST ENGLISH SCORERS IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE KO STAGES



Apr 2021	Jude Bellingham (B Dortmund)	QF	17y 289d
MAR 2025	ETHAN NWANERI (Arsenal)	L16	17y 348d
Mar 2019	Phil Foden (Man City)	L16	18y 288d
Apr 2009	Theo Walcott (Arsenal)	QF	20y 30d

NEXT 4 GAMES



Sunday	Man Utd (a)	Prem
Mar 12	PSV (h)	CL
Mar 16	Chelsea (h)	Prem
Apr 1	Fulham (h)	Prem

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Sun Sport

Favourite goals

Your No1 pullouts **FREE** inside

CLUB BRUGGE....1
ASTON VILLA....3
SEE GOALS PULLOUT

I'll f***ing blame you if we don't win title

SLOT'S BLAST AT REF OLIVER



X-RATED RANT... Slot rages at ref Oliver

Last 16, first leg, 8pm, TNT Sports 1 & talkSPORT

By CHARLIE WYETT

ARNE SLOT warned referee **Michael Oliver** "I'll f***ing blame you" if Liverpool fail to win the Prem.

The fuming Dutch boss was shown a straight red card after he confronted Oliver and an assistant ref following last month's 2-2 draw at Everton.

Slot – preparing for tonight's Champions League clash against Paris Saint-Germain – was given a two-match ban and fined £70,000 by an independent FA commission for his X-rated outburst.

The three-person commission explained: "It was alleged Slot initially used abusive words whilst shaking the ref's hand."

"Including that the ref had 'f***ing given them everything' and he hoped the referee was 'proud of that performance'."

"In this exchange, Arne Slot once again shook the referee's hand and said, 'If we don't win the league, I'll f***ing blame

Turn to Page 49

Utd fans: Do or die

By MARTIN BLACKBURN

MANCHESTER UNITED fans have been urged to wear black at a protest march before Sunday's Arsenal match – to symbolise how the club is "slowly dying".

Supporters group The 1958 claims United face "financial armageddon", are on a "road to ruin", and "a laughing stock" under majority owners the Glazers, who completed a leveraged takeover in 2005.

A statement from 1958's Steve Crompton read: "The club is slowly dying before our eyes, on and off the pitch, and blame

Turn to Page 47

Emma's torment

From ALIX RAMSAY in Indian Wells

EMMA RADUCANU broke her silence on a terrifying stalking ordeal and said: "I couldn't see the ball through the tears."

The Brit also said she could not breathe when she spotted the fixated spectator and cried during a second-round tie with Karolina Muchova in the Dubai Open last month.

But Raducanu is determined it will not stop her playing and returns this week in California.

She said: "I was obviously very distraught. I saw

Turn to Page 44

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

SCORING, SCORING, ARSENAL

Arteta hails 'special' 7-goal Euro record

From JORDAN DAVIES

MIKEL ARTETA saluted his "special" record breakers after Arsenal became the first side to score SEVEN goals away from home in the Champions League knockout stage.

The Gunners all but sealed a last-eight spot as Martin Odegaard hit two while Jurrien Timber, Ethan Nwaneri, Mikel Merino, Leandro Trossard and Riccardo Calafiori all netted. Their stunning last-16, first-leg

PSV Eindhoven.....1
Arsenal.....7

triumph was Arsenal's biggest away win in the Champions League.

Boss Arteta beamed: "The manner we've done it, the goals we scored, the way we played – thank you, because it was a special night."

"It is very significant but it's just about putting

Turn to Page 50



GOALDEN BOY... skipper Odegaard hails his deadly double



9 777030 7268137

THE HOME OF RACING Favourite

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

By OWEN GOULDING

BULLISH Willy Twiston-Davies says Potters Charm is the forgotten horse of the Cheltenham Festival.

Potters Charm is a general 10-1 shot for the Turners Novices' Hurdle next Wednesday after his Grade 1 win at Aintree on Boxing day behind favourites The New Lion and Final Demand.

Punters have cooled on the Twiston-Davies hope after he lost his unbeaten record at Cheltenham last time.

Yet Willy has been liking what he's been seeing from his stable star on the gallops in the past week.

Twiston-Davies said: "Potters Charm was way below his best at Cheltenham the last day – it wasn't the plan to go there but we were lulled by thinking he was fresh at home."

"Nige has always been bullish about his chances in the Turners and I'm the same, especially after his work in the last 10 days. He's been electric

Turn to Page 4

FESTIVAL FANCY... Potters Charm heads to Turners at Cheltenham in top form for Nigel (below, left) and Willy Twiston-Davies (below, right)

FREE WITH THE Sun

Spring in Bell's step

By TOM PEPPER

MICHAEL BELL is hoping Rajeko can be the Cup king at Lingfield today.

Rajeko was a promising juvenile last season but kicked on for his return last month when second in the Al Rayyan Mile in Qatar.

The bookies make him the hot favourite for the Listed Spring Cup (3.42) off the back of that and Bell's three-year-old is one from one on the all weather surface.

Bell (above) said: "Rajeko has come back from Qatar full of the joys of the Middle East and this looks a great opportunity."

"It was a decent performance despite it being a bit chaotic as he made up ground on 110-rated Al Qudra."

"We know he likes the all-weather and I think he ticks a lot of boxes."

His biggest danger is George Boughey's Bountiful who signed off last season with a narrow Group 2 fourth.

Turn to Page 2 for Lingfield colours

Sam's Sum all adds up

By OWEN GOULDING

SAM THOMAS reckons he has Sum chance of landing another big pot this Saturday.

The trainer has lifted the Welsh Champion Hurdle, Badger Beers and the Ladbrokes Trophy this season and now Lump Sum (above) is fancied to strike in Sandown's Imperial Cup.

The seven-year-old was second to Joyeuse at Newbury last time and wasn't beaten far in the Grade 1 Fighting Fifth earlier in the year.

He's 5-1 favourite with sponsors Betfair and would bag a £100,000 bonus if he won at Sandown and followed up at Cheltenham.

Thomas said: "He's come out of Newbury well – he's already had a mega season."

"He has a lot of weight to carry, which makes it tough, but he should relish the test."

"He does have an entry in the County Hurdle, but it wouldn't be my first option."

IMPERIAL CUP, Betfair odds: 5 Lump Sum, 7 Bo Zenith, Go Dante, Wreckless Eric, 8 Afadil, Batman Girac, 12 Ooh Betty

LUCKY CHARM

Potter camp out to ruffle feathers at the Festival



FIRST PAST THE POST FOR COLOURS, TIPS AND FORM
SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, THE NATION'S FAVOURITE

Favourite THE BIGGEST AND THE BEST: THE ONLY LINGFIELD AW COLOURS AND FORM

1.40 FREE BETS BETUK APPRENTICE HANDICAP (Class 6) £3,140; 1m 4f (9 runners)

1	622-62 GREEN TEAM 32	(7) Williams 6-10-2... Warren Fentiman 98	Places: 8	£34,603
	Versatile, record tells story but always gives his best, obvious appeal			
2	83-334 CERULEAN SUMMER 15	(8) D Cunha 4-9-13... Darraugh O'Sullivan 92	Places: 8	£15,034
	Reliable, fast finisher needs a pace collapse, good mark, place shout			
3	21619- DONALD LLEWELLYN J13 (D)	(9) G & J Moore 8-9-13... Ashley Lewis (7) 90	Places: 1	£11,618
	Pulled up over hurdles last month, this is probably sharp enough, e-w			
4	23-332 DAARIS 15 (B)	(5) K Frost 6-9-12... Alfie Redman (5) 999	Places: 13	£31,790
	Missed out by a nose latest, 2lb lower with rider's claim, one to beat			
5	2247-0 THURSDAY 6	(3) S Dow 5-9-12... Oliver Carmichael (3) 85	Places: 4	£14,567
	Struggling, no promise here last twice, never won at this trip, best left			
6	09654- TARA ITI J19	(1) J Owen 7-9-8... Mason Paetel (5) —	Places: 9	£3,899
	Modest for G Moore, yard does well with these types, well treated, m			
7	1423-6 FULLFORWARD 51 (D)	(2) M Madgwick 5-9-3... Fred Daly 87	Places: 10	£28,820
	Well held in track & trip races, above last winning mark, vulnerable			
8	80/688 ABSTRACT 21 (P*,CD)	(4) A Carroll 7-8-11... Matthew Slater (7) 80	Places: 3	£10,870
	Shown nothing since returning from a break, out the weights, avoid			
9	436-04 SHY NALA 21	(6) G Margaron 4-8-10... Lillie Dingle (7) 83	Places: 9	£1,645
	Shown no form this winter to suggest she can win a race, no appeal			

BETTING: 9-4 Daaris, 3 Green Team, 5 Tara Iti, 11-2 Cerulean Summer, 8 Donald Llewellyn, 10 Fullforward, 20 Thursday
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1
 2024: Tortured Soul 4-9-10, J Doughty 13-8 Fav (A Carroll), drw 5, 11 ran.

Sunracing FORM

GREEN TEAM (9-8) 10-1 tracked winner, outpaced 2f out, stayed on same pace final furling, btm 2f by Sax Appeal (9-11) (10 ran) (Whampton 1f/m hcap) (5) £3,716 AW).
CERULEAN SUMMER (9-4) 17-2 held up, stayed on inside final furling, went 4th close home, 4th of (8 btm 3f) to Sense of Worth (9-11) (Whampton 1f/m hcap) (6) £3,140 AW).
DONALD LLEWELLYN (9-3) 22-1 always towards rear, 9th of (3 btm 7/4) to It's A Love Thing (9-9) Kempton 1m hcap (5) £4,187 AW).
DAARIS (9-3) 5-2 mid-division, 1st final furling, headed last stride, btm ns by Mammoth (8-10) (7 ran) (Whampton 1f/m hcap) (6) £3,140 AW).
THURSDAY (9-0) 3-1 held up in last

2.12 WIN 1M WITH BETMGM'S GOLDEN GOALS MAIDEN STAKES (DIV 1) (5); winner £3,942; 1m. (9 runners)

1	(7) TATMEEN (H*) L Dace 4-10-2	Joey Haynes —
2	(5) SKIMMING ALONG 35 D Steele 4-9-12	Rhys Clutterbuck 72
3	(4) ABSOLUTELY NOT 13 A Watson 4-9-7	Laura Woughton (8) 90
4	(0) BANNAN 105 I Williams 3-8-12	Charles Bishop 70
5	(9) SHABU SHABU 172 J Ferguson 3-8-12	Dan Muscatt 71
6	(6) 2528-BIG SIP 145 A Balding 3-8-10	Oisín Murphy 999
7	(3) 5 BENNY THE BOUNCER 14 M Attwater 3-8-8	Gina Mangan 99
8	(5) I'LL GIVE IT A GO 21 I Owen 3-8-5	Sean D Bowen 94
9	(1) FANTASMIC J Jones 3-8-3	Jack Doughty (3) —

BETTING: 1-2 Big Sip, 7-2 I'll Give It A Go, 6 Absolutely Not, 20 Fantasmic, 3 Tatmeen, Shabu Shabu, 50 Benny The Bouncer, 66 Bannan, 100 Skimming Along
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1, 2
 2024: Princess In Rome 3-8-4 Tyler Head 15-2 (M Bell) drawn 12, 12 ran.

2.42 WIN 1M WITH BETMGM'S GOLDEN GOALS MAIDEN STAKES (DIV 2) (5); x winner £3,942; 1m. (8 runners)

1	(7) MONTY BEAU H Palmer 4-10-2	Jason Hart —
2	(4) GUINNESS LAD 21 (H) Mulholland 5-9-12	Millie Woughton (8) 90
3	(1) 75-LIGHTNING MANN 223 I Channon 3-8-12	Edward Greatrex 999
4	(3) 7 RUPERT THE PRINCE 14 P Butler 3-8-12	Darraugh Keenan 76
5	(6) 48 FRANCIS DRAKE 11 S & E Crisford 3-8-10	Harry Davies 89
6	(8) 9-5 DIOS DE LA GUERRA 14 S Dow 3-8-8	Josephine Gordon 84
7	(5) 3 LUNANOVIA 64 (H) A Parnes 9-7	Joey Haynes 97
8	(2) 98-SHARMA D'AMOUR 155 D Coakley 3-8-3	Tyler Head 90

BETTING: 2 Lightning Mann, 3 Monty Beau, Lunanova, 6 Francis Drake, 7 Dios De La Guerra, 33 Sharma D'Amour, 66 Rupert The Prince, Guinness Lad
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2024: See Div 1.

