THE Sun ON SUNDAY

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SCHOOL HIT BY VIRUS
PAGES 8 & 9

DOWNING ST SENSATION

BORIS GIRLFRIEND PREGNANT
HE'S GOING TO MARRY CARRIE



Wedding belle . . . bride-to-be Carrie gets kiss from PM in Insta pic

Pram Minister

By DAVID WOODING, Sunday Political Editor

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson and Carrie Symonds are expecting a baby — and he's asked her to marry him.

PR exec Carrie, 31, confirmed the happy double on Instagram yesterday, posting a picture of Boris kissing her and writing: "We've got a baby hatching early summer. Feel incredibly blessed."

The tot is due in May or early June.

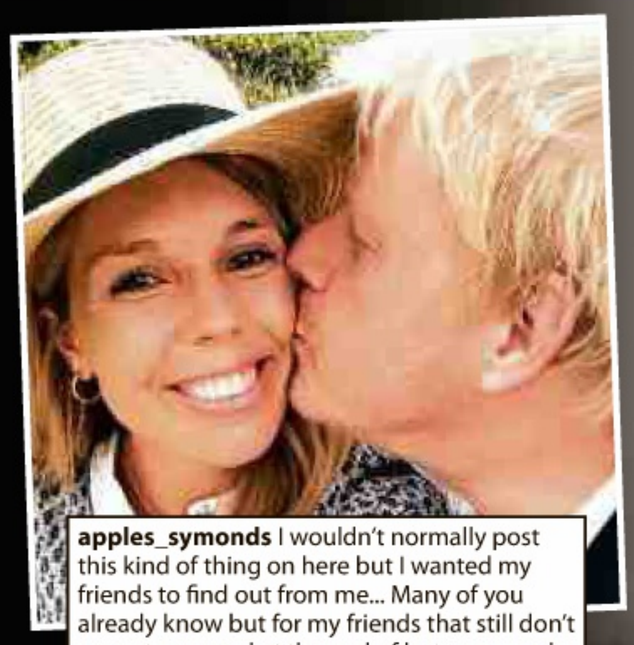
FULL STORY: PAGES 2, 3, 4 AND 5





PRAM MINISTER

BUNDLE OF JOY



apples_symonds I wouldn't normally post this kind of thing on here but I wanted my friends to find out from me... Many of you already know but for my friends that still don't we got engaged at the end of last year... and we've got a baby hatching early summer

No10 BABY

(Well, he's got at least FIVE!)

BORIS Johnson is to become a dad for the sixth time — and will be the first PM in nearly 200 years to marry while in office.

He and PR executive Carrie Symonds, his live-in lover, broke the news of their happy double last night.

A No10 spokesman said: "The Prime Minister and Miss Symonds are very pleased to announce their engagement and that they are expecting a baby in early summer."

The Sun on Sunday understands

By DAVID WOODING

Carrie is six months pregnant, with the baby due in late May or early June. The couple, who have been together for about two years, got engaged at the end of last year but kept it secret from all but their closest pals until now.

Boris is thought to have proposed in Mustique during the couple's Christmas break. An intimate picture released last night is also throught to have been taken there.

Carrie, 31 — already the first unmarried partner of a sitting PM — posted the picture of Boris kissing her on the cheek on Instagram. She wrote: "I wouldn't normally post this kind of thing on here but I wanted my friends to find out from me. Many of you already know but for my friends that still don't, we got engaged at the end of last year . . . and we've got a baby hatching early summer. Feel incredibly blessed."

The shock announcement came just 11 days after Boris, 55, reached a settlement with his estranged wife Marina Wheeler, with whom he has four children, aged 20 to 26.

Their divorce is yet to be finalised — so delaying the date of his and Carrie's wedding.

But a pal said they would want to wed soon to avoid having an unmarried mum at No10.

Boris also has a fifth child, born in 2009 after an affair with art consultant Helen Macintyre.

Former Chancellor Sajid Javid was among the first to congratulate Boris and Carrie yesterday, tweeting: "Wonderful news!"

Former Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson also sent the happy duo her best wishes.

They will be the third couple in recent history to have a baby while living in Downing Street — following Tony and Cherie Blair and David and Samantha Cameron.

The latest PM's baby could have been conceived at the Queen's Balmoral estate last autumn.

Boris and Carrie spent a night at the castle on Friday September 6 but returned to London the next day to deal with the gathering Brexit crisis.

It was later reported that the Queen was "uncomfortable" with them staying overnight given royal protocol usually bans unmarried couples from doing so.

Cherie Blair has previously revealed that her and Tony's fourth child, son Leo was conceived at Balmoral in 1999 during the PM's annual visit to the Queen.

Mrs Blair wrote that out of

FOR BOJO AND CARRIE



Happy couple . . . outside No10 during December election

FROM PR GURU TO FIRST LADY



Carrie & Boris . . . at a fund-raiser in London

By SARAH ARNOLD

PREGNANT Carrie Symonds will complete an extraordinary rise to become the First Lady of No10 when she marries Boris Johnson this summer.

For years, she was the PR in the background but her profile has been on a steady rise since their relationship came to light in September 2018.

Carrie grew up in East Sheen, South West London, and went to prestigious private school Godolphin and Latymer School in nearby Hammersmith.

She worked for eight years as a communications and PR guru for Conservative Campaign HQ alongside leading Tories including Michael Gove and Amber Rudd.

The lucrative role led to her being named as the UK's second most powerful public relations professional by PR Week magazine.

She quit in August 2018, before starting at Bloomberg as PR for its Vibrant Oceans programme.

Rumours about the couple being together first circulated in September 2018 as news broke of Boris's separation from his second wife Marina Wheeler — mum to the PM's children Lara, 26, Milo Arthur, 23, Cassia Peaches, 22 and Theodore Apollo, 20.

In July 2019 Carrie moved in with Boris, taking the space above No11 Downing Street instead of the smaller, traditional residence at No10



Romance . . our story

The couple have recovered from a bust-up at Carrie's flat in Camberwell, South London, in June when police were called after a neighbour heard a screaming row.

It was apparently sparked when Boris spilled red wine over his lover's favourite cream sofa.

Boris and Marina — married for 25 years — finalised a divorce deal earlier this month and she was given permission to apply for a decree absolute that will bring the marriage to an offiical end.

He is believed to be the first PM to be divorced while in office in modern times.

PM'S FIVE CHILDREN



LARA LETTICE, 26

Writer who uses surname Johnson-Wheeler



MILO ARTHUR, 24

Helped mum clear home when she left the PM.



CASSIE PEACHES, 22

Also said to be a writer – just like big sister



THEODORE APOLLO, 20

Studied at Cambridge, rival of dad's Oxford



STEPHANIE, born 2009

Born after an affair with Helen MacIntyre

"sheer embarrassment" she had left her contraception at home.

Boris and Carrie grew close after his second marriage to Marina hit the rocks about two years ago – when he was Foreign Secretary.

She accompanied him at everything from private dinner dates to high-powered political functions.

Their close friendship blossomed as they discussed their shared interests and Westminster gossip.

Pals first caught wind that he fancied Carrie, then Tory director of communications, in February 2018 when they attended the party's Black and White fundraising ball.

They hardly took their eyes off each other and six days later Carrie tweeted enthusiastically about a speech Mr Johnson had made about Brexit.

That evening they were spotted tucking into a Valentine's dinner in London's Covent Garden.

The couple went to extraordinary lengths to meet during and after work. And Mr Johnson sent a car to pick up Carrie from a wedding held near Chevening, his country retreat in Kent.

She has largely stayed out of the limelight since he took over from Theresa May as PM in July.

Carrie was scarcely seen at his side on the General Election campaign trail late last year – though she was pictured waving with him outside No10 following the Tories' thumping win.

The couple chose to live at the larger four-bedroom flat at No11 Downing Street instead of the two-bedroom official residence at No10.

Carrie has not been seen recently, giving rise to Westminster whispers that she was harbouring a secret.

Last week she was missing from his arm at the Black and White ball. But she was with him at Chevening last weekend.

She has hired a personal adviser on a six-figure salary, paid for by the Conservative Party. Sarah Vaughan-Brown, 45, former director of communications for ITN, will act as adviser and so-called gatekeeper to the new First Lady of Downing Street.

Boris met first wife, Allegra Mostyn-Owen, while they were students at Oxford.

They married in 1987 but the marriage was annulled in 1993. That year he married again to barrister Marina Wheeler.

The last PM to marry in office was Lord Liverpool who wed Mary Chester in 1822.

His first wife Louisa died aged 54 the previous year. Boris is also believed to be the first Prime Minister to divorce in office since Augustus FitzRoy, the 3rd Duke of Grafton.

An act of parliament allowed him to leave first wife Anne in 1769.

He quickly married Elizabeth Wrottesley and the couple went on to have 13 children.

Meanwhile, pitches are already being made by MPs for the Prime Minister's wedding to take place in their constituency.

Former Scottish secretary David Mundell tweeted: "Gretna Green is a great place for a wedding."

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The Sun on Sunday Says — Page 16

NAPPY NEWS IS JUST WHAT WE NEEDED! : SEE PAGES 4 AND 5

PRAM MINISTER FORGET FLOODS



Baby on the way . . . Carrie leaving the back exit of No10 last month



Show of affection . . pair hug in front of cameras



Jumping for joy . . . jubilant Boris with Carrie on election night

Nappy news is just what we needed!

FORGET, for a moment, the rising floodwaters, and stop worrying for a minute or two that the coronavirus is going to wipe us all out.

Carrie Symonds and Boris Johnson are expecting a baby in early summer.

The Prime Minister has shown yet again his astonishing ability to change the subject and cheer people up.

There's nothing like a baby, as my dear mother used to say.

Here amid the doom and gloom, new life is on the way.

Although I have known Boris since 1987, and brought out the first biography of him in 2006, I confess I was as dumbfounded as anyone when the news broke yesterday.

And yet what he and Carrie are doing is the most natural thing in the world. Like millions of other couples, they have lived together for a while, and now they are having a baby and getting married.

Even the way they got that dog, Dilyn the Jack Russell rescue puppy, is reminiscent of other couples who get a pet because they have not yet got a baby.

Boris is by nature an optimist. He presses ahead where more cautious career politicians would hang back, worried the whole thing would upset too many voters, especially those of an old-fashioned disposition.

But Boris has horrified them already, by becoming the first Prime Minister ever to live with his girlfriend in Downing Street.

Old-fashioned voters ought to be delighted that he is now getting married to Carrie.

He has always loved having children, the more the better as far as he is concerned.

And he loves being married. This may seem a curious thing to write of a man who will have twice been divorced, once the formalities to end his present marriage have been completed.

But Boris is not one of those men who regards commitment with terror. With boundless optimism, he dismisses the doubts that might have held him back.

His first marriage, to Allegra Mostyn-Owen, whom he met at Oxford University, was not a success. She had appeared on the cover of Tatler, was famous for her beauty and was a sympathetic and sensitive person.

But she could not bear being married to such a driven man, who worked with titanic energy to make a success of his chosen career of journalism.

She and Boris were completely incompatible, and very soon the marriage broke down.

His second marriage, to Marina Wheeler, was in many ways a great success, and lasted for a quarter of a century. They had four children, and were clearly very much in love.

From time to time Marina threw him out of the house for having affairs, but she did not generally hurl him into outer darkness.

He would instead find himself staying, during these periods of banishment, with mutual friends.

But one cannot imagine Marina, a successful lawyer with socialist convictions, would ever have been happy living at No10 as the wife of a Conservative Prime Minister.

Carrie will embrace that role. She has worked for the Conservative Party, understands how it works and sympathises with its aims.

Ministers for whom she has worked pay tribute to her acumen.

Only two PMs before Boris have ever got divorced: the Duke of Grafton in the eighteenth century, and Sir Anthony Eden, who succeeded Churchill in 1955.

As so often, Boris is breaking new ground, determined to do things his own way, unwilling to observe conventions for which he can see no point.

In the theatre of politics, he puts on a performance unlike anyone else's, and of which not everyone can approve, but which everyone finds themselves talking about. He got into the Commons in 2001 but was soon criticised for various gross failures of responsibility.

When he was found to have lied to the Press about his affair with Petronella Wyatt – he dismissed the story as "an inverted pyramid of piffle", when actually it was entirely true – he was sacked by the then Conservative leader Michael Howard from the front-bench team.

This meant that in 2005 Johnson was in no position to run for the leadership, and had to watch fellow Etonian David Cameron take over. A less resilient character would have abandoned politics for a well-paid career in newspapers and television. Johnson went off and became Mayor of London.

He reached the top on his own terms, and now he is doing something wonderfully conventional; he is getting married. Good luck to him and his bride, and congratulations on their forthcoming baby.

Andrew Gimson is the author of Boris: The Making of the Prime Minister (Simon & Schuster, £10.99).



By ANDREW GIMSON
BORIS JOHNSON'S BIOGRAPHER

& FEARS OVER KILLER FLU



Beaming . . . Carrie is set to become a mother and a bride

'SO ROCK 'N ROLL'

HE may not have the snake-hips of Mick Jagger, nor the dyed bouffant of Rod Stewart, but PM Boris Johnson certainly boasts a rock star virility.

He is expecting his sixth child – two fewer than the legendary pop lotharios.

Eligible for a pension in ten years and with a frame built for comfort not speed, Boris is an unlikely sex symbol.

Women love him. Or, at least, appear willing to procreate with him. Just like Mick and Rod, the PM has also landed a younger, and very glamorous, girlfriend in 31-year-old Carrie Symonds.

After years of boring Brexit and bland Theresa May, this unlikely couple are breathing new life into British politics.



By **CLEMMIE MOODIE**
Associate Showbiz Editor

FLINGS DRAMA



By DANIEL HAMMOND

BORIS Johnson's colourful love life has taken plenty of twists and turns.

He divorced first wife Allegra Mostyn-Owen in 1993 after an affair with Marina Wheeler, *with him left.*

She married him that year but he was then linked to writer Petronella Wyatt. That affair is said to have overlapped with his romance with journalist Anna Fazackerley while he was a shadow junior education minister in 2005.

Boris fathered a lovechild with arts consultant Helen Macintyre in 2009.

IN BRITAIN'S BEST-SELLING SUNDAY PAPER



TONY PARSONS

Don't panic ...just keep washing your hands

PAGE 15



KARREN BRADY

Duffy, I admire your dignity...and courage

PAGE 25



FREE No1 mags for fashion & TV



WHITEHALL WHINGER QUITS
SHOCK TV ATTACK ON PATEL

THINGS GET PRITI UGLY

By DAVID WOODING
Sunday Political Editor

A SENIOR Whitehall mandarin quit yesterday, accusing ministers of waging a "vicious and orchestrated campaign" against him.

Sir Philip Rutnam, Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, fired a parting broadside at his boss Priti Patel – branding her a liar and bully.

And he gave notice he will sue the Government for constructive and unfair dismissal.

The shock TV announcement followed a wave of furious bust-ups between the £180,000-a-year civil servant and his frustrated political master.

They began after anonymous sources accused the Home Secretary of "shouting and swearing", belittling people and overseeing a culture of fear in her department.

Ms Patel's allies hit back saying Sir Philip and his team dragged their feet on immigration and crime reform, thwarted staff moves and undermined her in Cabinet.

Sir Philip, 54, was named by No10 sources as one of three unhelpful civil servants targeted for the chop for frustrating the work of a newly elected government.

Yesterday he declared he did not believe Ms Patel's denial of involvement in the alleged campaign to undermine her top civil servant.

The announcement comes after revelations he was on a "s*** list" of permanent secretaries No10 wants replaced.

It was claimed they are at odds with Tory ministers and advisers who have been buoyed by Mr Johnson's landslide election win.

Sir Philip said: "In the last ten days, I have been the target of a vicious and orchestrated briefing campaign.

"It has been alleged that I have briefed the media against the Home Secretary. This along with many other claims is completely false."



He added: "The Home Secretary categorically denied any involvement in this campaign to the Cabinet Office. I regret I do not believe her. She has not made the efforts I would expect to dissociate herself from the comments."

Sir Philip claimed he was asked by Cabinet Secretary Sir Mark Sedwill to "effect a reconciliation" with Ms Patel.

He added: "Despite my efforts to engage with her, Priti Patel has made no effort to engage with me."

Sir Philip, whose career spans 33 years, revealed he was offered a "financial settlement" by the Cabinet Office but rejected it in order to resign publicly and "call out" Ms Patel's conduct.

He said he "received allegations" Ms Patel's conduct had included "shouting and swearing, belittling people, making unreasonable and repeated demands, behaviour that created fear and needed some bravery to call out". Ms Patel's allies last week called claims she was cutting Sir Philip out of meetings "total b******s". They said he failed to turn up to a security meeting with her last week adding: "He's cut himself out."

In a joint statement last week, Ms Patel and Sir Philip said they were "deeply concerned" by "false allegations" that the Home Secretary is distrusted by intelligence chiefs and bullied staff.

Sir Philip – appointed in 2017 – was due to continue in the role until the completion of a standard five-year tenure in April 2022. His deputy Shona Dunn will become acting permanent secretary.

Labour leadership hopeful Lisa Nandy said: "It's time for the Government to come clean on the scale of bullying by ministers and advisers."

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Uncivil war . . Sir Philip yesterday. Left, Shona Dunn



Bullying claims . . Home Secretary Priti Patel

HIS AMAZING RANT IN FULL

"I have this morning resigned as Permanent Secretary of the Home Office. I take this decision with great regret after a career of 33 years.

I am making this statement now because I will be issuing a claim against the Home Office for constructive dismissal.

In the last ten days, I have been the target of a vicious and orchestrated briefing campaign.

It has been alleged I have briefed the media against the Home Secretary. This along with many other claims is completely false. The Home Secretary categorically denied any involvement in this campaign to the Cabinet Office. I regret I do not believe her. She has not made the efforts I would expect to dissociate herself from the comments.

I was willing to effect a reconciliation with the Home Secretary — as requested by the Cabinet Secretary on behalf of the Prime Minister.

But despite my efforts to engage with her, Priti Patel has made no effort to engage with me to discuss this. I believe these events give me very strong grounds to claim constructive, unfair dismissal — and I will be pursuing that claim in the courts.

My experience has been extreme but I consider there is evidence it is part of a wider pattern of behaviour. I have received allegations her conduct included shouting and swearing, belittling people, making unreasonable demands. I am aware that there will continue to be briefing against me now. I am hopeful at least it may not now be directed to my colleagues or the department."



'Life-saver' . . . Taser

8k more Tasers for police

By RYAN SABEY

THOUSANDS more police are to be armed with electric stun guns.

They will be equipped with 50,000-volt Tasers after forces applied for funds from a £10million Home Office fund.

The money will also pay for handcuffs, batons, CS spray, body armour and equipment training.

Allocations were based on threats and risks in areas across the country.

In all, nearly 8,000 Tasers were approved. The Met got by far the biggest allocation – 2,382.

A further £3.3million will help tackle serious violence and county lines.

Human rights group Liberty has warned that arming more officers risks "escalating rather than reducing" violence.

But John Apter, head of the Police Federation of England and Wales, said Tasers had "saved many officers from serious injury or worse".

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IPSO Regulated

Van Man Brex plea

SMALL businesses have warned their future rests on Boris Johnson clinching a trade deal in crunch talks with the EU.

Almost two-thirds of them say exporting to Europe is more important than any other part of the world.

And they are demanding swift action by the PM to secure a favourable outcome to end uncertainty over Brexit.

The concerns of White Van Man are revealed in a pre-Budget survey of small businesses by finance specialist iwoca.

TALIBAN TREATY

The Taliban signed a peace deal with the US yesterday – bringing to an end 18 years of bloodshed in Afghanistan.

PRISTINE McGUINNESS



Picture: JAMES RUDLAND

By LAURA ARMSTRONG

CHRISTINE McGuinness looks in teak condition as she poses in front of wall panelling.

The TV star, 31 — who is married to Top Gear presenter Paddy McGuinness, 46 — decided on the unusual woodwork backdrop for her lingerie photoshoot.

The couple, who have three children, recently posted a DIY snap of themselves together in bed, *right*.

Christine looked as polished on her pillow as in her red and black one-piece. A sight for saw eyes you might say.



LOADSA DOUGH

NOEL £1M BAKE OFF RAKE OFF

Star gets huge pay rise

EXCLUSIVE by CLEMMIE MOODIE
Associate Showbiz Editor

NOEL Fielding has landed a bumper £150,000 pay rise to continue hosting The Great British Bake Off.

The 46-year-old comedian is now one of Channel 4's highest-earning stars after securing an improved contract.

According to accounts filed at Companies House last week, his earnings have soared to £1.1million – up almost £250,000 on the previous year.

News of his extension comes a month after co-host Sandi Toksvig, 61, announced she was quitting the hit baking show – which is judged by Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith.

Last night a source said: "Noel is incredibly popular with both viewers, and the cast and crew of Bake Off – he's a real commodity to Channel 4.

"With Sandi leaving, it's important they keep up with continuity to ensure people continue. Noel secured a healthy salary rise off the back of the success of the first two series.

"Contrary to his fun, laid-back persona, Noel is one of TV's hardest working broadcasters – and now one of its wealthiest." Channel 4 snapped up Bake Off from the BBC in 2016 in a reported £75million deal.



On show . . Noel with Paul and Prue

Jo Brand, Steph McGovern and former Bake Off winners Candice Brown and Nadiya Hussain have all been tipped to join Mighty Boosh creator Noel on the show.

Noel recently announced he had secured a deal with Netflix to write a six-part fantasy series.

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KAY'S CRACKERS



PETER Kay is back! The Bolton comic has announced a series of gigs two years after cancelling a tour.

To celebrate, look out for his gags scattered through today's Sun on Sunday. And read about what he's been up to on Page 22.

COVID-19 FLU CRISIS

MEDICS FIGHT



LONDON TUBE

A passenger wears a protective mask on the Underground





HASLEMERE, SURREY

Surgery where infected doctor worked and, left, sign at pub

WAR ZONE

- 1st VICTIM GETS VIRUS IN UK
- BOJO SETS UP CONFLICT ROOM
- SCHOOL CONFIRMS IT HAS BUG

HEALTH CRISIS

By STEPHEN MOYES, RYAN SABEY and AMIR RAZAVI

DOCTORS are battling a "nightmare scenario" after a man became the first to catch the coronavirus within Britain.

Three other new cases of Covid-19 were confirmed among people who had been abroad, including a staff member at a 180-pupil primary school.

It takes the UK total to 23. Meanwhile PM Boris Johnson set up a war room to combat the virus with the aim of delaying the peak of the outbreak until summer.

The so-called community transmission – picking up the bug without being overseas – has opened a new devastating phase, raising fears of it spreading uncontrollably.

Health officials were desperate to trace those who were in touch with the man who had walked into a GP surgery in Haslemere, Surrey.

They have not found anything linking him to someone who had been to an affected region abroad.

A doctor from the practice also has symptoms, ex-Health Secretary and local MP Jeremy Hunt said.

A senior health source said: "This is our nightmare scenario. It's spreading uncontrollably and we are losing our grip."

The Department of Health admitted it was "highly likely" Britain would "see some instances of community transmission" – opening up the prospect of more similar home-grown cases

The patient has been moved to a specialist infection centre at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital in London.

Haslemere Health Centre, which the man had attended, was closed briefly. Officials are urgently "contact tracing" to piece together the chain of transmission.

The nearby Prince of Wales pub was also forced to lock its doors.

The landlords put up a sign saying: "Unfortunately a customer who visited us has tested positive for coronavirus so as a precautionary measure we are closing for a full deep clean."

But the staff have not been told who the coronavirus victim is.

A source said: "It's doctor-patient confidentiality. All they will say is 'patient X has been at your pub'. It's shocking."

The doctor who has fallen ill could have seen scores of patients before showing symptoms. His wife is also a GP, according to reports.

Public Health England officials are frantically trying to trace dozens of patients they came into contact with in the past week.

All of Britain's other victims had returned from trips abroad.

Of the other three new cases – in Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire and Berkshire – two had returned from Italy and the other from Asia, Prof Chris Whitty said. Willow Bank Infant School in Reading will be shut for several days for a deep clean after it was confirmed one victim was a member of staff there.

Headteacher Michelle Masters emailed parents with the news and also posted on social media.

Experts said the home-grown Haslemere case is a "new chapter".

Prof Jonathan Ball, of the University of Nottingham said: "This was always a concern – this is a virus that frequently causes symptoms very similar to mild flu or a common cold and it's easily transmitted from person to person. This means it can easily go under the radar."

Panicked Haslemere residents demanded to know the man's name. Gran Maureen Wisdom, 73, said: "The worry is he didn't go abroad. Where had he been in the past two weeks? They ought to name him and share a picture – people might recognise him.

"They might have seen him on the bus or something. We need to know who he is."

Barmaid Sue Oldershaw, 62, said: "I could have pulled him a pint. The person who gave it to him could be walking along the high street."

Engineer Terence Keogh, 49, added: "We could have a super-spreader in the area."

Coincidentally, Haslemere was in 2018 BBC documentary Contagion! about how an infection spreads.

More than 10,000 people in the UK have been tested for the virus.

The only British death was a cruise passenger in his 80s who died in hospital in Japan after being infected on the Diamond Princess.

Last night, a guest suspected of having the virus was self-isolating at a Liverpool hotel.

The Army was on standby for barracks to be a quarantine zone.

Government emergency plans include helping the NHS and schools cope with a surge in cases.

Pupils will be taught in bigger classes if a lot of teachers go sick. Thirty-five schools across the UK are on lockdown.

Drive-through test centres have opened in Antrim and Edinburgh.

Globally, 86,020 people have been infected. A total of 2,942 have died – the vast majority in China's Hubei province.

A man yesterday tested positive at a quarantined hotel in Tenerife and became the fifth infected there.

At least six Brits are among 53 guests to have left the H10 Costa Adeje Palace after days of isolation.

British Airways boss Alex Cruz has told staff he expects rival airlines to collapse owing to the virus's impact on the economy.

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‘NIGHTMARE SCENARIO’



Picture: CLICK NEWS

Star Rita has face invaders

RITA Ora dons a mask with Space Invaders symbols on it to face down coronavirus.

The 29-year-old Let You Love Me singer summoned the battling spirit of the 40-year-old arcade favourite as she arrived at Heathrow from Los Angeles.

Masks like hers can be bought online for £25.

The British star has been living in the Californian city for the last three months.

Writing on her Instagram yesterday, she said: “I can’t wait to start touring again next month.”

Her arrival came after The Sun revealed she and Rafferty Law, 23, have put their relationship on hold.

● ITALIAN food firms are boosting production and shipping two months of stock to the UK as their country reels from the bug.



Unmasked . . Rita as singer usually appears

PM: ‘WE’LL BEAT THIS TOGETHER’

DOWNING STREET

By **RYAN SABEY,** Political Correspondent

BORIS Johnson has set up a war room to tackle coronavirus and admitted the crisis could last several months.

The PM is also considering measures that could delay its peak until the summer to combat the outbreak in warmer weather.

Downing Street has ordered a team of scientists and officials to work round-the-clock with public safety the “top priority”.

Mr Johnson, writing in The Sun on Sunday, said: “I have no doubt that with the help of the NHS and its incomparable staff, this country will get through it – and beat it.”

The Government’s COBRA emergency committee will meet several times this week as a battleplan is published.

Yesterday Mr Johnson was briefed by Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty and Health Secretary Matt Hancock and was receiving updates.

Mr Hancock will help co-ordinate the response from the Cabinet Office war room where he will be given a desk.

Each government department will have a designated minister to help oversee its response.

They are looking at encouraging more people to work from home and discouraging unnecessary travel.

It could form part of a “social distancing” strategy that could delay the height of the outbreak until later in the year.

NHS flying squads are being sent to the homes of suspected victims. Emergency measures may see retired doctors and nurses drafted in to help.

Mr Hancock said last night: “Every person has a role to play in helping to manage the spread of the virus.”

Hopes for hot spring

SCIENCE PLAN

A WARM spring could beat the coronavirus, experts believe.

Scientists said previous diseases have struggled to spread during hotter temperatures although they have warned it is still “early days” with Covid-19.

Joel Myers, of AccuWeather, said: “Based on what we’ve seen from past flus and viruses, including Sars, there is less spread from May to September.

“It’s possible the sunshine intensity, the longer daylight periods and the warmer weather could suppress the virus.”



Fearful football fans in masks as they host Chelsea yesterday

GLOBAL CASES
86,020
GLOBAL DEATHS
2,942

Ronaldo gets bug warning

CRISTIANO Ronaldo and Juventus team-mates including Welsh international Aaron Ramsey were briefed on tackling Covid-19, after several players tested positive in the Italian league.

TESCO ‘RISK’ FEARS



Isolation . . . centre

TESCO staff fear they were put at risk when staff treating suspected coronavirus patients popped in for supplies.

The workers were told there was a “massive breach of protocol” when workers left a nearby isolation centre in Milton Keynes, Bucks.

One Tesco Extra insider said: “This place was supposed to be on lockdown so why on Earth is someone in contact with suspected patients being allowed to pop into the local supermarket?”

QUARANTINE

Bosses at Tesco later insisted on delivering groceries and supplies to the isolation centre’s entrance. A total of 118 Brits were held in quarantine at Kents Hill Park Training and Conference Centre for 14 days after flying back from China.

Milton Keynes University Hospital, which supplied the nurses, insisted proper procedures had been followed.

All 118 people quarantined tested negative for coronavirus after 14 days in isolation and were allowed home.

Prez reveals death in U.S.

DONALD Trump last night revealed a “high-risk” US woman in her late 50s has died from coronavirus.

The President added 22 patients in the US have the virus but more are likely.

BORIS: WE CAN BEAT THE VIRUS — PAGE 16

SAJ: IT WAS NOT 2p



Quit in protest . . . Mr Javid

By DAVID WOODING

SAJID Javid leaked his own Budget yesterday — in revenge for being forced out of his job.

The former Chancellor revealed he planned to cut 2p off basic rate income tax before he resigned in a reshuffle row.

He was also poised to give hard-pressed motorists a break by extending the freeze on fuel duty.

Javid leaks own Budget in revenge for job loss

But his revelation enraged Boris Johnson – and undermined new Chancellor Rishi Sunak who has just 11 days to deliver a revamped Budget.

Last night a source said: "Saj has clearly put this out just to cause trouble. He got even in his Commons resignation speech last week. There was no need for him to stick the boot in again."

Mr Javid, 50, quit the Cabinet last month in protest at a Downing Street power grab.

In his first interview since resigning, he revealed the centrepiece of his Budget would have been the biggest cut in basic rate income tax for 15 years. He said he hoped to get it down eventually to 15p and wanted to send a "huge signal for working people" that the Government was on their side.

His revelation left rookie minister Mr Sunak facing the choice of ditching his predecessor's plans or being accused of reading out a pre-cooked package.

Last night a source in the Downing Street-Treasury power base said Mr Javid's plans also included tens of billions of pounds of tax rises. The source added: "His scorecard never balanced the cost of a 2p tax cut."

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HM Government

NHS

CORONAVIRUS: PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Government and NHS are well prepared to deal with this virus.

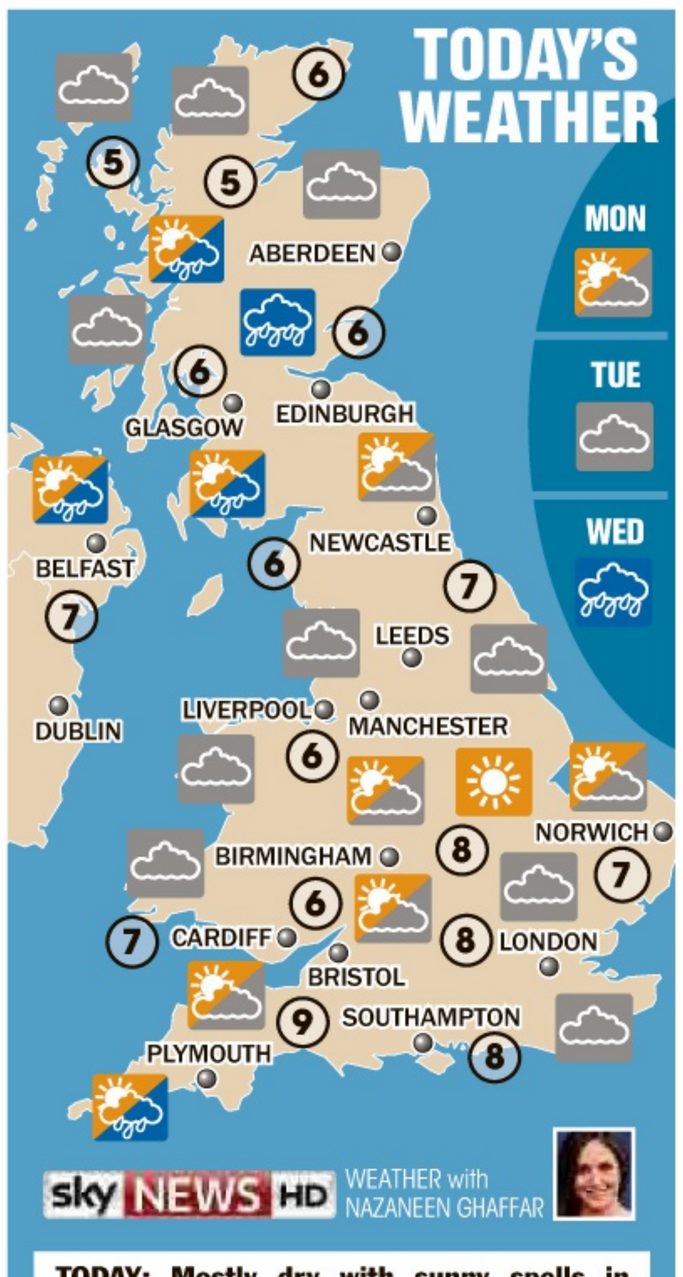
You can help too.

The best way to protect yourself and others is:

Wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel, regularly throughout the day.

Catch your cough or sneeze in a tissue, bin it, and wash your hands.

If you have recently arrived back from specified areas follow the returning traveller advice. Check the list of areas and find out more at **nhs.uk/coronavirus**



TODAY: Mostly dry with sunny spells in England, Wales and Northern Ireland but a few wintry showers in western areas. Cloudy with rain, sleet and hill snow in Scotland. Risk of cloud and rain later in South East England. Top temp: 9C (48F).
TONIGHT: Dry with clear spells for most. A widespread frost will develop in central and northern areas. Southern parts of England and Wales may be grey with rain and possibly some hill snow.
OUTLOOK: Dry and bright for most tomorrow but with wintry showers in western areas. Tuesday will be bright with showers in the North and East. Cloud and showers in the South and West.

A WARTIME snow and ice storm that dumped 10ft drifts of the white stuff in Bolton finally let up on January 30, 1940.

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LAST NIGHT'S LOTTO BALLS
LOTTO: 25, 32, 34, 52, 55, 58. Bonus: 09.
HEALTH LOTTO: 02, 04, 12, 38, 49. Bonus: 33.



Tube attack . . . Ali

£400k in legal aid for bomb plotter

HANDOUT SHAM 1

By DOMINIK LEMANSKI

A TERRORIST who escaped being thrown out of Britain because it would breach his human rights was handed almost £400,000 in legal aid.

The figure, disclosed in an information request, means the gang of four jailed for helping the failed July 21, 2005 Tube bombers have had almost £5million in public funds.

Eritrean Siraj Yassin Abdullah Ali was freed in 2011 after serving half his nine-year term.

Ali, 44, was handed £363,268.07 to cover his 2008 trial and £26,051.59 to fight deportation.

The Ministry of Justice said legal aid applicants "now have to pass a strict means test".

Sun on Sunday Says — Page 16

£1m drug king fees

HANDOUT SHAM 2

A "MR Big" drug dealer who battled deportation cost taxpayers nearly £1million in legal fees.

Courtney Byndloss ran up the costs as he took his fight all the way to the Supreme Court.

After he stopped his return to Jamaica, his lawyers stuck in a bill for £1,032,000. It was cut to £819,000 but Government costs were £150,000.

Sam Packer, of the TaxPayers' Alliance, said: "It's a ridiculous sum."

The Home Office said: "We make no apology for seeking to deport foreign criminals."

Ministers face more bills over fighting to send 50 criminals back to Jamaica.

£100k for stab fiend

HANDOUT SHAM 3

A TERRORIST who stabbed two people on a high street received more than £100,000 in legal aid over previous offences.

Jihadi Sudesh Amman, 20, was shot dead by police in Streatham, South London, last month.

He was freed from jail days before, having served half his three-year term for terror offences.

His £103,897 legal aid bill was for that case in 2018. A source said: "This terrorist has laughed in the face of justice."

Mid Derbys MP Pauline Latham said: "There's one rule for the families of victims and another for the people carrying out the attacks.

DETOX AFTER FIRM'S £12M LOSS



Busy . . Victoria has had a tough time over the last six months

FASHION GLOOM POSH IN £1,000 A DAY SPA



On the runaway . . . models in some of Victoria's designs at London Fashion Week



Mum . . . with David and her kids

EXCLUSIVE by CLEMMIE MOODIE, Associate Showbiz Editor

VICTORIA Beckham has checked into a luxury £1,000-a-night European spa retreat after her fashion brand suffered a £12million loss.

She secretly flew there in a bid to "realign" ahead of husband David's football club launch in America.

Sources say designer Posh, 45, has been feeling low over problems with her clothes collection.

This latest break comes nine months after she stayed at a state-of-the-art health and wellness clinic in Munich, Germany.

And it comes a week after the mum of four returned from a family skiing holiday in France.

Last night a friend said: "Victoria has had a stressful few months and decided to take herself away for a few days to perk-up, and realign.

"She can have some amazing pampering treatments, and eat incredibly cleanly – she wants to detox after a few fun boozy nights out of late.

Treat

"Victoria also felt she deserved a treat after all her hard work at London Fashion Week and having just made three top executive appointments for her company.

"And, of course, she wants to be tip-top for David's Inter Miami launch."

The friend added: "Victoria's fashion empire has taken quite a few hits of late, and she is conscious of watching the pennies."

The former Spice Girl has had a tough six months.

In December, The Sun on Sunday revealed she had lost two top aides, and had been forced to tighten her belt after her firm recorded losses of more than £12million.

As well as offering to take a pay cut, the star was told she could no longer employ a chauffeur – meaning she must drive herself to work or take a taxi.

She also banned the use of exotic and expensive plant pots in her London headquarters.

Husband David – the former England captain – has spent the week in Miami, promoting his first soccer club, which kicks off its season today.

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She wants to be tip-top for David's launch

BROOK'S £100k BASH

DAVID and Victoria Beckham are throwing oldest son Brooklyn a lavish £100,000 21st birthday bash.

The photographer, *right*, is celebrating the landmark with a party at his family's Cotswolds estate next month. He has invited his 25-year-old American girlfriend Nicola Peltz to the star-studded affair.

Celebrity guests will include Sir Elton John, Cara Delevingne, Gordon and Tana Ramsay, Guy and Rocco Ritchie, Niall Horan and Emma Bunton.

A source said: "A lot of thought and effort have gone into Brooklyn's big day."

By CLEMMIE MOODIE



ANDREW LET CAPRICE SIT IN THRONE

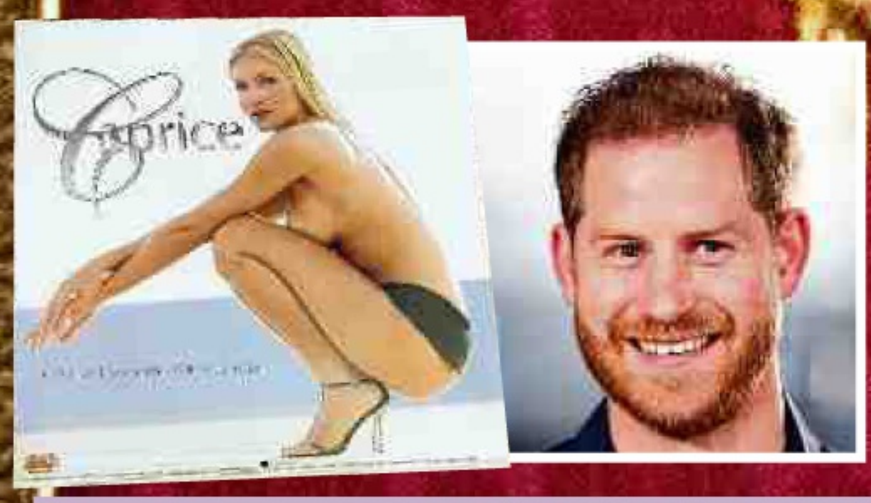


Platonic dates . . . Prince Andrew



PALACE 'THEFT'

PRINCE SAID MODEL COULD 'STEAL' BOWL



PRINCE HARRY

WAS JEALOUS BECAUSE HE FANCIED HER



STAR WARS DATE

BACK ROW OF CINEMA WAS KEPT EMPTY

EXCLUSIVE by CLEMMIE MOODIE, Associate Showbiz Editor

PRINCE Andrew let Dancing On Ice star Caprice sit on the Queen's throne during a date at Buckingham Palace, The Sun on Sunday can reveal.

In an extraordinary suspension of protocol, he wined and dined the American model at the Palace – and allegedly even let her "steal" a decorative bowl.

During a two-month friendship, Caprice, 48, also introduced the under-fire Prince to an American masseuse, who he secretly went on to date for ten years.

A source close to Caprice said: "She did think it a bit strange that he wanted to hang out as, from her side, there was no chance of a snog – she didn't fancy him.

"But as an American, she was thoroughly entertained at the notion he was a part of the Royal Family. Plus all the secretive rendezvous, although unnecessary, were a great family dinner conversation point.

"He took her to Buckingham Palace twice, and on one occasion she sat on the Queen's throne.

"She spotted a bowl she liked and asked Andrew if she could steal it and post it to her mum.

"She claims that he let her, and her mum loved it!"

Andrew, 60, went on a series of dates with Rod Stewart's ex for two months in 2000 – less than a year before he is alleged to have slept with 17-year-old Virginia Roberts.

Caprice met the Duke at a pal's dinner party in the country after being seated at the same table.

They were friends for two months, regularly speaking on the phone and going on platonic dates.

As well as several dinners – including once at the Michelin-starred Lanesborough hotel in central London – they went to the cinema to see a Star Wars film.

A friend added: "She was annoyed because they missed the first ten minutes to allow his security team to clear the way, and make sure the back row was empty so they could sit there without anyone seeing."

One time at Buckingham Palace, an unknown man and woman joined the couple for a champagne-fuelled supper.

The Throne Room contains the official "Chair of the estate of the Queen", the coronation chairs of King George VI and Queen Mary and Queen Victoria's crimson and gold state throne.

While the Royal Family are allowed to host visitors, it is understood they are expected to first notify the Palace guards.

A royal source said: "I've never heard of anything like this before.

"Andrew has an apartment at the Palace, and clearly feels at home there. He's entertained friends within his own space, but showing pals around the entire Palace is quite extraordinary.

"It's a particularly strange thing to do, especially given that the Queen could walk around the corner at any given moment!"

Seven years ago armed police pointed their guns at Andrew and ordered him to "put his hands up and get on the ground" after mistaking him for an intruder in the Buckingham Palace gardens.

Scotland Yard later apologised.

During their friendship, Andrew also told Caprice that Prince Harry, then a schoolboy of 16, was jealous as he also fancied her.

A friend added: "He told her that his nephew, Prince Harry, was very intrigued by their friendship.

"Apparently Harry had Caprice's calendar on his bedroom wall at Eton, and Harry was grilling Andrew over Christmas pudding at Sandringham about his crush."

Caprice 48, "dumped" Andrew when rumours of their friendship began to surface – but not before she had set him up with her masseuse, Denise Martell.

The pal continued: "Caprice ghosted Andrew; she stopped returning his calls.

"He'd been nothing but a gentleman, but quite simply she didn't fancy him and ran for the hills when a newspaper article came out linking them – he wasn't her type and she found him quite dry.

"Also, by that time, she had set him up with her energy healer, Denise.

"Andrew had asked her for a great masseuse recommendation after flying to Los Angeles and saying he felt stiff and achey.

"Denise only took on female clients but made an exception for Andrew. After insisting on an initial meeting, she began treating him – and then they started dating. She even flew to the UK to stay with him at his country house where they invited Caprice over for dinner.

"It was just the three of them, and Caprice said they were very cute together, and quite tactile."

Andrew faces ongoing allegations that he coerced 17-year-old Virginia Roberts into having sex after she was flown to London by late serial paedophile Jeffrey Epstein.

Andrew categorically denies he had any sexual contact or relationship with the now 36-year-old.

In November the father of two told BBC's Newsnight that it "couldn't have happened" because he was at home the night in question in 2001, after taking his daughter Beatrice to Woking's Pizza Express. But last weekend a former royal protection officer questioned his alibi, claiming he may not have been at home.

The officer said Andrew may have returned to Buckingham Palace in the early hours of March 11.

He recalled the Prince arriving by car at the Palace and allegedly shouting at guards when the gates were not opened quickly enough.

The anonymous former Met employee believes it could have been the same evening the Duke is accused of having sex with Virginia Roberts at the home of his friend, Ghislaine Maxwell.

These latest claims – provided in a signed affidavit – are also likely to be investigated by the FBI.

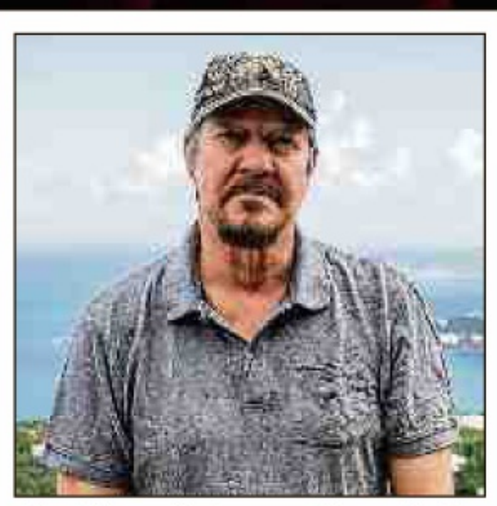
Agents want to talk to the Duke about Epstein, a prolific sex offender who abused Virginia and killed himself last year in jail while awaiting trial for sex trafficking charges.

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QUEEN'S CHAIR AT PALACE

TOGETHER

Seat and greet . . . Caprice was taken to Buck House twice



Sordid revelations . . . Steve Scully

Picture: ALAN STRUTT

PAEDO'S GROUP SHOWER

EXCLUSIVE by JAMES BEAL, US Editor, **and GREG WOODFIELD** in St Thomas

PAEDOPHILE billionaire Jeffrey Epstein installed a ten-person shower for orgies on his Caribbean island.

The predator pal of Prince Andrew also filled the walls of the bathroom with pictures of semi-naked girls.

The revelation comes from Steve Scully, who maintained the phone lines and internet on Little St James.

He told The Sun on Sunday: "In the years I worked there, Epstein remodelled his bedroom four times.

"He put in a ten-showerhead shower — for group showers. There were more pictures in the bathroom than anywhere else — including of young, barely clothed or semi-nude girls."

Steve also claimed Epstein, who died in jail in August aged 66, ferried young girls to the island by helicopter.

They were flown in from nearby St Thomas where they landed in his Boeing 727, dubbed the Lolita Express.

Steve once spotted some of the girls topless on a beach with Epstein.

Last week Steve, 70, claimed he saw Prince Andrew groping teen sex slave Virginia Roberts on the island. The duke strenuously denies the accusation.

ARCHIE SECURITY PLAN



SEE PAGE 21

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BUCK-PASSING . . . David

BEEB BIAS TO BLAME ON THREAT

DAVID DIMBLEBY, the nearest thing the BBC has to royalty, claims that: "The whole idea of a national broadcaster that speaks truth to the nation and is impartial and objective is under threat."

But whose fault is that?

Millions of us blame the BBC. Because during the great national debate about Brexit, the BBC was openly, unapologetically biased.

The orthodoxy of BBC opinion is totally out of touch with the people who fork out the £4billion a year for the licence fee.

For years the BBC told those people that they are thick, ignorant racists who would all soon be dead.

If the BBC had been "impartial and objective" in recent years, it would not be ripe for losing the licence fee.

WHITNEY HOUSTON, who died in 2012 at the tragically young age of 48, is on tour as a hologram.

Apparently, the Whitney hologram is convincing, especially if you don't sit too close. But it is difficult to imagine anything more ghoulish than this technological resurrection.

If you want to experience the magic of Whitney Houston then just play I Want To Dance With Somebody, I Will Always Love You or Saving All My Love For You.

And remember Whitney that way.

DON'T LET FATE RUIN BIG FIGHT

PROMOTER Frank Warren is right – a fight between Tyson Fury, *below,* and Anthony Joshua would be the biggest British sporting event since the 1966 World Cup Final.

But if Joshua fights someone else next – Kubrat Pulev is currently booked for June – then anything could happen, just as it did in AJ's first clash with Bart Simpson's stunt double, Andy Ruiz.

Fury and Joshua should do it at Wembley, do it next and claim their place in history.

If Tyson does not take on AJ next, then they may never fight at all.





Warm heart, acid tongue

TONY PARSONS

Follow me on twitter @TonyParsonsUK

The thing that's most contagious is all the **panic**



ANA DE ARMAS is doing the heavy lifting in promoting the new Bond film, No Time To Die.

In the last week alone, Ana has appeared on the cover of Vanity Fair and Porter magazines. What's lovely about the Cuban goddess is that she actually seems happy to be in a James Bond movie.

"I was jumping all over the place and very excited," she says about getting her role as CIA agent Paloma.

In stark contrast, it is hard to imagine grumpy old Daniel Craig jumping with excitement at anything to do with the Bond franchise.

"I don't even call them Bond girls," grumbles downbeat Dan.

It's like having Victor Meldew playing 007.

IT IS not easy to keep calm and carry on when an infectious disease that has killed thousands is sweeping the planet.

That stiff upper lip can be forgiven a nervous twitch when we see dozens of British schools closing, British tourists in lockdown in a Tenerife hotel and 300 workers in Canary Wharf sent home because one of them returned from Italy with flu-like symptoms.

And on Friday came the tragic news of the first British death – a passenger from the Diamond Princess cruise ship, which has been quarantined in the port of Yokohama, Japan.

Coronavirus is now a disease that touches every corner of the globe.

And yet the World Health Organisation is reluctant to declare Covid-19 – coronavirus – a pandemic, meaning an infectious disease that has spread to every continent on the planet.

But when WHO chiefs are telling us this is not a pandemic, you will notice they are wearing face masks.

And as the only continent currently without a confirmed coronavirus case is Antarctica, the official declaration of a pandemic seems inevitable.

This will mean more schools closing their gates, more sporting fixtures and public gatherings cancelled. The Tokyo Olympics – scheduled for the end of July – have to be considered at risk.

Sadly, this is not the time for the people of the world to join hands.

But declaring coronavirus a pandemic should not be the cue for mass hysteria.

If ever there was a time to summon up a little of that old Blitz spirit, this is it.

This is a time for common sense, calm and cleanliness. Yes, there have been more than 83,000 confirmed cases of coronavirus in more than 40 countries around the world.

But in the UK, where more than 7,000 people have been tested, there have been 23 confirmed cases.

To date, there have been no deaths in the UK from coronavirus and only one Brit – an elderly cruise ship passenger in Japan – has died in total.

So when Covid-19 is routinely referred to as the "killer virus", that is something less than the whole truth. Because most people unfortunate enough to catch it recover.

Even in China, where there have been over 80,000 cases, the numbers of infection are slowing. Containing the virus works. As we edge closer to a full-blown pandemic, a little perspective will go a long way.



CATCHY . . . virus

As those Brit tourists locked inside the Costa Adeje Palace in Tenerife would probably tell you, the greatest threat posed by the virus is massive inconvenience, not sudden death. If you are not old, and have no pre-existing medical conditions, then coronavirus is slightly more life-threatening than regular flu – which killed 1,692 Brits last year.

Every doctor will tell you that hands are a route of transmission – so keep them clean, and take a rain-check on handshakes, manly hugs and social kissing.

Professor Hugh Pennington, a lecturer in diseases at Aberdeen University, says, "Just using ordinary soap and water is all that's needed. It can make all the difference and really limit the spread of this virus."

We should be thinking about better personal hygiene rather than panic buying.

Stay safe – and sane

I am not making the case for complacency. The world is facing the greatest health crisis for a generation.

This week the first cases were seen in countries as far apart as Pakistan, Greece, Brazil, Nigeria and Wales. The cancelled sporting events are piling up. Schools are closing. The stock market is in freefall.

This is not normal life.

Personally, I am not getting on a plane until my daughter is the far side of her exams in the spring.

My local gym has installed hand sanitisers and I use them.

When I see someone coughing, I wish they had the common decency to cover their cakehole.

But every one of us must walk the hard path between staying safe and staying sane.

The Government's worst-case scenario predicts half-a-million British deaths from the virus – which would exceed the number of British military and civilian deaths in World War Two.

Is Covid-19 **REALLY** deadlier than living through – and fighting in – World War Two?

The Government should ditch the scare stories and tell us how to stay healthy. They should keep repeating how simple personal hygiene habits can contain the spread of Covid-19.

Keep calm, carry on and wash your hands.

For as any doctor will tell you, there is nothing more contagious than panic.



MISERY . . . flooding

PM BORIS AT RISK OF BLOWBACK

STORM Dennis, Storm Ciara and now Storm Jorge.

For three weeks in a row, rain and floods have brought abject misery across the country from the north of England to Wales – the same areas that gave Boris Johnson his 80-seat majority.

Homes have been ruined. Businesses have been destroyed. Lives have been wrecked.

Why is the Prime Minister not out there meeting people who are desperate to hear that somebody cares?

This Government throws £8million of taxpayers' money at India, China and Brazil to fight their floods.

They should worry less about floods in the Third World and more about floods in Wales, Yorkshire and Shropshire.

Boris can't delegate this one. What is he afraid of?

That someone will shout at him? You really need to man up, put on your wellies and get out there, Boris.

Because right now it looks like you don't give a toss.

MANY of us have a deep bond with our grandparents. But if you lose a mum or dad at a young age, then the bond between grandparent and grandchild is even more profound.

Prince Harry and the Queen have always seemed close.

And in a family that is not big on displays of affection, the Queen's face always seemed to light up in her grandson's cheeky, ginger-bonce presence.

But his North American exile means Harry will now see far less of his grandmother, 94 this April.

If Harry has an IQ bigger than Meghan's shoe size, I bet he will live to regret it.

'FAT' JEN'S LAUGHING

JEN ATKIN, 26, has been crowned Miss Great Britain 2020 – a stunning revenge on the fiancé who dumped her for being "too fat".

By radically changing her eating habits, Jen lost an astonishing 8st in two years, going from 17st 9lbs to 9st 5lbs, not including her tiara.

"The day he left, I thought my world had ended," says Jen, who went from a size 22 to size 10.

"I cried for weeks. I was devastated but it ended up being the best thing that's happened to me."

Jen is now married to a new partner. And that distant knocking sound you can hear is Jen's ex-fiancé, kicking himself.



THE Sun ON SUNDAY
SAYS 01|03|20

IS Britain governed by elected ministers or holier-than-thou civil servants?

Bolshy mandarins like Sir Philip Rutnam too often believe they are really running the country.

His decision to quit and go to war on former boss Priti Patel revealed the type of breathtaking arrogance which triggered this showdown in the first place.

As the highest ranked civil servant in the Home Office Sir Philip should be a model of probity, diplomacy and restraint.



Bolshy . . . Sir Philip Rutnam

Whining Sir Phil's vitriol is extreme

Yet his unprecedented public outpouring of vitriol would have seemed extreme from the victim of a two-footed tackle in the Manchester derby.

Sir Philip had reportedly resisted the Home Secretary's challenging timetable for post-Brexit reforms. This even earned comparisons with former Chancellor Phil "Spreadsheet" Hammond, another stick-in-the-mud Eeyore. But though senior civil servants should advise ministers discreetly, ultimately they must do their bidding.

The Government won its large majority on a manifesto of change. It cannot be ruled by Sir Humphreys, employing every trick in the book to delay and frustrate those elected to enact the will of the people.

Sir Philip is a £180,000-a-year knighted bureaucrat who will no doubt end up with a gold-plated pension far beyond the dreams of ordinary workers.

Instead of bleating he should face the reality of the situation.

If he can't or won't do the job, the Government has to get someone who can.

End legal aid injustice

CONVICTED foreign thugs are already dodging deportation by using human rights laws.

To add insult to injury, the taxpayer is coughing up millions of pounds to pay their legal bills.

"Mr Big" drugs dealer Courtney Byndloss hit the legal aid jackpot, racking up nearly £1million for his fight against deportation. And an Eritrean terrorist was handed £400,000 to also help him escape being thrown out of the UK.

Is it any wonder the public wants the Government to shake up this crazy system?

PM coos

AT last, some happy news!

In the midst of the winter floods, coronavirus and the stock market crash you could be forgiven for thinking the world's a pretty bleak place.

So the announcement that Boris Johnson and his partner Carrie are having a Downing Street baby is welcome news.

And it's nice to know he got more than Brexit done!

the SUNDAY ISSUE

PM ON WHY OUR HERO HEALTH STAFF ARE No1 DEFENCE AGAINST COVID-19



YES, PRIME MINISTER . . . Boris chats with paramedics at Kettering on Friday

Can we beat the virus? NHYES

BORIS JOHNSON writes for the Sun

THE whole world is holding its breath. Across the United Kingdom, the public is understandably concerned.

Is coronavirus going to spread? Do we face a global pandemic?

And if so, is the UK prepared?

In the early hours of Friday I was walking the corridors of Kettering General Hospital, talking to the NHS professionals who may well be in the front line.

I saw some of the extraordinary steps they have already taken in case the illness spreads further in this country.

They showed me a new coronavirus pod, a special sterile cabin outside the hospital, where people can come to be checked.

About a dozen people have already been tested here. All have been negative.

I was amazed at the care and thought that has gone into the design of the facility, and the speed with which it was built.

And yet our greatest defences against disease are not pods or screening systems.

Our most important resources are not drugs or vaccines.

On Thursday night in Kettering I saw this country's greatest assets in the fight against sickness of any kind.

Our greatest defence is the staff of the NHS.

I am 100 per cent confident in our medical resilience – and that is because I have seen our doctors and nurses in action.

Hour after hour, as night turned to morning, I could see how they cope with the incoming wave of human anxiety. I could see their devotion. I could see the love and the care they give.

There was a poor young kid who had bashed his head falling off a scooter, and another who had gone into anaphylactic shock after eating peanuts.

There were babies with stomach complaints, and elderly people who had chest pains or who had fallen downstairs.

By pure fluke I met someone I knew, and whose life had very probably been saved by the brilliant cardiovascular surgery team at Kettering Hospital.

Top priority

By now it was about 2am. He was surprised to see me, as I loomed above his bed.

But he was full of hope and happiness and, above all, he was full of praise for the staff.

And so were all the patients.

I talked to people who had been waiting for too long – for hours – yet they all said the same thing.

"The people here are fantastic," I was told. Or, "They are doing an amazing job."

It was clear to me that the patients come to this hospital precisely because it has a good reputation.

They come to the emergency department (the A&E) because they know they will be treated with consummate professionalism.

In fact, the patients are generally treated so well that sometimes it can be hard to persuade them that the time has come for them to leave.

Sometimes their relatives are so overwhelmed by the duties of care that – understandably – they would rather keep them in hospital, even when it is no longer strictly medically necessary for them to stay.

In a hospital with about 490 general or acute beds, there are about 100 patients who could actually be discharged.

And that is why I am so determined to fix the social care system – so that, as far as possible, we care for people in their own homes.

That is a top priority, both for me and for Matt Hancock, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

We can fix it, we must and we will – and in so doing we can give more dignity to people in their old age, and end some of the pressure on our hospitals.

And it is to ease that pressure that we are now putting so much cash into our NHS. They were doing extraordinary work in that emergency department. But the building is now outdated, and the layout is so maze-like that extra staff are needed just to monitor all the rooms. There is no privacy for breastfeeding, and nowhere to break the news of bereavement.

That is why we are investing first in a new emergency department at Kettering. In fact, we have given the seed funding for a whole new hospital as part of the biggest ever cash boost in the NHS.

Kettering will be among the 40 new hospitals that we will start in the next few years.

I look at those dedicated health professionals, working in those conditions; I listen to the warmth and praise of their patients.

Real difference

And I think – imagine what they could do if they had the fantastic 21st Century facilities they need and deserve, not just in parts of the hospital but throughout the whole estate.

Yes, of course it is right that we should be concerned about the possible spread of coronavirus.

It is certainly right that we should prepare and listen to the advice of the Chief Medical Officer – especially about the importance of washing our hands.

We should be doing that for 20 seconds with soap, and more often than we would normally think necessary.

This will make a real difference in stopping the spread of this virus.

Coronavirus may very well be a challenge in the weeks and months ahead.

But I have no doubt that with the help of the NHS and its incomparable staff, this country will get through it – and beat it.



VIRUS BATTLE . . . PM with doctor



WBC belt . . . Tyson

It's tip trip hooray for Tyson after fight

By ISAAC CROWSON

BOXING champ Tyson Fury celebrated his WBC win by going to the tip.

Wife Paris revealed the Gypsy King has gone straight back to normal life in Morecambe, Lancs, after his Las Vegas win.

Paris, 29, told the Daily Star Sunday: "It's been busy, busy, trying to get back to a normal life while thousands of people are trying to get in touch to congratulate him.

"He's done the school run, he's taking the rubbish to the tip and he's pottered around a bit in the garden."

He bagged £30millon when he beat Deontay Wilder. But Paris said it won't change them.

She added: "We already have X amount in the bank. It's a funny one, but getting any more isn't going to change us."

Suit you again, sir

SKETCH show The Fast Show is being revived for a one-off special.

The BBC hit, which ran from 1995 to 2014, will return this year on UKTV.

Stars including Paul Whitehouse, 61, John Thomson, 50, and Charlie Higson, 61, will feature.

It is being described as a celebration of the show's legacy, with new clips and interviews.

The Fast Show, famous for its quickfire sketches, introduced viewers to oddball characters such as Ron Manager, Swiss Toni and Ted and Ralph.

KAY'S

MY dad used to say "always fight fire with fire", which is probably why he got thrown out of the fire brigade.



CRACKERS

Coe love split No2

WORLD athletics chief Lord Coe has split from his second wife.

The Olympics legend, 63, has been married nine years to ex-model Carole, 54.

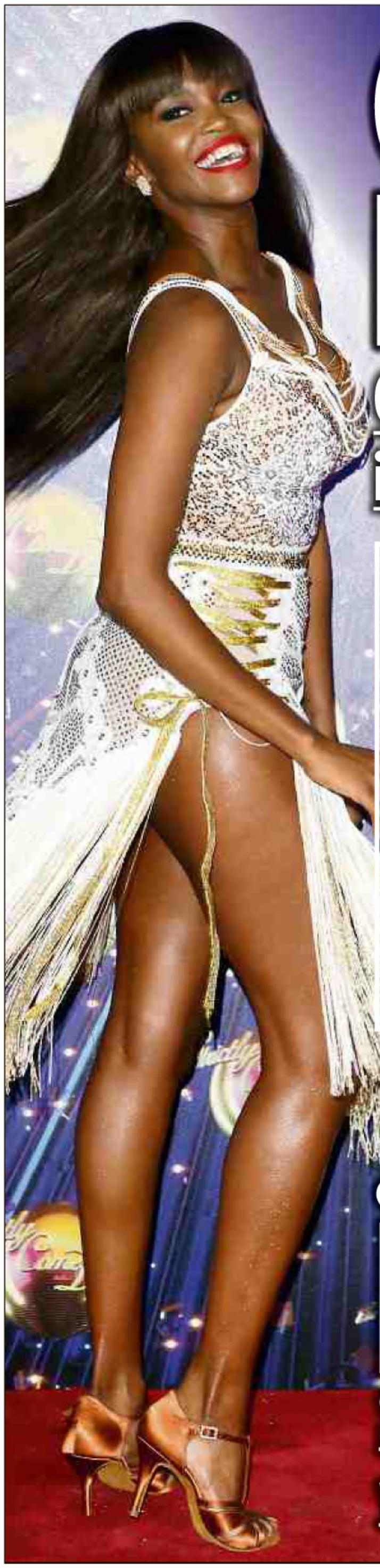
The couple insist no one else is involved – but it is the latest twist in his tangled love life.

Carole's first husband Andy accused Coe of wrecking his marriage.

But Coe and Carole said they did not date until it was over.

His marriage to Nicky, 57 – mum of his four kids – ended in 2002.

TUTU STRICTLY BOMBSHELLS



GOOD NEWS

Oti's dancer hubby is joining the show



Grinners . . . Oti and Marius in social media pic last week

By LAURA ARMSTRONG
Sunday Showbiz Editor

OTI Mabuse's husband is set to join her on this year's Strictly Come Dancing — and her celebrity partner had better look out.

Marius Iepure, 37, once joked on a TV show: "If you sleep with my wife, I'm gonna kill you."

Sources say the Romanian, who wed Oti in 2014, will be a troupe dancer and take part in professional group numbers.

The decision comes after Oti was pictured recently on nights out with married actor Kelvin Fletcher, her winning partner last year.

The source told The Sun on Sunday: "Marius is a very talented dancer.

"But the fact that this is being discussed after Oti was linked to Kelvin has certainly raised eyebrows.

"Marius has also been vocal in the past about warning away other men.

"For her part, Oti has told pals she would be thrilled to have him on board.

"She thinks his presence on the show will stop further rumours getting out of hand."

Marius warned love rivals when he and Oti, 29, appeared on Comedy Central gameshow Your Face or Mine? last year.

In a quip about the Strictly relationship curse, host Jimmy Carr asked Marius: "Would you like to be one of the professional dancers?

"Or do you think it would be awkward being in the same room as the man who's having an affair with your wife?"

Oti replied that each of her dance partners got a warning from Marius. And he told Jimmy: "Don't worry, they understand very fast" – before spelling out his threat.

South African Oti and ex-Emmerdale star Kelvin, 36, enjoyed several nights out in London earlier this year.

Kelvin is married to actress Eliza Marsland and they have two children.

He and Oti insist they are just friends and have done nothing wrong.

This week, the Sun revealed that Oti – sister of show judge Motsi – has asked to be paired with an older celebrity.

The source also claimed that bosses will pull out all the stops to keep her happy – as they hope to sign her to a golden handcuffs deal.

They said: "Oti is very highly rated and the BBC bosses are very keen to keep her.

"As well as her new role co-hosting Sport Relief she is in the running for other presenting gigs.

"They are positioning her as one of their brightest stars."

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BAD NEWS

Says he'll kill anyone who tries to steal her



Winners . . with Kelvin last year

THE Sun ON SUNDAY

EXCLUSIVE: LINDA

I threw cash at passers-by and begged them to buy booze for me



Interview by **JANE MOORE**

IN showbiz since the age of ten, Birds of a Feather actress and Loose Women star Linda Robson has always been a survivor.

But 18 months ago she suffered a breakdown that saw her life spiral out of control as she turned to alcohol and nearly destroyed her close-knit family.

Finally, after three stints in various clinics, her erratic behaviour was attributed to a rare allergic reaction to an anti-depressant and she is now on the road to recovery.

Linda, 61, has bravely chosen to share her story in the hope that it might help others.

THE first public indication that all was not well in Linda Robson's life was when the police were twice called to the family home over her erratic behaviour.

That was January last year when, by her own admission, the Birds of a Feather and Loose Women star was in the middle of a mental breakdown.

Sitting in front of me now, she's the picture of health and relaxation as she nurses a cup of tea on the sofa of her bright, first-floor living room that looks down on the street below.

I ask if she's happy to tell me exactly what happened that day, and she gives me a small, faintly apologetic smile.

She says: "I had been leaving the house to get alcohol so, because my

My family locked me in to try to keep me safe

family wanted to keep me safe, there were a couple of times they locked me in whilst they popped to the local shops for a couple of minutes.

"We have an outside bit downstairs, with a high, barred gate that opens on to the street.

"And that's what they'd lock. So I went down there and shouted through the bars to a passer-by, 'Help, help, I've been kidnapped.' I did it a couple of times actually.

"A couple of police cars would pull up and the officers would jump out because, of course, they thought I'd actually been kidnapped.

"Then my poor husband Mark came back from the shop, saying, 'What's going on?' and I had to tell him what I'd done."

After establishing the true story, the police went away ("they took it very well") but Linda's family was still left with the distressing reality that, after a six-week spell in a clinic, she wasn't any better.

She says: "They were worried sick. They thought they were going to get their old mum back again but they didn't.

"Even my grand-daughter Lila kept saying, 'Nanny's not well.' She knew something was going on but she didn't really know what. So I felt really guilty about that as well.

"I still wanted to drink. As much as I loved my family, I couldn't stop for them and I kept thinking, 'Why can't I?' You know, I would do anything for them, I'd die for them.

"I wanted to be home and normal, not like I was. I didn't want to be a burden to them. I just thought I'd be better off dead because then they won't have to put up with what they're having to put up with.

"Obviously, they'd be in a terrible state if anything had happened to me but, at that time, I felt it wasn't fair to them what I was doing.

"I'd always been a positive person, loving a laugh and enjoying life. Then all of a sudden, I was someone else.

"And I *hated* that someone else. I'd got down to about eight stone by this time and I looked about a hundred.

"I'd lost my appetite. I wasn't really hungry so I just ate to survive. I was in such a state. I would never have thought in a million years that someone as positive as me could end up like that, so that's why I'm giving this interview – to let people know that if it could happen to me, it could happen to anyone."

Apart from claiming to have been kidnapped, Linda would also throw money through the bars of the gate and ask passers-by to buy her alcohol.

She recalls: "I'd find money and say, 'Excuse me, I've lost my key and can't get out . . . would you be able to go and get me a little bottle of vodka from round the corner?'

"And a couple of people did. But one day, I asked a man to do it and he turned out to be from an alcohol crisis place that my family had called to come and help me."

The humour of the situation isn't lost on her and she gives me a rueful smile.

Linda says: "I can laugh about it now, but at the time, I was putting my poor family through hell and back.

"I was just blacking out all the time. I had always been able to pick my grandchildren up but suddenly I couldn't be trusted to do that any more because I might be drunk.

"I'd be really crafty. A couple

Picture: DAN CHARITY

ROBSON

THE TRUTH ABOUT MY 18-MONTH BREAKDOWN





Happy family . . . Linda with two grandchildren

As much asI loved my family I couldn't stop drinking



I knocked back rum in M&S whilst members of public watched

Back from the brink . . . Linda has not had alcohol for a year

of times I was with Lila and I'd go to a shop and buy vodka without her seeing."

The family decided it was time to find further help and, this time, Linda checked in for a six-week stay at a central London clinic.

She says: "I went willingly because I wanted to make myself better but didn't know how to. My family came every day."

There were activities designed to keep her busy but, according to Linda, her obsession with cleaning mushroomed again and she became fixated on washing her pyjamas daily as well as constantly loading and unloading the dishwasher.

"That's always been my thing; washing clothes and cleaning up the house," she says.

"At one point, I was washing the bedding every single day and having four or five baths a day."

She saw doctors in the new clinic but, when she told them that her

I got a bottle while nurse was distracted

treatment wasn't assuaging her anxiety, they upped her medication.

Linda recalls: "The nurses were lovely and there was one in particular I took a shine to.

"One day, about four weeks in, she suggested she could take me out for a coffee because I was doing so well."

They went for a walk and Linda asked if they could pop in to the Marks & Spencer shop where, with the nurse momentarily distracted, she went up to the counter selling cigarettes and alcohol.

She says: "I asked for vodka and they said they didn't have it, so I pointed at a bottle of rum and said I'd have that instead.

"The woman handed it to me, so I opened it and started to knock it back in the shop whilst members of the public watched.

"I'd already necked half of it by the time the security guards came over and grabbed me, and the poor nurse was saying, 'Oh, Linda, I'm never taking you out for a coffee again.'

"We went back to the hospital and she told them what I'd done. I've still never paid Marks & Spencer's for the rum . . . "

At the end of her stay, she returned home to her family who hoped that, *this time*, she would get better.

But straight away, her family and two sisters, Tina and Debbie, knew she wasn't right.

Linda says: "I was sitting with the curtains drawn again, not wanting anyone to see me.

"Then came Christmas 2018, our worst ever. There's a carol service that we always go to as a family and they didn't want me to go because they were worried I'd show them up.

"They were all on edge because I was so unpredictable. I was a liability. On Christmas Day I just blacked out.

"I was drunk because as soon as anyone put a glass of wine down, I'd drink it. Lila would say, 'Nanny's drinking,' and I'd deny it."

The kidnap episodes followed shortly afterwards and her shell-shocked family set out to find yet another clinic to try and help her.

It was The Priory in North London and, this time, progress was made.

Linda says: "A doctor there did loads of tests. One was to see if I had dementia, which I didn't.

"But he eventually worked out that I was having an adverse reaction to the particular anti-depressant I was on, which is very rare and something he'd only ever seen in two other patients.

"He substituted it with a different one and, almost immediately, I started to feel better."

The clinic also stipulated that she could only do so much washing, could not draw the curtains, had to leave a light on and did not have access to a mobile phone.

Linda says: "So, after eight weeks there, I came out with these boundaries and I've been sticking to them ever since.

"It's now been a year since I've had a drink and I don't crave alcohol at all. I think the root of all the problems was my reaction to the medication.

"I feel more like the old me again and it's such a relief."

TOMORROW

'My climb back to health and return to Loose Women'

ONLY IN THE Sun

Brits bin recycling

ONE in ten Brits recycle less than five years ago because of complicated rules, a poll shows.

A fifth were unsure if they did it correctly.

Many said they put items in the wrong bins.

Some even blamed Greta Thunberg and Sir David Attenborough for being a turn-off.

Tins, glass and cardboard were the recyclables thrown away most often, the poll for the Ideal Home Show shows.

Reasons for recycling less: It is too complicated, 19 per cent; Don't care, 17.5 per cent; Can't be bothered, 14 per cent; It won't make a difference, 11.7 per cent; It is a scam, 11.7 per cent; Greta Thunberg and David Attenborough are a turn-off, 8.8 per cent; It is not cool, 8 per cent.

Bikers' 4 cash hits

TWO robbers on a motorcycle have targeted four security vans in the same city in three weeks.

In the latest attack, they threatened a G4S driver who was collecting cash from a KFC takeaway.

The pair, who were wearing crash helmets, fled with his cash box.

It is being linked to three robberies on G4S guards in Southampton.

In the first, outside a Barclays Bank on February 7, they fled with an empty cash box.

They also left empty-handed after a passer-by thwarted a robbery at a Tesco filling station.

Hampshire police have appealed for witnesses.

REVEALED: NATION'S INFIDELITY HOTSPOTS

Cheat Britain

WOMEN in Southampton – where the footie team are The Saints – are Britain's biggest sinners, with two thirds of them cheating on their chaps.

By SARAH ARNOLD

A nationwide poll of 2,000 people found that 67 per cent of women in the Hampshire port city – a stag and hen hotspot with 250,000 locals – had been unfaithful to their current partners.

Curiously, Southampton's men are the nation's *least* likely to cheat, with just 15 per cent admitting to it. The worst place for male offenders – 60 per cent – is Plymouth.

Sex and relationship expert Rebecca Dakin said: "Many of the cities in the survey are those that rate the best for a night out. They attract large groups, all looking to drink, lose inhibitions and have fun. Some are top cities for stag and hen weekends, which may have something to do with the numbers being so high.

"Coastal cities could also be rife for cheating as there's a new influx of people every season in holiday mode looking for good times, as you're less likely to get caught out."

In second place, on just 24 per cent, were the women of Belfast, then Glasgow on 21 per cent.

The fewest female cheats were in Sheffield, Norwich, Cardiff and Newcastle, all on ten per cent.

As for men, after Plymouth on 60 per cent, the next worst place was London, on 34 per cent, the survey by website toppcasinobonus.com found.

FEMALE CHEATS

1. Southampton 67%
2. Belfast 24%
3. Glasgow 21%
4. Manchester 20%
5= Edinburgh 19%
5= London 19%
5= Brighton 19%
8. Plymouth 18%
9. Leeds 14%
10= Birmingham 13%
10= Nottingham 13%
10= Bristol 13%
13. Liverpool 12%
14= Sheffield 10%
14= Norwich 10%
14= Cardiff 10%
14= Newcastle 10%



MALE CHEATS

1. Plymouth 60%
2. London 34%
3. Edinburgh 33%
4= Bristol 29%
4= Glasgow 29%
6. Birmingham 26%
7. Newcastle 24%
8. Brighton 22%
9= Cardiff 20%
9= Sheffield 20%
11. Belfast 19%
12= Liverpool 18%
12= Nottingham 18%
14. Leeds 17%
15= Manchester 16%
15= Norwich 16%
17. Southampton 15%



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Popular . . . Starbucks

Children in coffee farming scandal

By LAURA ARMSTRONG

CHILDREN aged 13 and under are working on five coffee farms which have supplied Starbucks.

The under-age workers were filmed by a TV crew picking beans for as little as 31p a day.

They work for eight hours a day but earn less than 1p for each cup sold by the coffee giant, which boasts global revenue of more than £20billion.

Channel 4's Dispatches filmed the children in Guatelama, slaving in intense heat while fending off insects and snakes.

They are seen struggling to lift sacks of beans to a weighing area.

Starbucks insisted: "We have not purchased coffee from the farms in question during the most recent harvest season."

Tomorrow night's Dispatches also links child labour to Nespresso, promoted by A-lister George Clooney. He said he was saddened by the findings.

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Just collect SEVEN tokens or codewords. Today's is below. Or collect SEVEN Sun Savers codes from those printed daily until March 7. Today's is on Page 32.

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HOLS FROM £9.50

TOKEN 9

HERD

PAY WITH YOUR Sun SAVERS WALLET

PARK STRIFE

Fire crews used cutting gear to free a 14-year-old girl stuck in a swing seat in a play park in Ollerton, Nottinghamshire.

RIGHT ROYAL HEADACHE

MEGGING HER SAFE

The security bill for Archie and parents could hit £20million



POLICE ARCHIE SECURITY WOE

Meg's starry night

EXCLUSIVE by CLEMMIE MOODIE

THE Duchess of Sussex is to make her first showbiz appearance since quitting the Royal family.

Meghan, 38, will attend the star-studded Met Gala in New York on May 4.

She was invited to the fashion bash with Vogue editor Edward Enninful, 48.

The event is themed on Virginia Woolf's Orlando, in which the central character changes sex, so former Suits actress Meghan is expected to adopt a "glamorous androgynous" look.

A source added: "The Met Gala is for the Who's Who of showbusiness."

US web personality James Charles is pictured, *below*, at last year's event.



EXCLUSIVE by STEPHEN MOYES

Tot in Canada when Meg comes here

ROYAL police are facing a security headache when the Duchess of Sussex leaves baby Archie in Canada to fly to Britain this week.

Officers will have to divvy up roles to guard Meghan in London and her son in Vancouver.

The decision to leave the nine-month-old behind is likely to add up to £50,000 to the runaway royals' ever-mounting security bill.

It will also disappoint the Queen and other senior royals who have not seen the baby for 14 weeks.

