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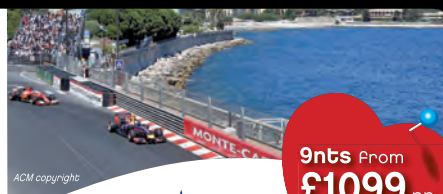


2017 MSC CRUISE AND MONACO GRAND PRIX

MSC Armonia/Splendida

Itin 1 / Armonia: Fly UK to Milan, Transfer to Genoa and embark ship, 7nt cruise to Marseille, Mahon, Cagliari, Valletta, Messina, Naples, Genoa. Transfer to San Remo For 2nt stay (Monaco Grand Prix™). Transfer to Milan For Flight back to UK

Itin 2 / Splendida: Fly UK to Milan, Transfer to Genoa and embark ship, 7nt cruise to Civitavecchia, Palermo, Cagliari, Palma de Mallorca, Valencia, Marseille, Genoa. Transfer to San Remo For 2nt stay (Monaco Grand Prix™). Transfer to Milan For Flight back to UK



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Departure Date	Itin	Inside	Outside	Balcony
20 May 2017	1	fr £1099	fr £1199	fr £1299
20 May 2017	2	fr £1199	fr £1299	fr £1399



ELVIS, NEW ORLEANS & CARIBBEAN CRUISE

Carnival Dream

Fly to Memphis For a 3nt stay at the Heartbreak Hotel - Board Amtrak For scenic train journey from Memphis, following the Mississippi, to New Orleans - Stay 3nts, then board Carnival Dream For a 7 night Full board Caribbean cruise - Overnight Flight back to UK From New Orleans (regional air on request)



14nts From
£1499 pp

INCLUDES 3 NIGHTS IN BOTH MEMPHIS & NEW ORLEANS, FREE GRACELAND TICKETS, SCENIC TRAIN JOURNEY & CARIBBEAN CRUISE

Departure Dates	Inside	Outside	Balcony
September - October 2016	fr £1599	fr £1749	fr £1899
November - December 2016	fr £1499	fr £1649	fr £1799
January - December 2017	fr £1599	fr £1749	fr £1899



SINGAPORE STAY AND FAR EAST CRUISE

Diamond Princess

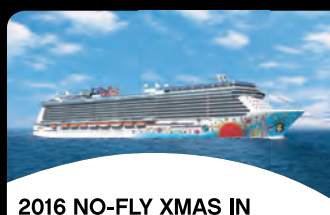
Fly to Singapore For a 2 night stay at the Holiday Inn Clarke Quay. Board Diamond Princess and cruise to Kota Kinabalu, Nha Trang, Ho Chi Minh City, Sihanoukville, Bangkok, Ko Samui, Penang, Langkawi, Kuala Lumpur; Singapore. Fly back to UK



18nts From
£1999 pp

PRICES INCLUDES 2 NIGHTS IN SINGAPORE AND FLIGHTS FROM EITHER LONDON OR MANCHESTER

Departure Date	Inside	Outside	Balcony
5 February 2017	fr £1999	fr £2299	fr £2499



2016 NO-FLY XMAS IN NEW YORK & NEW YEAR CARIBBEAN

Queen Mary 2 & Norwegian Breakaway

Embark QM2 in Southampton For 7 night voyage to New York. On arrival enjoy a 4 night hotel stay for shopping and Xmas in the Big Apple. Board Norwegian Breakaway For 7 night cruise to Port Canaveral (Orlando), Great Stirrup Cay (Bahamas), Nassau (Bahamas), New York For further 1 night stay. Board QM2 For 7 night voyage back to Southampton



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2017 XMAS AND NEW YEAR CRUISE ALSO ON SALE. 26 NIGHTS FROM £2399PP. QUEEN MARY 2 AND NCL GEM. ASK FOR FULL DETAILS.

Departure Date	Inside	Outside	Balcony
15 December 2016	fr £2099	fr £2499	fr £2799

ABTA ASTA No L8484 Y3213 Prices are per person, based on 2 sharing. Prices applicable to selected departures & to new bookings only. Credit card charge 2%. Transfers are not included unless stated otherwise. Flights are based on London Airports. Regional airports available at a supplement. Adore Cruises are not an official FI retailer. If Monaco Grand Prix™ does not go ahead on date is changed due to unforeseen circumstances, the rest of the holiday will still operate without the Grand Prix™. Further T&Cs apply.

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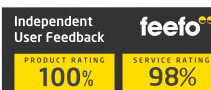
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ISLANDS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN
& ZANZIBAR AT CHRISTMAS16 NIGHTS DEPARTING 13TH DECEMBER 2017

DECEMBER 2017

- Wed 13 **Fly from London Gatwick or Manchester to Port Louis, Mauritius**
- Thu 14 **Port Louis, Mauritius**
Upon arrival transfer to the port and embark *Boudicca* for your 14 night voyage beginning with an overnight stay on board
- Fri 15 **Port Louis, Mauritius**
- Mon 18 **Praslin Island, Seychelles**
A stop here will provide you with ample opportunity to relax on the stunning white beaches and if you tire of the languid lifestyle, then lush tropical rainforests are simply calling out to be explored
Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles (arrive late night - overnight stay on board)
- Tue 19 **Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles**
You can enjoy the local bustling market, art galleries, botanical gardens and contrast of colonial buildings set against modern architecture
- Fri 22 **Zanzibar, Tanzania**
- Sun 24 **Mamoudzou, Mayotte, Comoros**
- Mon 25 **★ Spend CHRISTMAS DAY relaxing at sea ★**
Enjoy a traditional Christmas Day at sea complete with all the trimmings
- Tue 26 **★ Spend BOXING DAY relaxing at sea ★**
- Wed 27 **Port Reunion, Reunion Island**
- Thu 28 **Port Louis, Mauritius**
Disembark and transfer to the airport for your flight to London Gatwick or Manchester
- Fri 29 **Arrive London Gatwick or Manchester**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

YOUR INCREDIBLE READER OFFERS LTD PRICES

ROOM	READER OFFERS LTD PRICE (PP)
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Ocean View	£3,299
Superior Ocean View	£3,799
Suite	£4,549
Single	£4,249

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We are delighted to present readers with the chance to be one of the first to book these two exceptional festive cruises to the Islands of the Indian Ocean or Madagascar and South Africa over the festive period. On sale today, you can book an escape to sun, sea and sand to spend the latter part of the year enjoying incomparable ports of call such as sun-kissed Praslin Island, unspoilt Victoria, stunning Richards Bay and incomparable Cape Town. Plus with incredible added benefits such as free on board spending money and the option to add an all-inclusive drinks package, you really could be enjoying the 'most wonderful time of the year' basking under the sun. Rooms are going to sell fast on these stunning itineraries so please do not delay and call Reader Offers Ltd today to secure your preferred room!

