



WET 'N' WILD: Chris Froome held off several attacks

## Froome still reigning in mountains

CHRIS FROOME ploughed his way through torrential rains and hailstorms in the Pyrenees to remain in control of the Tour yesterday.

As temperatures plummeted by 25 degrees and the heavens suddenly opened on the Tour's first summit finish in Andorra, Froome confidently fended off multiple attacks from rivals Richie Porte of Australia and Ireland's Dan Martin.

Eleventh on the stage, overall Froome maintained his 16-second advantage over Britain's Adam Yates, lying second in a breakthrough performance in France from the 23-year-old Yorkshireman. The stage win went to Holland's Tom Dumoulin.

Froome had captured the Tour lead with a devastating downhill attack on Saturday's stage from the Col de Aspin, reaching speeds of nearly 50mph as he hurtled towards a spectacular lone victory.

Then on yesterday's trek over five massive Pyrenean cols, Froome had to contend with freak weather conditions as much as his rivals, when four hours of blazing heat abruptly gave way to near freezing conditions.

"It was pretty crazy. One minute we were pouring water over our heads and putting ice-packs down our backs, the next minute it was hailing," said Froome.

"It was a really tough stage, but I'm happy to be in yellow after two such difficult days."

Although a phalanx of black-clad Sky team-mates kept a firm

### TOUR DE FRANCE

Alasdair Fotheringham in Andorra

control on the race until the final kilometres of climbing, unlike in previous Tours, Froome's late surges in the mountains did not shake off his rivals. And he recognised that compared with his victories in 2013 and 2015, this year's Tour could be a much tougher challenge.

"I warned before the Tour that this would be the biggest battle of my career and that's what it's turning out to be," he said. "The level is higher and I'm going to have to fight for every second I can."

"There were a lot of attacks on that final climb and I was hoping

to gain more time as we still had quite a few contenders in front. But I had to settle for closing the gaps."

On the plus side for Froome and Sky, the Briton said he was surprised that one of his toughest challengers, Colombian Nairo Quintana, failed to attack, saying: "I'd like to think he was on the limit."

Froome has one key rival fewer to worry about after Spain's Alberto Contador, a double Tour winner, quit the race mid-stage as injuries from two big crashes coupled with illness finally proved too much.

"It's a shame he abandoned, he'd have added to what's already a very exciting race," said Froome.

After three gruelling Pyrenean stages, today Froome and the rest of the peloton will take a well-deserved 24-hour break from racing.

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TEARS TURN TO JOY FOR

# Eder wins it

**SUPER STRIKE:** Eder gets Portugal's winning goal



IN THE end, Cristiano Ronaldo could not resist.

Ignoring the pain of the injury that had forced him onto the sidelines so early into this contest, his left leg swathed in bandages, he did his best to hobble across the pitch to where his team-mates were holding an impromptu party.

It is Portugal, not France, who prevailed at Euro 2016 and the tears of despair that had initially trickled down their captain's face could be replaced by an outpouring of joy.

Quite how a side which finished third in their group without winning a single game should top the pile is somehow in keeping with a tournament that never quite managed to hit the heights.

Yet a battered 25-yard-finish from Eder, who failed to score during a brief spell at Swansea, brought the breakthrough in extra-time for Fernando Santos'



**PAUL JOYCE**

at Stade de France



**PORTUGAL**

**1**

**FRANCE**

**0**

AET; SCORE AFTER 90 MINS 0-0

side and delivered a first major trophy for the country.

Though Portugal had been denied their Ronaldo for the majority of this contest, out on the pitch his presence had still seemed all around.

It was in every tackle, every sprint back and even the occasional raid forward as his team-mates fed off their talisman's pain and denied France the escapism they needed after the trauma and social unrest that had made this

occasion so important for them as hosts. Clearly there is something about the Stade de France and the name Ronaldo.

He had departed in floods of tears having been unable to shake off the effects of a robust Dimitri Payet tackle. Back in 1998, the fragile fitness of the Brazilian Ronaldo had provided the sub-plot, and a thousand conspiracy stories, in a showdown with France.

Unlike then, however, there was to be no procession for Didier Deschamps, the chance to collect a Euro crown to go with the World Cup he lifted here as a player 18 years ago spurned.

France will lament a missed opportunity, substitute Andre-Pierre Gignac going closest in the final moments of normal time when striking a post from six yards, but they were not at their most potent.

Such profligacy proved costly as a final belatedly came to the boil when substitute Eder

shrugged off the attentions of Laurent Koscielny and thrashed a shot beyond Hugo Lloris from distance.