3.12 30 IN FREE BETS WITH BETUK HANDICAP (5) winner £3,716; 6f (5 runners)

1	214120 ROSENPUR 9 (H)	(1) J Candlish 5-9-9... Warren Fentiman (7) 95	Places: 20	£24,084
	Disappointed latest, in good form before, 7lb claimer helpful, in the mix			
2	9073-1 WATERMELON SUGAR 26 (CD)	(2) Banham 6-9-5... Joey Haynes 99	Places: 25	£31,197
	Easy track & trip win last, 6lb rise but well treated on best form, player			
3	2143-6 PROFIT AND LOSS 11 (D)	(3) G Baker 6-9-6... Tom Marquand 90	Places: 39	£14,027
	Three wins in Jersey last summer, well beaten on British return, avoid			
4	0-3443 HARRY BROWN 17 (B;CD)	(5) P Crate 5-9-2... Shane W Kelly 999	Places: 28	£50,046
	Shaping well in defeat, really dangerous mark, up in trip, one to beat			
5	7977-4 OKAMI 112 (C,D)	(4) L Mongan 5-9-0... Robert Havlin 88	Places: 15	£15,684
	Possibly flattened by latest fourth here, poor form other than that, left			

BETTING: 11-10 Watermelon Sugar, 11-4 Harry Brown, 6 Rosenpur, 7 Profit And Loss, 10 Okami
WHERE FAVS FINISHED: 2024: No corresponding race.

Sunracing FORM

ROSENPUR (9-8) 5-1 weakened, last of (6/4) to Maharajas Express (9-3) (Whampton 5f hcap) (5) £3,716 AW).
WATERMELON SUGAR (9-6) 3-1 keen, ridden to lead inside final furling, ran on, bt Brunel Charm (9-8) 2f (11 ran) (Lingfield 6f hcap) (6) £3,140 AW).
PROFIT AND LOSS (9-8) 20-1 in last pair, late headway, never on terms.

3.42 BETMGM SPRING CUP STAKES (LISTED) (1) 3-Y-O; winner £31,190; 7f (7 runners)

1	251- CABELLEROSO 83 (H;D)	H Palmer 9-4... Jason Hart 88	Places: 3	£20,308
	Won well after a break at Chelmsford, this is much tougher, down list			
2	1481-2 RAJEKO 18	M Bell 9-4... Hector Crouch 999	Places: 5	£648,404
	Ran a cracker in a tough Qatar race, this is much easier, dangerous			
3	112 REBEL'S GAMBLE 26 (BF)	K Burke 9-4... Clifford Lee 97	Places: 7	£14,073
	Impressive in a novice, slow start costly in a hcap since, will go close			
4	5114- BOUNTIFUL 236	G Boughy 8-13... Billy Loughnane 98	Places: 6	£32,949
	Absent since fourth place in a Grp 2, sets form standard, big chance			
5	5-1 DANCE IN THE STORM 37 (D)	A Balding 8-13... Oisín Murphy 95	Places: 2	£3,942
	Quickened up well last, pedigree is very smart, more to come, player			
6	5-12 ENOLA HOLMES 15 (BF)	J Jones 8-13... Daniel Muscatt 80	Places: 3	£8,332
	Limitations exposed under a penalty latest, vulnerable in this line-up			
7	1316- RANEENN 144	W Haggas 8-13... Tom Marquand 92	Places: 4	£14,758
	Easy Chester win in September, held at Listed level since, needs more			

BETTING: 9-4 Bountiful, 5-2 Rajeiko, 4 Rebel's Gamble, 6 Dance In The Storm, 7 Raneenn, 14 Cabelleroso, 50 Enola Holmes
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 3 2 1 2
 2024: Watch My Tracer 9-4, C Shepherd 12-1 (G Scott), drw 4, 10 ran.

Sunracing FORM

CABELLOROSO (9-7) 11-2 made all, bumped rival 1f out, stayed on well, bt Circus Of Rome (9-7) 1/4 (9 ran) (Chelmsford 7f nov) (3) £13,085 AW).
RAJEKO (9-2) close up, ran on final furling but no chance with winner, btm 2f by Al Qudra (9-2) (10 ran) (Doha 1m Grp 2 £2,044,160 good).
REBEL'S GAMBLE (9-8) 10-11 fav kept on final furling, went 2nd last strides, 1/4 by Humam (8-9) (10 ran) (Southwell 6f hcap) (2) £13,190 AW).
BOUNTIFUL (9-2) 22-1 led, headed final furling, kept on, 4th of (11 btm 7/4) (York 6f Listed) (1) £38,897 scott).
ENOLA HOLMES (9-2) 8-13 fav led up out, headed on line, btm ns by Angel Of Rain (10-2) (11 ran) (Whampton 6f 11 nov stks) (4) £5,670 AW).
RANEENN (8-12) 6-1 tracked leaders, driven 2f out, weakened final furling, 6th of (8 btm 8f) to Jungle Drums (9-3) (York 6f Listed) (1) £38,897 scott).

4.12 BETMGM: IT'S SHOWTIME HANDICAP (6) winner £3,140; 7f (12 runners)

1	42-131 KITARO KICH 6 (D)	G Baker 5-10-0 (5lbex)... Tom Marquand 999	Places: 17	£11,511
	Won well dropped to this trip latest, well treated under penalty, player			
2	28-309 LAND LOVER 11 (B)	M Loughnane 4-9-9... Warren Fentiman (7) 85	Places: 26	£21,270
	Record tells story, well beaten in slightly better races this winter, left			
3	55-832 RUNAROUND SIOUX 8 (BF)	B Millman 4-9-8... Lewis Edmunds 95	Places: 13	£12,700
	Nuttled late over extended mile last, this trip should be ideal, in the mix			
4	13-341 SPLIT ELEVEN 21 (CD)	J Butler 7-9-8... Daniel Muscatt 97	Places: 69	£64,634
	Gutsy, consistent sort was well on top latest, 2lb rise, obvious appeal			
5	97-574 SHOT OF LOVE 15 (V;D)	M Attwater 5-9-7... Robert Havlin 88	Places: 33	£27,809
	Front runs, struggled since joining this yard, well treated, market check			
6	7-2422 KONDRATIEV WAVE 21 (BF,C,D)	A Carroll 8-9-7... Jack Doughty (3) 98	Places: 55	£73,698
	Pace pusher, narrow defeats last twice, latest to Split Elevens, big threat			
7	13-212 PORTORO 12 (H;BF,D)	M Dunne 5-9-7... Darraugh Keenan 96	Places: 20	£22,594
	Collared late at Southwell off 2lb lower, always gives his all, big chance			
8	21144 TWITCH 139 (B;D)	C Benton 7-9-6... Georgia Dobie 92	Places: 35	£215,743
	H'capper in charge since Chelmsford win, on tricky mark, vulnerable			
9	04-655 TRIGGERED 32 (CD)	M Loughnane 9-9-6... Billy Loughnane 94	Places: 12	£66,477
	Signs of better at Wolves, fallen to a dangerous mark, very interesting			
10	38-985 GLOBAL WARNING 12 (CD)	J Butler 9-9-5... Grace McEntee 87	Places: 57	£47,493
	Regressive, below last winning mark but shown little of late, very risky			
11	109-73 RABINAL 31 (H;CD)	S Dow 6-9-3... Jack Mitchell 91	Places: 22	£21,364
	Probably flattened by fast finish here latest after slow start, places only			
12	47-428 ASHFORD HILL 28 (CD)	D F Davis 4-8-13... Harry Davies 90	Places: 10	£6,614
	Hard to predict, good mark at her best and does drop in grade, place			

BETTING: 3 Kitaro Kich, 5 Split Elevens, 6 Kondratiev Wave, Portoro
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2
 2024: Rabinal 5-9-9, H Doyle 9-2 (S Dow), drawn 10, 12 ran.

4.42 EXTRA WINNINGS BETUK CLUB HANDICAP (5) winner £3,716; 5f (8 runners)

1	479-62 ECCLESIASTICAL 9 (D)	T Davidson 8-9-9... Jason Hart 999	Places: 6	£75,856
	Back to form off reduced mark at Wolves, same mark, tough to beat			
2	5-6131 COOLAGH MAGIC 17 (V;CD)	A Carson 9-9-5... Jack Doughty (3) 98	Places: 52	£49,926
	Deserved win over trip & trip, 5lb rise isn't too harsh, obvious appeal			
3	21-436 HARB 17 (CD)	P Crate 6-9-6... Shane W Kelly 96	Places: 42	£50,075
	Held since track & trip win in November, back on that mark, in the mix			
4	523-25 RECON MISSION 26 (CD)	A Carroll 9-9-5... Charles Bishop 97	Places: 5	£163,600
	Front runner, decent draw and form ties in closely with several, player			
5	337-14 MICK'S SPIRIT 17 (V;CD)	C Allen 7-9-5... Darraugh Keenan 92	Places: 53	£61,349
	Loves it here, has won off higher marks but was poor latest, down list			
6	19340-ZOLA POWER 160 (D)	R Cowell 4-9-5... Billy Loughnane 85	Places: 13	£7,993
	Stable debut when tailed off at Southwell off 2lb higher, hard to fancy			
7	42-257 THE DEFIANT 17 (CD)	L Dace 9-8-13... Ashley Lewis (7) 90	Places: 8	£76,792
	Can lead, below best this season, due to run at Wolverhampton yest			
8	6881-4 UNAVAILABLE 31 (CD)	C Banham 4-8-10... Joey Haynes 94	Places: 3	£15,126
	No match for Coolagh Magic latest, well drawn for a pace angle, mix			

BETTING: 2 Coolagh Magic, 5-2 Ecclesiastical, 8 Unavailable, Recon Mission, Harb, 10 Mick's Spirit, 14 The Defiant, 16 Zola Power
WHERE FAVS FINISHED: 2024: No corresponding race.

Sunracing FORM

ECCLESIASTICAL (9-9) 7-2 prominent, shaken up 1f out, led inside final furling, headed final strides, btm hd by Maharajas Express (8-3) (10 ran) (Whampton 5f hcap) (5) £3,716 AW).
COOLAGH MAGIC (8-13) 15-8 fav in last pair, headway 1f out, shaken up to lead inside final furling, hung right but ran on well, bt Beaumadier (9-1) 1/4 MICK'S SPIRIT (9-6) 11-2 quickly away, led, headed inside final furling, weakened, 4th (btm 3/4) HARB (9-8) 13-2 outpaced in Harb, never on terms, 8th (btm 5/4) THE DEFIANT (8-1) 1-1 unable to quicken 1f out, 7th (btm 6f) (9 ran) (Lingfield 5f hcap) (5) £3,716 AW).
RECON MISSION (8-13) 4-1 led, ridden and headed final furling, one pace, 5th of (6 btm 4f) to Counsel (9-9) (Lingfield 5f hcap) (5) £3,716 AW).
ZOLA POWER (9-12) 50-1 never closer than mid-division, outpaced 2f out, last of (btm 4f) to Jungle Run (8-10) (Southwell 5f hcap) (6) £2,983 AW).
COOLAGH MAGIC (9-6) 1-1 led final 100 yards, won going away, bt Second Collection (9-2) 1/4 UNAVAILABLE (9-6) 4-1 quickly away, led, headed final 100 yards, weakened finish, 4th (btm 3f) (9 ran) (Lingfield 5f hcap) (6) £3,140 AW).

5.17 BEST ODDS AT BETMGM HANDICAP (6) 3-Y-O; winner £3,140; 1m 2f (8 runners)

1	6571 SONIC PIONEER 9	J Morland 10-1 (6lbex)... Daniel Muscatt 999	Places: 4	£4,711
	Up to the mile and won on hcap debut, more to come, big chance			
2	960-CURRAHEE 125	S Pearce 9-7... Kaiya Fraser (3) 88	Places: 3	£0
	Some ability in novice runs, up in trip for hcap debut, market helpful			
3	10-344 FLAINE 9	D Loughnane 9-5... Connor Planas (3) 85	Places: 13	£11,485
	Exposed, struggled since Southwell win off 3lb lower, looks vulnerable			
4	000-2 ALL COST 21 (P*,BF)	M Dunne 9-5... Darraugh Keenan 98	Places: 4	£1,474
	Narrowly missed on hcap debut, up in trip with headgear on, chance			
5	0-75 ITSGOTTOBEFUNG 16	J Moore 9-4... Charles Bishop 83	Places: 3	£0
	Sent off 200-1 for all novice starts, showed little, has too much to prove			
6	08-212 BACKER BILK 9 (CD)	J & S Best 8-4... Billy Loughnane 97	Places: 6	£6,824
	Track & trip win two back, close behind Sonic Pioneer latest, in the mix			
7	04-317 PERFECT PAROLE 21	T Ward 8-13... Tom Marquand 96	Places: 10	£4,841
	Folded lamely latest, more exposed than most but is consistent, place			
8	00-575 LEADING STAR GIRL 21	M Usher 8-9... Alicia Perkins (7) 80	Places: 6	£2,367
	Gone backwards since handicapping, out of the weights, no appeal			

BETTING: 9-4 Sonic Pioneer, 5-2 Backer Bilk, 3 All Cost, 8 Perfect Parole, 12 Currahee, 16 Flaime, 20 Itsgottobefung, 33 Leading Star Girl
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2
 2024: Mamaluka 8-12, K Shoemack 7-1 (Miss A Murphy), drw 5, 7 ran.