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 - All evening entertainment, including dancing and cabaret shows
 - A choice of daytime activities
 - Leisure facilities including gym, swimming pools and Jacuzzis
- **PLUS**, book an Ocean View Room or above by 8pm 22nd July 2016 to receive a free Regency Hamper*


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UP TO 9,098**
**CRUISE
MILES†**

when booking one of these cruises - Ask for more information

MADAGASCAR, MOZAMBIQUE &
SOUTH AFRICA AT NEW YEAR16 NIGHTS DEPARTING 27TH DECEMBER 2017

DECEMBER 2017

- Wed 27 **Fly from London Gatwick or Manchester to Port Louis, Mauritius**
- Thu 28 **Port Louis, Mauritius**
Upon arrival transfer to the port and embark *Boudicca* for your 14 night voyage beginning with an overnight stay on board
- Fri 29 **Port Louis, Mauritius**
The grandest architecture reflects the island's early colonial history, while it's also bustling with modern concepts including Le Caudan Waterfront. The Place d'Armes is an excellent starting point, with palm-lined streets leading to Government House
- Sat 30 **Port Reunion, Reunion Island**
- Sun 31 **★ Spend NEW YEARS EVE relaxing at sea ★**
- JANUARY 2018**
- Tue 2 **Toliara (Tuléar), Madagascar**
- Thu 4 **Maputo, Mozambique**
- Fri 5 **Richards Bay, South Africa** (depart late night)
- Sun 7 **Port Elizabeth, South Africa**
- Mon 8 **Mossel Bay, South Africa**
- Tue 9 - Wed 10 **Cape Town, South Africa** (two night stay on board)
Ascend Table Mountain by cable car and enjoy breathtaking views, surrounding suburbs and the Atlantic Ocean. Discover the historic Malay Quarter of Bo Kaap, with its cobbled streets and brightly coloured buildings
- Thu 11 **Cape Town, South Africa**
Disembark and transfer to the airport for your overnight flight to London Gatwick or Manchester
- Fri 12 **Arrive London Gatwick or Manchester**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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ROOM	READER OFFERS LTD PRICE (PP)
Interior	£2,999
Ocean View	£3,299
Superior Ocean View	£3,799
Suite	£4,549
Single	£4,249

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Prices are per person based on two adults sharing a room, except single rooms and on flights from/to London Gatwick or Manchester. Rooms, flights and transfers are subject to availability at the time of booking. Reader Offers Ltd prices may be withdrawn at any time. Booking conditions of Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines and Reader Offers Ltd Agency Terms of Business apply. These offers apply to new bookings only. Some ports may be at anchor. Prices are capacity controlled and may increase at any time. Itineraries are subject to change. Flights may be indirect and are subject to availability. Reader Offers Ltd is an independent cruise retailer, company number 03036965 and has its own ABTA licence No. F9255 - W6277. *On board spend is per room based on two adults sharing, is for Ocean View Rooms and above and amount is tiered depending on grade of room and voyage booked. **The Enjoyment Promise is only applicable to guests who have not cruised on a Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines ("FOCL") ship before. It excludes Party Nights and cruises of 4 nights or less. The promise only applies to bookings made for departures more than 12 weeks ahead. The Enjoyment Promise only applies to passengers who have contracted with FOCL and excludes cruises on vessels operated by FOCL but booked through 3rd Party operators. Should you wish to invoke the Enjoyment Promise, you will need to inform Guest Relations within 48 hours of sailing at the latest. FOCL will arrange and pay for a flight and/or transport back to the UK. FOCL will refund the cruise cost only but will not refund other costs. **Drinks package is £29pp per night, is available on request, will exclude some premium wines, liquors, cocktails and mini-bar products and further terms and conditions apply. *Book an Ocean View Room or above by 8pm 22nd July 2016 to receive a Regency Hamper, is subject to availability, based on one per booking and for mainland UK addresses only. †Maximum Cruise Miles earning value is based on two adults sharing the highest grade advertised. Cruise Miles can only be redeemed on future bookings with Reader Offers Ltd. Normal Cruise Miles terms and conditions apply. E&OE

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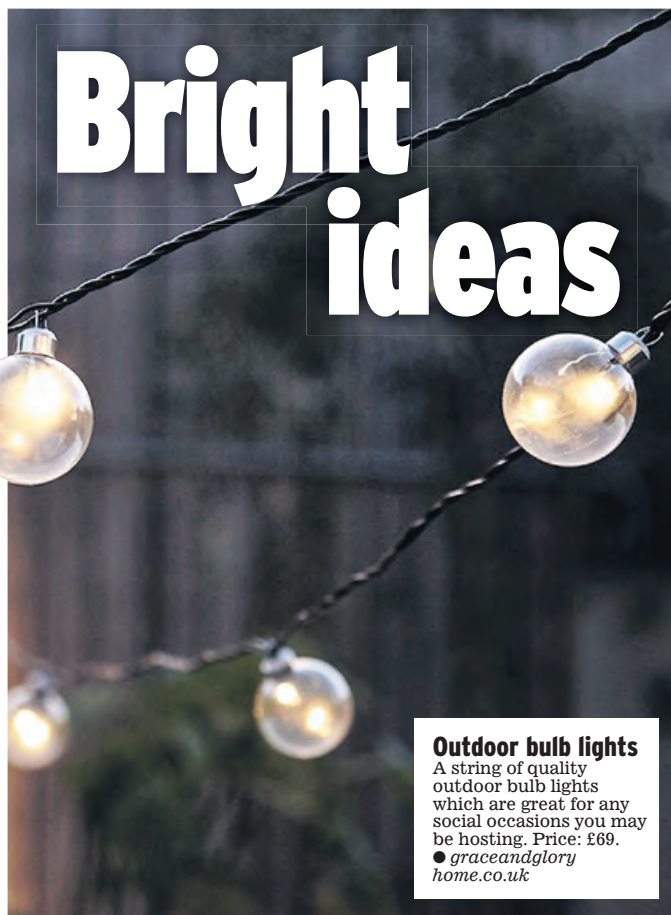
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Besselink & Jones is a British company which has been bringing together the best in design and craftsmanship in bespoke fine lighting since 1959. Price: £1,049. ● besselink.com

Copper globe lantern

Glass lantern with an antiqued copper coloured metal frame, and a removable tea light holder for ease of lighting. Price: £34.95. ● miafleurfleur.com



Bright ideas



Outdoor bulb lights

A string of quality outdoor bulb lights which are great for any social occasions you may be hosting. Price: £69. ● graceandgloryhome.co.uk

Tea light chandelier

A gorgeous item for a warm summer night outside, able to hold 12 lights in total. Price: £40. ● theorchardhomeandgifts.com



Prices subject to change

Brass lanterns

Made from zinc with a brass coloured coating, and with a hinged glass door to protect the candle from the elements. Price: £36. ● miafleurfleur.com



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I intend to conduct on or from the premises the following licensable activities:
On & off sale and supply of alcohol, provision of live & recorded music.

I propose to conduct the said licensable activities subject to the following terms:
Monday - Saturday 9:00 to 23:00,
Sunday 12:00 to 23:00.

Interested parties or responsible authorities (within the meaning of the Act) may make written representations to Leeds City Council about this application until 2nd August 2016 which should be sent to the following address:
Entertainment Licensing Section, Leeds City Council, Civic Hall, Leeds, LS1 1UR.