The demons of losing on home soil to Greece in the final of Euro 2004 were exorcised.

It was close to midnight when Ronaldo lifted the silver trophy to the heavens, his gold medal around his neck and the Portuguese flag tied around his waist, and fireworks lit up the Parisian sky. Out of the pitch, some of the shell-shocked French players stood in silence.

That he was forced to cede centre stage did nothing to help the spectacle. There had been a lull in play when, in the 16th-minute, the focus was drawn to Ronaldo flat out on his back just inside the French half having collapsed in a heap.

Ronaldo had paused in possession as Payet approached, inviting the tackle, and the West Ham attacker obliged: taking ball and leaving his man as



PORTUGAL STAR AS SUB ENDS TITLE JINX

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
**William HILL**

Main picture: MIKE HEWITT

## for Ronaldo



I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT!  
Injured Ronaldo looks on in joy and incredulity as Eder scores for Portugal late on



DOWN AND OUT: A tearful Ronaldo was forced out by injury

collateral damage as he twisted his left knee in the impact.

What followed was like a scene from M\*A\*S\*H. Medics circling Ronaldo as first he received treatment and went back on before dropping to the turf and requiring more attention.

Finally, after being barely able to run, he went down one more time, throwing his armband to the floor in disgust, before disappearing on a stretcher mid-way through the opening half with his face contorted in agony and inconsolable.

Antoine Griezmann will have to settle for the consolation of the Golden Boot, but how he will have wished either of the two headed chances he had in normal time had won the day.

He was making his 70th appearance of the season to put the perennial English excuse about tiredness into proper context and was denied only by a brilliant save from Portuguese keeper Rui Patricio who snaked

out his right hand in the 10th minute to prevent an effort going into the top corner.

Another header from Kingsley Coman's cross went just over late on. In between, Moussa Sissoko, producing the sort of form beyond him for Newcastle last season, forced Patricio into two more smart saves.

Had Gignac not hit the post from six yards after turning Pepe inside and out, then France would have won through. As it was, Eder prevailed for Portugal and Ronaldo

**PORTUGAL (4-1-3-2):** Rui Patricio; Cedric, Pepe, Fonte, Guerreiro; Carvalho W; Sanches (Eder 79), Silva (Moutinho 66), Mario; Nani, Ronaldo (Quaresma 25). **Booked:** Cedric, Mario, Guerreiro, Carvalho W, Fonte, Patricio. **Goal:** Eder 109.

**FRANCE (4-4-2):** Lloris; Sagna, Koscielny, Umtiti, Evra; Sissoko (Martial 110), Pogba, Matuidi, Payet (Coman 58); Griezmann, Giroud (Gignac 78). **Booked:** Umtiti, Matuidi, Koscielny, Pogba.

**Referee:** M Clattenburg (England).

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## 'We were warriors'

FROM BACK PAGE

international trophy. Portugal defender Pepe: "There was a lot of suffering, it was a very intense game. We fought very hard."

"We left it all out there, it's the only way to win. We represented Portugal, a beautiful country of immigrants and we represent every one of them. This goes out to them."

"It was tough to lose our main man. The man who could at any moment score a goal. He could make the difference but we were warriors on the pitch. We said we would win it for him – and we managed to do that."

France coach Didier Deschamps said: "We had

chances, as did the Portuguese, but unfortunately they scored."

"It's a great disappointment for it to end now, with this final. We must not throw away everything that we've done, but we threw away a great chance to be European champions – not the only one, but a great one."

Portugal reached the final having finished third in their group without winning a game and former France striker Thierry Henry said: "If you allow the third team to go through, they know three draws will be enough."

"I'm happy to see Albania winning a game, Iceland doing what they did but the new rule killed the group stages."



ALLARDYCE: Meeting

## Big Sam to get a second shot at England

By Paul Joyce

SAM ALLARDYCE will be interviewed for the England job this week.

The Sunderland manager is emerging as a leading contender for the vacancy a decade after he was first overlooked in favour of Steve McClaren.

USA coach Jurgen Klinsmann, inset, is among the other candidates being considered as the FA presses ahead with its search for Roy Hodgson's successor, although yesterday Arsene Wenger effectively ruled himself out after insisting he will not break his contract with Arsenal.

Allardyce will be given the chance to make his pitch in the coming days, with Sunderland having been made aware of the FA's interest. He has an exit clause in his contract.

His credentials have been championed by Sir Alex Ferguson to David Gill, the former Manchester United CEO who is part of the three-man panel charged with picking the next England boss.

FA technical director Dan Ashworth and CEO Martin Glenn make up the rest of the committee and they have completed the consultation process with leading figures and are pushing for an appointment by the end of the month.