Sunracing FORM

SONIC PIONEER (9-9) 14-1 led 1f out, ran on well, bt BACKER BILK (9-4) 4-1 mid-division, went 2nd inside final furling, kept on 1f (11 ran) (Whampton 1m 1f hcap) (6) £4,711 AW).
CURRAHEE (9-7) 250-1 held up, ridden 1f out, no impression, 10th of (11 btm 11f) to Spectacular View (9-7) ALL COST (9-7) 400-1 held up, effort 2f out, never involved, last (11f) (Chelmsford 7f nov stks) (5) £4,187 AW).
FLAINE (9-0) 25-1 chased leaders, pushed along and outpaced 2f out, never dangerous after, 4th of (6 btm 5/4) to Gemmari (9-7) (Whampton 1f/m hcap) (6) £3,140 AW).
ITSGOTTOBEFUNG (9-4) 200-1 made most until over 2f out, no extra 1f, 5th of (8 btm 8f) to Mizz (9-0) (Whampton 1m 1f mdn) (5) £3,942 AW).
LEADING STAR GIRL (9-0) 33-1 chased leaders, effort 1f out, weakened 1f out, 8th of (8 btm 8/4) to Appleblossomwhite (9-8) PERFECT PAROLE (9-4) 9-2 ridden 2f out, weakened 1f out, 7th (btm 12f) (8 ran) (Kempton 1m hcap) (6) £3,140 AW).

HANDLE WITH CARE (4.55 Kempton) showed plenty of promise in three maidens and can make her mark on this handicap debut in what looks an open race.

TEMPLEGATE

1.40	Daaris
2.12	I'll Give It A Go
2.42	Lunanova
3.12	Rosenpur
3.42	Rajeiko
4.12	Kitaro Kich
4.42	Coolagh Magic
5.17	BACKER BILK (map)

TEMPLEGATE'S TRIO: Backer Bilk (11f Catterick) with Kitaro Kich (Lingfield).
TOM PEPPER'S DOUBLE: Watermelon Sugar (Kempton).
SUNRATINGS' MAP: RIDIN SOLO (3.55 Cat).
THE JUDGE: LESSAY (6.30 Kempton).

TIC-TAC: L-H Polytrack of 1m 2f, 2f run-in, 962 have won out of 2,813 races (34%). At have won out of 27 races (41%). **JACKPOT:**

HOT N

TRAINERS with best record in last 14 days: Palmer 3 from 12; M Loughnane 4 from 17; 16; J Owen 5 from 33; A Balding 3 from 22; 16; 30. **JOCKEYS with best record in last 14 days:** Mitchell 3 from 12; S D Bowen 3 from 12; D B Loughnane 7 from 36; J Doughty 2 from 39. **TRAINERS who have had the most wins:** G Margaron 4; D F Davis 34. **JOCKEYS with the most wins:** C Planas 50; Gina Mangan 30; T Head

TOP TRAINERS

2020-2025 G & J Moore 84-576, A Balding 82-306, A Carroll 61-583, A Watson 50-290, W Haggas 42-371, S & E Crisford 40-147, S Dow 38-387, G Boughy 37-271, J Butler 29-265, M Attwater 25-418. **THIS SEASON:** A Carroll 4, B Millman 3, A Balding 2.

TRAINER

FIRST RACE FOR NEW YARD: 1.42 Tara Racefay. W Haggas won the 3.42 in 2017.
LONGEST TRAVELLERS: Ecclesiastical round trip of

RACING PULLOUT SEVEN DAYS! Favourite

TANDARD

TOM PEPPER

1.40.....	Cerulean Summer
2.12.....	I'll Give It A Go
2.42.....	Francis Drake
3.12.....	WATERMELON SUGAR (nap)
3.42.....	Rebel's Gamble
4.12.....	Runaround Sioux
4.42.....	Ecclesiastical
5.17.....	Sonic Pioneer
Lingfield) and Ridin Solo (double,	
Sugar (Lingfield) and Handle With Care	
(Catterick).	

RAW: None. FAVOURITES: (2020-2025):
the previous corresponding meetings, 11
6. LIVE ON SKY SPORTS RACING

NOT

ays: J Channon 4 wins from 5 runners; H
Williams 5 from 25; S & E Crisford 3 from
1 M Hulholland 2 from 20; G & J Moore 3
st 14 days: F Daly 2 wins from 4 rides; J
Muscutt 5 from 20; O Murphy 5 from 23; I
T Marquand 3 from 23; W Fentiman 4
ost runners since last win: P Butler 44;
who have had the most rides since last
23; S W Kelly 22; D Keenan 20.

TOP JOCKEYS

2020-2025 J Mitchell 69-374, R
Havlin 59-370, O Murphy 54-258, D
Muscutt 51-428, T Marquand 48-319, R
Clutterbuck 44-364, D Keenan 31-313,
B Loughnane 28-211, H Crouch 25-213,
S W Kelly 23-224. THIS SEASON: J
Mitchell 6, J Hart 4, Billy Loughnane 4.

TRACE

ti G & J Moore to James Owen.
2018 & 2019.
(4.42) trained by T Davidson, Carlisle,
(3.42) trained by K R Burke, Leyburn,
nty Beau (2.42) & Cabelloero (3.42), H

MONEY

2 second at 2-1; Runaround Sioux (4.12)
Wave (4.12) opened 9-4 second at 13-8f;
at 8-13f; Coolagh Magic (4.42) opened
Koe £648,404; 4.12 Twitch £215,743; 4.42
£76,752; 4.42 Ecclesiastical £75,856.

ORDERS

won at Chelmsford (7f). BLINKERED
E: None. FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OP:
(won off 5-2 down 6lb to 46); 3.12 Okami
und Sioux (won off 64 down 3lb to 61);
2 of Love (won off 68 down 8lb to 60);
4.12 The Defiant (won off 69 down 11lb to
Pioneer (5.17) for Jack Morland, 3 from
12; for James Owen, 25 from 106, 24%. E
J Channon, 12 from 55, 22%.

egate

S NO1 TIPSTER VE MULLEN

er (5.17 Lingfield, nap).
since going into handicaps at the
a close second twice at Wolver-
d here sandwiched in between.
ekled this 1m2f distance which is
oughnane takes over from Luke

Backer can hit bookies

later under a penalty and looks
very hard to beat.

EVA'S OSKAR (5.00 Catterick)
was left in front at Bangor last
time but had every chance of
winning anyway.
He is a strong stayer who
handles a tricky course like
this and anything close to his
best form should see his head
in front again.

terick.....RIDIN SOLO
field.....KITARO KICH
terick.....EVA'S OSKAR
field.....BACKER BILK

CATTERICK JUMPERS

2.25 RACING TO SCHOOL CLAIMING HURDLE (Class 4) winner £4,357; 2m (7 runners)

1	00-11F COLLINGHAM 270 (CD)	99
A Watson 7-12-0.....Miss Brodie Hampson (3) £79,271		
Runs: 24 Wins: 6 (2GS,4G) Places: 5 £39,789		
Fell early in hat-trick bid back in June, stable debut off same mark, mix		
2	421446 MATCHLESS 36 (CD)	98
J Candlish 7-12-0.....Sean Quinlan 98		
Runs: 18 Wins: 4 (S,GS,2G) Places: 5 £39,789		
Front runner, going well in decent hcaps, yard among winners, player		
3	6192P3 HONNEUR D'AJONC 33 (V★)	97
J Owen 8-11-12.....Callum Pritchard (5) 97		
Runs: 31 Wins: 6 (2F,2S,2GS) Places: 8 £67,972		
Not at his best last time, visitor tried in a much easier race, in the hunt		
4	6B5- LAWMAINS BLIS F30	85
J Candlish 7-11-10.....Ross Chapman 85		
Runs: 3		
Modest form on the Flat, hurdling form last season no better, best left		
5	43-7P FUSAIN 22 (D)	90
P Neville 10-11-7.....Brian Hughes 90		
Runs: 24 Wins: 3 (2G) Places: 3 £51,830		
Highest-rated of these back in 2023, well beaten twice this term, risky		
6	4-OPP5 JAKE STEVENS 23 (B)	75
P Neville 7-11-7.....Lee Edwards 75		
Runs: 9		
Rated just 82 after tailing off over fences at Catterick, makes no appeal		
7	-97905 SIMPLY RED F8	83
B Ellison 7-11-3.....William Maggs (5) 83		
Runs: 26 Wins: 4 (GS,3G) Places: 6 £33,809		
Beaten off marks of 102 and 100 in hcaps hurdles this season, difficult		

BETTING: 2 Collingham, 5-2 Honneur D'ajonc, 11-4 Matchless, 7
Fusain, 12 Simply Red, 25 Lawmans Blis, 33 Jake Stevens
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 3 abd 3
2024: Believe Jack 7-14, L Stones 13-2 (O Murphy), 6 ran.

Sunracing FORM

COLLINGHAM fell latest, earlier (11-4)
11-4 raced keenly, tracked leaders,
challenged 2 out, led flat, bt Finest
View (11-13) 1 (7 ran) (Bangor 2m 1f
heap hdl (4) £6,337 good).
MATCHLESS (11-11) 8-1 chased
leader, ridden and lost place 3 out,
weakened 2 out, 6th of 7 (bfn 15f) to
Coup De Coeur (11-5) (Newcastle 2m
nov hcaph ch (4) £4,700 soft).
HONNEUR D'AJONC (11-11) 18-1 led,
untidy bth, headed home turn, one
pace last, 3rd of 8 (bfn 23f) to Eat
Anne (11-4) (Lingfield 2m 3f hcaph hdl
(4) £4,066 soft to heavy).
LAWMAINS BLIS (11-4) 80-1 towards
rear, pushed along 2 out, nearest.

2.55 RACING TV.COM MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (4) winner £4,357; 2m (5 runners)

1	24-461 ASSORDA 47 (T★)	98
P Smith 5-11-7.....Emma Smith-Chaston (3) 98		
Runs: 8 Wins: 1 (S) Places: 2 £40,332		
Won in France in January, rallied to beat these on British debut, player		
2	179-41 MAGICAL ANNIE 32 (D)	99
F O'Brien 6-11-7.....Kielan Woods 99		
Runs: 5 Wins: 2 (2S) Places: 2 £9,858		
Off the mark in style at Wetherby, gets weight from main rival, chance		
3	7 CARRIGEEN ARDISIA 36	80
N Kent 5-11-0.....Charlie Hammond 80		
Runs: 1		
Well beaten in a bumper, should do better over hurdles, best watched		
4	333453 UOKHUN 25	90
T Easterby 7-11-0.....Jamie Hamilton 90		
Runs: 10		
Experienced, not improving but has run to okay standard, may place		
5	SHARONA F487	—
J Bedi 4-10-4.....Nathan Moscorp —		
One good run on the Flat in 2023, tough standard for debut, best left		

BETTING: 5-6 Magical Annie, 3 Assorda, 9-2 Uokhun, 14 Sharona,
16 Carrigeen Ardisia
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 FE 1-4 abd 2
2024: Sweet Fantasy 5-11-0, Mr A Chadwick 3-1 (J Owen), 6 ran.

Sunracing FORM

ASSORDA (10-10) 9-2 midfield, took
closer order after 3 out, led last, soon
led, comfortably, bt Kloe De Laprelle
(10-12) 3/4 (18 ran) (Pau 2m 3f claim
hld £8,000 soft to heavy).
MAGICAL ANNIE (11-0) 11-2 in touch,
headway 3 out, led between last
two, clear last, stayed on well, bt
Metkayina (11-7) 2/4 (8 ran) (Weth-
erby 2m nov hdl (4) £3,812 soft).

3.25 EVERY RACE ON RACING TV HANDICAP (CHASE) 5) winner £4,225; 2m (4 runners)

1	2-2753 BENY NAHAR ROAD 11 (H)	98
H Hogarth 6-12-0.....Jamie Hamilton 98		
Runs: 10		
Front runner, shaped well in two better races over fences, interesting		
2	03U561 TREATY BOY 8 (CD)	99
W Coltherd 8-11-11 (7lbex).....Sam Coltherd 99		
Runs: 14 Wins: 2 (S,GS) Places: 3 £11,818		
Backed when running not over track & trip, tough to beat with respect		
3	4-OPF7 MCGRATH FROM CLUNE 13 (H)	85
T Grettton 9-11-6.....David Noonan 85		
Runs: 21 Wins: 1		
Shown little in two starts for this yard, down the weights, best watched		
4	6-3617 ENSEL DU PERCHE 20 (CD)	90
S Barclay 11-10-5.....William Maggs (5) 90		
Runs: 30 Wins: 3 (2S,G) Places: 4 £22,674		
Won a modest race over track & trip, held at Newcastle since, has risk		

BETTING: 1-2 Treaty Boy, 11-4 Beny Nahar Road, 8 Ensel Du
Perche, 20 McGrath From Clune
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 5 2
2024: Chase A Fortune 6-11-10, T Midgley 5-2 (C Grant), 8 ran.