For full details and to view a copy of the application please contact the Entertainment Licensing Section on telephone number 0113 3785029 or email entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on conviction for this offence is a fine not exceeding £5,000.

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Edited by DAVID SHAND

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STOCK MARKET		
BATS 100	11310.0	▼ -9.0
BATS 250	15229.5	▲ +103.1
FTSE 100	6680.7	▼ -2.2
FTSE 250	16807.1	▲ +100.7
FTSE ALL SHARE	3613.7	▲ +2.6
Shares Traded	4308.7 million	

POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE

Aviva	381½	+15½
Barclays	148½	+3¼
BP	461½	+2¼
BT Group	406½	+9¼
Int Consolidated Airlines	410	+19¼
Lloyds Banking Group	56¼	+1½
Marks & Spencer Group	334¼	+5
Royal Bank of Scotland	182	+2¼
Royal Mail	499½	+½
Sainsbury (J)	230¼	+3
Sky	882	+10
Standard Life	283	+6¼
Tesco	169¼	+4½

POPULAR SHARES UNCHANGED

Rolls-Royce Holdings	724	
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POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE

AstraZeneca	4476	-80
BAE Systems	541	-4½
Centrica	227½	-4½
GlaxoSmithKline	1639	-23½
HSBC Holdings	476¼	-2¼
National Grid	1092½	-25
Royal Dutch Shell 'B'	2130½	-4½
Unilever	3586	-70
Vodafone Group	227½	-2¼

WORLD MARKETS

WALL STREET	18347.67	▲ +120.74
TOKYO	16095.6	▲ +386.8
HONG KONG	21224.7	▲ +344.2
GERMANY	9964.1	▲ +130.7
FRANCE	4331.4	▲ +66.9

STERLING VALUE

Dollar	1.328	▲ +0.028
Yen	139.395	▲ +5.770
Euro	1.198	▲ +0.022

DOLLAR VALUE

Dollar/Yen	104.954	▲ +2.1539
Dollar/Euro	0.902	▼ -0.0024

COMMODITIES

GOLD(\$)	▼ 1342.40
KRUGERAND(E)	▼ 1000.34
SILVER(pence)	▼ 1532.21
BRENT CRUDE(\$)	▲ 48.36

OTHER INDICATORS

Base rate	0.50%
Halifax mortgage rate	3.99%
Retail Price Index	+1.4 (CPI +0.3%)
House price Index	+9.0%
Unemployment	1,713,000

LIVESTOCK

Total Cattle: (pence per kg)	181.54 up 31.77
NSL + OSI Lamb: (pence per kg)	205.10 up 2.88
Weekly SPP: (pence per kg)	123.77 up 1.61
As Supplied by AHDB	

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TOURIST'S POUND

Australia	1.67 dollar
Canada	1.65 dollar
China	8.15 renminbi
Denmark	8.48 krona
Egypt	10.10 pound
Eurozone	1.15 euro
Hong Kong	9.75 dollar
Japan	128.50 yen
Mexico	22.63 peso
New Zealand	1.73 dollar
Norway	10.63 krona
Poland	4.85 zloty
South Africa	18.08 rand
Sweden	10.77 krona
Switzerland	1.24 franc
Thailand	43.01 baht
Turkey	3.54 lira
United States	1.27 dollar

US giant snaps up Odeon/UCI

BRITAIN'S box office attraction for overseas investors was brought into focus yesterday in the biggest deal since the Brexit vote as Odeon & UCI Cinemas Group was sold to US chain AMC Entertainment for £921million.

AMC, controlled by Chinese billionaire Wang Jianlin's Dalian Wanda Group, took advantage of the fall in the pound since the referendum - to a 31-year low - to snap up Europe's biggest cinema chain.

The deal would have cost about £122million more before last month's vote.

AMC chief executive Adam Aron, top right, hailed a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" to create the world's biggest cinema operator.

The deal will add Odeon and UCI's 242 cinemas in seven countries to AMC's 385 sites - mainly in the US.

It brings the curtain down on 12 years of ownership by Guy Hands, above, and his private equity firm Terra Firma, which bought Odeon and UCI as separate businesses in 2004.

Terra Firma has invested over £600million in the business, growing it from 1,453

By David Shand

screens to 2,236. The chains have been on the market, effectively, for the best part of the year and have drawn interest from Mexico, Belgium and South Korea as well as from rival chain VUE.

Aron said yesterday: "Odeon & UCI is a great business with iconic brands, strong market presence and passionate teams, and their impressive recent transformation is just the beginning."

"While we acknowledge that there are some uncertainties related to Brexit, we are encouraged that current currency rates are highly favourable to AMC. In total, we believe this transaction will generate long-term value."

Paul Donovan, who oversaw an 84.6 per cent jump in Odeon's pre-tax earnings to £94.8million last year, will continue to lead the group in London.

He said: "We are looking forward to introducing many of AMC's groundbreaking guest-experience strategies. There are exciting opportunities ahead and strong prospects for growth."



Hotel Chocolat starts sweet



A SUCCESSFUL Father's Day campaign and improvements to its online store helped Hotel Chocolat hit a sweet spot.

The recently floated chocolatier has announced annual revenue 12 per cent tastier at £92.6million, with digital sales up 20 per cent.

Chief executive Angus Thirlwell, pictured, said: "We've had a good start as a listed company. Our plans are all progressing well."

Shares rose 2½p to 178p.

Shire's eyes light up at OK

A POTENTIAL blockbuster product is in sight for drugs giant Shire after its Xiidra dry-eye treatment was approved by American regulators.

The company expects to launch Xiidra in the US in the third quarter.

It is the first new drug to treat keratoconjunctivitis sicca since Allergan's Restasis won approval in 2002 and the only prescription eye drop indicated for the treatment of both the signs and symptoms. With an

estimated 16 million adults in the US diagnosed with dry-eye syndrome, analysts believe sales could top \$1 billion (£753million) in 2021.

Chief executive Flemming Ornskov said: "As Shire's first FDA-approved medicine in ophthalmics, this significant milestone advances our goal of becoming the global leader in this category, where there are unmet patient needs."

Shares rose 37p to 485½p.