Despite England's dismal showing at Euro 2016 when they lost to minnows Iceland in the last 16 to prompt Hodgson's resignation, the FA does not believe that the system is fundamentally broken.

They want a strong manager who would bring certainty in terms of playing style and selection and, as well as Allardyce, the merits of Bournemouth's Eddie Howe have also been discussed. When Allardyce was

interviewed to replace Sven-Goran Eriksson in 2006, he had prepared a PowerPoint presentation which "nobody but nobody was going to beat", only for the FA not to have the facilities for him to show it. He had to print hard copies instead and lost out to McClaren.

Klinsmann's close friend Oliver Bierhoff said the USA coach and ex-Germany manager was "in discussions" with the FA and he has fallen out with senior officials at the US Football Federation. Guus Hiddink has also been linked.

The FA will speak to Wenger, but confirmation from him that they would have to wait at least a year to appoint him means they are likely to look elsewhere. "Could I



manage England? Why not? I would never rule that out, but I am happy and focused in club football," said Wenger.

"I have one more year to go with Arsenal and I have been with them for a long time."

"I have always respected all my contracts and will continue to do that."

"What will I do after that? Honestly, I don't know."

Wenger said he was shell-shocked by England's demise to Iceland, but sensed in the 2-1 defeat they were not going to overturn the deficit. "England is my second country," he said. "I was absolutely on my knees when England went out against Iceland. I couldn't believe it."

"But when you watched the game you could sense, after 60 minutes, that the worst could happen."

"Did they panic or were they tired? I don't know, but England couldn't find an answer to what Iceland posed."



**BAYERN MUNICH** midfielder Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg is set to join Southampton for £12.8million. Sadio Mane, Victor Wanyama and Juanmi have left St Mary's this summer, with striker Graziano Pelle expected to complete a £13m move to China. Nathan Redmond has arrived from Norwich and Denmark international Hojbjerg, 20, is set to become the first signing under new manager Claude Puel.





PRIZE GUY: Noren celebrates

## Noren has a day to remember

ALEX NOREN gave himself the perfect early birthday present by holding his nerve to claim a fifth European Tour title in the Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open yesterday.

The Swede, who turns 34 tomorrow, carded a closing 70 at Castle Stuart to finish 14 under and a shot ahead of England's Tyrrell Hatton, who birdied the last to complete a 69 and secure second place.

Belgium's Nicolas Colsaerts, Italy's Matteo Manassero and New Zealand's Danny Lee shared third on 12 under, with Scotland's Richie Ramsay and England's Andy Sullivan a shot further back.

Hatton, Colsaerts, Manassero and Ramsay also secured the four qualifying places on offer in this week's Open Championship for players not otherwise exempt who finished inside the top 12.

"I'm so happy it's over because it was a tough, tough leaderboard. It was just not a cruising win at all," said Noren, who had been the 54-hole leader for each of his previous four wins on the circuit.

"Thinking about it this morning, how much it would mean, then it feels like miles away and now when it happens, it just feels unbelievable.

"I'll just try to enjoy this. I know how tough this game is and I'm really happy to get a win."

After extending his two-shot overnight lead with a birdie on the second, Noren failed to make the most of several other good opportunities before just his fourth bogey of the week on the eighth allowed Lee to draw level.

An eagle followed by three birdies in succession had lifted Colsaerts to within a shot of the lead alongside Hatton and Manassero, but Noren edged back in front with a two-putt birdie from long range on the par-five 12th and produced a superb approach to five feet on the 15th to set up another.

That restored a two-shot cushion which proved enough to secure a hard-fought win and a rise from 99th in the world rankings to inside the top 50.

Ramsay was delighted to secure his sixth appearance in the Open, having had a baby daughter, Olivia, in February.

"It's huge," he said. "I've played it a few times before and I don't think I've done myself justice, but this time we have our little daughter to take along. I think she'll enjoy her first major. It is a great feeling when you're playing well in front of a home crowd on a great course."

**FULLY FOCUSED:**  
Rory McIlroy says he has come to love links golf  
Picture: RICHARD MARTIN-ROBERTS



## Claret Jug has never been far from Rory's thoughts

THE Claret Jug is precious to Rory McIlroy, so much so that wherever his globetrotting life takes him he rarely allows the most evocative piece of silverware in the sport out of his sight.

Zach Johnson is the defending champion at Troon this week but McIlroy also has a claim on that status having won the Open last time he played in the event in 2014.