TEMPLEGATE

2.25.....	Matchless
2.55.....	Magical Annie
3.25.....	Treaty Boy
3.55.....	Ridin Solo (nb)
4.30.....	Born In The West
5.00.....	Eva's Oskar

TIC-TAC: Left-handed oval track of 1m 2f, eight fences per circuit and a run-in of about 280 yards. FAVOURITES: (2020-2025): 334 have won out of 955 races (35%). At the previous corresponding meetings, 14 have won out of 40 races (35%). LIVE ON RACING TV

HOT 'N' NOT

TRAINERS with best record in last 14 days: W Coltherd 2 wins from 7 runners; J Parkinson & S Smith 2 from 11; P Kirby 2 from 12; J Owen 5 from 33; R Menzies 2 from 14; D McCain 3 from 25; J Candlish 2 from 17; F O'Brien 3 from 27; O Greenall & J Guerriero 2 from 26.
JOCKEYS with best record in last 14 days: S Coltherd 2 wins from 6 rides; D O'Connor 2 from 6; L Edwards 2 from 8; W Maggs 2 from 10; B Hughes 4 from 27; D McMenamin 2 from 14; D Noonan 3 from 21; C O'Farrell 2 from 24; H Brooke 2 from 26.

TRAINERS who have had the most runners since last win: P Smith 87; N Kent 41; B Ellison 35; N Sanderson 31; J Bedi 19.
JOCKEYS who have had the most rides since last win: J Thompson 58; C Pritchard 38; B Hampson 26; E Smith-Chaston 20.

TOP TRAINERS

2020-2025 T Easterby 56-507, D McCain 26-170, B Ellison 21-121, M Hammond 20-254, R Menzies 18-130, J Parkinson & S Smith 17-96, P Kirby 16-219, P Neville 8-39, S England 8-84. THIS SEASON: D McCain 4, L Quinlan 4, J Parkinson & S Smith 4.

TOP JOCKEYS

2020-2025 B Hughes 35-170, S Quinlan 11-112, E Smith-Chaston 8-63, J Hamilton 8-87, D McMenamin 7-58, H Brooke 6-64, R Chapman 5-49, C O'Farrell 5-65, C Hammond 4-23. THIS SEASON: B Hughes 5, H Brooke 3, S Quinlan 2, D McMenamin 2.

TRAINER TRACE

FIRST RACE FOR NEW YARD: 2.25 Collingham D McCain to A Watson; 2.55 Assorda G Leenders to P Smith; Sharonap P Chapple-Hyam to J Bedi. RACEFAX: J Candlish won the 3.55 in 2018 & 2017.
LONGEST TRAVELLERS: Eva's Oskar (5.00) trained by T Vaughan, Cowbridge, Cardiff, round trip of 542 miles; Collingham (2.25) trained by A Watson, Upper Lambourn, Berkshire, round trip of 468 miles; Magical Annie (2.55), F O'Brien, Cheltenham, round trip 422 miles.

IN THE MONEY

MONEY TALKS: Rehili Relic (4.30) opened 8-1 unplaced at 5-1; Coral Blue (3.55) opened 9-2 second at 10-3; Presentandcounting (5.00) opened 7-4 third at 6-4; Carrigeen Ardisia (2.55) opened 8-1 unplaced at 13-8f; Born In The West (4.30) opened 11-2 second at 9-2.
TOP EARNERS: 5.00 Presentandcounting £144,046; 5.00 Eva's Oskar £129,102; 2.25 Collingham £122,244; 5.00 Didero Vallis £113,669; 2.25 Matchless £90,538; 5.00 Captain Tommy £80,586.

UNDER ORDERS

SEVEN-DAY WINNERS: None.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: 4.30 Royle Steel.
VISORED FIRST TIME: 2.25 Honneur D'ajonc.
FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OP: None today.
WEIGHTWATCHER: 4.30 Lone Star (won off 110 down 12lb to 98).
JOB JOCKEYS: J Power rides Fat Harry (4.30) for Parkinson/Smith, 3 from 7, 43%. B Hughes rides Fusain (2.25) for P Neville, 4 from 13, 31%. K Woods rides Magical Annie (2.55) for F O'Brien, 19 from 67, 28%. E Vaughan rides Eva's Oskar (5.00) for T Vaughan, 27 from 95, 28%.

Sunracing FORM

BENY NAHAR ROAD (11-2) 9-2 led, headed 3 out when not fluent, plugged on last, 3rd of 4 (bfn 9/4) to Bois Guilbert (11-1) (Newcastle 2m nov hcaph ch (4) £4,700 good to soft).
TREATY BOY (12-0) 9-4 fav jumped boldly, led 5th, pushed clear before 2 out, stayed on strongly, bt Zara's Universe (10-7) 5/4 (7 ran) (Catterick 2m hcaph ch (5) £4,225 good to soft).
MCGRATH FROM CLUNE (12-0) 80-1 towards rear, never involved, tailed off, 7th of 9 (well bfn) to Stardheim (10-13) (Huntingdon 2m hcaph ch (5) £4,489 good to soft).
ENSEL DU PERCHE (10-11) 12-1 led until 7th, weakened before 4 out, bad mistake 3 out, 7th of 9 (bfn 38f) to Demoiselle Kap (12-0) (Newcastle 2m hcaph ch (5) £3,961 good to soft).

3.55 EVERY RACE ON RACING TV HANDICAP HURDLE (4) £4,753; 3m 1f (5 runners)

1	334342 HOSTILE HOTELIER 31	96
J Candlish 7-12-0.....Sean Quinlan 96		
Runs: 18 Wins: 2 (2S) Places: 6 £20,393		
Consistent, not beaten far back at 3m last, only 1lb higher, not far away		
2	-33351 RIDIN SOLO 28	99
D McCain 7-11-11.....Brian Hughes 99		
Runs: 9 Wins: 2 (GS) Places: 4 £11,632		
Deserved win at Sedgfield, good mark back in handicaps, chance		
3	616211 EDGEWELL 19 (V)	98
R Menzies 7-11-6.....Conor O'Farrell 98		
Runs: 15 Wins: 3 (GS,G) Places: 2 £15,056		
Thriving, two snug wins and 6lb rise for latest is probably fair, danger		
4	P-4042 CORAL BLUE 17 (C)	92
D Bourke 10-11-0.....Danny McMenamin 92		
Runs: 51 Wins: 5 (3S,GS,G) Places: 5 £44,556		
Better run at Musselburgh latest, good mark but stamina a worry, mix		
5	335953 BALKOTIC 103 (V;CD)	85
M Hammond 9-10-7.....Emma Smith-Chaston (3) 85		
Runs: 32 Wins: 4 (2S,2G) Places: 5 £30,406		
Regressive, no closer than 32 lengths this season, makes no appeal		

BETTING: 7-4 Edgewell, 2 Ridin Solo, 7-2 Hostile Hotelier, 5 Coral Blue, 33 Balkotic
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 7 3 1 1 3
2024: Burrows Hall 7-14, N Schofield 10-3 Jtf (Parkinson/Smith), 7 ran.

Sunracing FORM









HOSTILE HOTELIER (11-11) 6-1 midfield, a lot to do 3 out, ran on strongly run-in, went 2nd towards finish, bfn 3/4 by Prince Perth (11-3) (13 ran) (Musselburgh 3m hcaph hdl (4) £8,978 good to soft).
RIDIN SOLO (11-6) 13-8 Jf fav made all, asserted 12 out, pushed on bt Laravie (10-13) 3/4 (11 ran) (Sedgfield 2m mdn hdl (4) £4,193 good).
EDGEWELL (11-8) 13-8 fav held up in new, driven 2 out, headway to lead before last where 4 lengths clear, pushed out run-in, bt One Man Party (10-2) 3/4 (6 ran) (Fakenham 2m 7f hcaph hdl (5) £3,433 good).
CORAL BLUE (11-10) 10-3 led 6th, mistake and headed 2 out, kept on finish, bfn 1/4 by Beat The Retreat (11-13) (13 ran) (Musselburgh 2m hcaph hdl (4) £4,225 good to soft).
BALKOTIC (9-13) 16-1 close up, ridden and dropped to rear before 2 out, soon tailed off, 3rd of 4 (bfn 38f) to You Some Girl (9-13) (Catterick 3m 1f hcaph hdl (4) £4,387 good).

TOM PEPPER

2.25.....	Collingham
2.55.....	Assorda
3.25.....	Beny Nahar Road
3.55.....	Ridin Solo
4.30.....	Born In The West
5.00.....	Presentandcounting

GOING: GOOD

4.30 CATTERICKBRIDGE.CO.UK HCAP HURDLE (5) winner £4,225; 2m 3f (8 runners)

	1	5-5495 EAGLES GOLD 39	
		O Greenall & J Guerriero 5-12-0.....	Henry Brooke 92
		Runs: 5	£943
		Well beaten on handicap debut, capable of better off 5lb lower, places	
	2	768567 LONE STAR 28 (BF)	
		P Kirby 8-12-0.....	Joe Williamson (3) 93
		Runs: 31 Wins: 5 (4GS,G)	Places: 3 £44,125
		Experienced, well treated on best form but struggled this season, risky	
	3	072561 EVENWOOD SONOFAGUN 17	
		L Quinlan 7-11-12.....	Sean Quinlan 97
		Runs: 24 Wins: 1 (GS)	Places: 8 £18,046
		Off the mark at 24th attempt, consistent sort can back it up, in the mix	
	4	658322 BORN IN THE WEST 16	
		S England 6-11-12.....	Jonathan England 99
		Runs: 11 Wins: 1 (G)	Places: 5 £5,623
		Bumped into one in two handicaps, only edged up a pound, chance	
	5	64F422 LAHIRE 33 (BF)	
		D McCain 5-11-11.....	Brian Hughes 98
		Runs: 11 Wins: 1 (S)	Places: 2 £8,980
		Reliable, worth a try over further after near-misses over 2m, big player	
	6	-05347 REHILI RELIC 40 (P★)	
		S Allwood 6-11-10.....	Toby Wynne (3) 95
		Runs: 11 Wins: 1 (GS)	Places: 2 £5,771
		Hasn't improved in handicaps, cheekpieces may give a lift, each-way	
	7	560-7F FAT HARRY 99	
		J Parkinson & S Smith 8-11-4.....	Jack Power (7) 85
		Runs: 5	£275
		Beaten when falling latest, struggled on hcap debut too, hard to fancy	
	8	-68577 ROYLE STEEL 28 (B★)	
		M Hammond 7-10-2.....	Joshua Thompson (7) 82
		Runs: 21 Wins: 2 (2G)	Places: 1 £18,192

FAVOURITES WE'RE ALL YOU NEED, AND THE TIME IS KEMPTON

TIC-TAC: Right-handed Polytrack all-weather course, 1m run-in. DRAW: None.
FAVOURITES: (2020-2025): 939 have won out of 2,729 races (34%). At the previous corresponding meetings, 1 have won out of 2 races (50%).
LIVE ON RACING TV

HOT 'N NOT

TRAINERS with best record in last 14 days: M Murphy 3 wins from 8 runners; A Haynes 3 from 10; H Derham 7 from 25; H Palmer 3 from 12; M Loughnane 4 from 17; J Williams 5 from 25; S & E Crisford 3 from 16; A Balding 3 from 22; F O'Brien 3 from 27; G & J Moore 3 from 30.

JOCKEYS with best record in last 14 days: G Bass 3 wins from 6 rides; J Carroll 2 from 9; D Swift 2 from 8; G Wood 9 from 37; R Ryan 6 from 26; C Shepherd 2 from 13; D Costello 3 from 21; D Probert 2 from 17; W Carson 2 from 22.

TRAINERS who have had the most runners since last win: M Pattinson 78; E Dunlop 33; C Cox 25; J Boyle 20; S C Williams 18.

JOCKEYS who have had the most rides since last win: J P Spencer 46; S Osborne 40.

TOP TRAINERS

2020-2025 A Balding 92-588, R Varian 67-287, R Beckett 54-301, R Hannan 53-505, S & E Crisford 39-192, J Fanshawe 39-265, M Botti 39-334, J Butler 38-449, R Hines 37-573, C Cox 37-279, **THIS SEASON:** D Probert 4, L Morris 3, M Ghiani 3, H Doyle 2.

TOP JOCKEYS

2020-2025 D Probert 94-762, R Ryan 73-522, H Doyle 71-555, R Hornby 54-493, L Morris 40-670, K Shoemark 38-381, D Egan 36-298, C Shepherd 35-400, M Ghiani 28-250, S Osborne 22-218, **THIS SEASON:** D Probert 4, L Morris 3, M Ghiani 3, H Doyle 2.

TRAINER TRACE

FIRST RACE FOR NEW YARD: 6.30 Ernie's Valentine S Pearce to J Boyle; 7.00 Vince Lombardi J Boyle to S Spencer; 7.30 Foreseen A West to A Carroll; Gunlock R Burke to M Keady; 8.00 Dark Dreamer R Cowell M Murphy; 8.30 Revolutioinise N Longest Travellers; Rommie The Miracle (4.22) trained by C Johnston, Middleham, North Yorkshire, round trip of 490 miles; Regal River (4.22) & Dingle (7.30) trained by J Camacho, North Loughnane; Lombardi (7.00) trained by S Spencer, Malton, North Yorkshire, round trip of 444 miles; Big Take (4.22), Soldiers Star (5.30), He's Got Game (7.30), H Palmer, Malpas, Chester, round trip 358 miles.

IN THE MONEY

MONEY TALKS: Patch's Bond (7.30) opened 11-2 second at 5-2; Packetofbiscuits (9.30) opened 81 unplaced at 9-2; Oslo (8.30) opened 114 unplaced at 2-1; Nogo's Dream (8.00) opened 9-2 unplaced at 2-1; Shallow (8.00) opened 7-2 won at 11-4.