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

52 WEEK					52 WEEK					52 WEEK				
COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	HIGH	LOW	COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	HIGH	LOW	COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	HIGH	LOW
3i Group	581½	+10	585½	389¼	Hikma	2505	-95	2604	1704	Paddy Power Betfair	8475	+15	14275	7560
A.B. Foods	2620	-24	3599	2350	HSBC Holdings	476¼	-2¼	594½	416¼	Pearson	969	+4½	1275	657½
Admiral Group	2004	-2049	1433	221	Imperial Tobacco	4012½	-44½	4087½	2991	Persimmon	1548	+27	2219	1289
Anglo American	830½	+21½	890¼	221	Informa	743	+4	750	542½	Provident Financial	2596	+45	3634	2164
Antofagasta	486	+6½	667	346	InterContinental Htl	2880	+5	2939½	2192½	Prudential	1284	+42	1634	1087
ARM Holdings	1176	-13	1208	848½	Intertek Group	3535	-44	3582	2328	Randgold Res	9115	-410	9715	3625
Ashland Group	1126	+5	1137	769	Intl Consolidated Airlines	410	+19¼	614¼	344	Reckitt Benckiser	7525	-167	7692	5510
AstraZeneca	4476	-80	4627½	3774	ITV Properties	282½	+2	353¼	255¼	Reed Elsevier	1411	-14	1436	1011
Aviva	381½	+15½	535½	346¼	ITV	190¼	+5	280¼	154	Rio Tinto	2486½	+41½	2635	1577½
Babcock International	945½	-4	1111	854	Johnson Matthey	3064½	-10	3104	2232	Rolls-Royce Group	724	841	512½	
BAE Systems	541	-4½	545½	425½	Kingfisher	323½	+2¼	379¼	306¼	Royal Bank of Scot	182	+2¼	361¼	149
Barclays	148½	+3¼	289	127¼	Land Securities	1049½	-8	1352	910	Royal Mail	499½	+½	541	413¼
Barratt Development	413½	+11½	662½	332½	Legal & General	189	+5¼	276¼	165	RSA Insurance Grp	493¼	+1¼	526½	373¼
Berkley Gr Hldgs	2692	+28	3757	2270	Lloyds Banking Grp	56¼	+1¼	87¼	47½	Ryl Dutch Shell 'A'	2107½	+6½	2122½	1286
BHP Billiton	1003½	+11	1253	581	London Stock Ex	2640	+5	2906	2123	Ryl Dutch Shell 'B'	2130½	-4½	2163¼	1277½
BP	461¼	+2¼	463¼	310¼	Marks & Spencer	334½	+5	550½	285¼	SABMiller	4407	+9	4407	2877½
British Amer.Tob	4839½	-80	5035	3355½	Medicines Intl	1060½	-56	1191	814	Sage Group	645	-10	656	489¼
British Land	618½	+3½	877	544¼	Merlin Ent	474½	+4	476¼	366	Sainsbury (J)	230¼	+3	292¼	214¼
BT Group	406¼	+9¼	499¼	375¼	Mondi	1406	+2¼	1611	1124	Schroders	2575	+74	3209	2049
Bunzl	2330	-47	2377	1671	Morrison (Wm)	182	+2½	209½	139	Severn Trent	2440½	-17	2478	2024
Burberry Group	1203½	-8	1620	1041	National Grid	1092½	-25	1130½	818½	Shire	4855	+37	5730	3480
Capita Group	963	+5	1326	848½	Next	5210½	+120	8015	4384	Sky	882	+10	1141	797
Carnival	3562	+34	3907	2957	Old Mutual	204¼	+3	229	149½	Smith & Nephew	1296	-8	1310	1051
Centrica	227½	-4½	283	183¼						Smiths Group	1215	+30	1221	863½
Coca-Cola HBC	1540½	-8	1629	1255						SSE	1578	-16	1626	1321
Compass Group	1462½	+4	1465	991						St James's Place	825½	+36	1023	716
CRH	2185	-20	2213½	1637						Standard Chartered	600¼	+8	977½	386¼
DCC	6625½	-120	6775	4620						Standard Life	283	+6¼	466¼	262
Diageo	2134	-27½	2161¼	1640						Taylor Wimpey	145¼	+4¼	210¼	115¼
Direct Line Insurance	346	+4	414¼	333¼						Tesco	169¼	+4¼	221¼	139¼
Dixons Carphone	329¼	+10	500	281¼						Travis Perkins	1499	+35	2260	1313
Easyjet	1142	+47	1808	1018						TUI AG	1000	+5½	1271	844¼
Experian Group	1467½	-18	1497	1022						Unilever	3586	-70	3678¼	2524
Fresnillo	1929	-55	2008	588						United Utilities	1014½	-18	1039	828
GKN	284	+4½	324¼	248½						Vodafone Group	227¼	-2¼	246	200¼
GlaxoSmithKline	1639½	-23½	1663	1237½						Whitbread	3708	+20	5275	3391
Glencore	186	+8	250¼	68½						Wolsey	4045	-30	4384	3230
Hammerston	535	-3	685½	468½						Worldpay	280	+¼	316¼	256
Hargreaves Lansdown	1242		1525	1054						WPP Group	1680	+6	1697	1304

FTSE 100

8am 12pm 4:30pm

6670 6680 6690 6700



DEMAND SOARS ABROAD FOR ASOS



Asos designs are a hit in the US

SHARES in Asos hit a two-year high, up 172p to 447½p, as the online fashion retailer signalled increased demand from overseas shoppers cashing in on a weaker pound.

Asos generates over half of its sales outside the UK and expects further gains to offset the higher cost of imports.

The US stood out in the four months to June 30 with a 53 per cent jump in retail sales there to £68.3million.

EU business was up 32 per cent to £139.5million, with the UK up 28 per cent to £203.1million.

Overall sales climbed 30 per cent to £500.5million, with the number of active customers increasing by 24 per cent from a year ago to 12 million.

Chief executive Nick Beighton said: "Our sales prices which are denominated off sterling now look cheaper to the US and the European customer. We think that will give us a greater sales trajectory."

Asos expects annual sales growth to be 20-25 per cent.

EU doubts tarnish careers firm

A SLOWDOWN in recruitment in the run-up to the European Union referendum dented UK profits at PageGroup.

Page said its second-quarter UK profits fell 2.3 per cent to £38.3million as its public-sector jobs business dipped by 9 per

cent, while its financial services business was down 7 per cent.

Companies have been hiring staff on temporary contracts.

Chief executive Steve Ingham said: "It is too early to say how the referendum result will impact our results."

MARKET REPORT

LEADING shares trod water yesterday despite America's Dow Jones index hitting a record high.

Recent roles were reversed as airlines and housebuilders were among the best blue chip performers, while safe-haven gold-focused companies were sold off.

British Airways owner IAG flew 19½p higher to 410p and easyJet climbed 47p to 1142½p.

Taylor Wimpey and Barratt Developments built gains of 4½p to 145¼p and 11½p to 413¼p and Galliford Try rose 75p to 957½p as it flagged up record annual results.

But precious metals producers Fresnillo and Randgold Resources dropped 55p to 1929p and 410p to 9115p.

DFS Furniture was marked up 19½p to 210¼p as broker Stifel began coverage with a buy rating and 340p price target.

A contract with a leading salmon farmer boosted aquaculture firm Benchmark Holdings 4½p to 54½p.