An ankle ligament injury suffered playing football sidelined him from St Andrews last year. Lesson learnt, there have been no costly kickabouts this year. McIlroy is primed and ready to go on Thursday in pursuit of the trophy he treasures above all others.

"I've got four Claret Jugs," he said. "The main one is in my home in Florida, while I ordered three mini-replicas. JP Fitzgerald, my caddie, has one. My mum and dad have one and there's one in my apartment in Northern Ireland."

"The good thing, though, is that if I am at home in either Florida or Northern Ireland the Claret Jug is never too far away from me."

"You look at it and your first thoughts

are seeing all the names, you think of the history of the championship."

"Seeing my name there on the Claret Jug really cements your name in history given all the championships and tournaments we play. I am very proud to be an Open champion."

McIlroy's relationship with the sport's greatest championship, one he describes accurately as "unpredictable", has not always been an easy one. His exasperation

By **Neil Squires**  
Golf Correspondent

after being blown off course at Royal St George's in 2011, when he admitted he was not a fan of tournaments where the outcome is predicted so much by the weather, spoke of a deep frustration that his own regal gifts could be neutered by anything so random as the conditions.

At that point in his career he would rather the Open was played under a closed roof, but slowly McIlroy has grown to accept its capricious nature, its natural ebbs and flows and the mental fortitude that is required when the tee times fall badly.

"The fact that it is played on a links course and the course can play so different from day to day, that is the real uniqueness about the Open," he said.

"At the Open I have often been thankful for the tee times I am given but then, over the course of the four days, conditions sort of even out for everyone. There's also that links terrain, the wind and sometimes the rain, as they can all play a massive factor."

McIlroy has been commuting by helicopter from his Northern Ireland base to practise at Troon over the last week, familiarising himself with a course that provided some of his formative Open memories.

"One of the first I remember watching on TV was at Troon in 1997 and seeing how well Darren Clarke played. Everyone back home in Northern Ireland was very excited about that," he said.

"The first Open Championship I went to was in 2004 at Royal Troon as I played in the Junior Open Championship up the road at Kilmarnock and the organisers took us down to watch the Open."

"Holding the winning putt at Hoylake was the realisation of a long goal I had since I was first introduced to the Open."

He comes into his eighth Open off a season of consistent excellence but one notable blowout. In a year which has brought nine top-10s in 14 events, last month's missed cut at the US Open at Oakmont jarred horribly.

"It was very disappointing to miss the cut at the US Open and forgo a chance to win another Major but at the same time I had to address a few things. It was almost like it needed to happen just to make a few changes where they were needed," said McIlroy.

"I needed to go back to the drawing board a little bit and work on a few things."



**TOP TROPHY:**  
McIlroy with the Jug in 2014





# WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS LEGENDS TIED ON 22 SLAMS

Main picture: ANDY RAIN

**OUR veteran of SW19 NIGEL CLARKE considers the achievements, and the legacy, of Serena Williams after she matched Steffi Graf's Open era record**

SOMETIMES, when her guard is down, Serena Williams' mask can slip.

That expression of indifference, boredom even, like she would rather not be bothered with people from outside her back-up team, camouflages an emotional girl whose heart yearns to be something other than the best tennis player of all time.

That is what she is being labelled now after winning Wimbledon for a seventh time. It was her 22nd Grand Slam title, and she has now tied with Steffi Graf, the two women who have shaped the history of the game since the Open era began in 1968 now sharing the honours board.

Who is the better champion? Serena, the strong-arm girl who flaunts her physical advantages? Or Steffi, the woman named Fraulein Forehand because of her heavy hitting.

Winning is more of a drug for Williams than it was for Graf. It consumes her at an age - she is now 34 - when she might otherwise embrace a private life.

"Nobody ever sends me a bouquet of flowers," she once said rather wistfully. She does not have many suitors, does not embrace a social scene. Tennis has taken over her life, leaving no room for something, or somebody, who could appreciate her self-professed "caring" nature.

That nature is not apparent when she detonates her explosive serve at 125mph, or hits crunching cross-court winners with such snarling intensity.

Graf was a better mover. She was all grace and style, a serve-and-volley expert who would come in behind her forehand to dominate the net.

She also had a wicked one-handed backhand slice that was sometimes impossible to pick up.

Racket technology has changed much, and Graf would have benefited from more sophisticated equipment that would have consolidated her weaponry. Williams would not have matched her speed about the court,

## Serena the best? Steffi still reigns supreme

nor her cold-eyed focus. In 1999, aged 30, injury forced Graf into retirement. How much more could Graf have achieved had she stayed fit?