A royal insider said: "Meghan's London jaunt is proving a real headache. It's an expensive time just when the costs of looking after the Duke and Duchess of Sussex are under scrutiny."

Last week, Canadian police said they would stop assisting with security when the couple stepped down as working royals on March 31.

It means Harry and Meghan's £20million-a-year security bill looks to fall squarely on the taxpayer-funded Met Police.

The couple's team of about six royal protection officers cost taxpayers £600,000. This goes on salaries, overtime, overseas allowance, pensions, flights and accommodation.

Costs will rise greatly when the couple are permanently abroad.

An internal memo predicts the couple will need at least 12 officers to cover them on trips, which are often made apart.

Our source said: "Next week will demonstrate the colossal challenges and sums involved when Harry and Meghan are in London needing security just as much as Archie.

"It's as much as another £50,000 to what's already being run up. But none of that will matter to senior royals who are despondent at not seeing the baby for so long."

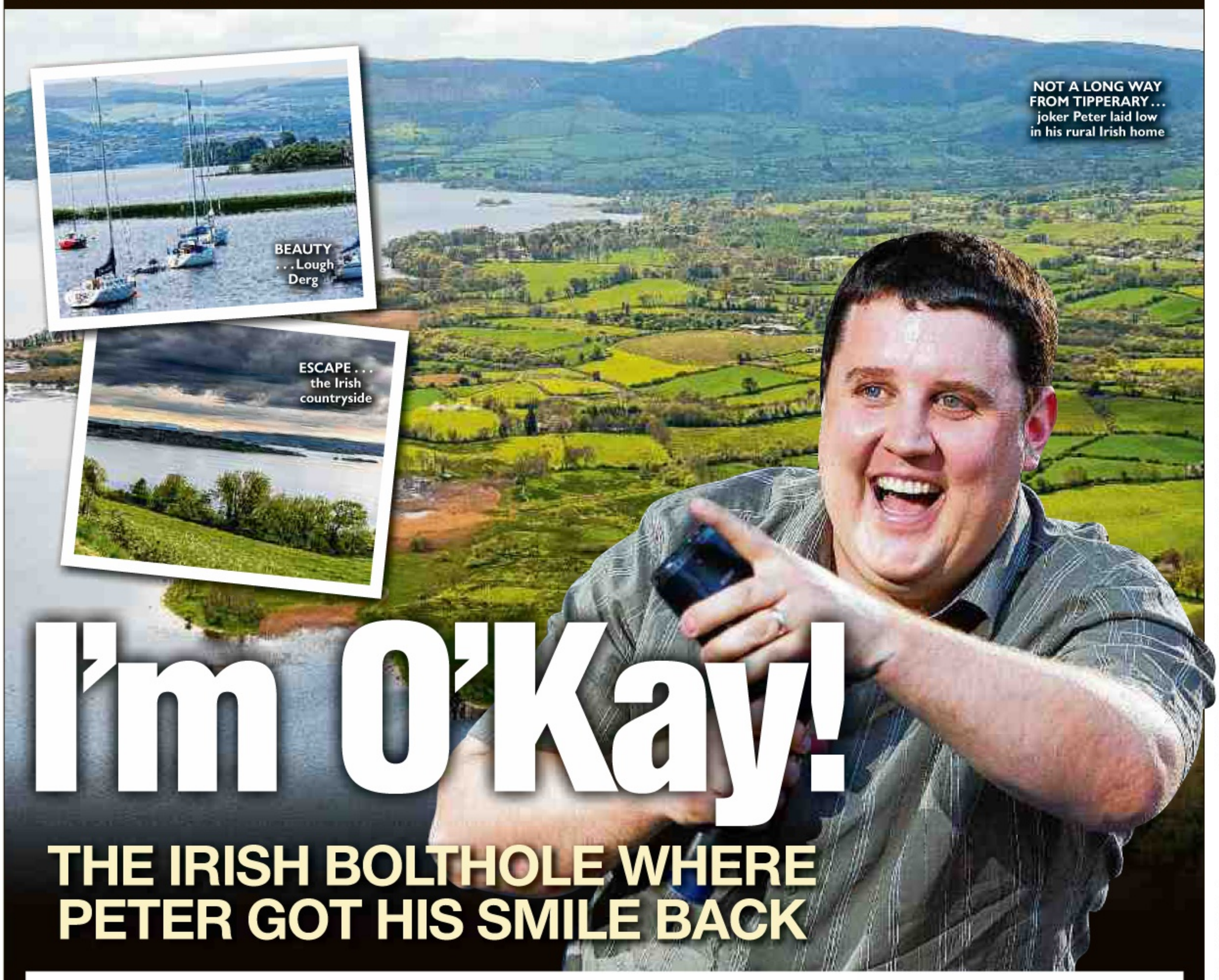
Harry, 35, and Meghan, 38, believe they are legally entitled to year-round police protection and appear unwilling to pay for it.

The couple's final official engagement is expected to be Commonwealth Day with the Queen at Westminster Abbey on March 9.

A spokeswoman said: "We don't comment on their schedule."

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AS COMIC ANNOUNCES FIRST GIGS IN 2YRS



I'm O'Kay!

THE IRISH BOLTHOLE WHERE PETER GOT HIS SMILE BACK

AT first glance, the man striding along the road in rural Ireland could have been a local on his way to the nearby shop.



EXCLUSIVE by **LAURA ARMSTRONG**
Sunday Showbiz Editor

But residents were shocked to discover that the unfamiliar face belonged to none other than multi-millionaire funnyman Peter Kay.

The Phoenix Nights comic this week sensationally announced his return to comedy after a two-year absence from showbiz.

And we can reveal Peter retreated to the Irish bolthole shortly before he announced the cancellation of a £40million tour, citing "unforeseen family circumstances".

The dad of three told disappointed fans he had to put "his family first".

And he went on to vanish from public life entirely for two years, only appearing on screen in the pre-recorded finale of his hit TV show Car Share in 2018.

The comic's continued absence led to three cruel death hoaxes as fans speculated that he had passed away.

But locals in Co Tipperary told how Peter, 46, actually escaped to a secluded house near Lough Derg.

They revealed how the Lancashire-born star – whose mother Deirdre is from Coalisland in Co Tyrone – avoided socialising with those living nearby and kept a low profile on his visits.

But despite his best efforts to go unnoticed, he remained conspicuous thanks to his giant Range Rover.

One local said: "Peter clearly wanted to keep a low profile and did everything he could to avoid attracting attention to himself while staying here.

"You'd never see him in the local pubs or restaurants, and he always seemed to be alone.

"Most people only ever saw him passing through. But when he did, everyone saw him coming a mile off because of that Range Rover.

"If he didn't want to be noticed, he definitely picked the wrong car to drive around in."

Peter revealed during an appearance on Ireland's The Late Late Show in November 2017 that he owns a house in Tipperary.

He said: "I don't talk about it because I don't want it to get robbed. We've had a house here for 12 years.

"We come here all the time. Whenever there's a school holiday, really.

Investments growing

"We give Christmas a miss because the house is freezing. It takes ages to warm up."

The TV favourite – who is listed in Guinness World Records as the most successful stand-up comic of all time – was at the top of his game when he disappeared in 2018. Four months after cancelling his tour, he appeared at a special screening of Car Share to raise money for The Lily Foundation which helps to improve the lives of children with mitochondrial disease.



CLOSE . . . star's mum

In a blog written to promote the event, he spoke movingly of having experienced the charity's work "first hand".

But after the fanfare surrounding the screening died down, his Twitter account fell silent and he was not pictured in public for a year.



RIDE ON CUE . . . spotted on seaside tram

Accounts for the comic show that the money continued to roll in during his absence, with his fortune in cash and investments growing to £32million. But Peter himself was nowhere to be seen.

And sources close to the star told how at that point he was determined to devote his time solely to his closest family and friends.

One said: "Peter is a born entertainer, but while he has many famous pals he has always preferred to live life out of the spotlight.

"He is a very funny but down-to-earth bloke. And his family are his world.

"So when faced with a choice between focusing on his family or his career, there was never any question which he would choose.

"He was so excited about going back on tour performing live. But he didn't hesitate to call off his tour." Peter did not reappear again in public until last April, when snaps taken in Blackpool showed him grinning with fans and riding a vintage-style tram with his wife of 19 years, Susan Gargan.

And it was to be another eight months before he was pictured again, last December.

But this time, he seemed ready to rejoin the showbiz world he had shunned for so long.

In September he broke his social media silence to reveal that Phoenix Nights was to be screened in arenas to raise money for charity.

And two months later the elusive funnyman was in the audience at the Crewe Lyceum to support X Factor star Chico and Cannon And Ball in panto Peter Pan.

Grinning with fans

Two days later he smiled for photographs at the final performance of Nativity! The Musical in London.

He also used his social media account to slam Channel 5 bosses who aired a show titled as his life story "in his own words" – despite him not being involved at all.

The source went on: "For a time, something like this wouldn't have even been on his radar.

"But the stand he took – at the same time as he was out on the circuit again – showed he was ready to dip his toe back in the water."

News of his showbiz re-emergence finally came this week, as The Sun revealed Peter is making a comeback with a Dance For Life charity tour this spring.

The six dance-a-thon shows to raise money for Cancer Research UK will take place in Liverpool, London and Manchester in April and May.

The source added: "This has been a long time coming, but it will be worth the wait."



Baby pic . . . star Ola

Strictly's Ola joy at birth of baby girl

By DANIEL HAMMOND

FORMER Strictly professional Ola Jordan has had a baby girl.

She posted a picture of the baby's hand on Twitter and wrote: "She's here and she is perfect. #Mummy."

Husband James, 41, showed off the newborn's feet and wrote: "I'm the happiest man in the world #daddy."

The married couple tried for a baby for nearly three years before having IVF treatment.

Ola, 37, previously said: "When we had the scan it was funny because the baby was dancing. I'm not sure if it was a cha-cha or a jive, but it was definitely dancing."

James had said of Ola: "I'm so glad I get to see her become a mum because it's all she's ever really wanted."

£1m drug pair's jail

TWO drug dealers who sold more than £1million-worth of heroin and cocaine have been jailed for a total of 19 years.

Allah Ditta Khan, 43, and Abdul Rashid, 33, pleaded guilty to peddling the Class A drugs.

Khan, of Wolverhampton – who also possessed firearms – was caged for 11 years and six months.

Rashid, from the same city, was jailed at Birmingham crown court for seven years, six months.

Police said ringleader Khan's "criminal ways" funded a "luxury lifestyle".

KAY'S CRACKERS

WHO was the first person to look at a cow and say, 'I think I'll squeeze these dangly things here and drink whatever comes out'?



Mascot's aged 28

AN IT consultant was pranked into being the mascot leading out a football team at a match.

Rishab Khatri, 28, went to watch Cambridge United with friends.

But they had told the club it was his stag do – and he was given kit to wear ahead of the match against Bradford City.

He held the goalie's hand as he walked out with City's mascot – aged five – earlier this month.

Rishab, of Brentwood, Essex, said: "The players were p*****g themselves. I decided to just go for it."



By LAURA ARMSTRONG

SHARP dresser Bella Hadid gets straight to the point — as she takes to the catwalk wielding a fearsome dagger.

The US model, 23, wore a lacy Vivienne Westwood creation at her Paris Fashion Week show, proving she is at the cutting edge of design.

POOR US A GLASS..

DUTY increases on wine hit women the hardest, industry figures claim.

Forty per cent of them say it is their top tipple compared with 16 per cent of men.

The last Budget saw an inflation-linked tax rise add 7p to the price of a bottle.

Now Chancellor Rishi Sunak faces calls to cut the duty rate in his March 11 Budget – for the first time in 36 years. Lower income shoppers spend 55 per cent more a year on wine than beer.

Expert Joe Fattorini said: "The view that wine's just enjoyed by rich people's a total misconception."

A Treasury spokesman claimed alcohol tax changes saved drinkers billions.

KAY'S CRACKERS

I MET a Dutch girl with inflatable shoes last week, phoned her up to arrange a date but unfortunately she'd popped her clogs.



WET A SHOCK

WORST FEB ON RECORD



Roads under water . . . Snaith, East Yorks, and in Herts

(but you probably all guessed that!)

By ANDY JEHRING

BRITAIN has been drenched by the wettest February on record.

The average rainfall of 20.2cm (7.95in) washed away the previous high of 19.3cm (7.59in) set in 1990.

Some villages saw more than 7in fall in a weekend.

England was inundated with more than twice as much rain than usual for the month.

Yesterday Jorge – the third storm of February and fifth since December – caused more chaos after Ciara and Dennis.

Another 4in of morning rain triggered landslides, submerged towns and triggered more than 260 flood warnings.

Up to a foot of snow was forecast in the Scottish Highlands.

Gusts of 75mph hit exposed parts of the North and rural Scotland.

Flood-hit South Wales declared a critical incident as emergency services and councils battled to ensure the "safety and welfare" of residents.

People in Pontypridd were told to stay indoors unless "absolutely necessary" during its second flood in a fortnight.

More than 600 homes and as many businesses have been hit in Wales – about a quarter of the UK total. The West Country also struggled with floods and power cuts.

Downpours loosened soil, causing a 400-tonne mud mountain to block the A381 between Totnes and Ipplepen in Devon.

A slip at Burlington Chine, Dorset, led the council to warn walkers: "Avoid the cliffs."

More than 160 homes near Exeter and 92 in Plymouth were left without power.

More severe warnings came on the England-Wales border where communities are struggling to stay afloat.



Slide . . Pontsticill, South Wales

Travellers faced disruption on road, bus and rail routes.

Families were evacuated from West Cowick and Lidgate, East Yorks, as the Aire broke its banks.

Four tonnes of sandbags were laid in East Cowick but the council said 60 properties were still at risk.

Crews pumped water from the Snaith into the River Don as rain forced closures along the A164.

Flood warnings remain in place today with more strong winds forecast.

The Met Office urged people to "slow down, plan ahead and look out for each other".

The weather is expected to improve tomorrow.

andrew.jehring@the-sun.co.uk

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Giving it to you straight

KARREN BRADY

Follow me on twitter @karren_brady

Did the Weinstein victims' courage inspire Duffy to share her agony?

FINALLY, after months of enduring watching the supposedly physically frail Harvey Weinstein hobbling into court and smiling sweetly for the cameras, he was convicted of rape.

Weinstein, one of Hollywood's most influential movie moguls, was found guilty in New York of two sex crimes. It is a watershed moment for the #MeToo movement.

It could be a coincidence but I think there is significance to Duffy's decision to tell the world that she was "raped and drugged and held captive over some days" coming just a day after Weinstein was convicted of rape.

Perhaps she took courage from the women who were brave enough to make sure this abusive man was finally stopped in his tracks. Maybe she hopes that the world is just a little bit more receptive than it sometimes is to women who have been raped.

And what is also all too easy to understand is the fact that, despite the impact of rape on their lives, many women choose not to tell the world about it, far fewer press charges and risk the subsequent ordeal of a trial.



HELL . . . Duffy

Just look at the witnesses in the Weinstein trial. Their reputations were dragged through the mud and back again by his defence team.

Many others who accused him refused to go to court, in anticipation of precisely that. And who can blame them?

Over the past five years the number of rapes reported to the police has risen by 65 per cent to 55,195. And yet the proportion making it to court has halved. Of those, only 3.3 per cent end in a conviction.

Meanwhile, it seems there is a new defence in town.

The number of rape cases in which a male defendant suggests (often when his victim has died and therefore cannot contradict him) that what took place was consensual rough sex has risen tenfold in two decades.

No wonder women do not want to come forward.

As Ashley Judd, one of the few stars to go public with allegations against Weinstein, tweeted: "I am thinking about how it took 90 women coming forward for two guilty convictions."

One of the most notable aspects of Duffy's heartfelt Instagram post, which explained the reason for her ten-year departure from public life, is the fact that events that occurred over a matter of days went on to stop her in her tracks for the following decade.

Her brave statement brought into sharp relief the damage and destruction that sexual assault and rape can inflict on a life.

Escape the past

At her peak, Duffy could not have been more successful. By 25 she'd won a Grammy, three Brits and an Ivor Novello award. Her debut album Rockferry was the world's fourth best-selling album in 2008, and sold nine million copies.

But while her contemporary, Adele, has steadily ascended the ladder of global success, Duffy apparently vanished after her second album, Endlessly, in 2010.

Duffy, now 35, said the relief in telling her story to a journalist last summer made her realise the importance of talking about her ordeal.

I admire her dignity, and her decision to handle this her own way.

But what is clear from both Duffy's statement and the women involved with the Harvey Weinstein trial is that the impact of rape and violence on women's lives can cloud a lifetime.

"You wonder why I did not choose to use my voice to express my pain? I did not want to show the world the sadness in my eyes," Duffy wrote.

That is easy to understand. But, meanwhile, a decade of her life has gone by.

It takes real courage to escape the past and overcome what's happened to you, but talking about it is a very good start.



I LOVED the photo of Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg sitting together on a bench – two of the most influential and quietly subversive and strong young women in the world. Their words and actions have had a real impact.

And seeing them together is a brilliant reminder that although there are a lot of challenging and difficult things going on at the moment, from climate change to terrorism and pandemics, there is hope for our future.

We are lucky to have such fantastic and inspiring female role models for our young people around the world.



HUMAN TOUCH . . . Harry

PRINCE DESERVES A BREAK

HOW poignant it was watching the Duke of Sussex embarking on his final round of engagements as a senior working royal this week.

"Just call me Harry," he said, before taking to the stage to make a speech in Edinburgh.

Prince Harry, who will step down as a senior royal in less than five weeks, was in Scotland for a "working summit".

Before he spoke, host Ayesha Hazarika said: "He's made it clear that we are all just to call him Harry. So ladies and gentlemen, please give a big, warm Scottish welcome to Harry."

The prince had flown to Britain from Canada on a commercial flight earlier this week and arrived in Edinburgh on an eco-friendly train from London King's Cross station.

So his transition to regular citizen is beginning (although he did have some Scotland Yard bodyguards in tow).

And you know what? I wish Harry nothing but well in his new chapter.

He has been on the receiving end of much criticism, but he deserves to have a happy life.

I love the fact that he is now going by "Harry", which makes him even more human.

Also, just because he doesn't use his title any more doesn't mean he isn't proud of it. And if he wants a shot at normal life then who are we to begrudge him that?

HELP OUR KIDS TO SAVE LIFE

I COULDN'T agree more with Myleene Klass, who said this week that first aid should be taught in schools and be as mandatory as English and maths.

In an interview, she described the "awful" moment her oldest daughter Ava choked on seafood during a holiday meal, and also the time her daughter, Hero, choked on a plastic star when she was just a year old.



As a result, Myleene, *left*, signed up herself and her children for a first aid course – which she put to good use just a day later when they assisted a woman who had collapsed on the Tube.

All of which goes to show that a bit of first aid know-how really does go a long way.

I went on a first aid course and AED (*automated external defibrillator*) training.

So far – touch wood – I have only used it once, when someone fainted.

But it's nice to know I might be of use if I'm needed.



Picture: BACKGRID

STRIP AHOY . . . modelling

CHRISTINE RIGHT TO FLAUNT IT

MOST of us have to hide in the changing room when we try on swimwear and despair.

But not Real Housewives Of Cheshire's Christine McGuinness, who emerged from the changing room and danced around the shop in a sexy swimsuit.

And who can blame her, she looks sensational.

So why should she wait to get on a beach . . . because that's what you call body confidence.

THE new Chancellor is apparently looking to make changes in the law to stop people from taking advantage of the loopholes in inheritance tax.

But I have a better idea.

And that is to abolish inheritance tax altogether.

They say the only things that are certain in life are death and taxes.

Most people pay tax and work hard to save money so they can leave something to their kids.

Inheritance tax means that the state then takes another chunk of what you want to leave to your heirs.

It's double taxation and it is grossly unfair.

Plenty of countries including Australia, Hong Kong, Canada, New Zealand, Portugal, Mexico, Singapore and Sweden have abolished it.

And we should too.

KATH WAS SUM LADY

THE world said farewell this week to the extraordinary Katherine Johnson, who died at the grand old age of 101, having had the most extraordinary career as a brilliant Nasa mathematician.

Although she grew up during segregation in the US, her mathematical brilliance helped her to defy sexism and racism to become one of the most trusted "human computers" at the US space agency.

In 2015, when she was 97, Barack Obama presented her with the presidential medal of freedom – the country's highest civilian award.

And her story was told in the 2016 book Hidden Figures, by Margot Lee Shetterly, which inspired an Oscar-nominated film of the same title.

She has had a bespectacled "Inspiring Women" Barbie doll produced in her likeness, and in 2017 Nasa opened a computational research facility named in her honour.



All in all, a life very well lived.

What an inspirational woman she is.

It's snot unusual

PICKING your nose and chewing toenails are among shameless Brits' top habits in private.

Squeezing spots, checking our bum and tum in a mirror, drinking milk straight from a carton and dancing in underwear are also popular.

MeccaBingo.com found 35 per cent of adults do things alone they would never do in public.

More than half felt happy doing anything in front of their partner.

TOP TEN: Adjusting undies 44%; Picking nose 42%; Shouting at the TV 39%; Squeezing spots 39%; Checking tum in mirror 34%; Drinking straight from the carton 30%; Miming to songs 29%; Dancing to radio 29%; Picking ears 26%; Plucking eyebrows 25%.

Birthday rape hell

A CHEF and a kitchen porter raped a woman on her way home from a family birthday party.

Constantin Ionescu and Nicolae Dragoi targeted the victim, in her 40s, as she walked alone after becoming separated from her husband.

The men, who had just finished a restaurant shift, attacked her in an alleyway in Farnham, Surrey, in December 2018.

Both men were identified from CCTV footage.

Ionescu, 36, and Dragoi, 42. of Farnham, were each convicted of three counts of rape by a jury at Guildford crown court.

They were both jailed for 14 years.

TEA LADIES' KINDNESS CAMPAIGN REWARD

Cuppa winners

WITH 65 years of service between them, big-hearted Jean Fluke and her pals have served tea, cake and a huge slice of kindness to thousands of cancer patients.

By SARAH ARNOLD

Former carer Jean began volunteering at a tiny cafe in the radiotherapy centre at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital in 1995 and was joined five years later by Margaret Humpage, now 82.

Jean, 75, and the team work five days a week, all year round, for free – and their home-made cakes and cuppas have no charge, though people can make a donation.

Amazingly, the cafe has generated tens of thousands of pounds over the years, helping to fund vital equipment as well as toys for child patients.

Now the unsung heroes have been nominated by the radiotherapy centre team for The Sun on Sunday's Simple Acts Of Kindness award – and so this week we treated them to the ultimate afternoon tea at the exclusive Three Church Road restaurant in Edgbaston, to say thanks on behalf of the patients and radiotherapy staff.

Grandma-of-six Jean said: "It's normally us who are serving tea so to have a wonderful afternoon tea and cake just for us was amazing."

Jean and Margaret were joined by grandmother-of-18 Sukhraj Kaur, 63, a volunteer since 2011.

She said: "Volunteering has brought happiness to all of us – we love what we do.".

Also enjoying tea was Jill Samsun, 66, a former patient who joined the volunteers in 2014 and who said the tea room will always be a "special place" to her.

Justine Davy, who nominated the ladies on behalf of the radiotherapy team, said: "We are so delighted that The Sun on Sunday has taken our wonderful volunteers out for afternoon tea to thank them for their years of incredible service."

HEROIC . . . at the hospital



CHEERS . . . *from left*, Jill, Margaret, Sukhraj and Jean

SIMPLE • ACTS • OF • KINDNESS — The Sun on Sunday

NOMINATE YOUR UNSUNG HERO

IF you want to nominate someone for our Simple Acts Of Kindness campaign, email us with Kindness in the subject field with your name, contact number and up to 300 words describing why the person deserves to be rewarded for a spontaneous kind act. Email sundayfeatures@the-sun.co.uk.





Sex pest . . . at hospital

Doc who smacked bottoms struck off

By JENNIFER LOGAN

A SENIOR NHS doctor has been struck off for slapping the bottoms of two medical students.

Dr Bassel Hayssam El-Osta smacked his victims and called them his "two beautiful girls".

He told one of them: "The only way to shut a woman up is to kiss her."

The senior orthopaedic registrar at the Royal Free Hospital, London, took advantage of the students as they shadowed his on-call shifts.

He was struck off after four separate tribunals found he had shown little insight into his behaviour.

Dr El-Osta did not even bother to turn up to the latest Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service hearing, in Manchester.

He said he was busy with "surgery, lecturing, and other activities".

Cobbles price cut

CORRIE bosses have cut the cost of their studio tour after complaints.

And visitors will now see more areas including the new police station.

Admission has gone down from £35 to £32, and £18 for children.

Guides have been told the tour must last the advertised 90 minutes.

One visitor had written on TripAdvisor: "We were pretty unimpressed to be done in 45 minutes."

Soap bosses began the Coronation Street tours in May 2018 at MediaCityUK, Salford.

KAY'S CRACKERS

A FRIEND of mine got knocked down by a mobile library. He was lying in the road screaming and the driver got out and said: "Shh!"



'Napalm' hell at jail

A NURSE at a women's prison suffered horrific burns in a vicious "napalm" attack.

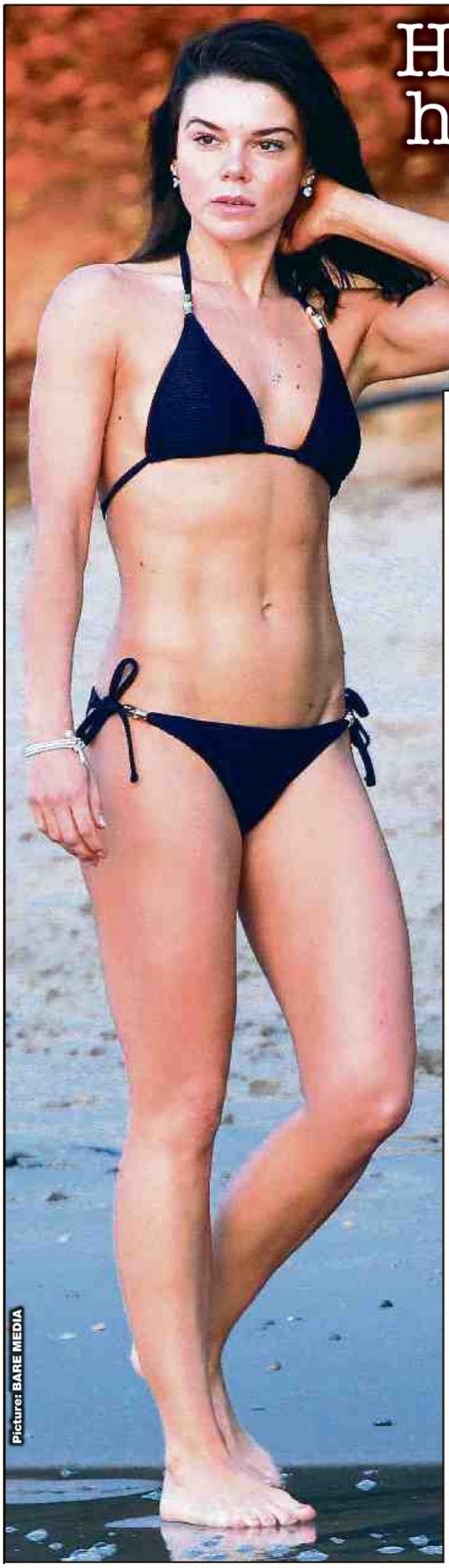
Gabrielle Baker, 19, is alleged to have thrown sugar-laced boiling water in his face.

He was treated inside Foxton Hall jail, Derbys, then taken to hospital.

Baker has been put on report as cops investigate.

She is serving a 26-month sentence after threatening to stab her birth mum who gave her up for adoption.

The jail features in Channel 4 series Prison.



Picture: BARE MEDIA

Happy Faye's here again!

By LAURA ARMSTRONG

FORMER Corrie star Faye Brookes has swapped the cobbles for sands as she takes a stroll along a Bermuda beach.

The actress, 32, seemed keen to catch some sun after her panto stint as Snow White ended in Birmingham.

Faye, who split with singer Gareth Gates, 35, last year, was recently linked to personal trainer Joe Davies after he posted a snap of her with the words: "Lucky guy." Based on this picture, plenty will agree with him.



Old flame . . . Faye with Gareth

EXCLUSIVE

FORTNITE KIDS GET NHS HELP

Addicts sent to new clinics

By JONATHAN CORKE

KIDS obsessed with computer games like Fortnite and Candy Crush are being referred to the new NHS gaming addiction clinic at a rate of more than one a week.

Figures obtained exclusively by The Sun on Sunday reveal 22 young gaming fanatics have been referred there in its first 20 weeks.

The Centre for Internet and Gaming Disorders officially opened in October.

The specialist centre was set up to treat "seriously addicted" 13 to 25-year-olds.

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust is hosting the service and released the figures.

Claire Murdoch, NHS national director for mental health, said: "The first ever specialist gaming addiction clinic on the NHS is a response to an emerging problem.

"These figures are more evidence of the growing pressures that children and young people can be exposed to.

"While the NHS has stepped up to the plate, it can only do so much with the money it has and tech giants need to recognise the impact their products can have, rather than just cashing in obsessive or harmful behaviour."

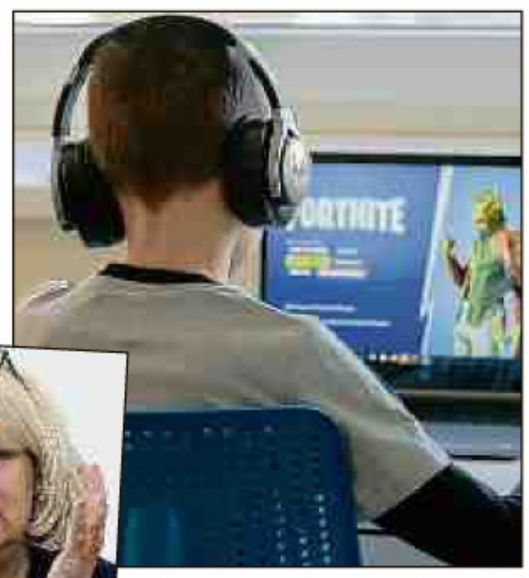
Sources say the centre "will expand rapidly" over the next few months.

Half of parents with schoolkids worry that their children are becoming addicted to computer games, a recent survey found. Last month mum Lysa Martin, 45, appeared on ITV's This Morning with son Romario, 16, who admitted to playing Fortnite for up to ten hours a day.

She said the lad and his ten-year-old brother Reyon are rarely off their consoles and need help.

It followed the case of a nine-year-old girl who was checked into rehab after developing an addiction to the hit game.

The girl was said to have wet herself during a ten-hour binge on Fortnite – and even hit her dad in the face when he tried to take away her Xbox console.





Concern . . Ms Murdoch says gaming addiction is growing

DAVINIA'S NEW POISON

FORMER party girl turned wellness expert **DAVINIA TAYLOR** had a severe reaction after trying out a new procedure in which patients are injected with **FROG POISON**.

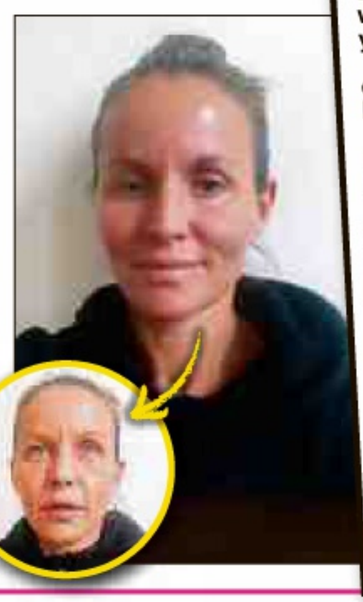
Davinia – previously married to **DAVID BECKHAM**'s best pal **DAVE GARDNER** – was testing out the treatment to help her "remove physical toxins and negative energy".

The process uses Kambo – a waxy secretion from the giant monkey frog – which is said to have strong detoxifying and anti-inflammatory properties.

Practitioners claim it can be used to combat serious conditions including cancer, HIV and diabetes.

But after the injection, stricken Davinia was sick five times and saw her face swell to twice its normal size.

It turns out injecting frog poison into your face is bad for you. Who knew?



REVIEW

IT'S pretty brave to swagger on stage, wind up the crowd then announce your first song with: "This is a new one!"

That's what frontman GRIAN CHATTEN of Mercury Prize nominees FONTAINES DC did at the Brixton Academy last week.

Fans bayed for hits from their debut album Dogrel, but were made to wait as they played new material first.

The Irish band kicked into life in the last 30 minutes with anthems Boys In The Better Land, Hurricane Laughter and Too Real.

There are definite similarities between the sulky singer and a young LIAM GALLAGHER, as he marched up and down the stage like a man possessed.

Finishing with raucous hit Big, they definitely saved their best til last.





biz

Email: laura.armstrong@the-sun.co.uk **Twitter:**

HM Government



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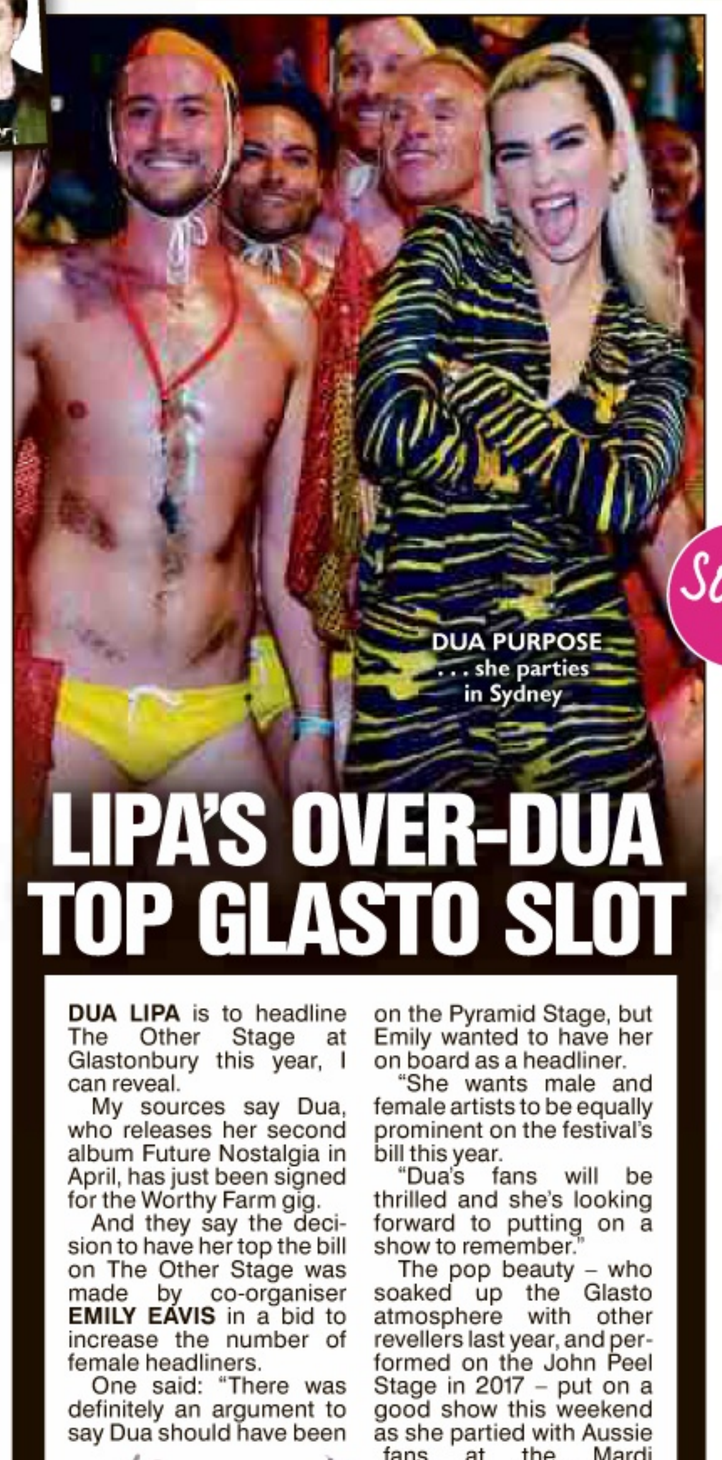
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DUA PURPOSE . . . she parties in Sydney

LIPA'S OVER-DUA TOP GLASTO SLOT

DUA LIPA is to headline The Other Stage at Glastonbury this year, I can reveal.

My sources say Dua, who releases her second album Future Nostalgia in April, has just been signed for the Worthy Farm gig.

And they say the decision to have her top the bill on The Other Stage was made by co-organiser **EMILY EAVIS** in a bid to increase the number of female headliners.

One said: "There was definitely an argument to say Dua should have been on the Pyramid Stage, but Emily wanted to have her on board as a headliner.

"She wants male and female artists to be equally prominent on the festival's bill this year.

"Dua's fans will be thrilled and she's looking forward to putting on a show to remember."

The pop beauty – who soaked up the Glasto atmosphere with other revellers last year, and performed on the John Peel Stage in 2017 – put on a good show this weekend as she partied with Aussie fans at the Mardi Gras celebrations in Sydney.

And though she clearly got into the spirit of the occasion, her black and yellow outfit made her look a bit overdressed next to her pals in Speedos.

SAM SMITH, who also turned up, had a similar problem thanks to a tie-dyed suit jacket. But combining it with a wet T-shirt must have cooled things down considerably.



WORTHY FARM FUN . . . for Dua last year



MARDI STAR . . . Sam in crowd



BOOK . . . Lucy

A VOCAL JOB FOR TV LUCY

Soap 1

I HEAR **LUCY FALLON** has got her first job since revealing she is quitting Corrie this month.

The actress, who plays Bethany Platt in the ITV soap, will narrate an audio book, What Makes Us Stronger, by Manchester Arena bomb survivor Freya Lewis.

My source said: "Lucy was delighted to be asked to do it. She has been so touched by Freya's story and she feels honoured to be involved in telling it."

Lucy recently said she will follow her dream of becoming a midwife if the acting roles dry up.

Let's hope she can stick to the scripts and steer clear of the scrubs.



THEATRE . . . June

IT'S DOT ON SPOT

Soap 2

JUNE BROWN has her first post-EastEnders work lined up – talking to an audience about her time on the BBC soap.

June, who announced last month she was leaving the series after more than 30 years, will discuss her role as Dot Cotton and share secrets from the show at South London's Colour House theatre next month.

With her will be **JOHN ALTMAN**, who played her screen son, Nasty Nick.

The pair will pose for photos together for a fee at the event, which is in aid of the theatre's children's charity.

As June is 93, a role in the new Bond film might have been a bit unlikely.

Caught out

BRIT rapper TOONEY is furious that BILLIE EILISH's effort was chosen over his for the new James Bond song.



on Sunday

By LAURA ARMSTRONG

@LauraSunShowbiz **Hotline:** 0207 782 4036

"I think I saw Jesus for an entire week."

LADY GAGA on the horrors of quitting her 40-a-day smoking habit

BEN'S MAGIC MOVE

DANCING ON ICE semi-finalist **BEN HANLIN** will pay tribute to his wife Briony on tonight's show.

Each semi-finalist has been asked to choose a track to perform to that means a lot to them.

Magician Ben, who has chosen to skate to **JAKE BUGG**'s hit Lightning Bolt, said: "It's the song that played the moment we got married."

JOE SWASH will skate to **SIMPLY RED**'s Stars, **PERRI KIELY** is to perform to Craig Armstrong's score for the Romeo and Juliet balcony scene, and **LIBBY CLEGG** has picked I'm Gonna Be (500 miles).



PARIS HILTON looks as sweet as candy as she poses in pastel shades for a fashion shoot.

The American socialite teamed pink knickers with a knitted T-shirt as she lounged by a pool, before donning a fluffy gauze skirt, *right*, last seen protecting a toilet roll.

Paris was pictured in the grounds of her Beverly Hills mansion for the latest issue of Cosmopolitan, which is out now. And in the accompanying interview, she reveals – while sipping a glass of champagne of course – how she is combining "slaying" and "living" at the moment.

"Sliving," she says. "Instead of killing it, I'm sliving it."

And when she looks as good as this at 39, it's hard to argue with that.

Pictures courtesy of Cosmopolitan/Bernardo Doral

PARIS IS IN THE PINK . . .

Gene Gallagirl



HEAD OVER HEELS . . . Gene and Amelia

LIAM GALLAGHER's wild-child son GENE is the latest of the family to find love – after hooking up with a brunette named Amelia.

My sources say the couple, who met through mutual friends, have been dating since last year.

And they decided to go public with their romance on Valentine's Day, with a loved-up Gene referring to his new girlfriend as "my wife".

A source told me: "Gene couldn't be any more head over heels for Amelia. Their romance has been going from strength to strength, and he's described her publicly as his wife. He can't stop smiling."

Posting a pic with his girlfriend on Instagram last month, Gene drew comparisons with famous rock 'n' roll couples **SID VICIOUS** and **NANCY SPUNGEN** and **KURT COBAIN** and **COURTNEY LOVE**.



LIAM . . . and Gene

LIAM'S SON SO LOVED-UP WITH HIS BRUNETTE 'WIFE'

And the fact both those romances ended tragically didn't seem to bother him. Heroin addict Sid was charged with murdering Nancy in a hotel room in 1978 but died of an overdose before his trial, while **NIRVANA** legend Kurt, also a heroin addict, killed himself in 1994.

But Gene – Liam's son with **ALL SAINTS**' singer **NICOLE APPLETON** – gushed: "Happy Valentine from the two biggest outlaws in the world . . . Sid and Nancy, K and C, adore and more, love, love, love."

My source added: "Gene clearly sees the two of them as partners in crime, even if his choice of romantic idols here might be a bit unfortunate."

News of the relationship comes after Gene's cousin **ANAIS GALLAGHER** went public about dating Instagram-famous farmer Julius Roberts.

But I imagine given the pair's history, **NOEL**'s daughter won't be getting in touch with Gene to congratulate him after he sniped: "U look like ur dad with a blonde wig on."



PHOEBE WALLER-BRIDGE isn't the only runaway Fleabag success story – her sister ISOBEL is also reaping the rewards.

The musician, who composed the music for the BBC sitcom, has signed to Mercury KX and released track September.

Isobel, *above*, says: "I'm so excited to have signed with Mercury KX and to start work on what will be the most personal music of my career.

"The song has a clarity and intimacy that reflect the very personal journey I'm about to go on."

I can't wait to hear it.

PALOMA FAITH is very excited about Mistakes, her new track with JONAS BLUE. She said this week: "I can't help but move to this tune, it's a banger!" And she's not wrong.



I'M A CELEB winner GEORGIA TOFFOLO raised eyebrows when she turned up at a Barry's Bootcamp exercise class in London this week with her own pair of scales.



NILE RODGERS and CHIC will be playing Lloyds Amphitheatre in Bristol on July 16 as part of the Colston Hall Presents programme this summer. Tickets are on sale now.



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Dinner . . . star Giggs

‘We wuz robbed of Ryan’

EXCLUSIVE by RICHARD MORIARTY

FANS of footie legend Ryan Giggs lashed out last night after paying £50 each for an evening with their hero – only to get Gary Neville instead.

Andy Wood shelled out for the dinner and talk at a hotel owned by the two veterans and other members of the club’s “Class of ’92”.

The event was billed “An evening with Ryan Giggs”, with fans told they could “listen to stories from the most decorated Manchester United player of all times”.

But days before the event at Old Trafford’s Hotel Football, they learned Neville, 45, was to substitute Ryan, 46.

Andy complained: “We came to see Ryan Giggs. I wouldn’t cross an empty road to see Gary Neville. He was awful.”

But the hotel said: **“We’ve had nothing but positive comments.”**

Can you tell who this is?



SEE PAGE 33

YASMIN-FANTRY

Yasmin Williams, 17, of Bangor, Gwynedd, is the first female Welsh Guards infantry soldier.



I feel a bit lowbergine

By JENNIFER LOGAN

THIS fed-up food looks less than auber-joyed — but raised a smile as it headed for the dinner plate.

It was one of the silly faces found in everyday grub — such as a Rolling Stones bacon roll — and shared online.

OPS SHOCK

AGONY OVER BOOBS BOOBS

RECORD numbers of women are finding their false breasts a real pain, a watchdog has revealed.

The Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency has logged dozens of cases of boob job patients left in agony.

Some report severe aching as a result of surgery. Others are in agony from an awkward posture. Pain can also be triggered from side-effects such as leaky implants or skin tightness.

Other recorded problems include implant rupture and capsular contracture, where scar tissue causes the breast to turn rock hard.

Plastic surgeons warn oversized implants are more likely to cause women discomfort.

In total, the MHRA received 48 reports of pain as a result of breast implants in 2018.

It is more than five times higher than the nine recorded in 2015.

Nearly 8,000 ops were carried out last year by registered private surgeons, according to the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons.

EXCLUSIVE by NICK McDERMOTT

Nora Nugent, a consultant plastic surgeon and a BAAPS council member, said boob jobs had a high satisfaction rating.

She added: “It should only be undertaken when the woman understands the long-term effects and risks.

“Choosing an implant that is not too large can help reduce the effects of stretch and weight on breast tissue over time.”

nick.mcdermott@the-sun.co.uk



Advice . . . Nora

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DEAL OF DAY



TODAY'S your last chance to get a free Desperados beer at Hungry Horse pubs.

Just hand a lime to bar staff to get your free bottle. Check participating pubs first.

CHEAP TREAT



BEN & Jerry's Fairway To Heaven salted caramel ice cream is down from £5.75 to £3 at The Co-op. I'll be having a spoonful or two tonight.

SAVE: £2.75

My Sun SAVERS fiver

STEPHANIE FOLGATE, from Middle Rasen, Lincs, says: "I pay the milkman with my Sun Savers fivers. He delivers in glass bottles, so I'm saving cash and it's saving the planet."

●Send your Savers fiver stories to sunsavers.co.uk/fivers and get 28 codes worth £5 if yours is used. Include your name and town.

SOLOMON'S A WEB CELEB WITH HER TIDY TIPS

Stace's places



SO NEAT . . . Stacey and, *above*, one of her fridge posts on Instagram

STACEY SOLOMON is my new tidying idol.

The mum-of-three has gone viral for sharing her quirky organisation hacks on Instagram, and I couldn't wait to try some of them out for myself.

This is how I'm going to keep my spending low while putting my pad in order . . .

HAVE YOUR CAKE: Stacey pops a cake stand on a lazy Susan to display tins in the kitchen and toiletries in the bathroom. When I checked online, buying both items will cost you around £20.

However, you can get a two-tier lazy Susan on Amazon's website for £12.99.

SAVE: Around £7 on a cake stand

PEG IT: To tidy up her kids' games and accessories, Stacey uses a peg board from Ikea. They start at £8 but Poundland's £2 option is almost exactly the same. Trays, pegs and pots are sold separately, so you can design it around your needs.

SAVE: £6 on peg board

HAND OF ROD: To hold small jars, Stacey placed a curtain tension rod inside one of her kitchen cupboards. Very clever.

She recommends The Range's rods, which start at £1.50. That's £1 less than Wilko's – the second cheapest I found on the High Street.

SAVE: £1 on tension rod

I'M HOOKED: Using another tension rod, Stacey hangs her pots and pans on plastic "S" hooks. You can get them on eBay for as little as £2.52.

My favourite trick is her use of shower curtain hooks to hang packets of crisps. Get a ten-pack at John Lewis for £3 – they're 50p more at B&Q and Ikea.

SAVE: 50p on curtain hooks

STRIP TEASE: For utensils such as pizza cutters and can openers, Stacey has attached adhesive magnetic strips to the inside of a cupboard door.

I found a six-pack on Amazon for £8.99. Cheaper than Argos's expanding cutlery drawer at £11.50.

SAVE: £2.51 on cutlery drawer

●PRICES correct at time of going to press.

Deals/offers are subject to availability.

TOP SWAP



£3

INSTEAD of paying £3 for a 340g tub of Philadelphia, *above*, from Waitrose, pick up Tesco Creamfields soft cheese, 49p for 200g, *below*. It means you can get two and still pay less than for Philadelphia.

SAVE: £2.02, plus get an extra 60 grams of cheese



49p

Reader's saving tip

COL GILL, of Chesterfield, Derbys, says: "Wrap kitchen foil around the stalks of a banana bunch where they join. They will stay fresher longer, thereby saving waste and money."

●Send your tips to sunsavers.co.uk/tips and you'll get 28 codes worth £5 if yours is used. Please include your name and town.

SHOP & SAVE



THE Salter Air Fryer is on offer for £50, down from £80 at Asda. Perfect for quick and healthy dinners.

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WALKOUT AT GONG FOR CHILD RAPIST POLANSKI

ACTRESSES stormed out of the French Oscars after child rapist Roman Polanski won a gong.

The director, still wanted in the US after being convicted of raping a girl of 13 in 1977, got the prize at the Cesar awards in Paris.

The walkout was led by actress Adele Haenel who

By LIZ PERKINS

shouted "Shame!" The 31-year-old has claimed that she was sexually abused as a child by another director.

Director Celine Sciamma, 41, and several other actresses followed her out of the room.

The protest came after Polanski, 86, won the Best Director prize for An Officer and a Spy.

The Polish-French filmmaker did not attend the ceremony because of protests after his film got 12 nominations.

Later, Haenel said: "Distinguishing Polanski is spitting in the face of all victims. It means raping women isn't that bad."

Actress and comedian Florence Foresti, 46, refused to return to the stage after Polanski's win.

She posted a black screen on Instagram with the word "disgusted." Before the ceremony, France's Culture Minister Franck Riester said it would be "symbolically bad" if Polanski won "given the stance we must take against sexual and sexist violence."

The director, *right*, fled the US after his conviction and has since faced a string of sex assault claims. Last year a French woman claimed Polanski raped her in 1975.



Fury . . . Haenel

Laser nut RAF peril

A RAF transporter plane was put in danger of crashing when a laser beam was shone into its pilots' faces.

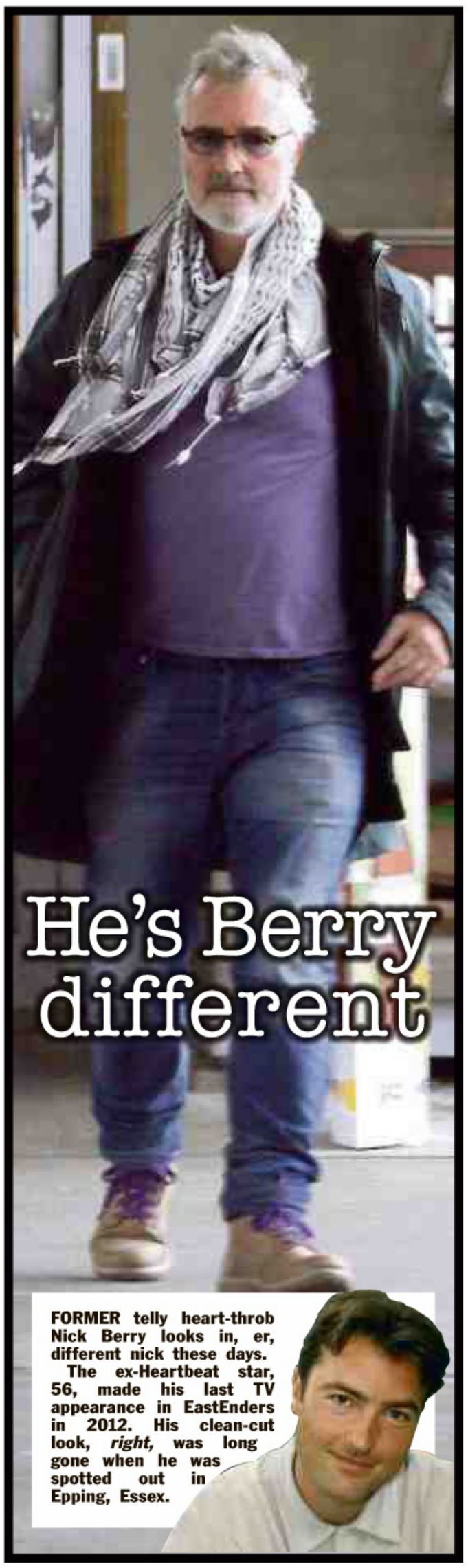
The Boeing C-17 was targeted over the villages of Cassington and Eynsham before landing safely at RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire.

It was the third laser attack on aircraft in the area this month.

Police appealed for help in tracking down the "reckless" culprit.

COLD SNAPS

Photos of Sir Ernest Shackleton's ill-fated 1914-17 bid to cross Antarctica were sold for £87,562 by auctioneers Bonhams.



He's Berry different

FORMER telly heart-throb Nick Berry looks in, er, different nick these days.

The ex-Heartbeat star, 56, made his last TV appearance in EastEnders in 2012. His clean-cut look, *right,* was long gone when he was spotted out in Epping, Essex.

Child Ed dream to join SAS

By DAVID JARVIS

COMEDIAN Eddie Izzard dreamed of joining the SAS as a schoolboy.

The transgender star, 58, told a podcast: "I was going to be in the military when I was a kid.

"I wanted to be in the special forces."

Speaking to American comedian Joe Rogan, he said: "I was planning to do officer training, then do the Marines or Paras and then join the SAS.



Feminine side . . . Ed

But there was this feminine side and I wanted to express that.

"I still run my life on a military basis. I strategise and plan 50 years ahead."

Izzard now raises cash for World War Two veterans and has visited Normandy with them.

He said: "It's crucial we never forget about what happened on D-Day.

"The veterans deserve the utmost respect for what they achieved."

Killer lag cell's wifi

A CONVICTED murderer was found with a wifi signal booster in his cell.

Police were called in over fears the device could have been used by other lags to run crime gangs on the outside.

Last night a source said: "Prisons are flooded with mobile phones, but sophisticated wifi gear is another level."

Stephen Cowdrey, 56, was put into segregation after the discovery at HMP Coldingley, near Bisley, Surrey.

He was jailed for life in 2013 for killing retired cop Stanley Carter.

CHEMISTRY PET

Student Megan Williams takes pet hamster Frankie to chemistry lectures at Lincoln University to help her concentrate.





Lost . . . WW2 crew

Sunk Brit bomber recovery

By BEN LEO

A BRITISH World War Two bomber found in a lake will be raised to recover the bodies of its seven crew.

The Short Stirling BK716 was shot down – possibly by ace Werner Rapp – as it returned to Norfolk from a 1943 raid.

It was found in Lake Markermeer close to Amsterdam in January.

Relatives of the British and Canadian crew have asked for their remains to be returned.

Almere city council said: "We support this request since the crew paid the ultimate price for us to enjoy our freedom today. It also offers relatives the chance to say goodbye properly."

Flying Officer Frederick Harris was pilot while another of the crew was Sgt Charles Armstrong Bell, of Langley Park, Co Durham.

The other five men were aged 20 to 30.

The MoD plans a full military burial.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

Actor Sid Owen
on his jaw being smashed by a golf ball

"I remember seeing two teeth fly straight out of my mouth"

Taekwondo silver medallist Lutalo Muhammad
on Kate Middleton's martial arts skills

"Her right hand is mean – that punch had power!"

Maddie Dunn
on finding the world's biggest hula hoop in her packet

"It was three and a half inches long – me and my flatmates keep looking at it"

Surrey Police
on putting a wanted man's face on a PANCAKE

"We've asked crepe artiste Philippe de Pan to help us locate some of our most wanted through the medium of pancake art"

Rylan Clark-Neal
on taking Ready Steady Cook hosting job

"I remember asking: 'Are there any a**holes?'"

TV viewer Ally Ives
on Peter Beale's return to EastEnders

"Peter Beale hasn't just got a new face, he's grown about three feet"

POT CHOCOLATE

Posh café chain Bettys is selling £70 gift chocolate teapots with vouchers for afternoon tea at its six Yorkshire venues.

SINGLE I'M A CELEB BEAUT



SHOWER . . . jungle clip has 1.5million views



GLAMOUR.. posing for 2019 calendar photoshoot



Picture: LIPSTICK SYNDICATION

My cr... L... a... s...



EXCLUSIVE by **NICK McGRATH**

JORGIE PORTER is looking for love – and says her dream man is a cross between podgy pop singer Lewis Capaldi and TV's Mr Blobby.

But the former I'm A Celebrity beauty could be waiting some time, as she reveals: "Nobody ever asks me out."

Jorgie, 32, said: "I might look like a sex kitten in photos but that doesn't match my choice in men.

"When I have dated in the past, people have often been surprised that the way I look doesn't match my personality."

Explaining why she is attracted to 23-year-old Lewis, who won two Brit awards last month, Jorgie says: "I like to be laughed into bed and he is really funny. If he sang to me I don't know what I'd do.

"My ideal man would have Lewis Capaldi's sense of humour and Mr Blobby's personality, because he'd be really naughty on a night out.

"I like a guy with a job, someone who is romantic – and I don't mind someone a little bit cheesy.

"I'm into geeky men, guys who like to go bowling, play chess and watch documentaries.

"And I know people might be shocked to hear this but nobody ever asks me out."

Jorgie, who is hosting the podcast Loose Lips with 2018 Love Island contestant Samira Mighty, has had a self-imposed spell out of the spotlight after a string of appearances on reality TV shows.

In an exclusive interview, the former Hollyoaks actress revealed how friends deleted her Tinder account and told how she would never go on I'm A Celeb again because she found it too stressful.

Jorgie shot to fame in 2008 as cheeky Theresa McQueen on Channel 4 soap Hollyoaks before appearing on Dancing On Ice in 2014 and I'm A Celebrity a year later.

But she is not in a hurry to head back to the jungle after her stint alongside Spandau Ballet singer Tony Hadley and other celebs.

She said: "It was quite stressful. I liked Tony but he just got up every morning and started singing – 'Good morning kids, Gold!'

"I was like, 'Tony, you're not my dad. Why are you waking us up?' I'm not a morning person.

'I might look like a sex kitten in photos but that doesn't match my choice in men. I like to be laughed into bed'

"It was insane – there were no boring parts. But if they asked me to do it again? No. It was hard.

"I don't understand people that go, 'I would do that again'. No, you wouldn't."

'I'm one of the most immature people'

After leaving the TV jungle, Jorgie discovered that a clip of her showering in the show while wearing a white bikini had been watched 1.5million times – earning her a new army of fans.

She said: "I can't believe that many people watched it. I can't watch myself. I cringe. I can't watch anything I've done."

Jorgie, who was dating fellow Hollyoaks actor James Atherton from 2011 to 2014, is enjoying a break from dating. She said: "I love being single. I think about when I was in a relationship, that thought of having to text them saying, 'I'm home, I'm safe', or, 'What are you up to?'

"I'm just enjoying hanging out with myself right now.

"I've got all my friends and I can see them whenever I want.

"I don't have to answer to anyone and I'm having the best time.

"It doesn't bother me if people think I'm unlucky in love.

"Someone once called me the Kylie Minogue of our generation, which I thought was actually a compliment.

And h... actual... "The... cuddle... for m... there's... "I'm... young... had to... "An... of t... eve...

h... for...

Jorg... and I...

TY'S SURPRISING TASTE IN MEN



FREEZE FAME . . . appearing on Dancing On Ice in 2014



EX-LOVE . . . with soap co-star James Atherton in 2011

'Even if I'm 40 and looking after three children I'll still pose in my underwear. There are no rules'



TELLY ROLE . . . in Channel 4 soap Hollyoaks as Theresa McQueen

y ideal man is ross between ewis Capaldi nd Mr Blobby

Says JORGIE PORTER



SOMEONE LIKE LEW . . . singer Capaldi



HEY, MISTER . . . she loves Blobby's naughtiness

now can I be unlucky when I'm ly happy being single?
ere are times when I miss the es and having presents bought e and meals cooked for me but plenty of time for a man.
glad I've not settled down at a age, married, got divorced and o deal with the heartbreak.
d to be honest I'm probably one he most immature people you'll r meet – but I love that.
"I don't want to be mature. I don't want to be an adult. I don't have a filter. There are no censors with me."

Apart from a good sense of umour, what else does she look in a man?

ie says: "I'm quite old-fashioned like to be chased. I don't like guys to be too preened. When they pluck their eyebrows, that's a step too far. I don't like all this manscaping stuff. I like them to be a bit rougher, but not so rough that they don't wash!

"They would have to brush their teeth regularly but I'd be OK with them wearing the same outfit two days in a row."

'Most of the guys on Tinder were catfishy'

Jorgie's recent dating adventures have been hampered by her own celebrity, with an attempt at finding love on Tinder ending in disaster.

Her mates cancelled her account, thinking it had been set up by a fan.

The experience was similar to that of Hollywood star Sharon Stone, whose profile on dating app Bumble was deleted as it was thought to be fake. Jorgie said: "I got Sharon Stoned on Tinder. No one believed it was me.

"People were messaging me going, 'There's a fake of you on Tinder. But don't worry, we've reported it and we've cancelled it'.

"I was like, 'No, it really is me'.

"I didn't get any dates and most of the people getting in touch were a bit catfishy, which was weird."

Another big downside to looking for love online is the avalanche of nude photos Jorgie received from men.

She said: "Why would anyone want that? There's no way, ever, that would ever attract me to say, 'Thanks for the d**k pic. Let's meet on Thursday at this restaurant'.

"And it can be really embarrassing if you open the pictures in public. I've been in queues before when I've suddenly gone, 'Oh, my God, this has just appeared. That's awkward'."

And Jorgie insists that even if she fails to find love with Lewis – or Mr Blobby – she won't stop flaunting her curves. She said: "Will I still be posing in my underwear when I'm 40 or will I be wearing buttoned-up cardigans and looking after three children?

"Even if I do have three kids, I'll still pose in my underwear. There are no rules.

"As long as I'm happy, and can live life and say, 'I'm glad I did that – I'm proud of myself, and my mum's proud', then there are no limits."

● **To subscribe to Jorgie Porter and Samira Mighty's Loose Lips podcast, visit play.acast.com/s/looselips.**

the Sunday

THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO COME . . .



Mrs Crunch Lunch
Pages 36 & 37



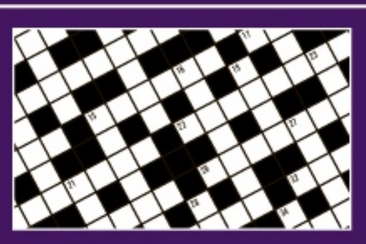
Mr Money
Page 38



Paws & Claws
Page 39



Motors
Pages 40 & 41



Puzzles
Pages 42 to 44



Dear Deidre
Page 45



Travel
Pages 47 to 49

PLUS 35 pages of Sport

STARS such as Jennifer Aniston and Kim Kardashian swear by cannabidiol oil (CBD) to boost the immune system, and now it is being hailed as a beauty hero. The global market is valued at tens of billions of pounds. Here are some health and beauty products that carry the "wonder drug".

you

HEALTH



with JANE ATKINSON



MONTANA No.1 CBD Tincture claims to help with anxiety, stress and depression. While it is not a cure, it can improve symptoms and helps to regulate other systems in our body, such as sleep, appetite, mood and pain. A few drops under the tongue each day and I felt calm yet clear. *(£95, 15ml, montanawellness.co)*



GREEN Goddess Bliss Bar is made from 54 per cent dark chocolate and natural vanilla flavouring. It also contains 10mg of The Tonic CBD. The idea? Serotonin is released when you eat chocolate, while you get stress relief from the CBD. With 225kcal, it was delicious – though it is pricier than ordinary chocolate. *(£3.99, 50g, greengoddesswellness.com)*



KOLIBRI CBD Cocktails are tasty and alcohol-free. Their health benefits range from relaxation and clarity to general wellbeing. Available in smoky tasting Dark Forest and zesty Citrus Grove, they are best served over ice. *(£5.99, 300ml, hollandandbarrett.com)*

BEAUTY



with GABRIELLA STEIN



BUDGET: ***(Bybi CBD Booster, £12, 15ml, boots.com)*** – A calming face oil, high in antioxidants and ideal for sensitive or blemish-prone skin. It has a slight earthy scent and contains just two ingredients – hemp seed oil and cannabidiol. Can be used alone or added to your moisturiser. This soothed my skin, particularly on days when I suffered breakouts.



MID: ***(Herbivore Emerald Deep Moisture Glow Oil, £42, 29ml, cultbeauty.co.uk)*** **–** This is a lightweight oil containing cannabis sativa seed oil, cannabis essential oil and antioxidant-rich ingredients such as wild shitake mushroom and squalene. It has an earthy and slightly sweet smell and the non-greasy formula absorbed well. It balanced my oily skin after just a few days. My favourite.



LUXURY: ***(Radical Skincare Rejuvafirm CBD Facial Oil £64, 30ml reduced from £80, lookfantastic.com)*** **–** Promises to soothe irritation, encourage cell activity and correct the appearance of sun damage. I found this super-nourishing and it appeared to plump the skin out, disguising finer lines. Worth the price tag.

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the Sunday



PANTASTIC . . . try your eggs in a tasty omelette, or one of our great easy-to-make treats

the Mrs Crunch



GREAT VALUE RECIPES IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Breakfast calzones



(Serves 8 – £1.21 per serving)
Preparation time: 10 minutes.
Cooking time: 10 minutes.

YOU NEED:
4 vegetarian sausages
7 large eggs
160g baby spinach
60g ricotta
125g grated Cheddar
400g pizza dough (for a gluten-free option, use Morrisons Free From mix)

METHOD: Cook the sausages and cut down the middle into halves. Season and leave to rest. Scramble six of the eggs & ricotta, season and leave to rest. Thinly roll out the pizza dough and cut into eight squares approximately six inches wide. Layer each square with the spinach leaves. In four of the pizza dough squares, equally place the sausage halves on top of the spinach, sprinkle over the cheese.

Brush the edges of the pizza dough with an egg wash, fold over the pizza dough and crimp the edges to make small calzones.

In the remaining four pizza dough squares, equally place the egg mixture on top of the spinach.

Brush the edges of the pizza dough with an egg wash, fold over the pizza dough, crimp the edges to make small calzones.

Cook for five to ten minutes or until the pizza dough is cooked through and golden brown. Serve hot with a garnish of your choice.

TIP MAKE these the day before and warm them up in the oven for a fast brunch.

DON'T MISS Mrs Crunch PULLOUT EVERY THURSDAY

Veg out on eggs

LET'S hear it for the eggs in these great veggie recipes.

We bought 6.6billion eggs last year and the British Egg Industry Council says sales have grown every year since 2006.

Eggs are also a vital source of protein, iron and vitamin B12 for veggies.

I told last week how Morrisons has become the first big supermarket chain to have only free range eggs on its shelves – just one more reason to enjoy these easy, eggy, veggie recipes. So, what are you waiting for – it's time to getting cracking!



RECIPES TO GIVE A HEALTHY BOOST

Chickpea, red pepper & egg hash



(Serves 2– £2.79 per serving)
Preparation time: 10 minutes.
Cooking time: 15 minutes.

YOU NEED:
1 tbsp olive oil
1 onion, halved and sliced
1 can chickpeas
4 eggs
1 tsp cumin Seeds
4 roasted red peppers, from a jar and cut into chunks
Zest of ½ lemon
1 handful chopped mint leaves
2 flatbread

METHOD: Heat the olive oil in a frying pan, then cook the onion for 12-15 minutes.

Add chickpeas, cumin and peppers, season well with salt and pepper and cook for a few more minutes.

Create spaces in the pan for the eggs. Crack the eggs into the pan, cover for a few minutes then scatter over the chopped mint leaves and lemon zest.

Serve with the flatbreads.

TIP **THIS quick, simple and healthy vegetarian dish is a perfect pick-me-up for those dull winter days.**

Lunch

Morrisons

Dark chocolate and sea salt biscotti



(Makes 14 – 53p per biscuit)
Preparation time: 30 minutes.
Cooking time: 50 minutes.

YOU NEED:
250g plain flour
½ tsp baking powder
250g caster sugar
3 medium eggs
1 tsp sea salt, coarse
50g dark chocolate, melted
58g milk chocolate chips
58g white chocolate chips
58g plain chocolate chips

METHOD: Remember to melt your chocolate and beat your eggs before you start. Mix together the flour, sugar, salt and baking powder in a bowl.

Add the beaten eggs and the cooled, melted chocolate then mix to form a dough.

Mix in the chocolate chips and divide the dough into two even pieces.

Knead dough gently on a floured surface to form thick sausage shapes. Place them on a baking tray lined with parchment paper.

Leave space between the two pieces of dough or use two trays, as the dough will spread. Bake at 160C for 30 minutes then allow to cool. Slice diagonally, approximately 2cm thick, and place the slices back on to the baking tray and bake for a further 20 minutes. Allow to cool.

TIP **THESE are the ideal indulgence with an afternoon cup of coffee.**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH Morrisons



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GADGET OF THE WEEK
Marshall Monitor II headphones, £279.99, marshallheadphones.com

Pros: Cool design, long battery life.
Cons: Pricey.

MARSHALL is well known for its guitar amps has also branched out into speakers and headphones.

And its latest Monitor II cans have such top-end features as active noise cancelling (ANC) – pitting Marshall against market leaders Sony and Bose – plus a 45-hour battery life and the option to control what you play with your voice. A gold control knob on the right earphone lets you control songs and volume and accept calls.

Just above it is the 'M' button – press and hold it, then speak a command to play your favourite playlist, read text messages or give you directions.

On the other side is the ANC button to toggle between active noise cancelling, monitoring mode, which lets you hear background noise, or turn it off.

And with the Marshall app, you can adjust the level of noise-cancelling, so you can block out the racket on a busy train but make sure you can hear a speeding car when crossing the road. They are also comfy, which is an issue with big, over-the-ear cans. Plus, they are £20 cheaper than Sony's top-rated WH-1000XM3 cans, and they match up to them, as well as looking a bit cooler.

There is 30 hours' play time with the noise cancellation and up to 45 hours without. Just 15 minutes of charge gives five hours of music.

They're on pre-order now and are due to hit the shops on March 17.



HUAWEI'S new Mate Xs foldable smartphone will go on sale this month – at a hefty £2,229.

It's the Chinese firm's second folding phone. Like last year's Mate X, which was not launched in Britain, it has screens on the front and back, which can be unfolded to join together to make an 8in tablet-sized display.



Huawei's trade ban in the US means it can no longer use Google apps – including maps, YouTube and gmail – so it has begun building up its own app store, Huawei AppGallery.

It comes after Samsung launched its £1,300 foldable Galaxy Z Flip, which is a similar size to modern smartphones, opens vertically and has a 6.7in display.



mrmoney@the-sun.co.uk
EDITED BY DANIEL JONES

CONSUMER NEWS

mrmoney

SPECIALIST JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Follow me on twitter @danieljonessun



Earn a few notes

THE new £20 notes – featuring artist JMW Turner – are now in circulation. And the right ones are worth a lot more than that.

Banknotes with early serial numbers are very popular with collectors.

The very first one, bearing the code AA01 000001, is given to the Queen. But serial numbers close to that could net you a healthy profit online.

The unique code is on the back of the note. Here are six other sought-after banknotes that give maximum bang for your buck.

WHY THAT NEW £20 COULD SELL FOR ££££s

1. 888888 £5 note

Value: Up to £150 – A rare £5 note with a serial number of 888888 recently sold on eBay for £149.02.

Listed on the auction site with its face value as the starting price, it got 19 bids in total.

The winning bid was almost 30 times higher.

Check to see if your note has an eye-grabbing serial number like this.



2. AK47 £5 note

Value: Up to £93 – Some gun-mad collectors like notes with an AK47 serial number, a nod to the AK-47 assault rifle.

One such note recently sold on eBay for £93.09 after attracting eight bids.

But beware if you are selling a similar one online. In 2016, Gareth Wright sold an AK47 fiver for an astonishing £80,000 on eBay.

It was too good to be true. The buyer did not pay up and admitted he bid as a wind-up.



3. AA01 M Lowther £10 note

Value: Up to £65 – The Merlyn Lowther and Charles Darwin paper tenners were replaced by a Jane Austen polymer in 2017.

Shoppers were urged to change old notes for new but you may still have an old bill at home. This particular one sold for £65 on eBay, although it is not entirely clear why.

It was uncirculated, meaning it looked brand-new and had no handling folds or creases.

Or perhaps collectors were keen because it was printed in 2000 with an AA01 serial code, making it one of the first to be printed in the new millennium.



4. Jane Austen £10 note with low serial numbers

Value: Up to £44 – The polymer tenners don't seem to be as popular as the fivers but some will net you profit.

Notes with low serial numbers – typically starting AA01 – are valuable as being among the first to be printed in a run. A note bearing AA01 442444 recently sold for £43.31.



5. 'James Bond' £5 note

Value: Up to £28 – Collectors love serial numbers featuring the fictional spy's famous 007 tag. Three years ago, one with the serial number AK37 007012 sold for £5,000 on eBay. But the highest bid this year on the so-called "Bond note" is a more modest £28.



6. Jane Austen £5 notes

Value: Up to £5,000 – In 2016, the Bank of England launched the new polymer £5 note, featuring Winston Churchill.

Micro-artist Graham Short engraved a tiny portrait of author Jane Austen into the hologram on just five notes.

He donated one to the Jane Austen Museum in Chawton, Hants, but spent the other four in local stores and cafes around the country before letting the public know what he had done.

The notes were estimated to be worth up to £50,000 apiece, sparking a nationwide treasure hunt. Three have been tracked down so far. Are **YOU** sitting on the fourth?

If so, you could net a tidy profit, although not nearly as high as that initial estimate. The most a Short note has sold for – so far – is £5,000 at a charity auction.



MEANING OF UNIQUE CODES

THE first four characters on a banknote (such as AA01) are known as the cypher.

It represents that note's position on a sheet when it was printed, according to the Bank of England.

With 60 notes to a sheet, the first run of any note is printed on a sheet with cyphers going from AA01 to AA60.

We tend to think the "serial number" is the full ten-character run of letters and numbers on each note. But actually the serial number is only the six digits following the cypher. This six-digit code refers to the sheet number on which the note is printed.

Just under a million serial numbers are printed for each cypher, from 000001 to 999000.

That means there will be just under 60million notes beginning AA, before the cypher changes to AB.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH Tails.com

paws & claws



Star of the week

LOVE conquers all and Max was saved from the streets as his owner went to a Spanish wedding.

Max, a cross between a Yorkshire terrier and Jack Russell, was spotted by Nicolle Begovic, 33, at a pal's wedding last year in Andalucia with her hubby.

The dressage rider and trainer couldn't leave the pup roaming in 30C heat.

So after a local vet declared him abandoned, she flew Max, *above*, to Paris and rented a car to drive back to their home in Ockham, Surrey, where the pooch is now settled.

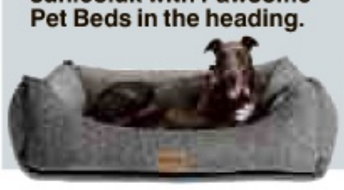
Nicolle says: "We drove, via Eurotunnel, arriving to a gloriously sunny Folkestone before making our way home.

"It was a challenging trip to say the least, with so much paperwork, security and all the gear I had in tow.

"But for Max I'd do it 1,000 times over without a second thought."

WIN PET BED

SLEEPEEZEE has teamed up with The Sun to offer two lucky dog owners the chance to win a large basket bed – the first that can be washed at 60C – and a blanket, worth £150. For your chance to win, email sundaypets@the-sun.co.uk with Pawsome Pet Beds in the heading.



The ha-ha Chihuaha

DOGS CHEER PATIENTS

By LUCY MURGATROYD

PROUDLY wearing his staff name badge, Bailey is one of 11 "wonder dogs" who cheer up patients at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The Chihuahua is one of the "hospital companions" provided by QEHB Charity who visit patients suffering from dementia and cancer.

Its spokesman Alistair McIntosh says: "A cuddle and fuss of a four-legged friend brings a smile to everyone's faces – even when they are facing difficult things.

"Each of the dogs have their own staff name badge, which they proudly wear. They are all invaluable members of our team – although Bailey's name badge is almost bigger than him!"

In 2018, the Pets In Hospital scheme was put in place to improve welfare of their older patients.

It has been such a resounding success the dogs have started rounds at the nearby Good Hope Hospital in Birmingham, too, wearing their uniform of bright green coats.

'Huge impact'

Alistair says: "We're really keen to make sure that people are aware that this is an official scheme at the hospital and that these dogs are being checked, they're hygienic, well trained, have the right temperament to be in our hospital and their owners, too.

"People aren't allowed to bring dogs on to wards without permission so having them badged up as members of staff is really important. The dogs are very much a part of our team, in the same way you'll trust any other member of staff with a badge on."

To make sure the potential dogs are fit for the job, dog day care centre PawPounders help assess each pooch to see if they have the right temperament.

Bailey is regularly joined by ten other dogs including Stella a six-year-old Maremma sheepdog, Monty the eight-year-old rescue dog, who is a mongrel, and Ozzy the Collie cross German Shepherd.

The different breeds are a deliberate choice as the hospital looks after a variety of different patients. Alistair says: "Having a visit from a friend with a wet nose, four legs and a wagging tail allows the patients to engage in contact with someone who isn't a clinical member of staff and have a chat about other things besides their treatment."



TOP DOG . . . Bailey in staff uniform

Reminiscence is also a key part of the visits as patients with early stage dementia are encouraged to bring back memories of their earlier life – especially if they have owned a dog.

They also visit the young person's cancer unit, which allows 16-25-year-olds to join together in social activity as they can chat to owners, other patients and, of course, have a cuddle with a furry friend.

Mayisha Begum, 19, of Hollywood, Birmingham, is being treated for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia – and her visits from Stella made her treatment just a bit more bearable.

She says: "She's amazing, I just love her paws. I wish she was here when I got diagnosed two years ago, she would've really helped me then."

As the dogs continue to "spread smiles across the hospital", the plan is to extend the project across the Trust – but they are dependant on donations from the public to achieve this. Alistair says: "We'd love to see projects like this rolled out across the UK because the impact we've seen in our hospital has been fantastic."

For more information see hospital charity.org/petsinhospital.

Pet VET SEAN McCORMACK

SEAN McCormack, head vet at tailored food firm tails.com, is on a mission to help pets.

BEN JACOBS, 43 from Windermere, Cumbria, has a four-year-old cat called Al that loves affection, but gets very cross if you touch his tail.

Q Why do cats have certain zones they don't like being stroked? The base of Al's tail is an unacceptable place to pet him, but he loves a belly rub. What's going on?

A Al is unusual because it's the reverse pattern of "Yes human, that's acceptable" vs "I'm going to kill you if you touch me there" for most cats. It's just to do with their individual comfort zones and what feels good.

The base of the tail is often a sweet spot and most cats love it if you give it a scratch. But a cat with lower spinal discomfort, elderly cats with arthritis for example, would absolutely hate it because it might lead to pain.

Belly tickling tends to be a no-go zone, but if kittens enjoy it growing up then they may tolerate it into adulthood, too.

Work out what floats your cat's boat, and avoid the danger zones if you don't want to get scratched.

JACK COHEN, 44, from Isleworth, South West London, has a Siberian cat with unusual drinking habits.

Q My cat Billy likes to drink out of the toilet. Why does he do that when he has a bowl with fresh clean water to quench his thirst?

A This might seem nasty to us, but to your cat it's a freshwater stream that's constantly replenished.