Fusionex added 11p to 152¼p after a multimillion-dollar software deal for a Japanese firm's Philippines operation.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsbury's + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

SHARES AT A GLANCE

COMPANY	CLOSE	±	HIGH	LOW	52 WEEK
Aerospace & Defence					
Airbus	125.40	+1	126.00	124.50	718
BAE Systems	541.40	+4	545.00	525.00	425
Chemring Group	127.14	+1	128.00	126.00	115
Cobham	163.34	+1	165.00	162.00	127
Meggitt	41.24	+2	41.50	40.50	346
QinetiQ Group	22.84	+1	23.00	22.50	212
Rolls-Royce Group	72.4	+1	73.00	71.50	512
Senior	20.84	+2	21.00	20.50	186
Ultra Electronics	17.62	+3	18.00	17.00	1595
Alternative Energy					
Porvair	35.64	+3	36.00	35.00	280
Automobiles & Parts					
GKN	284.44	+4	287.00	282.00	248
Torotrak	4.14	+1	4.20	4.00	31
Banks					
Bank of Ireland	1.16	+1	1.18	1.14	32
Barclays	140.34	+3	141.00	139.00	137
Boa Santander	320.17	+4	322.00	318.00	260
HSBC Holdings	47.64	+2	48.00	47.00	416
Lloyds Banking Group	5.64	+1	5.70	5.50	474
Royal Bank of Scotland	182.24	+1	183.00	181.00	361
Standard Chartered	6.00	+8	6.10	5.80	149
Beverages					
Barr (AG)	5.29	+1	5.35	5.20	455
Britvic	6.19	+4	6.25	6.10	584
Coca-Cola HBC	15.40	+8	15.50	15.20	125
Diageo	21.34	+27	21.60	21.00	1640
SABMiller	4.40	+9	4.45	4.30	2877
Chemicals					
Cardo	1.49	+10	1.50	1.45	110
Croda International	3.29	+3	3.32	3.25	767
Elementis	2.06	+1	2.08	2.04	180
Johnson Matthey	30.64	+10	30.80	30.20	2230
Symphony	3.53	+1	3.58	3.45	275
Treant	1.71	+2	1.75	1.65	193
Victrex	1.54	+1	1.55	1.50	137
Construction & Materials					
Alumasc Group	1.31	+1	1.32	1.29	119
Balfour Beatty	2.18	+3	2.20	2.15	104
Boat (Henn)	1.73	+2	1.75	1.69	160
Clarke T	0.69	+3	0.70	0.65	24
Costain Group	3.20	+5	3.25	3.10	67
CRH	2.18	+20	2.20	2.13	1637
Galafond T	1.57	+1	1.58	1.54	785
Gleeson (Ireland)	5.10	+2	5.15	5.00	36
Keller Group	1.08	+7	1.09	1.05	728
Kier Group	1.06	+5	1.07	1.03	32
Kingspan Group	1.67	+11	1.68	1.61	55
Low & Bonar	62	+4	63	60	154
Marshall	267.20	+30	270	260	206
Morgan Sindall	5.83	+8	5.87	5.70	50
Smart (J) & Co.	1.02	+1	1.03	1.00	38
SWP Group	5.14	+1	5.15	5.00	51
Wilton Holdings	1.17	+1	1.18	1.14	78
Tymon	2.48	+3	2.50	2.42	225
Electricity					
Drax Group	3.48	+1	3.49	3.40	207
SSE	1.57	+1	1.58	1.52	1321
Electronic & Electrical Equipment					
Diageo	5.18	+2	5.20	5.05	804
EZV Technologies	2.15	+4	2.18	2.10	184
Halma	1.02	+8	1.03	1.00	713
Morgan Crucible	2.51	+1	2.52	2.45	192
Orion Instruments	7.20	+5	7.25	7.00	516
Renishaw	2.32	+1	2.33	2.28	1600
Spectris	1.83	+1	1.84	1.80	142
Tel Electronics	1.34	+9	1.35	1.28	122
Volex	3.45	+1	3.48	3.35	254
Xaar	4.63	+1	4.65	4.50	409
XP Power	1.52	+3	1.53	1.47	1121
Equity Investment Instruments					
Aberdeen All Asia	4.88	+3	4.90	4.75	407
Aberdeen Asian Sml	9.10	+9	9.15	8.90	673
Aberforth Sml Co.	9.54	+1	9.58	9.30	849
Acencia Debt	1.00	+4	1.01	0.95	35
Accum Income	3.26	+3	3.28	3.15	323
Advent Divid Fund	4.61	+1	4.62	4.50	362
Abn-Amro Gen. VCT	6.67	+1	6.70	6.50	65
Abn-Amro VCT	6.67	+1	6.70	6.50	65
Alliance Trust	5.46	+3	5.49	5.40	400
Artemis Alpha	2.06	+1	2.08	2.00	206
Aurora Inv. Trust	1.54	+2	1.55	1.50	151
Baillie Gifford Japan	5.02	+7	5.10	5.00	385
Baillie Gifford Ship Inv.	5.98	+4	6.00	5.80	318
Bankers Inv. Trust	6.31	+6	6.35	6.10	522
Baronwood VCT 2	9.04	+9	9.10	8.80	88
BH Global GBP	1.26	+9	1.27	1.20	1324
BH Global USD	9.33	+11	9.40	9.10	912
BH Macro GBP	1.93	+5	1.95	1.85	123
Biotech Growth Trust	6.60	+7	6.65	6.30	539
BlackRock Mining	2.89	+1	2.90	2.80	159
Blue Planet Int'l	3.45	+1	3.48	3.30	309
BluePrint AllIb	1.82	+4	1.84	1.75	176
Bluecrest AM VCT 2	3.74	+3	3.78	3.60	33
British Assets Trst	1.16	+2	1.17	1.10	110
British Empire Trst	5.29	+2	5.32	5.10	412
Brunner Inv. Trst	5.50	+5	5.55	5.30	488
California Inv.	2.25	+7	2.28	2.15	211
Cayenne Trst	1.57	+4	1.60	1.50	154
City Natural Res. Yld.	1.09	+2	1.11	1.05	66
City of London	3.91	+4	3.95	3.80	341
Dunedin Ent.Lt.	3.16	+3	3.19	3.05	289
Dunedin Income	2.37	+1	2.38	2.30	193
Dunedin Sml	1.83	+4	1.85	1.75	176
Eastern Euro Trst	2.39	+1	2.40	2.30	166
Ecotiv Water & Power	1.38	+2	1.40	1.34	104
Edin Wide Inv.	4.58	+1	4.60	4.45	378
Edin Wp. Trst	2.85	+4	2.88	2.75	211
Edin Inv. Trst	6.91	+1	6.95	6.70	620
Edin UK Tracker	3.00	+3	3.02	2.90	325
Edin US Tracker	1.02	+10	1.03	1.00	70
Elderstreet VCT	6.01	+6	6.05	5.75	57
Electra Private Eq.	3.70	+5	3.75	3.50	316
F&C CapInv.	2.60	+1	2.61	2.50	234
F&C Smaller Cos.	1.07	+9	1.08	1.00	859
F&C US Smaller Companies	7.99	+8	8.05	7.70	523
Fidelity Asian	3.12	+1	3.14	3.00	197
Fidelity European	1.03	+1	1.04	1.00	151
Fidelity Japanese	1.00	+10	1.01	0.95	70
Fidelity Sml	1.81	+2	1.83	1.75	176
Finsbury GwthInv.	6.33	+3	6.37	6.10	532
For&Co Inv. Trst	4.72	+3	4.75	4.50	391
Forefront 3 VCT	3.74	+9	3.78	3.50	374
Forefront Trst VCT	7.21	+8	7.25	6.90	71
Garmore Euro	9.63	+9	9.70	9.30	84
Genesis E.M.F.	5.73	+1	5.75	5.60	400