Graf was the ultimate athlete, strong enough to run 800m, good enough to train with the German track and field Olympic team. She paired her natural ability at tennis with good hands and superb feet. I once took the late England football captain Bobby Moore court-side to study her. She was always moving. He was fascinated by her foot movement, the way she got up on her toes to be perfectly balanced.

Williams would have the edge on power, and court craft gained from being a title-winning doubles player. Graf would blunt that with her speed and a natural instinct to get to the net. Few women have matched Williams' service power. She claimed the Wimbledon crown by hitting 74 aces,

**SEVEN UP: Steffi Graf won her seventh title at Wimbledon in 1996**

more than any other competitor, 13 alone in Saturday's final triumph over Angelique Kerber.

Until other distractions invade her life Williams will continue the push the boundaries. She wants more from tennis. "I feel like when you're great you are greedy because you want to keep going back to the table," she said. "You want to eat more and eat more and eat more. You don't ever get enough."

"Even in putting your career first you have to be really selfish and greedy, it is what it is, I come first and that's what needs to be done in order for me to be the best."

Martina Navratilova has her fans in the eternal debate. She was the supreme serve-and-volleyer, a majestic player with massive authority, and can lay claim to being the best ever because as well as nine Wimbledon singles titles, she was a doubles expert too.

And what of Chris Evert, the Florida baseliner who brought a new authority and discipline to the game?

"I knew I was on borrowed time when Steffi cleaned my clock," she once said. I agree. Williams is a great player but Graf was greater, the complete athlete, the ultimate female player. Williams may well overtake her record, but she will never overtake her as the supreme superstar of her sport.



**POWER GAME:** Williams would have the edge in strength, but Clarke believes Graf was the better player

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# WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS SCOT LIFTS HIS SECOND TITLE



WATSON: Mixed results

## Watson dream is now reality

HEATHER WATSON became the first British woman since Jo Durie in 1987 to lift a senior Wimbledon title.

Watson mirrored Durie's mixed doubles success with a 7-6, 6-4 win alongside Henri Kontinen of Finland against Robert Farah and Anna-Lena Groenefeld.

She said: "Who would have thought after such a horrible first-round loss, I'd be here as a champion? I'm just so freaking happy - we're Grand Slam champions, Wimbledon champions."

"It has been a dream of mine since I was a little girl. I would take anything - singles, doubles, mixed doubles - and I've got one of those now."

There was further British success in the wheelchair events, although it emerged the LTA had hardly covered themselves in glory in achieving it.

Gordon Reid beat Stefan Olsson 6-1, 6-4 in the inaugural men's wheelchair singles competition but only after moving digs on the eve of his match due to partying neighbours making too much noise.

What makes it worse is that his chosen accommodation for the Wimbledon campaign was none other than the National Tennis Centre at Roehampton, the LTA's luxurious base.

"I was staying at the National Tennis Centre the last two weeks," said Reid. "There was a party on last night that went on till 1am. I ended up moving hotels at 10pm last night and escaped the noise."

"It wasn't ideal. I didn't have a great sleep - a bit of a restless one." Jordanne Whiley had failed to claim the very first women's wheelchair singles event but had some consolation with the doubles crown alongside Yui Kamiji.

MATTHEW DUNN



MATTHEW DUNN reports

WE TAKE achievements from Andy Murray for granted these days that would seem nigh on impossible for any other British man.

Seventy-seven years the country waited for somebody capable of winning the men's singles final at Wimbledon; he's now done it twice in four years.

Not only did he become the first person at Wimbledon to get his racket to a 147mph-plus serve, he actually won the point.

For three nights leading up to yesterday's final, he had helped persuade his five-month-old daughter Sophia to sleep through the night - a fact that clearly impressed the Duke of Cambridge, who is presumably experiencing rather less joy with Princess Charlotte even with a Royal decree at his disposal.

"Perhaps that was a lucky omen." His Royal Highness suggested to Murray wistfully as the new Wimbledon champion made his way through the Royal Box reception area with the gleaming gold trophy cradled in his arms.

Murray even drew some emotion from Ivan Lendl - a half-smile on court during his victory speech and, according to the rumour spreading quickly around SW19, a few private tears. Some things truly are impossible, though, and the Scot drew the line at leading the country into Brexit.

"The Prime Minister of the country is here," he told Centre Court at his presentation ceremony.

"Playing at a Wimbledon final is tough and I certainly wouldn't want to be Prime Minister, it's a tough job."

After taking just two hours and forty-seven minutes to surrender his own vote to remain, Milos Raonic could have been forgiven for wishing any other occupation on his opponent than professional tennis player.