Cats have ultra-sensitive tastes; the fluoride or other trace chemicals found in kitchen drinking water can be enough to put them off. Even the faint metallic taste of water in a metal bowl can be off-putting. Water supplying our toilets and bathroom taps often won't have the same chemical tang.

Another preference is for running water over still or stagnant. Many cats will demand the taps are turned on in the bathroom sink before they'll take a drink. Cat drinking fountains can be a good idea as can keeping the toilet lid down to prevent access.

Send your questions for the Pet Vet to sundaypets@the-sun.co.uk

Mystic Meg



Visit thesun.co.uk/mysticmeg to download free apps and much more

ARIES March 21 – April 20

Don't promise or spend too much, as simple friendships matter most and will lead you to the right people and places. Clear space around you, both emotionally and practically. Passion is neutral on the surface but underneath it sizzles. An audience for your words is coming closer as each day passes.

TAURUS April 21 – May 21

Prepare for a hot romance as Venus moves into your sign and gifts you with the moves to win (or win back) the lover you need. This may not be who you think you want, so tune into your heart. A CV or job application rises above the rest as Mercury helps you make a unique mark. Don't downplay your skills, talk them up!

GEMINI May 22 – June 21

You are a wild and mysterious mix of the moon's hidden depths and Saturn's straight-talking. You are honest about what is on your mind and in your heart. This time, other people's issues will not distract you. Love unlocks a secret level and partners fall head over heels again. Single? Midnight or midday is love time.

CANCER June 22 – July 22

Your face and name are being viewed by VIP eyes, so be ready to impress them in person. Being yourself is enough. A location with a numbered name links you to special luck. Venus prepares for a public show of love and a local artist's shop or display can mark the spot. If you are single, let your mate "T" pick you a date.

LEO July 23 – August 23

You have had quite enough of guessing games and need a firm answer. In work teams and friend groups, Mercury helps you get the right words to the right ears, kickstarting change. Venus glows in your success sector, so be confident about dramatic new love plans. Then your partner will be, too.

VIRGO August 24 – September 22

As Love lessons line up, each one makes you stronger and more secure. Don't side-step challenging situations – you will shine. As your risk-taking chart responds to calm, capable planets, you are a great judge and can make cool choices even while others fret. A new fitness plan works for your mind and your body.

LIBRA September 23 – October 23

Deep down, you know what you need from love and what you are prepared to give. A delayed decision is back on while a solo journey turns into something shared. Out-there ideas deserve more time, as Mercury develops ongoing concerns. The moon's path points to luck with a learning or travelling team.

SCORPIO October 24 – November 22

Venus' move into your partnership sector inspires you to make up and wake up, so passion is brighter all round. Physical bonding is so simple but you also have skills in emotional connections. Two hearts are in tune with each other. In talks both personal and professional, focus on the destination but don't fear diversions.

SAGITTARIUS November 23 – December 21

A strong learning strand in your chart makes you one to watch at work, as you gently absorb information and find clever ways to share it. Venus brings peace to health questions that have been playing on your mind. A moon-and-sun clash creates energy around family choices. Seek out positive ways to make use of it.

CAPRICORN December 22 – January 20

Accepting that not everyone around you will agree on a cash decision is a breakthrough that opens your mind to new ways forward, shooting you to the top of a must-know list. Your love profile is quirky, original and how you show your feelings appeals to a local famous face. Writing from the heart will win prizes.

AQUARIUS January 21 – February 18

As Venus inhabits your security zone, you feel confident in love choices, whether between family and friends or in a passion bond. End this period of indecision and follow your heart. If you are single, this leads to a role within a charity. Your sign hosts a positive Mercury reversal – leaving time to talk romance rules.

PISCES February 19 – March 20

Your persuasion skills come together to talk your way in or out of a special role. You are well-placed to help someone close find the right words. There is warmth in your communication style that can thrive on-screen, so look into this. Meanwhile, you don't need certain friends as much as they need you. Keep that in mind.

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biker



John Hogan



TRACER IS ON THE MARK

YAMAHA TRACER 700

THIS is one of the best value for money motorcycles you can buy.

Here's why. First off, it looks a million times better than the old one.

Gone is the boggle-eyed, gangly-looking little brother to the Tenere 1200 that the old model was, replaced instead with a sharp, sculpted modern-looking design that should stand the test of time.

That small screen is adjustable, you can get at it with one hand and it does a reasonable job of keeping the wind off.

Lively acceleration

Looks aren't the only improvements over the old model, the motor has been breathed on, too.

Granted, it only makes 73bhp, but it manages to make the most of the available power with squeaky clean fuelling and lively acceleration thanks to the couple of extra teeth on the rear sprocket.

The parallel twin motor is a willing partner for all kinds of riding.

Round town you can stick it in third and keep your head down, torque will pull you about no problem.

Out of town you can rev it to the moon and have some fun.

Peak power is 8,750rpm but I found there was useable drive all the way to the 10,250 limit.

Even when you get to it, it's a soft limiter that you can sit on without shaking your fillings out.

Small tweaks to the rider ergonomics mean that your hands are slightly further forward and a touch wider apart than the old model but you'd be hard pushed to notice that.

I certainly think the change in tank shape made my legs feel more comfortable, I liked being able to grab the tank with my knees in the twisties.

I'm not entirely sure we spent any time riding in a straight line at all, curve after curve and the Tracer 700 lapped it up.

I got the feeling it really is a do-it-all kind of bike. That opening line about value for money? How does £89 a month on PCP sound? Or £7,799 if you want to own it.

This bike is a little cracker.

● John is the editor at SuperBike and presents Bike World on YouTube.

braking news



Rachel Burgess

● QUIRKY car alert: the Citroen Ami, *right*, is an electric two-seater with a tiny 47-mile range for town living. Classed as a quadricycle, no driving licence is needed to drive it. Not yet confirmed for the UK, it will arrive in Europe in the summer through purchase, car-sharing or rental. Please bring it here.



● THE coronavirus outbreak has scuppered the Geneva Motor Show – Europe's most prominent – and now car firms are scrabbling around trying to launch more than 60 new models online on Tuesday. These will include the VW Touareg R – a 456bhp plug-in hybrid, which will hit 0-62mph in five seconds flat.

● AS for small SUVs, Merc were due to launch the most powerful one yet. The GLA 45 has a stonking AMG-tuned 416bhp 2-litre turbo with torque vectoring all-wheel drive. Yours for £52k.

● LAND Rover has confirmed pricing for the entry-level Defender. The two-door 90 model starts from a steep £40,290. Watch this space for a truly affordable Defender in the next few years.

● Rachel is deputy editor at Autocar magazine.

GROWN-UP TIGUAN

Key facts:
VW TIGUAN ALLSPACE
Price: **£37,210**
Engine: **2-litre turbo diesel**
Power: **150hp, 340Nm**
0-62mph: **9.8 secs**
Top speed: **123mph**
Economy: **40mpg**
CO2: **146g/km**
Out: **Now**

I WILL never understand the missus.

I was convinced she'd like the VW Tiguan Allspace, especially as she owns a Polo.

But no. She thought it looked boring and a bit dated and she wasn't fussed about the interior, either.

She did concede that it had lots of space, though, and she was impressed by the 5+2 seating.

That's the key difference between a Tiguan Allspace and a standard Tiguan.

It has a third row of seats – but they are strictly for little humans and short runs without luggage.

The Allspace also has bigger rear doors for easier access. Personally, I like the understated styling. I think it looks more grown up than other shouty me-too SUVs.

But we did agree that it drove like a typically sensible VW.

The 2-litre diesel returned just below 40mpg with reasonable performance. There is something called SCR (Selective Catalytic Reduction) tech to trap nasty NOx. So, it's as clean as many petrols.

Ride and handling is fine, too, and this test car had the added insurance of four-wheel drive, making it ideal transport for a growing family in winter.

The cabin has a solid, quality feel to it



PEUGEOT IS BACK ON FORM

Lion king

IT wasn't so long ago that Peugeot made dull cars for dull people.

Ugly things, drab to drive, so much so that the old Top Gear team did a whole episode rubbishing them in 2015 and lamenting how things had gone from so good to so bad.

If you remember, Clarkson and May drove around, crashing into things, in a 307 CC and 407. Both hideous cars.

Well, now look what Peugeot is doing. This 2008 is the French firm's Nissan Juke/Ford Puma/VW T-Cross rival and it is chuffing terrific.

How Peugeot has gone from the old 2008, which was only launched in 2013, to this in the space of seven years, is beyond me.

I mean, look at it. Sharp lines. Bright colours. Quality detailing. A rakish, upswept window line. There's not much else in class to match it for looks.

And there are quite a few larger and dearer SUVs which can't hold a candle to the Pug for aesthetics, either. It's even better inside. Peugeot's 3D digital instrument cluster sits proudly in front of the driver, while there's decent space in the back for actual adults and a 434-litre boot.

Strength to strength

The fit and finish are excellent, the driving position is spot on, and the technology/equipment levels are generous.

Speaking of which, this is the GT-Line with the charming three-

MISSUS THE TARGET



combined with a comprehensive list of equipment including 8in touchscreen, digital binnacle and all sorts of connectivity and driver assistance tech.

But you pay for it. This Match trim cost £37,210 and you can soon get carried away ticking boxes and working your way up to the big-daddy R-Line at £45k.

The Tiguan faces stiff competition in an ever-increasing SUV market but the VW name still sells – despite Dieselgate – because motorists see it as the premium mainstream brand.

One final interesting fact. Tiguan was VW's top seller globally for a brief period last year – but is No3 in Britain, behind Golf and Polo.

Further proof, if needed, that SUVs are part of today's uniform and further proof that the missus is always right.

KEN GIBSON



EDITED BY **ROB GILL** @robgillUK

Sun motors



cylinder, 130hp petrol engine. This combination of willing turbo motor and sporty specification is what Peugeot reckons most UK 2008 buyers will go for.

That means finding £26,000 just to start with, while my tester was fitted with other odds and sods, like adaptive cruise and a panoramic roof, which took it closer to £28k.

Brilliantly, the 2008 is light – less than 1,200kg – which improves everything.

And by that I mean ride and handling and refinement and close to 50mpg if you're gentle with the loud pedal.

After the 3008, 508 and 208, this 2008 is confirmation that the Lion is, to quote an old ad campaign, once again going from strength to strength.

Dull cars for dull people? There are plenty of those about but the Peugeot 2008 GT-Line is emphatically not one of them.

In fact, it's one of the best crossovers you can buy.

Top work.

Key facts:

PEUGEOT 2008 GT-LINE

Price: **£27,600**

Engine: **1.2-litre turbo petrol**

Power: **131hp, 230Nm**

0-62mph: **8.9 secs**

Top speed: **122mph**

Economy: **43mpg**

CO2: **103g/km**

Out: **Now**

ask alfie



Used car specialist

Q&A

Send your questions to motors@the-sun.co.uk

Q I HAVE a 2012 Renault Sport Clio 200 Cup, which I've had since 2014.

It has only done 21,000 miles and is pristine. I'm thinking of selling, but a car enthusiast friend told me they might appreciate in value. Should I keep it, or sell it in the spring?

ANDREW CARMAN

A Andy, that sounds like a minter and with that mileage, if you decide to sell you should be asking around nine large.

That's top dollar for the brilliant old 200 Cup, although your friend has given you sage advice.

As it was a mainstream model with no cap on build numbers, it's unlikely to skyrocket to telephone numbers – personally I'd keep it.

Q I REALISE Mazda MX-5s are common but I need your advice. I have a 2.0-litre soft-top, red, I am the second owner from new.

It's a 2009 59-plate, with only 15,000 miles on the clock and under the bonnet it's in showroom condition. What it's worth?

DON FEATHERSTONE

A That ought to be worth between £7,750 and £8,750.

Even though there are thousands of the little blighters, lots of people buy, own and cherish MX-5s, meaning low-mileage examples aren't that rare.

Q I'VE been given an N-reg Peugeot 605 with only 56,000 on the clock. It has some service history, in good nick and sailed through its MoT Any idea what it's worth?

DOUGLAS PALETHORPE

A Hmmm, big French cars never sold that well in the UK, although there is a diehard clique of Gallic fans who love these previously unloved wafty old barges.

Find one of them and you might get mad money for the Pug, but in reality most folk are going to see a low-demand, 25-year-old saloon.

Also, is it a V6, or a turbodiesel? Or even a 2.0-litre petrol? Stick it on my fave for unusual old metal, carandclassic.co.uk, and ask about three-five for it.



READER'S CAR OF WEEK

IF, like me, you missed the Seventies, then the poor old Vauxhall Viva didn't have the best rep – mostly because the 'HC' Mk3 models used to break down with an almost monotonous regularity.

Thing is, Vivas were an important part of the UK car-scape and they began life in 1963. This peachy little gem belongs to Lloyd Dempsey, who says: "This is my 1966 Viva 'HA' 90 De Luxe. I'm out and about in it most weekends, too."

It's a little beauty and, as a '66, one of the last of the HAs.

●Send me pictures of your own beloved motor, with details, to motors@the-sun.co.uk.

3 LUCKY DIP CARS FOR £3,500



2009 (09) Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi 90 Exclusive, 47k, Staffs (riversidecarsales.co.uk). Tidy five-seat MPV. Looks good in this colour and the Exclusive spec is top dog, so you get a shedload of toys – and a smooth 1.6 turbodiesel engine.



2009 (59) Fiat 500 1.4 16v Lounge Dualogic, 60k, Harlow, Essex (topcarsessex.co.uk). The only thing wrong is the autobox – Dualogic ain't the best. Otherwise, smart looks, high spec, punchy engine, lower-than-average mileage.



2008 (08) Mazda RX-8 40th Anniversary Edition, 38k, private seller, Gravesend, Kent (via autotrader.co.uk). It may be an old rotary-engined Mazda. But it looks in great nick, it's done hardly any miles and it's cracking to look at. Worth a flutter?

the Sunday

Your fantastic three-page

double Sun DOKU

TODAY'S TEASER CALL 0906 757 7112 FOR CLUES OR SOLUTION

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Calls cost 80p per minute from BT landlines plus network extras

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Teaser

5	3	8	7	9	4	1	2	6
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2	7	6	4	8	5	9	1	3
3	6	4	5	7	2	8	9	1
8	2	5	9	1	6	7	3	4
1	9	7	3	4	8	2	6	5

Toughie

8	9	1	5	4	3	6	7	2
2	6	3	7	8	9	1	5	4
7	4	5	6	1	2	3	9	8
3	5	6	9	7	4	8	2	1
9	2	8	1	5	6	4	3	7
1	7	4	3	2	8	9	6	5
5	3	2	8	6	1	7	4	9
6	8	7	4	9	5	2	1	3
4	1	9	2	3	7	5	8	6

MINDBENDER
Th-I-S-Tl-Es

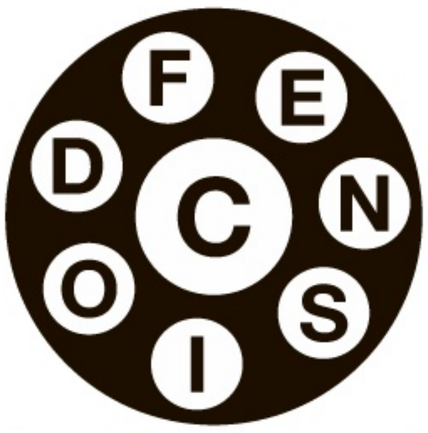
BRAINBOXER
Thirty-six minutes apart

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO . . .



OSCAR-winning actors **LUPITA NYONG'O, 37**, *pictured*, and **JAVIER BARDEM, 51**, singers **JUSTIN BIEBER, 26, KESHA, 33**, and **HARRY BELAFONTE, 93**, TV baker **PAUL HOLLYWOOD, 54**, This Life star **JACK DAVENPORT, 47**, Apollo 13 and Rush director **RON HOWARD, 66**, and The Who frontman **ROGER DALTREY, 76**.

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. Words from Collins Concise Dictionary.

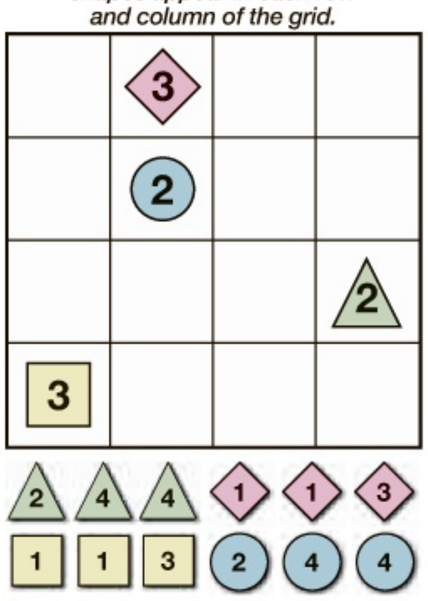
BRILLIANT: 32. EXCELLENT: 27. GOOD: 22. GREAT SCORE FOR KIDS: 18. YESTERDAY: Elytron, entry, eyot, inertly, inly, irony, lenity, linty, lory, lyre, oily, only, oyer, rely, runty, tiny, tourney, trey, troy, truly, tyre, tyro, unity, yeti, yore, your, yule, yurt.
Nine-letter word: Routinely.

Check today's answers by calling 0906 757 7145 before midnight. Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's 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, W1B 2AG

Sun KEIJO®1

Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column of the grid.



SUMTHING

Fit the missing numbers into the grid below so that all the sums are correct – reading left to right or on single lines top to bottom. There are 11 squares to fill, with one digit in each, and the 11 digits you must use are listed beneath the grid. But where do they all go?

	×		=		
+		−		−	
	+		=		
=		=		=	
	+	1	=		

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 9

Sunday quizword

ACROSS

1 A principle on which something depends (5)
4 City and port in SW England on the River Avon (7)
7 Jests or jokes (5)
10 Christopher, the first BBC Sports Personality of the Year in 1954 (8)
11 Light fluffy confection made from coloured spun sugar (10)
13 Chinese language spoken in Guangdong, Guangxi and Hong Kong (9)
14 Short tunes played on brass instruments to announce events (8)
16 Reason given for not doing something (6)
18 Old Testament book of sacred songs (6)
20 A measuring stick (5)
21 To give someone a job; hire (6)
23 Evergreen shrub with clusters of showy flowers (12)
26 Winner of five awards at the 2020 Grammys (6,6)
28 Interrupt a speaker or performer with comments (6)
30 Search for underground water using a divining rod (5)
31 Wedge-shaped bone in the lower back (6)
33 Kylie, became the world's youngest billionaire in 2019 (6)
37 Someone who copies another person (8)
39 1960 film starring the late Kirk Douglas as a slave of the Romans (9)
42 Small birds with brown plumage and black-and-white wings (10)
43 People who vigorously support their country (8)
44 A wading bird with white plumage (5)
45 Alan, second person, and first American, to travel in space (7)
46 Artificial baits used in angling (5)

DOWN

1 Vehicle with two wheels, propelled by pedalling (7)
2 Mass of eggs deposited by fish or amphibians (5)
3 Dark images or shapes cast on a surface (7)
4 Pair of straps for holding up trousers (6)
5 About to cry (7)
6 John, punk singer also known as Johnny Rotten (5)
7 Almost seedless variety of citrus fruit (5,6)
8 Device with blades, attached to a boat or aircraft (9)
9 Neither good nor bad (2-2)
12 William, astronomer who discovered Uranus (8)
15 Metal which is an alloy of copper and tin (6)
17 Nickname for a police officer (3)
19 A sports team (4)
21 To be a symbol or expression of an idea or quality (6)
22 Charles Dickens novel about the adventures of an orphan (6,5)
24 Mask or costume that conceals someone's identity (8)
25 Low, flat areas of wet land, especially in east England (4)
27 A machine for cutting grass (9)
29 A person's relatives collectively (3)
32 A funeral procession (7)
34 Resort in W Portugal; site of a motorsport race track (7)
35 Stands firm against; fights (7)
36 A thing likely to cause injury (6)
38 Small parasites of warm-blooded animals (5)
40 An organised group of singers (5)
41 An item of footwear (4)

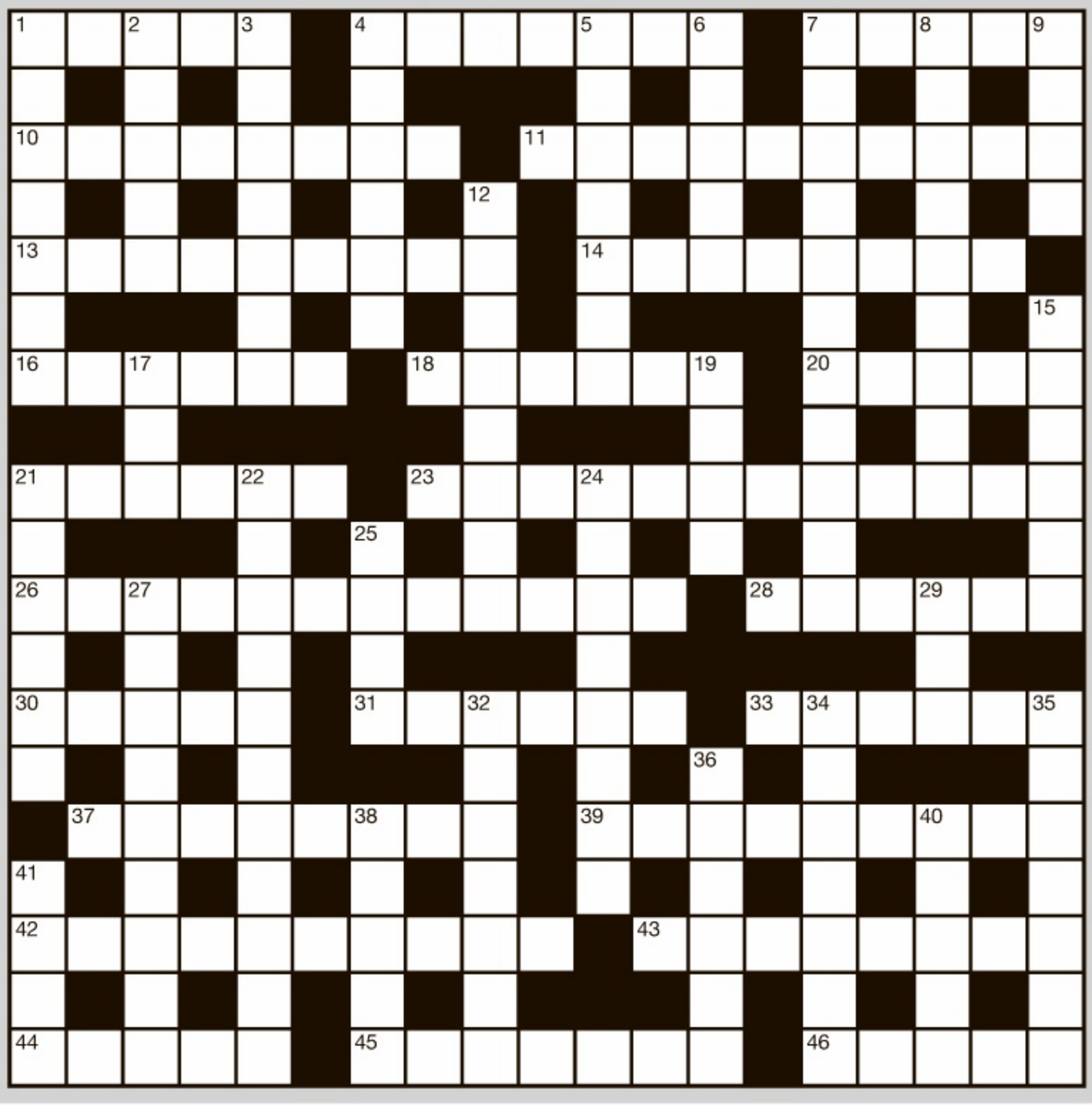
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 9 Zola, 10 Hour, 11 Cloakroom, 13 Beat It, 14 Dross, 15 Eleven, 16 Truant, 18 Sanction, 21 Claim, 22 Usher, 24 Canapé, 26 Buddleia, 27 Fructose, 30 Colman, 32 Steel, 33 Flake, 35 Cloister, 37 Sit-ups, 40 Bering, 41 Cress, 43 Woofer, 44 Macadamia, 45 Purr, 46 Esau.

DOWN: 1 Jones, 2 Mastermind, 3 Chatham, 4 Hurd, 5 Alison, 6 Talent scout, 7 Freetown, 8 Codes, 12 Porsche, 17 Toucans, 19 Blouson, 20 Spassky, 23 Raffles, 25 Venn diagram, 28 Telephones, 29 Ferries, 31 Milligan, 34 Stewart, 36 Tactic, 38 Bevan, 39 Vegas, 42 Slur.

Check today's answers before midnight by calling 0905 817 2836 for Across and 0905 817 2837 for Down. Calls cost 80p 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 0844 576 8120



bumper Puzzles section starts here ●

More puzzles than any other paper

CLUE SQUARE

Using the nine letters provided, can you answer these clues? Every answer must include the highlighted central letter. What word uses all nine letters?

C	E	H
I	S	N
R	S	T

5 letters
Board game
Quotes
Weeps
Wash out
Aroma
Severe

6 letters
Torsos
Ridges
Morals
Most pleasant
Withstand
Stink

7 letters
Bugs
Puts in
Temples

8 letters
Water tanks
Abundance

ADDERWORD

Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

1 Exhaust
2 Faucets
3 Gum
4 Most wan
5 Stationery item
6 Applies render
7 Meals
8 Javelins
9 Extra
10 Harvest
11 Average

PATHFINDER

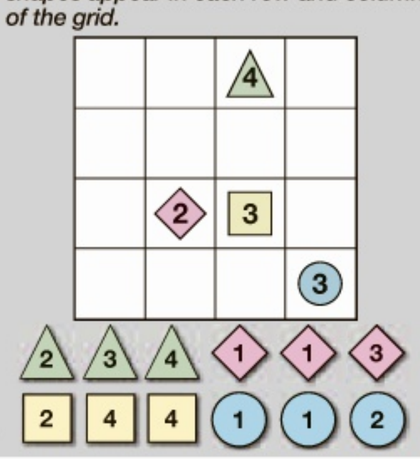
Beginning with the highlighted letter, follow a continuous path in the grid to find the listed words. The trail passes through each and every letter once, and may twist up, down or sideways, but never diagonally.

A	V	N	D	T	L	E	A	C
L	A	U	O	A	B	I	L	X
O	N	P	R	R	U	B	N	E
C	R	E	N	Q	S	T	O	G
I	L	G	I	U	E	D	R	A
V	A	U	L	R	C	N	A	L
E	N	I	M	E	E	G	E	L
V	E	A	T	O	L	A	T	N
E	R	R	T	H	U	R	T	I

ARTHUR
AVALON
DRAGON
EXCALIBUR
GUINEVERE
LANCELOT
MERLIN
PERCIVAL
QUEST
ROUND TABLE
TINTAGEL

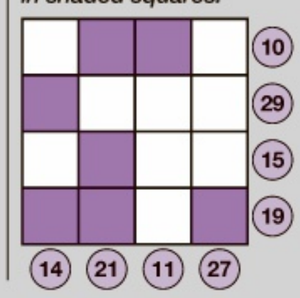
SunKEIJO®2

Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column of the grid.



EVENS

Insert any digit from 1 to 9 in the squares, so that the numbers in each row and column add up to the given totals. No digits may be repeated within a row or column, and even numbers must be placed in shaded squares.



THE NAME GAME

EACH clue leads to a well-known name. Put the initials or stated letters in the appropriate squares to identify a filmmaker:

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

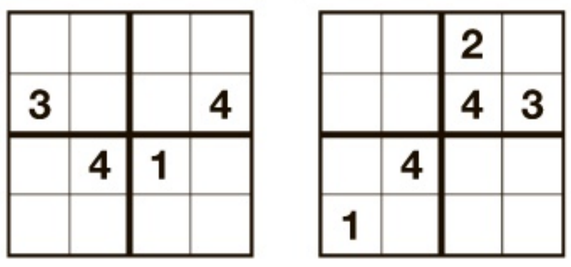
1 & 3	Radio presenter who was Chris Moyles's sidekick on Radio 1 for 14 years
2 & 8	Former footballer turned pundit; a Dancing On Ice 2020 contestant (fifth and sixth letters of surname)
4 & 7	Actress who plays Nurse Valerie Dyer in Call The Midwife (second and last letters of surname)
5 & 6	Former child actor who played Danny Torrance in the 1980 film The Shining
9 & 10	Media personality married to a former Tory MP; a contestant on the first series of I'm A Celebrity…

● Yesterday: Actor TOM SELLECK ((Derek) Thompson, Matt Evers, Sally Kellerman, (Domhnall) Gleeson, Liz Carr). Another Name Game in The Sun tomorrow.

■ If you can't wait until tomorrow for the answers, just call 0901 322 5001. Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.

MINIDOKU

As normal Sudoku using digits from 1-4.



PUB QUIZ

1 MOVIES
Who starred as the title character in 2018's superhero movie Aquaman?

2 MUSIC
What nationality was composer Antonio Vivaldi?

3 TV & RADIO
Which actor starred in classic comedies Yes Minister and The Good Life?

4 LEISURE
Which English cricket ground is the headquarters of the MCC?

5 GEOGRAPHY
The island of Key West is part of which American state?

6 SCIENCE
Which word is both the name of a computer-programming language and a unit of pressure?

7 ART & LITERATURE
Which author wrote Journey To The Centre Of The Earth?

8 CELEBRITIES
Which singer and actress was the mother of Liza Minnelli?

9 WORDS
What is a 'ketch'? a) A type of tomato b) A sailing ship c) A young nobleman

10 BRITAIN
On which London thoroughfare is Madame Tussaud's?

11 THIS YEAR
Which UK department store went into administration in January, putting over 1,000 jobs at risk?

12 POT LUCK
In financial slang, the name of what mythical creature is given to a startup company whose valuation is greater than $1bn?

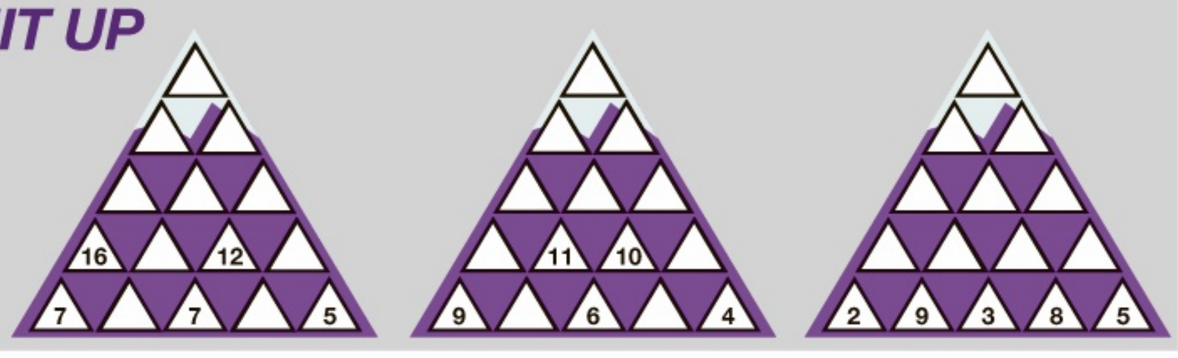
ARROWORD

The arrows show the direction in which the answer to each clue should be placed.

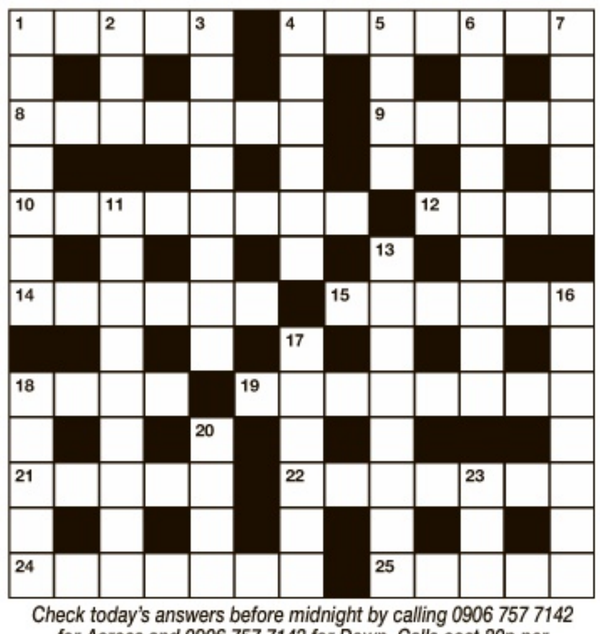
Attractive force	Tim _, actor and director	Media format (1,1,1)		Charged particle		*The Simpsons* bus driver	Employ		Taxi	Foundation		Pip or kernel
							Scratch / Gives away					
The Beeb (1,1,1)		Point / *Dawson's* _, TV show				Red, Dead, e.g. / Wide open				Auction item		Gets close to
			Biblical man					Mix together				
Sibling (abbr.) / Pastry				Tot up	Joke				Curve		Meadow	Sticky tree fluid
			In the distance					Book of charts				
Dork / Enquire					Classic sweet, _ drops					Historical age		
			Coloured liquids					Grip tightly				

SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below it, what is the top number?



Two sets of clues but the answers are the same



Check today's answers before midnight by calling 0906 757 7142 for Across and 0906 757 7143 for Down. Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

Coffee time

Across
1 Lightweight timber (5)
4 Muslim holy month (7)
8 Generally believed (7)
9 Rugby restart (5)
10 Time span (8)
12 Lean-to (4)
14 Ailment (6)
15 Sear or singe (6)
18 Confront (4)
19 Neighbouring (8)
21 Intellectual capacity (5)
22 Whim (7)
24 Outermost (7)
25 Finger or toe (5)

Down
1 Ennui (7)
2 Mouth part (3)
3 Elevation (8)
4 Incandescent (3,3)
5 Haze (4)
6 Surprise candidate (4,5)
7 Bedouin, e.g. (5)
11 Unwilling (9)
13 Discarded as useless (8)
16 Stressful situation (informal) (3,4)
17 Offer suggestions (6)
18 Moral tale (5)
20 In the past (4)
23 Record (3)

TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD

Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Some cannibals abroad in wood (5)
4 Fast Spanish fleet runs out — RN surrounds (7)
8 Said to be placed in tall grass (7)
9 King among plebs causing mêlée (5)
10 Length of time around it varies (8)
12 Shack in Slough (4)
14 Complaint of youth in spring month (6)
15 Burn causing wow in school (6)
18 Female with fantastic features (4)
19 Cadet Jan possibly very close (8)
21 Clever person hit on head (5)
22 One million beats perhaps creating sudden urge (7)
24 Radical Mike in old tree (7)
25 Figure: appreciate it (5)

Down
1 Apathy in bedroom: that's terrible (7)
2 Some Lilliputian impudence (3)
3 Your Highness? (8)
4 Socialist fiery and very popular (3,3)
5 Heard, not seen, in fog (4)
6 Unlikely winner's night-mare? (4,5)
7 Not a wild wanderer (5)
11 Slow court worker after rule broken (9)
13 Had fight — thrown out (8)
16 Host ate bananas in uncomfortable position (3,4)
17 Davies trained as counsel (6)
18 Story and great French article (5)
20 Clubs held by United — but not now? (4)
23 Journal thrown onto the fire? (3)

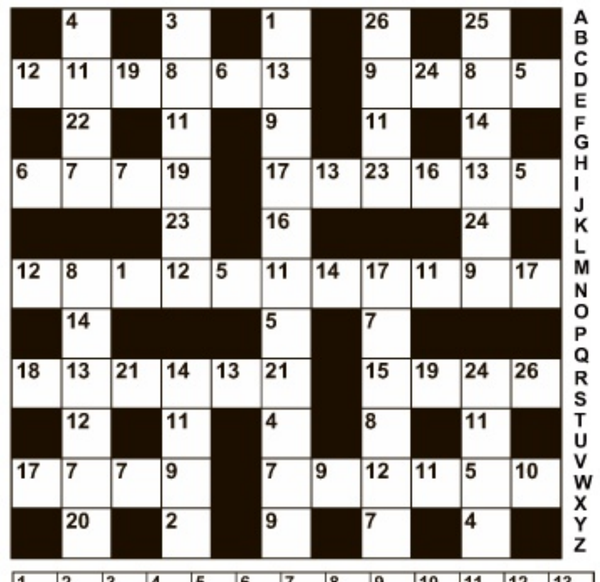
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Belt 4 Crib-bag-e 8 Bat-man 9 Fal-con 10 Alderma-n 12 Eddy 13 L-is-ten 15 Indeed 17 Ra-n-g 19 A-NEC-do-te 21 Silent 22 Pocket 23 P-ersonal 24 Date.
DOWN: 2 E-mail 3 T-e-mp-est 4 Can 5 In-fan-tile 6 Bulge 7 Geordie 11 Man-hat-tan 14 I'm-agin-e 16 De-duc-ed 18 G-uess 20 Tweet 22 Pal.

WORD WORKOUT

THIS is the world's best brainteaser, The Sun's clueless crossword.
Here is how to play: Each grid number in our Word Workout game represents a letter. So if you think 4 is the letter A, write A in all the squares with a 4. All the alphabet is used and we have supplied some letters to start you off. We will print the answers tomorrow.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS
ACROSS: Kimono, Verb, Pear, Throne, Quadrangles, Abject, Rift, Ward, Nugget.
DOWN: Wise, Horrid, Contrasting, Over, Bronze, Upbeat, Garage, Eddy, Flex.



For 4 Extra Clues Call 0901 322 5002 or text SUNWORD to 84901

Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.

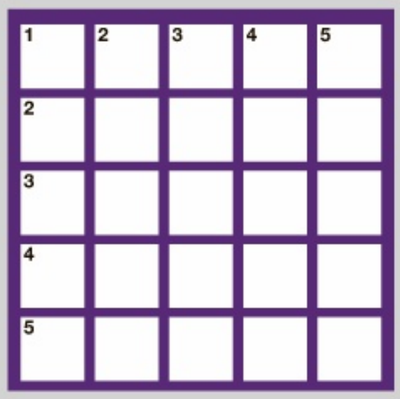
the Sunday PUZZLES

More puzzles than any other paper

WORD SQUARE

ACROSS
1 Girl's name
2 Picture
3 Money
4 Demanded
5 Birds' homes

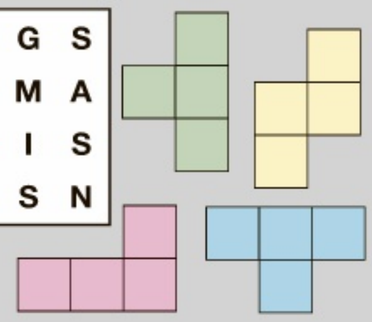
DOWN
1 Italian city
2 Entertain
3 Supports
4 Wading bird
5 W Yorkshire city



TETROMINOES

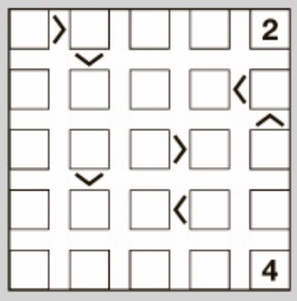
Using the given shapes, create four four-letter anagrams by dividing the grid into sections. You may rotate the shapes, but may not flip them.

B	N	G	S
S	U	M	A
Y	E	I	S
P	N	S	N



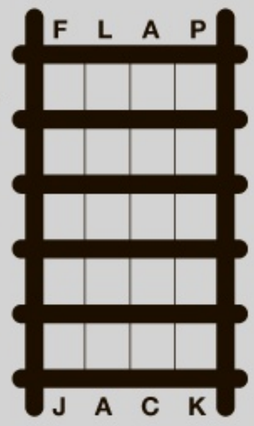
FUTOSHIKI

Use the greater than (>) and less than (<) signs to fill in the squares with the numbers 1 to 5. The same number cannot occur more than once in any row or column.



WORD LADDER

Change one letter at a time (but not the horizontal position of any letter) to make a new word – and move from the word at the top of the ladder to the word at the bottom using the exact number of rungs provided.



JUST SO

Which two well-known sayings or expressions can be found below?



(7,4)



(8)

WORDSEARCH

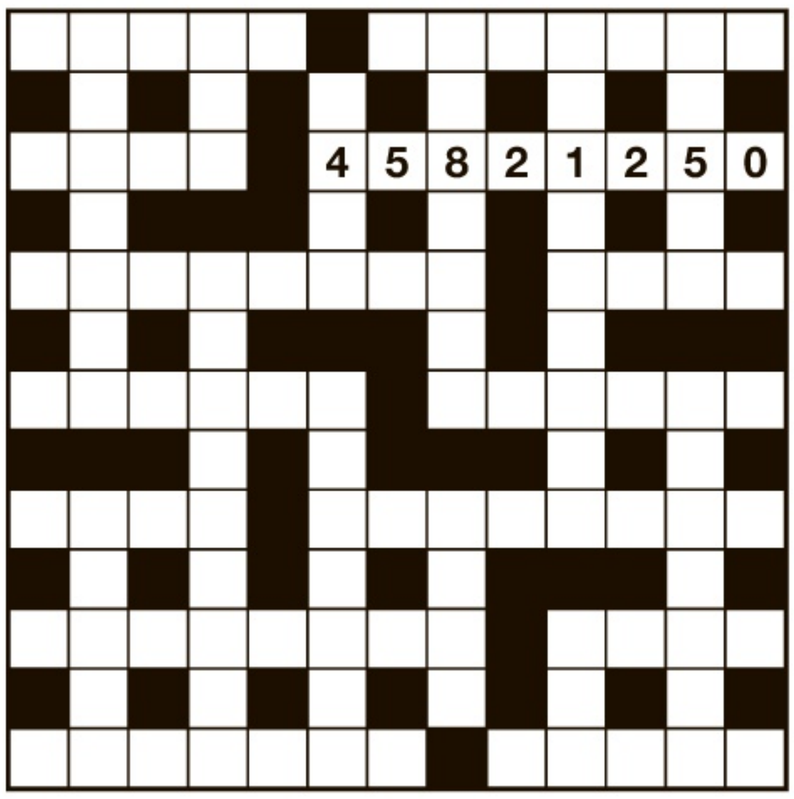
These English words of Indian origin can all be found in the grid. Words may run either forwards or backwards, in a horizontal, vertical or diagonal direction, but always in a straight, unbroken line.

X	Z	D	U	B	C	U	R	R	Y	T	H	G	I	L	B
Z	U	R	L	L	O	T	A	J	O	D	H	D	U	R	C
A	U	M	D	L	V	T	B	O	O	L	N	C	E	H	A
G	D	S	A	M	A	J	Y	P	V	E	H	Q	T	U	T
A	J	N	X	V	A	K	K	U	P	B	G	V	U	U	A
N	O	S	A	T	U	A	N	R	E	G	G	U	J	F	M
A	D	O	X	R	I	U	Q	V	Y	K	Y	O	G	A	A
D	H	A	Y	A	E	B	T	M	L	Y	T	U	J	S	R
N	P	L	C	E	Z	V	K	G	P	U	N	D	I	T	A
A	U	L	D	M	N	H	A	N	I	M	H	S	A	P	N
B	R	O	Z	M	A	T	L	J	G	K	P	P	O	L	O
Y	S	O	P	N	K	A	U	W	O	L	A	G	N	U	B
U	A	T	A	Y	T	Y	P	H	O	O	N	H	W	P	M
E	E	R	E	G	D	E	K	Y	C	E	B	K	K	A	Q
M	G	G	D	P	C	C	H	I	N	T	Z	B	A	U	Z
N	I	R	V	A	N	A	O	O	P	M	A	H	S	X	B

ATOLL
AVATAR
BANDANA
BLIGHTY
BUNGALOW
CATAMARAN
CHINTZ
CHUTNEY
CURRY
GURU
GYMKHANA
JODHPURS
JUGGERNAUT
JUTE
KHAKI
KEDGEREE
LOOT
NIRVANA
PASHMINA
POLO
PUKKA
PUNDIT
PYJAMAS
SHAMPOO
THUG
TYPHOON
VERANDA
YOGA

NUMBERFIT

All of the listed numbers fit into the grid and there's only one way to do it. One number has been provided to get you started.



3 digits
165
240

4 digits
1541
2187
4050
4540
5492
7275

5 digits
23516
23564
45620
78720

6 digits
245084
457269

7 digits
1287064
4151429
4612352
4771795
6759452
8608894

8 digits
45745798
~~45821250~~
71245652
78641240

9 digits
141743785
480850402

SOLUTIONS TO ALL PUZZLES ARE IN Sun TOMORROW

FOLLOW ON

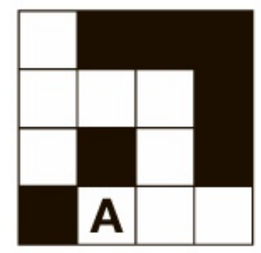
The last letter of each word will start the word below. Shaded squares reading backwards will give a country.

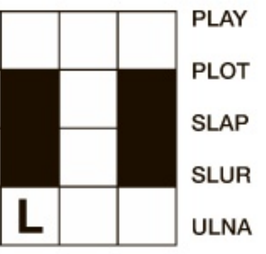
T	UB	A
A	IOL	
	NTER	
	INJ	
	BSOR	
	AL	
	AV	

MINI FIT

Which one of the listed words won't fit in each of these mini grids?

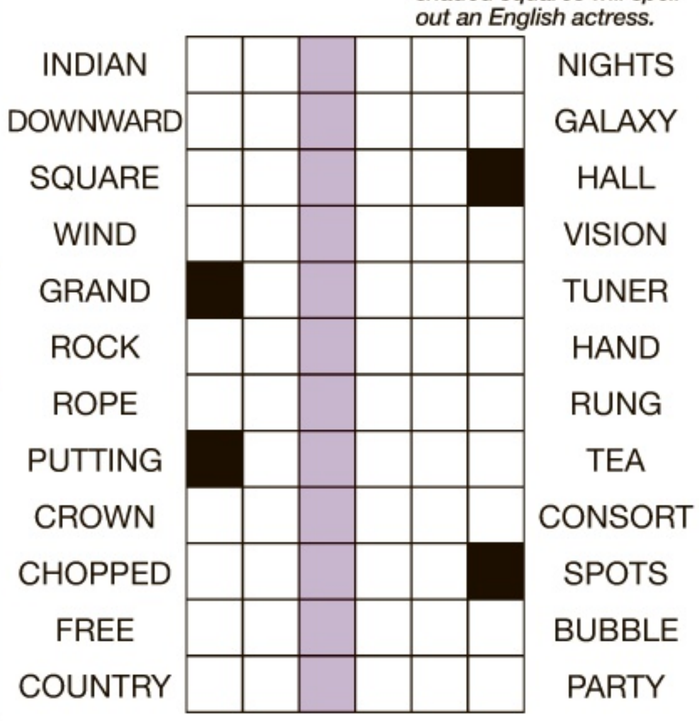
ADD
ADO
DAD
DAY
ODE





CELEBRITY WORDMATCH

Find a word that can follow the word on the left and precede the word on the right. When you have filled in all the answers, the shaded squares will spell out an English actress.



NUMBERCRUNCH

Starting at the top with the number provided, work your way down the three lines one at a time, applying all the mathematical instructions to your running total.

EASY	MEDIUM	HARDER
57	63	84
+21	+2/7 OF IT	+19
÷2	+29	DOUBLE IT
-9	+3/10 OF IT	-38
÷5	-85	+1/4 OF IT
SQUARE IT	÷2	-25
-28	-18	40% OF IT
SQUARE IT	SQUARE IT	+283
-11	-24	6/7 OF IT
ANSWER	ANSWER	ANSWER

SUNMOJI

Can you work out these picture clues?



Children's TV characters



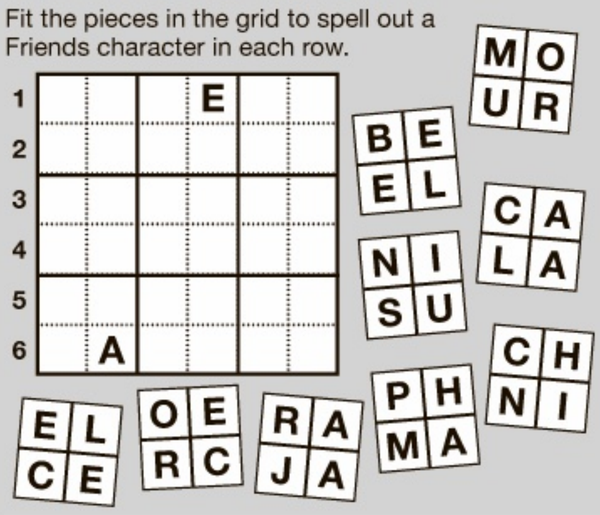
Actor and singer



Type of nut

MINI JIGSAW

Fit the pieces in the grid to spell out a Friends character in each row.



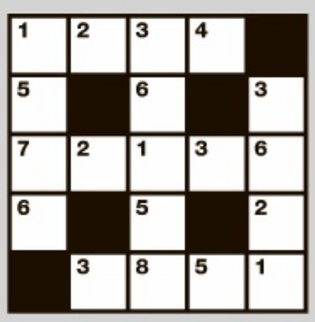
SPANNERS

Place one of the three-letter words in the spaces of each row to complete the nine-letter word. Do it correctly and the shaded squares will spell out a word.

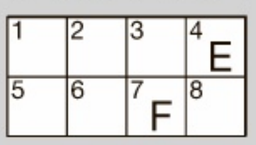
C	L	A	I				T	S	BAN
P	O	L				T	E	R	GIN
C	O				D	R	U	M	MAN
B	R	E	A				R	S	NUN
I	M	A				A	R	Y	ONE
D	I	S	H				S	T	THE
U	R				I	S	E	D	YES

MINI CODE

Eight letters have been given a number from 1 to 8. Break the code to complete the crossword.



A ~~E~~ ~~R~~ I P R S T



the Sunday



DEAR DEIDRE

thesun.co.uk

SEX CLINIC

Dear Deidre

SEX with my girlfriend has become more of a chore than a fun activity.

We're only 22, so surely we should be having a better time in bed than this?

We have been together for two years.

I want to spend my life with this girl and I do adore her, but our sex life has become repetitive and boring. We always follow the same routine and it only lasts a few minutes as it feels so dull.

I'm always the one to initiate sex. When I question why our sex life has got into this state or why she never starts it, it normally ends with my girlfriend crying and making me feel like a really awful person.

I want to make our sex life fun again but, each time I try to solve our problems and talk it through, it ends in me feeling like the bad guy.

■ **DEIDRE SAYS: I suspect the problem has been that you are tending towards goal-oriented sex rather than exploring intimacy and discovering different ways to give one another pleasure and satisfaction, maybe especially for your girlfriend.**

Ban intercourse for a month or so. Get into giving one another an all-over massage leading to sex play.

Find out the different ways you can both enjoy orgasm. Tell each other what feels especially good and what you're learning.

My e-leaflet Sex-play Therapy explains this approach in more detail.

Dear Deidre

MY husband point-blank refuses to give me oral sex and won't even touch me down there. I feel unsatisfied the whole time.

We are in our late thirties and have two kids. He's my best friend and a great dad, but such a selfish lover.

He expects me to give him oral sex and do everything else but he has only done it to me once.

He has refused ever since saying he doesn't like it.

Foreplay is important to women, as you know.

I've tried talking to him about it, telling him what I'd like and asking him what he wants, but he's happy with me just giving him oral and then falling into the missionary position.

It doesn't work for me and it seems so selfish of him. He's such a great guy in other ways, I just don't get it.

■ **DEIDRE SAYS: He may feel embarrassed to explain but you have to know whether something about that one experience of giving you oral sex put him off, or is it that he has a general feeling of unease about women "down there".**

Some men are put off by seeing their partner give birth, for example. (I know, hollow laughter from you mums.)

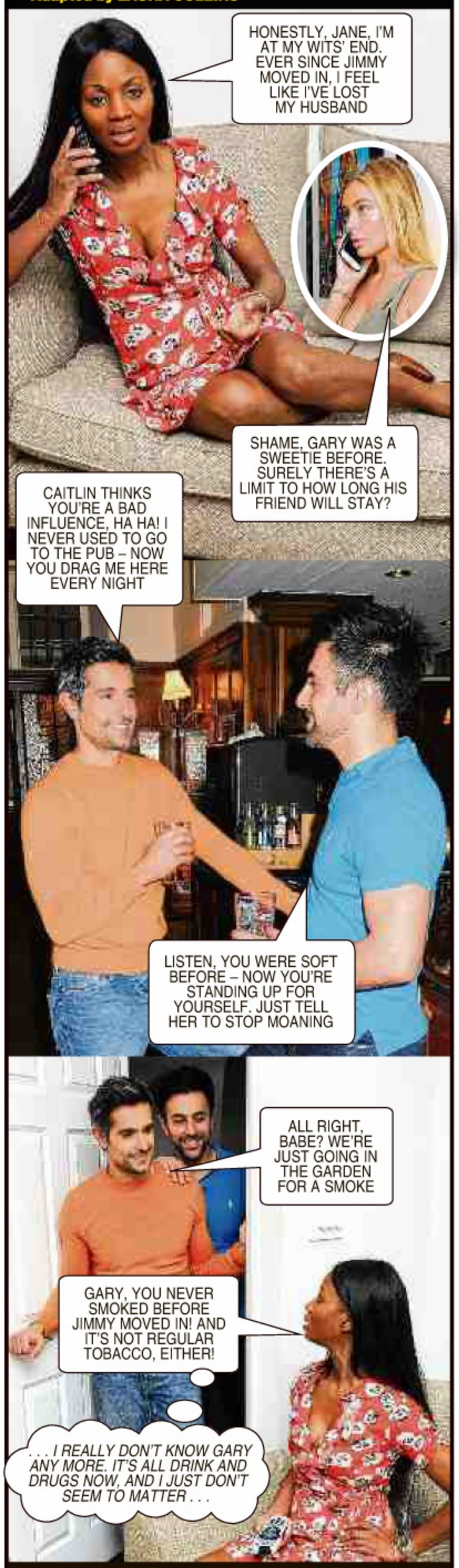
Tell him you love him but this issue is sitting at the heart of your relationship and he can't just shrug it off any more.

My e-leaflet Guide To Oral Sex will help you to resolve this issue.

Deidre's photo casebook

CAITLIN HAS A RIVAL

Adapted by LAURA COLLINS



Dear Caitlin

HAVE a serious talk, just with Gary, or this could set a lasting precedent for him to ride roughshod over your feelings.

Tell him he either starts respecting you and your relationship or it's over. A couple of nights out with Jimmy is OK but either he focuses on couple time or you won't be a couple.

And agree a deadline for Jimmy.

Deidre

Dear Deidre

MY husband and I have been married less than a year but I feel like clobbering him over the head.

I am 28 and expecting our first child in three months.

He is 31, has a successful business. I don't work and it has not been an easy pregnancy.

He infuriates me by refusing to eat meals I have prepared and which are in the fridge.

Instead, he brings home something different for me to cook and I have to throw food away – and I can't stand waste.

I told him off when he did this last night and he replied, "I've had a hard day. Why are you behaving like this?" When I explained, he said, "OK, I admit I was wrong but do you have a right to be angry?"

He dismisses my feelings. Are all men like this or have I married an oaf?

■ **DEIDRE SAYS: The first year of a couple living together often throws up many challenges and you're having a difficult pregnancy, too.**

The real issue is you feel he belittles you. Stop focussing on the fridge and give him an hour after he gets in to "arrive" emotionally.

But insist you set aside time every evening when you talk about your day, so you can start bonding.

Dear Deidre

I'M torn between staying with my girlfriend – even though we argue a lot – or getting together with a female friend who shares my hobby of dog agility.

I've had an on-off relationship with my girlfriend, mainly because of problems with her ex. She is 39 and I am 42.

I have two daughters who live with my ex and my girlfriend has a daughter aged 16 who lives with us.

I do as many dog-agility shows as I can with my border collie and I've got very friendly with a woman with a Jack Russell. We've just talked about our lives and hugged. I know she is 43 and single and I'm at a crossroads.

Should I stay with my girlfriend or start a new relationship, if possible? I have much more in common with my friend.

■ **DEIDRE SAYS: As pals, yes, but that doesn't mean she wants a full-blown relationship. Her feelings about sex, cooking, washing etc may be exactly why she is single.**

But something draws you and your girlfriend together. Read Stop Arguing, Start Talking, a Relate book by Susan Quilliam. If things don't improve, call it a day.

Only then is it fair to see if your friend is interested in sharing more with you.

Can't forget hot sex with girl of old work mate

Dear Deidre

I HAD a night of amazing sex with a colleague's girlfriend and can't get it out of my head. I've got a new job but should I stay in touch with her?

I'm 28 and a went out for drinks and a meal last month with a couple of colleagues and their girlfriends.

I was supposed to go with a girlfriend but we had just split up so they said to come along anyway, especially as I was about to leave the firm.

One of my colleagues is a heavy drinker and got loud and argumentative, especially with his girlfriend. He is 33 and she's 31 and they have a couple of kids. He was saying she's fat and ugly. It was very embarrassing.

At the end of the evening we shared a taxi but they turned out not to have any cash on them and the driver didn't accept cards, so I ended up paying the fare. The next morning, my colleague's girlfriend turned up at my front door and insisted on giving me some cash for the taxi.

I invited her in for a coffee and we talked about my colleague's behaviour the night before. She said she was glad other people saw how he gets.

As we said goodbye I said, "See you later", not meaning anything by it but she said, "Yes, I'll be round about 9pm with a bottle. The kids are at sleepovers and I've told him I'm going to my mum's so I can stay over".

She rang the doorbell just after 9pm carrying a bottle of wine and a load of beers for me. We talked and drank, and then I said I'd sleep on the sofa. She insisted we share my bed and started kissing me straight away.

The sex was brilliant – and we had sex again the next morning. She said she and her partner don't romp much these days and she misses it. She left and we said nothing about seeing one another again, but I keep thinking about that night of passion. She's not really my type but I keep looking at her Facebook profile and wondering whether to add her as a friend.

I'm worried about the way my ex-colleague treats her, yet she's not the sort of person I would normally have a relationship with.

■ **DEIDRE SAYS: Your worry over her well-being does you credit, but what's hooking you in seems to be that night of sex.**

But she's not a free agent. She may be unhappy with your ex-colleague but they have children together and she didn't seem to be talking about leaving him any time soon.

If you make contact, I suspect you will be motivated mostly by hope of another great night of passion and it could get very messy.

I feel for her and I feel for their children. It would be great if you can think of a way to suggest she contact Al-Anon who support the partners and families of those with a drinking problem (al-anonuk.org.uk, 0800 0086 811). But don't add to her problems.

EVERY problem gets a free personal reply. Email problems@deardeidre.org, private message me on Facebook, or write to Deidre Sanders, The Sun, London SE1 9GF (please enclose SAE). You can also follow me on Twitter @deardeidre.

Topic of the day

HALF of women are unhappy about their breasts – mostly due to unrealistic notions of what normal boobs look like – and 9,000 have cosmetic surgery on their breasts every year. My e-leaflet Unhappy With Your Breasts? will help you decide what is best.

Email me for a copy or private-message me on my Dear Deidre Facebook page.

WEEKEND LOVER GONE VERY QUIET

Dear Deidre

I'VE been seeing a man a few years older than me. Most weekends I would drive over to his house and he was a very good host.

I didn't resent the journey, which took two hours each way, because I enjoyed his company. We were seeing one another for nearly a year. I am 51 and divorced, he is 63.

He asked me over for the weekend early last month but I had to say no because it was my daughter's birthday and we had arranged to have Sunday lunch.

He then just ghosted me – not a word for three weeks. It's torturing me.

Should I ask him why he's gone quiet or just ignore it? I don't want to sound desperate.

■ **DEIDRE SAYS: It is possible that he has had flu or something which knocked him off his feet.**

That gives you an opening to say, lightly, "I'm just hoping you are OK since I haven't heard from you recently." Add a bit of chatty news and see if you get a response.

If he has been sulking, at least you know you're better off without him in your life.

CREDIT BLOW TO HOUSE DREAM

Dear Deidre

WHEN I was in the Army in my twenties, and a bit wild, I ran up credit card debts.

In the end I paid them all off, though it took a few years. I am 43 and married with two children now but can't get a mortgage due to my poor credit rating.

It is so frustrating for my wife and I. We pay £750 rent a month for our house and have never been late in ten years, but we are effectively throwing this money away with nothing to show for it.

If we got a mortgage we would be well on the way to owning a place of our own but I feel condemned by a few escapades as a lad.

■ **DEIDRE SAYS: Have you checked this out recently? You may well be able to improve your credit rating and the bad record from ten years ago may be improved now, as things like missed payments and bankruptcy are wiped after six years.**

For detailed help on getting your credit rating into better shape – plus guidance on finding a mortgage – you should head over to moneyadviceservice.org.uk.



Why People Who Eat This Rare Fruit Have Almost NO Constipation, Bloating, Cramping, Pain, IBS or Extra Body Fat

Thousands of people have ended their constipation, bloating, pain, cramping, IBS, diarrhoea, "banned foods" and weight problems by wearing the **Biovit Miracle Baobab Cleanse Patch**



Baobab takes off as a 'superfood' with sharp rise in UK sales in 2019.

Baobab is now considered a superfood due to its high content of nutrients and antioxidants. It has been used traditionally in many countries for centuries to heal and repair the body. Now the rest of the world is catching up and realising this plant's huge potential in regard to wellbeing. The baobab fruit and powder are rich in vitamin C and believed to have antimicrobial, antiviral, antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory properties.

"Stomach cramps, IBS, bloating and rushing to the toilet is a thing of the past thank goodness!"



Lauren from Hampshire has suffered from stomach issues for over 20 years. Her symptoms included bloating, constipation, IBS, stomach cramps and diarrhoea. Thankfully she's discovered Biovit Miracle Baobab Cleanse patch and it's changed her life.

"Anyone that suffers from a nervous tummy knows that it's embarrassing, painful and stops you from getting on with your day. It's basically on your mind all day and the symptoms never seem to end!"

"My stomach problems got worse in my 30's and I've never seemed to have shaken them. When I eat my stomach extends and the bloating makes me uncomfortable and dictates my whole day. I won't travel too far from home either because I often have to rush to the toilet at the most inappropriate time."

"I read that Biovit Miracle Baobab Cleanse patch was specifically formulated for digestion and stomach problems. Baobab has been used for centuries to treat upset stomachs with incredible results."

"Within a few days of wearing Biovit Miracle Baobab Cleanse patch my hunger subsided and my stomach stopped troubling me. The bloating, stomach cramps and constipation all stopped. It couldn't be easier to use either. You simply wear one small dermal skin patch per day. No one will ever know you're wearing the patch and it releases the ingredients over time into the body's bloodstream."

"I would recommend Biovit Miracle Baobab Cleanse patch to anyone with stomach problems – you won't believe the difference a tiny patch can make to the quality of your life."





No more bloated stomach that sticks out. When Biovit Miracle Baobab Cleanse Patch heals your digestion problems, your belly will become flatter and your problems of bloating, pain, and constipation will vanish.

End your constipation and digestion problems and weight loss guaranteed. These dermal patches have proven to work for thousands of people. Replace patch every 24 hours.

"There are 31 comprehensive science-backed Baobab benefits, so you get a good understanding of why you want to incorporate this natural supplement into your diet. The health benefits are substantial!"



Major advantages of Dermal patches above other systems

1. **FASTEST DELIVERY METHOD VIA DERMAL PATCH FOR QUICK RESULTS**
2. Improved well-being
3. Constant release of ingredient levels
4. Fewer side effects and fast acting
5. Certain ingredients that cannot be absorbed via the stomach
6. Released evenly and directly into the bloodstream, less required
7. **NO MORE PILLS TO SWALLOW**
8. **TAKES SECONDS TO APPLY PATCH TO THE SKIN**

Simply remove the protective lining and press the patch down firmly.

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5stars EXCELLENT INDEPENDENT CUSTOMER REVIEWS

ACT NOW! 50% OFF USE DISCOUNT CODE SY1

HALF PRICE

The Baobab tree, the worlds longest-living tree. It grows only in certain parts of Australia and Africa. The people who eat the rare fruit from this tree have almost NO constipation, bloating, cramping, diarrhoea, pain, IBS or extra body fat.



"It's Magic! Ended My Constipation; I Lost 47 Pounds"

"I was very skeptical. I had already tried all the colon products, cleansers, fibre, miralax, acid reducers and prescription drugs, but I was still suffering all the time. But Biovit Miracle Baobab Cleanse Patch worked totally different. In 2 days all my digestive problems began clearing. I am regular now! It ended my constipation for good and then I easily lost 47 pounds too!"



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☐ **2 months = £34.99 +£2.95 p&p =£37.94**

BEST SELLER!

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OR charge my VISA / MASTERCARD credit/debit card number:

Expiry Date Security Code

SIGNATURE:

Title: Name:

Address:

Postcode:

PLEASE ADD TELE NO FOR COURIER/DELIVERY UPDATES

Tel No

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Delivery normally within one week, but please allow 28 days. If you do not wish to receive other interesting offers from our carefully selected partners please tick this box ☐. 14 day refund. If you're not delighted with your product return for refund (less P&P), in its original condition and packaging to Vytaliving, Unit 2, Frederick Road, Hoo Farm Estate, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 7RA. Used items cannot be refunded or returned due to hygene.

the Sunday

Lifestyle • Money • Pets • Motors • Deidre • Puzzles

2 MORE PAGES ▶

BUTLIN'S has added to its Just For Tots 2020 line-up.

PJ Masks, a favourite with toddlers and streamed on Netflix, is coming to the family breaks with a live, interactive show.

It follows three young pals who transform into superheroes Catboy, Owlette and Gekko, *right*, when they put on their pyjamas. The act will thrill young fans. Designed for families with younger children, Just For Tots breaks run from March through to December during school time, meaning the little ones have the run of the resort. Everything is planned with toddlers in mind.

Also appearing is kids' TV stalwart Justin Fletcher, star of Something Special, Gigglebiz and Jollywobbles.

He will sing, dance and more to keep junior audiences entertained. As with all Butlin's breaks, the shows are included in the price, as is the traditional fairground, Splash Waterworld and a range of other activities and attractions.

A four-night Just For Tots break is from £149 for a self-catering Silver apartment sleeping four. There are 25 Just For Tots hols this year at Butlin's three seaside resorts in Bognor Regis, Minehead and Skegness. See butlins.com/justfortots.





Edited by LISA MINOT

travel

THE Faroe Islands will seem a little less remote from this summer, with the launch of a new direct flight from Gatwick.

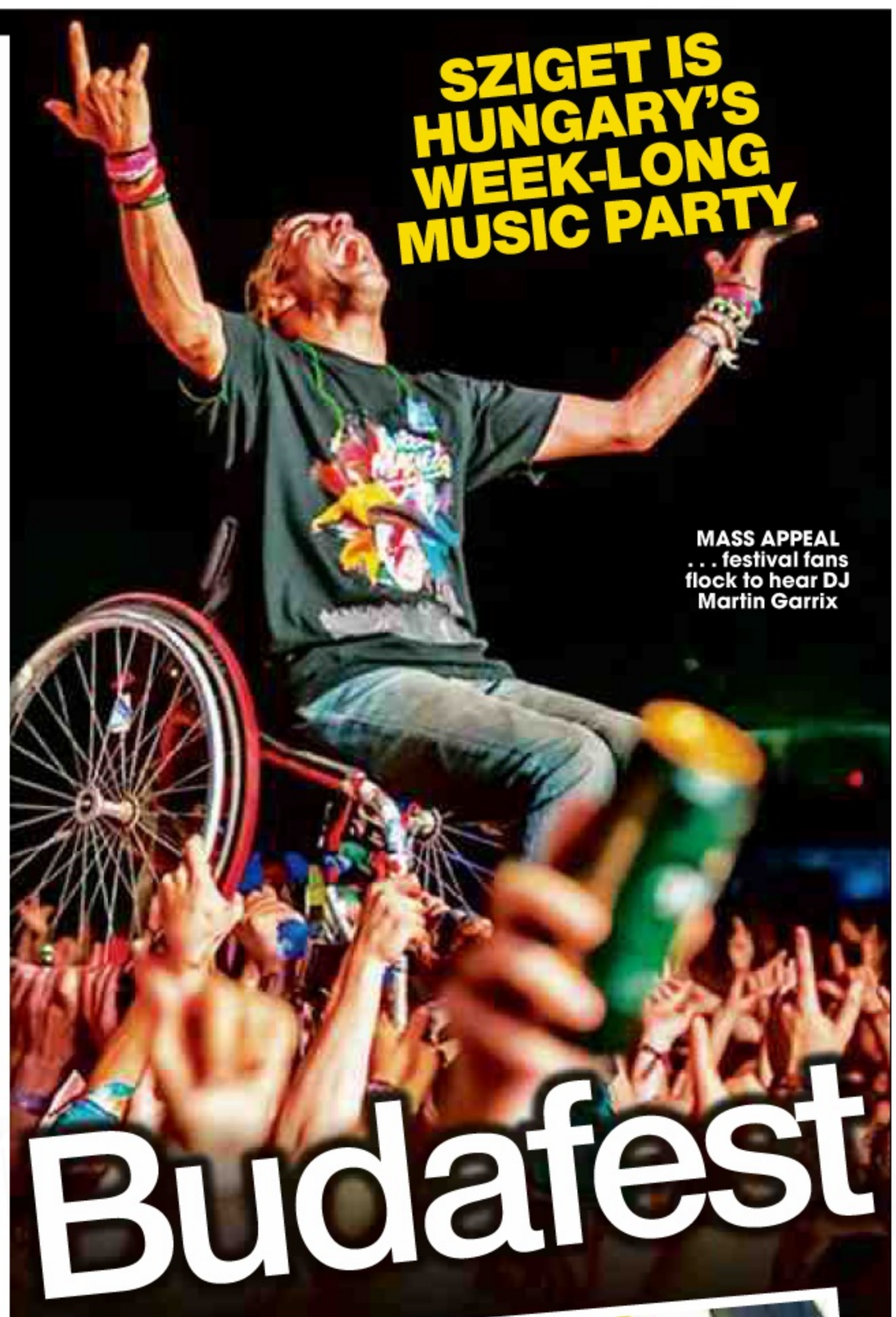
Taking off from June 23, this is the first direct route to the islands since 2014. The new weekly trips on Atlantic Airways – the islands' national carrier – take just two hours ten minutes. The schedule runs until August 11.

The location, between Scotland and Iceland, is known for birdwatching, hiking, sailing . . . and having more sheep than people. See atlanticairways.com and visitfaroeislands.com.

hot spot IT'S 19C in CORFU – seven nights' all-inclusive at the 5★ Labranda Sandy Beach Resort is from £369pp including flights from Bristol on April 20. For more info, call 020 8492 6868 or visit olympicholidays.com.

hot spot TUNISIA is 26C – seven nights' all-inclusive at the 4★ Houda Yasmine Marina & Spa, near to a golden-sand beach, is from £281pp including flights from Heathrow on March 24. Visit loveholidays.com or call 020 3870 6844.

SZIGET IS HUNGARY'S WEEK-LONG MUSIC PARTY



MASS APPEAL . . . festival fans flock to hear DJ Martin Garrix

Budafest

IMAGINE Glastonbury taking place in the middle of one of the great cities of Europe.

Keep the big festival atmosphere, crowd-pleasing headliners and wacky circus acts, but swap the rain and mud of England for a baking-hot summer.

Throw in the beautiful backdrop of Budapest and you have Sziget – a week-long extravaganza which has grown into the fifth biggest festival in the world.

And if, like me, you have kids who love music and aren't too mortified by a bit of late-night dad dancing then it makes for the perfect family holiday if you fancy a change from a traditional beach break.

Based on an island (Sziget is Hungarian for "island") in the middle of the Danube, the festival attracts more than half a million people who travel from all over the world to watch more than 1,000 acts.

Sziget is a truly international event – performers from 63 countries appeared, including Benin in west Africa, Lebanon and Colombia, plus traditional headliners such as Ed Sheeran.

He held the Wembley-sized crowd in the palm of his hand at what would be one of the last gigs on his record-breaking world tour.

Dad dancing

The 1975 also grabbed the festival headlines thanks to singer Matty Healy's eye-catching display.

His crowd-surfing leap into the front rows caught some by surprise but hopefully the ones he landed on knew he was coming.

The peerless Johnny Marr provided a trip down memory lane for those of a certain age and in the Mastercard tent things were even wilder.

Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls played to an enthusiastic audience. Some were clearly new to his fast-paced folk punk but, in typical Frank style, he had them dancing like seasoned fans by the end of the first song.

Nowhere does the saying "Your kids keep you young" ring truer than at a music festival.

There are always bands you have never heard of that your teenagers love, dragging you along to see them as they insist they are the best act in the world, ever.

High on my 16-year-old daughter Leah's must-see list was Doncaster singer-rapper Yungblud.

If all this sounds exhausting, it can be. A week is a long time for a festival (single-day, three-day and five-day tickets are available) and even the hardiest music fan is likely to need a break.

A trip into the centre of Budapest – a 30-minute train ride away – makes for the perfect change of scenery. The Budapest Card – operated by the city's Tourism Office – is a great way of exploring and offers free or discounted entry.

The St Lukacs thermal baths, used for healing and relaxation since the 12th century, are a must for sore feet after dancing at Sziget. The CitySightseeing bus tours are an ideal way to get around, with three different routes that take in Buda Castle, St Stephen's Basilica and the Great Synagogue.

Back at the festival, my 13-year-old son Jake is insisting we watch superstar DJ Martin Garrix.

Glow sticks were waved in the air by a delirious audience who delighted in a memorable set by the Dutch DJ. And yes, there was dad dancing.

The Foo Fighters closed the festival, with a memorable moment when Dave Grohl gave a fan in a wheelchair his guitar to smash.

Festivals are popular in the UK for families and Sziget is perfect for those hoping to spread their wings abroad. But how do you take your tent, sleeping bags and chairs when you go by plane?

The answer is Podpads. The UK firm has a variety of tents and huts at Sziget – we stayed in a Bellepad – which are put up before arrival. They have beds, bedding, chairs, towels and lights – plus ear plugs in case the dance tent keeps you awake.

There is always a staff member close by, which reassures you that any valuables you have to leave in your Podpad are safe.

And free tea and coffee mean a morning trip into the festival site for the first cuppa isn't necessary.

They are the perfect solution to the challenge of camping abroad and, unlike in the UK, that Budapest sunshine means you won't need to pack your wellies.

ROBIN PERRIE



READY TO ROCK . . . at the entrance

GO: BUDAPEST FESTIVAL

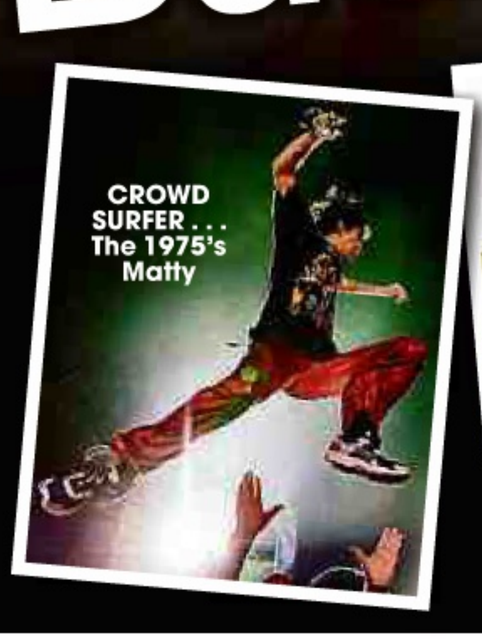
GETTING THERE: Fly to Budapest from multiple UK airports with Ryanair, easyJet, British Airways and more from £73 return. See skyscanner.net.

STAYING THERE: Podpads at Sziget cost between £390 for a standard two-man tent, up to £1,450 for a Bellepad that sleeps six. To book go to podpads.com.

OUT & ABOUT: The Budapest Card costs £19 for a one-day pass, £28.50 for two days and £38 for three days. See budapestinfo.hu.

City Sightseeing buses stop across the city – citysightseeingbudapest.org.

MORE INFO: Tickets for August's Sziget festival are on sale now. See szigetfestival.com.



CROWD SURFER . . . The 1975's Matty



POD U LIKE . . . Robin's kids Leah and Jake in their festival tent

Hols for under . .

£100 ENJOY a family break to Yorkshire with four nights' self-catering at Haven's Blue Dolphin park in Filey, North Yorks, from £72 per family, based on six sharing. Arrive March 16. Visit haven.com or call 0333 202 5250.

OR explore Amsterdam with two nights' room-only at the 4★ XO Park West City Hotel from £99pp including flights from Luton on selected dates in March. See icelolly.com.

£250 HIT the slopes in Bulgaria with seven nights' room-only at the 4★ Murite Club Hotel from £199pp including flights from Heathrow travelling March 7 to March 31. Book by March 5 at ba.com or call 0344 493 0125.

OR unwind in Majorca with seven nights' B&B at the 3★ BelleVue Vistanova from £164pp including flights from Liverpool on April 1. See travelsupermarket.com.

£500 CHILL out in Cyprus with seven nights' all-inclusive at the 4★ Ascos Coral Beach Hotel from £402pp including flights from Leeds Bradford on April 18. For details see travelrepublic.co.uk or call 020 8974 7200.

OR check out Croatia with seven nights' B&B at the 3★ Bellevue Orebic from £449pp including flights from Leeds Bradford on April 12. Visit jet2holidays.com or call 0800 408 5594.

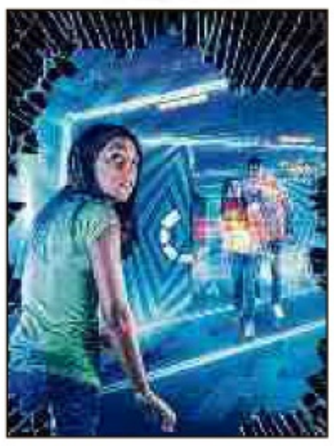
£750 GO wild in South Africa with seven nights' room-only at the 5★ Sheraton Pretoria Hotel in Johannesburg from £699pp including BA flights from Heathrow on selected dates in March. Book by Wednesday at ba.com/johannesburg or call 0344 493 0123.

OR get a taste of Thailand with seven nights' B&B at the 5★ Evason Hua Hin Resort from £734pp including flights from Gatwick on selected dates before April 17. See bestattravel.co.uk.

£1000 MAKE memories in Mauritius with seven nights' B&B at the 3.5★ Jalsa Beach Hotel & Spa Mauritius from £909pp including flights from Gatwick on selected dates in March. Book by Thursday at ba.com/Mauritius, call 0344 493 0778.

OR sip cocktails in the Dominican Republic with seven nights' all-inclusive at the 4★ Whala Bavaro from £771pp including flights from Manchester on April 23. See loveholidays.com or call 0203 870 6844.

the Sunday ● Lifestyle ● Money ● Motors ● Puzzles ● Deidre ● Travel



A MAZED . . . new attraction

BLACK TO THE FUTURE AT PARK

news

THORPE Park's latest attraction is a Black Mirror Labyrinth, which opens later this month.

It promises a hypnotic maze using "cutting-edge visual technology and sensory-defying environments".

The Surrey theme park teased fans, saying: "Will you keep your grip on reality?