COMPANY	CLOSE	±	HIGH	LOW	52 WEEK
Fixed Line Telecommunications					
BT Group	4.06	+9	4.09	3.95	375
KCOM Group	1.10	+1	1.12	1.05	86
TalkTalk	2.18	+5	2.20	2.10	189
Telecom Plus	1.03	+6	1.04	1.00	81
Food & Drug Retailers					
Booker Group	1.69	+4	1.70	1.65	149
Greggs	9.84	+10	9.85	9.70	135
Morrison (Wm)	1.82	+2	1.83	1.75	139
Ocado	2.54	+17	2.55	2.40	208
Sainsbury (J)	2.30	+3	2.32	2.20	214
Tesco	1.69	+4	1.70	1.65	139
United Drug	5.90	+1	5.95	5.70	40
Food Producers					
A.B. Foods	2.82	+2	2.85	2.70	230
Anglo-Eastern	4.05	+5	4.10	3.90	30
Carr's Milling	1.40	+1	1.41	1.35	137
Cranwick	2.26	+6	2.28	2.15	153
Direct Crest	5.73	+1	5.75	5.50	54
Devo	2.77	+9	2.78	2.60	244
Glanbia	1.45	+2	1.46	1.40	125
Greenore Group	3.07	+4	3.09	2.95	273
Key Corp A/S	6.60	+2	6.62	6.40	522
Premier Foods	4.51	+1	4.52	4.30	30
REA Holdings	2.47	+3	2.48	2.35	232
Tate & Lyle	6.98	+12	7.00	6.70	50
Unilever	3.58	+70	3.60	3.40	252
Forestry & Paper					
Arden	1.40	+1	1.41	1.35	137
EXPRESS.co.uk					
Get more from your favourite newspaper					
NEWS PICTURES VIDEOS					
Available on iTunes					
Available on Google play					
General Retailers					
Asda	1.40	+1	1.41	1.35	137
ASDA Water & Multiservices					
Centrica	2.27	+4	2.28	2.15	183
Dee Valley Group	1.26	+5	1.27	1.15	119
National Grid	1.09	+2	1.10	1.05	818
Pennon Group	9.02	+1	9.05	8.70	71
Severn Trent	2.40	+7	2.42	2.30	82
United Utilities	1.01	+8	1.02	0.95	204
General Retailers					
Ashley (Laura)	2.11	+2	2.12	2.05	204
Brown (N) Group	1.89	+14	1.90	1.80	160
Cafayns	5.15	+6	5.18	5.00	51
Capetrip	2.48	+14	2.50	2.30	212
Darty	1.70	+1	1.71	1.60	88
Debenhams	2.60	+1	2.61	2.50	53
John David Group	1.18	+6	1.19	1.10	709
Dixons Carphone	3.29	+10	3.30	3.10	281
Dunelm	1.80	+3	1.81	1.70	141
Findel	7.37	+1	7.40	7.10	130
Flying Bricks	3.14	+1	3.15	3.00	204
Freight Connect	3.41	+1	3.42	3.20	204
Halliford Group	3.41	+1	3.42	3.20	204
Home Retail Group	1.51	+4	1.52	1.40	305
Indochina	7.03	+1	7.05	6.80	581
John David Group	1.18	+6	1.19	1.10	709
Kingfisher	3.23	+2	3.24	3.10	306
Lookers	1.09	+1	1.10	1.05	92
Marks & Spencer	3.34	+5	3.35	3.20	285
Moss Bros.	9.9	+9	10.0	9.60	184
Mothercare	1.37	+6	1.38	1.30	106
Next	5.10	+120	5.11	5.00	484
Pendragon	3.31	+1	3.32	3.20	264
Pets At Home	2.45	+5	2.46	2.30	222
Poundland	1.96	+1	1.97	1.85	133
Saga	2.86	+2	2.87	2.70	174
Spigit Direct	2.71	+4	2.72	2.60	267
Ted Baker	2.25	+57	2.26	2.10	214
Topps Tiles	1.03	+4	1.04	1.00	165
WH Smith	1.57	+5	1.58	1.50	145
Health Care Equipment & Services					
BioRx	1.57	+2	1.58	1.50	127
Consort Medical	1.02	+2	1.03	0.95	89
Mediclinic Intl	1.06	+5	1.07	1.00	81
Smith & Nephew	1.26	+8	1.27	1.20	101
Household Goods & Home Construction					
Abbey	1.04	+2	1.05	1.00	33
Barrett Development	4.13	+11	4.14	4.00	92
Belkley	1.90	+40	1.91	1.80	169
Belkley Grp Hldgs	2.62	+28	2.63	2.50	277
Bovis Homes	7.82	+4	7.85	7.60	217
Colfax Group	4.62	+1	4.63	4.50	457
Headam Group	4.25	+14	4.26	4.10	418
Mclride	1.55	+3	1.56	1.50	105
Persimmon	1.58	+27	1.59	1.50	129
Reskit Benckiser	7.52	+167	7.53	7.30	180
Redrow	3.35	+8	3.36	3.20	275

COMPANY	CLOSE	±	HIGH	LOW	52 WEEK
Trans-Siberian Gold	41	+3	45	35	9
Vedanta	525.54	+29	530	505	205
Mobile Telecommunications					
Imratat	812	+12	815	795	689
Vodafone Group	227.18	+2	228	220	20

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BV62 CITY



BV44 OXFORD

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SANDOWN RUK

THE SCOUT

6.05 Olympic Runner	7.40 El Hayem
6.35 Broughtons Fancy	8.00 Melabi
7.05 Born To Please	8.40 Mystique Heights

6.05 XL CATLIN HANDICAP 3YO

(1) 19 214 DISKET HERO (44) D J Oisford 9.7	M Dwyer
(2) 175 FLORENCE (1) D W Muir 9.5	M Dwyer
(3) 288 ARCT COLLECTION (6) D G Moore 9.5	B Baker
(4) 151 OLYMPIC RUNNER (19) D W Haggas 9.5	P Cosgrave
(5) 41L BINT ALDAR (307) D R Cowell 9.3	A Kirby
(6) 54L POINT OF WOODS (17) D R Beckett 9.2	S Bentley
(7) 121 JUST GLAMOROUS (1) D R Harris 9.0	Martin Harley
(8) 7124 SPANISH CITY (18) D F Varian 8.3	H Levey
(9) 441 STORMFLOWER (18) D J Bridger 8.4	Danny Brock

W-Factor: Olympic Runner (99); Spanish City (96); Point Of Woods (94).

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Olympic Runner, 4 Discret Hero, 5 Spanish City, 6 Just Glamorous, 10 Bint Aldar, Stormflower, 14 Florence, 16 Others.