Not even Roger Federer has been able to stand up to the Canadian's awesome power this week, but even in a straightforward 6-4, 7-6, 7-6 win you felt Murray still had somewhere



higher to go should he need it. Take that 147mph serve, for instance. It was 4-4 in the second set and Raonic was going for it.

Taylor Dent still holds the record for the fastest Wimbledon serve from 2010 - a 148mph ace past Novak Djokovic. This Raonic effort was joint second with the one Sam Groth hit at Roger Federer in 2012 - another ace.

Murray, though, moves quickly and faced by his own 147mph missile, he duly returned the ball to within two feet of the baseline. Raonic played it deep into Murray's backhand corner

**HOLD TIGHT:** Murray just won't let that Wimbledon trophy go, left, as he punches the air in delight, and right, showing the steely resolve that helped him become the champion once again



and the Scot drilled a cross-court winner for break point.

Luckily for Raonic, Murray did not convert it. Indeed, it was only when it came to the tiebreaks that decided the final two sets that the gulf in class was more truly reflected in the scoreline.

Each time Murray raced to seven points while Raonic mustered just three and two respectively. The moment he stepped into the shootout, the British No1 simply stepped it up a gear.

Murray's game plan was always going to be to defend and not necessarily attack - although the venom in some of his backhand passes had the crowd purring with excited pleasure.

Twelve unforced errors in the entire match and just one service game that went as far as deuce are measures of how comfortably Murray carried out his mission.

From the moment he had walked onto the court, cunningly stepping back two paces on approach to let Raonic feel the full blast of the Centre Court roar on his own, the world No2

was the man in control. By contrast, Raonic's game plan was soon creaking. He knew he needed to dominate play, but approached the net with the trepidation of a man who had the echoes of coach John McEnroe's barked instructions still ringing in his ears.

Raonic at times made life difficult for Murray by putting away volleys confidently, but any reticence was punished immediately. More time working with McEnroe will smooth out those wrinkles and Raonic could yet be the one to break up the current four-way dominance of the game.

Such is their stranglehold that this was the first Wimbledon final for six years in which both participants were not drawn from the sport's Fab Four.

On paper, with hindsight, it may look like an 'easy' Grand Slam victory in the list of however many Murray goes on to win.

Sat at home, Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal will no doubt have tuned in to events from SW19 but, with Murray in this mood, not one of them would have relished being here in Raonic's place.

[@MattDunnExpress](#)



CZECH MATE: Ivan Lendl has helped to restore calm

## Return of impassive Ivan has cooled the

By Tony Banks

SOMEONE asked Andy Murray if he was Britain's last hope of a good summer after England's dismal exit from Euro 2016 and the collapse of our politics.

"It's not that bad, is it?" he replied with a grin. "I'm not our last hope. I just try my best to make the people who watch happy."

Murray will never be completely relaxed, totally at ease or totally crowd-pleasing. It is not in his nature. But this is still a new, more textured, more philosophical Murray.

Unlike on that tension-strung afternoon when he first won Wimbledon three years ago, he is now married with a four-month-old girl.

He has perspective; he is aware that other things matter. And yesterday, as

he swept aside the gallant Milos Raonic on Centre Court to win his second title at the All England Club and his third Grand Slam, the Murray camp was a picture of serenity.

In 2013 there was so much pressure, so much expectation, and Murray had gone into the tournament pleading for some bias from the home fans, some fervour.

This, however, was relatively straightforward,

his progress through the rounds relatively smooth.

And in the final he was always the better player, always had something in reserve, another gear - although the talented 25-year-old from Canada never forced him to use it.

The return of Ivan Lendl is key to the restored sense of calm in the Murray box. Before yesterday's match, Tim Henman spoke of a new tranquillity around Team Murray. The Scot's