TOP EARNERS:

8.30 Argob£151,277
8.30 Revolutioinise£132,036
8.00 Ultramarine£103,878
8.30 Gaassee£87,378
6.30 Soar Above£86,146
6.30 Starshiba£82,161

UNDER ORDERS

SEVEN-DAY WINNERS: None.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: 7.30 Joycean Way.
VISORED FIRST TIME: None.
FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OP: None.
WEIGHTWATCHER: 6.30 Ernie's Valentine (won off 78 down 4lb to 74); Revolutioinise (won off 79 down 6lb to 73); Starshiba (won off 82 down 10lb to 72); 7.00 Al Ameen (won off 72 down 8lb to 64); 7.30 Dingle (won off 80 down 3lb to 77); 8.00 Four Adway (won off 69 down 2lb to 65); 8.30 Buxted Too (won off 83 down 12lb to 71).

JOB JOCKEYS: R Ryan rides Invincible Melody (6.00) for R Beckett, 161 from 171, 23%. J P Spencer rides Soldiers Star (5.30), He's Got Game (7.30) for H Palmer, 161 from 22, 23%. J P Spencer rides Naughty Eyes (6.00) for G Boughey, 11 from 52, 21%. D Probert rides Cavalry Call (7.30) for S & E Crisford, 3 from 15, 20%.

4.22 UNIBET SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MAIDEN STAKES (C1); £4,320; 1m 4f (12 runners)

1 (6)	REGAL RIVER J42 J Camacho 4-9-9	Jason Watson	9
2 (9)	6 BIG TAKE 16 H Palmer 3-8-6	Saffie Osborne 96	9
3 (10)	7 GOSTONE 40 T Ward 3-8-6	Hollie Doyle 76	9
4 (3)	7 JOHN T 84 J Portman 3-8-6	Nicola Currie 72	9
5 (6)	2 NOBLEMAN 60 (BF) A Balding 3-8-6	Hayley Turner 98	9
6 (2)	9 ITHACAN 61 P Pattinson 3-8-4	Molly Gunn (7) 71	9
7 (12)	0 JACK LANGLEY 21 S Dow 3-8-4	Anna Gibson (7) 70	9
8 (1)	33-233 ONE HORSE TOWN 7 H Derham 3-8-4	Kieran O'Neill 99	9
9 (7)	8 ROMAN LANDINGS H Morrison 3-8-4	Adam Farragher	9
10 (11)	4 ROMMIE THE MIRACLE C Johnston 3-8-3	Andrew Mullen	9
11 (6)	7 GOOD SHOT 21 A Balding 3-8-2	Isabelle Chalmers (7) 79	9
12 (5)	3 LA TRINITE 44 M Murphy 3-8-2	Luke Morris 92	9

BETTING: 7-4 One Horse Town, 3 Nobleman, 4 Rommie The Miracle, 8 Regal River
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 2

2024: Brodie's Boy 3-8-4 Kieran O'Neill 11-2 (F Brennan) drawn 10, 12 ran.

4.55 UNIBET ZERO MILEAGE HANDICAP (5); 3-y-o, value to the winner £4,187; 6f (12 runners)

1 (10)	849329 BEAUTIFUL THINGS 13 M Atwater 9-9	Paddy Bradley 92	9
2 (12)	981-247 HORUS 4 (D) M Keady 9-9	Taryn Langley (7) 96	9
3 (10)	24-58 MACEDONIAN 49 S & E Crisford 9-9	Liam Wright (5) 96	9
4 (7)	4-1 TOUGHLY 49 (D) O Sangster 9-9	Trevor Whelan 99	9
5 (3)	442-444 HANG WITH CARE 18 M Botti 9-8	Hollie Doyle 96	9
6 (5)	005-15 BLUE ANTHEM 18 (BF) G Boughey 9-9	Benoit Sayette 90	9
7 (8)	76197 THE FEMININE URG 121 (P&D) G Scott 9-9	Callum Shepherd 84	9
8 (4)	94535 KODI 103 C Hill 9-9	Jack Dace (7) 96	9
9 (6)	287-024 FORO ROMANO 34 M Botti 9-8	Marco Ghiani 86	9
10 (11)	647-1 THE THAMES LADY 26 (D) R Hughes 9-5	Finley Marsh 91	9
11 (1)	58971-1 EARLY RELEASE 17 (D) P Evans 9-3	Rossia Ryan 96	9
12 (8)	17-629 PRANHA RAMA 18 (D) P Evans 9-2	George Downing 91	9

BETTING: 7-2 The Thames Lady, 5 Troughy, 6 Macedonian, 7 Hang With Care, Blue Anthem, 8 Horus, 10 Early Release, 12 Kodi Fire
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2024: No corresponding race.

5.30 UNIBET MORE EXTRA PLACE RACES HANDICAP (DIV 1) (5); 3-y-o, winner £4,187; 7f (9 runners)

1 (5)	5-1 BLUE ECLIPSE 48 (D) A Haynes 9-9	Kieran O'Neill 97	9
2 (1)	0204-41 MONTRACHET GIRL 21 (H/D) R Varian 9-9	Aidan Keeley 99	9
3 (2)	23-3 SOLDIERS STAR 55 (BF) H Palmer 9-7	Jamie Spencer 98	9
4 (6)	58-2 TO SWEET 11 R Freire 9-6	David Egan 97	9
5 (8)	4823-16 DISTY T RUMBLE 35 (C) T Teal 9-6	George Bass (3) 91	9
6 (3)	65-013A JUNA 28 (H) C Cox 9-4	Jack Dace (7) 96	9
7 (4)	62-35 BLUE EMPRESS 36 A Watson 9-3	Hollie Doyle 89	9
8 (3)	33523-1 MAIDS HEAD 107 M Botti 9-2	Benoit Sayette 93	9
9 (9)	4725-65 PACKETOFBISCUITS 20 (B) Sir M Prescott 9-1	Luke Morris 82	9

BETTING: 7-2 Montachet Girl, 5 Blue Eclipse, 6 Too Sweet, 8 Soldi Star, 10 Juna, Olivia Jane, 12 Blue Empress, 16 Disty Tumble, 25 Packetofbiscuits, 33 Maids Head
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2024: No corresponding race.

6.00 UNIBET MORE EXTRA PLACE RACES HANDICAP (DIV 2) (5); 3-y-o, winner £4,187; 7f (9 runners)

1 (2)	13-2 NAUGHTY EYES 42 G Boughey 9-9	Tommie Jacks (5) 98	9
2 (9)	738-242 POLITICAL POWER 9 C Clover 9-9	David Egan 97	9
3 (6)	252-231 THIS FARM 26 (D) D Loughnane 9-6	Laura Pearson 99	9
4 (1)	27425-5 NEW CHARTER 56 H Hannan 9-6	Tyrese Cameron (7) 89	9
5 (7)	316 EASILY CONVINCED 21 (P&D) M Botti 9-4	Marco Ghiani 94	9
6 (3)	7-1 LADY MANZOR 42 (D) A Perrett 9-4	Jack Dace (7) 96	9
7 (5)	50554-1 WALSHARAH 119 C Hills 9-2	Jason Watson 87	9
8 (6)	356-8 NOBLE PHOENIX 12 (P&A) A Balding 9-1	Rob Hornby 85	9
9 (3)	7-452 INVINCIBLE MELODY 30 (B/BF) R Beckett 9-1	Rossia Ryan 92	9

BETTING: 3 This Farm, 9-2 Naughty Eyes, 5 Political Power, 13-2 Invincible Melody, Lady Manzor, 10 Walsharah, 119 C Hills, 12 Noble Phoenix
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2024: No corresponding race.

6.30 UNIBET PROUDLY SUPPORTS RACINGHOME.ORG.UK HANDICAP (DIV 1) (5); £4,187; 7f (8 runners)

1 (4)	006641- ERNIE'S VALENTINE 73 (C,D) J Boyle 6-9-9	Finley Marsh 99	9
2 (5)	255-345 LESSON 11 (D) E Dunlop 4-9-8	Rossia Ryan 96	9
3 (6)	625-029 REVOLUTIONISE 21 (C,D) S Williams 9-8-8	Marco Ghiani 94	9
4 (1)	361-574 STARSHIBA 22 (VCD) J Morland 8-9-7	Callum Shepherd 95	9
5 (1)	64-114 CITY CYCLONE 21 (D) A Carroll 5-9-4	William Carson 97	9
6 (3)	12338-1 TRONIMO 28 (D) S Dow 4-9-4	Luke Morris 86	9
7 (2)	338-004P ARCADE 22 (D) S Dow 4-9-4	David Egan 93	9
8 (1)	33124-4 FAT GLADIATOR 708 (C) H Baker 6-8-10	William Carson 97	9

BETTING: 7-2 Ernie's Valentine, 4 Starshiba, 9-2 Lessay, 5 City Cyclone, 8 Fat Gladiator, 10 Revolutionise, 20 Tronimo, 50 Soar Above
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2024: No corresponding race.

7.00 UNIBET PROUDLY SUPPORTS RACINGHOME.ORG.UK HANDICAP (DIV 2) (5); £4,187; 7f (8 runners)

1 (3)	62358-6 PORT ROAD 44 S Dow 4-9-9	Paddy Bradley 99	9
2 (6)	4452-52 BEN BYRN 21 C Hills 4-9-9	Jason Watson 87	9
3 (4)	064252- VINCE LOMBARDI 73 S Spencer 6-9-7	Dale Swift 85	9
4 (1)	5372-9 DART 101 (D) J Williams 6-9-7	Joe Leavy (3) 99	9
5 (4)	44-4313 ENPASSANT 11 (CD) S Williams 4-9-2	Rossia Ryan 96	9
6 (2)	731-114 TEA SEA 16 (B/BF) A Carroll 5-9-2	William Carson 99	9
7 (1)	4464-65 AL JET 21 (C) J Fanshawe 6-8-13	George Wood 91	9
8 (1)	1600-7 ROYAL JET 21 (C) J Fanshawe 6-8-13	Molly Gunn (7) 71	9

BETTING: 11-4 Ben Byrn, 4 Vince Lombardi, 9-2 Tea Sea, 12 Enpassant, 7 Al Ameen, 10 Port Road, Dakota Power, 33 Royal Jet

7.30 UNIBET RACING CHETENHAM PREVIEW HANDICAP (4); value to the winner £6,281; 1m (14 runners)

1 (4)	214000- GUNLOCK 104 (H*,T,K) M Keady 5-9-11	Kieran Shoemark 79	9
2 (8)	760-21 MR BALOO 11 (D) R Hannan 5-9-1	Joe Leavy (3) 99	9
3 (1)	36-1114 TADGULKE 16 (BF) B Millman 7-9-9	Oliver Seale (5) 89	9
4 (2)	27085-5 SINGLE 18 (C,D) J Camacho 7-9-8	Jason Watson 87	9
5 (16)	116-115 GAITY MUSICAL 18 (B/F) P Evans 4-9-8	Rossia Ryan 96	9
6 (10)	521-2 PARCHES BOND 40 (BF) CD P Evans 4-9-7	Paddy Bradley 98	9
7 (8)	69-25 HES GOT GAME 265 (H/D) H Palmer 4-9-6	Andrew Mullen 94	9
8 (5)	1028-48 CAVALLY CALL 17 (D) S & E Crisford 4-9-5	David Probert 90	9
9 (3)	0619-16 ARCTICAN 21 (H/C) S Dow 7-9-5	Luke Morris 93	9
10 (13)	2790-08 RHYTHM N ROCK 14 (C) J Butler 7-9-5	David Egan 97	9
11 (7)	752-0 JUNGLE WAY 61 (B,H) G & J Moore 4-9-3	Tom Queally 75	9
12 (6)	69-25 HES GOT GAME 265 (H/D) H Palmer 4-9-3	Andrew Mullen 94	9
13 (1)	8950-2 FORESEEN 42 (D) A Carroll 4-9-3	William Carson 86	9
14 (2)	9212-35 PORT ERIN 11 (C) A Carroll 5-8-2	Hollie Doyle 96	9

BETTING: 7-2 Mr Baloo, 5 Patch's Bond, 7 He's Got Game, Tadebre, 8 Gaity Musical, 10 More Than A Feeling, 12 Cavalry Call, Port Erin, Dingle
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2024: No corresponding race.