"Or will you lose yourself in the digital mainframe, as this unpredictable digitised dimension reveals an uneasy truth that manipulates and displaces your very existence, leaving you questioning how well you really know yourself?"

Well? Will you? Your guess is as good as ours on that one, unfortunately.

FAMILIES travelling to Turkey will save more than £100 this summer now we no longer need to pay for a visa to visit.

Until now, visitors had to apply online for a visa costing £27pp. But from tomorrow, Brits can enter without applying, in a move aimed at encouraging tourism.

You still need six months' validity on your passport. The move was hailed by industry figures.

Jet2 boss Steve Heapy said: "The removal of Turkish visa charges is fantastic news for British holidaymakers, as it means more money in their pockets. Turkey is one of our most popular destinations and this news makes it easier for families to enjoy a well-deserved holiday to this beautiful country."

Travel association ABTA said: "This will give a boost to this already popular holiday destination. With visas costing around £30pp, this bonus will add up to a free Turkish meze, courtesy of the government, especially with favourable exchange rates."

TUNISIA's beach resorts are to get a boost with the launch of new flights from Manchester and Gatwick to Enfidha from the start of May.

The flights from Nouvelair will operate twice a week from Gatwick and three times a week from Manchester until the end of October.

Prices one way start at £128pp. See nouvelair.com to book.

CRUISE IONIAN ISLANDS ON OWN YOUR YACHT (WELL,



GREECE IS THE WORD . . . cruising around the beautiful Ionian islands

A Greek odyssea

SUNBATHING on the deck of my OWN yacht, sailing around Greece's Ionian Islands, it felt as though I was living someone else's life.

Because let's face it, yachting is for the really, really posh and very, very rich – neither of which I can claim to be.

But one thing I am good at is finding a bargain, and just two days before my annual leave I started hunting for holidays and stumbled across an advert for discounted breaks with Sail Ionian.

My boyfriend Chris has always wanted to go sailing and I loved the idea of visiting some of the islands in the Ionian Sea off the west coast of Greece, which include Corfu, Zakynthos, Lefkada, Ithaca, Kythira, Cephalonia and Paxos.

I found bargain flights through charterflights.co.uk from Manchester to Preveza. After a 45-minute taxi journey we got on board our (OWN!) yacht, a Vision 42 called Selkie, which had two large double cabins with wardrobe space, a spacious shower, two toilets, a kitchen with oven, fridge and freezer and comfortable sofas and tables, all below deck.

But the best bit was the deck, where the cockpit table could be converted into a large sunbed.

We also found the paddleboard Chris had hired and a large welcome basket of fruit, bread, coffee, crisps, nuts, olives, wine and water waiting for us.

And there was one very important addition we needed before we set sail – a skipper – because neither of us was qualified to take control.

We were so lucky to be assigned knowledgeable and fun Tatiana, who had lived in the area for years. She sat down with us and a chart (I was told in no uncertain terms that it wasn't called a map) and plotted – weather permitting – where we should head to.

We were given a safety briefing and told how to care for the yacht. And then we were off. Chris loved helping Tatiana with the ropes and adjustments needed to stay on course. I simply gazed at the view and read my book. And there isn't much else to do on a yacht. As it gently rocks it is utterly relaxing so I also spent a fair bit of time asleep.

The first night we went to Mytikas on mainland Greece, to a tiny restaurant called Cafe Ouzeri. It only serves the catch of the day – and you have to call ahead to check if they've had a good day's fishing and are actually going to open for business.

It is perched so close to the pebbly sea that I took off my shoes and dipped them in the water as we ate. There was no menu but the waitress asked if we were vegetarian before serving fried fish, a spicy cheese dip and Greek salad.

Yacht envy

With a carafe of the decent local wine, it came to less than £15 a head. If you've hired a skipper you can simply give them some money so they can go off and eat their meals alone, but we hit it off with Tatiana and it felt as though she was on holiday with us, so we went out together.

Food was one of the highlights of the trip because all you have to worry about is where you are going to sail, where you are going to swim to burn off the calories and where you are going to eat.

During the day we went snorkelling in caves with magical rock formations, swam for hours in crystal clear water without seeing another person and explored coves that were so untouched they had names such as #7 Bay. We sunbathed alone on beaches and Chris spent hours paddleboarding around the yacht.

We also superyacht-spotted. I loved getting the name of the yacht and searching online to find out what country they were from, their value and size. I often had yacht envy!

If we feared the weather was going to be choppy, we moored up in a harbour for protection. In the enclosed harbour of Sivota, many other holidaymakers had the same idea but it was a great way to look at the other yachts available for rent.

Sail Ionian is a family-owned British company which prides itself on maintaining its yachts to a very high standard. And it was noticeable in comparison to some of the shabby-looking other ones for hire.

At Sivota the partying went on until the early hours and I discovered jumping straight off your yacht into the ice-cold early-morning sea can definitely clear your head!

Kioni village in Ithaca doesn't have a harbour so instead you "long-line" – which basically involved Tatiana carefully manoeuvring the yacht towards the coastline, then Chris jumping

GO: GREEK SAILING

GETTING THERE: EasyJet return flights to Preveza from Gatwick in April are from £74pp. See easyjet.com.
SAILING THERE: Seven nights for up to six people sailing on a Bavaria 37 yacht including a skipper are from £2,830 in total or from £471pp. Based on April, May and October prices. See sailionian.com.



SKY HIGH . . . aerial view of isles

YOURS FOR A WEEK)



OCEAN RAVE . . . *from left*, a captain's eye view of the boat, Chris and Tatiana, and under sail

in with a rope and tying it around a rock to stabilise the boat.

Under Tatiana's instruction I then used the remote control to drop the anchor.

When you long-line you have to use your dinghy to get to shore. It's a precise process of sliding into it so that it is balanced before heading for land, then tethering it to a rock, ready for your return.

Chocolate fondue

Kioni harbour is surrounded by Venetian-style buildings that survived the earthquakes that destroyed much of the region in 1953.

We went there on Chris' birthday, so we booked a smart restaurant called Lizzy's, perched on a hillside overlooking the harbour. The food was fresh and tasty, with the best chocolate fondue I've ever eaten.

It was the most expensive meal we had – just under £100 for the three of us, with wine, mains and starters.

Afterwards we wandered around the beautiful village with jewellery shops selling exquisite silver items. I even persuaded Chris to dig out his credit card.

The evening was fantastic until I managed to forget every single thing Tatiana had taught me about life on the sea when we headed back to the yacht. I literally stepped into the dinghy, which went flying one way and I went flying the other and crashed into the sea.

The only thing I hurt was my pride so the next morning we found my silver ring at the bottom of the sea and headed off just after dawn before I bumped into anybody who had seen my calamity.

The next night we decided to escape the crowds and dropped anchor next to a remote beach on the coast of Meganisi – an island off the south east coast of Lefkada.

Tatiana is half-Italian so when she offered to cook pasta on board I wasn't going to refuse.

We spent the night eating, drinking chilled cheap Greek wine and swimming in the sea with only the stars for company.

I've never seen so many amazing, remote and unspoiled places in a week, gawped at so many super-yachts or eaten so much amazing food. It really was the experience of a lifetime and I've discovered yachting isn't just for posh people. I am already saving up to go back next year.

JANE ATKINSON

bargain

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essential

Pebble Gear kids' tablet, £99.99, pebble-gear.com

AN official tie-in with Disney, this tech for three to eight-year-olds will keep them amused on long trips – and give parents peace of mind.

There are two designs, based on Frozen 2 and Toy Story 4. Each comes in a protective bumper case styled after one of the two hit movies and is pre-loaded with books, apps and games for each.

More importantly, the 7in Android tablet has full parental controls and is free of in-app purchases and unwanted pop-ups.

It provides access to more than 500 games and apps, free for the first year. As well as providing assurance for parents anxious about screen safety, it offers the ability to limit the time children can spend using the tablet.

With the possibility of pre-loading games and e-books, it will keep the kids entertained when wifi is not available, such as in the car and during flights.



'APPY DAYS . . tablet

hot spot

FEELING under the weather? It's a balmy 23C in Florida. Seven nights' room-only at the 3★ Rosen Inn at Pointe Orlando costs from £689pp including flights from Birmingham on March 24. Book at kenwoodtravel.co.uk or call 020 7749 7216.

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RED READY TO GIVE TIGER 'ELL

BRIAN ELLISON reckons Definitly Red can spoil Tiger Roll's Grand National party.

By TOM PEPPER

The trainer's star chaser completed his Aintree prep with a dour staying performance in the William Hill Premier Chase at Kelso.

Dimple led for most of the way but Definitly Red *(below)* took it up at the last and powered home for Danny Cook to win by 14 lengths.

Betfair cut his Aintree odds to 14-1 from 20s.

Ellison said: "I'm glad that's out of the way.

"I've backed him for the National, despite not being a big gambler, but I've always thought the race would suit him.

"He has lots going for him and has a nice weight at 10st 12lb. What you need in the race is luck. He ran in it a couple of years ago, but got brought down when a horse fell in front of him. There's no such thing as a free pass in the National, but I think he's got a massive chance.

"He's a better horse now, he's stronger and he stays better now - he has everything going for him.

"You never knows, we could spoil the Tiger Roll party!"



CHELTENHAM COUNTDOWN: NINE DAYS TO GO



ROB CAN STEAL IT . . . Robbie Power keen on Lostintranslation

POWER HUNGRY

Robbie: Don't lose faith in Lost

EXCLUSIVE By JACK KEENE

ROBBIE POWER has told punters to keep the faith with forgotten Gold Cup hope Lostintranslation.

Colin Tizzard's classy eight-year-old looked to have the world at his feet when winning the Betfair in November.

But he flopped when well-fancied for the King George at Kempton on Boxing Day and has not been seen since.

He has attracted market support for the Cheltenham showpiece race in recent days, with Ladbrokes top-priced at 7-1, and Power reckons it's too soon to write him off.

He said: "We forget how much these big staying chases can take out of a horse, and there is no doubt his effort in the Betfair left a mark on him.

"From the moment the flag dropped in the King George I never felt comfortable, it was only his raw ability that kept him in the race until four out.

"He's had a wind op and is in very good form at home now, he's fresh and well.

"He is coming in under the radar because of one below-par run which suits us perfectly.

"I know how good he is and I know how good he is around Cheltenham – you just have to look at his form with Defi Du Seuil from last year."

Power has plenty of high-profile rides during the Festival, including **Supasundae** in the Champion Hurdle and there are two novices he is particularly excited about.

He said: "I do love **The Big Breakaway**. He goes for the Ballymore and has given me an unbelievable feel in his two runs and we don't know how good he could be.

"**Fiddlerontheroof** will be a massive player in the Supreme if he gets soft ground. He was a very impressive winner of the Tolworth."

GREYHOUNDS

SELECTIONS

■**SUNDERLAND:** 11.11 Pronto Bonzo (nb) (3-1-2) 11.28 Satley Prince (1-4-6) 11.42 Tamna Oreo (3-1-6) 11.57 Kilbarry Lion (1-5-2) 12.12 Heartbeat Rhys (5-4-1) 12.27 Katies Celeri (5-1-4) 12.41 Miss Tiggy (5-1-3) 12.58 Ring Me Back (nap) (3-2-4) 1.12 Ballymac Harlene (2-4-6) 1.28 Farley Diva (4-5-1) 1.44 Lughill Frankie (1-6-3) 1.59 Candlelightspice (1-3-6)

■**BELLE VUE:** 11.03 Graigoor Jinks (2-4-1) 11.19 O Neill Mcnally (nb) (5-2-6) 11.34 Ballyhi Dylan (5-1-6) 11.48 Slaneyside Brigs (nap) (2-5-1) 12.04 Boxer Toms (3-4-5) 12.18 Clonard Angel (1-3-5) 12.33 Ballymac Pichu (2-4-1) 12.48 Foulkscourt Blue (3-6-2) 1.04 Varga Girl (2-4-3) 1.19 Stylish Queen (3-5-2) 1.37 Knockard Duke (2-3-6) 1.51 Corrin Shane (1-2-4)

■**KINSLEY:** 2.06 Riverdale Rocket (nap) (3-6-1) 2.21 Hillview Heidi (nb) (3-5-4) 2.38 Cill Dubh Tess (2-1-5) 2.57 Bumblebee Just (1-2-6) 3.13 Scarty Sunoco (5-6-2) 3.29 Super Steele (2-4-1) 3.44 West Knows Best (1-3-2) 4.02 Sues Tribute (6-2-4) 4.18 Old Fort Orbit (1-6-2) 4.33 Tullymurry Reel (4-5-6) 4.51 Homestead Hazel (3-6-5) 5.09 Millwood Jerry (2-5-6) 5.25 Elba Fairy (4-3-6) 5.44 Dodgin Bullet (5-3-4)

■**PERRY BARR:** 2.12 Ciaras Deise (6-5-1) 2.26 Sand Storm (nap) (6-5-1) 2.44 Brendos Buddy (nb) (6-4-1) 3.04 Sweet Revenge (1-2-5) 3.22 Conors Matic (6-3-4) 3.37 You Have It (2-5-6) 3.53 Droopys Kiwi (1-5-6) 4.09 Barnagrane Rocky (1-5-6) 4.24 Onyx Rock (4-6-5) 4.41 Rosden Creep (5-1-6) 4.58 Affane Hero (1-2-3) 5.17 Michelles Hardy (1-3-2) 5.37 Lyre Queen (6-4-2) 5.55 Hilark Nadia (5-1-2)

RESULTS

■**PERRY BARR:** 10.38 Ballymac Flor 5-4f (3-1-2 BAGS F £5.78 TC £11.52). 10.53 Skellig Ten 4-1 (5-4-1 £17.17 TC £47.20). 11.08 Chaotic Kate 3-1jt (1-5-3 £16.76 TC £56.37). 11.23 Leahs Phantom 9-4f (5-6-4 £14.06 TC £40.61). 11.38 Wilmars Daisy 4-1 (6-2-1 £22.44 TC £73.72). 11.54 Newline Shane 6-1 (5-6-2 £26.81 TC £113.68). 12.08 Creevy Shadow 4-1 (1-2-4 £18.16 TC £42.99). 12.24 Johns Vintage 3-1 (4-3-1 £23.80 TC £90.20). 12.39 Ballymac Melody 5-1 (2-1-6 £25.37 TC £68.57). 12.57 Badgerfort Girl 2-1f (4-2-3 £21.39 TC £64.80). 1.11 Sahara Jenny 2-1f (2-5-1 £10.03 TC £0.00). 1.27 Kiki Do U Luv Me 7-4f (5-3-6 £18.04 TC £80.53). 1.44 Ballistic Budgie 5-2f (5-6-4 £15.70 TC £43.24). 1.59 Rathmoyle Lisa 4-1 (6-3-4 £17.71 TC £47.77).

■**CRAYFORD:** 10.36 Mums The Best 8-1 (3-4-1 BAGS F £47.88 TC £218.15). 10.51 Ballyard Vicki 3-1 (6-1-3 £14.12 TC £41.33). 11.06 Bally-gibbon Bob 3-1 (4-3-6 £14.95 TC £37.12). 11.21 Ratheden Yevande 5-4f (6-2-1 £5.58 TC £19.70). 11.36 Smearla Princess 7-2 (3-6-1 £19.72 TC £56.55). 11.52 Dance Chanelle 3-1 (2-4-6 £10.65 TC £28.42). 12.06 Private Pension 7-2 (4-1-2 £25.09 TC £68.68). 12.21 Bananaman 2-1f (3-5-1 £14.34 TC £52.30). 12.36 Minesacoorslight 8-1 (4-2-3 £42.20 TC £132.06). 12.54 Shes Total Magic 7-4f (4-5-6 £10.39 TC £24.61). 1.07 Crossfield Chloe 9-4 (1-4-2 £28.03 TC £62.13). 1.21 Mines Alimensoda 5-2jt (1-2-4 £10.63 TC £30.23). 1.39 Fake Or Fortune 3-1 (5-2-3 £42.98 TC £122.74). 1.55 Indigo Ricky 7-2 (5-3-2 £16.68 TC £47.74).

■**ROMFORD:** 10.29 Chopchop Autumn 7-2 (4-3-1 BAGS F £29.39 TC £115.28). 10.43 Westlake Genie Evensf (3-2-4 £6.90 TC £21.23). 10.57 Ameras Topaz 9-2 (5-2-1 £20.99 TC £67.89). 11.12 Playtime Boy 7-2 (3-5-2 £30.15 TC £89.92). 11.27 Amelias Duchess 6-1 (6-5-3 £36.31 TC £90.79). 11.43 Hasskona Odile 7-4f (4-5-1 £9.48 TC £26.01). 11.59 Slaneyside Otis 6-1 (5-2-6 £59.28 TC £141.53). 12.13 Mays Primrose 11-10f (3-4-5 £6.17 TC £14.41). 12.28 Chosenonaspin 2-1f (2-4-3 £25.64 TC £88.12). 12.44 Brickleberry 3-1 (5-4-1 £16.71 TC £42.57). 12.59 Sneezys Hawk 9-2 (4-2-1 £27.75 TC £74.60). 1.14 Mo-mominstrel 4-1 (4-5-3 £29.09 TC £52.48). 1.28 Maxgrove Jenny 7-4jt (5-1-4 £19.63 TC £91.74). 1.47 Bonville Pepper 7-4f (6-2-4 £8.46 TC £28.25).

■**NEWCASTLE:** 2.07 Alnwick Terry 6-1 (6-3-1 BAGS F £38.96 TC £116.02). 2.24 Robbos Link 6-4f (4-2-5 £11.02 TC £34.17). 2.42 Sonlink Boom 6-4f (5-3-6 £11.06 TC £37.91). 2.59 Alnwick Alfie 4-5f (3-4-1 £5.61 TC £23.49). 3.19 Kaths Otooles 5-1 (1-4-6 £20.50 TC £87.25). 3.36 Wassyl 3-1 (3-1-6 £14.86 TC £53.66). 3.53 Queenies Turkish 5-1 (1-2-4 £28.23 TC £55.82). 4.14 Drumcrow Archie 5-2 (6-3-1 £7.73 TC £21.29). 4.28 Pointless Broc 3-1 (6-4-2 £11.15 TC £29.75). 4.47 Styamra Hazel 6-4f (5-4-1 £6.76 TC £0.00). 5.07 Farloe Autumn 3-1 (4-1-2 £29.78 TC £146.55). 5.27 Kilcoke Bill 2-1f (1-2-5 £12.07 TC £32.55). 5.44 Watermill Betsy 3-1 (4-5-6 £23.26 TC £0.00). 5.59 Mooloolaba Tel 2-1f (4-3-6 £12.76 TC £35.83).

■**SHEFFIELD:** 6.07 Fagans Dream 7-2 (6-3-5 BAGS F £15.47 TC £37.87). 6.22 Coney Krakatoa 10-1 (5-1-3 £37.07 TC £162.61). 6.39 Sunglow 8-1 (4-3-6 £57.84 TC £204.41). 6.59 Russanda Ripley 4-5f (1-2-5 £11.21 TC £0.00). 7.19 Peekaboo Barney Evensf (1-4-3 £6.08 TC £17.15). 7.36 Rackitup Charlie 4-1 (3-1-2 £37.08 TC £61.58). 7.51 Coyote Storm 7-4 (1-2-3 £9.65 TC £33.17). 8.08 Pemberley 2-1 (1-4-5 £36.80 TC £127.88). 8.24 Kilara Lion 5-4 (2-5-3 £5.98 TC £16.42). 8.44 Antigua Romeo 7-4 (4-5-6 £9.10 TC £18.00). 9.01 Geelo Duffy 7-2 (4-1-5 £11.12 TC £35.44. 9.18 Ice On Fire 2-5 (1-2-3 £7.31 TC £31.58).

■**MONMORE:** 6.33 Hather Regal 7-4 (5-6-3 BAGS F £12.37 TC £35.46). 6.49 Distant Stream 13-8 (1-2-6 £3.99 TC £10.58). 7.07 Our Boy Jack 9-4 (3-1-6 £46.18 TC £74.39). 7.23 War Admiral 6-4jt (5-6-3 £32.12 TC £59.67). 7.38 Swift Lettuce 1-2f (2-5-6 £8.05 TC £42.01). 7.54 Newinn Jacko Evensf (4-1-2 £7.01 TC £11.88). 8.11 Ballydoyle Blake 4-7f (3-5-1 £13.89 TC £46.59).

SEDGEFIELD

HEAVY, SOFT IN PLACES (7AM INSPECTION)

	TEMPLEGATE	TOM PEPPER
2.10	ROXYFET (nap)	Oxwich Bay
2.40	Strong Glance	STRONG GLANCE (nap)
3.15	Hard To Forget	Abolitionist
3.45	Duty Girl	Aniknam
4.20	Flowery (nb)	King's Odyssey
4.50	Rare Clouds	Crackdeloust

■TIC-TAC: Left-handed, sharp, undulating track of 1m 2f, with eight easy fences to a circuit, 200yd run-in. ■LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS (2015-2020): D McCain 47-276, B Ellison 41-162, M Hammond 37-296, Sue Smith 27-173. THIS SEASON: B Ellison 8, P Kirby 5, D McCain 5. ■TOP JOCKEYS WITH RIDES (2015-2020): B Hughes 84-372, H Brooke 40-225, D Cook 30-151, S Quinlan 21-186. THIS SEASON: B Hughes 14, Henry Brooke 7, T Dowson 6. ■LONGEST TRAVELLER: Gangster (3.15) trained at Upper Lambourn. Round trip of 514 miles. ■TRAINERFAX: D McCain won the 3.45 in 2012 and 2017. ■LIVE ON SKY SPORTS RACING

2.10 TEMPTATIONS BISHOP AUCKLAND HCAP HURDLE (Class 5); winner £2,794; 2m 1f. (7 runners)

1	-6U2423	**OXWICH BAY 11 (P;BF,D)** E Williams 8-12-1	**Adam Wedge 98**
2	UF14165	**WILD SAM 35 (B,T)** M Barnes 10-11-12	**Dale Irving (3) 96**
3	59221P1	**ROXYFET 10 (CD)** M Hammond 10-11-7	**Emma Smith-Chaston (7) 97**
4	P8CP7-5	**GARDE FORESTIER 49 (P★,T)** R Menzies 8-11-7	**Henry Brooke 85**
5	4851	**DEQUALL 13 (D)** W Coltherd 4-11-2	**Sam Coltherd (3) 89**
6	7622951	**SNOWED IN 52 (P;D)** F Murtagh 11-11-1	**Sean Quinlan 96**
7	85P0271	**AMLOVI 20** A Wintle 7-11-0	**Benjamin Poste ●99**

BETTING: 11-4 Roxyfet, 3 Amlovi, 5 Snowed In, 11-2 Oxwich Bay, 6 Dequall

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: abd

2019: Wazowski 10-11-0 Brian Hughes (D McCain) walked over

Sun Racing FORM

OXWICH BAY (11-12) 2-1 fav led to 7th, pressed leader, ridden and lost place 3 out, one pace, 3rd of 10 (btn 9½l) to Demopolis (11-10) (Ludlow 2m nov hcap ch (4) £5,588 soft).

WILD SAM (10-13) 20-1 held up and behind, niggled along when mistake 2 out, ridden, 5th of 13 (btn 12l) to Ulterior Motives (10-13) (Sedgefield 2m 5f hcap hdle (4) £3,769 soft).

ROXYFET (11-0) 7-1 headway 3 out, led last, stayed on, bt Frankie Ballou (10-10) 3¾l (11 ran) (Sedgefield 2m hcap ch (5) £2,989 heavy).

GARDE FORESTIER (11-10) 9-1 held up, headway 3 out, chased leaders, outpaced and no impression 2 out, 5th of 8 (btn 21l) to Southeast Rose (11-0) **WILD SAM** (11-9) 8-1 tracked leaders, disputed lead 4 out to after next, outpaced, 6th (btn 30l) (Kelso 2m hcap hdle (5) £3,249 heavy).

DEQUALL (10-7) 20-1 disputed lead 3 out, led, pushed along, blundered and headed next, held by easy winner (awarded race), btn 12l by Bingo D'Olivate (11-5) (7 ran) (Carlisle 2m 1f hcap hdle (4) £4,809 soft).

SNOWED IN (10-0) 8-1 made all, came clear from 2 out, stayed on strongly, unchallenged, bt Xpo Universel (11-3) 2½l (10 ran) (Catterick 2m hcap hdle (4) £4,289 soft).

AMLOVI (10-4) 13-2 rear, headway 4 out, led going well when hit 2 out, clear last, stayed on, bt Shadow's Girl (10-2) 9½l (7 ran) (Plumpton 2m hcap hdle (5) £3,119 heavy).

2.40 SKY SPORTS RACING SKY 415 NOVICES' HURDLE (4); value to the winner £3,769; 2m 4f. (4 runners)

1	661/414	**BARON DE MIDLETON 28** B Ellison 7-11-9	**Brian Hughes 87**
2	403	**JOUR A LA PLAGE 31** E Williams 5-11-2	**Adam Wedge 84**
3	1055-21	**STRONG GLANCE 45** O Murphy 7-11-2	**Richard Johnson ●99**
4	12-P	**APHAEA 66** M W Easterby 5-10-9	**Sean Quinlan 84**

BETTING: 4-7 Strong Glance, 7-4 Baron De Midleton, 20 Aphaea, Jour A La Plage

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 UR 1 abd 1

2019: Arthur Mac 6-11-2 Jason Dixon 4-11 Fav (Henry Oliver), 7 ran.

Sun Racing FORM

BARON DE MIDLETON (11-5) 8-1 not fluent 9th or 4 out, weakened before mistake 3 out, last of 4 (btn 26l) to I K Brunel (11-5) (Musselburgh 3m nov hdle (2) £12,512 soft).

JOUR A LA PLAGE (11-2) 33-1 held up, progress 6th, faded, 3rd of 7 (well btn) to Pileon (11-8) (Ffos Las 2½m nov hdle (4) £3,899 heavy).

STRONG GLANCE (11-12) 7-2 held up mid-division, good headway to lead 2 out, soon clear, bt Just So Cool (11-1) 5l (12 ran) (Market Rasen 2m 3f cond hcap hdle (4) £6,498 soft).

APHAEA pulled up latest, earlier (10-3) 1-2 fav stayed on well close home, btn sh hd by Six A Side (12-7) (6 ran) (3m point-to-point good).

3.15 PAXTONS NO.1 FOR IFOR WILLIAMS TRAILERS HANDICAP CHASE (3); £6,836; 3m 2f. (6 runners)

1	15P-6P0	**ABOLITIONIST 57 (B★)** Dr R Newland 12-11-8	**Brian Hughes 93**
2	74-6591	**GANGSTER 28** W Greatrex 10-11-2	**Richard Johnson 98**
3	17-811U	**HARD TO FORGET 56 (BF,D)** H Oliver 7-11-1	**David Crosse 97**
4	1007/5P	**RUNSWICK ROYAL 33** A Hamilton 11-11-1	**Danny McMenamin (3) 85**
5	954-PPP	**ROCK ON FRUITY 33** B Haslam 11-11-1	**Richie McLernon —**
6	-24U2UP	**JUSTFORJAMES 49 (P;C)** M Hammond 11-11-0	**Miss Becky Smith (3) ●99**

BETTING: 5-4 Gangster, 3 Hard To Forget, 5 Abolitionist, 8 Runswick Royal, 12 Justforjames, Rock On Fruity

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2 3 abd 2

2019: Moving In Style 8-11-9 Tom Scudamore 7-2 (N Mulholland), 7 ran.

Sun Racing FORM

ABOLITIONIST (11-2) 25-1 10th of 14 (btn 26l) to Jepeck (10-11) (Sandown 3m hcap ch (2) £61,900 soft).

GANGSTER (12-0) 11-2 chased leader, not fluent 12th, led 16th, stayed on, ridden out, bt Achill Road Boy (10-11) 5l (5 ran) (Musselburgh 3m 3f hcap ch (4) £6,628 soft).

HARD TO FORGET unseated rider latest, earlier (11-12) 6-4 fav led 3 out until next, rallied gamely to lead again last, clear, bt Reallyrad-ical (11-10) 16l (5 ran) (Plumpton 3¼m hcap ch (4) £4,614 heavy).

RUNSWICK ROYAL pulled up latest, earlier (11-10) 11-1 held up, driven 12th, weakened, 5th of 6 (btn 39l) to Instant Replay (11-2) (Sedgefield 2m 3f hcap ch (3) £7,018 soft).

ROCK ON FRUITY pulled up latest, earlier (11-12) 6-1 rear, mistake 5 out, under pressure next, stayed on, kept on, 4th of 6 (btn 30l) to Pain Au Chocolat (11-10) (Newcastle 2½m hcap ch (3) £7,343 good to soft).

JUSTFORJAMES pulled up latest, earlier (12-2) 5-1 headway 16th, effort last, kept on, btn 2¾l by Agamemnon (11-9) (6 ran) (Sedgefield 3¼m hcap ch (4) £4,614 soft).

3.45 HORTON HARRISON ASTILL EVANS HCAP HURDLE (4); value to the winner £3,769; 3m 3f. (10 runners)

1	1P-6906	**KATY ROYAL 5 (CD)** C Fairhurst 8-12-7	**John Kington 96**
2	2611-P0	**THE HORSECHESNUT 46 (T,V★)** J Candlish 12-11-12	**Sean Quinlan 85**
3	3552/7-	**BOYFROMNOWHERE 652 (T)** A Wintle 13-11-2	**Benjamin Poste —**
4	P-6867	**KING GYPSY 33 (P)** O Greenall 5-11-2	**Ross Turner (5) 97**
5	954U352	**SAMTU 26 (P)** F Murtagh 9-11-1	**Brian Hughes 98**
6	0904542	**DUTY GIRL 10 (P;BF)** J Brooke 7-10-11	**Henry Brooke ●99**
7	2/3-045	**SHOCONA'S JOY 35** D McCain 6-10-11	**T Phelan 97**
8	603P4-8	**LEOPARD 38 (T)** J Foster 6-10-10	**R Mania 95**
9	7/0P215	**ANIKNAM 42 (BF)** P Kirby 10-10-9	**Thomas Dowson 97**
10	P-454P7	**BETTERLATETHANNEVA 87 (T,V)** G Howell 9-10-0	**Tabitha Worsley (5) 97**

BETTING: 3 Duty Girl, 7-2 Aniknam, 5 Samtu, 6 Shocona's Joy, 8 Boyfromnowhere

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1-3 2 5 abd 1

2019: Very Extravagant 10-11-10 Tom Scudamore 11-8 Fav (N Mulholland), 4 ran.

Sun Racing FORM

KATY ROYAL (11-12) 66-1 rear 4 out, soon weakened, tailed off, 6th of 9 (btn 42l) to Mamoo (11-5) (Catterick 3m 1f hcap hdle (4) £4,549 heavy).

THE HORSECHESNUT (10-4) 16-1 ridden 6 out, weakened 4 out, tailed off, 11th of 12 (well btn) to Tokyo Getaway (11-6) (Punchestown 3m hcap hdle €7,653 soft - heavy).

BOYFROMNOWHERE (11-2) 5-1 led until 8th, weakened, 7th of 8 (btn 37l) to Heavenly Promise (10-7) (Bangor 3m hcap ch (5) £3,314 good).

KING GYPSY (11-2) 14-1 mid-division, weakened 2 out, 7th of 9 (btn 14l) to Ladronne (11-6) (Newcastle 2¾m amat hcap hdle (5) £3,619 soft).

SAMTU (10-11) 20-1 made all, clear 2 out until between last 2, joined last, headed run-in, btn 4¾l by Sign Of War (11-4) (14 ran) (Sedgefield 3m 3f hcap hdle (5) £2,794 soft).

DUTY GIRL (10-6) 5-1 fav led 6 out, headed 5 out, pressed, headed run-in, kept on, btn 1½l by The Wallace Line (11-4) (11 ran) (Sedgefield 3m 3f hcap hdle (5) £2,794 heavy).

SHOCONA'S JOY (10-9) 16-1 held up in touch, niggled along and weakened 6th, 5th of 7 (btn 46l) to Desaray Girl (11-11) (Sedgefield 2½m nov hdle (4) £3,769 soft).

LEOPARD (10-13) 20-1 held up in rear, hit 5th, soon beaten, 8th of 12 (btn 44l) to Jobsonfire (10-11) (Wetherby 3m nov hcap hdle (5) £3,509 soft).

ANIKNAM (10-11) 6-4 fav led until 3 out, weakened, 5th of 9 (btn 29l) to Emma Beag (11-8) (Ayr 3m hcap hdle (5) £3,834 heavy).

BETTERLATETHANNEVA (9-9) 40-1 7th of 10 (well btn) to Hit The Highway (11-8) (Wincanton 3m 3f hcap ch (5) £4,224 good).

4.20 WATCH SKY SPORTS RACING IN HD HANDICAP CHASE (2); winner £15,825; 2m 5f. (9 runners)

1	6F-21P4	**KING'S ODYSSEY 29 (D)** E Williams 11-11-12	**Adam Wedge 92**
2	1211-22	**FLOWERY 36 (H;C,D)** I Jardine 8-11-4	**Conor O'Farrell 98**
3	4412234	**RIVER FROST 34 (P;D)** B Haslam 8-11-3	**Richie McLernon 97**
4	23-1132	**ECEPARTI 38 (D)** V Williams 6-10-12	**Hugh Nugent (5) 95**
5	50-2421	**INSTANT REPLAY 51 (P;CD)** B Ellison 8-10-12	**Henry Brooke 95**
6	7247445	**SCOOP THE POT 33** B Haslam 10-10-7	**Alain Cawley 85**
7	21522/3	**BOLLIN ACE 29 (P)** T Easterby 9-10-7	**Jamie Hamilton 93**
8	6/8-334	**CHARMIX 36 (D)** L Russell 10-10-5	**Callum Bewley ●99**
9	224-73F	**THE PADDY PIE 38 (C)** Sue Smith 7-10-5	**Danny Cook 92**

BETTING: 3 Eceparti, 7-2 Instant Replay, 5 Flowery, 7 King's Odyssey, The Paddy Pie, 8 River Frost, 14 Bollin Ace, Charmix, 20 Scoop The Pot

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2 abd 1-3

2019: Cap Du Nord 6-10-11 James Bowen 9-4 JtFav (C Williams), 5 ran.

Sun Racing FORM

BOLLIN ACE (10-1) 25-1 led 9th, headed next, every chance 4 out, 3rd of 9 (btn 13l) to Nuts Well (11-7) **KING'S ODYSSEY** (11-6) 14-1 rear, plugged on 4 out, went 4th flat, never dangerous, 4th (btn 16l) (9 ran) (Wetherby 2m 3f hcap ch (2) £11,574 soft).

FLOWERY (10-7) 8-1 led, driven and headed 3 out, ridden, rallied to lead again run-in, held, btn hd by Theo's Charm (10-3) (5 ran) (Uttoxeter 2½m hcap hdle (2) £9,384 heavy).

RIVER FROST (10-8) 16-1 chased leaders, slow 3 out, ridden and one pace after, 4th of 6 (btn 12l) to The Con Man (10-5) (Kelso 2m 5f hcap hdle (2) £12,512 soft).

ECEPARTI (11-12) 4-1 held up, not fluent 2nd, headway 10th, went 2nd 3 out, led last, hung left, headed close home, btn hd by Cap Du Nord (11-2) (9 ran) (Fakenham 2m 5f hcap ch (3) £8,837 good to soft).

INSTANT REPLAY (11-2) 6-4 fav effort 2 out, stayed on well close home, bt **FLOWERY** (11-10) 6-1 led, hit 11th, two lengths ahead when stumbled on landing last, headed, no extra, 1l **THE PADDY PIE** (11-2) 4-1 held up, headway 5th, pushed along 2 out, stayed on one pace, held, 3rd (btn 13l) (6 ran) (Sedgefield 2m 3f hcap ch (3) £7,018 soft).

SCOOP THE POT (11-8) 50-1 5th of 10 (btn 39l) to Fortified Bay (11-8) (Newcastle 2m 7f hcap ch (3) £7,343 soft).

CHARMIX (12-2) 14-1 led 7th, headed 4 out, one pace, 4th of 10 (btn 19l) to Neachells Bridge (12-2) (Uttoxeter 2½m hcap ch (4) £4,289 heavy).

4.50 SKY SPORTS RACING SKY 415 HANDICAP HURDLE (4); value to the winner £3,769; 2m 4f. (6 runners)

1	/57P-PP	**FEDERICI 29** D McCain 11-11-12	**Miss Abbie McCain (5) —**
2	41-3151	**DARLYN 55 (C)** H Oliver 7-11-11	**Nathan Brennan (10) 90**
3	6-643P5	**RARE CLOUDS 36** Sue Smith 6-11-3	**Danny Cook ●99**
4	8/P0220	**CRACKDELOUST 29 (V;C)** B Ellison 8-11-3	**Henry Brooke 97**
5	055U969	**NICELY INDEED 35 (P;CD)** P Kirby 10-11-1	**Sean Quinlan 85**
6	0850138	**CEDAR HILL 29 (T)** I Jardine 6-10-13	**Callum Bewley 98**

BETTING: 13-8 Darlyn, 3 Rare Clouds, 11-2 Crackdeloust, 6 Federici, 7 Cedar Hill

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED and 2019: No corresponding race.

BOX CLEVER

TRAINERTRACE: ■**HUNTINGDON** 2.20 **Petrastar** C Cox to D J Jeffreys, 2.20 **Shareef Star** Sir M Stoute to P Bowen, 5.00 **Tuscan Pearl** W Knight to J Scott, 5.30 **Martinhal** Aidan Fitzgerald to D Pipe. ■**LEOPARDSTOWN** 3.05 **Charli Parcs** N Henderson to A A Howard, 3.05 **Espion Du Chenet** M Palussiere to G J Power. ■**SEDGEFIELD** 2.10 **Snowed In** Mrs B Butterworth to F Murtagh, 3.45 **The Horsechesnut** D M O'Brien to Jennie Candlish. ■**HOT TRAINERS:** D M Christie 4 from 7; C Longsdon 2 from 6; Mrs J Harrington 6 from 24; A King 5 from 19; T R George 4 from 14; Olly Murphy 4 from 19; R Menzies 3 from 16. ■**HOT JOCKEYS:** Mr B O'Neill 7 wins from 13; A Coleman 6 from 19; N De Boinville 6 from 17; J Burke 5 from 17. ■**COLD TRAINERS** M W Easterby 60; G Howell 50. ■**COLD JOCKEYS** T Worsley 82; T Phelan 37; A Cawley 33. ■**JOB JOCKEYS; HUNTINGDON;** Gavin Sheehan rides **Bon Calvados** (4.30) for Olly Murphy, 14 winners from 39 rides, 36%. Alan Johns rides **Christopher Robin** (4.30) for Tom Lacey, 8 from 29, 28%. **SEDGEFIELD:** Brian Hughes rides **Abolitionist** (3.15) for Dr R Newland, 8 winners from 18 rides, 44%. Danny McMenamin rides **Runswick Royal** (3.15) for Mrs A Hamilton, 3 from 8, 38%. **LEOPARDSTOWN:** O R Brown rides **Alighted** (2.30), **Mortal** (4.40), **Lunar Display** (5.10) for J P O'Brien, 7 winners from 14 rides, 50%. Mr J J Codd rides **Homme D'un Soir** (5.10) for G Elliott, 140 from 370, 38%.

RACING RESULTS

■YESTERDAY's meeting at Newbury was abandoned due to a waterlogged track. Navan had already been axed the day before

Monday's jumps card at Chepstow is also off while Wetherby, due to race on the same day, is subject to an 8am inspection.

Today's Sedgefield card is also subject to an inspection at 7am in the aftermath of Storm Jorge, the third weather shocker to hit the UK and Ireland in a month.

The lost Newbury card cost Richard Johnson six rides and despite a win on 100-30 Stonific at Doncaster he remains 16 adrift of championship leader Brian Hughes who scored on 9-4 Clondaw Caitlin at Kelso.

DONCASTER

1.50: 1 LIOSDUIN BHEARNA P Brennan (6-1); **2 Blackjack Kentucky** (5-2 fav); **3 Remastered** (8-1). 11 ran. 6½l; 3½l. F O'Brien. T: £6.20; £2.50, £1.10, £2.80. Ex: £23.40. Tricast: £121.63. Trifecta: £218. CF: £21.29. NR: Point Of Principle.

2.25: 1 GINO TRAIL P Brennan (9-2); **2 Katpoli** (11-2); **3 Nuts Well** (5-1). 7 ran (Dolos 3-1 fav). 3¾l; 2l. F O'Brien. T: £5.10; £2.70, £3.70. Ex: £37.20. Tricast: £128.23. Trifecta: £178.90. CF: £29.60. NR: Jerrysback.

3.00: 1 CILL ANNA H Cobden (4-6 fav); **2 Ziggy Rose** (7-1); **3 Aimee De Sivola** (9-2). 8 ran. ½l; 6½l. P Nicholls. T: £1.50; £1.10, £2, £1.40. Ex: £6.50. Trifecta: £20.70. CF: £7.37.

3.35: 1 CAPTAIN CHAOS H Skelton (9-2); **2 Worthy Farm** (9-4 fav); **3 Yalltari** (5-1). 7 ran. 54l; 38l. D Skelton. T: £4.60; £2.20, £1.50. Ex: £14.60. Tricast: £51.54. Trifecta: £61.80. CF: £15.67. NR: Boldmere, Chidswell, Definitly Red, Saint Xavier.

4.10: 1 KEPAGGE T Scudamore (15-8); **2 Firak** (8-13 fav); **3 Apple Rock** (9-1). 3 ran. 9l; 22l. D Pipe. T: £2.60; Ex: £3.30. Trifecta: £4.30. CF: £3.51. NR: I'm Here, Now Is The Winter.

4.45: 1 STONIFIC R Johnson (10-3 fav); **2 Little Stevie** (7-1); **3 For Pleasure** (7-1). 8 ran. 9l; 7½l. D O'Meara. T: £3.20; £1.60, £2.10, £2.20. Ex: £18.30. Tric: £152.30. Trif: £76.20. CF: £26.67. NR: Hereia, Mabela.

5.20: 1 KEARNEY HILL Jack Tudor (2-1); **2 Nells Son** (13-8 fav); **3 North Parade** (4-1). 5 ran. ns; 13l. B Ellison. T: £2.80; £1.60, £1.10. Ex: £6. Trifecta: £12.80. CF: £5.65. NR: Frascato Bello, Teescomponentsyess.

PLACEPOT: £116.70 **QUADPOT:** £9

KELSO

1.37: 1 STRATAGEM Mr D Maxwell (4-9 fav); **2 Three Castles** (7-1); **3 Beat Box** (4-1). 4 ran. 24l; 15l. P Nicholls. T: £1.10; Ex: £3.10. Trif: £5.20. CF: £3.93.

2.12: 1 PROTEK DES FLOS R McLernon (15-2); **2 Looks Like Murt** (5-2 fav); **3 Some Reign** (8-1). 8 ran. 1l; 1½l. B Haslam. T: £8.10; £2.20, £1.50, £2.80. Ex: £27.80. Tricast: £154.33. Trif: £225.70. CF: £27.09.

2.45: 1 CLONDAW CAITLIN B Hughes (9-4); **2 Elf De Re** (11-1); **3 Cheddleton** (2-1 fav). 7 ran. 5l; nk. Ruth Jefferson. T: £3; £1.80, £4.10. Ex: £20.30. Trif: £62.60. CF: £26.08.

3.22: 1 DEFINITLY RED D Cook (evens fav); **2 Kauto Riko** (4-1); **3 Saint Xavier** (9-2). 5 ran. 14l; 38l. B Ellison. T: £1.50; £1.10, £2. Ex: £5. Trifecta: £9.50. CF: £5.56.

3.57: 1 MILVALE R Mania (9-2); **2 The Delray Munky** (7-1); **3 Kalaharry** (11-2). 6 ran (Black Pirate evens fav). 10l; 11l. A M Thomson. T: £5.30; £2, £2.90. Ex: £38.90. Trif: £117.50. CF: £33.55.

4.32: 1 ARTICLE FIFTY J Bewley (9-1); **2 Uno Valoroso** (8-1); **3 Skipping On** (4-1). 6 ran (Warendorf 15-8 fav). 4¾l; 1¼l. G Bewley. T: £10.90; £3.50, £3.60. Ex: £78.30. Trif: £194.90. CF: £70.11.

5.07: 1 LATE ROMANTIC C Todd (9-4); **2 Samstown** (11-2); **3 Ask The Weatherman** (6-4 fav). 5 ran. 26l; 6l. Oliver Greenall. T: £3.20; £1.50, £2.90. Ex: £12.10. Trif: £31.70. CF: £14.21.

PLACEPOT: £365.50 **Q/POT:** £94.80

LINGFIELD

1.25: 1 UNDER CURFEW T Marquand (7-2 fav); **2 Bernie's Boy** (13-2); **3 Superseded** (5-1). 10 ran. ¾l; 1l. A Carroll. T: £4.10; £1.50, £2.40, £2.10. Ex: £19.50. Tricast: £117.12. Trifecta: £119.30. CF: £26.24.

2.00: 1 TOP BREEZE S W Kelly (7-4 fav); **2 Verne Castle** (7-1); **3 Alsvinder** (14-1). 6 ran. ns; ½l. R Hughes. T: £2.30; £1.30, £3. Ex: £13.70. Trifecta: £92. CF: £14.89.

2.35: 1 NONIOS D E Hogan (15-2); **2 Smile A Mile** (9-2); **3 Double Kodiac** (2-1). 5 ran (Spirit Warning 11-8 fav). ½l; 1¾l. D M Simcock. T: £7.60; £3.50, £2. Ex: £21.70. Trifecta: £128.70. CF: £39.02. NR: Dragon Sun.

3.10: 1 MALOTRU A Atzeni (7-2); **2 Raaeb** (9-2); **3 The Perfect Crown** (7-4 fav). 9 ran. 3¼l; ½l. M Botti. T: £4.10; £2.10, £1.80, £1.20. Ex: £22.70. Trifecta: £58.20. CF: £21.15.

3.45: 1 CLOG MAKER F Norton (6-5 fav); **2 Ahorsecalledwanda** (4-1); **3 Rogue Tide** (7-1). 7 ran. 1¾l; 3¼l. M Johnston. T: £1.50; £1.10, £2. Ex: £3.20. Trifecta: £7.70. CF: £3.39. NR: Karibana Rule 4 applies, -30p in the £.

4.20: 1 TRALEE HILLS T Marquand (6-1); **2 Noble Fox** (2-1 fav); **3 Crimson King** (8-1). 11 ran. ½l; 1¼l. P Hedger. T: £6.50; £2, £1.40, £2.50. Ex: £22.80. Tric: £104.04. Trif: £196.80. CF: £19.70.

4.55: 1 MONJENI O Stammers (10-1); **2 Seaport** (11-4 fav); **3 Rydan** (18-1). 8 ran. 5l; nk. I Williams. T: £13.40; £3.30, £1.30, £5.10. Ex: £56.60. Tricast: £506.83. Trifecta: £478.50. CF: £39.61.

PLACEPOT: £42.90 **QUADPOT:** £8.30

SOUTHWELL

5.30: 1 NATIVE SILVER L Morris (7-1); **2 Mister Music** (4-1); **3 Motawaafeq** (10-1). 7 ran (Sheriffmuir 15-8 fav). ns; 1½l. R Eddery. T: £9.30; £3.80, £2.10. Ex: £41.10. Tricast: £278.53. Trifecta: £387.40. CF: £34.04. NR: Charlie Arthur.

6.00: 1 MISS MOROCCO T P Queally (14-1); **2 Mountain Ruler** (16-1); **3 Hatcher** (5-1). 7 ran (Latin Knight 13-8 fav). ½l; 2l. N Twiston-Davies. T: £17.20; £6.90, £7.90. Ex: £87.60. Trifecta: £744.40. CF: £197.54.

6.30: 1 CHARLIE D R Kingscote (9-4); **2 Harbour Front** (6-4 fav); **3 Argus** (16-1). 7 ran. 2½l; 16l. T Dascombe. T: £2.60; £2.50, £1.10. Ex: £6.80. Trifecta: £43.50. CF: £6.17.

7.00: 1 DE BRUYNE HORSE P Dennis (11-2); **2 Extrodinair** (11-10 fav); **3 Mujassam** (25-1). 6 ran. nk; 1½l. D C Griffiths. T: £5.50; £2.60, £1.10. Ex: £14.20. Trif: £147.90. CF: £12.52.

7.30: 1 LONDONIA K O'Neill (20-1); **2 War Empress** (11-4 fav); **3 Bill Cody** (5-1). 11 ran. 2l; 1¼l. G McPherson. T: £26.80; £5.80, £1.30, £1.80. Ex: £106.70. Tric: £335.86. Trif: £781.60. CF: £75.10. NR: Lonimoss Bareliere.

8.00: 1 PALAZZO G Lee (5-1); **2 The Eagle's Nest** (6-4 fav); **3 Voice of A Leader** (12-1). 10 ran. hd; 5½l. B Smart. T: £6; £1.80, £1.20, £2.30. Ex: £18.30. Tricast: £91.17. Trifecta: £106.80. CF: £13.49.

PLACEPOT: £633.70 **QUADPOT:** £5

E-W THIEF

HAVE an e-way double at Huntingdon. BOLTON BOY (2.50) was well punted when falling at Wetherby and can go close if jumping better.

Pair him with OSCAR WILDE (3.55) who beat a subsequent winner with plenty in hand at Sedgefield last time. Top jockey Aidan Coleman is a rare booking for the yard.

HUNTINGDON

GOING: HEAVY (SOFT IN PLACES)

TEMPLEGATE

2.20 ....Fearless
2.50 ....Little Red Lion
3.25 ....Equus Secretus
3.55 ....Oscar Wilde
4.30 ....Bon Calvados
5.00 ....Whiteoak Fleur
5.30 ....Fortunate Fred

TOM PEPPER

2.20 ....Imperial Icon
2.50 ....Little Red Lion
3.25 ....Royale Pagaille
3.55 ....Canelo
4.30 ....Bon Calvados
5.00 ....Zero To Hero
5.30 ....Fortunate Fred (nb)

TEMPLEGATE'S TRIO: Roxyfet (Sedgefield) and Flowery (double, Sedgefield) with Whiteoak Fleur (Huntingdon).
TOM PEPPER'S DOUBLE: Strong Glance (Sedgefield) and Fortunate Fred (Huntingdon). SUNRATINGS' NAP: DUTY GIRL (3.45 Sedgefield).
SIRIUS, Sun On Sunday, nap: ELAN DE BALME (3.55 Huntingdon).

■TIC-TAC: R-H flat track of 1m 4f with nine fences and a 200yd run-in. ■TOP TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS (2015-2020): Jonjo O'Neill 25-122, K Bailey 21-115, A King 18-109, F O'Brien 16-59. THIS SEASON: F O'Brien 6, Olly Murphy 4, Jonjo O'Neill 4. ■TOP JOCKEYS WITH RIDES (2015-2020): P Brennan 20-88, A Coleman 18-106, N De Boinville 18-74, D Bass 17-93. THIS SEASON: P Brennan 8, N De Boinville 4, Jonjo O'Neill Jr 3. ■LONGEST TRAVELLER: Shareef Star (2.20) & Cougar's Gold (3.55) trained at Haverfordwest. Round trip of 552 miles. ■FIRST RUN SINCE WIND SURGERY: Hoot At Midnight (2.20), Royal Magic (3.55), Sir Egbert (3.55), Blazing Saddles (4.30), Golconda Prince (4.30). ■JACKPOT: 1-6. ■LIVE ON RACING TV

2.20 MANSIONBET CHELTENHAM NOVICE HURDLE (Class 4); value to the winner £4,874; 2m. (8 runners)

1 5331-50 **DE BARLEY BASKET 85 (T)** B Pauling 7-11-1 .... **Daryl Jacob 83**
2 15-3 **FEARLESS 45** O Murphy 5-11-1 .... **Aidan Coleman ●99**
3 **IMPERIAL ICON** K Bailey 5-11-1 .... **David Bass —**
4 **PETRASTAR F177 (H★,T★)** D J Jeffreys 5-11-1 .... **Kielan Woods —**
5 **SHAREEF STAR F255** P Bowen 5-11-1 .... **James Bowen —**
6 40-9000 **HOOT AT MIDNIGHT 82** C Longsdon 5-10-8 .... **Paul O'Brien (3) 73**
7 **JENNY REN F437** S Hollinshead 5-10-8 .... **Doubtful —**
8 2 **ISOLATE 24** A King 4-10-7 .... **Doubtful 98**

BETTING: 6-4 Fearless, 9-4 Imperial Icon, 4 Shareef Star, 7 Petrastar
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1
2019: Ferrobin 5-11-1 Bridget Andrews 1-2 Fav (D Skelton), 8 ran.

2.50 ENJOY CHELTENHAM WITH MANSIONBET HANDICAP HURDLE (5); winner £4,549; 3m 1f. (18 runners)

1 F6FP6-P **CROCODILE DUNDEE 143 (P★)** T H Weston 10-11-12 .... **Mr J Jeavons (7) —**
2 30-F652 **OVERWORKDUNDERPAID 38** C Longsdon 7-11-12 .. **Sam Twiston-Davies 98**
3 2877-2 **LITTLE RED LION 48 (T)** D Pipe 6-11-11 .... **Mr Fergus Gillard (7) 94**
4 F4-978F **BOLTON BOY 65 (BF)** T Vaughan 6-11-11 .... **Alan Johns 85**
5 P7P-396 **ANOTHER FRONTIER 37** N Twiston-Davies 9-11-11 ..... **Jamie Bargary 90**
6 367-445 **NINTH WAVE 10** J Mason 6-11-9 .... **Guy Disney (7) 94**
7 075-611 **OUT THE GLEN 76 (CD)** D Hamer 7-11-9 .... **Paddy Brennan 94**
8 5U354F3 **LITTLE BOY BORU 20 (D)** Sue Smith 12-11-9 .... **Gavin Sheehan 94**
9 0/1706P **PETRUCCI 95 (T)** D J Jeffreys 8-11-2 .... **Kielan Woods 94**
10 0804632 **WYE AYE 37 (H)** P Kirby 5-11-2 .... **Colm McCormack (3) 94**
11 -443918 **PRAY FOR A RAINBOW 26 (B,T)** S Drinkwater 9-10-12 **Fergus Gregory (3) 94**
12 P662P00 **MINELLA RISING 23** C Poulton 8-10-12 .... **M Batchelor ●99**
13 -76PP09 **WHATCOLOURISHE 66 (H,T)** K Burke 7-10-10 .... **Thomas Bellamy 87**
14 997-722 **GO AS YOU PLEASE 26** P Webber 7-10-10 .... **Aidan Coleman 97**
15 76/84-0 **TIMETOBENEFIT 43 (T)** R Phillips 9-10-8 .... **Daniel Hiskett (3) 88**
16 63400F0 **HAVACUPPA 28** S Gardner 6-10-5 .... **Lucy Gardner 90**
17 /650069 **THE LATE LEGEND 61 (B★,T)** T H Weston 7-10-2 .... **Liam Treadwell 89**
18 P-P575P **BURGESS DREAM 40** A N-Smith 11-10-0 .... **David Noonan —**

BETTING: 9-2 Out The Glen, 5 Little Red Lion, 6 Wye Aye, 7 Little Boy Boru, Go As You Please, 10 Bolton Boy, 12 Overworkdunderpaid, 14 Pray For A Rainbow
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: abd PU
2019: Save The Pennies 8-11-1 Tom O'Brien 11-2 (J G Cann), 12 ran.

Sun Racing FORM

CROCODILE DUNDEE pulled up latest, earlier (11-3) 12-1 pushed along 3 out, never a factor, 6th of 9 (btn 46l) to Sizing Rome (11-10) (Thurles 2½m hcap ch €8,186 good).
OVERWORKDUNDERPAID (11-5) 10-1 led until headed 3 out, rallied, one pace, btn 10l by Jobsonfire (10-11) (12 ran) (Wetherby 3m nov hcap hdle (5) £3,509 soft).
LITTLE RED LION (11-3) 7-2 mid-division, headway 3 out, one pace, btn 4l by Shimba Hills (9-8) **NINTH WAVE** (11-5) 6-1 tracked leaders, lost place 3 out, plugged on, held, 4th (btn 12l) (12 ran) (Lingfield 2m 3f amat hcap hdle (5) £2,683 heavy).
BOLTON BOY fell latest, earlier (10-12) 20-1 8th of 14 (btn 29l) to Mack The Man (11-12) (Warwick 2m hcap hdle (4) £4,549 good to soft).
ANOTHER FRONTIER (11-6) 20-1 prominent, ridden and weakened 3 out, 6th of 14 (btn 36l) to Supreme Escape (11-9) (Doncaster 3m hcap hdle (4) £3,769 good to soft).
NINTH WAVE (11-3) 20-1 headway 4 out, plugged on, 5th of 18 (btn 8¾l) to Project Mars (11-7) (Huntingdon 2m 5f hcap hdle (5) £3,574 heavy).
OUT THE GLEN (11-2) 3-1 fav headway to go 2nd 4 out, led going best 2 out, ran on well, bt Ring The Moon (10-10) 1¾l (11 ran) (Ffos Las 2½m hcap hdle (5) £2,794 heavy).
LITTLE BOY BORU (10-13) 11-2 outpaced, kept on, 3rd of 9 (btn 3l) to Age Of Wisdom (10-11) (Plumpton 3m 1f hcap hdle (4) £4,094 heavy).
PETRUCCI pulled up latest, earlier (11-3) 7-1 outpaced 4 out, rallied 2 out but never able to get on terms, 6th of 10 (btn 30l) to Elite Garde (11-2) (Huntingdon 2½m nov hcap ch (4) £4,289 good).
WYE AYE (10-6) 11-1 not fluent, headway 2 out, stayed on, went 2nd towards finish, btn 1¼l by Imperial Elysian (11-9) (16 ran) (Huntingdon 2½m nov hcap hdle (4) £4,224 soft).
PRAY FOR A RAINBOW (10-10) 11-2 pushed along and struggling 8th, weakened, 8th of 14 (btn 17l) to Sign Of War (11-4) (Sedgefield 3m 3f hcap hdle (5) £2,794 soft).
MINELLA RISING (10-7) 100-1 no threat, 12th of 16 (btn 30l) to Imperial Elysian (11-8) (Kempton 2m 5f hcap hdle (4) £4,094 good to soft).
WHATCOLOURISHE (10-10) 150-1 mid-division, weakened 3 out, tailed off next, 9th of 12 (well btn) to Whitehotchillifili (10-10) (Wincanton 1m 7f nov hdle (4) £4,094 heavy).
GO AS YOU PLEASE (10-10) 11-2 reminders, ridden to go 2nd at the last, stayed on, btn 5½l by Bertie Blake (10-11) (10 ran) (Sedgefield 2½m hcap hdle (5) £2,794 soft).
TIMETOBENEFIT (10-7) 10-1 last pair, never a factor, 13th of 16 (btn 32l) to Tactical Manoeuvre (10-13) **HAVACUPPA** (10-10) 50-1 fell 1st (Taunton 2m 3f hcap hdle (5) £3,834 heavy).
HAVACUPPA (10-11) 25-1 never a threat, 11th of 17 (btn 21l) to Tactical Manoeuvre (11-9) (Taunton 2m 3f cond hcap hdle (5) £3,834 soft).
GO AS YOU PLEASE (10-6) 6-1 pushed along 3 out, plugged on, btn 6l by Galtee Mountain (10-5) **THE LATE LEGEND** (10-1) 40-1 9th (btn 33l) (15 ran) (Warwick 2m 3f nov hcap hdle (5) £3,249 soft).
BURGESS DREAM pulled up latest, earlier (10-8) 20-1 5th of 10 (btn 35l) to Touch Screen (9-12) (Lingfield 2½m hcap ch (5) £2,989 heavy).

3.25 MANSIONBET PROUD TO SUPPORT BRITISH RACING BEGINNERS' CHASE (4); £5,523; 3m. (3 runners)

1 2520-35 **EQUUS SECRETUS 60** B Pauling 8-11-2 .... **David Bass ●99**
2 122 **LIES ABOUT MILAN 22 (BF)** F O'Brien 9-11-2 .... **Paddy Brennan 98**
3 /F5F2-2 **ROYALE PAGAILLE 44** V Williams 6-11-2 .... **Charlie Deutsch 97**

BETTING: 13-8 Royale Pagaille, 15-8 Equus Secretus, 2 Lies About Milan
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED and 2019: No corresponding race.

Sun Racing FORM

EQUUS SECRETUS (11-4) 9-1 handy, hampered 12th, every chance 3 out, beaten next, 5th of 10 (btn 10l) to Doing Fine (10-0) (Cheltenham 3¼m hcap ch (2) £15,640 soft).
LIES ABOUT MILAN (10-13) 11-10 fav led 2nd until 3 out, pushed along and outpaced 2 out, stayed on, btn 8½l by The Jitterbug (11-2) (7 ran) (Uttoxeter 2m 7f mdn hdle (4) £3,769 heavy).
ROYALE PAGAILLE (10-12) 3-1 chased sole rival, not fluent, every chance, soon held, btn 9½l by Vision Des Flos (10-12) (2 ran) (Chepstow 3m nov ch (3) £7,018 heavy).

3.55 MANSIONBET FALLER INSURANCE JOHN BIGG 'OXO' HANDICAP CHASE (3); £16,245; 2m 4f. (13 runners)

1 7198/11 **IBLEO 10 (C)** V Williams 7-12-4 .... **Charlie Deutsch 97**
2 8F1-255 **BABY KING 29 (T)** T R George 11-12-0 .... **Mr N George (7) ●99**
3 141/360 **CANELO 23** A King 7-11-12 .... **Tom Cannon 92**
4 4-23431 **MR MCGO 24 (P)** D McCain 9-11-12 .... **Lorcan Murtagh (3) 96**
5 35/4-4U **EL PRESENTE 87 (BF)** K Bailey 7-11-11 .... **David Bass 94**
6 8-32546 **SIR EGBERT 22 (H,T★)** T Lacey 7-11-10 .... **Stan Sheppard 96**
7 P9-F43F **OUTOFTHISWORLD 43** H Fry 7-11-9 .... **Doubtful 85**
8 62122F7 **ELAN DE BALME 31 (D)** D Pipe 6-11-9 .... **Tom Scudamore 90**
9 0/074-4 **BIG CHIEF BENNY 23** A King 9-11-5 .... **Thomas Bellamy 94**
10 3-73F21 **OSCAR WILDE 35** Sue Smith 6-11-4 .... **Aidan Coleman 95**
11 -542212 **RIZZARDO 16 (CD)** N Twiston-Davies 8-11-2 .... **Sam Twiston-Davies 96**
12 64-P1FP **ROYAL MAGIC 216 (P,T;D)** S Thomas 8-10-11 .... **Doubtful 96**
13 -2UP243 **COUGAR'S GOLD 26 (B,T;D)** P Bowen 9-10-11 .... **James Bowen 98**

BETTING: 9-2 Ibleo, 5 Mr Mcgo, 6 Oscar Wilde, 13-2 Canelo, 10 Rizzardo, 12 El Presente, Big Chief Benny
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED and 2019: No corresponding race.

Sun Racing FORM

IBLEO (11-12) evens fav jumped well, tracked leader, led after 3 out, soon clear, won in a canter, bt Fanzio (11-8) 9½l (4 ran) (Huntingdon 2m nov hcap ch (4) £6,498 heavy).
BABY KING (11-2) 20-1 behind, some headway 5 out, outpaced next, no chance, 5th of 10 (btn 21l) to Greaneteen (11-10) (Musselburgh 2m hcap ch (3) £13,256 good to soft).
CANELO (10-13) 4-1 always off the pace in rear, last of 11 (well btn) to Legal Eyes (11-1) (Kempton 3m hcap ch (3) £8,447 good to soft).
MR MCGO (11-7) 9-2 tracked leaders, not fluent 6th, went 2nd when not fluent 8th, not fluent 13th, led before 3 out, clear from next, bt Cave Top (11-6) 13l (7 ran) (Doncaster 2½m hcap ch (4) £4,289 good to soft).
EL PRESENTE unseated rider latest, earlier (10-13) 25-1 in touch, headway 2 out, kept on same pace, 4th of 10 (btn 4½l) to Deyrann de Carjac (11-7) (Huntingdon 2½m nov chs (3) £9,747 good).
SIR EGBERT (11-8) 9-1 mid-division, well beaten 3 out, 6th of 12 (btn 30l) to Ask Himself (11-9) (Warwick 2m hcap hdle (4) £4,549 good to soft).
OUTOFTHISWORLD fell latest, earlier (11-0) 4-1 last throughout, outpaced, no chance, tailed off, last of 3 (well btn) to Midnight Tune (11-6) (Exeter 2m 1f nov ch (3) £7,473 heavy).
ELAN DE BALME (11-0) 16-1 behind, effort 3 out, held, 7th of 12 (btn 39l) to Worthy Farm (11-4) (Wincanton 3m 1f hcap ch (3) £16,245 soft).
BIG CHIEF BENNY (10-11) 16-1 rear, no chance, plugged on, 4th of 7 (btn 11l) to On The Slopes (11-7) (Kempton 2¾m nov Limited hcap ch (3) £8,447 good to soft).
OSCAR WILDE (11-3) 11-8 fav held up, improved 4th, went 2nd 12th, led last, ran on, bt Enrichissant (11-4) 1½l (6 ran) (Sedgefield 2m 3f hcap ch (4) £4,289 soft).
RIZZARDO (10-9) 9-4 prominent, led 5th, joined after 10th, headed 2 out, no extra, btn 11l by Senior Citizen (11-11) (5 ran) (Fakenham 2m 5f hcap ch (3) £9,617 soft).
ROYAL MAGIC pulled up latest, earlier (11-12) 7-2 tracked leaders, led 5 out, clear 3 out, easily, bt Scartare (10-12) 16l (5 ran) (Southwell 2½m hcap ch (4) £4,614 good).
COUGAR'S GOLD (11-11) 7-2 led 3rd, headed 7th, prominent, no extra 2 out, 3rd of 7 (btn 22l) to Ultimatum Du Roy (11-4) (Market Rasen 3m hcap ch (4) £6,498 good to soft).

4.30 MANSIONBET BEST ODDS GUARANTEED HANDICAP HURDLE (4); £7,798; 2m. (7 runners)

1 542-304 **TEGEREK 89 (H★)** Jonjo O'Neill 6-11-12 .... **Jonjo O'Neill Jr. 98**
2 6-2350 **BON CALVADOS 94 (H)** O Murphy 6-11-10 .... **Gavin Sheehan 87**
3 30728-4 **CHIEF BRODY 284 (D)** W Muir 9-11-8 .... **Lorcan Williams (3) 93**
4 521-467 **MARMONT 20 (H,T;CD)** J Davis 7-11-7 .... **James Davies 91**
5 2-80070 **CHRISTOPHER ROBIN 23 (D)** T Lacey 5-11-2 .... **Alan Johns ●99**
6 0760 **BLAZING SADDLES 74 (T★)** J Scott 5-10-13 .... **Matt Griffiths 97**
7 5F/5P **GOLCONDA PRINCE 86 (T)** M Pattinson 6-10-7 .... **Marc Goldstein 85**

BETTING: 11-4 Tegerek, 10-3 Bon Calvados, 4 Blazing Saddles, Chief Brody
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2 1 1 abd 2
2019: Dyliev 6-11-5 Sean Bowen 9-4 (Mrs C Bailey), 9 ran.

Sun Racing FORM

TEGEREK (11-12) 5-1 kept on, 4th of 6 (btn 44l) to Mr Love (11-1) (Southwell 3m hcap hdle (4) £3,769 soft).
BON CALVADOS (10-12) 17-2 led, not fluent 5th, headed after 3 out, weakened quickly, 11th of 12 (btn 31l) to Who Shot Jr (10-9) (Taunton 2m nov hdle (4) £5,458 good to soft).
CHIEF BRODY (11-8) 10-1 chased leader, ridden 3 out, faded, 4th of 8 (btn 9½l) to Carnage (11-0) (Warwick 2m hcap hdle (4) £4,549 good).
MARMONT (11-3) 25-1 handy, faded 3 out, 7th of 10 (well btn) to Hawthorn Cottage (11-3) (Plumpton 2½m hcap hdle (4) £4,094 heavy).
CHRISTOPHER ROBIN (11-6) 17-2 behind, ridden 4 out, found little, eased, tailed off, 10th of 15 (well btn) to Oscars Leader (11-7) (Bangor 2m 1f hcap hdle (4) £4,094 soft).
BLAZING SADDLES (11-0) 66-1 never a factor, 15th of 20 (btn 31l) to Mahler's Promise (10-11) (Newbury 2m mdn hdle (4) £4,484 soft).
GOLCONDA PRINCE pulled up latest, earlier (10-9) 100-1 held up, hit 3 out, weakened, 5th of 8 (btn 28l) to Golden Taipan (11-4) (Huntingdon 2m nov hdle (4) £3,899 good).

5.00 MANSIONBET CHELTENHAM MARES' MAIDEN HURDLE (4); winner £4,549; 2m 4f. (9 runners)

1 **COMMITTEE OF ONE** T R Gretton 5-11-4 .... **David Noonan —**
2 76 **ETON PRIDE 99** M Appleby 6-11-4 .... **Charlie Hammond (3) —**
3 1-38 **GRANNY'S SECRET 61** B Pauling 6-11-4 .... **Nico De Boinville —**
4 0-6 **LADY CHUFFNELL 39** B Pauling 6-11-4 .... **David Bass 84**
5 8/P **SCARLETT OF TARA 46** N Twiston-Davies 7-11-4 ...... **Jordan Nailor (5) —**
6 252-6 **THATS THE TRUTH 46** Jonjo O'Neill 6-11-4 .... **Jonjo O'Neill Jr. 98**
7 **TUSCAN PEARL F295** J Scott 5-11-4 .... **Matt Griffiths —**
8 332-352 **WHITEOAK FLEUR 58 (H)** D McCain 7-11-4 ...... **Lorcan Murtagh (3) ●99**
9 200-644 **ZERO TO HERO 28 (H)** Mrs S Leech 5-11-4 .... **Ciaran Gethings 91**

BETTING: 2 Thats The Truth, 5-2 Whiteoak Fleur, 5 Zero To Hero, 6 Lady Chuffnell
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1-2 1 abd 1
2019: Trull La La 5-11-4 Nico De Boinville 7-4 Fav (N Henderson), 9 ran.

5.30 ENJOY CHELTENHAM WITH MANSIONBET STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (5); £2,274; 2m. (8 runners)

1 3 **FORTUNATE FRED 37** J Snowden 5-11-2 .... **Gavin Sheehan ●99**
2 6 **GEORGE OF NAUNTON 31** N Twiston-Davies 5-11-2 . **Sam Twiston-Davies 98**
3 **IRISH SOVEREIGN** Mrs S Humphrey 5-11-2 .... **Eoin Walsh —**
4 F **MARTINHAL 112** D Pipe 5-11-2 .... **Tom Scudamore 91**
5 0 **ADSTANTES 50** A Hales 4-10-8 .... **Kielan Woods 73**
6 P **BIG HEARTED ARTHUR 50** H Daly 4-10-8 .... **Richard Patrick (3) —**
7 **GUMBO FLYER** P Webber 4-10-8 .... **James Bowen —**
8 0 **THEBUDINPUNDIT 87** S Gardner 4-10-8 .... **Lucy Gardner 76**

BETTING: 5-4 Fortunate Fred, 2 Martinhal, 3 George Of Naunton, 10 Gumbo Flyer
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 3 1 abd 5
2019: A Book Of Intrigue 6-10-9 Connor Brace 40-1 (F O'Brien), 11 ran.

TEMPLEGATE'S TOP TIPS

★ ROXY is music to my ears. **ROXYFET** (2.10 Sedgefield, nap) rarely runs a bad race here and has two wins from his past three visits. He powered home over fences last time but is equally happy over hurdles.

★ **FLOWERY** (4.20 Sedgefield, nb) has never finished out of the first two around here and was a close second on his last visit. He relishes this testing ground and has plenty of stamina.

★ **WHITEOAK FLEUR** (5.00 Huntingdon, treble) has been knocking on the door and should find this a little easier than the race she was second in at Musselburgh. She stays well and her rider takes off a handy 3lb.

ABC CHECK: H-Huntingdown, L-Leopardstown, S-Sedgefield

Abolitionist 3.15S
Adstantes 5.30H
Alighted 2.30L
Amlovi 2.10S
Anibale Fly 4.40L
Aniknam 3.45S
Another Frontier 2.50H
Aphaea 2.40S
Attitash 2.30L
Baby King 3.55H
Baron De Midleton 2.40S
Barrington Court 2.00L
Batcio 4.10L
Benkei 3.35L
Betterlatethanneva 3.45S
Big Chief Benny 3.55H
Big Hearted Arthur 5.30H
Blazing Khal 5.10L
Blazing Saddles 4.30H
Bollin Ace 4.20S
Bolton Boy 2.50H
Bon Calvados 4.30H
Boyfromnowhere 3.45S
British Art 3.35L
Burgess Dream 2.50H
Call The Taxie 4.40L
Canelo 3.55H
Cedar Hill 4.50S
Charli Parcs 3.05L
Charmix 4.20S
Chief Brody 4.30H
Christopher Robin 4.30H
Committee Of One 5.00H
Cougar's Gold 3.55H
Crackdeloust 4.50S
Crocodile Dundee 2.50H
Darlyn 4.50S
Darrens Diamond 2.30L
Darrens Hope 2.00L
De Barley Basket 2.20H
Demophon 2.30L
Dequall 2.10S
Dinny Lacey 2.30L
Duty Girl 3.45S
Eceparti 4.20S
El Presente 3.55H
Elan De Balme 3.55H
Envol Pierji 4.10L
Equus Secretus 3.25H
Espion Du Chenet 3.05L
Eton Pride 5.00H
Exultation 2.30L
Fakiera 2.30L
Fauguernon 3.35L
Favori Logique 3.35L
Fearless 2.20H
Federici 4.50S
Filon D'Oudairies 3.35L
Flindt 3.35L
Flowery 4.20S
Fortunate Fred 5.30H
From Eden 4.40L
Gangster 3.15S
Garde Forestier 2.10S
Gendarme 2.30L
George Of Naunton 5.30H
Go As You Please 2.50H
Go Fox 2.30L
Golconda Prince 4.30H
Got Trumped 3.05L
Grand Partner 4.10L
Granny's Secret 5.00H
Guanabara Bay 2.30L
Gumbo Flyer 5.30H
Gun Digger 4.40L
Hard To Forget 3.15S
Havacuppa 2.50H
Homme D'un Soir 5.10L
Hoot At Midnight 2.20H
Ibleo 3.55H
Ilikehim 2.30L
Imperial Icon 2.20H
Imperial View 2.00L
Instant Replay 4.20S
Irish Sovereign 5.30H
Isolate 2.20H
Jack Hackett 2.30L
Jenny Ren 2.20H
Jessica's Boy 2.30L
Jetz 3.05L
Jon Snow 2.30L
Joshua Webb 2.30L
Jour A La Plage 2.40S
Justforjames 3.15S
Kagney 4.10L
Kargs Post 2.30L
Kasakh Noir 3.05L
Katy Royal 3.45S
King Gypsy 3.45S
King's Odyssey 4.20S
Lady Chuffnell 5.00H
Larquebuse 2.00L
Leopard 3.45S
Lies About Milan 3.25H
Listen Dear 3.05L
Little Boy Boru 2.50H
Little Red Lion 2.50H
Lunar Display 5.10L
Lunch In Adare 2.00L
Marmont 4.30H
Martinhal 5.30H
Mengli Khan 3.05L
Minella Rising 2.50H
Miss Cognac 2.00L
Monstrosity 4.10L
Moonshine Bay 4.40L
Mortal 4.40L
Mr Mcgo 3.55H
Mrs Milner 2.00L
Niccolai 4.10L
Nicely Indeed 4.50S
Ninth Wave 2.50H
Oscar Wilde 3.55H
Out The Glen 2.50H
Outofthisworld 3.55H
Overworkdunderpaid 2.50H
Oxwich Bay 2.10S
Petrastar 2.20H
Petrucci 2.50H
Poker Party 4.40L
Polished Steel 3.35L
Pray For A Rainbow 2.50H
Prospectus 4.10L
Rare Clouds 4.50S
Rebelle Chaud 5.10L
Red Striker 2.30L
Reine Fee 3.35L
River Frost 4.20S
Rizzardo 3.55H
Rock On Fruity 3.15S
Roseys Hollow 2.30L
Roxyfet 2.10S
Royal Magic 3.55H
Royale Pagaille 3.25H
Runswick Royal 3.15S
S'all Good Man 5.10L
Samtu 3.45S
Sand Fly 2.00L
Say Goodbye 5.10L
Scarlett of Tara 5.00H
Scoir Mear 4.40L
Scoop The Pot 4.20S
Shackleton Island 2.30L
Shanroe 2.30L
Shareef Star 2.20H
Shocona's Joy 3.45S
Sir Egbert 3.55H
Smithscorner 4.10L
Snowed In 2.10S
Some Can Sing 2.30L
Spider Web 4.40L
Spruced Up 3.35L
Strong Glance 2.40S
Surmise 5.10L
Tandem 3.35L
Tegerek 4.30H
Thats The Truth 5.00H
The Horsechesnut 3.45S
The Late Legend 2.50H
The Paddy Pie 4.20S
Thebudinpundit 5.30H
Tikkanen Express 4.40L
Timetobenefit 2.50H
Tuscan Pearl 5.00H
Valentina Lady 2.30L
Whatcolourishe 2.50H
Whirling Dervish 2.30L
Whiteoak Fleur 5.00H
Wild Sam 2.10S
Wolfofallstreets 3.35L
Woods Well 4.40L
Wye Aye 2.50H
Youngnedofthehill 3.35L
Zambezi Fix 3.35L
Zero To Hero 5.00H

LEOPARDSTOWN

GOING: SOFT

EAMONN HAMES

2.00 ....Barrington Court
2.30 ....Jon Snow
3.05 ....Espion Du Chenet
3.35 ....Filon D'Oudairies
4.10 ....Batcio (nb)
4.40 ....MORTAL (nap)
5.10 ....Homme D'un Soir

TOM PEPPER

2.00 ....Larquebuse
2.30 ....Roseys Hollow
3.05 ....Listen Dear
3.35 ....Spruced Up
4.10 ....Batcio
4.40 ....From Eden
5.10 ....Homme D'un Soir

■TIC-TAC: Left-handed galloping course. The fences are fairly stiff. ■LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS (2015-2020): W P Mullins 71-374, G Elliott 34-332, H De Bromhead 23-192, J P O'Brien 18-147. THIS SEASON: G Elliott 10, W P Mullins 10, H De Bromhead 6. ■TOP JOCKEYS WITH RIDES (2015-2020): D Russell 19-140, M P Walsh 17-125, P Townend 13-99, R Power 12-111. THIS SEASON: R Blackmore 6, P Townend 5, D Russell 4. ■LONGEST TRAVELLER: Darrens Hope (2.00) & Darrens Diamond (2.30) trained at Waterford. Round trip of 210 miles. ■JACKPOT: 3-6. PLACEPOT: 1-6. ■TRAINERFAX: W P Mullins won the 3.05 in 2015 and 2016. ■LIVE ON RACING TV

2.00 MARES NOVICE HURDLE; winner €11,999; 2m 4f. (8 runners)

1 0-31 **BARRINGTON COURT 12** J Harrington 6-11-4 . **M P Walsh**
2 6516 **DARRENS HOPE 36 (D)** R Murphy 6-11-4 . **M P Fogarty**
3 1414 **LARQUEBUSE 84 (P;D)** G Elliott 6-11-4...... **D N Russell**
4 -41P **LUNCH IN ADARE 65 (D)** Peter Fahey 7-11-4 . **K Sexton**
5 2148 **SAND FLY 115 (D)** P Neville 7-11-4....... **G B Noonan (7)**
6 -618 **IMPERIAL VIEW 92 (D)** H De Bromhead 5-11-3 **R Blackmore**
7 5015 **MISS COGNAC 15 (D)** N Meade 5-11-3....... **E Walsh (7)**
8 5170 **MRS MILNER 28** P Nolan 5-11-3............ **S O'Keeffe (5)**

Miss Cognac ● 99, Larquebuse 97, Barrington Court 95.
7-4 Barrington Court, 5-2 Larquebuse, 6 Darrens Hope

Sun Racing FORM

BARRINGTON COURT (11-7) 4-1 tracked leaders, close 3rd 2 out, went 2nd entering straight, disputed lead last, led run-in, stayed on, bt Getaway Gorgeous (11-7) hd (22 ran) (Punchestown 2m mdn hdle €7,800 heavy).
DARRENS HOPE (10-13) 28-1 prominent early, dropped back, pushed along at stages, no impression 3 out, one pace, 6th of 7 (btn 24l) to Minella Melody (11-3) (Fairyhouse 2½m nov hdle Grd 3 (1) €20,400 yielding).
LARQUEBUSE (10-7) 5-1 held up, 5th halfway, ridden entering straight, under pressure 3 out, no extra in 4th next, kept on one pace, 4th of 6 (btn 6l) to Well Set Up (10-10) (Cork 3m nov hdle Grd 3 (1) €22,324 soft).
LARQUEBUSE (11-7) 13-2 niggled along in 4th 3 out, rapid headway final furlong, stayed on strongly to dispute lead at line, just failed, dd-ht with Lunch In Adare (10-13) **LUNCH IN ADARE** (10-13) 40-1 led last, strongly pressed close home, joined line, dd-ht with Larquebuse (11-7) **MISS COGNAC** (11-3) 12-1 one pace, 5th (btn 28l) (13 ran) (Fairyhouse 2½m mdn hdle €7,016 heavy).
SAND FLY (9-13) 4-1 every chance, kept on one pace, 8th of 14 (btn 18l) to Something Sweet (10-1) (Thurles 2½m hcap hdle €10,206 yielding to soft).
IMPERIAL VIEW (10-13) 7-1 8th of 9 (well btn) to Party Playboy (10-12) (Fairyhouse 2½m €10,206 soft).
MISS COGNAC (10-7) 11-2 led, joined 5 out, pushed along 3 out and headed next, 5th of 20 (btn 25l) to Fakir (11-0) (Gowran Park 2½m hcap hdle €9,900 heavy).
MRS MILNER (9-9) 12-1 ridden in moderate 16th 2 out, kept on one pace, 10th of 27 (btn 24l) to Black Tears (11-4) (Leopardstown 2¼m €59,999 yielding).