## WITH THREE-SET CRUISE OVER RAONIC TO SHOW HE'S THE DADDY NOW

Pictures: JULIAN FINNEY, CLIVE BRUNSKILL, ADAM DAVY and JORDAN MANSFIELD

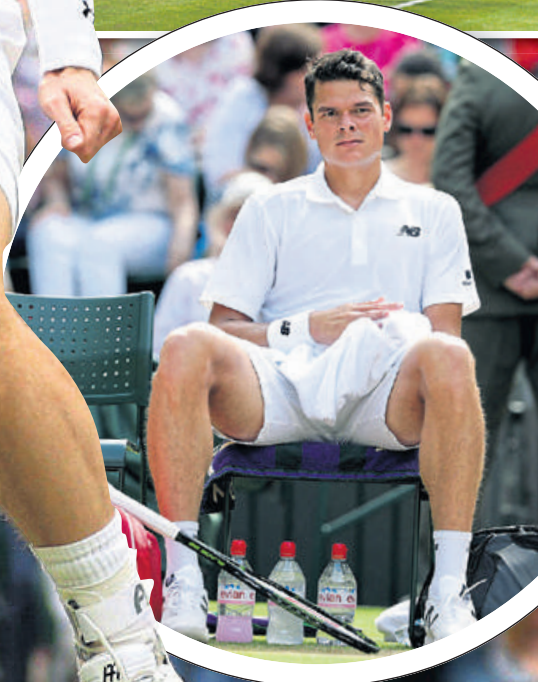
## command show



**ROAR EMOTION:** Murray lets out a victory yell as he celebrates a second singles title, as, inset, Raonic reflects



**HANDS ON:** Andy Murray shakes on it with Raonic after his victory



**BUBBLY:** Kim Murray

**'Best is still to come for me'**

#### FROM BACK PAGE

said: "I feel like my best tennis is ahead of me. I have an opportunity to win more.

"Everyone's time comes at different stages. Hopefully mine is still to come.

"The last three months have been some of the best tennis I have played. I have made the finals of the last five tournaments. I haven't done that before in my career."

Murray, who will make a final decision today on whether he plays in Great Britain's Davis Cup tie in Serbia, which starts on Friday, said: "It does feel different to when I won Wimbledon in 2013. I feel happier this time, more content.

"I feel like this was more for myself. Last time it was just pure relief, and I didn't really enjoy the moment as much. This time I am going to make sure that I enjoy this one more than the others. I want to spend this time with my family and closest friends."

Murray was never really in danger against the 25-year-old Canadian, but he said: "I was still nervous but I stuck to my game plan. I'm just really proud that I managed to win Wimbledon again."

Raonic, who was appearing in his first Grand Slam final, said: "I did the best I could. I tried to put together what I could, but it just didn't work out."

Murray's wife Kim, watching courtside, was one of the first to crack open the champagne afterwards.

Told that a fan had come to the final just days after being released from hospital with a crushed pelvis, Murray said: "Firstly, hopefully he's OK - and get back on the morphine!"

"Hearing those stories I feel happy and proud. The support I had throughout the two weeks was amazing."

#### ROLL OF HONOUR

**Men's Singles final:** (2) A Murray (Gbr) bt (6) M Raonic (Can) 6-4 7-6 (7-3) 7-6 (7-2).

**Women's Singles final:** (1) S Williams (USA) bt (4) A Kerber (Ger) 7-5 6-3.

**Men's Doubles final:** (1) P Herbert (Fra) & N Mahut (Fra) bt J Benneteau (Fra) & E Roger-Vasselin (Fra) 6-4 7-6 (7-1) 6-3.

**Women's Doubles final:** S Williams (USA) & V Williams (USA) bt (5) T Babos (Hun) & Y Shvedova (Kaz) 6-3 6-4.

**Mixed Doubles final:** H Kontinen (Fin) & H Watson (Gbr) bt (15) R Farah (Col) & A Groenefeld (Ger) 7-6 (7-5) 6-4.

**Boys' Singles final:** (5) D Shapovalov (Can) bt (7) A De Minaur (Aus) 4-6 6-1 6-3.

**Boys' Doubles final:** (2) K Ralsma (Est) & S Tsitsipas (Gre) bt (1) F Auger-Aliassime (Can) & D Shapovalov (Can) 4-6 6-4 6-2.

**Girls' Singles final:** (4) A Potapova (Rus) bt (7) D Yastremska (Ukr) 6-4 6-3.

**Girls' Doubles final:** (4) U Maitane Arconada (USA) & C Liu (USA) bt M Bolkvadze (Geo) & C McNally (USA) 6-2 6-3.

**Men's Over 35 Doubles final:** G Rusedski (Gbr) & F Santoro (Fra) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) & T Johansson (Swe) 7-5 6-1.

**Men's Over 45 Doubles final:** T Woodbridge (Aus) & M Woodforde (Aus) bt J Eltingh (Ned) & P Haarhuis (Ned) 6-2 7-5.

**Women's Over 35 Doubles final:** M Navratilova (USA) & S Sfar (Tun) bt L Davenport (USA) & M Joe Fernandez (USA) 7-6 (7-5) ret.