8.00 UNIBET SUPPORTING WOMEN IN RACING HANDICAP (4) £6,281; 6f (11 runners)

1 (1)	121-61 REBEL EMPIRE 53 (D)	Joe Leavy (3) 98	9
2 (1)	R Hannan 4-9-11	Joe Leavy (3) 98	9
3 (1)	Wins: 3 (3A)	Places: 2	£30,093
4 (1)	Progressive, well on top when winning at Chelmsford latest, go close		
5 (1)	R Spencer 4-9-8	George Wood 99	9
6 (1)	Wins: 7 (4A)	Places: 1	£23,244
7 (1)	Made all to win here last time, still ahead of the happer, one to beat		
8 (1)	P Evans 5-9-7	Rossia Ryan 96	9
9 (1)	Wins: 2 (A,G,S)	Places: 8	£41,604
10 (1)	Only a short head behind Shallow here latest, leading contender		
11 (1)	6/017- ABBEY HEIGHTS 265 (D)	David Egan 91	9
12 (1)	D & C Kubler 7-9-7	David Egan 91	9
13 (1)	Wins: 3 (F,2A)	Places: 2	£18,044
14 (1)	Not seen since disappointing at Newbury in June, better for the run		
15 (1)	1535-0 PERENNIAL 61 (H)	Marco Ghiani 89	9
16 (1)	Wins: 5 (1,F)	Places: 2	£7,832
17 (1)	Pulled too hard when down the field at Southwell in Jan, ignore		

TEMPLEGATE

4.22	One Horse Town	4.22	Nobleman
4.55	Toughly	4.55	Handle With Care (nb)
5.30	Maids Head	5.30	Too Sweet
6.00	Invincible Melody	6.00	This Farh
6.30	Lessay	6.30	Fat Gladiator
7.00	Enpassant	7.00	Vince Lombardi
7.30	Mr Baloo	7.30	Patch's Bond
8.00	Shallow	8.00	Nogo's Dream
8.30	Almosh'er	8.30	Haku

TOM PEPPER

4.22	One Horse Town	4.22	Nobleman
4.55	Toughly	4.55	Handle With Care (nb)
5.30	Maids Head	5.30	Too Sweet
6.00	Invincible Melody	6.00	This Farh
6.30	Lessay	6.30	Fat Gladiator
7.00	Enpassant	7.00	Vince Lombardi
7.30	Mr Baloo	7.30	Patch's Bond
8.00	Shallow	8.00	Nogo's Dream
8.30	Almosh'er	8.30	Haku

-76147 DASHING HARRY 11 (CD)

(4) J Horton 4-9-4 Adam Farragher 95
Runs: 19 Wins: 4 (S,3A) Places: 2 £25,235
Best form is over 5f, may find a few too tough over this extra furlong

76-353 ULTRAMARINE 7 (C,D)

(7) P Evans 6-9-3 George Downing 94
Runs: 5 Wins: 5 (5A) Places: 18 £103,878
Ran well when third over 7f, drop to 6f unlikely to inconvenience him

51-316 GRENHAM BAY 14 (B;BF,CD)

(8) A Balding 5-9-3 Jason Watson 96
Runs: 33 Wins: 5 (4A,G,S) Places: 8 £43,024
Won here two starts ago, excuses when behind Shallow latest, do better

44-224 NOGO'S DREAM 46

(9) R Hughes 5-9-1 Finley Marsh 91
Runs: 26 Wins: 1 (A) Places: 15 £39,148
Only one once from 26 starts and that was in a maiden, hard to fancy

41080- DARK DREAMER 151 (CD)

(11) M Murphy 4-9-0 Callum Shepherd 83
Runs: 10 Wins: 2 (A,G,S) Places: 1 £9,759
Looks high enough in the weights, poor effort at Southwell in Oct, avoid

3756-8 FOUR ADAAY 17 (CD)

(1) B Millman 7-8-8 Saffie Osborne 86
Runs: 56 Wins: 7 (2S,3A,2G) Places: 15 £73,886
Best form is over 5f, may find a won over this track & trip, check betting

BETTING: 4 Shallow, 9-2 Rebel Empire, 5 Supreme King, 6 Nogo's Dream, Grenham Bay, 10 Ultramarine, 12 Abbey Heights

WHERE FAVS FINISHED: 2024: No corresponding race.

Sunracing FORM

REBEL EMPIRE (8-4) 20-1 close up, led final 10 yards, ran on well, but we never stop (9-4) 7/4 (9 ran) (Chelmsford 6f hcap (3) £18,319 AW).

SHALLOW (9-9) 11-4 made all, stayed on gamely, final furlong.

SUPREME KING (9-4) 12-1 held up, headway 1f out, ran on, just held, sh hd GRENHAM BAY (9-7) 5-2 furlong, 1f out, 6th (bnt 1/4) (6 ran) (Kempton 6f hcap (4) £26,281 AW).

ABBEY HEIGHTS (9-10) 9-2 chased leaders, ridden when bumped final furlong, weakened 7th of 12 (bnt 2/4) to Sixties Chic (9-5) (Newbury 6f hcap (4) £7,328 good to firm).

PERENNIAL (9-2) 28-1 midfield, ridden and no impression over 1f out, 10th of 12 (bnt 12) led regular runner (9-0) (Southwell 7f hcap (4) £4,972 AW).

DASHING HARRY (9-7) 15-2 carried head high 1f out, never involved, last of 7 (bnt 3/4) to El Bufalo (9-4) (Chelmsford 5f hcap (4) £5,757 AW).

ULTRAMARINE (8-12) 15-2 mid-division, effort 1f out, ran on, 3rd of 9 (bnt 1/4) to Hieronymus (9-7) (Kempton 7f hcap (4) £26,281 AW).

NOGO'S DREAM (9-4) 10-3 outpaced in rear, kept on towards finish, 4th of 7 (bnt 3) to Master Of My Fate (9-6) (Lingfield 5f hcap (4) £7,851 AW).

DARK DREAMER (9-1) 25-1 led, headed 2f out, no extra final furlong, last of 10 (9) to Coup De Force (9-5) (Southwell 6f hcap (5) £3,716 AW).

FOUR ADAAY (9-1) 16-1 outpaced halfway, weakened soon after, 8th of 9 (bnt 7/4) to Coolagh Magic (8-13) (Lingfield 5f hcap (5) £3,716 AW).

8.30 TRY UNIBET'S NEW IMPROVED ACCA BOOSTS HANDICAP (3) £8,246; 1m 4f (7 runners)

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Wednesday, March 5, 2025

in association with

William HILL

ASENSIO OF OCCASION

Serial winner's on Marc

From GRAEME BRYCE in Bruges

MARCO ASENSIO continued his sizzling scoring streak to leave Aston Villa on the brink of the Champions League last eight.

The deadly Spaniard notched a late spot-kick to give Unai Emery's men a commanding lead ahead of Wednesday's return leg.

It was the on-loan Paris Saint-Germain star's fifth goal in his last four games and his first European Cup strike since April 2023 when he scored for Real Madrid against Chelsea.

Three-time Champions League

Club Brugge.....1
Aston Villa.....3

winner Asensio answered Emery's SOS off the bench on 64 minutes to make history as the first player to make 50 substitute appearances in the competition.

Despite the two-goal cushion, boss Emery warned Villa cannot start thinking about a mouth-watering quarter-final clash with Liverpool or his old club PSG.

Emery said: "We are not in the

Turn to Page 3

Burnley let in a goal!



MATCH REPORT
PAGE 6

SPOT THE REAL CLASS . . . composed Asensio tucks in what could be a crucial third goal for Villa with a late penalty



Top Of The League

The only bookmaker to offer all these fan favourites in shop

Acca Winnings Boost

Acca Insurance

Impact Sub

2UP

William HILL



TAKE TIME TO THINK

GambleAware
Advice | Tools | Support

18+

goals

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

1990

BRANDON MECHELE'S own goal was the first Villa have benefited from in major Euro competition since 1990 v Banik Ostrava (Uefa Cup).

RESULTS AND TABLES

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

ROUND OF 16 FIRST LEG

DORTMUND (1) 1 LILLE (0) 1

Adeyemi 22 Amar Haraldsson 68

CLUB BRUGGE (1) 1 ASTON VILLA (1) 3

De Cuyper 12 Bailey 3

Mechele 82 (og) Asensio 88 (pen)

PSV (1) 1 ARSENAL (3) 7

Timber 18 Nwaneri 21

Merino 31 Odegaard 47, 73

Trossard 48 Calafiori 85

R MADRID (1) 2 A MADRID (1) 1

Rodrygo 4 Alvarez 32

Diaz 55

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP

CARDIFF (1) 1 BURNLEY (2) 2

Salech 42 Brownhill 19

Estevé 40 Att: 15,713

HULL (0) 2 PLYMOUTH (0) 0

Gellhardt 48 Att: 18,772

Kamara 61

MILLWALL (0) 0 BRISTOL C (0) 2

Vyner 53 Comick 83

Att: 12,380

PRESTON (0) 0 SWANSEA (0) 0

Att: 12,838

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

BLACKPOOL (0) 0 PETERBORO (0) 0

Att: 7,873

BOLTON (1) 3 BIRMINGHAM (1) 1

McAtee 39 Hansson 23

Thomason 49 Att: 23,023

Collins 71

CAMBRIDGE (0) 0 STEVENAGE (0) 1

Reid 64 Att: 6,338

CHARLTON (1) 1 BARNESLEY (0) 0

Gillespie 12 Att: 12,707

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 0 WREXHAM (0) 1

Fletcher 73

LINCOLN C (3) 4 CRAWLEY TN (1) 1

Collins 14 Doyle 6

Makama 24 Att: 2,253

Jeffries 32

Gardner 88

MANSFIELD (0) 0 WIGAN (0) 0

Att: 6,884

NORTHAMPTON (1) 1 STOCKPORT (0) 1

Taylor 31 Andresson 79

Att: 5,559

READING (0) 0 EXETER (0) 0

Att: 7,955

ROTHERHAM (0) 1 L ORIENT (0) 0

Sweeney 60 (og) Att: 8,106

SHRWSBURY (0) 0 BRISTOL R (0) 0

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Smith 71 N'Mai 72

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WALSLEY (0) 0 WALSLEY (0) 0

Att: 6,884

VILLA

Mings redemption as

MATCH STATS	
CLUB BRUGGE	ASTON VILLA
11	7
3	4
56%	44%
518	408
466	352
20	15
3	1
8	10
0/0	0/0

LEON THE PROFESSIONAL... Bailey (right) wheels away after his opener in the third minute



From GRAEME BRYCE in Bruges

THIS was redemption for Tyrone Mings.

With the tie 1-1 midway through the second half, the Aston Villa defender denied Club Brugge captain Hans Vanaken a certain goal with a superb goal-line clearance.

Commentator Ally McCoist called Mings' hooked effort "the save of the season". And it came against the same opposition and on the same ground where the England centre-back had a nightmare back in November.

The 31-year-old, then making his Champions League debut, conceded one of the most bizarre penalties whilst he was penalised for handling after picking up the ball and placing it on the six-yard line to take a goal-kick.

But Mings turned from zero to hero on his return to Belgium with his vital touch – although referee Joao Pinheiro failed to see the touch and denied the hosts a

Club Brugge.....1

De Cuyper 12

Aston Villa.....3

Bailey 3; Mechele (og) 82; Asensio 88 (pen)

corner. Mings' contribution set the platform for Villa's late victory as Brugge defender Brandon Mechele blundered horribly to divert Morgan Rogers' low 82nd-minute cross beyond Simon Mignolet to gift Unai Emery's side a 2-1 lead.

Villa were celebrating again six minutes later following another self-inflicted wound from Brugge when attacker Christos Tzolis panicked in his own box to send Matty Cash tumbling.

Supersub Marco Asensio kept his cool beating Mignolet from the penalty spot to nab his FIFTH Villa goal since arriving on loan in January and leave Brugge with one almighty hangover in the beer capital of the world.

Meanwhile, Villa can start popping the

champagne corks as only an absolute meltdown in Birmingham can now stop them from setting up a mouth-watering quarter-final showdown with Liverpool or Emery's former club Paris Saint-Germain.

They survived the bear-pit atmosphere of Brugge's Jan Breydel stadium and will be licking their lips at the prospect of facing the Belgians on home turf, where they are unbeaten in 15 matches.

Emery's visitors could not have wished for a better start as they seized the lead after only three minutes with a goal of stunning simplicity.

Former Anderlecht star Youri Tielemans was booed from the first whistle by Brugge's rowdy fans, who clearly have long memories as he left in 2017.

But the Belgian silenced his noisy critics by delivering the long free-kick into the box which Mings nodded down.

And there was Leon Bailey waiting to pounce with a sweetly struck shot on the half-volley which sped beyond Mignolet.

Then Marcus Rashford – starting a Champions League tie for the first time since he was sent off for Manchester

in association with



5

MARCO ASENSIO has scored five goals in his last four games in all comps for Aston Villa, while yesterday was his first Champions League goal since April 2023 for Real Madrid v Chelsea.

2

LEON BAILEY'S opener at 2min 15sec is Villa's fastest Champions League goal. They have netted four in the opening five minutes of games this term, the joint-most in a single campaign along with Bayern Munich in 1997-98.

TO HERO

vital clearance sets up win



EMERY... cautious

ASEN

From Page 1

quarter-final. There are still 90 minutes to play and we're ready in case we need extra-time and penalties because I know how one match can change.

"I'm sure the players have experienced matches like that before and we always have to respect the opponent."

And Emery confessed Villa had defender Tyrone Mings and keeper Emi Martinez to thank for keeping them in it.

Mings was heroic at the back, almost four months after his penalty blunder handed Brugge a 1-0 win in the group stage.

But his incredible touch to deflect Hans Vanaken's netbound header with the match in the balance at 1-1 was the turning point in the game.