2.30 MAIDEN HURDLE; winner €8,100; 2m 2f. (23 runners)

1 2-P9 **ALIGHTED 24** J P O'Brien 7-11-12 .... **O R Brown (7)**
2 0 **ATTITASH 11** S J Treacy 5-11-12 .... **B Hayes**
3 P-00 **DEMOPHON 7** G Cromwell 6-11-12 .... **C D Maxwell**
4 6-34 **DINNY LACEY 77 (BF)** J Motherway 6-11-12. **R M Power**
5 4-42 **FAKIERA 22** G Elliott 5-11-12 .... **D N Russell**
6 0 **GENDARME 24 (P★)** P Neville 5-11-12 **C A Landers (5)**
7 7 **GO FOX 24** P Neville 5-11-12 .... **G B Noonan (7)**
8 **GUANABARA BAY F125** P Stafford 7-11-12. **A W Short (3)**
9 8/ **ILIKEHIM F130** W Durkan 6-11-12 .... **J B Kane (5)**
10 4444 **JACK HACKETT 177** D Love 6-11-12 .... **P Corbett**
11 69 **JESSICA'S BOY 77** N Meade 6-11-12 .... **E Walsh (7)**
12 332 **JON SNOW 36 (BF)** W P Mullins 5-11-12 ..... **P Townend**
13 924U **JOSHUA WEBB 14** N Meade 5-11-12 .... **D O'Regan**
14 0 **RED STRIKER 22** A McNamara 5-11-12 ...... **B J Cooper**
15 P-P0 **SHACKLETON ISLAND 14** P Gilligan 6-11-12 **J G Gilligan (7)**
16 1B76 **SHANROE 49 (T)** K Thornton 6-11-12 .... **D Meyler**
17 09 **WHIRLING DERVISH 14** G Cromwell 5-11-12 .. **J Moore**
18 95P8 **DARRENS DIAMOND 184** R Murphy 7-11-5 **M P Fogarty**
19 1- **ROSEYS HOLLOW 346 (T★)** J Sweeney 6-11-5 **M P Walsh**
20 -183 **VALENTINA LADY 65 (H)** P Nolan 6-11-5. **S O'Keeffe (5)**
21 4479 **SOME CAN SING 63** D M Christie 5-11-12 .... **RESERVE**
22 5-0 **KARGS POST 14** S Nolan 7-11-12 .... **RESERVE**
23 60 **EXULTATION 66 (T★)** J Harrington 6-11-12.. **RESERVE**

Dinny Lacey ● 99, Jon Snow 97, Fakiera 98.
9-4 Jon Snow, 7-2 Fakiera, 4 Dinny Lacey, 6 Joshua Webb

3.05 CONDITIONS HURDLE; winner €12,300; 2m 2f. (7 runners)

1 -0P4 **GOT TRUMPED 12** J Harrington 5-11-5.... **P D Kennedy**
2 4/0- **CHARLI PARCS 469** A A Howard 7-11-0.. **B J Geraghty**
3 10/ **ESPION DU CHENET 847 (T★;D)** G J Power 6-11-0. **J J Slevin**
4 3F65 **JETZ 42** Mrs J Harrington 8-11-0.......... **R M Power**
5 -560 **KASAKH NOIR 92** J J Lambe 8-11-0.. **L A McKenna (7)**
6 4633 **MENGLI KHAN 15 (P,T)** G Elliott 7-11-0... **L P Dempsey**
7 230F **LISTEN DEAR 28 (D)** W P Mullins 10-10-12 **P Townend**

Mengli Khan ● 99, Listen Dear 81.
7-4 Listen Dear, 5-2 Mengli Khan, 5 Charli Parcs, 7 Jetz

Sun Racing FORM

GOT TRUMPED (10-12) 12-1 every chance, ridden and under pressure 3 out, faded, 4th of 6 (well btn) to Yaha Fizz (11-0) (Punchestown 2m €15,000 heavy).
CHARLI PARCS (11-5) 11-1 mid-division, driven last, ridden final furlong, 11th of 18 (btn 15l) to Nietzsche (9-7) (Cheltenham 2m hcap hdle Grd 3 (1) £56,270 good).
ESPION DU CHENET (10-7) every chance, soon beaten, eased after 2 out, last of 10 (btn 29l) to Master Dino (10-7) (Auteuil 2¼m hdle £103,846 soft to heavy).
JETZ (11-6) 25-1 led 3rd, slow 6th and headed, reminder 4 out, pushed along, faded, last of 5 (well btn) to Real Steel (11-8) (Thurles 2½m ch Grd 2 €27,000 yielding).
KASAKH NOIR (11-4) 66-1 rear, pushed along 3 out, under pressure straight, no impression approaching 2 out where not fluent, no extra, 11th of 13 (btn 37l) to Brawler (9-13) (Fairyhouse 2½m €11,481 soft).
MENGLI KHAN (11-0) 10-1 led, pushed along out, ridden and headed before 2 out, 3rd and no impression last, no extra run-in, 3rd of 5 (btn 16l) to Cilaos Emery (11-0) (Gowran Park 2m hdle Grd 3 (1) €35,999 heavy).
LISTEN DEAR fell latest, earlier (11-1) 50-1 soon disputed, headed and chased leaders from 7th, 5th halfway, ridden and no extra 2 out, 14th of 27 (well btn) to Roaring Bull (10-9) (Leopardstown 3m hcap ch €119,063 soft).



OVERWORKDUNDERPAID (2.50 Huntingdon) was a solid second at Wetherby last time and looks on a fair mark.

3.35 HANDICAP HURDLE; winner €11,100; 2m. (13 runners)

1 /19- **BENKEI 575** H Rogers 10-11-10 .... **P T Enright**
2 00F2 **POLISHED STEEL 42 (P;D)** J Harrington 6-11-7 **R M Power**
3 8-86 **FILON D'OUDAIRIES 66 (T)** J P O'Brien 5-11-5.... **M P Walsh**
4 3630 **FLINDT 173 (D)** D Love 5-11-3 .... **P Corbett**
5 0914 **SPRUCED UP 28 (D)** E P Harty 6-11-3.. **S D Torrens (7)**
6 7120 **FAUGUERNON 29 (B;CD)** N Meade 6-11-1 **E Walsh (7)**
7 /5-9 **TANDEM 65 (D)** D K Weld 11-10-11 .... **R Blackmore**
8 U443 **ZAMBEZI FIX 42 (BF)** G Elliott 5-10-10 .... **L P Dempsey**
9 R022 **REINE FEE 33 (B★,T;BF,D)** S Crawley 7-10-9 **D Meyler**
10 4056 **FAVORI LOGIQUE 52** R O'Sullivan 5-10-7.. **J McGarvey**
11 9783 **BRITISH ART 22 (P)** R K Watson 8-10-1 ...... **D O'Regan**
12 6131 **WOLFOFALLSTREETS 35 (D)** P J Rothwell 6-10-1 **A W Short (3)**
13 2322 **YOUNGNEDOFTHEHILL 35 (H,T)** S Nolan 12-9-10 **C P McNamara (5)**

Flindt ● 99, Zambezi Fix 98, Reine Fee 97.
9-2 Spruced Up, 5 Wolfofallstreets, 6 Polished Steel, 7 Filon D'Oudairies, 8 Reine Fee, Zambezi Fix, 12 Tandem

Sun Racing FORM

BENKEI (10-9) 22-1 tracked leaders, 8th halfway, pushed along 2 out, faded, 9th of 20 (btn 34l) to Low Sun (10-4) (Galway 2m 7f hcap hdle €61,610 yielding to soft).
POLISHED STEEL (11-1) 6-1 pushed along to challenge 2 out, ridden last, kept on, btn 2¾l by Pakens Rock (11-2) (7 ran) (Thurles 2m hcap hdle €11,100 yielding).
FILON D'OUDAIRIES (11-7) 25-1 led straight, headed, no extra final furlong, 6th of 25 (btn 23l) to Cedarwood Road (11-7) (Leopardstown 2m mdn hdle €9,567 soft).
FLINDT (10-3) 25-1 no impression, 11th of 14 (btn 26l) to Razoul (10-3) (Listowel 2m €42,336 yielding).
SPRUCED UP (9-12) 10-1 led last when slight mistake and bumped, headed run-in, 4th of 27 (btn 6¼l) to Black Tears (11-4) (Leopardstown 2¼m €59,999 yielding).
FAUGUERNON (9-3) 20-1 ridden and weakened, 11th of 22 (btn 11l) to Thosedaysaregone (9-12) (Leopardstown 2m hcap hdle €90,000 yielding).
TANDEM (10-2) 25-1 held up, progress and mistake 2 out, ridden, one pace, 9th of 25 (btn 19l) to The Moyglass Flyer (10-9) (Leopardstown 2m hcap hdle €19,135 soft).
ZAMBEZI FIX (11-5) 13-8 fav chased leaders, led 4th, mistake and headed 3 out, 3rd of 8 (btn 5¼l) to Mayo Star (11-5) (Ayr 2½m mdn hdle (5) £3,379 heavy).
REINE FEE (11-4) 9-2 jt fav led 2 out, narrowly headed closing stages, btn hd by So Near So Farhh (10-5) (17 ran) (Down Royal 2m 1f hcap hdle €7,200 soft).
FAVORI LOGIQUE (11-10) 6-1 ridden in 5th 3 out, no extra in 6th before straight, 6th of 17 (well btn) to Lord Royal (11-10) (Clonmel 2½m mdn hdle €7,016 heavy).
BRITISH ART (11-6) 14-1 led 2nd, ran freely, headed 4 out, kept on one pace, 3rd of 18 (btn 5½l) to Muhaafiz (10-9) (Naas 2m cond hcap hdle €8,400 yielding).
WOLFOFALLSTREETS (9-7) 12-1 led travelling well 2 out, pressed last, stayed on well, bt **YOUNGNEDOFTHEHILL** (9-6) 8-1 ridden last, kept on final furlong, 2l (16 ran) (Naas 2m hcap hdle €9,600 yielding to soft).

4.10 NOVICE CHASE; winner €11,999; 2m 1f. (8 runners)

1 614P **NICCOLAI 29 (T;D)** H De Bromhead 6-11-8... **R Blackmore**
2 0409 **PROSPECTUS 50** G Cromwell 7-11-7. **Jonathan Moore**
3 912F **BATCIO 29 (D)** T M Walsh 8-11-5.............. **I J McCarthy**
4 6574 **GRAND PARTNER 10** T Mullins 12-11-3 **S O'Keeffe (5)**
5 7F42 **SMITHSCORNER 192 (T)** M Kennedy 9-11-1 .. **C Orr (5)**
6 1746 **ENVOL PIERJI 50** Liz Doyle 6-11-0............ **N P Madden**
7 P6-5 **KAGNEY 33 (H★)** J J Lambe 9-11-0 ... **L A McKenna (7)**
8 F547 **MONSTROSITY 47 (P★,T)** D McLoughlin 8-11-0 **C D Maxwell**

Smithscorner ● 99, Batcio 97, Prospectus 96.
5-2 Batcio, 3 Smithscorner, 5 Niccolai, 6 Grand Partner, 8 Envol Pierji, 10 Monstrosity, 12 Prospectus, 16 Kagney

Sun Racing FORM

NICCOLAI pulled up latest, earlier (11-0) 6-1 chased leaders, pushed along 4 out, one pace, 4th of 6 (well btn) to Halsafari (10-10) (Limerick 2¼m €10,524 heavy).
ENVOL PIERJI (11-12) 12-1 kept on one pace, 6th of 11 (well btn) to Annamix (11-12) **PROSPECTUS** (11-7) 20-1 tracked leaders, not fluent, weakened, 9th (well btn) (11 ran) (Fairyhouse 2m 1f beg ch €10,843 soft).
BATCIO fell latest, earlier (10-1) 11-2 headway straight, kept on run-in, btn ½l by Drumconnor Lad (10-13) **GRAND PARTNER** (10-9) 14-1 mistakes, pulled up (16 ran) (Leopardstown 2m 1f hcap ch €19,135 yielding).
GRAND PARTNER (10-0) 14-1 led 3 out, headed 2 out, still close up when slight mistake last, stayed on one pace run-in, 4th of 10 (btn 7l) to Tikkanen Express (11-3) (Thurles 2m 1f hcap ch €15,000 soft).
SMITHSCORNER (10-7) 7-1 ridden and progress to lead last, headed run-in, kept on, btn ½l by Act In Time (11-1) (11 ran) (Killarney 2m 1f hcap ch €11,623 yielding).
KAGNEY (10-10) 25-1 ridden, last of 5 (btn 37l) to Castle Oliver (11-0) (Down Royal 2m nov ch €11,999 soft).
MONSTROSITY (11-5) 8-1 led 2nd until 2 out, ridden and weakened, 7th of 11 (btn 30l) to Countess Cathleen (11-0) (Fairyhouse 2m beg ch €7,653 heavy).

4.40 HANDICAP CHASE; winner €30,000; 2m 5f. (11 runners)

1 -988 **ANIBALE FLY 28 (T;C)** A J Martin 10-11-10... **B J Geraghty**
2 3U14 **POKER PARTY 65** H De Bromhead 8-11-0.... **R Blackmore**
3 5-50 **MORTAL 64 (T;D)** J P O'Brien 8-10-13 ... **O R Brown (7)**
4 44-0 **MOONSHINE BAY 28 (P)** J Harrington 7-10-5 .. **R M Power**
5 2P3P **SPIDER WEB 12 (CD)** T Mullins 9-10-0...... **N P Madden**
6 -651 **TIKKANEN EXPRESS 10** J Dullea 9-10-0 .... **P T Enright**
7 P97P **WOODS WELL 64 (B★;CD)** G Elliott 9-9-11 **C P McNamara (5)**
8 6007 **SCOIR MEAR 11** T Mullins 10-9-10 .... **S D Torrens (7)**
9 3/5P **CALL THE TAXIE 12** P J Rothwell 9-9-10.. **D J O'Keeffe**
10 1026 **FROM EDEN 7 (B,T;D)** G Elliott 7-9-10..... **L P Dempsey**
11 PP0P **GUN DIGGER 12 (B,T;CD)** G Elliott 8-9-10 **G P Brouder (7)**

Woods Well ● 99, Poker Party 98, From Eden 97.
9-4 Poker Party, 9-2 Anibale Fly, 6 Mortal, 7 Tikkanen Express, 8 Moonshine Bay, 12 Spider Web, From Eden

Sun Racing FORM

ANIBALE FLY (11-10) 25-1 ridden next, soon weakened, last of 8 (well btn) to Delta Work (11-10) (Leopardstown 3m ch Grd 1 (1) €142,500 yielding).
POKER PARTY (11-6) 9-1 stayed on, 4th of 27 (btn 4¾l) to Roaring Bull (10-9) **GUN DIGGER** (10-0) 50-1 ridden 3 out, 10th (btn 23l) **SPIDER WEB** (10-10) 20-1 rear, pulled up (Leopardstown 3m hcap ch €119,063 soft).
SCOIR MEAR (10-9) 50-1 never dangerous, 16th of 25 (btn 38l) to Treacysenniscorthy (9-9) **MORTAL** (10-6) 16-1 rear, no extra 2 out, completely tailed off, 24th (well btn) (25 ran) (Leopardstown 3m hcap hdle €19,135 soft).
SCOIR MEAR (10-2) 50-1 mistakes, soon no impression, 11th of 24 (btn 23l) to Glamorgan Duke (9-11) **MOONSHINE BAY** (10-12) 20-1 faded, 14th (btn 39l) (24 ran) (Leopardstown 2m 5f hcap ch Grd 3 €90,000 yielding).
SPIDER WEB pulled up latest, earlier (10-6) 9-2 pushed along, one pace, 3rd of 9 (btn 16l) to Alohamora (9-9) (Fairyhouse 3m hcap hdle €11,481 soft).
TIKKANEN EXPRESS (11-3) 10-1 led 2 out, almost joined last, kept on well run-in, bt Kitten Rock (11-10) ¾l (10 ran) (Thurles 2m 1f hcap ch €15,000 soft).
SCOIR MEAR (10-7) 25-1 kept on, 6th of 12 (btn 35l) to Minella Times (9-10) **WOODS WELL** (10-11) 10-1 7th (well btn) (12 ran) (Navan 2½m hcap ch €31,892 soft).
SCOIR MEAR (9-10) 25-1 7th of 16 (btn 35l) to Mary Frances (9-11) (Punchestown 3m hcap hdle €15,900 heavy).
CALL THE TAXIE pulled up latest, earlier (11-1) 8-1 led, headed last, 5th of 11 (btn 6¾l) to Ice Cold Soul (10-7) (Thurles 2m 5f hcap ch €10,801 yielding).
FROM EDEN (11-2) 16-1 6th of 16 (btn 12l) to Castle Oliver (10-9) (Naas 2½m nov hcap ch €30,000 heavy).

5.10 NAT HUNT FLAT;4-y-o; winner €6,899; 2m. (7 runners)

1 1 **HOMME D'UN SOIR 38 (D)** G Elliott 11-12 **Mr J J Codd**
2 5 **BLAZING KHAL 22 (BF)** C Byrnes 11-5 **Mr P Byrnes (7)**
3 63 **S'ALL GOOD MAN 22** W T Farrell 11-5 .... **E Walsh (7)**
4 **SURMISE** P Twomey 11-5 .... **Mr B O'Neill**
5 **LUNAR DISPLAY** J P O'Brien 10-12 .... **O R Brown (7)**
6 **REBELLE CHAUD** A Donoghue 10-12 **Mr P J Vaughan (7)**
7 **SAY GOODBYE** G Elliott 10-12 .... **Ms L O'Neill**

Homme D'un Soir ● 99, S'all Good Man 89, Blazing Khal 88.
8-13 Homme D'un Soir, 6 Blazing Khal, 7 S'all Good Man

RUGBY UNION SPECIAL



WINNER . . . Ellis Genge touches down against Scotland

Genge is Ell of a power player

By JONNY FORDHAM

ELLIS GENGE will be "bottling up all his anger" to make Wales his latest demolition project.

The England loose-head prop has been highly explosive as part of coach Eddie Jones' 'bomb squad' off the bench in this season's Six Nations.

Supersub Genge scored the winner against Scotland and then destroyed the Ireland scrum in last week's win at Twickenham. Now with a Triple Crown on the line on Saturday, scrum-half Ben Youngs backs his Leicester team-mate to carry on producing the fireworks.

England v Wales
Six days to go

Youngs said: "Genge's exciting, isn't he? There's some power in the scrum and he sits there bottled up with all this anger.

"He wants to get out there and perform, and we want to use that as a team – his aggression, his power, his aggressiveness in the carry.

"It is a fantastic trait and for me as half-back to have someone you want to give the ball to. I think he also loves the idea of being that guy who can do that for us."

Genge has been involved in England since Jones took him to Australia as an apprentice during the 2016 the Test-winning tour.

But the 25-year-old has had to work hard for his caps, earning just 17 over four years – and only six of those as a starter.

Youngs, 30, said of the recent improvement in Genge: "He consistently trains very well.

"His level of training is way beyond when he first started in terms of how consistent he is. He has a desire to be involved in every play, a lot more engagement throughout the game.

"He is not going to go after any of the lads aggressively but he wants the ball even in training, he wants to train the way he plays.

"He wants to carry the ball, be confrontational but respectfully. Just be extremely dynamic.

"He is a guy who is unbelievably gifted at carrying the ball – and we want to use that."

If Youngs stays fit in facing Wales, he will earn his 100th cap against Italy in Rome seven days later, assuming that game goes ahead as the country continues to struggle with the coronavirus outbreak.

Only Jason Leonard has reached the ton for England, with the legendary prop going on to make it 114 – a record within sight for Youngs.

But he said: "There are plenty have got near it and then something has got in the way."

Pivac will develop Wyn-ning formula

ALUN WYN JONES has told the critics to lay off Wales head coach Wayne Pivac.

The Dragons never lost three Six Nations games in a row under Pivac's predecessor Warren Gatland.

But back-to-back defeats to Ireland and France and a trip to Twickenham to face England on Saturday means that is now an unwanted possibility for Jones and his men. The 6ft 6in lock said: "It is uncharted territory and the pressure is on.

By ALEX BYWATER

"It does not get any easier with England coming up at Twickenham."

But Jones added: "It is Wayne's first Six Nations whereas Warren had a dream start and 12 years to establish himself.

"Change is always the most difficult thing what work you are in.

"We all know Test rugby is about winning and we have not done that but performances in patches have been pleasing. You can be really reactionary and throw the baby out with the bathwater or step back.

"But there are a lot of senior players still here and it is about getting results rather than pointing fingers."

Pivac is attempting to evolve an attacking game and Jones said: "We are trying to play heads up rugby and develop the style Wayne wants."

BOOTIFUL, MAC

Leicester....14 Worcester....8

JOHNNY McPHILLIPS was spot on with the boot to earn Leicester a hard fought win over Worcester.

The 22-year-old replacement kicked three penalties — two in the last 17 minutes — in a scrappy affair that looked to be going the Warriors' way early on.

Worcester wing Perry Humphreys dived over after just 11 minutes, while Duncan Weir also hit a first-half penalty.

But the Tigers roared back through Jordan Olowofela's 33rd-minute try.

And McPhillips landed an 80th-minute shot at goal to seal the points.



PUSH 'N PAUL . . . Lasike try joy

QUINS POUNCE

Harlequins....34 Exeter....30

HARLEQUINS bagged a last-minute penalty try to wrap up all five points.

Despite going behind early to a Phil Dollman solo try, Quins fought back to head into half-time level at 13-13, thanks to a Paul Lasike touchdown and the boot of Marcus Smith.

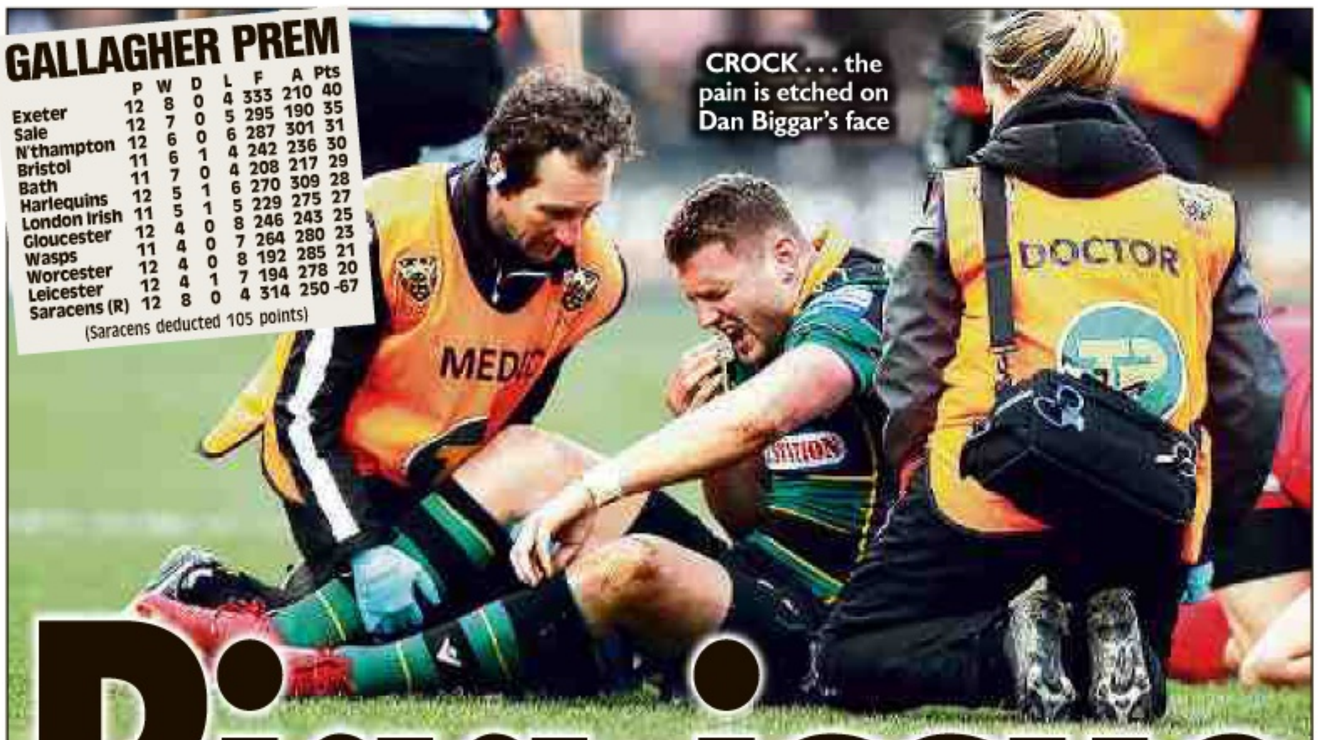
The hosts took a 20-13 lead after sub Tevita Cavubati bundled over but the Chiefs rallied with two quick tries from Joe Simmonds.

Yet Quins produced another stunning comeback – first through Smith's try in the 62nd minute and then from a penalty try with just seconds remaining to snatch victory and a bonus point.

GALLAGHER PREM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Exeter	12	8	0	4	333	210	40
Sale	12	7	0	5	295	190	35
N'thampton	12	6	0	6	287	301	31
Bristol	11	6	1	4	242	236	30
Bath	11	7	0	4	208	217	29
Harlequins	12	5	1	6	270	309	28
London Irish	11	5	1	5	229	275	27
Gloucester	12	4	0	8	246	243	25
Wasps	11	4	0	7	264	280	23
Worcester	12	4	0	8	192	285	21
Leicester	12	4	1	7	194	278	20
Saracens (R)	12	8	0	4	314	250	-67

(Saracens deducted 105 points)



Bigg issue

DAN INJURY BLOW FOR WALES

By ADAM HATHAWAY

DAN BIGGAR gave Wales a massive injury scare as he limped off with a knee injury after 20 minutes.

The Northampton fly-half had to be helped off the pitch putting in jeopardy his appearance in Saturday's Six Nations clash with England.

Saints played down the injury but Biggar was wincing in pain as he left the pitch.

Their coach Chris Boyd said: "He seems to be walking around okay so I don't think it is too serious.

"Everybody on the other side of the River Severn will be hoping he is okay. The medical team have not exactly worked out what it is."

Northampton.....21
Saracens.....27

Saints were 12-0 up in six minutes and still 12-8 ahead when Biggar went off – but then they fell apart.

Sarries overcame the first-half loss of full-back Alex Goode, No 8 Jackson Wray and centre Duncan Taylor, all with head knocks.

They battled on even though they know they are being relegated because of the salary cap scandal.

England new back-row Ben Earl clinched the bonus point for Saracens with a 65-metre dash to score after intercepting Cobus Reinach's pass.

Wales centre Nick Tompkins had got in on the act earlier with a try as Saint crashed to a fourth defeat on the spin.

Sarries coach Mark McCall said: "To be 12-0 down, it was great to see the players' response, and how they back each other and fought for each other through the game.

"I thought our scrum-half Richard Wigglesworth was incredible, particularly when we lost the other players.

"Earl was really keen to play and he knew we were in a bit of a pickle in terms of injuries. He had an outstanding game."

COLE ON ROLL

London Irish v Wasps

2.30pm

AUSTRALIA'S Adam Coleman believes London Irish are finally starting to show what they are all about.

Wing Ollie Hassell-Collins scored four tries against Gloucester last time out to fire them up to sixth.

And second-row Coleman, 28, ahead of today's clash with managerless Wasps, said: "The squad is really starting to gain momentum and we have had a hard couple of days of training."

Wales lock Will Rowlands, 28, starts for Wasps, who have 20 tries in five games.



FIT . . . Luatua has beaten a neck issue

BEAR MISSION

Bath v Bristol

3pm

BRISTOL will be going all out to end 14 years of hurt at Bath.

The Bears have not won at The Rec, home of their West Country rivals, since 2006 but victory today would see Pat Lam's men leapfrog them in the table.

Skipper Steven Luatua has recovered from a neck problem to be fit to play – and coach Lam said: "We are both desperate to win the game and there is so much riding on it.

"We know there will be an incredible atmosphere and we know the challenge, so it is set up for a cracking game."

ENGLAND'S Callum Shinkwin will take a share of the lead into the final round of the Oman Open in Muscat.

Chasing his first pro win, the ex-Walker Cup star was leading but a bogey on the last in his third-round 66 left him 11 under in a six-way tie.

SPORTS UPDATE

Mo: I'm no drug cheat

MO FARAH hit back at claims he lied about getting performance-enhancing injections.

Britain's Olympic legend says he had been affected "mentally and physically" by BBC's Panorama probe.

It claimed he had four injections of legal energy-boosting amino acid L-carnitine before the 2014 London Marathon.



The programme alleged he lied to testers, only to backtrack later.

Farah *(right)* told the Sunday Mirror: "I have done nothing wrong. It's depressing. It has had an effect on me.

"I was 100 per cent convinced I hadn't taken anything apart from magnesium. I put that on the doping control form.

"I was questioned for five hours. I said one thing and now it is made out I have done wrong."

Farah was unavailable for further comment.

JEAN-ERIC VERGNE finished third in the Marrakesh ePrix then fainted, a day after being quarantined in a coronavirus scare.

Vergne, who spent ten hours in hospital on Friday, said: "I didn't have strength to pour a bottle of water."

Sarah spin it to win it

SARAH GLENN backed England to seal a place in the Women's T20 World Cup semi-finals.

They face the West Indies in their final group game in Sydney this morning, when a win should confirm their spot.

Spinner Glenn took a career-best three for 15 in Friday's 42-run win over Pakistan.



And she revealed the team have shrugged off the defeat to South Africa earlier in the competition.

Glenn *(above)*, 20, said: "We punched back against Thailand, took the momentum into the Pakistan game and we're going to keep it simple and back our strengths against the West Indies.

"I'm going to keep working hard because I know there are people who are coming up and who are really talented."

NOVAK DJOKOVIC wants to be '2020 Invincible' after swiping aside Stefanos Tsitsipas in the Dubai Tennis Championships final.

The Serb has won all 18 matches this year, seeing off the Greek 6-3 6-4. He said: "One target is to go unbeaten."

SUPER LEAGUE ACTION

LOMAX WHACKS WOLFPACK

JONNY LOMAX bagged two first-half tries as St Helens returned to winning ways after their World Club Challenge defeat.

And Saints' response against the winless Wolfpack delighted coach Kristian Woolf.

Victory lifted last season's Grand Final winners up to second, while Toronto have lost all five games since gaining promotion.

They also finished the game with 12 men after Bodene Thompson's late dismissal for a shoulder charge. Woolf said: "It is not an easy thing to play such a big game last week, throw so much energy into it and get over the disappointment of not getting the result.

"We had to come and play a game that didn't have the same atmosphere and wasn't quite the same big occasion. So I thought we did a really good job and I'm certainly pleased with how we defended in both halves."

James Bentley – who suffered a game-ending ankle injury – and Louie McCarthy-Scarsbrook scored Saints' other touchdowns. Tommy Makinson kicked six goals from six attempts.

Wolfpack coach Brian McDermott said: "I saw a lot of commitment, given the amount of ball we turned over."

Toronto.....0 St Helens.....32



INSTA-READY KING . . . Tyson Fury showed off his amazing two-year transformation on Instagram as he thanked fans for sticking by him through his dark days

SPINELESS

Legend Schofield lets rip over Folau

By GARY CARTER

LEGEND Garry Schofield has blasted "spineless" rugby league bosses for allowing Israel Folau to play the sport.

And he also let rip at "hypocritical" boxing chiefs over their handling of Tyson Fury and his own controversial views on homosexuality.

Catalans Dragons sparked a firestorm in January by signing 30-year-old Folau – who was booted out of union in Australia after a homophobic rant.

Deeply religious Folau will make his first appearance on English soil at Hull FC today.



Schofield *(right)*, Great Britain's joint most-capped star, warned the Aussie to expect plenty of stick after claiming "Hell awaits" gay people.

And he added: "I just don't get why the authorities are allowing things like this to happen.

"People in charge of sports are spineless. I find it despicable the way authorities allow people to get away with it.

"I think Folau will get plenty of hammer – and rightly so."

Home fans are expected to wave rainbow 'gay pride' flags today at the KCOM Stadium to welcome Folau.

In the past WBC world heavyweight champion Fury made similarly unsavoury comments. Yet the British fighter escaped punishment from the British Boxing Board of Control, who ruled he was "exercising his right to freedom of expression".

Hull FC v Catalans
3pm

And retired Schofield, 54, is angry at what he sees as double standards. He raged: "I just think it's so hypocritical."

Folau's appearance comes two days after Pride in Hull and Queer AF groups held an event to support the city's annual display of gay pride.

Super League does have a history of giving players a second chance.

While Schofield points out Fury has admitted to using recreational drugs.

Fury also served a ban for using steroids, although some of the Brit's behaviour has been attributed to his well-documented mental health struggles.

The Folau furore now risks overshadowing Catalans' season.

Steve McNamara and his players have been living in a goldfish bowl in Perpignan, as Aussie journalists follow Folau's fresh start.

And James Gordon, editor of loverugbyleague.com, added: "The sheer hysteria around Folau compared to the adulation around Fury is bizarre."



SUPER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Castleford	5	4	0	1	122	81	8
St Helens	4	3	0	1	112	45	6
Leeds	4	3	0	1	114	48	6
Huddersfield	3	3	0	0	66	26	6
Wigan	4	3	0	1	86	48	6
Hull	4	2	0	2	85	78	4
Warrington	5	2	0	3	69	92	4
Catalans	2	1	0	1	48	50	2
Wakefield	3	1	0	2	45	70	2
Salford	4	1	0	3	50	98	2
Hull KR	5	1	0	4	68	139	2
Toronto	5	0	0	5	58	148	0

HULL AWAITS . . . Israel Folau will make his first Catalans appearance on English soil this afternoon

Wilder wants third world war

DEONTAY WILDER has given the go-ahead for a third clash with Tyson Fury — via an Instagram video claiming "The war has just begun."

Gypsy King Fury sensationally became WBC world heavyweight champion by destroying the American in seven rounds in Las Vegas last Saturday.

But Wilder now wants to trigger his rematch clause for a fight in July – following their original draw in Los Angeles in December 2018. In his video, Wilder said: "Hello my people, my Bomb Squad army, my Bomb Squad nation, to all my loved ones around the world, I just want to let you know I am here.

By ALAN SCOTT

"Your king is here. And we ain't going nowhere, the war has just begun.

"I am a warrior. I am a king that will never give up. I'm a king that will fight to the death.

"And if anyone don't understand that, don't understand what it is to go to war, don't understand what it is to fight, we will rise again.

"We will rise like a phoenix from the ashes and regain the title.

"I'll see you in a few months, for the war has just begun.

"All my love to all my people."

Fury's victory over Wilder was the first time the Bronze Bomber had been stopped in his 44-fight career.

He has blamed his assistant trainer for throwing in the towel in Vegas. He also claimed his 40lb ring-walk costume left him with "no legs".

A third fight could still be off until after Fury takes on fellow Brit Anthony Joshua, the WBA, WBO and IBF champ.

Fury's promoters Frank Warren and Bob Arum believe a unification bout will earn more pay-per-view hits than Fury-Wilder III.

Having seen the Bronze Bomber out-fought, out-thought and out-classed, there may not be the appetite for a third bout.

Following Fury's win AJ's promoter, Eddie Hearn, said: "People don't want the third fight. They've had 19 rounds now, Wilder's probably won three and in the last fight he got battered.

"But I understand the contractual position. He does have a right to a rematch clause.

"I'd just say 'Hurry up, please' and do it quickly."

Kenny: We will wing it in Tokyo

From ROB MAUL in Berlin

JASON KENNY plans to "wing it" at this summer's Tokyo Olympics after bombing out of two events at world level.

He put on a brave face, despite Britain looking at their worst performance in an Olympic year at an UCI Track Cycling World Championship since 1992.

Going into today's final sessions, Team GB have won just two silvers and one bronze.

Yesterday, in the men's sprint, reigning Olympic champ Kenny was overpowered in the last 16 by German Stefan Botticher.

Though he won a team sprint silver, Kenny *(below)* also flopped in the keirin – another event he defends in Japan.

But the Bolton rider, 31, claims there is no need to panic as he looks to become Britain's greatest Olympian.

The six-time Olympic champ said: "We'll just have to wing it.

"We will turn up there in the best shape possible.

"I don't think Britain ever had any fear factor."

MATTHEW WALLS, 21, won omnium bronze. Neah Evans had a bad crash in the women's Madison as she finished sixth with Elinor Barker.

Lenagan calms fears for TV deal

IAN LENAGAN believes Super League has taken its first steps towards securing a TV deal that can ease financial fears.

The contract with Sky Sports, who have funded the top flight over the past decade, is up at the end of next year.

But Wigan owner Lenagan is confident a similar deal can be secured.

Fears a vastly reduced contract would put some clubs on the brink of collapse have spread as talks begin.

But Lenagan said: "The early rounds have seen exciting games while off-season signings have lit up the competition and healthy TV figures have been across the board.

Huddersfield v Wigan
3pm

"We must keep building this momentum for what is a crucial year."

Wigan head to unbeaten Huddersfield today, a tussle which could see the winners go top.

Giants forward Joe Wardle said: "Everyone's bought in this year. We've changed our attitude and it's showing on the field."



BRAINS ON BOARD . . . Pauli and Ikahihifo face off



Pauli and Seb are best checkmates

PAULI PAULI says he has found the perfect cure for rugby stress — tackling Sebastine Ikahihifo at chess.

On the field, the two powerhouses lead the Salford charge by hammering opponents and making touch carries.

Off it, the pair – who weigh a combined 35st – pit their wits against each other on the board.

Pauli, 25, said: "It's a good game for the brain.

"When you play rugby league, you're always running on adrenalin, so it's good to take your mind off it. When Seb and I are playing chess the other players laugh.

Salford v Wakefield
3pm

"I get a lot of funny reactions when I play – I may be big but I'm a little softie really."

As he prepares to face former club Wakefield today, Pauli insists chess and his other passion, music, help him focus.

He added: "They relax my mind but on game days I'm ultra-focused."

ALL HANSON DECK FOR GB

ELLIOT HANSON is the final sailor selected by Britain for the summer's Tokyo Olympics.

The 25-year-old from Macclesfield makes his Games debut in the Laser dinghy class.



Hanson said: "It's a huge honour as the Games is a whole new level."

SIR BEN AINSLIE hailed a "magical" display after Britain won the Sydney leg of SailGP Season 2.

Celebrating glory on his debut appearance, he added: "It doesn't get better than that."

FA CUP 5TH RND

POMPEY v ARSENAL TOMORROW 7.45pm, BTS1



Ben turns up heat for club's fans

BEN CLOSE remembers being a fan at some of Portsmouth's greatest matches — now he wants to serve one up as a player for the club he loves.

EXCLUSIVE
By DUNCAN WRIGHT

Arsenal visit the South Coast tomorrow night with League One promotion chasers Pompey looking to test the mettle of Mikel Arteta's side in what will be a red-hot atmosphere at Fratton Park.

Close, 23, knows all about being part of the celebrations as a supporter and is desperate to carve his own place in Pompey folklore by inspiring an FA Cup upset.

The midfielder, born overlooking Fratton Park, said: "I'm really proud to be a Pompey fan.

"The things I enjoyed in the stands as a fan were great but to be able to do it as a player, to go and win a trophy at Wembley, to compete in play-offs and now to face Arsenal in the FA Cup, is great.

"I just want more memories like that to come. It's especially special for me.

"I don't see many other players who've been fortunate to get that chance.

"To be able to watch Pompey when we were finishing in the top half of the Premier League was incredible and then the European football nights at Fratton Park.

"The AC Milan one in 2008 was incredible.

"I went to watch the Milan team train the day before and waited to get signatures from Ronaldinho and Kaka.

"I've still got the ball they signed at my mum's house."

The last time the Gunners faced Pompey in the FA Cup, the London side cruised to a 5-1 win in 2004.

That fixture heralded a remarkable sight as Thierry Henry was given a standing ovation by the home fans and returned for a lap of honour wearing a Pompey shirt.

Close added: "I was too young to be at that game but I've seen the aftermath of it with Thierry Henry in the Pompey shirt on a lap of honour, applauding the fans.

"He gave us some great reviews afterwards.

"We know it's going to be a big occasion and we are going to enjoy it.

"But to make it really memorable you've got to win the game.

"Wembley last year in the Football League Trophy final was only a memorable occasion because we won the game and that's going to be the same with Monday night.

"We can only look back with great memories if we go on and win.

"If we lose the game, it's just going to be a night you only look back on as a good occasion but we lost.

"We're really looking forward to it but fully determined to win the game."

Help him get Auba his pain



ARTETA PLEA TO FLOPS

MIKEL ARTETA called on Arsenal players to rally around "gutted" captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

By DAN KING

The Gunners boss *(below)* praised captain Aubameyang for fronting up after his last-gasp miss against Olympiakos on Thursday dumped Arsenal out of the Europa League.

The Gabon striker seemed to have put his side through with a spectacular equaliser in extra time and Arteta said: "He was gutted.

"Obviously he scored a wonder goal that put us through in the competition and the last kick of the game he had the best chance of the game and he felt very responsible about it.

"We'll try to be right behind him. He's been phenomenal all season for us and now the players have to support him, we have to support him.

"His reaction as well after the game – to face the media and the way he talked and everything – it was a very mature reaction from him.

"We trained Saturday. We were all very down, frustrated, disappointed.

"The first message to them was I am right behind them, thank you for the effort they put into the game, for the attitude and personality they played with and the way they reacted after we conceded a goal.

"They tried, tried and tried again. They completely deserved to win but there are aspects of the game that we have to dominate better if we want to keep competing at that level."

Thursday's defeat closed off one route to the Champions League for Arsenal.

Qualifying through their Premier League position looks like an even taller order but without that bargaining chip, it will be much harder to persuade players like Aubameyang and Alexandre Lacazette to stay at the club.

Asked about Aubameyang, whose current contract runs until the end of next season, Arteta said: "We don't know, I think we will know that in May depending on where we finish, when we have a conversation with the club and a conversation with him.

"But at the moment nothing has changed, there's still possibilities to go through.

"We need to put four, five, six wins in a row and then get into the final four or five games of the season with a real chance to compete and unbelievably we are there.

"It looked very far away two weeks ago. It looks a little bit closer at the moment but it's still far and we still need to go day by day."

But next up for Arsenal is tomorrow night's FA Cup tie at Portsmouth.

The match is part of the first ever midweek set of FA Cup matches, a development made necessary by the introduction of the winter break.



But Arteta warned that players are "cracking" under the strain of too many games and more is needed to be done.

His old boss at Manchester City, Pep Guardiola, has proposed scrapping the League Cup, whose final City compete in today.

Arteta said: "I don't know, I think there are a lot of ways around it.

"We're not going to please everyone with the decisions that have to be made.

"What is for sure is that for players it's an enormous amount of games.

"The intensity is raising every single year, the level of pressure too, and sometimes it's too much for them.

"Something has to be done because you can see players are cracking and cracking every season.

"You can sustain that for one season, two seasons, but after three or four seasons you end up paying the price and I think the quality at some stage will drop.

"But as well we have a history, a massive culture here with the cup games and to go against that is difficult."

SPORTS ROUND-UP: RESULTS & FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

FA WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE CONTINENTAL CUP FINAL

CHELSEA (1) **2** **ARSENAL** (0) **1**
England 7, 90 — Williamson 85
Att: 6,743

RUGBY UNION

GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP

HAR'QUINS (13) **34** **EXETER** (13) **30**

HARLEQUINS: Tries: Lasike, Cavubati, Smith, Penalty. Cons: Smith 3. Pens: Smith 2.

EXETER: Tries: Dollman, J Simmonds 2. Cons: J Simmonds 3. Pens: J Simmonds 3.

LEICESTER (8) **14** **WORCESTER** (8) **8**

LEICESTER: Try: Olowofela. Pens: McPhillips 3.

WORCESTER: Try: Humphreys. Pens: Weir.

N'HAMPTON (15) **21** **SARACENS** (8) **27**

NORTHAMPTON: Tries: Dingwall, Mallinder. Con: Biggar. Pens: Mallinder 3.

SARACENS: Tries: Segun, Singleton, Tompkins, Earl. Cons: M Vunipola 2. Pen: M Vunipola.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Exeter	12	8	0	4	333	210	40
Sale	12	7	0	5	295	190	35
N'thampton	12	6	0	6	287	301	31
Bristol	11	6	1	4	242	236	30
Bath	11	7	0	4	208	217	29
Harlequins	12	5	1	6	270	309	28
London Irish	11	5	1	5	229	275	27
Gloucester	12	4	0	8	246	243	25
Wasps	11	4	0	7	264	280	23
Worcester	12	4	0	8	192	285	21
Leicester	12	4	1	7	194	278	20
Saracens (R)	12	8	0	4	314	250	-67

(Saracens deducted 105 points)

GUINNESS PRO14 - Dragons 13 Cheetahs 10; Munster 29 Scarlets 10.

GREENE KING IPA CHAMPIONSHIP - Bedford 29 Doncaster 5; Jersey Reds 3 Newcastle 38.

INDIGO GROUP PREMIERSHIP - Cardiff Rugby 41 Bridgend 12; Carmarthen Quins 6 Ebbw Vale 6; Llandovery 17 Merthyr 14; Llanelli 18 Aberavon 48; Pontypridd 12 Newport 17; Swansea 24 RGC 1404 25.

SPECSAVERS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP - Cardiff Met 34 Narberth 7. **Off -** Bargoed v Beddau, Glamorgan Wanderers v Ystalyfera, Maesteg Quins v Neath, Pontypool v Ystrad Rhondda, Tata Steel v Cross Keys, Trebanos v Bedwas (waterlogged pitches).

RUGBY LEAGUE

BETFRED SUPER LEAGUE

TORONTO (0) **0** **ST HELENS** (20) **32**

ST HELENS: Tries: Lomax 2, Bentley, McCarthy-Scarsbrook, Smith. Goals: Makinson 6.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Castleford	5	4	0	1	122	81	8
St Helens	4	3	0	1	112	45	6
Leeds	4	3	0	1	114	48	6
Huddersfield	3	3	0	0	66	26	6
Wigan	4	3	0	1	86	48	6
Hull	4	2	0	2	85	78	4
Warrington	5	2	0	3	69	92	4
Catalans	2	1	0	1	48	50	2
Wakefield	3	1	0	2	45	70	2
Salford	4	1	0	3	50	98	2
Hull KR	5	1	0	4	68	139	2
Toronto	5	0	0	5	58	148	0

CRICKET

ICC WOMEN'S TWENTY20 WORLD CUP (Australia)

Group A (Melbourne)

New Zealand 91 (Ritu Moni 4-18) v Bangladesh 74. **New Zealand bt Bangladesh by 17 runs.**

Sri Lanka 113-9 (Yadav 4-23) v India 116-3. **India bt Sri Lanka by 7 wkts.**

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	NRR
India	4	4	0	0	0	8	0.98
Australia	3	2	1	0	0	4	1.23
New Zealand	3	2	1	0	0	4	0.54
Sri Lanka	3	0	3	0	0	0	-1.11
Bangladesh	3	0	3	0	0	0	-2.02

SECOND TEST MATCH (Christchurch): **1st day of 5 -** India 242 (Vihari 55, Pujara 54, Shaw 54; Jamieson 5-45) v New Zealand 63-0.

FIRST ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL - (Paarl) - South Africa 291-7 (Klaasen 123 no, Miller 64) v Australia 217 (Smith 76). **South Africa bt Australia by 74 runs.**

TENNIS

ATP DUBAI DUTY FREE CHAMPIONSHIPS (UAE): **Final -** N Djokovic (Ser) bt S Tsitsipas (Gre) 6-3 6-4.

ATP CHILE DOVE MEN+CARE OPEN (Santiago): **Semi-finals -** C Ruud (Nor) bt A Ramos-Vinolas (Spa) 7-6 6-2.

ATP & WTA ABIERTO MEXICANO TELCEL (Acapulco, Mexico): **Semi-finals: Men -** T Fritz (US) bt J Isner (US) 2-6 7-5 6-3; R Nadal (Spa) bt G Dimitrov (Bul) 6-3 6-2. **Women -** H Watson bt X Wang (Chn) 6-4 7-6; L Fernandez (Can) bt R Zarazua (Mex) 6-3 6-3.

WTA QATAR TOTAL OPEN (Doha): **Final -** A Sabalenka (Blr) bt P Kvitova (Cze) 6-3 6-3.

GOLF

OMAN OPEN (Muscat, par 72): **3rd Rd - 205** J Luiten (Hol) 67, B Stone (SA) 67, C Shinkwin 66, M Korhonen (Fin) 65, S Valimaki (Fin) 64, R Hojgaard (Den) 70; **206** G Migliozzi (Ita) 68; **207** A Saddier (Fra) 67, C Sordet (Fra) 66, J Smith 67; **208** K Samooja (Fin) 72; **209** R Rock 71, S Gallacher 74, N Colsaerts (Bel) 73, M Kaymer (Ger) 67; **210** H Li (Chn) 68, J Winther (Den) 69, F Zanotti (Pry) 71, J Walters (SA) 67, A Otaegui (Spa) 68; **211** R Roussel (Fra) 67, J Wang (Kor) 72, P Waring 68, A Canizares (Spa) 72, A Rozner (Fra) 70, L De Jager (SA) 70; **212** R Bland 69, R McEvoy 74, G Forrest 69, V Dubuisson (Fra) 69, T H Lee (Kor) 70, D van Driel (Hol) 72, C Syme 69, A Cockerill (Can) 70, L Gagli (Ita) 73; **213** R Fisher 70, S Norris (SA) 70, G Coetzee (SA) 72, C Paisley 71, R Karlberg (Swe) 71, J Sjoholm (Swe) 71, A Pavan (Ita) 70, B Hebert (Fra) 70; **214** S Kjeldsen (Den) 73, C Sharvin 72, S Brown 71, S Hend (Aus) 72, S Crocker (US) 71, T Detry (Bel) 71, G Green (Mas) 73, E Molinari (Ita) 72; **215** M Armitage 71, SSP Chawrasia (Ind) 72, M Jordan 71, B Stow 73, A Meronk (Pol) 71, L van Meijel (Hol) 71, M Antcliff (Aus) 72, J Donaldson 71, C Hill 74, J Veerman (US) 73, N Hojgaard (Den) 71, A Levy (Fra) 71; **216** B Poke (Den) 72, D Fichardt (SA) 73, R Sciot-Siegrist (Fra) 73, J Morrison 72.

PREM

TOTTENHAM v WOLVES

2pm



JIMENEZ . . . resolute

Wolves ready to Raul

By GRAEME BRYCE

RAUL JIMENEZ remains convinced Wolves are good enough to win the Europa League.

And he intends to prove it today against Spurs, the club who broke their hearts by beating them in the two-legged final of the old Uefa Cup in 1972.

Mexico hitman Jimenez is the first Wolves star to state they can go all the way and lift their first ever European trophy.

He said: "Yes, we have to think we can win the Europa League.

"We have to reach up and believe we can touch the sky and see how far we go.

"We are confident against anyone. If we want to be champions, especially in Europe, then we have to be confident we can beat anyone.

"It's possible and if we do it, it will be amazing."

Wolves crushed Spanish side Espanyol 6-3 on aggregate after a 4-0 first-leg victory.

Boss Nuno Espirito Santo rested several key men on Thursday, including Jimenez.

And the 21-goal striker now has his sights set on overtaking top-four rivals Tottenham with a victory this afternoon.

Jimenez, 28, added: "Spurs is a massive game because we are both fighting to qualify for next season's Champions League.

"We know we can overtake them."



HARRY GAIN . . . Winks has benefited after a word from boss Mourinho as well as a rise in tempo in training

Ladbrokes
WINKS
FIRST GOALSCORER
25/1

ADVICE . . . Jose Mourinho spoke to Harry Winks about his game

FAULTY WINKS

Jose chat sparked revival

By DAN KING

STRAIGHT-TALKER Jose Mourinho has put Harry Winks back on the right track.

The Spurs midfielder revealed a quiet word from the boss is behind his timely improvement ahead of the business end of the season for club and country.

Winks has played the full 90 minutes in nine of Tottenham's last ten games and said: "From the beginning I was a little in and out.

"The manager pulled me, we were having a couple of words and it was all just an honest, light-hearted conversation that he does with every player.

"The manager did tell me what he thinks I needed to do. It started with training, just to up my levels in training.

"I just think my whole level and just the intensity as well, which I said to the manager that I agreed.

"It is something I went back and did it. He is honest enough to tell me.

"Since we had that conversation things have improved and I have been playing more and it is important that I keep those levels and intensity because I want to stay in the team.

"His honesty is something that everyone appreciates and respects massively.

"Just like everyone, still now I have to earn his trust because I know that with one or two poor performances I could be back out and someone else back in."

Winks had known only Mauricio Pochettino as head coach at Spurs, so it was natural that he, and others, would take time to adjust to the demands of Mourinho.

But the England international is relishing the opportunity to develop his defensive and tactical qualities – especially when they lead to big results like last month's 2-0 win over champions Manchester City.

Winks said: "Since the new manager has come in, he has been brilliant with everyone, he's lifted everyone, tried to inject a bit more confidence in the team as well, and for myself too.

"He prefers defensive shape and being organised. That is something we needed to improve on anyway because we were shipping too many goals.

"When we play Man City, De Bruyne is very good at getting in the pockets behind full-backs and it was maybe my role to track that area and pick up that space and stop them from utilising his ability to cross from there.

"Maybe another game might be to be more front foot and more aggressive in the pressing. Every game we have a different kind of tactical strategy and it is not just bog standard, rigid.

"It is great to be able to have those different kinds of tactical elements of my game to add to it."

England boss Gareth Southgate will hope to benefit from the education Winks is receiving from Mourinho.

English football has struggled to produce, and rarely celebrated, midfielders like Xavi and Iniesta, the heartbeat of Spain's World Cup-winning side.

Winks has been compared to both and said: "People like Michael Carrick get a lot of recognition after they retire and they are more players' players as such.

"I think in England especially there is always an impetus to straight away look for the attack-minded players, to look at the goalscorers and the people who get the assists.

"But every team needs that someone who can be that link between both defence and attack."

The success of Winks in that role may be crucial to England's chances of success at Euro 2020.

But before all that, he and Spurs need to focus on getting goals – and the next ten days could define their season.

Today's home game against Wolves is important to their hopes of securing Champions League football next season.

On Wednesday they host Norwich in an FA Cup fifth-round tie and the following Tuesday they go to Leipzig for the return leg of their Champions League last-16 clash.

Winks said: "It will be a difficult task to do well in all three. But it's our aim to do that."



THE HONDA CLASSIC (Florida, USA, par 70): **3rd Rd** (US unless stated) - **205** T Fleetwood (GB) 67; **206** B Steele 71; **207** L Donald (GB) 71, L Westwood (GB) 71; **208** D Berger 69, C Schwartzel (SA) 70, S Im (Kor) 70; **209** M Hughes (Can) 66, R Sabbatini (Svk) 69, M Hubbard 69, R Shelton 70, R Henley 70, JT Poston 73; **210** R Palmer 68, B-H An (Kor) 68, J Dufner 68, B Hagy 69, J Vegas (Ven) 69, B Horschel 70, M McNealy 71, C Davis (Aus) 73, N Watney 73; **211** G Murray 70, J Walker 70, K-H Lee (Kor) 71, C Tringale 72, K Streelman 72, R Werenski 73, J Lovemark 73, S Lowry (Irl) 73, S Straka (Aut) 74, G Woodland 74; **212** K Hickok 69, T Lewis (GB) 71, K Kitayama 71, B Hossler 71, I Poulter (GB) 72, P Rodgers 72, H Higgs 72, H English 72, H Swafford 73; **213** M NeSmith 70, C Baker 70, W Clark 71, V Taylor 71, S Cink 71, B Garnett 72, A Wise 72, A Long 74; **214** M Anderson 71, B Cauley 72, M Wolff 72; **215** M Jones (Aus) 72, D Frittelli (SA) 72, T Gooch 75, H Varner III 76; **216** D Lee (NZ) 73, P Kizzire 74, S Burns 76; **217** C Percy (Aus) 74, B Harman 74, S Ryder 75; **218** M Thompson 75, A Cook 76, Z Johnson 76, S Stallings 76; **219** B Stuard 77; **220** F Gomez (Arg) 79; **222** H Buckley 80.

SNOOKER

CORAL PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP (Waterfront, Southport): **Semi-final** - Y Bingtao (Chn) bt S Murphy 6-1.

MOTORSPORT

FORMULA-E: Race 5: Marrakesh E-Prix (Morocco) - 1 A F Da Costa (Por, DS TECHEETAH) 46min 52.757sec; 2 M Guenther (Ger, BMW i Andretti Motorsport) +11.427sec; 3 J-E Vergne (Fra, DS TECHEETAH) +12.034; 4 S Buemi (Swi, Nissan e-dams) +12.282; 5 E Mortara (Swi, ROKiT Venturi Racing) +15,657; 6 M Evans (NZ, Panasonic Jaguar Racing) +16.335; 7 L Di Grassi (Bra, Audi Sport ABT Schaeffler) +18.706; 8 A Lotterer (Ger, TAG Heuer Porsche) +19.498; 9 O Rowland (Nissan e.dams) +20.126; 10 S Bird (Envision Virgin Racing) +20.295. **Championship Standings: Drivers** - 1 A F Da Costa (Por) 67pts; 2 M Evans (NZ) 56; 3 A Sims 46; 4 M Guenther (Ger) 44; 5 L Di Grassi (Bra) 38; 6 S Vandoorne (Bel) 38; 7 E Mortara (Swi) 32; 8 J-E Vergne (Fra) 31; 9 O Rowland 30; 10 S Bird 29. **Teams** - 1 DS TECHEETAH 98pts; 2 BMW i Andretti Motorsport 90; 3 Panasonic Jaguar Racing 66; 4 Nissan e.dams 57; 5 Mercedes-Benz EQ 56; 6 Audi Sport ABT Schaeffler 46; 7 Envision Virgin Racing 39; 8 ROKiT Venturi Racing 34; 9 TAG Heuer Porsche 25; 10 Mahindra Racing 17.

WORLD SUPERBIKES (Phillip Island, Australia): **Race 1** - 1 T Razgatlioglu (Tur, Yamaha) 33min 48.344; 2 A Lowes (Kawasaki) +0.007sec; 3 S Redding (Ducati) +0.041; 4 M van der Mark (Hol, Yamaha) +0.137; 5 L Haslam (Honda) +3.910; 6 A Bautista (Spa, Honda) +4.426; 7 L Baz (Fra, Yamaha) +4.493; 8 C Davies (Ducati) +11.849; 9 T Sykes (BMW) +11.910; 10 M Rinaldi (Ita, Ducati) +11.922.

HOCKEY

MEN'S PREMIER - Beeston 3 Wimbledon 2; Hampstead & Westminster 6 University of Exeter 3; Holcombe 6 Reading 2; Old Georgians 5 East Grinstead 0; Surbiton 7 Brooklands MU 0.

INVESTEC WOMEN'S PREMIER - Buckingham 0 Beeston 1; Bowdon 0 University of Birmingham 2; Hampstead & Westminster 2 Surbiton 3; Holcombe 1 Clifton Robinsons 1; Loughborough Students 0 East Grinstead 6.

BASKETBALL

BBL CHAMPIONSHIP - Bristol 87 Manchester 71; Leicester 87 Sheffield 80.

ICE HOCKEY

ELITE LEAGUE - Belfast 4 Guildford 5 (OT); Coventry 7 Glasgow 3; Dundee 3 Manchester 1; Nottingham 7 Cardiff 3; Sheffield 8 Fife 2.

TODAY'S SPORT

CARABAO CUP FINAL
Aston Villa v Man City 4.30
(Wembley Stadium)

PREMIER LEAGUE
Everton v Man Utd 2.0
Tottenham v Wolves 2.0

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE
Coventry v Sunderland 12.0

WILLIAM HILL CUP: Quarter-final - St Johnstone v Celtic (3.0).

BETVICTOR ISTHMIAN PREMIER - Cray Wanderers v Merstham (3.0).

RUGBY UNION (3.0): **Gallagher Premiership** - Bath v Bristol, London Irish v Wasps (2.30). **Guinness PRO14** - Southern Kings v Connacht (1.0). **Greene King IPA Championship** - Cornish Pirates v Nottingham (2.30), Yorkshire Carnegie v London Scottish (3.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE (3.0): **Betfred Super League** - Huddersfield v Wigan, Hull v Catalans Dragons, Salford v Wakefield. **Betfred Championship** - Batley v Sheffield, Dewsbury v Widnes (6.15), Halifax v York, London Broncos v Featherstone, Oldham v Bradford, Swinton v Leigh, Whitehaven v Toulouse. **Betfred League 1** - Coventry v Newcastle, Doncaster v Barrow, London Skolars v North Wales Crusaders, West Wales v Hunslet, Workington v Keighley.

CRICKET: First One-Day Int'l - Bangladesh v Zimbabwe (Sylhet, 7am). **Third One-Day Int'l** - Sri Lanka v West Indies (Pallakele, 9am). **ICC Women's T20 World Cup** (Australia): **Group B** - England v West Indies (Sydney, 8am). **Tour Match: 1st day of 4** - New South Wales XI v England Lions (Wollongong, 11.0).

HOCKEY: Men's Premier - Old Georgians v Beeston (2.0).

MOTORSPORT: World Superbikes: Race 2 (Phillip Island, Australia, 4am).

BASKETBALL: BBL Championship - London Lions v Leicester (4.0), Manchester v Plymouth (5.0). **BBL Trophy: Semi-final, 2nd Leg** - Newcastle (88) v Cheshire (79) (5.0).

ICE HOCKEY (4.0): **Elite League** - Cardiff v Dundee, Guildford v Sheffield (6.0), Manchester v Glasgow (5.30), Nottingham v Coventry.

TOMORROW

(7.45 unless stated)
EMIRATES FA CUP
Fifth Round
Portsmouth v Arsenal .....

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP
Middlesbrough v Nottm Forest ...

BETVICTOR NORTHERN PREMIER - Basford Utd v Nantwich Town.

TENNIS (to Mar 8): **WTA Lyon Open** (France). **WTA Abierto GNP Seguros** (Monterrey, Mexico).



GIGGS . . . thumbs up

Giggs Az a gander

By PHIL CADDEN

RYAN GIGGS went on a Euro 2020 recce to Azerbaijan last week and gave a thumbs up to Wales' preparations.

The Dragons boss made a personal check on the hotel and training facilities his side will use in Baku this summer.

And Giggs returned happy that all the building blocks are in place.

Wales play their opening two Group A games at Baku's Olympic Stadium.

They face Switzerland on June 13 before playing Turkey four days later.

Then Giggs' men travel to Rome for a tasty final group clash against Roberto Mancini's Italy on June 21.

in association with

William HILL

Top Tips

by SAMUEL GILBERT

IT'S David v Goliath in the Carabao Cup final at Wembley as Aston Villa face Manchester City.

Villa have conceded the most goals in the Premier League and face 68-goal scoring machine in City.

You can back over 3.5 goals to be scored in 90 minutes at evens.

DIAMOND: Over 3.5 goals to be scored in 90 minutes, evens.
NEXT BEST: Jack Grealish over one shot on target in 90 minutes 11-4.
LONGSHOT: Sergio Aguero to score any time, over four cards and each team over three corners in 90 minutes, 14-1.
(All odds from William Hill)

Sane has Fali woes

By DAN KING

LEROY SANE'S future has taken a new turn after his new agent was charged with money-laundering.

Fali Ramadani, whose clients also include Chelsea's Marcos Alonso, is set to shape Manchester City winger Sane's likely exit this summer.

But Europol alleges Ramadani and business partner Nikola Damjanac took fees from "fictitious transfers" through a Cypriot club to launder cash and evade taxes.

The pair appeared in court in Spain on Thursday but maintained their right to silence as the case was adjourned.

CHIEFS APPROVE VAR CHANGE



CRAZY . . . Mane's goal against Watford on December 14 was ruled offside by millimetres

END OF THE LINE

Offsides tweaked and monitors must be used

By MARTIN LIPTON



ARMPIT offsides will become a thing of the past next season — after football's law-makers gave the thumbs-up to Prem plans for thicker VAR lines.

But the good news for embattled refs' chief Mike Riley came with a kick in the teeth as he was ordered to change his policy on pitchside monitors.

And Fifa president Gianni Infantino also stuck the boot in as he said: "England is the only league in the world where this seems to be a big issue."

Under the Prem plan, revealed by SunSport last month, 3D pixel technology will still be used to determine the positions of attacking and defending players.

But the defensive "blue" line will be widened to cover 10cm of real space, with players ruled onside if the red "attacking" line is contained in the expanded zone.

Riley told clubs last month that it would have meant nine of the 25 goals ruled out for VAR offsides before the mid-season break this campaign being awarded.

Premier League bosses required approval from the International FA Board to bring in the change.

And speaking after IFAB's annual general meeting in Belfast, Fifa's two leading referee officials, former Prem whistler David Elleray and Italian Pierluigi Collina, confirmed English football's top division is free to adopt the new approach.

Elleray said: "Assistant referees were always told to give the benefit of the doubt to the attacking team.

"But VAR has taken that doubt away.

"You'll always have the question of where you draw the line.

"But football doesn't think your toe being 2cm in front of a defender is a significant enough advantage to be penalised.

"It's not questioning whether you can see it, but asking if it's right.

"VAR has moved offside more in favour of the defender than the attacker.

"The game is telling us that was wrong and that it doesn't want a goal disallowed for a nose offside.

"It is up to each competition, including the Premier League, to decide what it wants to do.

"The obsession over 1cm or so won't change. But there is nothing in the IFAB protocols about the width of the lines. That's down to leagues."

Next season's change is likely to be a short-term fix.



REVEALED . . . Feb 8

Infantino made clear he backs new Fifa global football development chief Arsene Wenger's shake-up — also revealed by SunSport.

The former Arsenal boss wants to change the law so that a player is onside if any legitimate goalscoring part of his body is level, or behind, the last defender.

And Infantino explained: "The philosophy of fostering attacking football has to guide us.

"Arsene's idea was received very positively. The offside rule has evolved and we now feel we have to look into whether we can do something."

But while Riley's offside idea was backed, Elleray made clear that this season's stance on pitchside monitors, only used on a handful of occasions for potential red-card offences, **MUST** change.

He said: "We surveyed 6,000 matches from the top competitions and the average was 75 per cent of reviews are pitchside monitors.

"Any competition significantly outside that is clearly out of step.

"You cannot make a major adjustment in a season without compromising the integrity of that competition.

"But you should expect there will be changes next year. I would be astonished if not."

Collina added: "The average is 75 per cent. So if we have a country with 65 per cent, 60 per cent, even 52 per cent, that's not a problem. But if it's zero, that's a problem."

Infantino also pointed out: "We all need to relax a bit on this topic.

"There is only one league in the world where this issue seems to be a big problem — the Premier League.

"VAR is not perfect but it's pretty good, 99 per cent right.

"More on-field reviews, pitchside reviews, will make it easier. Once this is done it will be okay."

IFAB also ruled that players will be able to use their shoulders to score goals next season, with the arm only 'beginning' at armpit level.

And the lawmakers agreed to hold trials on extra substitutes for players feared to have been concussed, likely to start with the Olympic football tournaments at Tokyo 2020.

Tweet @MartinLipton



ROW . . . Jesus goal ruled out due to Sterling's arm



WARNING . . . Fifa want refs to look at pitch monitors more



CLOSE . . . scorer Pukki's shoulder offside v Spurs

It's the pits...

ARMPIT OFFSIDES THIS SEASON . . .

AUG 10: West Ham v Man City (Jesus goal disallowed/ Sterling offside). Result: West Ham 0-5 Man City. NOV 2: Aston Villa v Liverpool (Firmino goal disallowed). Result: Aston Villa 1-2 Liverpool. DEC 14: Liverpool v Watford (Mane goal disallowed). Result: Liverpool 2-0 Watford. DEC 28: Norwich v Spurs (Pukki goal disallowed). Result: Norwich 2-2 Spurs. DEC 28: Saints v Palace (Meyer goal disallowed/Zaha offside). Result: Saints 1-1 C Palace. DEC 28: Brighton v Bournemouth (Burn goal disallowed). Result: Brighton 2-0 Bournemouth.

Alan Nixon

BOSS OF GOSS



SUNSPORT'S MAN IN THE KNOW FOR RED-HOT TRANSFER NEWS

A TOP scout from Manchester United has been keeping an eye on Stoke's young centre-half Nathan Collins.

The Republic of Ireland prospect was on United's radar last summer after a tip by ex-Red Darren Fletcher.

Collins, 18, has been out of the firing line but has recently returned to the Potters side on merit.

DC UNITED'S English supremo, Stewart Mairs, has been home to look for a winger.

Mairs is the technical director at the MLS outfit where Wayne Rooney starred.

The Lancastrian was at the Preston v Hull and Blackburn v Stoke games, among others, on his spying trip ahead of the MLS signing deadline of May 5.

Nu sensation

SANTO IS No 1 ATLETICO PICK SHOULD PSG POACH SIMEONE



NUNO ESPIRITO SANTO is top of Atletico Madrid's emergency hit list to replace Diego Simeone.

The Spanish club will try to land the Wolves coach if Simeone *(right)* is plucked from them by Paris Saint-Germain.

Portuguese boss Nuno, 46, has impressed with his superb work in both the Premier League and Europe.

He already had a strong reputation for his work with previous club Porto and has enhanced it at Wolves.

Atletico will fancy their chances of persuading him to jump ship as they have a line in through their connections with agent Jorge Mendes.

But fiery Simeone's future is the key to the drama.

He is strongly fancied by PSG, who are considering a change. The French club currently have German Thomas Tuchel in charge.

Ironically, it is a huge time for 49-year-old Simeone and Tuchel, 46, in the Champions League knockout stages in the next ten days.

Atletico will be looking to finish off holders Liverpool after winning the first leg 1-0, while PSG bid to turn around a 2-1 deficit against Borussia Dortmund.

Argentinian Simeone could be tempted by the riches on offer in Paris if approached.

And that would leave Atletico taking aim at Nuno.

He has worked wonders at Wolves since arriving in 2017 and could even win the Europa League.

But the chance of regular Champions League football in Spain will be hard to turn



BATSHUAYI . . . available

CUT-PRICE BATSHUAYI

CHELSEA will slash the asking price on Michy Batshuayi in a desperate bid to avoid losing the striker for nothing.

Stamford Bridge chiefs wanted £40million for the Belgian in the January window and that was his peak valuation as the cost will drop in the summer.

But noises coming from the 26-year-old's camp suggest he will run down his deal in London and look to cash in personally when it expires in 2021.

Batshuayi could then get a big-money contract in China or the Middle East as a free agent.

And that is going to mean Chelsea have to wait for him to walk out of the door for nothing, unless they substantially cut his valuation before then.

Meanwhile the Blues have joined the chase for Amiens striker Serhou Guirassy, 23, and will watch him next weekend.



AARONS . . . £30m tag

CANARIES MAX OUT

NORWICH could raise a fortune from the sale of their stars — ahead of their likely relegation.

The Canaries are looking for huge fees for their better players and bidding could start as soon as their Premier League fate is sealed.

Right-back Max Aarons is priced at £30million, a fee Tottenham will have to find to end their long pursuit for him.

Left-back Jamal Lewis will cost around £20m, with Crystal Palace showing the most interest.

Playmaker Emi Buendia could attract interest but his tag will also be in the £20m zone.

Midfielder Todd Cantwell and centre-half Ben Godfrey could also help Norwich to net well over £100m if all the players go.

GARRY MONK will stay at Sheffield Wednesday next season, despite a poor run of results since late December.

The Owls boss has been reassured by owner Dejphon Chansiri he has his backing for another try at promotion.

Chansiri put Monk straight amid rumours of a move for former Rangers coach Pedro Caixinha.

MAC FIFA JOB

STEVE McCLAREN has been called up by former Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger to help Fifa.

The ex-England coach *(right)* will go on trips to developing countries to review coaching set-ups as global development chief Wenger aims to raise standards before the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Fifa are keen to increase the competition in future events and are putting together an elite group of coaches to advise a handful of countries.

The coaches, including McClaren, will be 'parachuted' into several international set-ups in the coming months to see if they can offer new ideas.



MACC PAY SLIP

MACCLESFIELD players have been told their wages will be late **AGAIN** as the EFL face a headache over how to punish the League Two crisis club.

Macc were docked six points plus a four-point suspended penalty in December for calling off a game with Crewe and late payment of wages.

But they may have to wait until the season ends to find out if they face another sanction.

The EFL are yet to hear the case and the relegation-threatened Silkmen may also appeal against their suspended sentence.

And with a delay possible, who goes out of the League may be unkown when the season finishes.

GARY BOWYER is being quietly talked about at Bolton as the new owners look to halt their League One slide.

He has a good managerial reputation from his time with Blackburn and Blackpool but struggled at Bradford City.

However, the Trotters could be looking to change soon if Keith Hill's bad run goes on.

WILL THE VILLANS BE THE HEROES?

CARABAO CUP FINAL
ASTON VILLA v MAN CITY
COVERAGE FROM 3:00PM, KICK-OFF 4:30PM

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SOLIDARITY . . . Hopp and Rummenigge

Karl raps own fans

By JORDAN DAVIES

BAYERN MUNICH chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge slammed the club's fans after an offensive banner saw their game at Hoffenheim stopped.

The banner — which attacked Hoffenhaim's owner — read "Dietmar Hopp remains a son of a whore" and was unfurled during the second half with Bayern leading 6-0.

Officials stopped the match in the 77th minute and the teams reappeared half an hour later.

During the break, the players agreed not to score so knocked the ball to one another until the final whistle.

Rummenigge raged: "I'm ashamed and have apologised to Dietmar Hopp.

"These people shouldn't be in a football stadium."

Real feel 'delicate'

By JORDAN DAVIES

ZINEDINE ZIDANE has admitted Real Madrid are in a "delicate situation" heading into El Clasico.

Los Blancos have lost their last three home games, including a 2-1 defeat by Manchester City in the Champions League.

A reverse against arch-rivals Barcelona today would leave them five points off LaLiga top spot.

Real boss Zidane said: "This is a delicate time for us. We know things like this can happen and have to keep positive.

"We will only come out of this situation by staying strong and not listening to what people say about us.

"I can understand why our fans are upset but we need them — we will give everything on the pitch."

Si salute for Klopp

By PHIL THOMAS

SIMON MIGNOLET claims Liverpool's title stroll is no surprise — because he saw it coming for years.

The Belgian keeper, 31, spent six years at Anfield before joining Club Brugge last summer.

Hailing Jurgen Kopp and Co, Mignolet said: "That's exactly right — I am not surprised. I knew after our very good second half of last season.

"I felt if they could do it this time from the start, they'd have a big chance of being title favourites.

"It's been growing over time. Last year we didn't lose any home games and were already solid.

"So since Virgil van Dijk and Alisson came, there is a lot of stability at the back. They will deserve it."

PREMIER LEAGUE

EVERTON

Now he's Fred hot

SOLSKJAER'S BRAZILIAN IS BORN AGAIN



You wait ages for a goal...and then 2 come along at once!

FRED struck twice in the 5-0 win over Club Brugge on Thursday.

His right-footed shot from inside the box made it 4-0 on 82 minutes and he smashed in on 90 minutes, ending a run of 55 goalless games.

OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER reckons fired-up Fred is Old Trafford's unsung hero — especially now he has rediscovered the route to goal.

By PHIL THOMAS



On Thursday Fred broke his duck for the season with a double in Manchester United's Europa League 5-0 drubbing of Club Brugge.

His only other goal for the club came 18 months earlier, in a torrid opening year in England following his £52million move from Shakhtar Donetsk.

And they were further proof of the giant strides he has made in transforming himself from midfield misfit to born-again Brazilian.

Solskjaer stood by the 26-year-old through his struggles and is delighted to see his confidence being repaid.

The United chief insisted: "Fred has taken on the challenge this season. He had a tough first one but since we came in we've shown him we believe in him and he's known that.