**Men's Wheelchair Singles final:** G Reid (GB) bt S Olsson (Swe) 6-1 6-4.

**Women's Wheelchair Singles final:** (1) J Griffioen (Hol) bt A Van Koot (Hol) 4-6 6-0 6-4.

**Men's Wheelchair Doubles final:** (2) A Hewett (GB) & G Reid (GB) bt (1) S Houdet (Fra) & N Peifer (Fra) 4-6 6-1 7-6.

**Women's Wheelchair Doubles final:** (1) Y Kamiji (Jap) & J Whiley (GB) bt (2) J Griffioen (Hol) & A Van Koot (Hol) 6-2 6-2.

## heat on Andy

previous coach Amelie Mauresmo cited "disconcerting" behaviour on court as one reason for her departure in May. There had been more rows and more explosions then. But the calm was back yesterday.

In the third-set tiebreak that settled the match, as Murray crashed home a smash to go 5-0

ahead, almost all of his clan rose, fists were clenched, air punched. Lendl sat, still as a statue, stern and motionless under his white baseball cap. Mind you, when he rose at one point appearing to head for the toilet, he got a yell from Murray to sit down - so that might explain his immobility.

As Murray went 6-1 up, the great Czech, leaning forward over the edge of the

box, allowed himself a clap. Again, the rest were going barmy. Murray's wife Kim is always one for the yell and the clenched fist of triumph - even the ironic T-shirt on occasion.

Only when it was done did Lendl crack, and there appeared to be tears in his eyes as Murray celebrated. Right from the start it was clear his calm had rubbed off on his pupil.

Murray, favourite for the first time going into his 11th

Grand Slam final, was coolness personified. He made Raonic wait at the breaks and played the game at his own pace.

Raonic, showing the signs of coach John McEnroe's work, kept charging into the net to hustle Murray, harry him out of his rhythm. It was brave - but it did not work.

Too many volleys went into the net, too many times he was picked off as Murray went around and by him.

At one point, Murray successfully fended off a serve that had registered at 147mph. Raonic, so dominant on serve and in a tiebreak, had met his match. His own serve was pressured, picked apart.

Raonic is not a percentage player - he goes for his shots. Too many hit the net or flew wide. Murray - older, wiser - was much more certain. Much more calm. The character of a champion.



# Hamilton on a victory charge

LEWIS HAMILTON'S nerves of steel earned a commanding win over arch-rival Nico Rosberg at a rain-affected British Grand Prix that cut the German's lead in the championship to just one point.

The world champion delivered a fearless display of front-running to register his third successive Silverstone victory ahead of Rosberg, whose bad day got worse with a 10-second post-race penalty, which dropped him to third behind Max Verstappen.

Rosberg, booed as he emerged on the podium for the presentation ceremony, was relegated four hours after the finish by stewards for

By Neil Squires

improper use of the car radio when he developed a gearbox problem five laps from the end.

Rosberg still holds the lead but the momentum is all with Hamilton, who has cut his Mercedes team-mate's lead from 43 points earlier in the season.

"I'm catching him so let's keep going," said a jubilant Hamilton. "I've won four of the last five and I plan to continue."

"I was never under threat from either of the guys behind me. If I had ever needed to turn it up there was

**TURN TO P49, COL 2**



GREAT BRITON: Hamilton flew the flag at Silverstone

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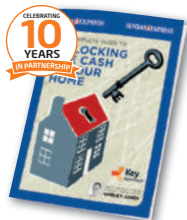
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## Tears and cheers

CRISTIANO RONALDO was carried off in tears last night in the Euro 2016 final but Portugal's "warriors" rallied to beat hosts France in honour of their talisman.

Ronaldo had been hurt in a clash with Dimitri Payet but still managed to join in the celebrations after substitute Eder scored the winner to give Portugal their first

**TURN TO PAGE 51, COLUMN 3**

# MURRAY IN FULL CRY



## Best yet to come for Andy

ANDY MURRAY insisted this could be his era and his best is yet to come after scorching to his second Wimbledon title.

Murray brushed aside Milos Raonic 6-4, 7-6, 7-6 to win his third Grand Slam, and broke down in tears of joy on Centre Court, saying: "This one is for

By Tony Banks

me." He became the first British man to register multiple Wimbledon titles since Fred Perry, having only fallen at the final hurdle in the Australian and French Opens this year.

He hurled his racket into the crowd as he celebrated and

**TURN TO PAGE 55, COLUMN 6**

**SECOND THAT EMOTION: Andy Murray is overcome after winning Wimbledon again**

Published by Express Newspapers, The Northern & Shell Building, Number 10 Lower Thames Street, London, EC3A 6PP. Printed by West Fries Press Ltd, Unit A & B, Kingston Road, Luton, LU2 0TA. Distribution: Express, Virginian, Lark, Chatterbox, Sheffield, 252, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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