6.35 ROR HANDICAP 3YO

(1) 59 641 REAVER (7) E J Haggas 9.8 (Rev)	C Bishop
(2) 141 321 BRIGHT CURRENT (23) D A Reid 9.7	T Marquand
(3) 185 PERPETUITY (20) M K Murphy 9.5	J Crowley
(4) 751 FALSI (15) D R Eddy 9.5	W Carson
(5) 1518 TESORO (35) D Ivory 9.4	R Winston
(6) 84-4 MAGICK STRIKE (47) C Cox 9.4	A Kirby
(7) 2-45 SEXTON BLAKE (25) G L Moore 9.4	H Crouch(5)
(8) 1610 EBBISHAM (61) J Boyle 9.2	P Cosgrave
(9) 1302 MARCLE (15) D E Giles 9.2	Rob Hornby(3)
(10) 463 BRIGHT BOY (18) Ed Walker 9.0	L Morris
(11) 521 YOUNG A GOAT (153) G L Moore 9.0	W-Twiston-Davies
(12) 743 RUSSIAN RANGER (58) J Portman 8.3	R Clark
(13) 596 PROTESTE (8) S Kirk 8.1	M Dwyer
(14) 861 ATITUDE ROCKS (34) C Cox 8.1	Olisun Murphy
(15) 1142 HARMONY BAY (8) S Kirk 8.0	E Greatrex(3)
(16) 1374 COOPERBESS (8) A Stronge 8.3	K O'Neill

BLINKERS: Nos. 14, 16 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 16

W-Factor: Broughtons Fancy (99); Ebbisham (98); Reaver (94).

SP FORECAST: 6 Broughtons Fancy, 7 You're A Goat, Bright Boy, 8 Falsi, 10 Reaver, Magic Strike, 12 Others.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good, Right Handed. TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2011-16): Crowley 11% Strike rate. TOP TRACK TRAINER (2011-16): Sir M Stoute 20% Strike rate. FIRST TIME: 6.05 Florence (tonque strap), 6.35 Atitude Rocks (blinkers), 7.05 Count Calabash (hood), 8.30 Magnum (cheek pieces), 8.40 Captain Peacock (blinkers), BEATEN FAVORITES: 6.05 Discret Hero (h/c), Spanish City (h/c), 6.35 Bright Boy (h/c), Ebbisham (h/c), 8.00 Melabi (h/c).

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W-Factor: Broughtons Fancy (99); Ebbisham (98); Reaver (94).

SP FORECAST: 6 Broughtons Fancy, 7 You're A Goat, Bright Boy, 8 Falsi, 10 Reaver, Magic Strike, 12 Others.

7.05 MAIDEN AUTION STAKES 2YO

(1) 21 COUNT CALABASH P Cole 9.3	L Morris
(2) 11 DARING GUEST G Margason 9.3	T O'Quelly
(3) 15 KOZIER A King 9.3	W Twiston-Davies
(4) 4 VIKING WARD H Dunlop 9.3	Martin Harley
(5) 101 POETIC VOICE R Beckett 9.1	A Kirby
(6) 14 STAG PARTY (15) A Bolding 9.1	E Greatrex(3)
(7) 6 ACCIDENTAL AGENT E J Haggas 8.3	C Bishop
(8) 9 BALGAIR J Portman 8.1	F Tyklicki
(9) 3 HARBOUR TOWN H Dunlop 8.1	J Crowley
(10) 8 PITCOT HIGH MISS F Holden 8.1	Shelley Birrell(3)
(11) 13 ULMAR POWER M Hood 8.3	R Havlin
(12) 16 C J PARKER (28) J Boyle 8.2	P Cosgrave
(13) 101 FIELDS OF FORTUNE R Hannan 8.1	T Marquand
(14) 11 IF I SAY SO (18) J Moore 8.2	Danny Brock
(15) 12 DESIDERIO P Phelan 8.8	R Tate
(16) 52 BORN TO PLEASE (30) F M Usher 8.6	K O'Neill

HOOD: No. 1.

W-Factor: Born To Please (99); Poetic Voice (98); C J Parker (98).

SP FORECAST: 3 Fields Of Fortune, 6 Born To Please, 7 C J Parker, 8 Poetic Voice, 10 Count Calabash, 14 Others.

7.40 SKY BET HANDICAP

(1) 711 BASTILLE DAY (6) D E Dsworth 4.10 (16ex)	Doubtful
(2) 768 DIRECTORSHIP (48) CSD P Channings 10.0	H Crouch(5)
(3) 236 INTRUDE (27) D M Simcock 4.9.5	J Crowley
(4) 211 SIR RODERIC (1) C D B Millman 3.9.5	F Tyklicki
(5) 161 FROZEN FORCE (39) D M S Perrett 9.7	P Cosgrave
(6) 212 HONARIA (38) D J Hannan 9.6	S Levey
(7) 41 HORRAH (20) R Charlton 3.9.1	W Twiston-Davies

W-Factor: El Hayem (99); Sir Roderic (94); Horrah (91).

SP FORECAST: 11-8 El Hayem, 11-4 Horrah, 7-2 Sir Roderic, 14 Intrude, Directorship, 16 Honaria.

8.10 CAPPAGH LIFE AFTER RACING H'CAP 3YO

(1) 311 MAGNUM (13) M Beehan 9.7	M Dwyer
(2) 161 FROZEN FORCE (39) D M S Perrett 9.7	J Crowley
(3) 212 HONARIA (38) D J Hannan 9.6	S Levey
(4) 834 MELABI (13) W Haggas 9.6	B Baker
(5) 423 BRETONCELLES (43) H Dunlop 9.5	Martin Harley
(6) 595 ABSOLUTE ZERO (13) M Stoute 9.3	H Bentley
(7) 415 SCOTCH SUMMIT (45) Sir M Stoute 9.2	P Cosgrave
(8) 252 COT D'AZUR (13) M Prescott 9.2	L Morris
(9) 197 MARSHAL DAN TROOP (34) P Chapple-Hyam 9.2	D Probert
(10) 753 PROCTOR (20) W Kitterow 9.1	Olisun Murphy
(11) 235 PERFECT QUEST (60) C Cox 8.7	R Tate

W-Factor: Melabi (99); Frozen Force (95); Absolute Zero (94).

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Scottish Summit, 5 Cote d'Azur, 12 Melabi, 7 Absolute Zero, 8 Frozen Force, Bretoncelles, 10 Proctor, 12 Others.

8.40 ROR HANDICAP 3YO

(1) 445 RODERIC'S SECRET (35) D Menuiser 9.7	G Baker
(2) 764 CAPTAIN PEACOCK (22) W Knight 9.2	J Crowley
(3) 7124 RUSSIAN RANGER (58) J Portman 8.3	T J Murphy
(4) 481 TYRELL (7) A J O'Brien 8.2	D O'Sullivan
(5) 516 TRIDENT TESTED (22) J Best 8.1	K Fox
(6) 552 MYSTIQUE HEIGHTS (6) F M Prescott 8.1	L Morris
(7) 0-58 PERMERA (27) M Tompkins 8.8	H Bentley
(8) 1-91 LADY EMMA (30) Steph Hollingshead 8.7	R French

BLINKERS: No. 4 VISOR: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: No. 3

CHEEK PIECES: No. 3 HOOD: No. 8.