"He's got used to English football, realised you don't have three or four touches, you have to play more one and two touch.

"He knows you don't get your studs on the ball, all those little habits Brazilian players have from a slower type of game.

"But he's a tough lad, mentally very strong and a top, top human being. He's always positive, always works hard and tries his best.

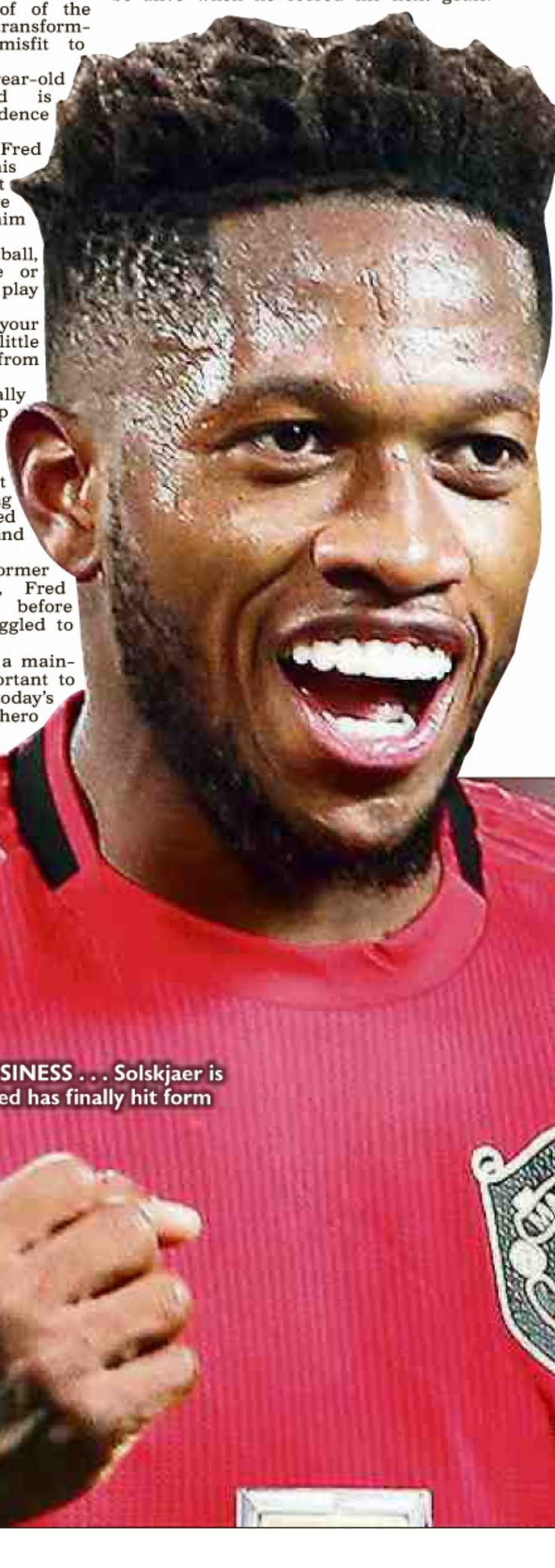
"It didn't always work out last season, even in training sometimes but we encouraged him to keep being himself and he's quietly confident."

Despite being signed by former United boss Jose Mourinho, Fred made only six league starts before Solskjaer took over as he struggled to adapt to the English game.

Yet this time he has become a mainstay and will again be as important to their chances of success in today's trip to Everton as latest hero Bruno Fernandes.

Solskjaer added: "Last season he struggled a bit with the language but coach Martyn Pert came in who's fluent in Portuguese. It's easier for him to communicate and his English has really improved."

Now the biggest challenge is for Fred to show that Thursday's goalscoring was no one-off. Solskjaer certainly hopes so and joked: "I wasn't sure I was going to be alive when he scored his next goals.



BACK IN BUSINESS . . . Solskjaer is delighted Fred has finally hit form

v MAN UNITED

2pm
Sky Sports PL



He has loads of attempts, he gets to the box, in and around the box often and his right foot is decent as well, he's just not had the luck."

Fred is not the only United star whose career has taken off this season under Solskjaer.

Luke Shaw's Old Trafford days looked numbered when Mourinho was in charge, as he was constantly criticised and struggled to hold down a regular slot.

Yet this season – boosted by the faith of the current boss – he has returned to the form which earned him England honours as a teenager and put him in the running for a place in the Euros.

Shaw admitted recently he owes a great deal to Solskjaer's backing and the United boss insists he deserves everything that is coming his way.

He added: "Luke is very focused and concentrated, works well in training and is consistently fit now. He's matured a lot and it's great to see.

"Luke has had his difficulties and the injury he had in the past was a bad one. Mentally that has been difficult for him but he's another you want to do well because he is such a positive boy."

United's Europa League win over Belgian's runaway table-toppers was their fifth in the past seven games, in a run which included victories at neighbours City and Chelsea.

Yet Solskjaer knows they must produce even better if they hope to seal a top-four finish and book a Champions League slot regardless of what happens with City's European ban.

He added: "We feel we're in good form and Sunday is going to be a massive game because Everton want to be in the challenge as well.

"So it's a big test of how far we have we have come. Brugge are the only team in the last seven who have scored against us so hopefully we can keep the clean sheets going.

"We want to get into the top four. That's been the aim and whatever happens with others, we can't concern ourselves about.

"We have to improve, that has to be our focus because we want to challenge for the top."



The last time he scored

BRAZILIAN Fred last scored for Manchester United with this goal *(above)* against Wolves on September 22, 2018, prior to his double against Club Brugge.

The midfielder celebrated *(below)* with a gesture to mark the birth of his son.





GOOD TO TALK . . . Solskjaer with Fred

LIKELY LINE-UPS



RASH EURO COMEBACK

By PHIL THOMAS

MARCUS RASHFORD is set to give England's Euro 2020 assault another boost by returning in time for the finals.

The Manchester United striker, 22, has been out for a month with a double stress fracture in his back.

His chances of being fit for the Three Lions looked bleak when United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said there were doubts he would play again before the summer.

Yet the Norwegian has now revealed his forward *(right)* should return before the end of the season, putting him in the frame for England.



Solskjaer gave England boss Gareth Southgate more good news, saying: "The scan came back quite positive but we will give him time.

"Marcus is desperate to come back but it'll be another couple of months before we see him.

"We can't rush it but when he is fit he will be stronger for it and it's going to be a big boost for us.

"He wants the boys to do well so he can return and play the Euros.

"Hopefully, we get through in the FA Cup — he wants to be there at the business end."

England skipper Harry Kane, out with a hamstring injury since New Year's Day, plans to return for Spurs early next month.

LOTTI LOLLY FOR MASON

EXCLUSIVE by ALAN NIXON

EVERTON will give Mason Holgate a new contract — to keep him from the clutches of the vultures.

Versatile Holgate has been linked with Manchester City but new boss Carlo Ancelotti has told his money men to make sure he stays.

And so Holgate, 23, signed as a kid from Barnsley, is in for a lucrative new deal to bring him more into line with what his team-mates earn.

Holgate *(right)* is on a lower salary despite a review last year.

The Toffees loaned him to West Brom last season but he has become a favourite of Ancelotti.

Everton host Manchester United today and Ancelotti says he is unconcerned about Gylfi Sigurdsson's lack of goals. The Icelandic midfielder got 14 goals last term but has just four so far this season.

The Italian said: "I don't have any complaints against him, he is doing well and I hope he can score soon — but it is not the most important part of his job now."

Ladbrokes
FRED
TO SCORE TWO OR MORE
250/1



NEW START . . . Becks and fellow owner Jorge Mas meet the team

Hotshot Vela is Gunner get you, David

DAVID BECKHAM has battled to get a team on the pitch — and now his players have to repay the faith.

The former England captain fought for six years to make his MLS dream come true, despite politicians and doubters threatening to wreck his plans.

But tonight, Becks will finally watch his Inter Miami side play their first competitive match.

It could get ugly. Standing in their way is former Arsenal hitman Carlos Vela and his Los Angeles FC team, who almost won the title last term.

From STEVE BRENNER

Vela bagged 34 goals and was named Player of the Season, so Becks' new boys are up against it from the very start.

USA midfielder Will Trapp is one of the stars of the new team.

He met Goldenballs at Miami's Fort Lauderdale training centre this week and wants to make him proud.

He said: "David has put so much time, vision and energy into building a club.

"Then you see the training centre and the players, it's almost a surreal moment and he did a wonderful job of expressing that to us.

"For us as youngsters, I watched him playing for Manchester United and Real Madrid and seeing all the success he had.

"It was a wonderful moment to not only meet him in person but to have a conversation and see how excited he is.

"As players it's incredible to have that level of celebrity but also see he's down to earth enough to see us want to succeed and be there for us."

LAFC lifted the Supporters Shield in 2019, given to the team with the best league record, and won in the CONCACAF Champions League on Thursday.

But Inter Miami have only played two friendlies and some behind closed-doors matches.

Trapp added: "I feel a buoyancy in the group and anticipation.

"It's an anxiety which is brought up by the fact we know it's going to be a tough game but an exciting one in a wonderful atmosphere.

"We are making history, to play the first game for this club and I think that is fun and exciting.

"It's a rallying point for all of us as players.

"We get to step on the field for the first time wearing the badge and make history in a good way by winning."

Becks is sure to be chewing his nails in the posh seats, praying £10million playmaker Rodolfo Pizarro can make the difference for boss Diego Alonso.

The Mexican is a classy ball-player who had been tipped for a move to Europe before Becks came calling.

But the 26-year-old needs to click right away for a team who have been hastily put through their paces by a manager only appointed 62 days ago.

Time is not on Inter Miami's side.

And the start of the season will be a huge learning curve for everyone, especially if they rock up for their first home match on March 14 at their Fort Lauderdale stadium having lost both opening games.

The pressure will be mounting and Uruguayan Alonso, who played for Valencia and Atletico Madrid and also plays DC United next week, knows it will not be easy.

He added: "We have worked with what we have in the time frame given to us.

"It's a big responsibility for me and I am going to take it for what it is."



DANGERMAN . . . Los Angeles star Carlos Vela is in Becks' way

CARABAO CUP FINAL ASTON VILLA

SIMPLY DE BEST

Pep marvels at City kingpin Kev





SAMATTA SPECIAL . . . Grealish hails Villa newbie

Mbwana be adored — he'll go Eto'o top

EXCLUSIVE by PHIL THOMAS

ASTON VILLA should make the most of new boy Mbwana Samatta — for the man dubbed Samuel Eto'o Mk II might not be staying in the Midlands for too long.

Not because he is struggling to settle, nor because he cannot handle the unique demands of the Premier League.

Simply because he is such a talent that, even at the age of 27, football's genuine big guns will soon be moving heaven and earth to tempt him from Villa Park.

Four games in, and the Tanzanian is already well on the way to becoming a cult figure for Villa fans.

Help his side to the unthinkable today – a Carabao Cup final win over Manchester City at Wembley – and he will be a legend little more than a month after arriving.

While he is something of an unknown to most of English football, one man knows him better than most.

Brazilian coach Marcio Maximo is the man who gave Samatta his international debut as a teenager and never doubted he could eventually cut it right at the very top level.

At the time he was still a young hopeful with his local side African Lyon in Dar es Salaam, and newly appointed Tanzanian boss Maximo was scouting players.

He said: "They played a side called Young Africans and expected to lose but Mbwana tortured their defence and they drew 2-2.

"He scored both their goals, they couldn't handle him at all, and I called him into the national team straight away – and now he's captain.

"Sometimes young players struggle with fear at first but Samatta was total opposite. He was a hungry lion.

"He's a striker but not a targetman, whose pace is lethal.

"In my opinion he's very similar to the Eto'o who was playing at Barcelona under Pep Guardiola.

"He would use his pace to destroy teams in the space between midfield and defence.

"Mbwana is a carbon copy of him. The perfect false number nine.

"Every move he's made has been a step up and he's not finished yet. I have no doubts he will be a massive success in the Premier League but I don't think he will be at Villa for long.



MAXIMO . . . coach

"I believe he has one even bigger move left – and I am sure he would fit in at Liverpool, Manchester United, City, Real Madrid or Barcelona . . . he really is **THAT** good."

Maximo, 57, is not a man to get carried away too easily, either. As Brazil Under-17 boss he gave Ronaldo his first taste of international football.

He remains close pals with legends like Dunga and Ze Roberto, and also had a brief spell working in Scotland at Livingston.

Now national boss of Guyana, he would love to follow Samatta to England and have a crack at coaching in the Premier League.

He added: "I am very proud to have helped change his life when I was Tanzania coach and I am sure Mbwana knows the impact he has made in his own country by moving to England.

"He's a hero to so many African players and it is great to have been able to set him on the way.

"It would be great if our paths crossed again because I'd love to work with an English club myself."

Milo: Do it for Ugo, lads



SAVO MILOSEVIC wants his old club Aston Villa to win another League Cup today to honour the memory of Ugo Ehiogu.

EXCLUSIVE by DAN KING

Hero Milo *(right)* scored the first goal in a 3-0 Wembley win over Leeds in 1996 that earned Villa their last bit of silverware.

And England centre-back Ehiogu *(below)* played a key part in that Brian Little-led team.

But he died three years ago, aged just 44, after collapsing at the Tottenham training ground where he was Under-23s coach.

Milosevic, now 46, said: "There was a 'clan' in the team – Ugo, Mark Bosnich, Dwight Yorke, Ian Taylor and me.

"We spent a lot of time together, so I was close with Ugo. He was a great player, a great friend and a great human being.

"I would call him a giant of a man, in every sense. I was shocked when I heard about his death but I'll remember him for the rest of my life.

"I hope Villa will find the strength to spring a surprise against Manchester City. It would be nice to get a trophy and to dedicate it to him."

Milosevic, now boss of Partizan Belgrade in his native Serbia, has fond memories of his other teammates in that Villa side.

He explained: "The class of Gareth Southgate was immediately obvious at that time.

"I was young then, I didn't think that far but it's clear to me now that he had that coaching gene. I am very pleased he is doing well for England."



229 UGO EHIOGU played 229 Premier League games for Aston Villa. The only defenders with more are Olof Mellberg (232), Steve Staunton (244) and Alan Wright (260).

2 EHIOGU lifted the League Cup twice as a player — once with Aston Villa in 1995-96 and then again at Middlesbrough in 2003-04.

v MANCHESTER CITY

4.30pm
sky sports football

KEVIN DE BRUYNE is the self-starting superstar who Pep Guardiola believes will only make himself better and better.

By **KEN LAWRENCE**



The Manchester City manager almost sounds in awe when talking about his brilliant Belgian.

Remember, this is someone who while making his reputation as the world's best coach at Barcelona, worked with Xavi, Andres Iniesta and Sergio Busquets.

Not forgetting, of course, a certain Lionel Messi.

Yet clearly, Guardiola sees KDB as someone who ranks alongside all of them.

He points to his heart and brain to illustrate the midfielder is a man apart – one who does not need the gentle art of seduction to respond to new demands.

If anything proved Guardiola right it was last Wednesday, when De Bruyne was made captain against Real Madrid, then produced five fabulous moments to turn a 1-0 deficit into a 2-1 triumph.

In a season in which City have endured a series of missed penalties, he successfully stepped up, cool as ice, to convert the winner.

But Guardiola knows he does not need to dangle carrots in front of De Bruyne, 28.

Ahead of today's Carabao Cup final against Aston Villa, the Etihad chief said: "Honestly, with these types of player, the challenge comes from inside themselves.

"If you have to push them to be something special, they are not big, big, big.

"I don't like players who complain. If a guy wants to be better than he already is, then it is up to him.

"I don't believe too much in trying to seduce them to become better players. They all know what it takes to improve – so it has to come from them.

"The big things in sport always come from inside the players. Not the trainers. One detail all the best players have is to never complain as they know it is up to them to become better, day by day. Others make reasons why they can't do it

"That's why they change clubs all the time and never end up with a top club.

"Big players always look at themselves. It's not necessary for me to say absolutely anything about Kevin any more. I'd just say, 'Take a look at how he plays'.

"The performance level, the continuity, influence in our final third and on our finishing, the desire, his calmness and positivity."

Guardiola's words underline just how much De Bruyne means to him and City.

The club could be facing implosion should Uefa's two-year Champions League ban stick, with the likelihood many of the club's top stars could be gone.

Some, like Raheem Sterling, might head out anyway – given he has always said he would like to play abroad.

And Real have made it clear they are waiting for him if he decides to head out.

Yet De Bruyne appears priceless to Pep as he discusses that 83rd-minute moment when he got it spot on in the Bernabeu.

With a look of wonder in his eyes, the City chief said: "I asked him, 'Kevin, what did you feel before you took that penalty' and he just said, 'I'm going to score'.

"He doesn't feel much pressure, he likes to play in the big events – he's an exceptional player. I say to him, 'Kevin, don't forget, do the simple things properly' because sometimes he's alone and might lose the ball.

"But he's able to see something special and is improving and improving."

Guardiola knows before KDB delivered **THAT** cross for Gabriel Jesus' equaliser against Real, the simpler option would have been a lay-off to sub Sterling.

Instead, he sent over a 'no look' cross. That moment, claims the Catalan, underlined the Belgian's genius.

Guardiola added: "He crossed to Gabriel without knowing Gabriel was there – but thinking, 'Gabriel, you have to be there'.

"That's the best way to express the talent Kevin has. When he gets in those areas, strikers know the ball is coming."

But modest KDB said: "I won't remember the season for the number of goals I scored or chances I made.

"You remember it for the trophies you won and that's what we're hoping to do.

"The league season hasn't gone as we'd have liked – but we're still in three competitions and will try to win all three.

"With so much still to play for, winning the Carabao Cup would set us up nicely for the final weeks to come."

LIKELY LINE-UPS — MAN CITY: Bravo, Walker, Fernandinho, Otamendi, Mendy, De Bruyne, Rodri, D Silva, B Silva, Sterling, Aguero. **ASTON VILLA:** Nyland, Engels, Mings, Hause, Guilbert, Hourihane, Nakamba, Targett, El Ghazi, Samatta, Grealish.







VILL POWER . . . Daley and 1994 cup winners celebrate

Comic Stan's break from Daley grind

EXCLUSIVE by JOHN WRAGG

TONY DALEY remembers laughing his socks off as Aston Villa headed to Wembley for the 1994 League Cup final.

Boss Ron Atkinson had put comedian Stan Boardman on the team bus to help his outsiders relax before the game with Manchester United.

And it worked, as Villa pulled off a huge shock to end United's hopes of a domestic Treble.

In today's final, Daley simply hopes Villa are not made a laughing stock against holders Manchester City.

The former flying winger, now 52, said: "I truly hope it's not embarrassing for Villa."

But the odds are not good for the club where he spent almost a decade.

City smashed them 6-1 at Villa Park in January having put three past them at the Etihad in October.

Villa's last final – in the FA Cup – was a one-sided 4-0 beating by Arsenal five years ago.

They last lifted a major trophy in 1996 after seeing off Leeds in the League Cup.

No wonder City are **6-1 ON** to win it for a third successive time.

But recalling that similarly unlikely 1994 win over United, Daley said: "We were total underdogs, just like Villa now. Our league form was shocking.

"But Ron put comedian Stan Boardman on the coach.

"It was tense on there but he got on the mic cracking jokes and had us giggling and laughing. Some of the stuff he was cracking, he was unbelievable.

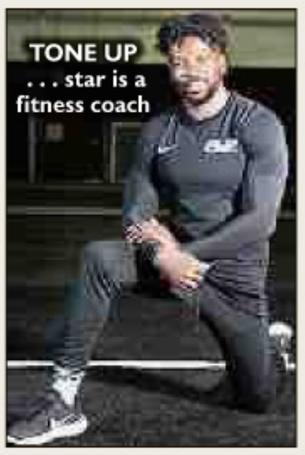
"It took us 25 minutes to get to Wembley and he was non-stop – it was unique for me."

Villa won 3-1 and Daley, now a fitness coach with his own company, played a key role in the clinching goal.

His shot hit a post and Dalian Atkinson's follow-up was handled on the line by Andrei Kanchelskis.

Dean Saunders put away the penalty and victory was sealed.

Daley will be at Wembley today, praying a team fighting relegation can pull off a miracle – just as Atkinson's men did.



It is also a chance to put their thumping by City behind them.

He said: "There has to be a sheer determination for that 6-1 not to happen again.

"Your pride should tell you it's not going to happen.

"Ron told us it was a 'free hit', no one expected us to beat United.

"It's the same today. It's a chance to write your name in history.

"Getting beat 6-1 at home? You want to put that right for your own professionalism.

"The manager, Dean Smith, won't be thinking, 'I'll put out a team to make sure we don't embarrass ourselves'.

"He will be putting out a team to win the game.

"This is Aston Villa, not a Championship or League One club that's made it to Wembley for a day out.

"It's time this club won a trophy again."

Tony Daley was speaking at the launch of his new fitness programme 7Daley. For more information visit 7Daley.co.uk

DEMENTIA

From Back Page

two. It is what it is. Dementia is a tough illness. He's suffering."

Smith and his brother Dave used to stand on the Holte End terrace and they were Villa fans because Ron worked as a steward in the Trinity Road Stand.

But last season, Smith said his father did not even know he was Villa manager.

And now he may not even set eyes on the Carabao Cup if the form book is turned upside down against Manchester City today.

Smith added: "You do it for your families, that's what I always speak to the players about.

"First and foremost you have to play for yourselves.

"You're the one who goes to bed and you have to put your head on the pillow and will be thinking about your performance? Did you do well enough?

"The other side of it is playing for your family because they are the important people in your lives who you want to send home happy."



WEMBLEY BOUND . . . City's Sterling yesterday

FINAL CALL

From Back Page

would prefer to win the Premier League.

"It is not the same, the Premier League, as the Carabao Cup, sorry Carabao — but at the same time, it is good."

As clouds gather over the club, that could be the reason why victory over Aston Villa at Wembley would perhaps be as sweet as anything he has achieved in the past.

A triumph would mean a third successive League Cup for City. Serial winner Guardiola said achieving victory does not get any easier in these showpiece finals.

He added: "The first ones are special, of course.

"Always in the big clubs, the next day you celebrate but the second day, the people knock on the door and say 'We have to try to do it again'.

"When you are there, wow, it is so difficult and when you lift it, you realise it looks more difficult than before.

"Every time it looks more difficult. That is the feeling I have right now."

9 VILLA will play in their ninth League Cup final today. Only Liverpool (12) have appeared in more than them.

7 MANCHESTER CITY have won seven of their last eight games against Aston Villa in all competitions (D1) — scoring 26 goals and conceding only three in that period.

1 JUST one English manager has won the League Cup since Brian Little led Aston Villa to victory back in 1996 — Steve McClaren with Middlesbrough in 2004.

AVFC LEGEND RAY ON 1975 GLORY RUN
GOALS P20



PREMIER LEAGUE

KOP'S NUMBER IS UP

422 Days since Liverpool's last Premier League defeat before last night

44 Games without defeat in Prem before Watford hammering

36 Games without failing to score in Prem before this blank

18 Prem games won in a row before loss - one off new all-time record

INWINCEABLES

From Back Page

perform and that's my concern. You can't get records by just wanting them. You must perform.

"You break records because you are 100 per cent focused on each step.

"When we look back in 500 years, we'll say Liverpool nearly did it — but that's not my concern.

"It was clear at some time we would lose a game. Tonight it happened.

"We don't think it's not important because we won so many games. But we don't think as well it's the biggest catastrophe."

Liverpool's unbeaten Premier League run was halted at 44 games — five short of Arsenal's record 49 — in an epic game at Vicarage Road.

Ismaila Sarr scored twice and skipper Troy Deeney also netted for a Watford side who are fighting to beat the drop.

But Liverpool are still 22 points clear of Manchester City at the top of the table.

And Klopp said: "The most important thing is congratulations to Watford, well deserved. That's what should be the headline.

"Everybody is fighting like crazy and we fought the whole season like crazy. Tonight we lost that battle. What can I say? That it's not acceptable?

"We feel the defeat — but now have a chance to show a reaction."

German Klopp claimed defeat could even liberate his players to lift their performances again for the rest of the season.

He added: "I see it as a positive. The closer it comes, the record . . .

"I'm not bothered but I'm not sure how other people think about that, so from now on we can play free football again. What the boys did so far is exceptional, though it's not over. We'll go again. Promise."

Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk added: "Credit goes to Watford — they deserved it.

"The only positive might be that we have an FA Cup game in a few days.

"Losing hurts but the record? We didn't even mention it once."

Hornets hero Deeney could not resist a snipe at gaffe-prone Kop defender Dejan Lovren.

He said: "Van Dijk is one the world's top five defenders so you pick on the weaker of the two.

"For the first goal we obviously rolled him."

Arsenal's official Twitter account tweeted "phew" — with Watford replying: "You're welcome."

And Ray Parlour, one of Arsenal's unbeaten heroes, toasted Watford's win with a cheeky dig at Liverpool using hashtags 'Invincible' and 'Invisible".

He added: "Fantastic team Liverpool but I'm in a very good mood tonight."

THE PREM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	28	26	1	1	64	20	79
Man City	27	18	3	6	68	29	57
Leicester	28	15	5	8	54	28	50
Chelsea	28	13	6	9	47	39	45
Man Utd	27	11	8	8	41	29	41
Tottenham	27	11	7	9	44	36	40
Sheff Utd	27	10	10	7	29	25	40
Wolves	27	9	12	6	38	32	39
Burnley	28	11	5	12	33	39	38
Arsenal	27	8	13	6	39	36	37
Everton	27	10	6	11	36	41	36
C Palace	28	9	9	10	25	32	36
Southampton	28	10	4	14	35	51	34
Newcastle	28	8	8	12	24	41	32
Brighton	28	6	10	12	32	40	28
West Ham	28	7	6	15	35	49	27
Watford	28	6	9	13	27	43	27
Bournemouth	28	7	6	15	28	45	27
Aston Villa	27	7	4	16	34	52	25
Norwich	28	5	6	17	25	51	21

NOW READ: A SARR IS BORN

See Goals Pages 1,2 &3

Spain hope for Tam pain



Bournemouth.....2
Chelsea.....2

CHELSEA have sent Tammy Abraham to a specialist in Barcelona in a bid to solve his right ankle problem.

The striker *(right)*, 22, has been dogged by the injury since colliding with advertising hoardings against Arsenal in January.

He has played with painkilling injections but club medics have not pinpointed the exact issue.

Boss Frank Lampard said: "I'm hoping it's not a long-term injury."

Match report — Goals P6, 7

CORONAVIRUS

NO FANS,

Moyes fear if Prem games





BIG SHAKE-UP

West Ham boss David Moyes (left) says there has been a lack of instruction from the Prem as his players bumped fists before kick-off against Southampton (above) while they were still shaking hands at Newcastle v Burnley (right)

DAVID MOYES fears for football if the coronavirus forces games to be played behind closed doors.

By ANDREW DILLON

The West Ham boss spoke out as panic swept the sporting world with France now prohibiting any event involving more than 5,000 people.

Southampton boss Ralph Hasenhuttl has banned his players from signing autographs and having selfies taken to minimise contact with fans and stop the spread of the deadly bug.

Five Serie A matches in Italy were yesterday postponed until May, while Premier League games may have to be played in empty stadiums in the worst-case scenario.

Moyes said: "If football is going behind closed doors it is not worth it because football is for supporters. Football is for fans. That is what it is for.

"We are trying to treat it seriously. The more you wash your hands the more you don't mix in company where you could be infected.

"I was disappointed that Inter v Juventus was called off.

"For that to be called off in the world we live in, in football, is a real shame.

"I hope we can find a way of not letting it spread and overcoming what is going on."

Newcastle boss Steve Bruce said: "When you see what's happening in Italy you have to worry about it.

"A game of football is not as important as people dying. We'll have to do what we have to do."

While Palace boss Roy Hodgson added: "You're talking about a medical issue that will be dealt with by the FA and the Premier League.

"We need to follow our own doctors' advice so we keep ourselves as free from the virus as much as we can."

Formula One, rugby union and cycling have already been directly affected.

West Ham's players have been issued with hand-sanitising gel by the club but were left to make up their own minds about whether or not to shake hands with the Southampton players before kick-off yesterday.

Players including Hammers skipper Mark Noble *(above)* and Southampton's Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg opted for a precautionary 'fist pump' while others did shake hands.

But Saints boss Hasenhuttl revealed after the game he is taking extra measures for safety's sake.

He said: "I still hope this virus will not be that big. We must pay attention obviously.

"But don't get in too much panic about it. What you can do is keep your hands clean and try to avoid contact like selfies or autographs.

"I think it was a good idea, the fans will understand and we don't want to spread it.

"For the moment we should let go because we try to avoid every contact with everybody. We try to avoid every handshake in the morning to let it spread as little as possible.

"But we don't want to panic too much because we are not that far with it."

More than 83,000 people in 50 countries have been infected with the 'flu-like Covid-19 disease.

Moyes said: "I don't think we had much instruction from the Premier League about whether all handshakes should be banned today.

"I didn't even see what the players did."

Later this month the cosmopolitan Premier League will halt for an international break, scattering players all over the world. Moyes said: "We are taking advice off the medical people and staff are advising me and regularly giving it to the players.

"It'll be interesting to see where it goes in the next few weeks because we have the international break coming up."

France's Health Minister Olivier Veran banned meetings of more than 5,000 people "in a confined space".

Announcing the ban, Veran said: "All public gatherings of more than 5,000 people in a confined space are temporarily banned across France.

"These measures are temporary and we will likely have to revise them.

"They are restrictive and paradoxically we hope they don't last long because that means we will have contained the virus' spread."

Five Serie A matches this weekend have been postponed.

Matches at Udinese, AC Milan, Parma and Sassuolo have also fallen victim to the outbreak of the virus in Italy.

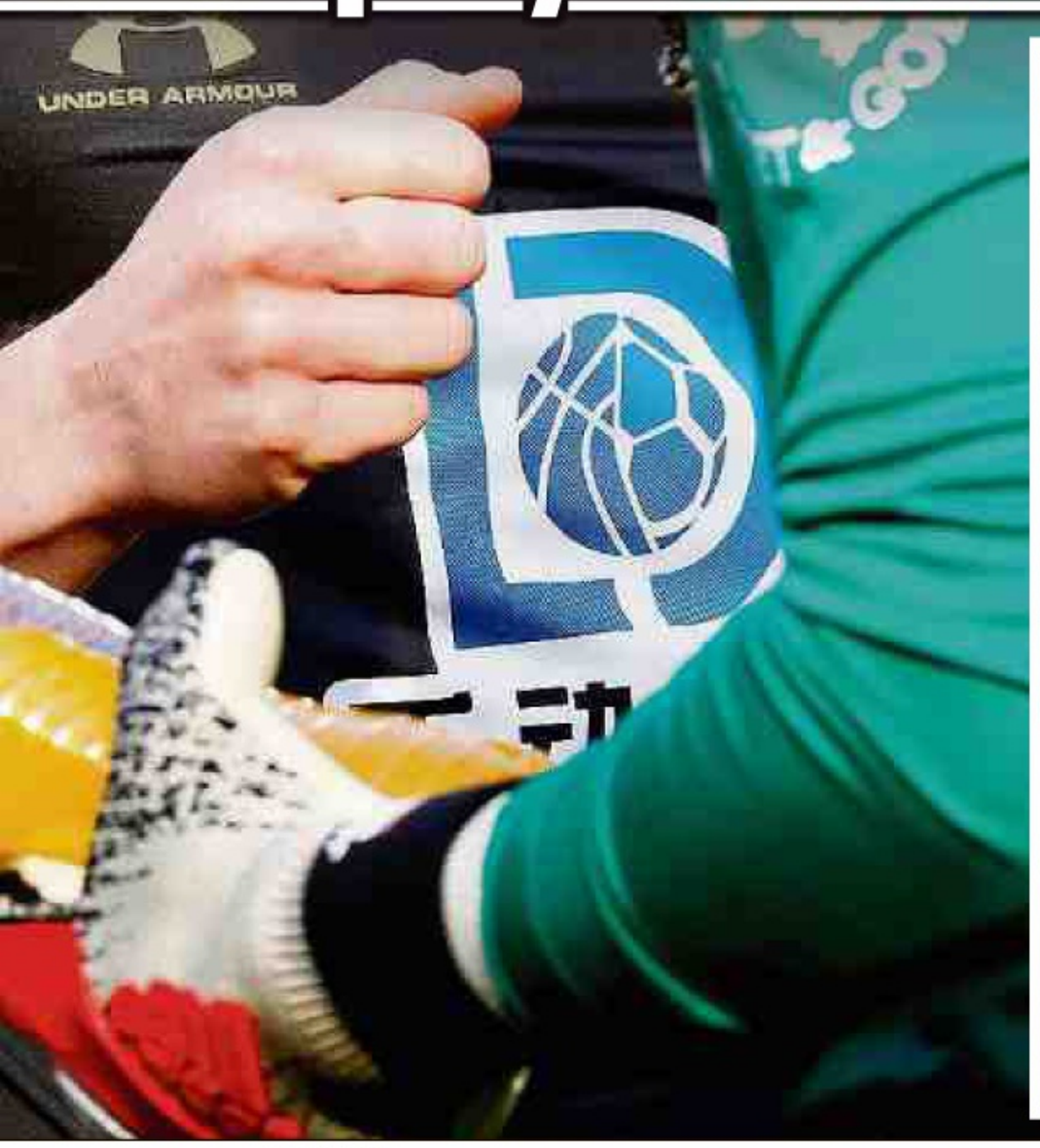
The games were initially going to be played behind closed doors but Serie A took the decision yesterday morning to call them off.

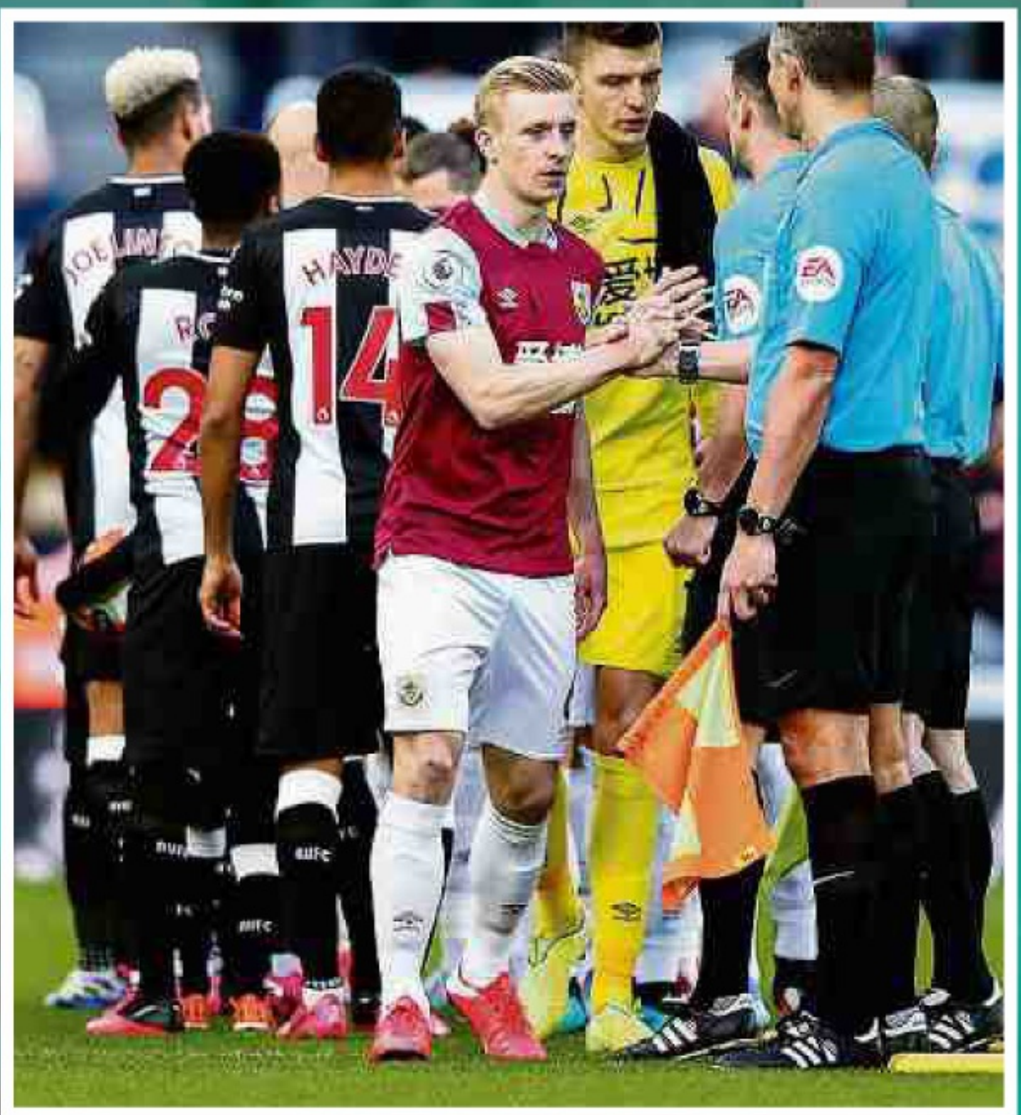
All five fixtures have been rescheduled for Wednesday, May 13.

CRISIS GRIPS FOOTBALL

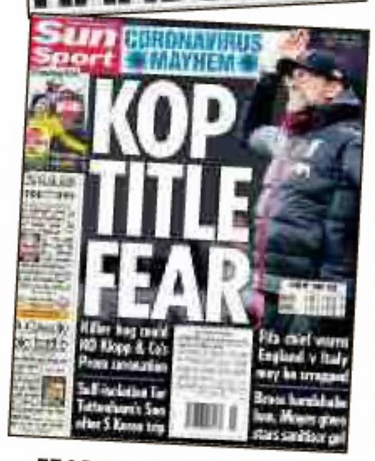
NO POINT

are played behind closed doors









FEARS . . . how we reported measures to halt the virus and the impact it might have on sport

UEFA VIRUS SUMMIT

From Back Page

games yesterday, including the top-of-the-table clash between Juventus and Inter Milan.

They will now not be played until **MAY** – despite the clubs being told just three days ago their matches must be played behind closed doors.

In France, health minister Olivier Veran banned meetings of more than 5,000 people "in a confined space".

It puts Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League last-16, second-leg tie with Borussia Dortmund in ten days at risk.

And it could KO France's potential Six Nations decider against Ireland three days later.

Worried Six Nations chiefs meet tomorrow to thrash out plans for the final two rounds.

But the tournament is unlikely to be finished by the end of the season.

Ireland's game in Italy next weekend – and the women's equivalent – has already been cancelled and England's Rome trip in a fortnight is in doubt.

Welsh FA chief executive Jonathan Ford admitted they might not be able to play their final Euro 2020 group game as planned if the spread of the virus continued.

Ford said: "We're due to be playing Italy in Rome during the Euros but it has to be health first, sport second."

Uefa chief Aleksander Ceferin arrives in Holland today ahead of Tuesday's congress.

At this stage, Euro chiefs are insistent there are no plans to postpone the latter stages of this season's Champions League or Europa League.

While the summer Euros, which will be played in 12 countries, remain on schedule.

But Ceferin will hold talks with members over the next 48 hours, as doubts rise about this month's final Euro 2020 play-offs – involving Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and Scotland – and the planned international friendlies.

Irish FA chief Patrick Nelson, speaking after the International FA Board meeting in Belfast, said: "We're keeping in close contact with Uefa.

"I know Uefa and ourselves are in direct contact with the World Health Organisation and we will take whatever advice we receive."

England boss Gareth Southgate still expects this month's Wembley friendlies with Italy and Denmark to go ahead.

But FA chief executive Mark Bullingham admitted: "It's a government decision. We have the games planned and will speak regularly to the government."

Worried Formula One team boss Franz Tost claimed it would be "unfair" to start the season if coronavirus stops some of them attending this month's first grand prix.

F1 supremo Chase Carey insists the opening three races – in Australia, Bahrain and Vietnam – will go ahead, despite health fears.

Some teams fear they may have issues travelling to the countries, or be refused entry.

Formula One giants Ferrari, tyre suppliers Pirelli, Haas chassis builder Dallara and Tost's AlphaTauri outfit are all based in Italy.

That is currently Europe's worst-infected country, with 21 deaths and nearly 900 confirmed cases. Tost said: "If teams can't run, it would be unfair to start the season as this is a big disadvantage."

Britain's six-times world champion Lewis Hamilton is due to begin the defence of his crown in Melbourne.

But Ferrari team principal Mattia Binotto added: "What will the situation be if four teams cannot run? Will it take place or not?"

Binotto also insists F1 teams must be given assurances about the risks they may face **BEFORE** flying to Melbourne.

MICHAEL MORKOV was worried he had spread coronavirus to his Danish team-mates and other top track cyclists.

The 34-year-old spent 34 hours in a hotel room under quarantine during the UCI Track Cycling World Championships in Berlin.

Morkov flew in from the UAE Tour, which was cancelled over concerns two staff members contracted the virus.

He said: "I realised I could be a carrier and thought about us hugging a hundred times over there. I felt really guilty."



ROW . . . Zaha (left) and Seagulls sub Schelotto

Roy's full of praise for Zaha

Brighton.....0
C Palace.....1

By TOM BARCLAY

ROY HODGSON praised Wilfried Zaha for keeping cool after a touchline bust-up with Brighton sub Ezequiel Schelotto.

Palace winger Zaha, who appeared to spit in Schelotto's direction, confronted him after the Argentine kicked the ball against him.

Schelotto, who did not even get on, was booked but then taunted Zaha further by later making a cry-baby gesture as Albion fans also chanted: "He's going to cry in a minute."

But Palace boss Hodgson said: "I'm glad Wilf didn't lose his head. If that's the worst thing to happen in a derby game of this nature, then people are getting away with things quite well."

Hodgson, whose side won 1-0 thanks to Jordan Ayew's strike, added: "We've watched 95 minutes of football and you're asking me to comment on something that happened in 30-40 seconds."

Zaha had the last laugh though with the victory that should ensure Palace's Premier League safety and put Brighton in further relegation danger.

The forward then poked fun at Schelotto by uploading an image on Instagram, now deleted, of the Albion sub doing his crying motion with a weeping and laughing emoji.

Seagulls chief Potter said: "I would rather be talking football than an altercation off the pitch. But these things happen."

Match report — Goals Pages 10, 11

Revolting Hammers

West Ham.....3
S'hampton.....1

By ANDREW DILLON

WEST HAM fans staged their biggest anti-board demo to try to oust the club's board of directors.

Around 5,000 gathered outside the London Stadium to voice discontent at the way the club is run.

Protestors think moving from Upton Park to the former Olympic Stadium was bad and chiefs David Sullivan, David Gold and Karren Brady have failed to keep promises.

Organiser Andy Byrne said: "The West Ham family once again showed their support for the simple message: Gold, Brady and Sullivan out."

Match report — Goals P4,5

thesun.co.uk/sport

Sun Sport



Uefa in virus crisis summit

By MARTIN LIPTON

UEFA will hold crisis talks this week over fears coronavirus could KO the Champions League's final stages AND Euro 2020.

Football chiefs want talks with all 55 member associations at the annual Congress in Amsterdam.

Italy's Serie A postponed five

Turn to Page 67

CARABAO CUP FINAL

ASTON VILLA v MAN CITY Wembley, 4.30pm



'If we win, I'll show Dad trophy...but I've not seen his eyes open for month'

SMITH'S ANGUISH OVER DEMENTIA FIGHT

DEAN SMITH says his father is unlikely to see the trophy — even if Aston Villa pull off a shock Carabao Cup win at Wembley today.

Villa boss Smith *(left)* revealed last year that dad Ron has dementia. And if Villa win,

By GRAHAM HILL

Smith will try to share the moment with his father. He said: "I don't think I'd get much out of him. I'm not sure I've seen his eyes open for the last month or

Turn to Page 65

PEP FACING FINAL CALL

By KEN LAWRENCE

PEP GUARDIOLA faces what could be his last final as Manchester City boss today.

The Spaniard *(below)* is out of contract next year and may lose stars if their two-year European ban remains.



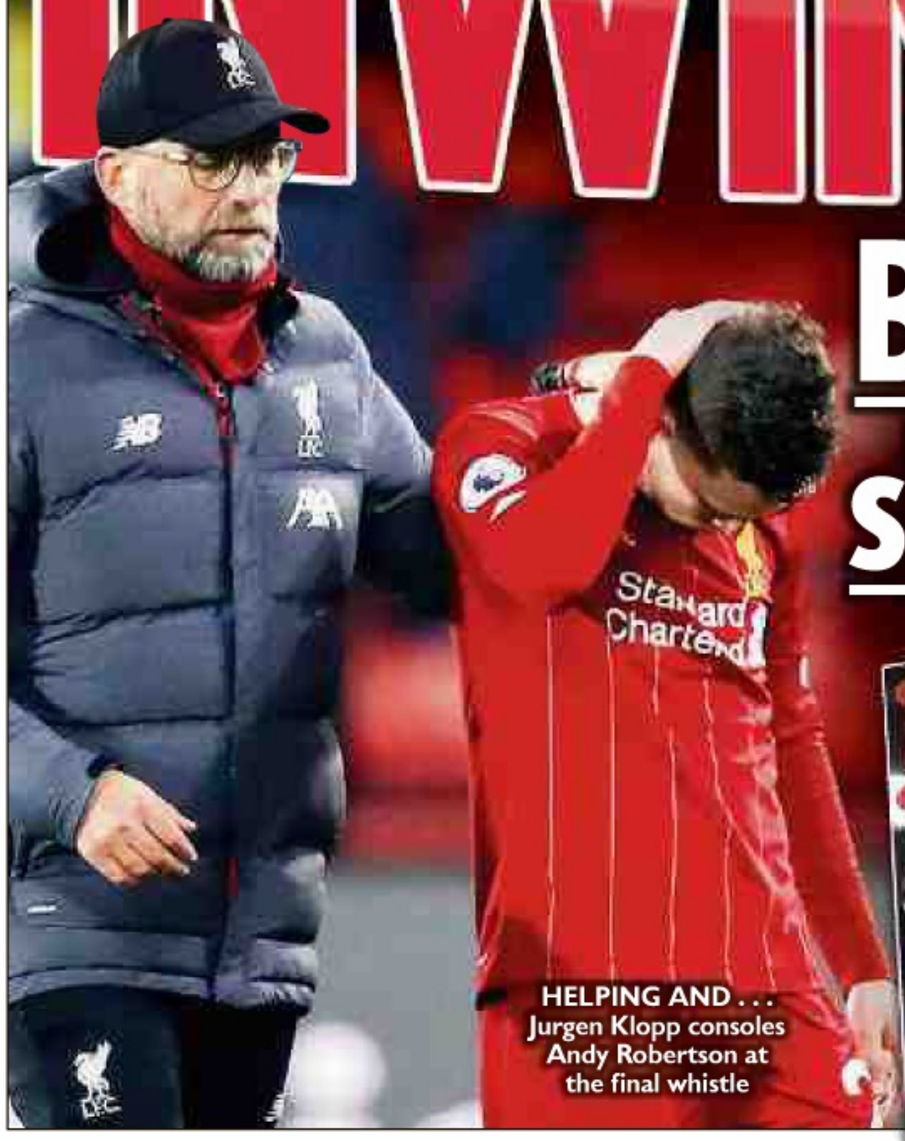
Asked what a cup win would mean, Pep said: "More now than before. Come on, I

Turn to P65

FINALLY, UNBEATEN KOP RUN ENDS

INWINCEABLES

But Klopp says: We shouldn't be greedy



HELPING AND . . . Jurgen Klopp consoles Andy Robertson at the final whistle



Watford.....3 Liverpool.....0

By DAN KING

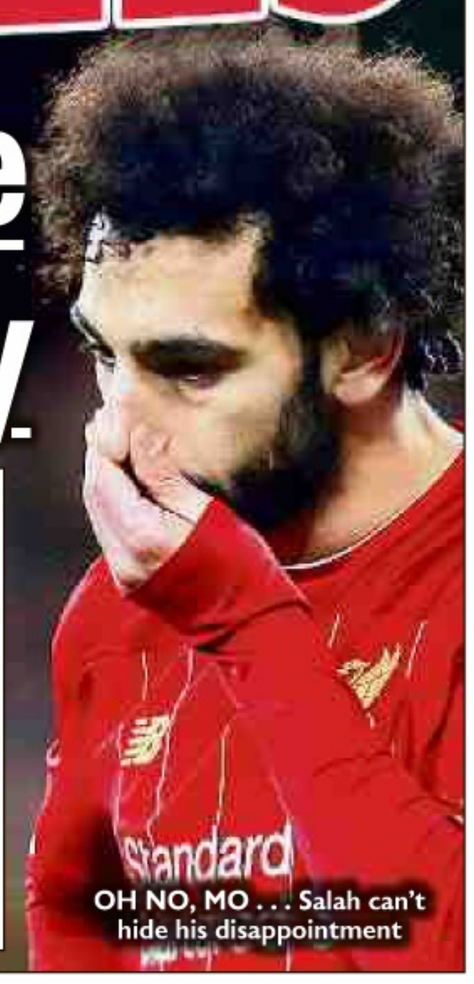
JURGEN KLOPP watched as Liverpool's invincible season dream was crushed but insisted: "It is not a catastrophe".

Arsenal fans celebrated and Manchester United legend Gary Neville popped open the fizz as the Reds' bid to match Arsene Wenger's 2003-04 unbeaten campaign ended in humiliation at Watford.

Boss Klopp said: "People will say we cannot be the best-ever Prem team – but we can win more games.

"The boys have so many records, we don't want to be greedy. We did not

Turn to Page 66



OH NO, MO . . . Salah can't hide his disappointment



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goals

Sunday,
March 1, 2020

in association with William HILL

Hornets dance to Mersey beat ROCK SARR



ALL OVER? IT IS NOW . . . Ismaila Sarr celebrates after scoring Watford's opener and (below) nets their second
Pictures: RICHARD PELHAM

By DAN KING

NIGEL PEARSON hailed his Watford heroes after Ismaila Sarr ended Liverpool's bid for invincibility.

But the Hornets boss warned he wanted ten more performances of that standard to ensure his team's

Watford....3 Liverpool....0

Premier League place. Pearson said: "To beat possibly the best club side in the world at the moment – not possibly, they are – is testament to how we played. It's very satisfying

Turn to Page 3

William HILL / **Aston Villa** v **Man City** Live on Sky Sports | KO 4.30pm

De Bruyne to score from outside the box

WAS 5/1 NOW 7/1

WHEN THE FUN STOPS STOP

BeGambleAware.org 18+

All football prices quoted are mobile/online/phone, different odds may apply in shop. Player markets will be made void if the selected player doesn't take part. Prices are 90 mins only. Prices subject to fluctuation. Prices correct and available at 8.30am. William Hill rules apply.Over 18s only. For advice & information visit begambleaware.org. National Gambling Helpline 0808 8020 133.

goals PREMIER LEAGUE

2

ISMAILA SARR is the first player to score a Premier League double against Liverpool since Marcus Rashford for Manchester United in March 2018.

goals WEEK AHEAD

(7.45 unless stated)

TODAY

CARABAO CUP FINAL
Aston Villa v Man City..... 4.30
(Wembley Stadium)

PREMIER LEAGUE
Everton v Man Utd..... 2.0
Tottenham v Wolves..... 2.0

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE
Coventry v Sunderland..... 12.0

WILLIAM HILL CUP: Quarter-final - St Johnstone v Celtic (3.0).

BETVICTOR ISTHMIAN PREMIER - Cray Wanderers v Merstham (3.0).

TOMORROW

EMIRATES FA CUP Fifth Round
Portsmouth v Arsenal .....

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP
Middlesbrough v Nottm Forest ...

BETVICTOR NORTHERN PREMIER - Basford Utd v Nantwich Town.

TUESDAY

EMIRATES FA CUP Fifth Round
Chelsea v Liverpool .....
Reading v Sheff Utd..... 8.0
West Brom v Newcastle..... 8.0

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE
Ipswich v Fleetwood Town .....

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO
Exeter v Crewe .....
Plymouth v Grimsby.....
Swindon v Scunthorpe .....

LADBROKES PREMIERSHIP - Hibernian v Hearts.

LADBROKES CHAMPIONSHIP - Ayr v Dundee Utd, Dundee v Alloa, Inverness CT v Morton, Partick v Queen of South.

LADBROKES LEAGUE ONE - Clyde v Montrose, Dumbarton v Forfar, Raith v Falkirk.

LADBROKES LEAGUE TWO - Cowdenbeath v Albion, Stirling v Stenhousemuir.

BUILDBASE FA TROPHY: Quarter-final - Concord Rangers v Royston Town.

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE - Barnet v Boreham Wood, Chesterfield v Harrogate Town, Chorley v Eastleigh, FC Halifax v Sutton Utd, Solihull Moors v Hartlepool.

VANARAMA NATIONAL NORTH - Brackley v Boston Utd, Leamington v King's Lynn Town, York v Hereford FC.

VANARAMA NATIONAL SOUTH - Billericay v Havant & Waterlooville, Tonbridge Angels v Wealdstone.

BETVICTOR SOUTHERN PREMIER CENTRAL - Banbury Utd v Needham Market, Biggleswade Town v Alvechurch, Royston Town v AFC Rushden & Diamonds.

BETVICTOR SOUTHERN PREMIER SOUTH - Beaconsfield Town v Tiverton Town, Weston-S-Mare v Blackfield & Langley.

BETVICTOR ISTHMIAN PREMIER - Corinthian Casuals v East Thurrock, Enfield Town v Lewes, Leatherhead v Potters Bar Town.

BETVICTOR NORTHERN PREMIER - Ashton Utd v Warrington Town, Gainsborough v Radcliffe, Matlock Town v Morpeth Town, Whitby v Mickleover Sports.

WEDNESDAY

EMIRATES FA CUP Fifth Round
Leicester v Birmingham .....
Sheff Wed v Man City.....
Tottenham v Norwich.....

LADBROKES PREMIERSHIP - Kilmarnock v Aberdeen, Livingston v Celtic, Motherwell v Ross County, Rangers v Hamilton, St Mirren v St Johnstone.

LADBROKES CHAMPIONSHIP - Arbroath v Dunfermline.

LADBROKES LEAGUE TWO - Brechin v Annan Athletic.

BETVICTOR SOUTHERN PREMIER SOUTH - Taunton Town v Hendon.

BETVICTOR ISTHMIAN PREMIER - Kingstonian v Haringey Borough.

THURSDAY

EMIRATES FA CUP Fifth Round
Derby v Man Utd .....

FRIDAY

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP
Nottm Forest v Millwall .....

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL
USA v England..... 12am

JD CYMRU PREMIER - Bala Town v Connah's Quay Nomads, Caernarfon Town v Newtown, Cefn Druids v Aberystwyth Town, Penybont v Cardiff Met Uni.
(3.0 unless stated)

SATURDAY

PREMIER LEAGUE
Arsenal v West Ham .....
Burnley v Tottenham..... 5.30
Crystal Palace v Watford.....
Liverpool v Bournemouth.. 12.30
Sheff Utd v Norwich.....
Southampton v Newcastle .....
Wolves v Brighton .....

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP
Barnsley v Cardiff.....
Birmingham v Reading .....
Brentford v Sheff Wed .....
Bristol City v Fulham..... 12.30
Charlton v Middlesbrough.....
Leeds v Huddersfield .....
Preston v QPR.....
Stoke v Hull .....
Swansea v West Brom.....
Wigan v Luton .....

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE
AFC Wimbledon v Bolton .....
Accrington v Tranmere .....
Fleetwood v Blackpool .....
Ipswich v Coventry .....
Lincoln City v Burton Albion .....
MK Dons v Doncaster .....
Peterborough v Portsmouth .....
Rochdale v Rotherham .....
Shrewsbury v Oxford Utd .....
Southend v Bristol Rovers.....
Sunderland v Gillingham .....

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO
Carlisle v Colchester.....
Cheltenham v Port Vale.....
Crawley Town v Oldham.....
Crewe v Stevenage .....
Leyton Orient v Cambridge Utd...
Newport County v Morecambe ...
Northampton v Mansfield.....
Plymouth v Macclesfield .....
Salford City v Bradford.....
Scunthorpe v Grimsby..... 1.0
Swindon v Forest Green .....
Walsall v Exeter .....

LADBROKES PREMIERSHIP - Aberdeen v Hibernian, Celtic v St Mirren, Hamilton v Kilmarnock, Hearts v Motherwell, St Johnstone v Livingston.

LADBROKES CHAMPIONSHIP - Alloa v Inverness CT, Ayr v Dundee, Dundee Utd v Partick, Dunfermline v Queen of South, Morton v Arbroath.

LADBROKES LEAGUE ONE - Airdrieonians v East Fife, Clyde v Dumbarton, Falkirk v Peterhead, Montrose v Stranraer, Raith v Forfar.

LADBROKES LEAGUE TWO - Annan Athletic v Cowdenbeath, Cove Rangers v Brechin, Edinburgh City v Albion, Elgin v Stirling, Stenhousemuir v Queen's Park.

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE - AFC Fylde v Solihull Moors, Aldershot v Dag & Red, Barrow v Notts County, Chorley v Chesterfield, Dover v Yeovil, FC Halifax v Woking, Harrogate Town v Bromley (5.20), Hartlepool v Ebbsfleet Utd, Maidenhead Utd v Boreham Wood, Stockport County v Barnet, Sutton Utd v Torquay, Wrexham v Eastleigh.

VANARAMA NATIONAL NORTH - AFC Telford v Darlington, Alfreton Town v York, Altrincham v Spennymoor Town, Brackley v Blyth Spartans, Bradford PA v Chester FC, Curzon Ashton v Boston Utd, Farsley Celtic v Hereford FC, Gateshead v King's Lynn Town, Guiseley v Leamington, Kettering v Gloucester, Southport v Kidderminster.

VANARAMA NATIONAL SOUTH - Bath City v Weymouth, Billericay v Braintree Town, Chelmsford v Concord Rangers, Havant & Waterlooville v Hampton & Richmond, Hemel Hempstead v Dorking Wanderers, Maidstone Utd v Welling, Oxford City v Chippenham, Slough v Hungerford Town, St Albans v Dartford, Tonbridge Angels v Eastbourne Borough, Wealdstone v Dulwich.

BETVICTOR SOUTHERN PREMIER CENTRAL - Alvechurch v Nuneaton Borough, Banbury Utd v AFC Rushden & Diamonds, Bromsgrove Sporting v Barwell, Coalville Town v Hitchin Town, Leiston v Kings Langley, Lowestoft Town v Biggleswade Town, Peterborough Sports v Needham Market, Redditch Utd v Hednesford Town, Royston Town v St Ives Town, Rushall Olympic v Stourbridge, Tamworth v Stratford Town.

BETVICTOR SOUTHERN PREMIER SOUTH - Beaconsfield Town v Gosport Borough, Blackfield & Langley v Poole Town, Chesham Utd v Hartley Wintney, Dorchester Town v Wimborne Town, Farnborough v Yate Town, Hayes & Yeading Utd v Swindon Supermarine, Met Police v Harrow Borough, Salisbury FC v Merthyr Town, Tiverton Town v Weston-S-Mare, Truro City v Taunton Town, Walton Casuals v Hendon.

BETVICTOR ISTHMIAN PREMIER - Bishop's Stortford v Haringey Borough, Carshalton Athletic v Cheshunt, Corinthian Casuals v Hornchurch, Cray Wanderers v Brightlingsea Regent, Folkestone Invicta v Enfield Town, Horsham v Potters Bar Town, Leatherhead v East Thurrock, Lewes v Kingstonian, Margate v Bowers & Pitsea, Merstham v Bognor Regis Town, Worthing v Wingate & Finchley.

BETVICTOR NORTHERN PREMIER - Ashton Utd v Scarborough Athletic, Atherton Collieries v Grantham, Bamber Bridge v South Shields, Basford Utd v Buxton, Hyde Utd v Matlock Town, Lancaster City v Gainsborough, Mickleover Sports v FC United of Manchester, Morpeth Town v Witton Albion, Radcliffe v Nantwich Town, Stafford Rangers v Whitby, Stalybridge v Warrington Town.

JD CYMRU PREMIER - Carmarthen Town v Airbus UK Broughton (2.30).

SUNDAY

PREMIER LEAGUE
Chelsea v Everton..... 2.0
Man Utd v Man City..... 4.30

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP
Derby v Blackburn.....

LADBROKES PREMIERSHIP - Ross County v Rangers (12.0).

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL
Japan v England.....6.15

MONDAY

PREMIER LEAGUE
Leicester v Aston Villa..... 8.0

VANARAMA NATIONAL NORTH - Gloucester v Farsley Celtic (7.45).



WAT A MOMENT! . . . ice-cool Ismaila Sarr fires Watford ahead to stun the runaway league leaders before Troy Deeney nets their third (above) on a crazy night at Vicarage Road

SHELL-SHOCKED . . . chilly Klopp watches on helplessly

LOST IN Sarr is first class as

By DAN KING

ISMAILA SARR may end up only as the answer to a pub quiz question.

But if the man who KO'd Liverpool's invincible season helps Watford beat the drop, he will be a legend in this corner of Hertfordshire as well as in the red half of North London.

Arsenal's record of being the only side in the modern era to go a top-flight season unbeaten is safe for another year.

The question now is whether this epic result will be the springboard for the Hornets to preserve their Premier League status.

It really should be, because Nigel Pearson's team were excellent in achieving what no other club could and, in the process, climbing out of the drop zone. After a 44-game unbeaten run and record-equalling 18 wins in a row, the wheels came off Jurgen Klopp's mean machine.

Watford.....3
Sarr 54, 60; Deeney 72
Liverpool.....0

And home fans loved it, singing: "Can we play you every week?" They made the world and European champions look second best in every department.

But this defeat had been coming Liverpool had been unconvincing in squeaking past the other two members of the bottom three, Norwich and West Ham, by the odd goal in their previous two fixtures.

Last night they were simply awful. Impotent in attack, flaccid in midfield and limp at the back, with even the great Virgil Van Dijk having a shocker alongside ever-hapless Dejan Lovren.

After all the talk of coronavirus being the only thing that could halt the Reds' title procession, Klopp's team caught a cold at a freezing Vicarage Road.

And it was sweet revenge for two-goal Sarr. In the reverse fixture, the Senegal international had been guilty of an embarrassing airshot with the goal at his mercy.

This time he claimed two strikers goals – the first with a well-timed run and the second with a nerveless finish.

Captain Troy Deeney grabbed the third to send the stadium into disbelieving raptures and this time Liverpool were done.

It was not a total shock. Watford also gave Liverpool plenty of trouble at Anfield in December in

3-0 THIS was the biggest margin of victory for a side in the relegation zone against top-flight leaders since Leicester beat Man Utd 3-0 on November 23, 1985.

5 LIVERPOOL have conceded five goals in their last two Premier League games — as many as in their previous 14 combined before that.

in association with

William HILL





WATFORD'S NEXT SIX IN PREM

Saturday	C. Palace (a)
Mar 14	Leicester (h)
Mar 21	Burnley (a)
Apr 4	Southampton (h)
Apr 12	Chelsea (a)
Apr 18	Norwich (h)

ROCK

From Page 1

but it's just one game. We've got ten games left and they are all going to be very important.

"We have got to try to emulate what we have done today in terms of performance.

"I'm really proud of the players. I wish I could enjoy good times a bit more. I'm already looking at the next game.

"It's good to get reward for everybody's work. My job is to steer the ship and try to keep some perspective in terms of where we are.

"It's a fantastic win. But with ten games left we've got an awful lot of work to do."

Watford hero Troy Deeney, who grabbed the third goal after Ismaila Sarr's brilliant brace, said: "Everyone was talking about how good Liverpool are but someone has to beat them and why not us?

"We get in people's faces and we got after them and forced errors."

Sarr, 22, had an outstanding game as he made his first start since January 18 after a hamstring injury.

And Pearson believes the Senegal international will be key to Watford's survival bid and added: "He's a really good player and young as well. I'm reluctant to have too high an expectation.

"When you have young players, it's important for them to enjoy their football.

"His impact was very, very good. We need to do everything we can to keep him available.

"He played his part like everybody else. The whole team delivered what they were picked to deliver."

THE MAILA

Klopp fails to post record

a 2-0 defeat that had plenty of positives. In Pearson's first game in charge, they showed the kind of spirit, organisation and drive that underpinned their first climb out of the bottom three.

They started this game a little more slowly but, once again, created some good chances.

There was nothing as glaring Sarr's gaffe at Anfield but Watford had two decent sights of goal in the opening 15 minutes.

Gerard Deulofeu scooped an effort on to the top of the net, then linked up with Deeney before teeing up Abdoulaye Doucoure for a shot blocked by Van Dijk.

Liverpool, yet again, were looking off their game.

A niggle meant Joe Gomez was not risked and in his place Lovren had a torrid time in his first league game since December 7.

In the 11 matches since the Croatian had left the field during that first half at Bournemouth, the Reds had kept nine clean sheets and conceded only three goals.

That cannot have been a coincidence.

For all his ability on the ball, bravery and at times no-nonsense defending, Lovren is part of a long line of flaky Reds defenders in the club's 30 years without a title.

Lovren's rustiness was evident as he misplaced passes and was caught out twice in the build-up to Doucoure's chance.

But he was not the only one having an off day. Liverpool's midfield was being outfought by the tenacious hosts.

And that meant the fabled front three and flying full-backs did not have a platform to influence this game as they had so many before.

It was Watford who looked the more dangerous down the flanks and that continued even after Spaniard Deulofeu had to go off on a stretcher. Senegal star Sarr took up the baton, flashing a shot wide before Deeney had two chances to punish an Alisson fumble – but took neither.

Surely, Liverpool would improve in the second half? Not this time.

Watford came straight back out and forced Alisson into action.

A Lovren error let in Roberto Pereyra, who fed Sarr and it took a fine save to divert his fierce shot over the crossbar.

The scare at last inspired Liverpool to add some purpose to their possession and Andy Robertson stung Ben Foster's hands with the visitors' first effort on target.

But straight away Watford and Sarr grabbed a goal they deserved.

While Deeney occupied Lovren, Doucoure ran on to a throw-in and crossed for the Senegal international to score on 54 minutes.

If that defending was poor, worse was to come just six minutes later. Deeney hit a pass infield from the touchline and this time it was the Reds' Mr Dependable Van Dijk at fault.

The big Dutchman was caught on his heels, Sarr raced on and clipped a lovely finish past Alisson.

Unbelievably, it got even better for Watford and even worse for Liverpool.

After Sarr blocked a goalbound Will Hughes shot, Lovren was out-muscled by Deeney. Sarr collected the ball and laid it back for Deeney to clip into the net.

And Sarr had a great chance to claim a hat-trick – only to send his shot wide.

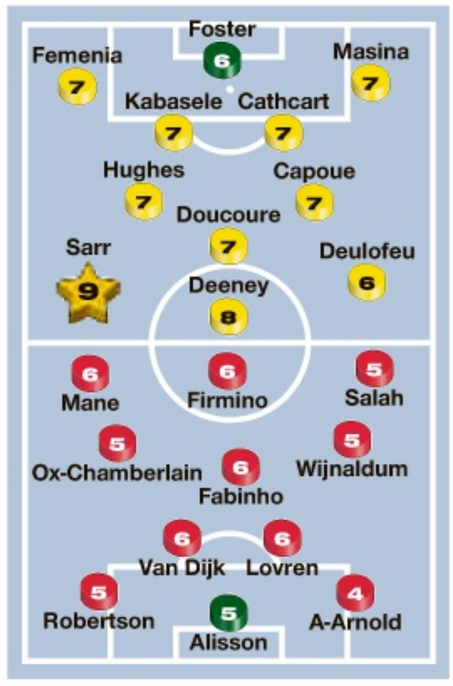
He was subbed immediately, to a standing ovation, his place in history sealed.

And Watford's place in the Premier League suddenly looks more secure after an amazing result and performance.

WATFORD vs LIVERPOOL

REFEREE: Michael Oliver
ATTENDANCE: 21,634

DREAM TEAM RATINGS



SUBS — WATFORD: Pereyra (Deulofeu 37) 6, Pussetto (Sarr 82) 6, Chalobah (Doucoure 89) 6. Not used: Gomes, Dawson, Welbeck, Gray.
LIVERPOOL: Lallana (Wijnaldum 61) 6, Origi (Ox-Chamberlain 65) 6, Minamino (Firmino 79) 6. Not used: Adrian, Matip, Jones, Hoever.
Ratings supplied by whoscored.com

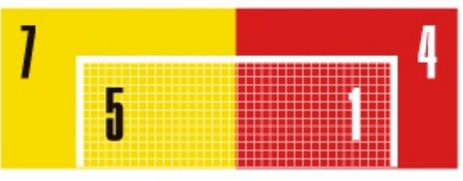
MATCH STATS

WATFORD		LIVERPOOL
300	Total passes	730
197	Completed passes	618
24	Touches in opposition box	31
14	Total shots	7
2	Blocked shots	2
13	Tackles	8
61%	Tackles won %	25%
4	Fouls conceded	8
13	Total crosses	26
35%	Possession (1st half)	65%
24%	Possession (2nd half)	76%
0/0	Yellow/red cards	0/0

POSSESSION

29% 71%

SHOTS ON/OFF TARGET



CORNERS

3 5

OFFSIDES

5 1

PLAYER MOSTS

Passes	Lovren 116
Touches	Lovren 129
Total shots	Sarr 6
Shots on target	Sarr 3
Fouls won	Capoue 3
Tackles	Masina 4
Miles run	Hughes 7.7
Top speed (mph)	Van Dijk 21.6
Sprints	Doucoure 15

goals

PREMIER LEAGUE

3

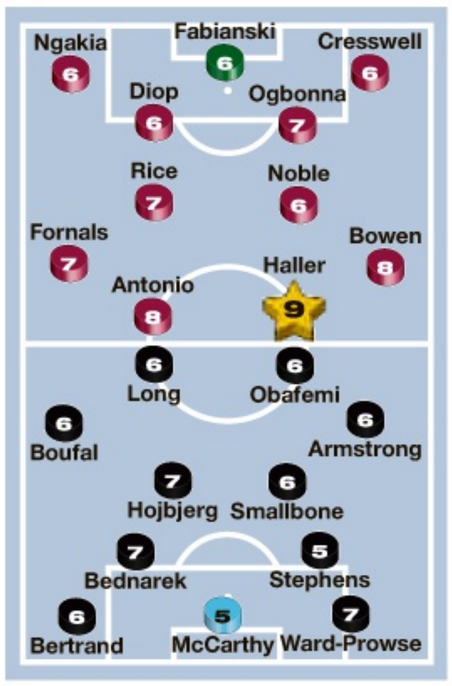
WEST HAM picked up their third win in their last 14 Prem games (D2 L9) — each one coming against South Coast opposition (Southampton twice and Bournemouth).

BOWEN'S BUBBLIN'

New boy kickstarts Hammers

REFEREE: Anthony Taylor
ATTENDANCE: 59,962

DREAM TEAM RATINGS



SUBS — WEST HAM: Snodgrass (Bowen 78) 6, Anderson (Fornals 90) 5. Not used: Randolph, Balbuena, Zabaleta, Lanzini, Masuaku. Booked: Cresswell.
SOUTHAMPTON: Ings (Boufal 54) 6, Vestergaard (Obafemi 68) 6, Romeu (Smallbone 78) 6. Not used: Gunn, Valery, Walker-Peters, Adams. Booked: Stephens.

Ratings supplied by whoscored.com

MATCH STATS

WEST HAM		SOUTHAMPTON
260	Total passes	525
152	Completed passes	393
27	Touches in opposition box	29
14	Total shots	10
2	Blocked shots	5
16	Tackles	17
62%	Tackles won %	53%
8	Fouls conceded	11
22	Total crosses	27
36%	Possession (1st half)	64%
32%	Possession (2nd half)	68%
1/0	Yellow/red cards	1/0

POSSESSION
34% 66%

SHOTS ON/OFF TARGET
5 (7 | 2) 3

CORNERS
4 9

OFFSIDES
0 1

PLAYER MOSTS

Passes	Smallbone 68
Touches	Bednarek/Ward-Prowse 86
Total shots	Bowen 4
Key passes	Antonio 4
Miles run	Fornals 7.0
Top speed (mph)	Armstrong 20.9



BOW'S ARROW . . . Jarrod Bowen opens his goalscoring account on his full West Ham debut

4

MICHAEL OBAFEMI scored his fourth goal for Southampton in all comps. All of those strikes have come away from home with three in London.

LEAGUE ONE FASTEST & LATEST GOALS

FASTEST - Jarrod Bowen (West Ham) 14m 13s

LATEST - Marcos Alonso (Chelsea) 84m 51s

in association with

William HILL

By ANDREW DILLON

JARROD BOWEN scored his first West Ham goal as their winter of discontent blossomed into a spring of hope.

The £22million forward marked his full Premier League debut with the strike that set them on the way to a vital win in their relegation battle.

And on the day world sport went fully coronavirus crazy with bans on handshakes, 55,000 West Ham fans put theirs together with a standing ovation to cap a memorable day for Bowen and his new club.

The win lifted the Hammers out of the bottom three at the expense of Aston Villa.

But moreover the energetic performance suggests there is enough zip in this team to beat the drop.

Goals for strikers Sebastien Haller and Michail Antonio rounded off a confident and composed performance capped by strikes from all three of the West Ham forward-line.

Boss David Moyes swooped for Bowen, 23, from Hull in the January transfer window.

It was all part of his grand plan to implement a long-term transfer policy of bringing young and hungry players to the club, instead of the traditional mixed bag of B-list names in the hope they come good.

Whether it catches on long term will be down to West Ham directors David Sullivan, David Gold and Karren Brady. They remain deeply unpopular, as shown by the 5,000 fans who gathered outside the charmless London Stadium before the game to campaign against them.

West Ham.....3
Bowen 15; Haller 40; Antonio 54
Southampton....1
Obafemi 31

Inside the stadium come 3pm it is all about backing the players in yet another fight for survival – and Moyes certainly has the support of punters.

The signing of Bowen and introduction of academy right-back Jeremy Ngakia is fuelling the feeling that the Scot can do the job required this season and then some.

He picked a forward-thinking team with some bold decisions too, dropping playmakers Manuel Lanzini and Felipe Anderson in favour of Pablo Fornals and Bowen.

It was not exactly backs-to-the-wall for Southampton from the outset but there was a tangible buoyancy about West Ham.

Moyes is of the belief that the season effectively started yesterday as more winnable fixtures arrived after a horrendous run that included trips to Liverpool and Manchester City.

The crowd inside the stadium did their bit too. Juices were flowing and hackles were up following the anti-board demo beforehand.

The protesters' motto is steadfastly 'back the team not the regime' and a positive charge was in the air. That energy was soaked up by the West Ham team.

With Bowen *(below)* on the right wing and two marauding strikers there was an attacking look to the Hammers – and they will need it.

After coming up for air against Southampton, tricky fixtures roll in like the wet weather with three London derbies in four games against Arsenal, Tottenham and Chelsea.

It is going to be a tough and tense run-in and Moyes is relying on his so far unimpressive striker Haller, in particular, to deliver the goals to keep his team in the division.

Bowen's goal was slick and well-timed and Haller's a reward for the bullying instincts the big Frenchman boasts but rarely utilises.

After a one-two with the superb Antonio on the edge of the box, Haller jumped as one with Southampton keeper Alex McCarthy and headed the ball from his grasp.

The West Ham man was first to react when the ball hit the deck and he slid to finish from an admirably tight angle.

Bowen's tidy left-foot finish from a precisely-timed through-ball from Fornals was a contrast in style and execution.

Even so, a lot of West Ham's woes this season have been of their own making, calamitous lapses in concentration and defensive errors turning over the ball to the opposition, often with disastrous consequences.

Here it was again when one of a wave of threats on the visitors' goal crumbled with a bad pass and led to the Saints' counter-attack equaliser.

Ploughing through the midfield was Stuart Armstrong, head down en route to goal.

He eventually picked out James Ward-Prowse to his right as West Ham struggled to scamper backwards and recover.

And with speed that Moyes' side lacks, Ward-Prowse squared the ball across the area and Michael Obafemi latched on to it and chipped Lukasz Fabianski with a delightful, curling lob.

Southampton were ten points ahead of West Ham before the game and should have enough left in the tank to see them over the safety line this season.

Even so, there is a warning here not to switch off too early.

They drew level only to go behind again nine minutes later through Haller.

And Saints were finally put to rest when Antonio pulled the trigger on a three-man move involving Haller and Fornals, lashing a shot past McCarthy.

West Ham supporters should launch pro-tests more often.

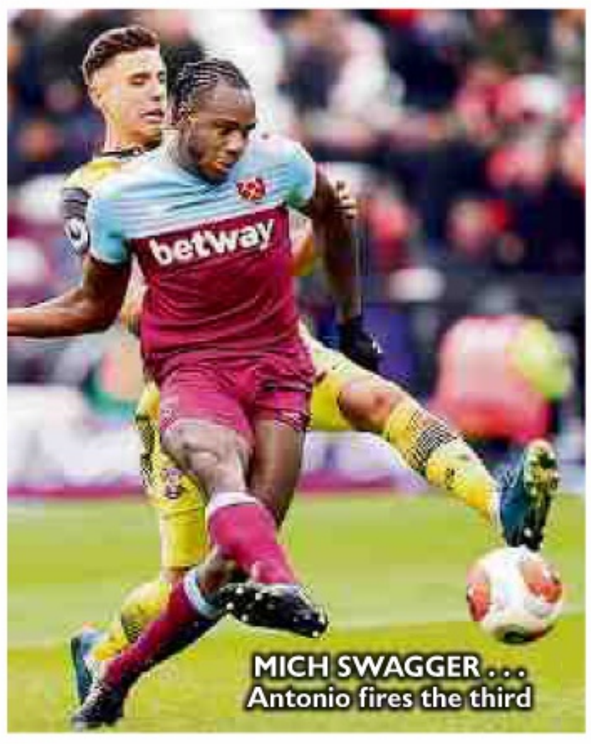
Tweet @andydillon70







HALL GOOD . . . Haller finishes well after beating McCarthy to the ball



MICH SWAGGER . . . Antonio fires the third

HAMMERS' NEXT SIX IN PREM

Saturday	Arsenal (a)	Apr 5	Chelsea (h)
Mar 15	Wolves (h)	Apr 10	Newcastle (a)
Mar 20	Tottenham (a)	Apr 18	Burnley (h)

CAN WE PLAY YOU EVERY WEEK?

WEST HAM have won all of their last five Premier League games against Southampton.

That is their joint-best run against an opponent after also winning five in a row v Blackburn between 2006 and 2008.

THEIR LAST FIVE v SAINTS

Yesterday	West Ham **3** Southampton **1**
Dec 14, 2019	Southampton **0** West Ham **1**
May 4, 2019	West Ham **3** Southampton **0**
Dec 27, 2018	Southampton **1** West Ham **2**
Mar 31, 2018	West Ham **3** Southampton **0**



JOB DONE . . . Moyes and Bowen

Jarrod is really living the dream

By ANDREW DILLON

J-ROD reckons his first Premier League start went like a dream.