Emery said: "We needed the goalkeeper and Tyrone Mings' save."

"We can remember the match we played here before here with Tyrone."

"The first experience he had here was not good."

"Today, he reacted fantastic, playing focused and serious, saving one

We had unfinished business at this ground

— TYRONE MINGS

action which would have been a goal.

"We corrected some things from the match we played here in November."

"This time he saved a really important action."

Mings said: "I was more than happy to come back here and play in this stadium again because I think we had unfinished business."

"I am very proud of what we have done."

"We have a huge game this weekend against Brentford and that is our main focus but when we look at the second leg we know they could have scored a few more goals tonight, as could we."

"We have to let the game take care of itself."

"We were fully aware we would be put under pressure at times but we have such attacking quality we knew we'd get chances."

"It is very easy to let the crowd get a little louder — and their chances were getting a little more frequent but we are in the knockout stages of the Champions League."

"You have to defend well and show character."



November 6

Mings gives away a bizarre penalty after picking up the ball in Bruges



Last night

But Mings' vital touch saves a certain goal in the last-16 rematch



United against Copenhagen in November 2023 — was next to show.

The on-loan Villa forward worked a neat one-two with Bailey then fired in a low shot that Mignolet kept out with his legs.

But all of Villa's promising early work was spectacularly undone on 12 minutes as Brugge exposed their fragile defence.

Ardon Jashari picked the ball up in midfield and had time to pick out Tzolis with a raking crossfield pass which sailed over visiting full-back Axel Disasi's head. Tzolis sucked Disasi in before cutting the ball back to Maxim De Cuyper who caused max damage by sweeping beyond Emi Martinez's outstretched glove and into the far corner to equalise.

Villa made it to half-time on level terms — thanks to the brilliance of Martinez.

The Villa No1 showed fantastic reflexes just beyond the half-hour mark to get down to his right and keep out a low Chemsidine Talbi shot.

After the restart, the game descended into a scrappy affair with both sides desperate to keep things tight.

But with just over an hour played Emery

had seen enough and made a **QUADRUPLE** substitution which paid off spectacularly.

Matty Cash, Jacob Ramsey, Boubacar Kamara and Asensio all came on — the latter becoming the first player to make 50 substitute appearances in the Champions League.

And the Spaniard almost marked the occasion straight away when he smashed Ramsey's cutback towards goal, forcing Mignolet to beat the ball into the air.

It dropped to Cash but the full-back slashed wildly over.

At the other end Vanaken came within a fraction of heading Brugge in front as his attempt grazed the far post with Martinez beaten — Mings getting that crucial touch.

Emery was booked for losing the plot but the Spaniard was soon celebrating a famous victory thanks to two late goals.

HOW THEY LINED UP

CLUB BRUGGE: Mignolet, Sabbe (Skoras 90), Ordonez, Mechele, De Cuyper, Onyedika (Vetlesen 90), Jashari, Talbi (Siquet 85), Vanaken, Tzolis, Jutgla (Nilsson 85).

ASTON VILLA: Martinez, Konsa, Disasi (Cash 64), Mings, Digne, McGinn (Ramsey 64), Tielemans, Bailey (Kamara 64), Rogers, Rashford (Asensio 64), Watkins (Bogarde 90).



BRANDON'S BIG BLOOPER...
Brugge defender Mechele puts into his own net to make it 2-1

goals EUROPA LEAGUE

3

MARTIN ZUBIMENDI
Manchester United
Sociedad — record
draw and one defe



TROTT... Blues test

Trott's in a Liga of his own, Palmer

By ANDREW DILLON

CHELSEA hope to Hammer former West Ham keeper Nathan Trott when they resume their quest for European glory.

Trott, 26, quit the Premier League club for life in Scandinavia with Copenhagen last summer but still harbours a dream to get back there one day.

He will face Conference League favourites Chelsea tomorrow night in the first leg of their last-16 tie in the Danish capital.

Bermuda-born Trott joined West Ham via a school of excellence run by the club's legendary striker Clyde Best.

Trott made just one sub appearance for the Hammers and spent time on loan at AFC Wimbledon before making a permanent move to Copenhagen.

He previously said: "I was playing in League One with Wimbledon and really enjoyed it. It was a good experience for me and I learned a lot."

"But European football is something different and there's something different about the Danish Superliga."

"There are the fans and lots of amazing players in this league who will go on to be future stars."

Copenhagen are top of Superliga and also boast ex-Southampton midfielder Mohamed Elyounoussi in their ranks.

Trott faces a formidable, if injury-hit, Blues forward line that could include Cole Palmer — registered for the knockout phase of this tournament.

The one-time England Under-20s stopper is still ambitious to prove himself in England.

He said: "This is where everyone kind of begins their journey and makes a name for themselves."

"If you really want to take your career to the next level, then the Superliga is one of the best leagues to join."

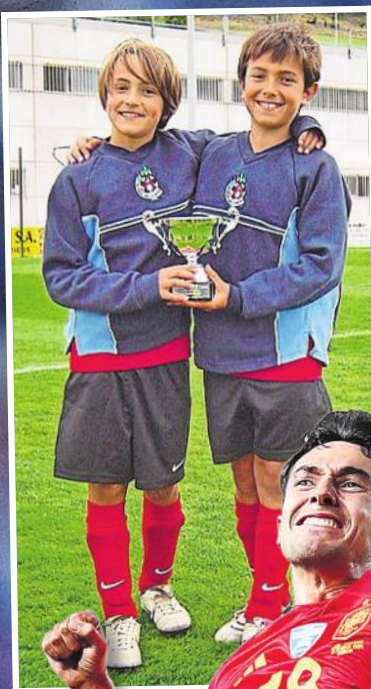
"It's well-respected and has a lot of quality."

"Everyone dreams of playing in the Premier League. That's what I wanted at West Ham — so why not?"

"But I try not to think too far in my career."

"I just have my head down and if the chance comes up to play in the Premier League, 100 per cent I would take it."

"Who knows what can happen in the next few years?"



STAR IN THE MAKING...
Basque boy Zubimendi came up through the Real Sociedad ranks after winning trophies as a kid (top left and above) and (left) celebrating scoring for Spain against Denmark in October

ZUBIMENDI AT REAL SOCIEDAD

(2019-present. All comps)



Games	223
Starts	180
Minutes played	16,891
Ave mins per game	76
Goals	9
Assists	8
Chances created	105
Win rate	45%

By JORDAN DAVIES

MARTIN ZUBIMENDI is spinning heads in the Premier League before kicking a ball in English football.

The Spanish midfielder has already turned down Liverpool, been lured by Arsenal — and tomorrow he can go a long way to KOing Manchester United's season.

Last summer, Liverpool were keen to give new manager Arne Slot the midfielder he craved — an impressive ball-playing, tackle-crunching Spaniard who has been tipped to be the next Rodri.

Ultimately, however, Slot and Liverpool were turned down, with Zubimendi persuaded to remain at his Real Sociedad by his coach Imanol Alguacil and sporting director Roberto Olabe.

They did so by preparing a presentation on the pros and cons of a Prem switch, pulling on the 26-year-old's San Sebastian heartstrings with pictures of his favourite local tapas restaurants

and mountain hikes he enjoys in the Basque Country.

Zubimendi recently admitted: "It is where I feel most comfortable."

It worked, but what Alguacil and Olabe did **NOT** anticipate was a similar approach by Arsenal and boss Mikel Arteta — a Basque boy convincing another Basque boy to make London his new home next term for £51million.

The Gunners appear to have got their man.

Arteta and Arsenal's presentations for potential new signings are not new.

They leave most players and agents astounded by the level of detail put into them, led previously by ex-sporting director Edu and his assistant Jason Ayto, who is the interim. And

Zubimendi was no different, sold on the project and vision at the Emirates, as well as wanting to follow in Arteta's footsteps.

The Arsenal boss left his birthplace of San Sebastian for the bright lights of Barcelona in 1997, aged just 15.

Arsenal and Sociedad also have a great relationship and respect at board level, having recently negotiated Mikel Merino's North London arrival for an initial £27.4m last summer.

It left Liverpool and Slot gutted — but they are not the only ones. Manchester City, United and Real Madrid are also huge fans of the player.

And ironically, United now get to watch him up close tomorrow night in their Europa League last-16 first-leg clash away at Real Sociedad.

For all the noise around him over the past few years, Zubimendi is not a loud character.

He is down-to-earth, humble, at times even shy and anxious. It is said that while making his



Tomorrow, 5.45pm

has played against three times for Real Madrid, winning one win, one draw, and one loss.

15

ZUBIMENDI has played 15 times for Spain — including coming on as a second-half substitute for Rodri in last year's 2-1 Euro 2024 final win against England.

4

REAL SOCIEDAD have failed to progress from any of their previous four last 16 ties in major Euro competition, since knocking out German side Cologne in the Uefa Cup in 1989.

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Basque to the future

LOCAL LAD MART FOLLOWS HIS ART

call about signing for Liverpool, he isolated himself at home, refusing to use his phone to focus on a big decision that he also consulted his family over. He is a different beast when he steps on the pitch. In the last summer window, Arsenal bought Merino because he was a "duel monster". Zubimendi is not too far behind in that respect. He is aggressive, assertive. A snarling, hungry athlete of a man who covers every blade of grass competing for space, the ball or a well-timed tackle. A modern-day Claude Makelele with a sprinkling of Sergio Busquets. Put simply, Zubimendi is the cog between the defence and the midfield. And right now in Europe, he is the closest thing to City's Rodri. In the Euro 2024

final against England back in July, Spain were rocked by Rodri's injury that forced him off at half-time. Yet, his absence was barely felt with Zubimendi (right) on to replace him. He is used to pressure. With the eyes of the world on him days after performing his Liverpool U-turn, he did not miss a single training session, even taking part in a team photo shoot. He has also had to overcome the odds to reach this position. In his early years at Sociedad, the coaches were initially not keen on him, favouring other players and only signing him up at the last minute — a decision that proved wise. Over a decade on and he is positioned to light up another big occasion, showing United — and the rest of England — what they can expect should he grace the Premier League next season.



SCOR BLIMEY... Lizbeth Ovalle of Tigres netted this scorpion kick — already a contender for goal of 2025

Fans lobby to keep the drop

A "CONCERNED" fan group has set up a petition opposing "the idea of no relegation" from the Women's Super League.

By SANDRA BROBBEY

Their online plea in response to proposals to scrap relegation from the top tier went live on Change.org on Monday. WSL and Women's Championship clubs are due to vote on plans that would lead to the top-flight expanding to 16 teams, with a temporary pause on relegation.

take place by the end of this season.

The WPLL's proposals would mean relegation from the top flight being halted from the 2026-27 season, then returning for the 2030-31 campaign.

Promotion of just one team per season from the Championship to the league would remain.

The Concerned WSL supporters group oppose scrapping relegation because they believe it would not serve the interests of those "outside the very top of the football chain".

They also think it would go against "all English football tradition".

There are reports a vote by all 23 sides in WSL and the second tier will

Their petition had attracted more than 800 signatures last night.

INSIDE TRADING

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TOP TIPS FROM TRADING FLOOR

ADVERTORIAL

YOU can usually count on goals in the Champions League... and I'm hoping tonight will be no different.

Here is a both-teams-to-score four-fold that you can use your acca winnings boost on — you just need four or more picks at 3-1 or bigger online.

Let's start in Europe with Bayern Munich v Bayer Leverkusen. We're talking about the Bundesliga's two highest scorers going toe-to-toe, including Harry Kane (right). I can't wait for that one.



Benfica know they will have to pose a threat at home against Barcelona as when they met in January, the game finished 5-4! And Paris Saint-Germain against Liverpool looks like a good BTTS bet, too. The Premier League champions-elect are not keeping loads of clean sheets on the road and PSG pack a punch at the Parc des Princes.

Finally, in the Scottish Championship, we will see both Livingston and Raith score — as was the case in three of the four meetings between the pair in 2024.

Good luck and enjoy your football.

goals CHAMPIONSHIP

18

BURNLEY conceded their first league goal in 1,132 minutes (18hr 52min) since Kwadwo Baah scored for Watford against the Clarets on December 21 last year at Turf Moor.



VYNER... rare goal

Vyner's goal is vintage

Millwall.....0
Bristol City.....2

By NEIL SILVER

ZAK VYNER'S first goal in almost two years lifted Bristol City to the brink of the play-off places.

Defender Vyner — born just a few miles away from the New Den in Southwark — popped up at the far post to side-foot home at Millwall after 53 minutes.

Harry Cornick came off the bench for only his second Championship match of the season.

And the Robins forward reacted smartly after 83 minutes, sweeping home a loose ball after Sam Bell's shot was parried by Lions goalkeeper Lukas Jensen.

Vyner's first goal since April 2023 and Cornick's strike moved City to just below sixth-placed West Brom on goal difference.

This was also a first away win for Liam Manning's side since November 9.

Millwall were subdued following their much-talked-about FA Cup defeat at Crystal Palace on Saturday.