Jarrod Bowen scored his first West Ham goal since signing from Hull in January for £22million, helping the club to a much-needed survival win.

And the 23-year-old revealed: "I think that's the way it went in my dreams last night!

"We held on and got the three points which is really important.

"The assistant manager said the keeper liked to go down quickly.

"I knew the angle was tight so I got enough on it to dink it over him.

"Hard work is a given. I'll always put 110 per cent in.

"Against Liverpool we performed well, the work-rate was there.

"Now we've got two good performances, we want to build on that."

West Ham also scored through Sebastien Haller and Michail Antonio.

It is only the second league win for boss David Moyes since he took over in late December.

He said: "My only disappointment is it was 2-1 at half-time, I thought it should have been more.

"We know one game isn't enough and we have to go out and do it again.

"Jarrod took his goal very well. He is a goal-scorer from his position. I want him to be a Premier League player for the next six or seven years.

"But I don't want West Ham to rely on him yet. He is not ready for that.

"I want to be able to put him in at the right times. I don't want supporters to get carried away."

Southampton boss Ralph Hasenhuttl blasted his defence for switching off.

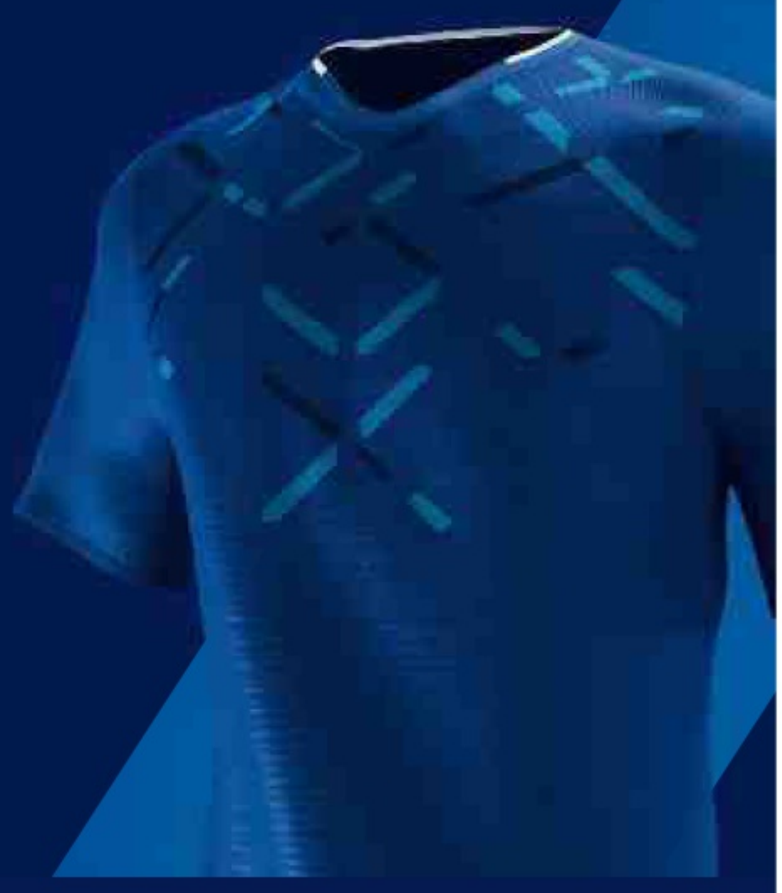
He said: "If anyone thinks we are safe then we have a problem.

"The goals we conceded were an absolute joke."

Everton v Man Utd
Live on Sky Sports | KO 2.00pm

Richarlison to score first

Enhanced Odds



WAS 4/1
NOW 6/1

it's who you play with / William Hill

WHEN THE FUN STOPS STOP BeGambleAware.org 18+

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PREMIER LEAGUE

On yer

ALONSO THE HERO



ALO, ALO . . . left-back Alonso gets the opener



By DUNCAN WRIGHT

MARCOS ALONSO might not have a future at Chelsea – but his double ensured Frank Lampard's Champions League nightmare did not turn into a week from hell.

The Spanish defender is set to be shipped out of Stamford Bridge this summer as part of boss Lamps' major overhaul.

But Alonso's late header – having opened the scoring in the first half – salvaged a point for the Blues which keeps them on track to be at Europe's top table next season.

Alonso reacted first to head in the loose ball after Bournemouth keeper Aaron Ramsdale had saved well from Pedro's shot to equalise as the relegation-threatened Cherries looked on course for what would have been a crucial victory.

The fall-out from the humbling at the hands of Bayern Munich in mid-week led to defender Antonio Rudiger and midfielder Ross Barkley paying the price as they were axed.

England hopeful Fikayo Tomori, 22, came in at the back – his first Premier League appearance this year – while veteran Pedro, 32, also got a starting spot. Bournemouth have endured a horrid time of things on the injury front which has hardly helped their fight to beat the drop.

So it was welcome news for the Cherries that centre-half Nathan Ake survived a hamstring injury scare to line up against his former club.

Having been left hard done by at the hands of VAR in their defeat at Burnley last week, Eddie Howe's men endured more misery as they wasted two glorious chances to take the lead in the first five minutes.

They caught Chelsea cold but Philip Billing fluffed both.

First, Jack Stacey picked him out but with the goal at his mercy he fired straight at Blues keeper Willy Caballero.

Then, two minutes later he robbed Tomori of possession in the area, leaving him with just Caballero to beat, only to snatch at his shot and find the side netting.

In a frantic opening to the game, Ramsdale shovelled Mason Mount's

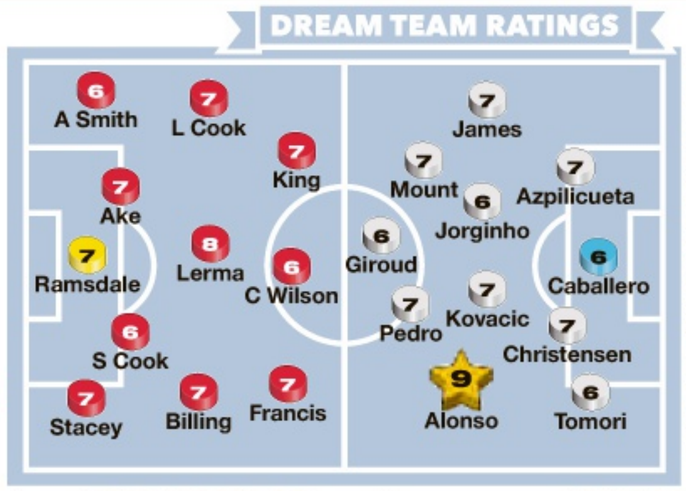
Bournemouth..2
Lerma 54; King 57
Chelsea.....2
Alonso 33, 85

REFEREE: Andre Marriner
ATTENDANCE: 10,667

MATCH STATS

BOURNEMOUTH		CHELSEA
300	Total passes	807
209	Completed passes	706
16	Touches in opposition box	42
9	Total shots	23
1	Blocked shots	5
8	Tackles	17
50%	Tackles won %	53%
8	Fouls conceded	5
11	Total crosses	43
25%	Possession (1st half)	75%
28%	Possession (2nd half)	72%
2/0	Yellow/red cards	2/0

DREAM TEAM RATINGS



SUBS — BOURNEMOUTH: Stanislas (King 68) 5, Gosling (L Cook 81) 5. Booked: A Smith, C Wilson. Not used: Boruc, Francis, Solanke, Rico, H Wilson. **CHELSEA:** Willian (Tomori 64) 6, Barkley (Jorginho 64) 6, Batshuayi (Giroud 72) 6. Booked: Christensen, Jorginho. Not used: Kepa, Rudiger, Loftus-Cheek, Gilmour.

Ratings supplied by whoscored.com

POSSESSION
27% 73%

SHOTS ON/OFF TARGET
3 5 | 6 12

CORNERS
4 14

OFFSIDES
1 2

4

CHELSEA are without a win in their last four PL away games (D3 L1) — their longest run in the same season since a run of seven between September and December 2015.

18

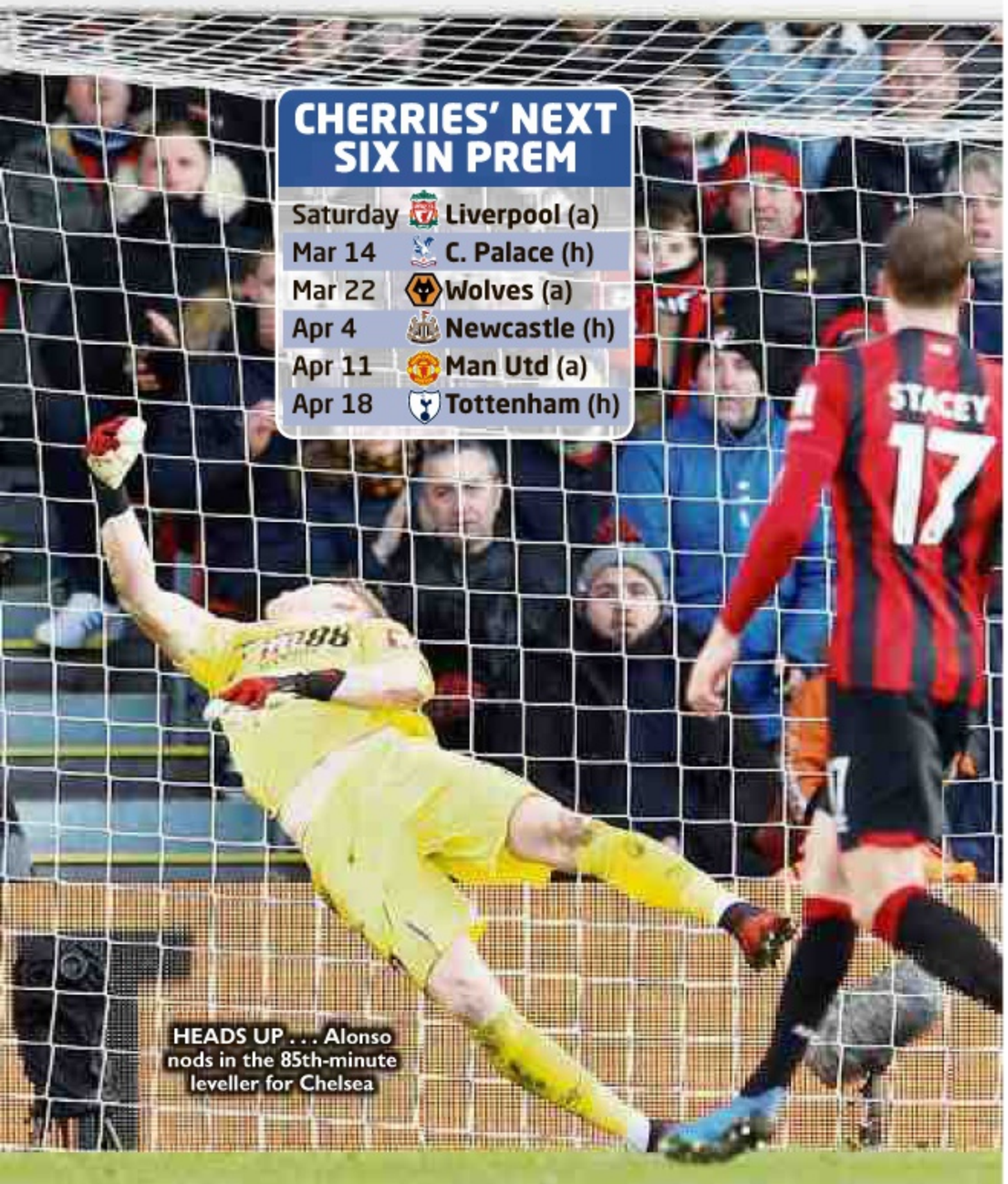
RYAN FRASER has 18 Prem assists since the start of last season. The only player with more in that time is Liverpool defender Trent Alexander-Arnold (24).

in association with

William HILL

Marcs

BUT HE'S SET TO GO



CHERRIES' NEXT SIX IN PREM

Saturday	Liverpool (a)
Mar 14	C. Palace (h)
Mar 22	Wolves (a)
Apr 4	Newcastle (h)
Apr 11	Man Utd (a)
Apr 18	Tottenham (h)

HEADS UP . . . Alonso nods in the 85th-minute leveller for Chelsea

25-yard volley around a post for a corner. The home crowd, demanding VAR vengeance for Turf Moor, thought they had won a penalty on 19 minutes when Andre Marriner appeared to point to the spot following a melee at a corner.

So you can imagine their disgust when they realised Marriner was actually pointing at Ake for fouling Cesar Azpilicueta.

Lampard has bemoaned his side's profligacy in recent weeks, and the manager turned around in frustration on 29 minutes when Mount made a hash of a volley attempt, allowing Ramsdale to save low.

But the Blues found their shooting boots four minutes later as Alonso broke the deadlock.

Reece James galloped free down the right and whipped in a cross. Olivier Giroud nipped in front of Ake and hit a brilliant flicked volley which cannoned off the bar and fell kindly to Alonso as he thundered a shot into the back of the net.

Going behind sucked the life out of Bournemouth and the crowd, and Chelsea poured forward smelling blood and looking for a second.

Giroud saw a header well stopped by Ramsdale, and the Cherries keeper did well again on 39 minutes to keep out James' shot from the edge of the box which looked destined for the bottom corner. Chelsea should have put the game beyond reach just two minutes after the break as Alonso turned provider but Giroud's effort bounced agonisingly wide of a post.

The strugglers, who had offered virtually nothing after going behind, suddenly drew level from a set-piece.

Ryan Fraser's 54th-minute corner saw Jefferson Lerma climb highest to power a header past Caballero.

And within three minutes the Cherries were ahead as Billing released Stacey on the right and his low cross reached Josh King who turned home into an empty net.

From looking short of answers, Bournemouth were suddenly in control and it was Chelsea left chasing the game, with Lampard throwing on Barkley and Willian for Tomori and Jorginho in an attempt to shake his team up.

Michy Batshuayi was the last throw of the dice in place of Giroud, and the Belgian thought he had levelled on 72 minutes but was offside.

Barkley's shot then deflected off Ake but flew inches wide.

But just when all seemed lost for Lampard's Blues, Alonso headed in to break Bournemouth's hearts.

To make matters worse for the Cherries, they dropped into the bottom three after Watford's shock 3-0 win over Liverpool.



LAMPARD . . . lacking goals

FRANK INCENSED

FRANK LAMPARD ripped into his Chelsea forwards for blowing a series of chances as their top-four hopes took another blow.

Defender Marcos Alonso spared the strikers' blushes with a double to salvage a point against struggling Bournemouth.

Blues boss Lampard said: "I don't want my left-back top of the scoring charts. I want our attackers scoring goals and they haven't.

"Yes, it's costing us in games. If you are going to have 23 chances, and balls flashing across the face, and chances where we need to stick the ball away, that's what creates the nervousness.

"I sit here a lot and say that, it's a clear part of our season.

"We create a lot, play some really good stuff, but we need to stick the ball in the back of the net. We have to really dig in at the moment and find wins. There are question marks in both boxes."

Alonso's late leveller denied the Cherries a vital win but boss Eddie Howe remained upbeat.

He said: "We are not where we want to be in the table and it is going to be a battle but I am seeing signs that the team is ready for the challenge.

"We needed half-time to regroup and you could see a big difference in the second half."

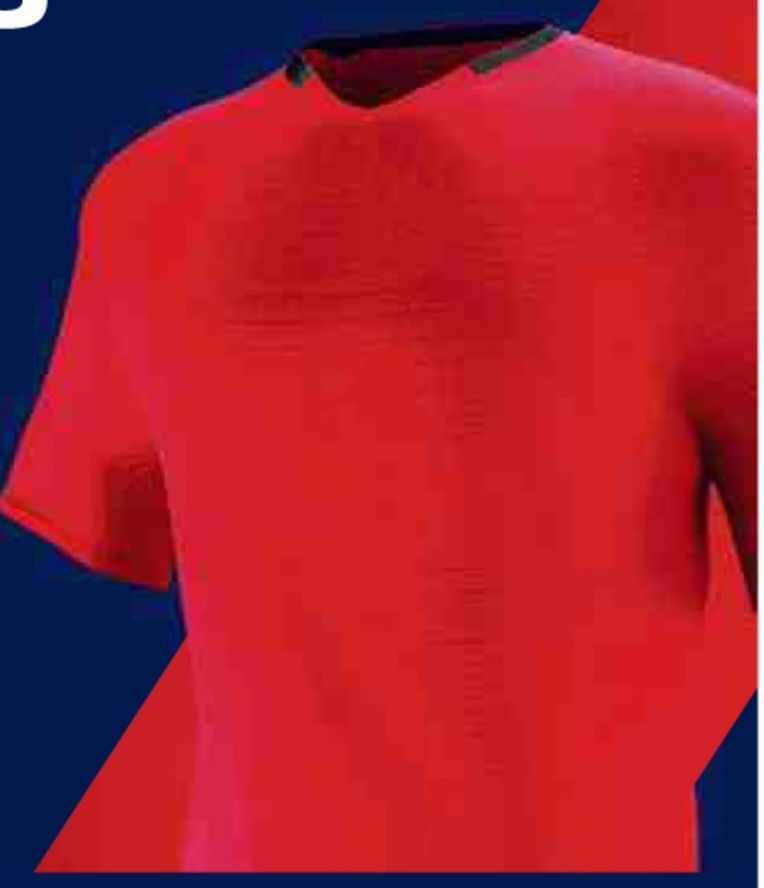
By DUNCAN WRIGHT

Everton v Man Utd
Live on Sky Sports | KO 2.00pm

Enhanced Odds

Man Utd to score in both halves

WAS 3/1
NOW 7/2



it's who you play with / William HILL

WHEN THE FUN STOPS STOP BeGambleAware.org 18+

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goals

PREMIER LEAGUE

7 NEWCASTLE have played out more PL 0-0 draws (seven) since the start of last season than any other side.

in association with William HILL

REFEREE: Andy Madley
ATTENDANCE: 52,219

DREAM TEAM RATINGS



SUBS — NEWCASTLE: Saint-Maximin (Joelinton 78) 6. Not used: Schar, Lejeune, Yedlin, Darlow, S Longstaff, Bentaleb. Booked: Manquillo, Rose, Shelvey, Gayle.
BURNLEY: Wood (Vydra 58) 6. Not used: Brownhill, Brady, Hart, Pieters, Lennon, Long. Booked: Bardsley, Tarkowski, Mee.

Ratings supplied by whoscored.com

MATCH STATS

NEWCASTLE		BURNLEY
372	Total passes	320
250	Completed passes	210
27	Touches in opposition box	12
21	Total shots	8
11	Blocked shots	3
19	Tackles	13
53%	Tackles won %	61%
11	Fouls conceded	9
27	Total crosses	18
49%	Possession (1st half)	51%
59%	Possession (2nd half)	41%
4/0	Yellow/red cards	3/0

POSSESSION
54% 46%

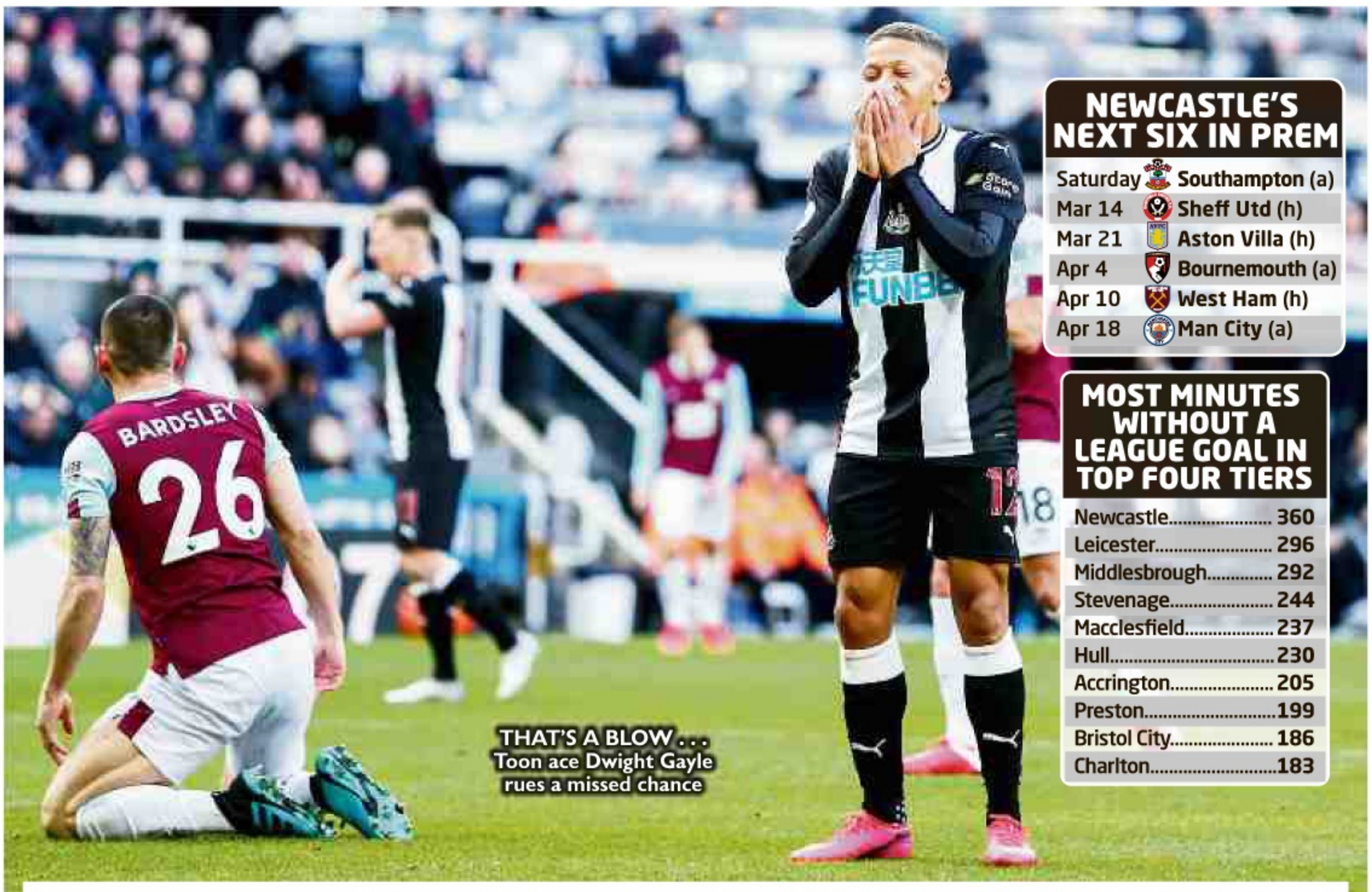
SHOTS ON/OFF TARGET
6 (4) 4 (1)

CORNERS
11 7

OFFSIDES
2 2

PLAYER MOSTS

Passes	Lascelles 46
Touches	Manquillo 67
Total shots	Ritchie 7
Key passes	Almiron 4
Miles run	Westwood 7.0
Top speed (mph)	Almiron 22.1



THAT'S A BLOW . . . Toon ace Dwight Gayle rues a missed chance

NEWCASTLE'S NEXT SIX IN PREM

Saturday	Southampton	(a)
Mar 14	Sheff Utd	(h)
Mar 21	Aston Villa	(h)
Apr 4	Bournemouth	(a)
Apr 10	West Ham	(h)
Apr 18	Man City	(a)

MOST MINUTES WITHOUT A LEAGUE GOAL IN TOP FOUR TIERS

Newcastle	360
Leicester	296
Middlesbrough	292
Stevenage	244
Macclesfield	237
Hull	230
Accrington	205
Preston	199
Bristol City	186
Charlton	183

Newcastle.....0
Burnley.....0

THE SAME OLD TOON

Bruce boys fire blanks again

By OSCAR PAUL

THE tactics may be different – but Newcastle still cannot hit the proverbial cow's backside.

Steve Bruce heralded a new 'era' having ditched Rafael Benitez's five at the back after the goals had dried up.

And while the Toon carried a greater threat after their recent turgid offerings, Burnley keeper Nick Pope barely had a chance to impress the on-looking England manager Gareth Southgate.

Mustering 21 shots is dreamland for this Magpies side, who have now gone 360 minutes without a goal.

But despite creating a number of promising openings the majority were blocked or fired harmlessly wide, with only four of the 21 on target. And until they find that killer touch, the threat of relegation will remain.

For the first time at home this season they had more than 50 per cent possession.

But the fans grew nervier as the game wore on, saving the biggest roar of the day for when livewire Allan Saint-Maximin was brought on with 12 minutes to go.

Matt Ritchie missed a host of good openings with Miguel Almiron and Dwight Gayle also lacking a clinical edge.

With ten games to go, Bruce's boys are five points above the bottom three having now just won one in ten.

Burnley carried little threat for the most part but the point moves Sean Dyche's side above Arsenal into ninth.

Despite the Magpies having banned morning handshakes at their training ground due to coronavirus fears, the usual pre-match greetings were followed at St James' Park.

With just four goals in 2020 and 12 at home all season – a Prem low – Bruce switched to four at the back for just the second time this season.

The first time brought a 5-0 hammering at Leicester in September, with Bruce petrified of reverting back to it until now.

Saint-Maximin has been a rare attacking light but was benched with Gayle starting up front with Joelinton, Miguel Almiron and Matt Ritchie in behind.

Without keeper Martin Dubravka this season the Toon would have been in serious trouble.

So hearts were in mouths within two minutes when the Slovakian stopper went down and needed lengthy treatment on a calf.

But he shook that off and while hardly silky, Newcastle had the better of the first half despite Pope barely being called upon.

Gayle was first up, on his first start in six weeks but saw his half-volley from 12 yards blocked.

Also back from a spell on the sidelines was Jonjo Shelvey, who added some much-needed guile in the middle of the park.

Almiron was buzzing in behind and providing a real threat on the counter, but his shot was tame and straight at Pope after skinning Ben Mee.

It was a predictably scruffy affair though, with Burnley living off the scraps.

Jay Rodriguez saw a half-chance blocked while Dubravka had to scramble across and claw away Jeff Hendrick's deep cross with James Tarkowski creeping in behind.

But with ten shots to Burnley's three at the break there were signs of encouragement for Bruce's side.

After a low-key start to the second half the match was livened up when Chris Wood replaced Matej Vydra just before the hour.

Using his size and strength to unsettle the Newcastle defence, the Kiwi striker headed wide Dwight McNeil's peach of a cross from the left.

Other than Gayle firing an overhead kick wide, Newcastle's attacking edge was blunted, with the home faithful demanding Saint-Maximin's introduction.

And Bruce gave them what they wanted with 12 minutes to go.

With the spirits lifted the Magpies had a second wind, and Ritchie fired a whisker wide with a fizzer from 25 yards.

But while that would have been a stunner, he spurned their best chance in added-on time.

Advantage was played after Saint-Maximin was hauled down, with Shelvey driving on before laying the ball into the path of the unmarked winger.

But having cut in on to his left foot, Ritchie's weak shot was blocked away from danger.

Steve's not feeling sixy

STEVE BRUCE just cannot defend Newcastle's woeful scoring record.

This draw means his side have not scored in six hours, stretching back to the end of January.

While 21 shots was a vast improvement, benefitting from switching from five to four at the back, Clarets keeper Nick Pope was barely tested.

With the fewest goals in the league — 24 — the Toon boss said: "Finishing has been our Achilles heel and I can't defend it.

"We were more of a threat and looked more like scoring. We had 21 attempts but we have to take one. We have to keep bashing away at it and hope it improves.

"But the 52,000 crowd probably enjoyed watching that more than some games."

Phil Thomas



NO-NONSENSE ATTITUDE AND GRITTY OPINION

Pep Kops a Euro bonus

TITLE STROLL IS ALLOWING CITY TO FOCUS ON CL

IT has become arguably the most poisonous rivalry in England — and not simply because they are the two best teams in the land.

Manchester City and Liverpool. Rivals on the pitch and not always friendly ones at that. Off it?

Definitely more snarls than smiles, more fists raised than fists bumped. A growing loathing.

Sadio Mane's red card for a raised boot challenge which left Ederson needing eight stitches. City's astonishing winning run last season pipping Jurgen Klopp's men to the title.

Liverpool winning an all-English European quarter-final with the assistance of a wrongly disallowed goal. All have served to raise terrace temperatures.

And, of course, the notorious "Give 'Em Hell" welcome to City on that Champions League night at Anfield in April 2018.

The one which saw City needing a new bus to travel home, yet Merseyside's overworked police failing to identify a single culprit.

This, despite social media being flooded with pictures.

So the very thought Liverpool could unwittingly have given City's Euro assault a huge helping hand is as unpalatable to those at Anfield as the thought of a vote of thanks in the other direction is at the Etihad.

Especially when it is all down to the Reds' relentless march towards their first Premier League title.

Yet, irony of ironies, there's a growing train of thought which suggests that may well happen.

A belief that, if City stick two fingers up to Uefa in the best possible way, with Champions League glory, they should also be raising a hand of gratitude to their Scouse rivals.

It will never happen of course — and clearly it will all be decided by footballing matters.

With three more rounds to win before a trophy is lifted, we are still some distance from a final outcome.

But at this level, small margins have the biggest of influences. Which is where Liverpool's domestic dominance could actually play a part in City's Champions League quest.

We all know it's only a matter of time before that 30-year drought comes to an end.

Even Pep Guardiola has long admitted — and genuinely, not in a play-to-the-camera kind of way, that the title has gone.

All City have to play for in the league is second place. Even then, if the European ban is upheld, that will count for nothing except more prize money than for finishing third.

So, with Liverpool all but home and dry, that ironically allows Pep to focus almost exclusively on



DIFFERENT JURNEY . . . Klopp and his Reds will target league crown

Europe, in terms of playing his strongest line-ups.

It is not a position Guardiola would have wanted to find his side in by now, but it's a fact.

He no longer has to juggle his line-ups, worry about saving some players for a tricky European tie when there are equally crucial league games either side.

Consider that with the situation other would-be European champions find themselves in domestically.

In the Bundesliga, Bayern Munich are in a genuine dogfight with RB Leipzig, with Borussia Dortmund snapping at their heels.

Juventus are going toe to toe with Lazio and Inter Milan to lift Serie A while Barcelona are slugging it out with Real Madrid, so they won't be able to take it easy.

Every one of those title battles is likely to go all the way, which means no let-up, no chance of feet up weekends for tired stars.

Unlike at City, despite being in both domestic knockout trophies — the first of which they could win at a canter against Villa today if results between the two are any pointer.

There is much water to flow and all that, before Pep is cavorting around the Ataturk Stadium as a king of Europe once again.

Of course, Real Madrid could stage the unlikeliest of comebacks at the Etihad in nine days and overturn that first-leg loss.

A defeat, incidentally, in which Steve McManaman couldn't have possibly sounded any more disappointed when the referee pointed to the spot for City's matchwinner.

When Raheem Sterling went down and the whistle went at the Bernabeu, the former Liverpool and Real striker said simply "No".

Whether that was his view on whether it was a penalty or just an exclamation of his own disappointment, make your own choice.

But it was certainly not the reaction you'd have expected from a neutral Englishman seeing an English side cop a break at one of the toughest venues in world football.

Yes, McManaman praised City's display throughout, but they were playing that well he had no option.

You somehow suspect he wouldn't have been quite as restrained had Liverpool been the ones in the away dressing room.

God only knows how he'd cope if City went all the way and won the damn thing.

Would he then be able to hide his bias and accept it was a success well earned?

Probably the same odds as that thank you letter winging across to Anfield from the other end of the East Lancs Road. Possible, but you wouldn't put more than a quid on it.



KLOPP OUTS . . . Pep Guardiola's City could benefit from Liverpool's pursuit of the Prem title

THE REDS' PLANET

LISTEN to some people and Liverpool are running away with the title due to VAR.

All the decisions, you see, have gone their way. Without it, they'd be stuffed.

Here's the truth . . . No. They. Wouldn't.

Liverpool, as horrible as the prospect is to most of the country, are waltzing to their first Premier League title for one simple reason.

The Reds have been in a different galaxy to the rest, in terms of performances.

We may not like it — in fact there's no 'may' about it — but it's a fact. As Rafa Benitez would doubtless say.



IF the recent events in the Premier League have proved anything about VAR, it is this: the technology really isn't the problem. It is the cack-handed people that are trying and failing to implement it.

FANS FLIP AT PARDS

DEN HAAG boss Alan Pardew must have feared the worst when fans stormed the club training ground to vent their anger at the team's slump.

But instead of using fists to make their point, they took a FLIP CHART and told Pards and his players where they were going wrong.

You clearly get a better class of Ultra in Holland . . . or perhaps they popped into a local coffee shop en route.

RANGERS chief Steven Gerrard was right when he said he was not ready to take on the Liverpool job yet. But after his Gers followed up their incredible 3-2 comeback win in the Europa League last-32 first leg with victory in Braga's backyard to finish the job, he's certainly heading in the right direction.



JOCK AND ROLL STAR

RICHARD JOHNSON'S season was left as shattered as his arm when Westend Story dumped him in the Exeter mud and he was trampled on by a horse.

But on Thursday, 37 days later, Johnson, with a plate inserted from his right elbow to his hand, returned with two wins at Musselburgh.

Further proof that jump jockeys really are a different breed. Bear that in mind the next time you see a footballer rolling around in agony after grazing a knee.

goals

PREMIER LEAGUE

24 BRIGHTON attempted 24 shots in yesterday's defeat at the Amex. That is the most they have mustered in a single Premier League game.

BOURNEM'TH (0) 2 CHELSEA (1) 2
Lerma 54, King 57 | **Alonso 33, 85**
Att: 10,667

BOURNEMOUTH: Ramsdale 7, Stacey 7, S Cook 6, Ake 7, Smith 5, Billing 7, Lerma 8, L Cook 7 (Gosling 5), Fraser 7, C Wilson 6, King 7 (Stanislas 5). Subs not used: Boruc, Francis, Solanke, Rico, H Wilson. Booked: Smith, C Wilson.

CHELSEA: Caballero 6, Azpilicueta 7, Christensen 6, Tomori 6 (Willian 6), James 7, Jorginho 5 (Barkley 6), Kovacic 7, **Alonso 9**, Mount 7, Pedro 7, Giroud 6 (Batshuayi 6). Subs not used: Arrizabalaga, Rudiger, Loftus-Cheek, Gilmour. Booked: Jorginho, Christensen.

BRIGHTON (0) 0 C PALACE (0) 1
Att: 30,124 | **Ayew 70**

BRIGHTON: Ryan 6, Montoya 6 (Jahanbakhsh 6), Webster 7, Dunk 7, Burn 7, Propper 6, Bissouma 7 (Alzate 6), Mooy 7, Trossard 6, March 6 (Murray 6), Maupay 6. Subs not used: Stephens, Gross, Schelotto, Button. Booked: Schelotto, Montoya.

CRYSTAL PALACE: **Guaita 8**, Ward 6, Dann 7, Cahill 7, Van Aanholt 7, McCarthy 7 (Riedewald 6), Zaha 6, Kouyate 7, McArthur 7, Ayew 7, Benteke 7 (Tosun 6). Subs not used: Milivojevic, Meyer, Townsend, Hennessey, Kelly. Booked: Benteke.

NEWCASTLE (0) 0 BURNLEY (0) 0
Att: 52,219

NEWCASTLE: Dubravka 6, Manquillo 6, Fernandez 6, Lascelles 6, Rose 6, Ritchie 7, Hayden 7, Shelvey 6, Joelinton 6 (Saint-Maximin 6), Almiron 7, Gayle 6. Subs not used: Schar, Lejeune, Yedlin, Darlow, S Longstaff, Bentaleb. Booked: Rose, Gayle, Shelvey, Manquillo.

BURNLEY: Pope 7, Bardsley 6, **Tarkowski 8**, Mee 7, Taylor 6, Hendrick 7, Cork 7, Westwood 6, McNeil 6, Vydra 6 (Wood 6), Rodriguez 6. Subs not used: Brownhill, Brady, Hart, Pieters, Lennon, Long. Booked: Bardsley, Tarkowski, Mee.

WATFORD (0) 3 LIVERPOOL (0) 0
Sarr 54, 60, Deeney 72 | **Att: 21,634**

WATFORD: Foster 6, Femenia 7, Kabasele 7, Cathcart 7, Masina 7, Hughes 7, Capoue 7, **Sarr 9** (Pussetto 6), Doucoure 7 (Chalobah 6), Deulofeu 6 (Pereyra 6), Deeney 8. Subs not used: Gomes, Dawson, Welbeck, Gray.

LIVERPOOL: Alisson 5, Alexander-Arnold 4, Lovren 6, Van Dijk 6, Robertson 5, Oxlade-Chamberlain 5 (Origi 6), Fabinho 6, Wijnaldum 5 (Lallana 6), Salah 5, Firmino 6 (Minamino 6), Mane 6. Subs not used: Adrian, Matip, Jones, Hoever.

WEST HAM (2) 3 S'THAMPTON (1) 1
Bowen 15, Haller 40, Antonio 54 | **Obafemi 31**
Att: 59,962

WEST HAM: Fabianski 6, Ngakia 6, Diop 6, Ogbonna 7, Cresswell 6, Noble 6, Rice 7, Bowen 8 (Snodgrass 6), Fornals 7 (Anderson 5), Antonio 8, **Haller 9**. Subs not used: Balbuena, Zabaleta, Lanzini, Masuaku, Randolph. Booked: Cresswell.

SOUTHAMPTON: McCarthy 5, Ward-Prowse 7, Stephens 5, Bednarek 7, Bertrand 6, Armstrong 6, Smallbone 6 (Romeu 6), Hojbjerg 7, Boufal 6 (Ings 6), Long 6, Obafemi 6 (Vestergaard 6). Subs not used: Adams, Walker-Peters, Gunn, Valery. Booked: Stephens.

PLAYED FRIDAY

NORWICH (0) 1 LEICESTER (0) 0
Lewis 70 | **Att: 27,010**

NORWICH: Krul 7, Aarons 7, Hanley 7, Godfrey 6, **Lewis 8**, Tettey 7, McLean 7, Buendia 7, Duda 7 (Stiepermann 5), Cantwell 6 (Rupp 6), Pukki 6 (Drmic 6). Subs not used: Vrancic, Trybull, McGovern, Idah. Booked: Hanley.

LEICESTER: Schmeichel 6, Pereira 6, Evans 6, Soyuncu 6, Chilwell 6, Choudhury 6 (Ndidi 6), Perez 6 (Albrighton 6), Praet 6 (Tielemans 6), Maddison 6, Barnes 6, Iheanacho 5. Subs not used: Justin, Morgan, Gray, Ward. Booked: Praet, Schmeichel.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	28	26	1	1	64	20	79
Man City	27	18	3	6	68	29	57
Leicester	28	15	5	8	54	28	50
Chelsea	28	13	6	9	47	39	45
Man Utd	27	11	8	8	41	29	41
Tottenham	27	11	7	9	44	36	40
Sheff Utd	27	10	10	7	29	25	40
Wolves	27	9	12	6	38	32	39
Burnley	28	11	5	12	33	39	38
Arsenal	27	8	13	6	39	36	37
Everton	27	10	6	11	36	41	36
Crystal Palace	28	9	9	10	25	32	36
Southampton	28	10	4	14	35	51	34
Newcastle	28	8	8	12	24	41	32
Brighton	28	6	10	12	32	40	28
West Ham	28	7	6	15	35	49	27
Watford	28	6	9	13	27	43	27
Bournemouth	28	7	6	15	28	45	27
Aston Villa	27	7	4	16	34	52	25
Norwich	28	5	6	17	25	51	21


OFF TARGET . . . Saints star Ings couldn't find the net yesterday

LEADING SCORERS

	League goals
Aubameyang (Arsenal)	17
Vardy (Leicester)	17
Aguero (Man City)	16
Ings (Southampton)	15
Salah (Liverpool)	15

LEADING ASSISTS

	League assists
De Bruyne (Man City)	16
Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool)	12
Mahrez (Man City)	8
Buendia (Norwich)	7
Firmino (Liverpool)	7

TODAY'S MATCHES

EVERTON v MANCHESTER UTD
(2pm, Sky Sports Premier League)

TOTTENHAM v WOLVES
(2pm)

CARABAO CUP FINAL
ASTON VILLA v MANCHESTER CITY
(4.30pm, Sky Sports Football)


KING HIGH . . . Josh snaffles Bournemouth's second in Chelsea draw

THEY'VE OWNLY GOT THEMSELVES TO BLAME

BRIGHTON'S struggles can be summed up quite nicely by a list of their top Premier League scorers this season — with own goals coming in at second!

BRIGHTON'S TOP PREM SCORERS THIS SEASON

Neal Maupay	8
OWN GOALS	4
Leandro Trossard	3
Adam Webster	3


CLINICAL . . . Palace's Jordan Ayew nets to leave Brighton in trouble in lower reaches of the Premier League

GULLS S

'Cry baby' Zaha has la

By TOM BARCLAY

WILFRIED ZAHA was branded a 'cry-baby' by Brighton's fans and sub Ezequiel Schelotto.

But after Jordan Ayew's winner here, it is the Seagulls' team and supporters who may be weeping come the end of the season.

The threat of relegation is very real now down on the South Coast with Graham Potter's men stuck in a rut.

The ex-Swansea chief tried to play down the significance of this match, as all managers do.

Yet with a horror fixture list of Wolves, Arsenal, Leicester, Manchester United, Liverpool and Manchester City to come, this was a must-win game.

They had their chances, totting up their best-ever Premier League haul of 24 shots.

But crucially, none hit the back of the net.

Neal Maupay and Solly March were the biggest culprits for wasting opportunities with only the keeper to beat.

Brighton.....0
C Palace.....1
Ayew 70

Maupay even stopped Lewis Dunk from putting Albion in front when the centre-back's goalbound header hit him.

But with tempers flaring, as Zaha and Schelotto clashed on the touchline ten minutes before the break, it was Ayew who kept his cool to fire Palace to the brink of safety.

Now Potter must attempt to turn things around with his side having won just once in their last 13 league games.

That includes failing to beat five relegation rivals in their last six games.

Potter said: "It's disappointing because we've lost narrowly when we've played quite well. But that's life sometimes. We can't feel sorry for ourselves.

"We had good chances. But the most important stat is how many go in the net and that's where we've fallen short."

Many people question the legitimacy of this 'derby' given the 40 miles between the sides.

But Potter pointed out pre-match that his local derby when managing Ostersunds in Sweden involved a five-hour round trip, so perhaps the distance from South London to

The hostile certainly backed u do consider it a pr

As did the plun smoke coming fro end after Ayew's m

Christian Benteke put the visitors four minutes but wrong with his attempting to co James McArthur's not so relevant.


FLASHPOINT . . . Zaha cupped his ears to home fans before clashing with sub Schelotto who later mocked the Palace winger with a 'cry-baby' gesture

100 THIS was Roy Hodgson's 100th Prem game in charge of Crystal Palace (W34 D27 L39) — the first club with which he has reached that milestone in the competition.

0 JORDAN AYEW scored his seventh PL goal of the season, equalling his best haul — also seven for Aston Villa (15-16) and Swansea (17-18).

in association with William HILL



Unlucky 13 calls for Potter magic

GRAHAM POTTER is confident he can steer his ailing Brighton side out of trouble.

Defeat to Crystal Palace made it one win in 13 league games for the Seagulls, who are now just ONE POINT clear of the drop zone.

But Potter said: "I believe in the players. We have shown today we can win matches.

"We just need a bit of luck, we need to pull it all together and the results come. We have to keep focusing on positives, and hopefully we can turn that luck and those margins in our favour. That's the challenge."

Brighton have a horror run coming up against the likes of Wolves, Arsenal, Leicester, Manchester United, Liverpool and Manchester City.

Yet Potter added: "It's not about looking at which fixtures are supposedly easier than others, it's about focusing on the next game, try to win."

SEAGULLS' NEXT SIX IN PREM

Saturday	Wolves (a)
Mar 14	Arsenal (h)
Mar 22	Leicester (a)
Apr 4	Man Utd (h)
Apr 11	Norwich (a)
Apr 20	Liverpool (h)

SOB STORY

ast laugh as Brighton crash

the coast is
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e could have
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nnect with
clever ball over the top. The first proper talking point did not involve goalmouth action but an incident near the corner flag.

Zaha was copping abuse from the home fans, having looked to have spat and then cupped his ears to baying supporters.

Schelotto was warming up by the side of the pitch and kicked the ball back against Zaha, prompting the Palace talisman to shove him angrily.

Schelotto was booked and later on mocked Zaha with a cry-baby gesture as the fans taunted the Ivorian with chants of 'He's going to cry in a minute'.

And they should have been celebrating a home goal ten minutes before half-time as Leandro Trossard picked March out at the far stick but the ex-Lewes lad fired poorly into the side-netting.

Gary Cahill then had his head in his hands after nodding James McCarthy's corner into the ground and over the bar from six yards.

McCarthy was withdrawn at the break through injury as Potter's side stepped things up.

Brighton-boy Dunk would have rammed the taunts from the away fans down their throats as he rose to head home a corner but powered it straight into Maupay's face.

Maupay looked to have restored his confidence after a nine-game barren run with his strike at Sheffield United last weekend.

But here his shooting boots deserted him once again as he was suddenly played through when the ball looped up off Palace sub Jairo Riedewald but the Frenchman fired straight at keeper Vicente Guaita.

The wastefulness was punished on 71 minutes as Ayew tucked away Benteke's through-ball.

It was the Ghanaian's seventh of the season, having had his loan from Swansea turned into a £2million deal in the summer. Eagles boss Roy Hodgson beamed: "Last year he didn't score many goals which was something that bothered him and I suppose it was a factor for us – 'Are we going to get the goals out of him that we need?'

"That's what he's started to do this year. He's scored a large proportion of our goals and is still contributing to the team in so many other ways.

"He has that work-rate, that desire, he is a constant thorn in the opponents' defence."

Zaha *(right)* should have made it 2-0 deep into stoppage time as he hit a post and then blazed over.

But in the end, the "pantomime villain" – as he had described himself in an in-depth interview before the game – had the last laugh, while Brighton's campaign is in danger of ending in tears.





REFEREE: Martin Atkinson
ATTENDANCE: 30,124

DREAM TEAM RATINGS



SUBS — BRIGHTON: Murray (March 66) 6, Jahanbakhsh (Montoya 78) 6, Alzate (Bissouma 82) 6. Not used: Stephens, Gross, Schelotto, Button. Booked: Montoya, Schelotto.
PALACE: Riedewald (McCarthy 45) 6, Tosun (Benteke 87) 6. Not used: Milivojevic, Meyer, Townsend, Hennessey, Kelly. Booked: Benteke.

Ratings supplied by whoscored.com

MATCH STATS

BRIGHTON		CRYSTAL PALACE
529	Total passes	269
434	Completed passes	184
36	Touches in opposition box	23
24	Total shots	12
7	Blocked shots	3
27	Tackles	22
59%	Tackles won %	54%
8	Fouls conceded	9
32	Total crosses	12
63%	Possession (1st half)	37%
70%	Possession (2nd half)	30%
2/0	Yellow/red cards	1/0

POSSESSION

66% 34%

SHOTS ON/OFF TARGET

9 8 6 3

CORNERS

8 7

OFFSIDES

1 3

PLAYER MOSTS

Passes	Webster 86
Touches	Webster 102
Total shots	March 6
Key passes	Montoya/Propper 5
Fouls won	Burn/Maupay/Zaha 3
Fouls conceded	Kouyate 3
Miles run	Mooy 7.1
Top speed (mph)	Burn 21.0
Sprints	Trossard 17

goals CHAMPIONSHIP

11 HULL are now without a win in all of their last 11 games in all competitions — for the first time since back in February 2010 when they were in the Premier League.

BLACKBURN (1) 2 — **SWANSEA (1) 2**
Gallagher 25, Johnson 90 — Brewster 45, Ayew 48 (pen)
Att: 13,099

BLACKBURN: Walton, Bennett, Nyambe, Adarabioyo, Bell, Travis (Johnson), Downing, Samuel (Brereton), Armstrong, Rothwell (Graham), Gallagher. Subs not used: Chapman, Leutwiler, Rankin-Costello, Buckley. Booked: Travis, Johnson, Bennett.

SWANSEA: Woodman, Naughton, Cabango, Rodon, Bidwell, Fulton, Grimes, Garrick (Roberts), Gallagher (Wilmot), Ayew, Brewster. Subs not used: Dyer, Kalulu, Dhanda, Mulder, Cullen. Booked: Garrick, Brewster, Fulton, Grimes, Naughton.

CARDIFF (2) 2 — **BRENTFORD (2) 2**
Hoilett 34, Ralls 45 — Racic 5, Mbeumo 21
Att: 22,393

CARDIFF: Smithies, Sanderson, Morrison, Nelson, Bennett, Vaulks, Ralls (Ward), Bacuna, Adomah, Paterson, Hoilett. Subs not used: Etheridge, Flint, Glatzel, Murphy, Pack, Smith. Booked: Adomah, Bacuna, Hoilett, Vaulks.

BRENTFORD: Raya, Dalsgaard, Racic, Pinnock, Henry, Marcondes (Baptiste, Zamburek), Norgaard, Dasilva, Mbeumo, Watkins, Benrahma. Subs not used: Valencia, Dervisoglu, Fosu, Daniels, Rasmussen. Booked: Baptiste.

FULHAM (0) 2 — **PRESTON (0) 0**
Nugent (og) 58, Kamara 90 — Att: 19,020

FULHAM: Rodak, Odoi, Hector, Ream, Bryan (Christie), Reid, Arter (McDonald), Cairney, Knockaert (Kamara), Mitrovic, Cavaleiro. Subs not used: Bettinelli, Kebano, Johansen, Sessegnon.

PRESTON: Rudd, Fisher, Bauer, Davies, Hughes, Browne, Johnson, Barkhuizen, Potts (Harrop), Maguire (Sinclair), Nugent (Stockley). Subs not used: Clarke, Ledson, Huntington, Ripley.

HUDD'FIELD (1) 4 — **CHARLTON (0) 0**
Grant 25, 90, Mounie 75, Bacuna 90 — Att: 21,539

HUDDERSFIELD: Lossl, Simpson, Stearman, Schindler, Toffolo, Chalobah, O'Brien, Willock (Bacuna), Smith-Rowe (Pritchard), Grant, Campbell (Mounie). Subs not used: Kachunga, Coleman, Quaner, Stankovic. Booked: Chalobah.

CHARLTON: Phillips, Matthews, Oshilaja, Pearce, Doughty, Cullen, Oztumer (Williams), Lapslie (Hemed), McGeady (Bonne), Green, Taylor. Subs not used: Purrington, Amos, Smith, Davis. Booked: Lapslie, Hemed.

HULL CITY (0) 0 — **LEEDS (1) 4**
Att: 16,178 — Ayling 5, Hernandez 47, Roberts 81, 84

HULL CITY: Long, McKenzie, Pennington, McLoughlin, Elder, Stewart, Da Silva Lopes (Batty), Wilks, Samuelsen (Maddison), Honeyman, Magennis (Balogh). Subs not used: Tafazolli, Ingram, Kingsley, Irvine. Booked: McLoughlin, Magennis.

LEEDS: Meslier, Ayling, White, Cooper, Dallas, Phillips, Costa, Hernandez (Shackleton), Klich, Harrison (Alioski), Bamford (Roberts). Subs not used: Douglas, Caprile, Berardi, Stevens. Booked: Bamford.

LUTON (0) 1 — **STOKE (1) 1**
Collins 90 (pen) — Vokes 9
Att: 10,070

LUTON: Sluga, Cranie, Pearson, Carter-Vickers, Potts (McManaman), Rea (Moncur), Mpanzu, Tunnicliffe, Brown (Bolton), Cornick, Collins. Subs not used: Stech, Hylton, Shinnie, Bree. Booked: Potts.

STOKE: Butland, Smith, Batth, Chester, Martins Indi, Allen, Cousins, Ince (Collins), Powell (Thompson), Clucas, Vokes (Gregory). Subs not used: Lindsay, Davies, Oakley-Boothe, Campbell. Booked: Clucas.

MILLWALL (0) 1 — **BRISTOL CITY (1) 1**
Kalas (og) 51 — Pereira 10
Att: 13,584

MILLWALL: Bialkowski, Romeo, Hutchinson, Cooper, M Wallace, Mahoney (Bennett), Molumby, Woods, J Wallace, Smith (Bodvarsson), Bradshaw (O'Brien). Subs not used: Ferguson, Steele, Pearce, Skalak. Booked: Molumby.

BRISTOL CITY: Maenpaa, Pereira, Kalas, Baker, Dasilva, Paterson (Wells), Smith, Nagy, O'Dowda (Eliasson), Weimann, Diedhiou. Subs not used: Hunt, Williams, Benkovic, Wollacott, Massengo.

QPR (0) 2 — **BIRMINGHAM (1) 2**
Pugh 51, Hugill 55 — Hogan 24, 81
Att: 14,113

QPR: Kelly, Rangel, Masterson, Barbet, Manning, Ball, Cameron, Samuel, Eze, Pugh (Chair), Hugill. Subs not used: Lumley, Kane, Amos, Shodipo, Oteh, Clarke.

BIRMINGHAM: Camp, Colin, Roberts, Dean, Pedersen, Bela (Montero), G Gardner, Sunjic, Crowley (Kieftenbeld), Jutkiewicz, Hogan. Subs not used: Harding, Clarke-Salter, Mrbati, Bellingham, Trueman.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Brom	36	19	12	5	64	37	69
Leeds	36	20	8	8	54	30	68
Fulham	36	18	9	9	51	37	63
Nottm Forest	35	16	11	8	46	33	59
Brentford	36	16	9	11	59	33	57
Preston	36	16	8	12	49	42	56
Bristol City	36	15	9	12	50	52	54
Blackburn	36	14	11	11	52	42	53
Swansea	36	13	13	10	46	45	52
Millwall	36	12	15	9	41	40	51
Cardiff	36	12	15	9	50	50	51
Sheff Wed	36	13	9	14	46	44	48
Derby	36	12	12	12	46	49	48
QPR	36	13	8	15	55	61	47
Birmingham	36	12	11	13	47	54	47
Reading	36	12	9	15	43	41	45
Huddersfield	36	11	9	16	45	56	42
Hull	36	11	8	17	48	58	41
Wigan	36	10	10	16	38	50	40
Charlton	36	10	9	17	44	53	39
Stoke	36	11	6	19	44	54	39
Middlesbrough	35	8	13	14	34	45	37
Barnsley	36	8	10	18	42	60	34
Luton	36	10	4	22	43	71	34



LEADING SCORERS

	League goals
Mitrovic (Fulham, *above*)	23
Watkins (Brentford)	22
Bowen (Hull, *now at West Ham*)	16
Grabban (Nottm Forest)	16
Grant (Huddersfield)	16

LEADING ASSISTS

	League assists
Eliasson (Bristol City)	12
Pereira (West Brom)	12
Swift (Reading)	9
J Wallace (Millwall)	9
Brown (Barnsley)	8

READING (1) 2 — **BARNSLEY (0) 0**
Meite 18, Puscas 60 — Att: 13,263

READING: Cabral, Yiadom, Miazga, Morrison, Obita, Meite (McCleary), Rinomhota, Swift (Pele), Ejaria, Olise (Masika), Puscas. Subs not used: Walker, Baldock, Blackett, Richards. Booked: Puscas.

BARNSLEY: Collins, Sollbauer, Halme, J Williams, Ludewig, Ritzmaier (Bahre), Mowatt, Oduor (Thomas), Woodrow, Brown, Chaplin (Schmidt). Subs not used: B Williams, Dougall, Walton, Simoes. Booked: Mowatt, J Williams, Sollbauer.

SHEFF WED (0) 1 — **DERBY (3) 3**
Windass 74 — Lawrence 7, 24, Knight 30
Att: 25,148

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: Dawson, Palmer, Lees (Iorfa), Borner, Fox, Murphy, Lee, Bannan, Harris (Wickham), Forestieri, Fletcher (Windass). Subs not used: Pelupessy, Nuhiu, Wildsmith, Da Cruz. Booked: Bannan, Iorfa.

DERBY: Hamer, Bogle, Wisdom, Clarke, Forsyth, Bird, Rooney, Waghorn (Marriott), Lawrence, Knight (Davies), Martin (Shinnie). Subs not used: Roos, Lowe, Sibley, Whittaker. Booked: Shinnie.

WEST BROM (0) 0 — **WIGAN (0) 1**
Att: 24,942 — Morsy 73

WEST BROM: Johnstone, O'Shea, Ajayi, Hegazi (Bartley), Townsend, Harper (Phillips), Livermore, Krovinovic, Pereira, Robson-Kanu, Robinson (Grosicki). Subs not used: Furlong, Austin, Barry, Bond. Booked: Townsend, Pereira.

WIGAN: Marshall, Byrne, Kipre, Balogun (Naismith), Pearce, Williams, Morsy, Lowe, Roberts (Evans), Massey (Jacobs), Moore. Subs not used: Pilkington, Garner, Jones, Mlakar. Booked: Williams.

PLAYING TOMORROW

MIDDLESBROUGH v NOTTM FOREST
(7.45pm, Sky Sports Football)



GALLAGHER . . . opener

Late twist to Swans' Brad day

Blackburn.....2
Swansea.....2

By ALAN NIXON

BRADLEY JOHNSON spared the blushes of Rovers team-mate Danny Graham and gave Swansea more late punishment.

Sub Johnson slammed in a 95th-minute equaliser that flew in off centre-half Ben Cabango to end a dramatic clash.

Fellow sub Graham was denied a leveller against his former club as Freddie Woodman saved his 67th-minute penalty.

Luckless Graham, who had two seasons with the Swans, took the kick after Joe Rodon tangled with Ben Brereton.

He also hit a post and twice went close in a frantic finale before the Welsh club let in a late goal — just as they did at Fulham in midweek.

Manager Steve Cooper groaned: "It's been a difficult end to a difficult week. Sometimes you don't get any luck. It would be easy to feel sorry for ourselves but I don't see any signs of giving up."

Rovers went ahead with a sweet goal from Sam Gallagher, who guided in a delicious Ryan Nyambe delivery on 25 minutes.

Yet Rhian Brewster cancelled it out with a terrific low finish from 18 yards just before half-time.

Three minutes after the break, Tosin Adarabioyo tripped Jordon Garrick in the box and Andre Ayew's penalty put Swans ahead.

But Rovers fought back and boss Mowbray praised Graham despite his miss.

He said: "When Danny is on the pitch, we play on the front foot. It caused them problems."

I won't BIELSA STANDING



TY HIGH . . . Tyler Roberts enjoys netting Leeds' third

By COLIN YOUNG

MARCELO BIELSA leapt to the defence of Kiko Casilla as his eight-game ban started with a vital Yorkshire derby win.

Leeds' Spanish keeper, 33, was this week found guilty of racially abusing Charlton's Jonathan Leko in September.

And although he refused to comment on the severity of the former Real Madrid man's ban, boss Bielsa *(inset)* said the club will stand by their keeper.

Bielsa said: "The authorities have expressed themselves. Any contribution I make is not important but I accept the decision.

"The effect on his spirit is clear. It is not just something professional, it is something that will have an impact on his behaviour and it is a personal matter.

"Kiko is a great human being and, of course, this affects him.

"He is strong and all of us will support him with the love he deserves.

"We have more of a professional concept of him. We admire him for his behaviour with us.

"He has a brilliant past, with nothing negative, and has played for one of the best clubs in the world.

"He joined us with humility that points to the kind of person he is.

"I have seen a lot of behaviour from him where he supported people not included in society, the small groups, but of course he doesn't do this publicly.

"All of us are against racists – he is the first one – but from now he will receive all the love he shared with us."

Casilla, who also received a £60,000 fine from the FA, was barely missed as Leeds stormed to a four-goal romp for their first

MATCH STATS

HULL		LEEDS
2/3	Shots on/off target	8/5
3	Blocked shots	4
33%	Possession	67%
245	Passes	504
5/1	Corners/offsides	11/1
2/0	Yellow/red cards	1/0

FRANKS A LOT, REFEREE

THOMAS FRANK blasted ref Simon Hooper for failing to send off Will Vaulks.

The Cardiff midfielder escaped punishment for kneeing Christian Norgaard in the head when Frank's Brentford were 2-0 up.

And Welshman Vaulks went on to inspire a stunning comeback to extend the stumbling Bees' winless run to five matches.

Furious boss Frank said: "He put his knee down – he forced it down in the grass. I think there is still a hole down there.

"I like Neil Harris very much and even he said, 'Yes, it's a red card'."

Luka Racic put the visitors ahead on five minutes after Henrik Dalsgaard's header fell at his feet in the box. And Bryan Mbeumo's classy free-kick past Alex Smithies made it 2-0 on 21 minutes. But Vaulks led the fightback by playing in Albert Adomah, who crossed for Junior Hoilett to head home.

The turnaround was complete in first-half injury-time as Sean Morrison flicked Vaulks' long throw on for Joe Ralls to net.

Hoilett felt he was tripped by Ethan Pinnock in the box late on. And Bluebirds boss Harris moaned: "It's a clear-cut penalty and they have to get those decisions right."

Cardiff.....2
Brentford.....2



RALL GOOD . . . scorer Ralls

Bowyer left blue

By KEN LAWRENCE

LEE BOWYER told his players to man up after Charlton dropped deeper into trouble.

The Addicks boss said: "I'd like to think this has hurt them because it has hurt me.

"There can be no excuse for this. We are in trouble and we are going to need men out there to get us out of it."

Ex-Charlton striker Karlan Grant put Huddersfield on the way after Deji Oshilala's 25th-minute blunder. Terriers then hit three in the last 15 minutes. Substitute Steve Mounie chested home with his first touch, Grant took his season's total to 16 by netting a second bang on time – before Juninho Bacuna lashed home a spectacular 25-yarder.

Huddersfield are five points clear of trouble and boss Danny Cowley said: "This is another step in the right direction."

Huddersfield.....4
Charlton.....0

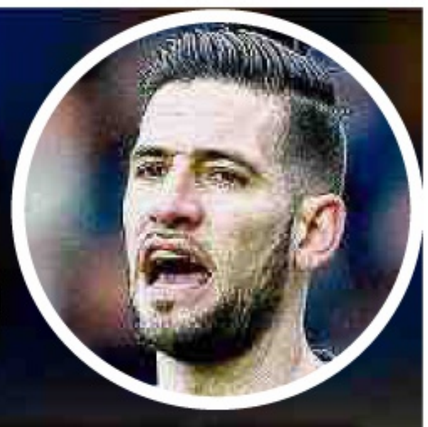
3

LUKE AYLING scored his third goal for Leeds in the Championship this season — bettering his tally of two that he managed in the whole of the last campaign.

CHAMPIONSHIP FASTEST & LATEST GOALS
FASTEST - Luke Ayling (Leeds) 4m 31s
LATEST - Aboubakar Kamara (Fulham) 94m 28s

in association with
William HILL

Kik Cas BY HIS RACE-RAP KEEPER



Hull City.....0
Leeds United.....4

double over Hull in 30 years.

The victory never looked in serious doubt from the opening five minutes, once Luke Ayling tried a speculative shot from just beyond the fading 22-yard line which flew in.

The full-back's effort took a wicked deflection off Callum Elder and looped out of the reach of Hull keeper George Long.

The visitors then took complete command and could easily have trebled their lead before the break.

The best opportunity fell to Pablo Hernandez, who smacked a shot against the bar.

Their dominance continued after the break, aided by a simple second goal within two minutes of the restart.



Hull failed to deal with a routine cross and Hernandez smashed home his sixth of the season from Helder Costa's assist.

They had to wait until the 81st minute for the killer third, an emphatic finish from Tyler Roberts after Leeds had rampaged their way through the Hull back-line on the counter-attack.

Roberts added his equally smart second two minutes later.

If they had taken their chances, Bielsa's men could have hit double figures.

Before Roberts replaced him, Partick Bamford slipped a shot wide from close range before Hernandez, Costa, Mateusz Klich and Jack Harrison all forced good saves from Long, who gallantly tried to protect his goal.

Casilla's replacement Illan Meslier could not have wished for an easier Championship debut, the 19-year-old French keeper barely warming his hands.

He contained a couple of soft, on target efforts from Kevin Stewart and Norbert Balogh beat him with one shot which hit the post.

But the closest Hull came to scoring was a close-range touch from George Honeyman which Meslier grabbed easily.

While Leeds are going up, Hull are in danger of exiting the Championship in the other direction.

They have now failed to score in their last three home games against Leeds and never looked like breaking that duck.

In fact, Grant McCann's side are on their worst run for ten years, having now failed to win in their last 11 games and, like Middlesbrough and Reading, yet to taste victory in 2020.

Boss McCann said: "They are a top team but it was not good enough. We didn't test the keeper and the early two goals in each half knocked us.

"This result doesn't define our season but we have some big games coming up.

"It is tough at the moment, I am not going to lie but we have to give Leeds credit, they are an excellent side and I've no doubt they will go up."

Leeds fans certainly showed their support for Casilla before the game and then repeatedly throughout it.

The 4,000-plus travelling supporters sang the 'Football League is corrupt' – among other less polite tributes to the game's authorities – as well as the keeper's regular signature tune.

Not all fans who made the journey along the M62 were in the right area of the stadium.

But rather than evict Leeds supporters who had purchased the wrong tickets, Hull and police took them to the away section.

Around 100 were moved into a corner section next to the Leeds supporters before a dozen were escorted in front of Hull fans and down the pitch by stewards.

Inevitably, they were ambushed by furious home supporters and scuffles broke out before police intervened.



BALL ROLLING . . . Leeds' Luke Ayling celebrates opening the scoring at Hull

BILIC SEES NO ROOM TO DOUBT

By GRAHAM HILL

SLAVEN BILIC said his players should not doubt their title chances after this shock defeat to Wigan saw Leeds close the gap.

The Latics were worthy winners side against the table-topping Baggies as they boosted their survival hopes with a third straight victory.

Skipper Sam Morsy delivered the killer blow with 17 minutes left.

But if the result had seemed unlikely before the game it looked increasingly probable as the action unfolded at The Hawthorns.

Albion struggled to make much impression on the game.

And in truth Wigan could have won by an even greater margin as they climbed out of the bottom three.

The defeat means West Brom's lead is down to one point with Leeds winning at Hull.

And it was another alarmingly slack home display against one of the division's weaker teams.

The Baggies' only two other Hawthorns defeats this season have come at the hands of relegation threatened Stoke and Middlesbrough. To rub it in, Wigan boss Paul Cook once played for arch-rivals Wolves.



On top of that match-winner Morsy came through the youth academy at Molineux.

But despite a first defeat in seven Bilic *(above)* denied his players were guilty of complacency.

And he insisted they would learn from what went wrong.

The Baggies boss said: "We can't say we were unlucky but they can't start doubting themselves.

"It's easy to say we didn't take the game seriously enough – but we did.

"It was a great opportunity for us, you have to win these types of games. We were not good enough, we looked tired and were without a spark.

"We were second best, we didn't manage the ball well.

"The dressing room is very flat and silent.

"But we have to get back on the training ground on Sunday with smiles and a big determination to learn from these mistakes."

West Brom.....0
Wigan.....1

Wigan took the game to Albion from the start with Morsy bringing a save out of keeper Sam Johnstone.

Gavin Massey then saw a diving header hit a post.

The hosts rarely threatened but Matheus Pereira twice went close.

Gary Roberts almost put Wigan ahead on the hour when he forced Johnstone to save at his near post.

But a Wigan goal was coming and Morsy obliged when he drove the ball into the roof of the net from 15 yards.

Albion failed to fully clear Michael Jacob's corner and Morsy pounced after and Cedric Kipre's shot was blocked.

As Albion piled forward looking for an equaliser, Wigan almost doubled their lead.

Jamal Lowe found himself through on goal in a one-on-one with Johnstone but the keeper saved.

Latics boss Cook was delighted with the win but said they could not afford to take their foot off the gas.

He said: "We've achieved nothing.

"We have to make sure we don't drop back into that bottom three."



PEREIRA . . . goal on return

A GRIT DISPLAY

By NEIL SILVER

LEE JOHNSON hailed Bristol City's "grit" after they ended a run of three defeats.

The Robins boss reacted to Tuesday's defeat at Huddersfield by making six changes – dropping all the new signings.

Pedro Pereira marked his first start since December by firing City ahead after ten minutes.

But Matt Smith's shot deflected off City defender Tomas Kalas for the equaliser six minutes after the break. Boss Johnson said: "I want to focus on the grit the boys showed. We had a side that wasn't huge but who coped admirably against the physicality of Millwall.

"To go from that poor performance to showing desire is a big jump in three days."

Lions boss Gary Rowett said: "We're lacking that final moment of quality in front of goal."

Millwall.....1
Bristol City.....1



VOKES . . . opening goal

Collins is so cool

JAMES COLLINS calmly buried a late penalty to give Luton a precious survival point.

There were 91 minutes on the clock as Collins stepped up after Stoke's Lewis Chester brought down sub Callum McManaman.

Collins missed his last penalty, against Sheffield Wednesday, but blasted past Jack Butland.

Hatters boss Graeme Jones said: "The courage of the lad is beyond doubt. He was ice cool.

"You've got to be experienced to keep your cool in those situations – especially after missing your previous penalty. It looked like it was going to be one of those days but I never give up – not with these lads."

It was a sickener for the Potters, who dominated after Sam Vokes struck on nine minutes.

Manager Michael O'Neill said: "It was disappointing after being in front until 90-plus minutes. It was a soft penalty."

Luton.....1
Stoke.....1

Enhanced Odds

Aston Villa v Man City
Live on Sky Sports | KO 4.30pm

Grealish to score anytime

WAS 9/2 NOW 6/1

WHEN THE FUN STOPS STOP BeGambleAware.org 18+

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goals

in association with William Hill

CHAMPIONSHIP

1

FULHAM'S fine home form continued — they have now won seven of their last nine at Craven Cottage in all comps (L2).

However, this was the first victory in that run that was by more than a one-goal margin.

NU BLEW IT

His oggy keeps Cottagers on march

By JUSTIN ALLEN

DAVID NUGENT went from hero to zero as he gifted Fulham a priceless win at Craven Cottage.

The Preston striker had scored the decisive goal in a 2-1 win at Deepdale in December.

But yesterday he headed into his own net to set Fulham on their way in the 58th minute.

And sub Abou Kamara sealed the points with a stoppage-time second.

This proved to be an even more crucial win after Fulham's promotion rivals Leeds had clobbered Hull in the lunchtime game.

It keeps Scott Parker's men within five points of the second-placed Yorkshire club as the automatic promotion race hots up.

Fulham go to Elland Road on March 18 and are now on a run of promotion six-pointers with clashes against Bristol City and Brentford.

The Cottagers still also face Nottingham Forest, Cardiff and West Brom. Parker said: "This was a game where you have to go toe to toe – and I thought we did that.

Fulham.....2
Preston.....0

"Our main focus is to worry about us. This division brings so many dynamics and surprises and it has a habit of jabbing you on the nose."

It was a hard-luck story for Preston, who were the better side in the opening half but could not convert.

They then succumbed to Nugent, who headed past his own keeper Declan Rudd from Anthony Knockaert's corner.

Boss Alex Neil said: "Up until the first goal, we were the side who deserved to win.

"Our shape was excellent and we looked great on the counter – but it doesn't matter if you don't put the ball in the net. There are not really any positives to take from the game."

Preston thought they had scored when Nugent flicked on a Dan Johnson corner with the ball eventually poked in by Sean Maguire – but the linesman flagged offside.

Alan Brown forced a good save from Fulham keeper Marek Rodak.

But the home side's Bobby Reid was kicking himself when getting a clear sight at goal yet drove wide.

The pouring rain vanished during the half-time interval to be replaced by glorious sunshine.

The West Londoners were brimming with confidence after their gift goal – and they looked the better team.

Fulhan sealed the win after five minutes of injury time when Kamara raced away, squared the ball to Ivan Cavaleiro, who cut it back for Karama to drill home.

MATCH STATS

FULHAM		PRESTON
4/5	Shots on/off target	2/2
6	Blocked shots	4
56%	Possession	44%
417	Passes	335
7/1	Corners/offsides	3/2
0/0	Yellow/red cards	0/0



OOPS . . . Nugent heads the own goal

Enhanced Odds

Aston Villa v Man City
Live on Sky Sports | KO 4.30pm

Aguero to score 2 or more goals

WAS 15/8 NOW 9/4

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Roo rest

WAYNE 'N RAMS STROLL



Sheffield Wednesday.....1
Derby County.....3

By MICHAEL MORGAN

WAYNE ROONEY could not have wished for a better game in which to warm-up for his reunion with Manchester United.

The former England skipper faces his old club when Derby take on United in the FA Cup fifth round on Thursday.

And Rooney, 34, will be as fresh as a daisy after strolling through this game with woeful Sheffield Wednesday.

Rooney did not need to break sweat as his Rams team-mates destroyed the Owls in a pulsating opening half-hour.

Boss Phillip Cocu said: "It was an excellent team performance. We played well and kept control of the game so well that they couldn't press us.

"We found a good combination and balance in playing good football, dominating the game and being effective. It was a deserved win."

Cocu's boys arrived at Hillsborough having won only once on the road in their last 16 away league games – losing nine of their last 12. They took the lead on seven minutes when Tom Lawrence's strike took a wicked deflection off Owls right-back Liam Palmer to wrong-foot keeper Cameron Dawson and drop in.

Lawrence doubled the lead when he drilled home a low 12-yard drive after latching on to Chris Martin's 24th-minute through ball.

And Wednesday were well and truly on the ropes when Jason Knight buried a fierce angled effort for his side's third on the half-hour.

The Owls, booed off at half-time, improved and second-half sub Josh Windass cut the deficit with a neat 74th-minute finish from Jacob Murphy's cross.

Wednesday boss Garry Monk said: "This is the most difficult moment in my career. I'm trying to help the players, and I know the work I am doing works.

"But the results have not been good enough in this period.".

MATCH STATS

SHEFF WED		DERBY
4/6	Shots on/off target	5/3
5	Blocked shots	5
52%	Possession	48%
399	Passes	408
9/3	Corners/offsides	3/2
2/0	Yellow/red cards	1/0

Bowen's battlers

Reading.....2
Barnsley.....0

READING boss Mark Bowen felt beating Barnsley helped banish the Wigan horror show last week.

The Royals won with goals from Yakou Meite and George Puscas.

It was a far cry from their three-goal thumping at the Madejski by the Latics and victory earned their first home win since Boxing Day.

Bowen said: "Today was more for me about getting the result, making sure we got it and give the dressing room a little bit of stability and confidence."

Reading went ahead on 17 minutes when Meite got the last touch on a scramble in the box.

Puscas sealed the points when he ran through and curled an effort past Brad Collins on the hour.

Barnsley boss Gerhard Struber said: "The first half was OK, we made good chances but we didn't take them. We didn't have the energy for sprints and moves."

Hogan hogs it

QPR.....2
Birmingham.....2

SCOTT HOGAN'S double stretched Birmingham's unbeaten run to ten league games and thwart a Rangers fightback.

Aston Villa loanee Hogan has scored six times in seven games since arriving at the club.

And he headed the 81st-minute leveller to make it four successive draws for Pep Clotet's side — after putting them in front midway through the first half.

Blues chief Clotet said: "Scott is very happy here. It is a symbiotic relationship. We are using him and he is using us.

"We are now getting him as the player we wanted to see."

Rangers hit back after the break with Marc Pugh levelling in the 51st minute and West Ham loanee Jordan Hugill firing them ahead four minutes later.

Hoops boss Mark Warburton said: "It was a soft first goal and a soft set-piece for the second. So it's two points lost."



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goals

LEAGUE ONE

9 SOUTHEND have now faced nine penalties in League One this season and conceded seven after James Henry converted for Oxford yesterday. That is more than any other side in the division on both accounts.



FREDDIE 'N THE BEAMER . . . Ladapo fires in his opener but later missed a great chance to seal victory

GLAD & BAD

Fred goes from hero to zero with miss

By CHRIS HUGHES

FREDDIE LADAPO went from hero to zero as he missed a sitter which could have sent Rotherham three points clear at the top.

The striker opened the scoring on ten minutes, only to see struggling MK Dons level 12 minutes later thanks to Rhys Healey's stunning individual effort.

But 17-goal Ladapo had the chance to wrap it up – only to fluff an easy chance from just ten yards out.

Millers boss Paul Warne said: "The lads feel like it was a bit of a wasted opportunity because we are so desperate for a win, they feel a bit low.

"There is not much I can complain about apart from we didn't get the second goal.

"This season, whenever we've got a second goal, we go on to win handsomely. This point doesn't feel a good point but it might be at the end of the season. The lads gave everything.

"We pressed the ball high up and won the ball back. With a bit of lady luck we could have won the game.

"We did enough to win. We put the ball in good enough areas and it should have been enough to win a football match.

"I don't really know what more we could have done."

Dons boss Russell Martin added: "It wasn't pretty but I think the conditions were tough and they had done a lot of work on trying to stop us.

"I am really pleased for the boys and really proud of them, because they had to come up against something different."

Rotherham.....1
MK Dons.....1

MATCH STATS

ROTHERHAM		MK DONS
3/1	Shots on/off target	3/1
3	Blocked shots	1
54%	Possession	46%
326	Passes	295
10/6	Corners/offsides	4/2
2/0	Yellow/red cards	2/0



G-LAD ALL OVER . . . Ladapo hails opener

Looking up, Hill

Bolton.....0
Accrington.....0

BOLTON boss Keith Hill was delighted to end the club's dismal five-game losing streak.

Basement-boys Bolton kept only their second clean sheet of the year by shutting out Stanley.

But worryingly for Hill, they have scored just three goals in six outings.

He said: "We've kept a clean sheet and showed aggressive intent.

"What do we need to do to turn that draw into a win? That's score our opportunities."

Stanley stopper Josef Bursik produced a fine save to deny Joe Dodoo.

Down the other end Remi Matthews tipped Jordan Clark's effort wide.

Stanley chief John Coleman said: "It was a scrappy game — a draw was a fair result."

First Ade goes top

Doncaster.....3
Wycombe.....1

ADEBAYO AKINFENWA became Wycombe's all-time top scorer during their Football League era.

The Beast, 37, hit a 67th-minute leveller but could not prevent defeat.

Akinfenwa's 54th goal for Wanderers saw him move one ahead of Nathan Tyson in the club's scoring charts.

Boss Gareth Ainsworth said: "He's been absolutely fantastic for us and not bad for somebody who was labelled a media gimmick when we signed him."

Niall Ennis struck on the stroke of half-time before Kieran Sadlier's second-half effort and a Jason McCarthy own-goal won it for Doncaster.

Rovers boss Darren Moore said: "I thought we showed great character."

Bristol Rovers...0 Shrewsbury.....1

DANIEL UDOH shrugged off a broken hand to snatch victory.

The Shrewsbury striker, injured against Doncaster last weekend, did not flinch when Ro-Shaun Williams teed him up for a low strike in the 70th minute.

Shrews manager Sam Ricketts admitted: "We needed that just for confidence and self-belief."

Max O'Leary saved Rovers' only effort when he clawed Alfie Kilgour's header onto the bar.

The Gas were jeered off at the end and boss Ben Garner said: "There's no point pointing fingers at the players. I have to take responsibility."