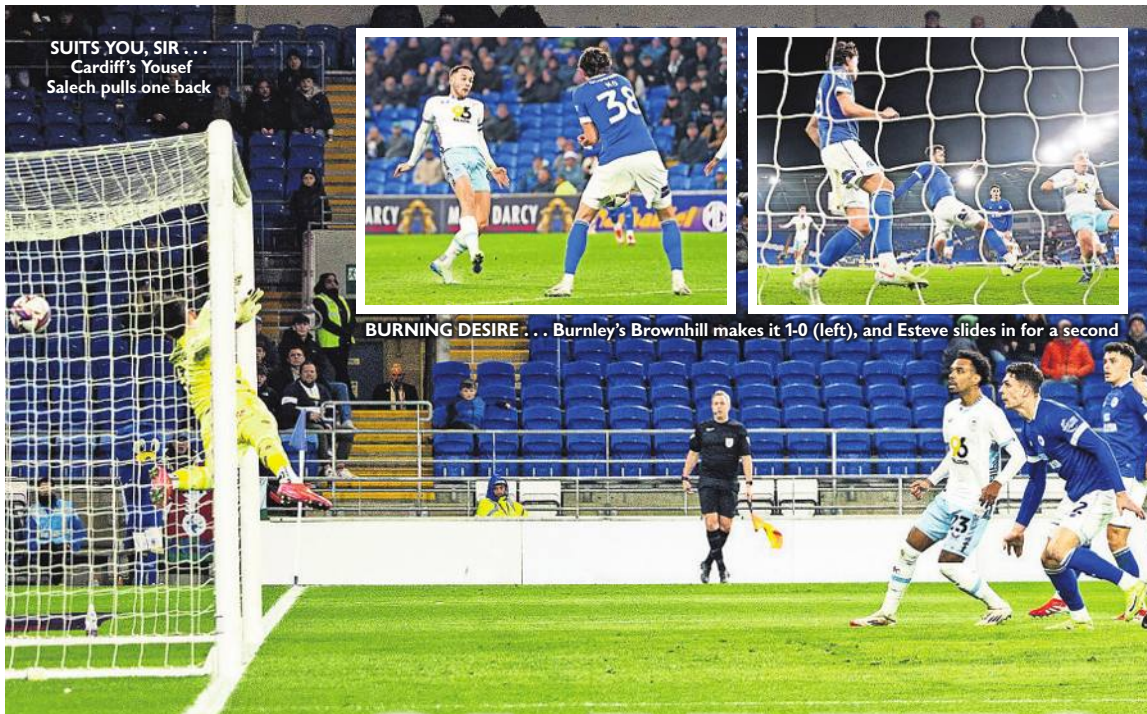
But you cannot keep their fans down.

There was a minute's applause in support of goalkeeper Liam Roberts after eight minutes — as that was when he saw red at Selhurst Park.

Roberts and his family have suffered abuse since the cup tie, and he would have been warmed by his fans, who sang "Que sera, sera".

Although there was little to choose between the teams, the visitors created the better chances.

And, even without injured striker Nahki Wells, City inflicted only the second defeat in nine league games for Alex Neil's Lions — leaving them seven points adrift of the play-off places.



SUITS YOU, SIR...
Cardiff's Yusef Saleh pulls one back



BURNING DESIRE... Burnley's Brownhill makes it 1-0 (left), and Esteve slides in for a second



Cardiff.....1
Burnley.....2

By ROSS GREGORY

BURNLEY moved to within two points of the automatic promotion spots — despite James Trafford conceding his first league goal in 1,132 MINUTES.

Clarets boss Scott Parker looked anxious as Cardiff piled on late pressure.

But goals by Josh Brownhill and Maxime Esteve were enough to keep the visitors firmly in the hunt to go up automatically to the Prem.

Yusef Saleh became the first player to outfox keeper Trafford (below) for 13 matches when he made it 2-1 just before the break.

The big Danish striker also saw a late header strike the bar as Burnley survived a Bluebirds battering.

But the visitors — who have only conceded ten goals in 35 league matches — clung on to cut the gap to second-placed Sheffield United in the battle to go up.

Burnley had the hunger of a side keen to close the gap on their two rivals above.

They looked capable pressing the pedal at will and when they did so midway through the first half, Parker's men went ahead with their first real attempt.

A surging run and cross by

Hannibal Mejbri was met with a side-foot volley by Brownhill, although it needed a slight deflection off Perry Ng to crack.

Both clubs had been wrong-footed by the wrong-foot Ethan Horvath. Both clubs had been knocked out of the FA Cup in their previous match — but both also had their eyes on bigger prizes.

For Burnley, it was chasing down Leeds and the Blades.

For Cardiff, the intent was to stretch the five-point gap between themselves and the relegation zone.

Brownhill's opener stirred Cardiff into a response and

Saleh was unlucky when his volley struck a post. But as so many clubs have found, Burnley are a tough nut to crack.

Not only did they regain composure after that scare, but Esteve made it 2-0 in the 40th minute.

Zian Flemming owed them one after the Dutchman had headed an easy chance wide moments earlier.

When the ball found him again at the far post, he nodded it back for Esteve to smash home from close range.

At 2-0 down, Cardiff rallied and — thanks to the imposing Saleh — they managed to drag themselves back into the

game. Some hard graft from Callum O'Dowda allowed Joel Bagan to set up Saleh for his fifth goal of the season.

Clarets gaffer Parker must have taken that goal personally and laid down the law in the dressing room at half-time — as Cardiff did not get another sniff after the break.

Instead, it was Burnley piling on the pressure as Marcus Edwards, Brownhill and Josh Cullen all went close to making it 3-1.

Parker's impressive side also had a clear penalty turned down when Brownhill was seemingly tripped by Calum Chambers.

CLARETS CONCEDE

...for first time in nearly 19 hours!



HECKINGBOTTOM

Swan to forget, Hecky

Preston.....0
Swansea.....0

By DANE MASSEY

PAUL HECKINGBOTTOM'S FA Cup heroes could not find a way past stubborn Swansea.

Preston look forward to a Cup quarter-final against Aston Villa at the end of this month after seeing off Burnley on Saturday.

But this Championship stalemate showed both teams' mid-table mediocrity — North End are 15th with Swans in 16th, 12 and ten points clear of the drop zone.

Heckingbottom's hosts had the better chances but could not find a way through.

Swansea did craft an opening in the early stages but Lewis O'Brien's effort was a tame one and easy enough for Freddie Woodman to save.

Preston then had two great chances to take the lead before the break.

Milutin Osmajic's close-range shot deflected just over and Sam Greenwood was denied by keeper Lawrence Vigoroux.

North End started the second half on the front foot and should have scored within a matter of seconds as Brad Potts played in Osmajic, whose sliding finish went wide.

Greenwood and Ryan Ledson both had efforts charged down as Preston ramped up the pressure.

Swansea's Eom Ji-sung fired his free-kick, from the edge of the box, under the wall but hit the side-netting.

Vigoroux denied hitman Osmajic again one-on-one — an action that summed up a frustrating night for Preston.

GEL'S HARDT ON ARGYLE

By DAVID FLETT

JOE GELHARDT and Abu Kamara gave Hull their first home victory since before Christmas.

But their second-half strikes left Plymouth rooted in the relegation mire as they came back down to earth after their FA Cup heroics.

The Pilgrims remain the only side in the EFL yet to taste league success on the road this season.

Fans who made the 12-hour, 700-mile round trip from Devon got scant reward for their effort as they watched this fixture, rearranged from Saturday

Hull.....2
Plymouth.....0

when their side were giving Manchester City a fifth-round Cup scare. They left Humber-side having now seen Argyle fail to prevail in any of their past 20 league away contests.

Hull controlled large periods of the first half, with Plymouth keeper Conor Hazard well positioned to keep out Gustavo Puerta's downward header.

Three minutes into the second half on-loan Leeds attacker Gelhardt made

the breakthrough, showing composure to slot past Hazard. The ball fell to him eight yards from goal after Nikola Katich had blocked an edge-of-the-box Sean McLoughlin effort.

Tigers' Kyle Joseph should have doubled the advantage but lacked conviction with only Hazard to beat and his shot was easily repelled.

It mattered little as, just past the hour, Joao Pedro burst on to Puerta's ball and unselfishly squared for Kamara to find an empty net.

Plymouth finally managed their first goal attempt of the night on 89 minutes but Callum Wright's header sailed harmlessly over.



HULL OF A SHOT... Joe Gelhardt sidefoots in

CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	35	22	10	3	72	22	76
Sheff Utd	35	23	6	6	50	27	75
Burnley	35	19	14	2	45	10	71
Sunderland	35	18	11	6	52	32	65
Coventry	35	15	8	12	49	44	53
West Brom	35	12	16	7	45	32	52
Bristol City	35	13	13	9	45	38	52
Blackburn	35	15	7	13	40	55	52
Millwall	35	14	8	13	55	46	50
Wolves	35	16	9	10	45	48	49
Norwich	35	12	11	12	56	48	48
Millwall	35	11	12	12	34	36	45
Sheff Wed	35	12	9	14	47	56	45
QPR	35	11	11	13	41	45	44
Preston	35	9	16	10	36	41	43
Swansea	35	11	8	16	37	46	41
Portsmouth	35	10	9	16	43	57	39
Oxford Utd	35	9	11	15	36	52	38
Hull	35	9	9	17	35	44	36
Stoke	35	8	12	15	34	47	36
Cardiff	35	8	12	15	38	57	36
Luton	35	8	7	20	32	55	31
Plymouth	35	6	12	17	36	70	30
Derby	35	5	8	20	35	58	29

(Sheff Utd deducted 2 points)

goals LEAGUE 1 & LEAGUE 2

in association with

William HILL



BY GEORGE... Bolton's George Thomason nets the second after John McAtee had equalised (right)

SCHU-STOPPER

Trotters put the boot into Brum

By ALAN NIXON

BRILLIANT Bolton brought the Blues' cruise to the title to a halt – and shattered their 18-game unbeaten run.

Steve Schumacher's side turned on a super show to give their own hopes of going up a massive boost.

Birmingham are so far ahead in the promotion race that they could be forgiven for some complacency – but they were outplayed by the magnificent Trotters.

City rested star striker Jay Stansfield but still put together a class move to go ahead. Taylor Gardner-Hickman found space in the box to fire over a class move to go ahead. Taylor Gardner-Hickman found space in the box to fire over a class move to go ahead.

It was the Norwegian left winger's first goal in League One since joining from Dutch side Heracles, but hit with the confidence of a regular marksman.

However, Bolton picked an attacking side and arguably needed the win more.

And that positive attitude paid off with a stunning comeback.

Josh Dacres-Cogley's fine ball to winger Carlos Mendes Gomes sparked the leveller.

John McAtee took a quick pass from Mendes Gomes and strode through before shocking keeper Bailey Peacock-Farrell with his shot. Team-mates and fans were yelling for a cross but McAtee had his sights fixed

Bolton.....3
Birmingham.....1

on an instant effort which flew in at the near post for the 39th-minute equaliser.

McAtee was denied a quick second when he tucked in a loose ball from a deflected George Johnston shot but was ruled offside.

Wanderers were bursting with energy as they chased the win, with Aaron Morley's rocket kicked off the line by Ben Davies.

But the game had turned and skipper George Thomason prodded in a second minutes after the break as Blues buckled.

Gardner-Hickman was booked for a foul on Jordi Osei-Tutu and escaped a red card for a further yellow-card offence.

The Bristol City loanee then dragged back Osei-Tutu and was only lectured by the ref before Blues boss Chris Davies subbed him. Bolton were in full cry and even their changes worked a treat.

Joel Randall came on and instantly teed up the third to finish off the table-topping visitors.

Aaron Collins pounced on a Randall cut-back and fired into the roof of the net on 71 minutes.



Saddlers reined in

Carlisle.....1
Walsall.....1

ROCK-BOTTOM Carlisle stunned table-toppers Walsall — thanks to Aaron Hayden's goal.

The Saddlers took the lead through Taylor Allen with just seven minutes on the clock.

Ryan Stirk found his pal in acres of space in the box and the defender made no mistake with his finish.

But the struggling Blues stunned Walsall in the 22nd minute through Hayden — who powerfully headed home from an Elliot Embleton corner.

Both teams had chances after the break to claim all three points.

But an Embleton effort was well saved and Charlie Lakin hit a post for the Saddlers.

Carlisle almost won it but Archie Davies' cross was parried by Tommy Simkin and Jordan Jones saw his rebound blocked.

LEAGUE ONE AND TWO RESULTS & TABLES - See Goals Page 2

THE WILLIAM HILL 5

TOP TIPS FOR POSITIVE PLAY

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Safer Gambling

it's who you play with

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opening day

Cheltenham done properly

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Retail and Online: Ends 17:20 11/03/25. Free bet valid 13:00 09/03/25 – final race starts on any "Racecard" market. 1 per customer. Online: Invited UK & Ire customers only. Free bet values (vary) displayed to eligible customers upon login. Must opt in via promo page. Full T&Cs apply. Retail: £5 free bet automatically credited to PLUS Cardholders – existing (activity recorded on card required) & new (reg since 09/03). Available on SSBT/Smart Hubs only. Full T&Cs apply. William Hill rules apply. Over 18s only. For advice & information visit www.gambleaware.org/home. National Gambling Helpline 0808 8020 133