Oxford.....2 Southend.....1

MATTY TAYLOR bagged an 84th-minute winner to make it four successive victories for Oxford.

It was tough on relegation-threatened Southend.

James Henry's penalty following keeper Patrick Gunnarsson's foul on Taylor gave the U's the lead.

But Lewis Gard's first ever goal for the Shrimpers levelled proceedings.

Oxford manager Karl Robinson said: "That was Matty's best finish of the season. The biggest thing for me was the way we kept our calmness."

Southend gaffer Sol Campbell said: "The lads took the fight to Oxford.

"But we needed to be a bit more ambitious."

Gillingham.....1 Wimbledon.....2

CALLUM REILLY came back to haunt Gillingham with an injury-time winner.

His strike ended the hosts' 15-match unbeaten league run — and gave struggling Dons their first double of the season.

Reilly, 26, was released by the Gills last summer.

AFC Wimbledon chief Glyn Hodges said: "It's brilliant. Our ex-Gills players raised their games."

Joe Pigott, who had a loan spell at Priestfield, got a 49th-minute opener — but sub Regan Charles-Cook levelled late on.

Gills No 2 Paul Raynor said: "We got what we deserved. Six or seven of the players were not quite at it."

Enter the Bray

JOHN BRAYFORD headed a stunning equaliser to put a big dent in Peterborough's promotion hopes.

The Burton skipper thumped in Oliver Sarkic's corner on 65 minutes after Mo Eisa's tidy finish put the visitors ahead.

It meant Posh slipped out of the play-offs to seventh in the table.

And disappointed manager Darren Ferguson said: "We were well on top and had to bury them after we scored.

"It's two points dropped and a real missed opportunity."

Ferguson's men had gone on the attack right from the off. Skipper Mark Beevers almost headed in Daniel Butler's early corner and Jack Taylor forced a smart stop out of keeper Kieran O'Hara with a 30-yard effort.

But they had to wait until the 52nd minute to take the lead when Eisa was teed up by Siriki Dembele.

After Brayford struck O'Hara's point-blank save denied Eisa and Lucas Akins fired wide for the Brewers.

Albion gaffer Nigel Clough said: "We had to chase the game but we got better the longer the match went on."

Burton.....1
Peterborough.....1



ROBINS . . . promotion aim

Cat-lover Mark

COVENTRY'S Mark Robins refuses to back Joey Barton's "hoof-ball" accusations aimed at Sunderland.

The Sky Blues host Phil Parkinson's side at St Andrew's today, with both aiming for a Championship return.

Fleetwood boss Barton launched a scathing attack on the Black Cats after his side were denied victory at the Stadium of Light on Tuesday by a stoppage-time leveller.

But Coventry chief Robins said: "I don't think they are necessarily that. They have some talented players.

"I think what was said maybe had something to do with Joey's Newcastle past. Managers say things at times – we are all competitive and it does certain things to you at times.

"I thought it was a game between two very similar sides.

"They set up the same with good players on show, and they try to play football as well, in between there was the competitive nature of the managers.

"I'm only interested in what happens on the field and how we can try to cause them problems."

Coventry City v Sunderland
Noon, sky sports football & talkSPORT

BLACKPOOL'S victory over promotion-chasing Ipswich was their first in seven games in League One. This was also Ipswich's first visit to Bloomfield Road since November 2014.

LEAGUE ONE FASTEST & LATEST GOALS
FASTEST - Freddie Ladapo (Rotherham) 9m 52s
LATEST - Joe Nuttall (Blackpool) 92m 20s

in association with William HILL

BLACKPOOL (1) 2 — **IPSWICH (0) 1**
Dewsbury-Hall 26, Nuttall 90 — **Sears 54**
Att: 9,500

BLACKPOOL: Maxwell, Turton, Moore, Husband, Feeney, Virtue, Ronan (Nuttall), Dewsbury-Hall, MacDonald, Delfouneso, Madine. Subs not used: Howe, Bola, Edwards, Spearing, Ward, Sims. Booked: Dewsbury-Hall, MacDonald, Nuttall.

IPSWICH: Holy, Woolfenden, Chambers, Earl, Garbutt, Downes (Judge), Skuse, Bishop (Dobra), Huws, Sears, Keane (Simpson). Subs not used: Wilson, Edwards, Nolan, Norris. Booked: Downes.

BOLTON (0) 0 — **ACCRINGTON (0) 0**
Att: 12,011

BOLTON: Matthews, Lowe, Nsiala, Hobbs (Zouma), Fleming, Politic, L Murphy, Bryan, Dodoo, Crawford, D Murphy. Subs not used: Emmanuel, Bunney, Delaney, Mellis, Hamilton, Alexander. Booked: Bryan.

ACCRINGTON STANLEY: Bursik, Johnson, Sykes (Opoku), Rodgers, Maguire, Conneely, Finley, Clark, Grant (Charles), Pritchard, Bishop (Ashley-Seal). Subs not used: Zanzala, Barclay, Savin, Diallo.

BRISTOL R (0) 0 — **SHREWSBURY (0) 1**
Att: 6,954 — **Udoh 69**

BRISTOL ROVERS: Blackman, Kilgour, Menayese (Rodman), Craig, Leahy, Sercombe (Daly), Upson, Clarke, Ginnelly, Clarke-Harris (Abraham), Mitchell-Lawson. Subs not used: Van Stappershoef, Holmes-Dennis, Bennett, Harries. Booked: Menayese, Kilgour.

SHREWSBURY: O'Leary, Williams, Ebanks-Landell, Pierre, Beckles, Vela, Edwards, Laurent, Cummings (Ramsay), Udoh, Lang (Walker). Subs not used: Burgoyne, Golbourne, Love, Goss, Caton. Booked: Pierre, Williams, Cummings, Edwards, Lang.

BURTON ALB (0) 1 — **PETERBORO (0) 1**
Brayford 65 — **Eisa 52**
Att: 3,795

BURTON ALBION: O'Hara, Brayford, O'Toole, Wallace, Akins, Edwards (Fraser), Quinn, Powell, Daniel (Hutchinson), Sarkic (Broadhead), Murphy. Subs not used: Buxton, Sbarra, Garratt, Thomas. Booked: O'Toole.

PETERBOROUGH: Pym, Thompson, Beevers, Blake-Tracy, Ward (Kanu), Brown (Boyd), Taylor, Butler, Szmodics (Knight), Dembele, Eisa. Subs not used: Bennett, Tasdemir, Mason, Chapman. Booked: Dembele, Thompson.

DONCASTER (1) 3 — **WYCOMBE (0) 1**
Ennis 45, Sadlier 71, McCarthy (og) 83 — **Akinfenwa 67**
Att: 7,522

DONCASTER: T Dieng, Halliday, Wright, Anderson, Amos, Whiteman, Sadlier, Ramsey (Sheaf), Gomes (Blair), Ennis (Lokilo), Cole. Subs not used: Taylor, Jones, Baptiste, Coppinger. Booked: Sadlier, Anderson.

WYCOMBE: Allsop, McCarthy, Stewart, Charles, Jacobson, Gape, Thompson, Smyth (Parker), Wheeler, Onyedinma (Freeman), Samuel (Akinfenwa). Subs not used: Jombati, Bloomfield, N Ofoborh, Stockdale. Booked: Thompson.

GILLINGHAM (0) 1 — **AFC WIM'DON (0) 2**
Charles-Cook 87 — **Pigott 49, Reilly 90**
Att: 4,893

GILLINGHAM: Bonham, Fuller, Ehmer, Tucker, Ogilvie, Jones (Willock), O'Keefe, O'Connor (Charles-Cook), Lee (Graham), Akinde, Hanlan. Subs not used: Mandron, Pringle, Walsh, Roberts.

AFC WIMBLEDON: Day, O'Neill, Thomas, Sorensen, McLoughlin (McDonald), Wagstaff, Hartigan, Reilly, Guinness-Walker, Appiah (Roscrow), Pigott. Subs not used: Trott, Pinnock, Rudoni, Lamy, Sanders. Booked: Roscrow, O'Neill.

OXFORD UTD (1) 2 — **SOUTHEND (1) 1**
Henry 17 (pen), Taylor 84 — **Gard 45**
Att: 7,451

OXFORD UTD: Eastwood, Forde (Long), Dickie, Moore, Ruffels, Sykes (Mackie), Gorrin (Agyei), Brannagan, Henry, Taylor, Browne. Subs not used: J Stevens, Hanson, Thorne, Kelly. Booked: Gorrin.

SOUTHEND: Gunnarsson, Bwomono, Dieng, Shaughnessy, Clifford, Gard (Hutchinson), Milligan, McLaughlin (Barratt), Egbri (Goodship), Kelman, Kinali. Subs not used: Acquah, Seaden, Rush, Mitchell-Nelson. Booked: McLaughlin.

ROTHERHAM (1) 1 — **MK DONS (1) 1**
Ladapo 10 — **Healey 22**
Att: 8,883

ROTHERHAM: Iversen, Olosunde (MacDonald), Ihiekwe, Wood, Mattock, Ogbene, Crooks, Lindsay (Koroma), Wiles, Smith (Vassell), Ladapo. Subs not used: Thompson, Price, Adelakun, Tilt. Booked: Wood, Olosunde.

MK DONS: Nicholls, Poole, Walsh, Moore-Taylor, Williams, Houghton, Thompson (Kasumu), Gilbey, Brittain (Gladwin), Nombe (Mason), Healey. Subs not used: Cargill, Reeves, Fisher, McGrandles. Booked: Moore-Taylor, Williams.

TRANMERE (-) P — **FLEETWOOD (-) P**
(Postponed due to waterlogged pitch)

PLAYED FRIDAY

PORTSMOUTH (1) 3 — **ROCHDALE (0) 0**
Williams 45, Seddon 78, Burgess 84 — **Att: 17,600**

TODAY'S MATCH

COVENTRY v SUNDERLAND
(noon, Sky Sports Football)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rotherham	34	18	8	8	60	35	62
Coventry	32	16	13	3	46	30	61
Portsmouth	33	17	8	8	51	32	59
Wycombe	34	17	8	9	45	40	59
Sunderland	33	16	10	7	46	27	58
Oxford Utd	34	16	9	9	58	35	57
Peterborough	34	16	8	10	66	40	56
Fleetwood	32	15	10	7	48	36	55
Ipswich	34	14	10	10	46	34	52
Doncaster	33	14	9	10	50	33	51
Gillingham	34	12	14	8	40	32	50
Burton Albion	33	12	11	10	46	45	47
Blackpool	33	11	11	11	43	41	44
Bristol Rovers	33	11	9	13	35	46	42
Shrewsbury	33	10	11	12	29	39	41
Accrington	34	10	10	14	46	51	40
Lincoln City	34	11	6	17	41	44	39
MK Dons	34	10	7	17	36	46	37
AFC Wimbledon	34	8	10	16	39	52	34
Rochdale	33	9	6	18	36	56	33
Tranmere	32	6	8	18	32	58	26
Southend	34	3	7	24	36	84	16
Bolton	32	5	9	18	25	64	12

(Bolton deducted 12 points and Bury removed)



MARKSMAN . . . Ivan Toney



HELPER . . . Liam Feeney

LEADING SCORERS

	League goals
Toney (Peterborough)	23
Gnanduillet (Blackpool)	15
Madden (Fleetwood)	15
Eisa (Peterborough)	14
Ladapo (Rotherham)	14

LEADING ASSISTS

	League assists
Feeney (Blackpool)	14
Fraser (Burton Albion)	11
Maguire (Sunderland)	9
Henry (Oxford)	8
Dembele (Peterborough)	7

Garb-age!

LAMBERT SLAMS BLUNDERING LUKE

By NOEL RICHARD

Blackpool.....2
Ipswich.....1

FUMING Ipswich boss Paul Lambert singled out Luke Garbutt after their play-off bid suffered another dent.

Defender Garbutt made a mistake for Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall's opener, Freddie Sears levelled before Joe Nuttall's late winner.

Lambert slammed: "I don't know what Garbs is doing there on the edge of his own box for the first goal. Trying to flick it. It's professional football not five-a-side.

"They know they can't defend that way and win games. It's not about how well you play. It's about the result.

"It's a sore one because I don't think we deserved to draw the game. I thought we deserved to win the game.

"The players know they're playing well. We've said to them, 'Do you want to play well or win games of football'?"

The Tractor Boys are now five points off the play-off pace after suffering back-to-back defeats.

Blackpool took the lead after 26 minutes following some Keystone Cop defending from Ipswich.

Garbutt attempted a back-heel on the left, gifting possession to the hosts. Flynn Downes and Emyr Huws then got in each other's way, allowing Dewsbury-Hall to latch on to the ball and curl a shot into the far corner.

But the visitors levelled nine minutes into the second half. Downes won possession down the right flank and found striker Will Keane.

The former Manchester United academy product cut the ball back for Sears and he scored his first goal since January 2019 following a lengthy period out with a knee ligament injury.

Sears and Alan Judge both went close for Ipswich, while Gary Madine hit the bar for Blackpool.

But the home team were not to be denied and Nuttall headed an injury-time winner at the near post.

Interim Blackpool boss David Dunn beamed: "It's a great win for us against a good side. Winning late on like that is one of the best feelings in football."

MATCH STATS

BLACKPOOL		IPSWICH
4/2	Shots on/off target	7/6
1	Blocked shots	2
43%	Possession	57%
328	Passes	450
10/1	Corners/offsides	4/1
3/0	Yellow/red cards	1/0



HALL OF FAME . . . Dewsbury-Hall is mobbed after his opener



PURRFECT . . . Jordan Willis stoops to score for the Black Cats earlier this season

JOR'S HOMING IN

By OSCAR PAUL

JORDAN WILLIS is in no mood for sentimentality as he seeks to derail his home-town club Coventry's season.

The Sunderland centre-back left the Sky Blues in the summer having come through the academy and being made captain at 20.

Several Championship clubs were in for him but Willis – who idolised former Coventry striker Leon Best when he was a teenager – believes the Black Cats are a better long-term bet.

While both clubs are eyeing automatic promotion, Sunderland are motoring with eight wins from 12 games in 2020 having languished in 15th on Boxing Day.

Asked if was overawed by the size of Sunderland, Willis, 25, said: "When I first came in. It was a big change after living in Coventry my whole life.

"I'd spoken to people who had played here but you don't actually realise it until you get here.

"Hearing 30,000 fans at the Stadium of Light – when things are going great it's unbelievable but when it wasn't going right you feel the pressure. They make you feel the size of the club.

"It took a lot of thought but I couldn't turn down an opportunity like this.

"The ambition to get into the Premier League was first and foremost."

Willis faced Mark Robins' side in a 1-1 draw in November.

He added: "Half the team has changed there now and I have to see it as a normal game.

"The top two is our aim – it was at the start and was even when things weren't going well."

goals

LEAGUE TWO

2

PLYMOUTH were shown two red cards against Bradford. That is the first time they have managed that in the same game since a 3-2 defeat by Huddersfield back in January 2011.

BRADFORD (2) 2 — **PLYMOUTH (0) 1**
Richards-Everton 6, Connolly 45 — **Hardie 87**

BRADFORD: O'Donnell, Mellor (Henley), A O'Connor, Richards-Everton, Wood, Connolly, Reeves, Akpan (Cooke), McCartan (Mottley-Henry), Novak, Donaldson. Subs not used: Pritchard, Ismail, Devitt, McGee. Booked: McCartan.

PLYMOUTH: Palmer, Edwards (Hardie), Wootton, Canavan, Sawyer, McFadzean, Sarcevic, Bakinson (Telford), Mayor, Moore, Jephcott (Taylor). Subs not used: M Cooper, C Grant, Randell, G Cooper. Sent Off: Sawyer (40), Sarcevic (84). Booked: Moore, Sarcevic.

CAMB UTD (0) 1 — **CARLISLE (1) 2**
Lambe 82 — **Alessandra 27, Anderton 73**
Att: 4,122

CAMBRIDGE: Burton, Knoyle, Taylor, Darling, Dunk, Davies (Roles), Carruthers, Maris, El Mizouni (Lambe), Mullin, Adeboyejo (Dallas). Subs not used: Mitov, Taft, Norville-Williams, Worman. Booked: Roles.

CARLISLE: Collin, G Jones, Webster, Hayden, Anderton, Mellish, M Jones, Watt (Charters), Patrick, Alessandra (Olomola), McKirdy (Bridge). Subs not used: Iredale, Dewhurst, Loft, Hunt. Booked: Hayden, Webster, McKirdy, Charters, Olomola.

COLCHESTER (0) 0 — **CHELTENHAM (1) 2**
Att: 3,698 — **May 39, Hussey 79**

COLCHESTER: Gerken, Jackson, Sowunmi, Prosser, Bramall, Pell, Comley (Norris), Adubofour-Poku (Nouble), Stevenson, Harriott (Senior), Robinson. Subs not used: Ross, Clampin, Gambin, Eastman. Sent Off: Sowunmi (90). Booked: Pell, Harriott, Prosser, Sowunmi.

CHELTENHAM: Evans, Raglan, Tozer, Boyle, Long, Sheaf, Clements (Ince), Broom, Hussey, May (Nichols), Varney (Smith). Subs not used: Reid, Debayo, Lovett, Greaves. Booked: May, Smith.

EXETER (0) 1 — **CRAWLEY (1) 1**
Dickenson 82 — **Nadesan 34**
Att: 5,404

EXETER: Ward, Williams, Sweeney (Richardson), A Martin, Moxey, Dickenson, Taylor, Atangana, Law, Bowman, Ajose (L Martin). Subs not used: Thompson, Parkes, Jay, Fisher, Collins. Booked: Moxey.

CRAWLEY TOWN: Morris, Dacres-Cogley, Sendles-White, Tunnicliffe, Doherty, B Lubala, Francomb, Bulman, Sesay (Camara), Grego-Cox (German), Nadesan (Powell). Subs not used: McNerney, Allarakhia, T McGill.

FOREST GREEN (-) P — **L ORIENT (-) P**
(Postponed due to waterlogged pitch)

GRIMSBY (0) 0 — **N'THAMPTON (2) 3**
Att: 4,879 — **Goode 9, Morton 26, 82**

GRIMSBY: Russell, Hendrie, Waterfall, Ohman (Garmston), Driscoll-Glennon, Clifton, Benson, Clarke, Grandin (Vernam), Tilley, Hanson (Green). Subs not used: McKeown, Whitehouse, Rose, Hewitt. Booked: Ohman.

NORTHAMPTON: Arnold, Goode, Turnbull, Wharton, Marshall (Harriman), McCormack (Pollock), Watson, Adams, Hoskins, Morton, Oliver (Lines). Subs not used: Cornell, Smith, Roberts, Jones.

MACCLESFIELD (0) 0 — **SALFORD CITY (2) 2**
Att: 2,317 — **Hunter 30, Towell 37**

MACCLESFIELD: Mitchell, Cameron, Kelleher, Horsfall, O'Keeffe, McCourt (Blyth), Tollitt (Ironside), Kirby, Archibald, Gnahoua, Tracey (Wilson). Subs not used: Hamblin, Stephens, Fitzpatrick. Booked: McCourt.

SALFORD CITY: Letheren, Threlkeld, Pond, Eastham, Touray, Andrade (Baldwin), Towell, Gibson, Hunter (C Burgess), Wilson, Thomas-Asante (Elliott). Subs not used: Neal, Rooney, Conway. Booked: Hunter.

MANSFIELD (-) P — **SWINDON (-) P**
(Postponed due to waterlogged pitch)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	34	20	6	8	60	37	66
Crewe	35	19	8	8	63	41	65
Exeter	35	18	10	7	51	39	64
Cheltenham	35	17	12	6	52	27	63
Plymouth	35	18	8	9	55	39	62
Northampton	36	17	7	12	53	38	58
Port Vale	36	14	14	8	50	44	56
Colchester	36	14	13	9	49	37	55
Bradford	36	14	12	10	44	38	54
Salford City	36	12	11	13	47	46	47
Forest Green	35	12	10	13	41	40	46
Crawley Town	36	10	15	11	48	47	45
Cambridge Utd	36	12	9	15	39	46	45
Grimsby	35	11	11	13	43	48	44
Walsall	35	12	8	15	37	48	44
Newport County	34	11	10	13	31	37	43
Oldham	36	9	14	13	44	54	41
Scunthorpe	35	10	10	15	44	52	40
Leyton Orient	35	9	12	14	45	54	39
Carlisle	35	9	12	14	37	53	39
Mansfield	35	8	11	16	46	54	35
Morecambe	36	7	11	18	35	59	32
Macclesfield	36	7	15	14	32	44	30
Stevenage	35	3	13	19	23	47	22

(Macclesfield deducted six points)



LEADING SCORERS

	League goals
Doyle (Swindon, *above*)	23
Maynard (Mansfield)	14
Palmer (Crawley Town)	13
Yates (Swindon)	13
Bowman (Exeter)	12

LEADING ASSISTS

	League assists
Kirk (Crewe)	14
Williams (Exeter)	13
Adams (Northampton)	11
Worrall (Port Vale)	11
Cooper (Plymouth)	10

MORECAMBE (0) 1 — **CREWE (0) 1**
Wildig 68 — **Ng 47**
Att: 2,872

MORECAMBE: Mafoumbi, Cooney, Old, Lavelle, Cranston, Phillips, Diagouraga, Wildig (Brewitt), Mendes Gomes, Leitch-Smith (Bradbury), Slew (O'Sullivan). Subs not used: Kenyon, Halstead, Mbulu. Sent Off: Phillips (90). Booked: Wildig.

CREWE ALEXANDRA: Jaaskelainen, Ng, Nottingham, Offord, Pickering, Jones, Wintle, Finney (Green), Walker, Porter (Anene), Kirk (Powell). Subs not used: Ainley, Richards, Hunt, Dale.

OLDHAM (2) 5 — **NEWPORT CO (0) 0**
Rowe 25, 52, Dearnley 27, Hamer 62, Smith 83 — **Att: 2,912**

OLDHAM: De la Paz, Hamer, Wheater, Piergianni, Borthwick-Jackson, Nepomuceno, Sylla (N'Guessan), McCann (Missilou), Smith, Rowe, Dearnley (Maouche). Subs not used: Branger, Azankpo, Egert, Allen.

NEWPORT COUNTY: King, Willmott (Howkins), Inniss, Demetriou, Haynes, Sheehan, Gorman, Nurse, Amond, Khan (Collins), Matt (Dolan). Subs not used: Abrahams. Booked: Demetriou.

PORT VALE (1) 2 — **SCUNTHORPE (0) 2**
Cullen 16, Smith 78 — **Gilliead 71, Miller 90**
Att: 5,121

PORT VALE: Brown, Gibbons, Legge, Smith, Montano, Burgess, Joyce, Conlon (Pope), Amoo, Cullen (Oyeleke), Worrall. Subs not used: Crookes, Taylor, Browne, Bennett, Maddison.

SCUNTHORPE: Watson, Lawrence-Gabriel, Mcardle, Butler, J Bedeau, Butroid (Liddle), Mcatee, Gilliead, Perch, Eisa (Green), Van Veen (Miller). Subs not used: Songo'o, Lawlor, Rowe, Pugh.

STEVENAGE (-) P — **WALSALL (-) P**
(Postponed due to waterlogged pitch)

Colchester....0 Cheltenham....2

CHRIS HUSSEY netted a blinding free-kick as Cheltenham claimed a fifth win on the trot.

Left-back Hussey curled past Colchester keeper Dean Gerken from a tight angle on 79 minutes to add to Alfie May's first-half opener.

Town boss Michael Duff said: "I was disappointed at half-time with our performance.

"But there's resilience within the group and in the second we were top drawer."

U's defender Omar Sowunmi was sent off for a second yellow card deep into stoppage time.

But manager John McGreal insisted: "Their first goal should not have been allowed to stand. Their lad was clearly offside."



MAY DAY . . . Alfie May looks to heavens after goal

RED CASE

Two sent off as Pilgrims flop

By ROB MATTHEWS

Bradford.....2 Plymouth.....1

PLYMOUTH'S promotion hopes suffered a major blow as Gary Sawyer and Antoni Sarcevic both saw red.

Defender Sawyer was shown a straight red five minutes before the break for a rash challenge on Dylan Connolly.

And midfielder Sarcevic made sure the Pilgrims finished the game with nine men when he picked up a second yellow six minutes from time after he fouled the same Bradford player.

Argyle boss Ryan Lowe, whose side slipped to fifth, said: "I was disappointed with the red cards but the decisions are done.

"We have a squad that we feel can do well and fill in where needed.

"And what I will say is that, with ten men and nine men, we were outstanding. I think if we had five more minutes we would have equalised."

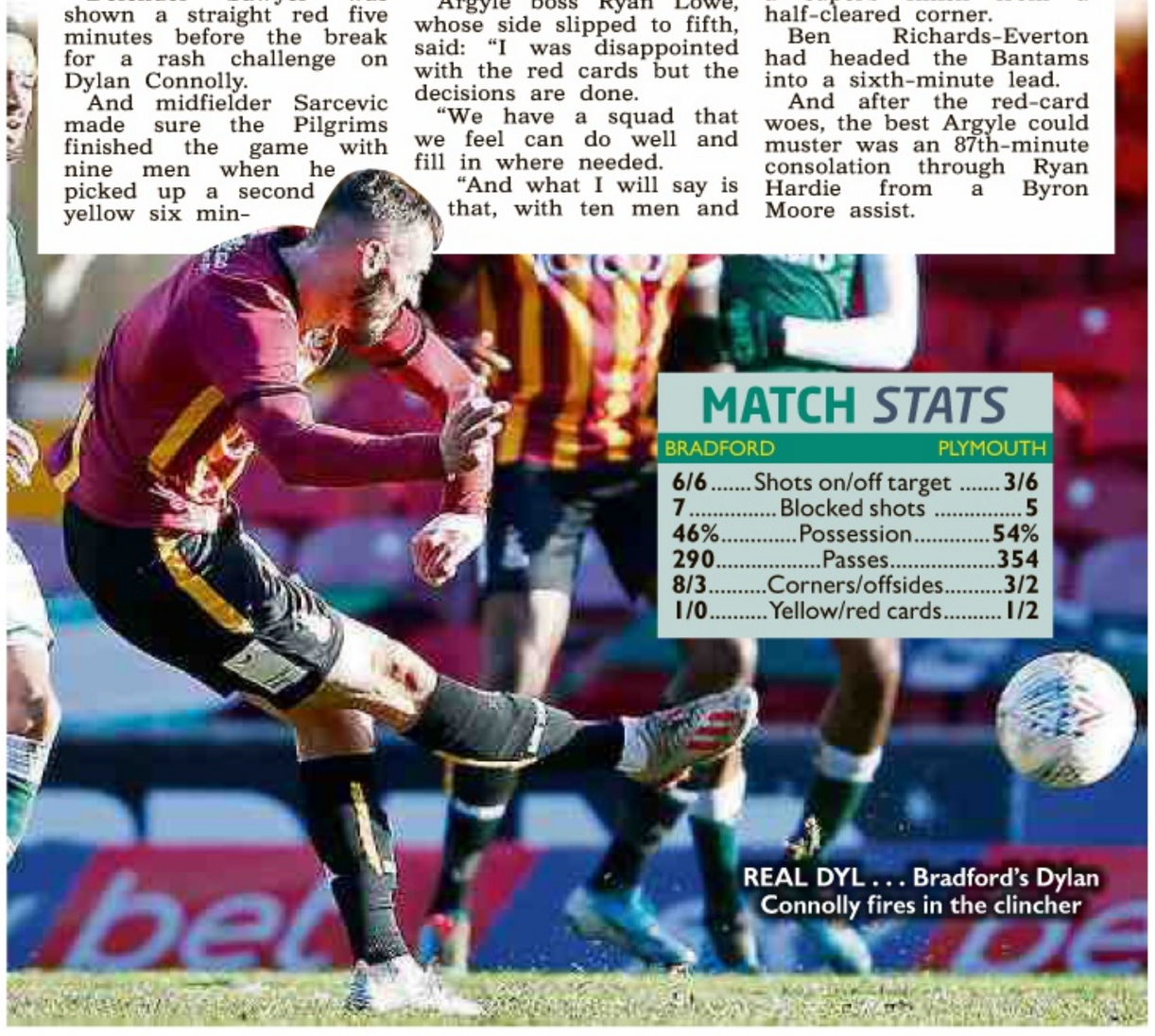
Connolly had an eventful afternoon, having made it 2-0 to the home side in first-half injury time with a superb finish from a half-cleared corner.

Ben Richards-Everton had headed the Bantams into a sixth-minute lead.

And after the red-card woes, the best Argyle could muster was an 87th-minute consolation through Ryan Hardie from a Byron Moore assist.

MATCH STATS

BRADFORD		PLYMOUTH
6/6	Shots on/off target	3/6
7	Blocked shots	5
46%	Possession	54%
290	Passes	354
8/3	Corners/offsides	3/2
1/0	Yellow/red cards	1/2



REAL DYL . . . Bradford's Dylan Connolly fires in the clincher

Mark not made up

Cambridge.....1 Carlisle.....2

MARK BONNER was hit by a first loss as Cambridge manager and admitted: "It's not the performance we aimed for."

The U's had won 13 points in five games under interim-boss Bonner.

And he said: "They've played well but we probably haven't hit the same level we have in the last month."

Carlisle went ahead when Lewis Alessandra swivelled to fire home a close-range shot.

And they doubled their lead via Nick Anderton's 73rd-minute tap-in after Byron Webster's shot was saved by Callum Burton.

Sub Reggie Lambe got a goal back with a stunning 20-yard half-volley with eight minutes left but the visitors held on.

Boss Chris Beech said: "The lads were excellent. What I really enjoyed was our team spirit."

Artell's in red rage

Morecambe.....1 Crewe.....1

CREWE boss Dave Artell described Adam Phillips' red-card lunge as one of the worst he had seen.

Artell received a yellow card for his protests after Morecambe midfielder Phillips' crude injury-time challenge on Perry Ng.

He said: "The tackle was one of the worst I have seen in 20 years and for the lad to start swearing at me when he was going off was unreal.

"If he thinks that's appropriate, then good luck to him because it was scandalous what he did."

Ng gave Alexandra the lead two minutes after half-time but Aaron Wildig grabbed a crucial equaliser on 68 minutes.

Shrimps boss Derek Adams said: "When you think Crewe are challenging at the top, I think we matched them for much of the game and showed a great spirit."

+ NON-LEAGUE RESULTS AND TABLES + NON-LEAGUE RESULTS AND TABLES + NON-LEAGUE RESULTS AND TABLES +

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barrow	36	21	7	8	68	37	70
Harrogate	35	18	8	9	56	40	62
Yeovil	36	16	9	11	60	44	57
Boreham Wd	35	15	11	9	52	38	56
FC Halifax	34	16	7	11	49	46	55
Solihull Moors	36	15	9	12	48	36	54
Stockport	37	15	9	13	48	52	54
Dover	36	15	8	13	48	47	53
Woking	36	14	10	12	47	52	52
Notts County	34	13	12	9	50	36	51
Hartlepool	36	13	12	11	54	48	51
Bromley	37	14	9	14	56	51	51
Barnet	32	13	10	9	46	38	49
Torquay	35	14	6	15	56	59	48
Sutton Utd	35	11	13	11	44	40	46
Aldershot	36	12	10	14	42	50	46
Wrexham	36	11	9	16	46	49	42
Eastleigh	34	10	12	12	41	50	42
Dag & Red	35	10	11	14	38	42	41
Maidenhead	36	12	5	19	43	55	41
Chesterfield	35	10	10	15	49	61	40
Ebbsfleet Utd	37	8	12	17	45	68	36
AFC Fylde	33	7	11	15	40	57	32
Chorley	36	4	14	18	29	61	26

THE BUILDBASE FA TROPHY
Quarter-finals

AFC Fylde 2 Harrogate Town 3 (aet, 2-2 at 90mins); Barnet 1 Halesowen Town 2 (aet, 1-1 at 90mins); Notts County 5 Aveley 0. **Off -** Concord v Royston (waterlogged pitch).

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Barrow 2 Dag & Red 1; Boreham Wood 1 Hartlepool 1; Bromley 0 Sutton Utd 1; Ebbsfleet Utd 0 Stockport County 1; Solihull Moors 3 Dover 0; Torquay 2 Chorley 0; Woking 2 Maidenhead Utd 0; Yeovil 3 Wrexham 0. **Off -** Eastleigh v FC Halifax (waterlogged pitch).

VANARAMA NATIONAL NORTH

Darlington 1 Brackley 1; Hereford FC 0 Altrincham 2; Spennymoor Town 3 AFC Telford 3; York 1 Curzon Ashton 1. **Off -** Blyth Spartans v Kettering, Boston Utd v Farsley Celtic, Gloucester v Alfreton Town, Kidderminster v Guiseley, King's Lynn Town v Southport, Leamington v Bradford PA (waterlogged pitches), Chester FC v Gateshead (bad weather).

VANARAMA NATIONAL SOUTH

Braintree Town 2 Bath City 0; Chippenham 2 St Albans 1; Dartford 0 Wealdstone 0; Dorking Wanderers 3 Slough 5; Dulwich 0 Tonbridge Angels 1; Eastbourne Borough 1 Billericay 1; Weymouth 5 Maidstone Utd 1. **Off -** Hampton & Richmond v Chelmsford, Hungerford Town v Hemel Hempstead, Welling v Havant & W (waterlogged pitches).

BETVICTOR SOUTHERN PREMIER CENTRAL

Stourbridge 2 Lowestoft Town 0. **Off -** AFC Rushden & Diamonds v Rushall Olympic, Barwell v Redditch Utd, Biggleswade Town v Banbury Utd, Hednesford Town v Leiston, Hitchin Town v Peterborough Sports, Kings Langley v Coalville Town, Needham Market v Tamworth, Nuneaton Borough v Bromsgrove Sporting, St Ives Town v Alvechurch, Stourbridge v Lowestoft Town (waterlogged pitches).

BETVICTOR SOUTHERN PREMIER SOUTH

Hendon 1 Truro City 4; Merthyr Town 0 Beaconsfield Town 0; Wimborne Town 1 Chesham Utd 2. **Off -** Gosport Borough v Farnborough, Harrow Borough v Salisbury FC, Hartley Wintney v Blackfield & Langley, Poole Town v Hayes & Yeading Utd, Swindon Supermarine v Tiverton Town, Taunton Town v Walton Casuals, Weston-S-Mare v Met Police, Yate Town v Dorchester Town (waterlogged pitches).

BETVICTOR ISTHMIAN PREMIER

Carshalton Athletic 4 Horsham 0; Hornchurch 2 Haringey Borough 1; Wingate & Finchley 1 Lewes 1; Worthing 1 Potters Bar Town 1. **Off -** Bognor Regis Town v Bowers & Pitsea, Brightlingsea Regent v East Thurrock, Cheshunt v Folkestone Invicta, Corinthian Casuals v Bishop's Stortford, Enfield Town v Kingstonian, Leatherhead v Margate (waterlogged pitches).

BETVICTOR NORTHERN PREMIER

Buxton 5 Stafford Rangers 1; FC United of Manchester 4 Warrington Town 4; Grantham 2 Stalybridge 0; Hyde Utd 5 Lancaster City 2; Scarborough Athletic 3 Radcliffe 1; Whitby 1 Ashton Utd 1; Gainsborough 1 South Shields 4. **Off -** Atherton Collieries v Matlock Town, Morpeth Town v Bamber Bridge, Nantwich Town v Mickleover Sports, Witton Albion v Basford Utd (waterlogged pitches).

JD WELSH CUP
Quarter-finals

Connah's Quay Nomads 1 Cardiff Met Uni 2; The New Saints FC 6 Newtown 1.

VANARAMA NATIONAL NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
York	32	18	9	5	48	23	63
King's Lynn	28	18	6	4	61	36	60
Boston Utd	30	17	5	8	45	31	56
Chester FC	31	15	9	7	57	36	54
Altrincham	32	15	9	8	58	39	54
Brackley	31	14	11	6	52	21	53
Spennymoor	32	14	10	8	58	41	52
Gateshead	30	14	10	6	46	29	52
Farsley Celtic	31	13	6	12	44	39	45
Darlington	31	13	6	12	39	45	45
Guiseley	31	12	8	11	48	41	44
Southport	31	12	7	12	39	39	43
Alfreton	30	12	4	14	45	48	40
AFC Telford	32	10	9	13	47	53	39
Kidd'minster	32	9	8	15	37	42	35
Leamington	30	9	7	14	39	48	34
Hereford FC	31	7	11	13	33	50	32
Kettering	28	7	9	12	34	42	30
Curzon A'ton	31	7	9	15	31	41	30
Gloucester	28	8	5	15	36	55	29
Blyth Sp'tans	32	6	5	21	30	73	23
Bradford PA	30	3	5	22	22	77	14

POOLS CHECK

FULL-TIME	3	1a	2	Today	1h	1h	3	3	1h	1h	1a	3	Monday	3	3	1h	1a	1a	1h	2	1a	3	Today	1h	1a	1h	VOID	3	PANEL	1h	1a	1a	3	PANEL	1a	1a	PANEL	3	1h	3	PANEL	1a	1a	1a	1a	3	1a	PANEL	PANEL
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49

in association with William HILL

3 OLDHAM have scored three or more goals in three of their last four home league games. They had done so in just three of their previous 26 before that.

LEAGUE TWO FASTEST & LATEST GOALS
FASTEST - Ben Richards-Everton (Bradford) 5m 32s
LATEST - George Miller (Scunthorpe) 89m 37s



FLASH ASH... Nadesan (left) celebrates his goal with pal Ricardo German

MATCH STATS

EXETER		CRAWLEY
2/9	Shots on/off target	3/2
2	Blocked shots	2
63%	Possession	37%
487	Passes	298
6/0	Corners/offsides	2/2
1/0	Yellow/red cards	0/0

Ex-rated

GRECIANS STUMBLE

Exeter.....1
Crawley.....1

MATT TAYLOR urged his Exeter side to go back to basics after their promotion bid suffered a setback.

Brennan Dickenson rescued a draw for the Grecians as his 82nd-minute goal cancelled out Ashley Nadesan's 34th-minute opener.

The point was enough to keep Exeter third.

But boss Taylor said: "We looked leggy and devoid of ideas in the first half.

"I changed the shape in the second half, which gave us a real input of energy.

"We got on the front foot and looked like we could possibly go on and win.

"With the way the pitch is, we have to understand what is needed. Sometimes you have to go back to basics and keep it simple."

Crawley's Nadesan latched on to Josh Doherty's pass before lifting the ball over keeper Lewis Ward.

Exeter's Pierce Sweeney rattled the post before the interval and Jake Taylor's header came back off the bar in the 50th-minute.

But they eventually pulled level thanks to Dickenson's pile-driver.

Crawley boss John Yems said: "A draw was a fair result. It was great to come back to my old club and I really hope Exeter are in League One next year.

"I thought they were going to nick it at the end, like they used to when I was here."

Port Vale.....2
Scunthorpe.....2

RUSS WILCOX said this draw felt like a win after George Miller snatched a late equaliser for Scunny.

Vale's Mark Cullen had diverted in Scott Burgess' shot on 16 minutes before Alex Gilliead levelled with 19 to go.

Vale regained the lead as Nathan Smith knocked in David Worrall's corner.

But Iron sub Miller glanced in John McAtee's cross in the dying seconds.

Caretaker-boss Wilcox said: "We've come from behind twice. Not too many teams have done that at Vale Park this season."

Vale No2 Dave Kevan said: "We have to keep the momentum up."

Oldham.....5
Newport.....0

DANNY ROWE remains upbeat despite Oldham's off-field struggles.

The Latics could go into administration this week over an unpaid bill to the club's landlords.

Staff have been told their wages will be paid late but that did not stop Rowe, 30, netting twice.

Zak Dearnley, Thomas Hamer and Jonny Smith completed the rout.

Rowe said: "We can't get drawn into it, we just have to train and play. It's about finishing strongly and focusing on next season."

Newport boss Michael Flynn said: "They could've got eight, maybe nine, so 5-0 was getting off lightly."

Macclesfield....0
Salford.....2

BOSS Graham Alexander hailed Salford's scrappers for dealing with howling gales and a horror pitch.

First-half goals by Ash Hunter and Richie Towell floored Macclesfield and lifted them up to tenth.

Ammies boss Alexander said: "We coped well as we train on something similar every day!

"We basically trained on a swimming pool yesterday. It was full of mud and we knew it was going to be like that."

The Silkmen are eight games without a win and boss Mark Kennedy said: "I fancied us going downhill second half with the wind but we fizzled out."

HOW TO DELIVER

Curle's got personality

Grimsby.....0
Northampton.....3

KEITH CURLE wanted to see personality from his Cobblers – and they duly delivered with a resounding victory.

A double from Callum Morton did the damage at Blundell Park, after an early opener from Charlie Goode, with Elliot Grandin and Billy Clarke both passing up good chances for Grimsby.

Northampton boss Curle said: "I challenged them before the game and demanded to see their personality – both in possession and out of possession."

He added: "You have to get the fundamentals right and make sure you have got that level of respect. It gives you a platform to work from. We knew we could cause them problems."

Grimsby manager Ian Holloway added: "We huffed and puffed and they blew our house down.

"We knew they were good at set-plays – but they turned out to be very, very good at them.

"It's all about chances and that's as poor as we've finished since I've been here."

MATCH STATS

GRIMSBY		NORTHAMPTON
4/8	Shots on/off target	8/4
10	Blocked shots	2
63%	Possession	37%
424	Passes	235
7/0	Corners/offsides	9/3
1/0	Yellow/red cards	0/0



ONE MORE... Callum Moreton fires in Northampton's second

+ NON-LEAGUE RESULTS AND TABLES + NON-LEAGUE RESULTS AND TABLES +

VANARAMA NATIONAL SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wealdstone	31	21	3	7	66	33	66
Slough	33	17	9	7	51	34	60
Weymouth	33	16	11	6	58	35	59
Bath City	33	17	8	8	49	37	59
Havant & W	31	16	10	5	59	36	58
Dartford	32	14	8	10	55	45	50
Dorking Wdrs	33	14	8	11	57	53	50
Hampton & R	31	14	4	13	50	47	46
Chelmsford	32	11	10	11	54	52	43
Maidstone	31	11	9	11	45	40	42
Hemel H'stead	32	11	8	13	34	41	41
Oxford City	32	11	8	13	45	56	41
Welling	32	11	6	15	35	43	39
Chippenham	33	9	11	13	35	43	38
Concord R	30	10	5	15	40	44	35
Tonbridge A	30	9	8	13	43	51	35
Eastbourne	32	7	14	11	35	54	35
Braintree	33	10	5	18	43	64	35
Dulwich	33	8	10	15	48	47	34
Billericay	29	7	13	9	44	51	34
St Albans	33	8	10	15	39	52	34
Hungerford	31	7	4	20	36	63	25

BETVICTOR SOUTHERN PREM CENTRAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tamworth	29	20	2	7	59	26	62
Peterboro Sp'	31	18	7	6	88	46	61
Royston Tn	29	18	6	5	57	28	60
Bromsgrove	31	17	6	8	79	39	57
Stourbridge	31	16	5	10	53	50	53
Coalville Tn	29	14	9	6	50	30	51
Rushall Ol'pic	32	14	8	10	56	43	50
Rushden & D	29	14	7	8	49	43	49
Nuneaton	32	13	8	11	55	46	47
Kings Langley	29	14	5	10	47	41	47
Needham Mkt	31	13	8	10	41	36	47
Banbury Utd	30	12	10	8	42	28	46
Barwell	31	13	6	12	54	53	45
Hednesford	30	13	4	13	48	43	43
Biggleswade	29	13	4	12	44	44	43
Lowestoft	32	12	2	18	46	61	38
Hitchin Tn	30	9	9	12	41	46	36
Stratford Tn	32	8	4	20	41	70	28
Leiston	30	6	8	16	39	82	26
St Ives Tn	30	5	4	21	31	70	19
Alvechurch	29	4	5	20	25	56	17
Redditch Utd	32	3	3	26	24	88	12

BETVICTOR SOUTHERN PREM SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Truro City	30	21	3	6	64	29	66
Chesham Utd	32	21	3	8	69	42	66
Swindon Sup'	31	17	6	8	50	40	57
Tiverton Tn	28	16	7	5	69	37	55
Hayes & Y	31	16	6	9	64	42	54
Taunton Tn	28	15	6	7	59	45	51
Salisbury FC	28	13	8	7	53	39	47
Gosport Boro	32	12	10	10	34	32	46
Weston-S-M	29	13	6	10	54	45	45
Poole Town	25	13	5	7	42	26	44
Met Police	29	13	4	12	45	45	43
Merthyr Tn	30	9	11	10	36	35	38
Wimborne Tn	32	10	7	15	39	51	37
Hendon	29	10	6	13	43	47	36
Farnboro	28	11	3	14	33	43	36
Hartley W'ney	26	9	6	11	36	38	33
Blackfield & L	30	8	8	14	32	49	32
Harrow Boro	32	8	8	16	39	59	32
Yate Town	30	8	5	17	38	52	29
Walton Cas'	32	7	5	20	39	70	26
Beaconsfield	29	5	7	17	24	50	22
Dorchester	31	3	6	22	35	81	15

BETVICTOR ISTHMIAN PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worthing	33	20	8	5	68	39	68
Hornchurch	32	17	10	5	61	27	61
Folkestone	31	18	7	6	59	33	61
Carshalton	33	17	8	8	57	38	59
Cray Wdrs	31	16	10	5	59	44	58
Horsham	31	16	6	9	49	33	54
Enfield Town	29	15	6	8	58	49	51
Bognor Regis	30	15	4	11	54	44	49
E Thurrock	28	14	4	10	46	35	46
Leatherhead	29	13	7	9	41	42	46
Kingstonian	29	10	14	5	38	31	44
Potters Bar	30	11	8	11	47	50	41
Bowers & P	32	11	7	14	49	41	40
Margate	31	9	10	12	45	54	37
Haringey Boro	28	10	6	12	41	44	36
B Stortford	30	8	4	18	36	60	28
Lewes	31	7	6	18	31	51	27
Wingate & F	31	5	10	16	32	53	25
Cheshunt	29	7	3	19	35	55	24
Merstham	31	6	6	19	31	65	24
Brightlingsea	32	5	9	18	24	61	24
Corinthian Cas'	29	5	7	17	30	42	22

BETVICTOR NORTHERN PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Shields	30	18	6	6	56	30	60
Basford Utd	29	16	7	6	49	34	55
FC United	30	15	9	6	66	46	54
Lancaster City	32	15	7	10	57	44	52
Nantwich Tn	28	14	6	8	51	36	48
Warrington	29	12	12	5	51	41	48
Whitby	27	14	5	8	49	36	47
Scarboro Ath	33	13	8	12	43	45	47
Stalybridge	32	12	6	14	42	48	42
Morpeth Tn	24	12	5	7	42	33	41
Hyde Utd	31	11	7	13	51	52	40
Bamber Bridge	32	12	4	16	52	62	40
Witton Alb	29	10	8	11	37	39	38
Mickleover	26	11	4	11	40	44	37
Radcliffe	29	11	3	15	29	42	36
Gainsborough	29	9	8	12	46	47	35
Buxton	31	7	11	13	54	52	32
Ashton Utd	26	8	6	12	34	43	29
Grantham	30	7	8	15	37	68	29
Matlock Tn	25	8	4	13	32	36	28
Atherton Coll'	25	7	4	14	34	49	25
Stafford R	31	3	10	18	25	50	19

(Ashton Utd deducted 1 point)

NON-LEAGUE

HALESOWEN TOWN are just two games from Wembley, thanks to Simeon Cobourne's extra-time winner at Barnet.

The Yeltz from the Southern League Division One Central shocked their National League hosts with a 2-1 FA Trophy last-eight triumph.

AVELEY'S dream is over after the Isthmian League North underdogs from Essex were thumped 5-0 at NOTTS COUNTY.

But fellow long shots CONCORD RANGERS and ROYSTON TOWN are still in the hat for tomorrow's draw after their tie fell foul of the weather.

Jack Muldoon was HARROGATE TOWN'S extra-time hero with a long-range clincher in a 3-2 success at AFC FYLDE.

2GG

goals

FOOTBALL THIS WEEK — THE BIG MATCH — 45 YEARS AGO

MAR 1975

by Russell Lanning

in association with William HILL



Shades of Gray

RAY'S REBOUND WINS CUP FOR VILLA



ASTON VILLA.....1 NORWICH.....0

LEAGUE CUP FINAL

RAY GRAYDON won the League Cup for Villa on this date 45 years ago – scoring with a rebound after his penalty had been saved by Kevin Keelan.

It was Villa's second League Cup success in what remains the only major cup final played at Wembley between two sides who were both not in the top flight.

Graydon, now 72, pounced to snatch the winner with nine minutes remaining.

On his goal, he said years later: "We got the penalty after Mel Machin dived full length to tip Chris Nicholl's header away with his hands in a spectacular save."

The Villa winger hit his spot-kick to Keelan's right – but the keeper got across to palm the ball on to the post only to see it rebound back to him to fire home.

Graydon added: "When I was taking penalties I would always make sure to try to deceive the keeper by shaping and looking one way and them changing at the last moment.

"Keelan had already made some great saves in the game.

"I couldn't believe my eyes when he got his hands to it.

"It was a brilliant stop. Luckily it just bounced back to me and I had the presence of mind to pop it back into the net."

Keelan added: "I'd never seen Graydon take a penalty before so I decided to gamble and go to my right. The ball could have gone anywhere off that post and if it had bounced away I'm sure we would have held on to get a replay.

"But perhaps we didn't deserve another chance because of the way we played."

Norwich boss John Bond pulled no punches about his beaten Canaries.

He said: "We were absolute rubbish.

"In the second half it was a slaughter – kids against men.

"There are three things I can't stand – getting beaten, being embarrassed, being humiliated.

"All three happened to me in that match.

"It has been a shattering experience."

Graydon added: "There's no greater feeling than scoring the winning goal in a cup final at Wembley in front of 90,000-plus fans.

"The fact I had my mum Violet and dad Bill, and all my friends and family to share that utopia moment all the emotions of the occasion come flooding back. Afterwards we had our reception at The Savoy in London and I was able to get my mum and dad into the evening's proceedings."

Villa manager Ron Saunders said: "We were the better side – there is no argument about that."

But he was quick to add that Villa – fourth in the second-tier at the time of this cup win – had their minds firmly on promotion.

He continued: "Promotion has always been the priority. The League Cup has been a marvellous bonus but we've got 12 games to claim the big prize."

Saunders and Villa did get promoted at the end of that season – along with Manchester United.

ASTON VILLA: Cumbes, Robson, Nicholl, Ross, Aitken, Carrodus, McDonald, Hamilton, Graydon, Leonard, Little.

NORWICH: Keelan, Machin, Forbes, Stringer, Sullivan, Miller, Suggett, Morris, Powell, Boyer, MacDougall.



FURY . . . how we reported the reaction of Norwich boss John Bond (inset)



HEART-STOPPER . . . Keelan saves Graydon's penalty but the Villa man scores from the rebound and celebrates the win with keeper Jim Cumbes

RESULTS - Mar 1, 1975

LEAGUE CUP FINAL

ASTON VILLA	(0) 1	NORWICH	(0) 0
Graydon 81		Att: 95,946	

(Wembley – gate receipts £196,000)

DIVISION ONE

ARSENAL	(0) 0	EVERTON	(0) 2
Att: 32,216		Dobson, Lyons	
CARLISLE	(0) 0	LEICESTER	(0) 1
Att: 12,676		Worthington	
COVENTRY	(0) 0	BURNLEY	(1) 3
Att: 17,346		James, Noble, Fletcher	
DERBY	(2) 3	TOTTENHAM	(1) 1
Rioch, Daniel, Davies		Jones Att: 23,000	
IPSWICH	(0) 0	SHEFFIELD UTD	(0) 1
Att: 21,813		Woodward	
LEEDS	(1) 2	MAN CITY	(1) 2
Lorimer (2)		Oakes, Donachie Att: 47,489	
LIVERPOOL	(1) 2	CHELSEA	(1) 2
Heighway, Cormack		Britton, Finnieston Att: 42,762	
MIDDLESBRO	(2) 2	STOKE	(0) 0
Hilton, Foggon		Att: 25,736	
QPR	(1) 2	LUTON	(1) 1
Givens, Rogers		Alston Att: 19,583	
WOLVES	(0) 0	BIRMINGHAM	(0) 1
Att: 28,256		Hendrie	

TODAY'S MATCH

ST JOHNSTONE v CELTIC

(3pm)

LADBROKES CHAMPIONSHIP

ALLOA	(0) 0	AYR	(1) 2
Att: 915		Bell 9, Forrest 82	

HOW DIV 1 LOOKED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Everton (4)	31	13	14	4	46	28	40
2 Burnley (10)	32	16	7	9	55	45	39
3 Stoke (5)	32	13	11	8	48	38	37
4 Ipswich (3)	32	17	2	13	45	30	36
5 Liverpool (2)	31	14	8	9	44	33	36
6 Leeds (9)	32	14	8	10	45	34	36
7 Derby (1)	31	14	8	9	47	42	36
8 Man City (8)	31	14	8	9	44	43	36
9 Middlesbro (7)	32	12	11	9	40	33	35
10 QPR (11)	32	13	8	11	43	40	34
11 Newcastle (15)	31	14	6	11	48	47	34
12 Sheff Utd (6)	31	13	8	10	41	42	34
13 West Ham (13)	32	11	11	10	48	41	33
14 Wolves (12)	31	10	10	11	39	39	30
15 Coventry (14)	32	9	12	11	41	50	30
16 Birmingham (17)	32	11	6	15	40	48	28
17 Chelsea (21)	31	8	12	11	36	52	28
18 Arsenal (16)	30	9	7	14	33	36	25
19 Tottenham (19)	33	8	8	17	38	51	24
20 Leicester (18)	30	7	8	15	28	44	22
21 Luton (20)	31	5	10	16	27	45	20
22 Carlisle (22)	32	8	3	21	30	45	19

(Final positions in brackets)

ALSO THIS WEEK IN 1975

TOP MUSIC



Make Me Smile (Come Up and See Me) by Steve Harley and Cockney Rebel

(2 weeks at No 1)



TOP FILM

Shampoo starring Warren Beatty, Julie Christie and Goldie Hawn

TOP TV



Dixon of Dock Green starring Jack Warner

TOP NEWS



Actor Charlie Chaplin, 85, is knighted by the Queen

TOP GADGET



Pong, a table tennis sports TV-screen game featuring two-dimensional graphics

SCOTTISH RESULTS & TABLES

WILLIAM HILL CUP: Quarter-finals

HEARTS	(0) 1	RANGERS	(0) 0
Bozanic 58		Att: 11,428	
ST MIRREN	(0) 0	ABERDEEN	(1) 2
Att: 4,479		Ferguson 7 Cosgrove 90 (pen)	

Played Friday

HIBERNIAN	(1) 5	INVERNESS	(0) 2
Jackson 38 Allan 58 Docherty 71 Omeonga 81 Gullan 84		Tremarco 73 Todorov 88 Att: 9,937	

DUNDEE	(-) P	ARBROATH	(-) P

(Postponed due to waterlogged pitch)

DUNF'MLINE	(1) 2	DUNDEE UTD	(0) 0
Nisbet 26 Afolabi 60		Att: 6,261	
QUEEN OF S	(0) 0	MORTON	(2) 4
Att: 1,116		Tumility 25 Nesbitt 44 Cadden 77 McGuffie 88	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dundee Utd	26	18	3	5	51	21	57
Inverness CT	24	12	3	9	33	27	39
Ayr	24	12	2	10	38	33	38
Dundee	24	10	6	8	30	31	36
Morton	26	10	5	11	42	48	35
Dunfermline	25	10	4	11	39	34	34
Arbroath	24	10	4	10	23	25	34
Alloa	26	6	9	11	31	43	27
Queen of Sth	25	7	5	13	26	36	26
Partick	24	6	5	13	30	45	23

LADBROKES LEAGUE ONE

CLYDE	(2) 3	FALKIRK	(1) 2
Lamont 3 Goodwillie 43 (pen), 53		Telfer 45 (pen) Longridge 90 Att: 1,784	
DUMBARTON	(0) 1	RAITH	(0) 0
Carswell 90		Att: 804	
FORFAR	(0) 0	EAST FIFE	(1) 1
Att: 644		Denholm 1	
MONTROSE	(1) 1	AIRDRIE	(0) 0
Webster 25 (pen)		Att: 766	

LADBROKES LEAGUE TWO

ALBION	(1) 1	ELGIN	(2) 2
Scally 3 Att: 283		Omar 2 Hester 6	
BRECHIN	(0) 0	STIRLING	(0) 2
Att 433		Bikey 54, Creaney 84	
COW'BEATH	(1) 1	EDINBURGH	(0) 1
Renton 38		Laird 80 Att: 302	
QUEEN'S PK	(2) 2	ANNAN ATH	(0) 0
MacLean 19 Koulder-Aisser 27 (pen)		Att: 734	
STENH'MUIR	(0) 0	COVE R'GERS	(2) 3
Att: 596		Megginson 33, 50 (pen) McAllister 42	

LADBROKES PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	28	25	1	2	82	17	76
Rangers	27	20	4	3	63	18	64
Motherwell	28	13	3	12	36	36	42
Aberdeen	28	11	8	9	35	33	41
Livingston	28	10	8	10	39	36	38
Hibernian	28	9	10	9	40	43	37
Kilmarnock	28	9	5	14	29	38	32
St Johnstone	27	7	11	9	27	46	32
Ross County	28	7	8	13	28	55	29
St Mirren	27	6	7	14	23	36	25
Hamilton	28	4	9	15	28	50	21
Hearts	27	3	10	14	27	49	19

LADBROKES LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Raith	26	14	7	5	46	31	49
Falkirk	26	13	9	4	50	17	48
Airdrieonians	27	13	6	8	37	27	45
East Fife	27	12	9	6	44	35	45
Montrose	25	13	2	10	42	35	41
Dumbarton	26	10	5	11	33	42	35
Clyde	26	7	7	12	31	42	28
Peterhead	26	7	5	14	30	41	26
Forfar	26	6	6	14	25	43	24
Stranraer	25	2	10	13	27	52	16

LADBROKES LEAGUE TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cove Rangers	26	20	2	4	66	31	62
Edinburgh C	26	16	4	6	46	28	52
Queen's Park	27	11	6	10	37	35	39
Elgin	26	10	7	9	42	31	37
Cowdenb'th	24	11	4	9	33	31	37
Stirling	25	10	5	10	32	25	35
Annan Athc	26	9	3	14	33	54	30
Stenh'semuir	26	7	6	13	32	48	27
Albion	24	6	6	12	36	46	24
Brechin	26	4	5	17	29	57	17

SCOTS CORNER

MOREL-LOSS

STEVEN GERRARD punished star striker Alfredo Morelos for going AWOL — then saw Rangers crash to a shock Scottish Cup exit.

The Colombian was left out of the 1-0 quarter-final loss at Hearts, where Oliver Bozanic scored the only goal.

Gers boss Gerrard said: "Alfredo's not with us because of a disciplinary issue.

"He was given permission to go to Colombia on Sunday until Wednesday to deal with a family matter, which we supported and agreed to. He's reported back 24 hours late from that."

The double whammy brought Rangers crashing after their midweek Euro triumph over Braga.

ABERDEEN won 2-0 at **ST MIRREN** with goals from Lewis Ferguson and Sam Cosgrove.

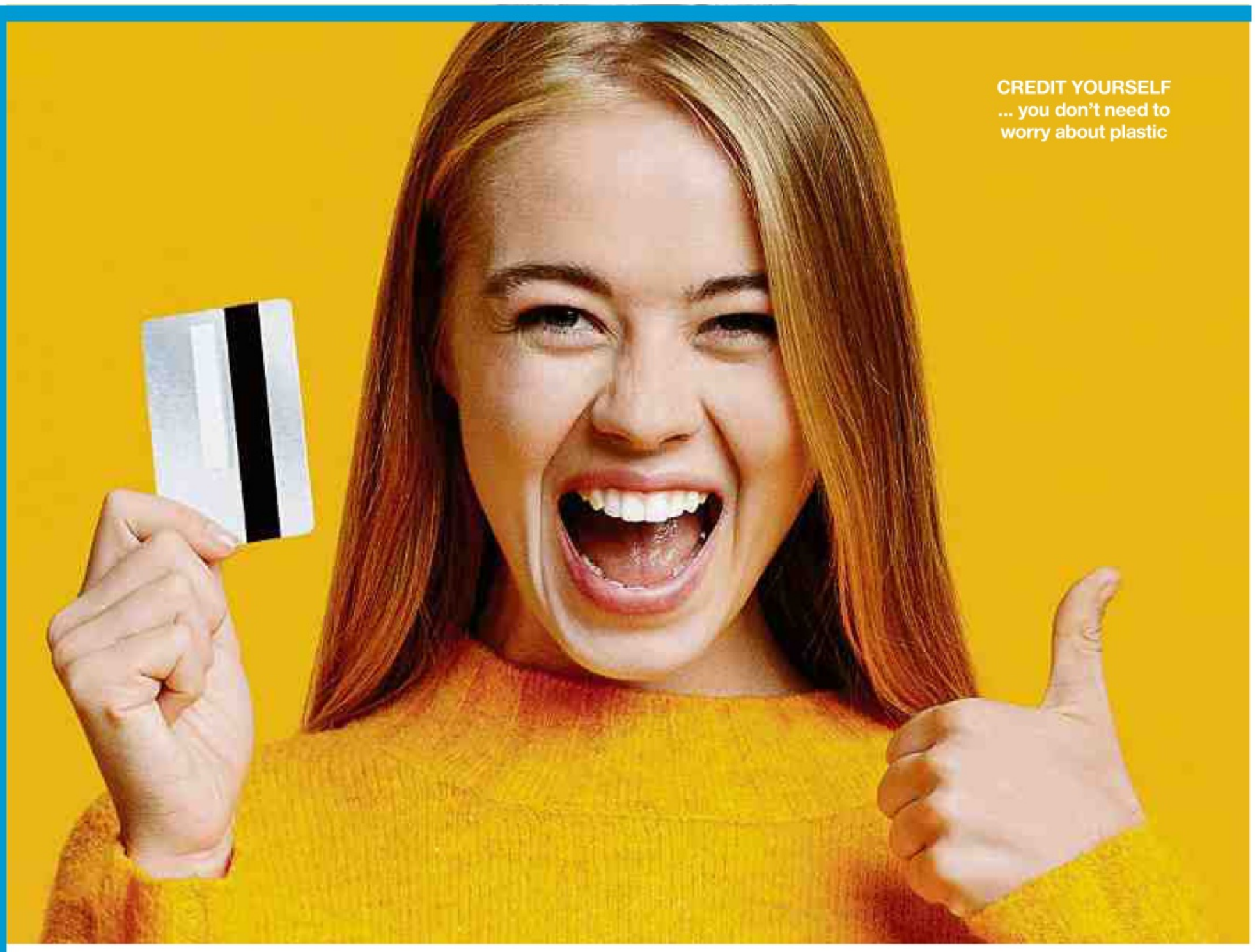
4-PAGE FINANCE SPECIAL

cardsmart

HOW TO GET CLEVER WITH CREDIT

THE SUN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH barclaycard

Managing your money and spending is key for 2020. So The Sun has got together with Barclaycard to bring you clever tips and information to help you make the most of every penny.



CREDIT YOURSELF ... you don't need to worry about plastic

THE SURVEY BY THE SUN AND BARCLAYCARD REVEALED:

63% of people with a credit card worry about the debt

37% worry enough for it to affect their sleep

52% use credit cards to cover unexpected expenses or emergencies



19% feel dread when their credit card arrives

63% open their bills as soon as they receive them. But two per cent NEVER open them

29% pay off their balance in full every month. But **16%** make only the minimum payment (and no other payments)

Get out of the red and black on track

HOW TO TACKLE THE POST-CHRISTMAS PINCH POINT

CHRISTMAS may seem ages ago but you are probably only just opening the bills for the credit cards that paid for it.

By MIKE SMITH

Spending on credit peaks during the festive period and many of us take advantage of interest-free grace periods on our plastic to spread the costs into the new year.

But while it's interest-free it doesn't mean it's worry-free. Eventually, we have to pay off what we've borrowed – and that can hang over us.

If you worry about paying off debt, you are not alone. A survey for The Sun and Barclaycard on our financial decisions and credit card habits shows that two thirds of those with credit cards worry about credit card debt.

Commonly cited concerns include both the total amount of debt and the interest rates charged. Further research reveals nearly 40 per cent of us worry about debt enough for it to affect our sleep.

Respondents say they are kept awake at night worrying over "being unable to afford bills and expenses until the next pay day" and "being unable to pay off credit cards".

While such feelings can have an impact on our mental and physical well-being at any time, they can intensify at this time of year as Christmas credit card bills hit our doormats or inboxes.

But rather than let worries about festive over-spending overwhelm you, it also presents an opportunity to carry out a spring clean, give your finances a refresh, and tackle those debts head on.

Over the next three pages, financial expert Esther Shaw offers some simple tips to help you address your credit card borrowing, get your debt to a manageable level, and your finances back on track.

We also speak to a psychologist to get a deeper understanding of why money and debt problems are such an emotional issue and why we often bottle up our emotions – and tough financial decisions – rather than getting them out in the open.

Plus, we meet Sun reader Alana Mustill to find out how she is spring-cleaning her finances and paying off the credit card debt she racked up over Christmas.

CLEAR DEBT QUICKER – Pages 2&3 | **PLANNING KEEPS MY COSTS DOWN** – Page 4

cardsmart | HOW TO GET CLEV

10 TOP TIPS FOR CLEARING YOUR CARDS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE

IF your credit card debt is getting you down, now is the time to give your finances a thorough spring clean, says financial expert ESTHER SHAW.



It's time to debt-onate your

1. Make bigger monthly repayments

Stop going from month to month making only the minimum repayment on your credit card. Start paying off more than the minimum each month and you will find your balance goes down a lot sooner.

2. Clear your balance in full

While this won't be an option for everyone, if you have the money available – or can cut down on spending in other areas to free up some cash – then try to pay off your card in full each month. As this will mean you avoid being charged any interest.

3. Don't miss a payment

If you miss a payment on your credit card, you could get fined. You could also end up with a battered credit rating that will mean it gets harder to get other cards, loans and mortgages in the future.

4. Set up a direct debit

The best way to avoid missed or late payments. Make sure it covers at least the minimum repayment, but aim for more. They can be set up to clear the amount in full every month. Make sure you know what this amount is – as you will need enough in your current account to cover it.

5. Have a repayment plan in place

If you make large purchases on your plastic – such as for a holiday or a new car or kitchen – make sure you have a repayment plan. It will make it easier to keep track of how much you owe – and how much you will need to pay off to be debt free in a certain time-frame.

6. Prioritise your cards

If you have more than one piece of plastic and can't pay them off in full each month, prioritise the one with the highest rate of interest.

7. Consider a 0% balance transfer card

This allows you to shift debt from one card, where you might be paying a high interest rate, to another where you will pay zero interest for a fixed period. It buys you time and means that all your repayments can go towards clearing the balance rather than simply paying off interest. This can mean you reduce your debt far faster.

8. Read the Ts and Cs

While a 0% balance transfer card can be a great help in terms of making debts more manageable, watch out for a one-off transfer fee. Also be sure to note down when the interest-free introductory deal ends – and do all you can to clear debt by then, or interest could sky-rocket.

9. Resist temptation to take on more credit

There's no escaping the fact you will face expenses during the year – both planned and unexpected. But before you reach for your credit card, think about how you will pay off the balance and whether you can afford to take on this extra credit.

10. Start money av

Christmas com it's worth plann more joyful - o possible. Once your spring cle Christmas deb putting money 2020.

IF YOU NEED FREE DEBT ADVICE GO TO: ● Citizens Advice – Citizensadvice.org.uk/03444 111444 ● National Debtline – Nationaldebt

ER WITH CREDIT



bills

putting
way

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r as stress-free as
e you've carried out
ean and dealt with
t, you can start
away for December

TECH TOOLS TO HELP YOU TAKE CHARGE

BANKS and financial institutions are now offering more support to customers to help them stay in control of their finances.

FREE ALERTS: These help you manage your money and you can set them yourself.

- Weekly balance updates – so you can track your balance and stay connected to your spending.
- Payment due reminders – to ensure you don't mess up and pay your credit card bill late.
- Spend limit notifications – to help you stay in control of your account and well within your credit limit.

REPAYMENT CALCULATOR: A tool which shows how much time and money you could save by making more than the minimum payment each month.

DIRECT DEBIT: Most card providers will allow you to set up a direct debit to pay either the full amount, a fixed amount, or the minimum amount due each month. You may also get a reminder from your bank before the payment is taken, to help you keep track of what is going out.



THE DANGERS OF NOT FACING UP TO THE PROBLEM

KEEPING money and emotions separate is a tough ask, but if we can acknowledge this and be more open about it then we're likely to make better decisions about our finances.

Dr ELENA TOURONI, a consultant psychologist and co-founder of myonlinetherapy.com, answers common questions about why money and debt problems are such an emotional issue – and why we should face up to our financial difficulties.

WHY do we experience shame and guilt when it comes to our debts?

Financial security is an important human need. If we are raised with a strong emphasis on the importance of money and being responsible for our finances, and we perceive ourselves as being 'bad' with money, this is likely to leave us feeling very inadequate. Feelings of inadequacy and negative self-image often lead to shame."

OVER the long term, how could these feelings impact on our mental health?

If we don't perceive ourselves as having financial control, this is likely to cause us high levels of anxiety. If we're not financially secure, this can have an impact on how we feel about ourselves – and depression is often linked to low self-worth and feelings of inadequacy."

WHY don't we talk about money and debt?

If we believe there's a problem with the way we're managing our money, it might lead us to feel ashamed or embarrassed. The natural urge with shame is to avoid talking about the thing that is causing us to feel this way."

WHAT are the dangers of not talking about debt?

The more you avoid a problem, the more likely it is to grow in size. The biggest danger of not talking about money and debt is that if you're not talking about it, you're probably also avoiding it. Burying your head in the sand is going to stand in the way of problem-solving – making it easy for debt to spiral out of control.

Debt is a pretty sensitive issue, but one we can't afford to ignore.

We need those who struggle with their finances to feel comfortable about being able to get things out in the open. And we need the stigma about debt to be lifted.



tline.org/0808 8084000 ● StepChange – Stepchange.org/0800 1381111

PROMOTED CONTENT

SPRING CLEAN

YOUR CREDIT CARDS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH barclaycard

You aced your New Year's resolutions in January. Now say hello to sunnier times with a look at what's on your cards, and plan for a debt-free future.

INTEREST(ING) %

What is interest? Interest is the 'fee' you pay to borrow money. It's calculated as a percentage of your balance. So the sooner you pay back borrowing, the less you'll end up paying.



PAYBACK £

What's the best amount to pay back each month? Your statement usually shows two options: a minimum payment and the full balance. Pay at least the minimum – but if you can pay more, you'll pay less in interest and clear your balance sooner.



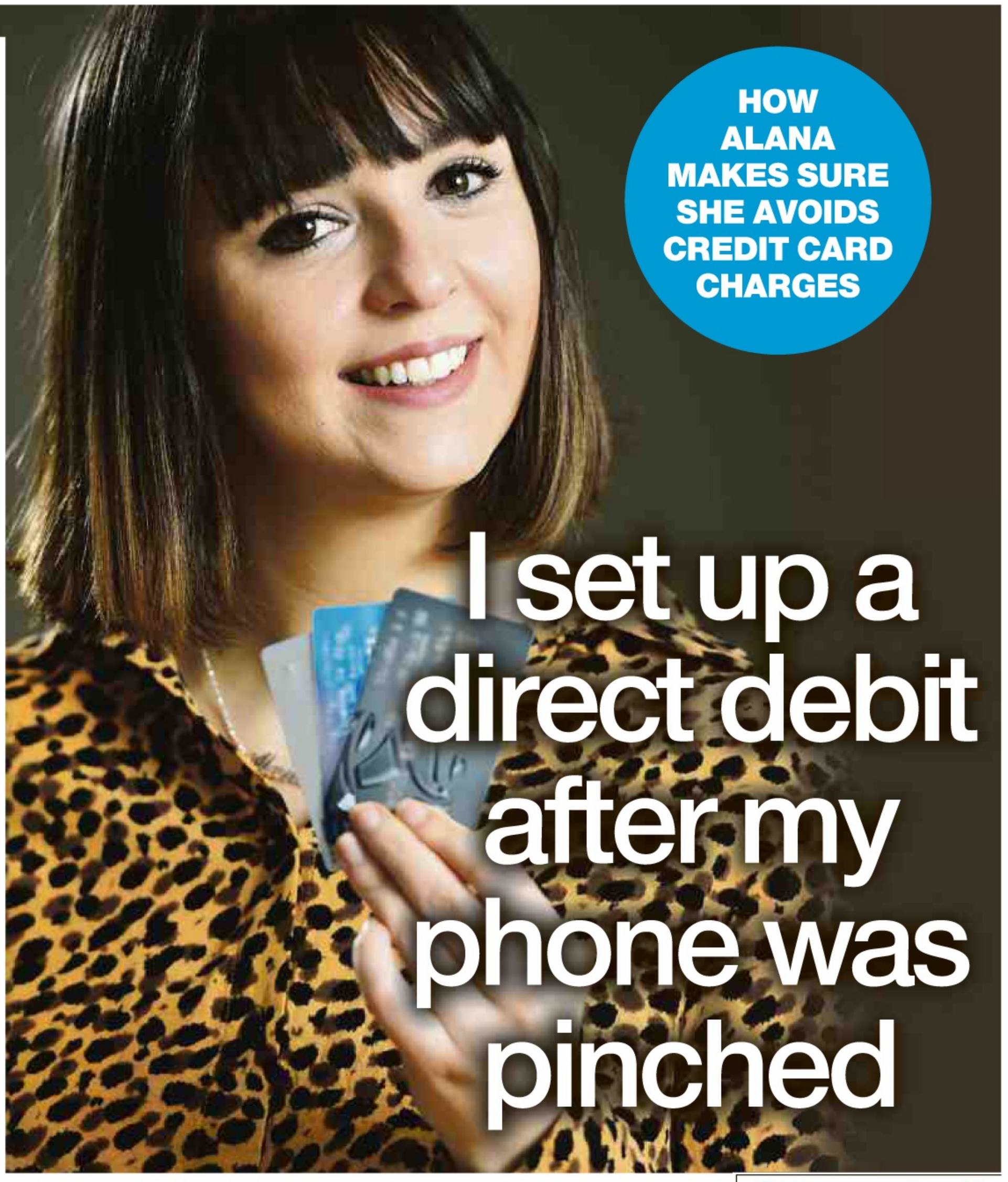
ADJUSTMENTS

When is the best time to pay if I want to reduce my interest? Pay when you get your statement if you can – interest is calculated daily and this can reduce the charges on your next statement. Also check if your card provider can adjust your payment date to suit you. Pay your full balance each month, and you'll avoid interest altogether.



Search **Barclaycard repayment calculator** to see how much time and interest you could save

cardsmart | HOW TO GET CLEVER WITH CREDIT



By LOUISA GREGSON

ALANA MUSTILL likes to have a plan when it comes to using her credit card.

The PR worker says: "I used it to buy all my Christmas presents this year because I know December is always an expensive month.

"It involves a lot of socialising, travelling and hosting, so rather than worry about being skint after my spending, I bought £360 of presents on a credit card.

"But my aim was always to pay it off in one big lump sum with my January pay. January and February are usually quiet months for me so I knew I would be able to afford it.

"I also avoided buying anything in the Christmas sales this time around. Last year I purposely took out a new credit card with a zero per cent interest period to buy a sofa in the Boxing Day sales. Then I set up a monthly payment to have it paid off within a year."

This kind of careful planning is a smart way to use a credit card.

It lets you enjoy some of the advantages, such as cash back offers and accruing loyalty points, while making sure you stay on top of your balance. This is particularly sensible if you are worried about spending too much on credit.

Alana, 27, who lives with boyfriend Ryan, 26, a joiner, in Manchester, says: "I always thought I would use my credit card for big purchases, and I do – for instance I always book my holidays on my card. But I never realised I would end up putting things like my weekly shop or a wine at the pub on my credit card when things are tight at the end of the month. So now I'm more strict about planning my spending on the card."

Balance

Alana says using her credit card helps get her from month to month, although she likes to clear the whole lot with a lump sum when she can – as she did in January. She has also taken the wise step of setting up a direct debit to cover the minimum payment amount each month. She has also taken the wise step of setting up a direct debit to cover the minimum payment amount each month.

While this alone won't clear her balance and she will still have to pay interest on it, it does stop any late payment charges – something she knows only too well.

She says: "My phone was stolen a few months ago and I couldn't get on to my credit card app to make a payment. I had to find time to go into the bank branch and explain, which was a nightmare."

Her savvy approach doesn't stop there. Alana is also aware that having a good credit score is worth thinking about. She actively tries to increase her credit limit – but not so she can spend more. Alana has a different motive.

She says: "I try to increase the limit but I don't actually use the extra. I do it just to help my credit score. It means I'm using less than half of my credit."

The UK's credit reference agencies, such as Equifax and Experian, rate consumers favourably if they take out credit and reliably pay it off by not missing any payments.

It's also suggested that using less than 50 per cent of your credit limit, like Alana does – known as credit utilisation – can help build your credit score. It implies you know how to use credit sensibly but are not reliant on it and at risk of defaulting.

A good credit score helps us in all sorts of ways such as being offered the lowest rates for future mortgages, loans or credit cards.

The other important piece in the jigsaw for developing good spending habits is recognising your own weak spots and working on them.

Alana admits she makes impulse buys – but she has learnt that repaying anything she puts on her card should be prioritised, to avoid or reduce interest charges.

She says: "I don't personally feel that I am good with money. But if I ever come into a bit of extra, I do use it to pay off my credit card."

PLASTIC'S HANDY BUT BE CAREFUL

FINANCIAL expert ESTHER SHAW gives Alana's spending habits the once over.

THE way Alana uses her credit card will resonate with a lot of Sun readers. They can be really handy when you need a bit of flexibility in your spending – especially around the festive period – but should be treated with a healthy dose of respect.

As a young woman living in a bustling city, she understandably wants to make the most of life - and clearly loves to travel!

Booking holidays on her credit card is a wise move because it gives her extra protection to receive a refund if the holiday operator goes bust, for example.

The good news is that Alana is also self-aware enough to recognise that she can be a bit impulsive at times and so needs to be careful.

Setting up a direct debit to make sure she is not hit with any late payment fees is a smart move.

At present that direct debit only covers the minimum repayment amount. But while not always possible, if she can set it to pay off the full balance, there will be no interest to pay either. The important thing is to have enough in her current account so she doesn't go overdrawn.

If Alana does find she's struggling to clear her credit card balance, then one option is to apply for an interest-free balance transfer card that will mean she can move the debt and have a grace period before she's charged interest.

However, while this will save interest payments for a few months, the money does have to be paid back eventually.

It will also mean she'll have an extra credit card, so once the balance is shifted, she might want to take the scissors to the first one to avoid temptation.

PROMOTED CONTENT
DID YOU KNOW?
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH barclaycard
51% of Sun readers pay more than the minimum credit card repayments each month