W-Factor: Mystique Heights (99); Tyrell (95); Captain Peacock (88).

SP FORECAST: 13-8 Mystique Heights, 5-2 Tyrell, 6 Captain Peacock, 8 Trident Tested, 10 Roderic's Secret, 14 Centuro, 16 Permera, 33 Lady Emma.

DRAW: Low numbers best in sprints, especially in large fields on soft going.

LONGEST TRAVELLER: Sir Roderic (740) & Proctor (880) 156 miles.

STABLE TRAVEL: 6.05 Bint Aldar from K Ryan to R Cowell.

W-Factor: Mystique Heights (99); Tyrell (95); Captain Peacock (88).

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W-Factor: Mystique Heights (99); Tyrell (95); Captain Peacock (88).

SP FORECAST: 13-8 Mystique Heights, 5-2 Tyrell, 6 Captain Peacock, 8 Trident Tested, 10 Roderic's Secret, 14 Centuro, 16 Permera, 33 Lady Emma.

DRAW: Low numbers best in sprints, especially in large fields on soft going.

LONGEST TRAVELLER: Sir Roderic (740) & Proctor (880) 156 miles.

STABLE TRAVEL: 6.05 Bint Aldar from K Ryan to R Cowell.

W-Factor: Mystique Heights (99); Tyrell (95); Captain Peacock (88).

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JACKPOT: www.totepooliveinfo.com

THE SCOUT

1.50 Beautiful Escape	4.10 Cape Cova
2.25 Hamish McGonaglin	4.40 Rainbow Pri
3.00 AFJAAN (tr)	5.15 Reckless Wa
3.25 John Leiper	

- Who has become the youngest-ever batsman to hit 10,000 Test runs?
- Who scored a stunning goal in the Championship play-off final against Sheffield Wednesday to send Hull back to the Premier League?
- Who has become the first wheelchair racer to complete a mile in under three minutes?
- Which member of the Northern Ireland Euro 16 squad was the inspiration for an iTunes top 10 hit?
- Who was the first British boxer to win gold medals at two European Championships?
- Who was the first winner of the men's singles at Wimbledon in 1877?
- Who is the only Liverpool player to score 30 goals in a season in the Premier League era?
- Which New Zealand golfer beat Paul McGinley in the World Matchplay Championship final at Wentworth in 2005?
- Which team did Worcestershire bowl out for 43 in a County Championship match in May?
- What number in darts is between the 12 and the 20?

10 to tackle

RATINGS

0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So so
10 Sporting seer

Answers: 1. Alastair Cook 2. Mohammed Asif 3. David Weir 4. Will Grigg 5. Shane Bieber 6. Spencer Gore 7. Luis Suarez 8. Michael Campbell 9. Leinster 10. 15

BASEBALL

PLANS to stage MLB matches in London next summer have been put on hold.

The fixtures would have been the first MLB games played in Europe and "serious talks" took place about the Olympic Stadium hosting the potential series.

Dan Halem, MLB's chief legal officer, said discussions would continue about playing matches overseas but there was not enough time to agree a deal for the 2017 season.

Players' Association executive director Tony Clark said: "Unfortunately there were a number of moving pieces related to London that shortened our window in an effort to try to find common ground."

MLB commissioner Rob Manfred said in January that talks had begun, but ongoing collective bargaining negotiations and next spring's World Baseball Classic are believed to have halted them.

Horner's not happy with halo

RED BULL would oppose the introduction of a proposed 'halo' cockpit protection device in Formula One next season if it comes to a vote, team principal Christian Horner has said.

Former champions Red Bull had the device installed on their car at the start of the sport's second in-season test at Silverstone yesterday, becoming the second team to try it out after Ferrari.

The 'halo' concept, more like a wishbone with a central pillar supporting a protective loop above the driver's head, has been promoted by Ferrari and Mercedes, whereas Red Bull prefer their own 'aeroscreen'.

The latter device, more attractive to some, did not

perform as well in testing by the governing body and the halo is now the main focus.

"I'm not a big fan of the halo," said Horner. "It's an inelegant solution to the problem that it's trying to deal with."

"I'd prefer there to be more research time taken to do the job properly, rather than rushing something through that may have other consequences. I certainly wouldn't vote in favour at the moment."

The International Automobile Federation (FIA) is keen to introduce the halo next year but that would normally require a



HORNER

ANTHONY JOSHUA is primed to become the next undisputed heavyweight boxing champion of the world, according to Lennox Lewis.

Lewis, 50, was the last heavyweight to hold the WBC, WBA and IBF belts at the same time before hanging up his gloves in 2004. He said: "Unifying the titles is very possible for him. He is in the position to do it, he has not been rushed and he has had 17 fights with 17 knockouts."

While Joshua is the current holder of the IBF belt, American Deontay Wilder is the WBC champion, and Tyson Fury holds the WBA belt after his shock victory against Wladimir Klitschko last year.

UTTOXETER ATR

THE SCOUT

1.45 Excellent Team 4.00 Mulligan's Man
1.15 All For The Best 4.30 Persel
2.50 Grand Gigolo 5.05 Hindon Road
3.25 Snowball 5.35 CHATO (nb)

4.55 CONDO JOCKEYS' MAIDEN HURDLE
£3,509 (4) 2m 3f 207yds (7 declared)

1 80- HORSEGUARD CAP (F15) N Twiston-Davies 5 11.0 R Hatch(3)
2 704- ISLE VIEW (73) Jason Cairns (IRE) 8 11.0 H Cobden
3 12- MORIANOUR (59) J Williams 5 11.0 C Ring(3)
4 51- OH SO GIGOLO (17) N Henderson 6 11.0 Alan Doyle(6)
5 3- RENOVING (17) R Brotherton 5 11.0 D G Noonan
6 2- EXCELLENT TEAM (50) D Skelton 4 11.0

THE WAY YOU DANCE (9) N Mulligan 4 11.0
Bridget Andrews(3)
SP FORECAST: 5-2 Corby(3)
W-Factor: Excellent Team (99); Isle View (97); Renowing (96).
SP FORECAST: 11-8 Excellent Team, 4 Morianour, The Way You Dance, 10 Isle View, Horseguardspare, 12 Others.

2.15 NOVICES' HURDLE
£3,639 (4) 1m 7f 168yds (9)

1 P-12 MAGNA CARTOR (17) (D) D Loughnane 6 11.5 B Brennan
2 51- SAND BLAST (21) D Skelton 5 11.5 P Skelton
3 7-82 ARMOURD (24) (F) Miss J Foster 5 11.2 Sean Quinn
4 443 CODE OF LAW (37) N Mulligan 6 10.2 N Fehilly
5 DUTCH BARNEY (54) B Bourne 6 10.2 R T Dunne
6 GRIVELIN Juno O'Neill 5 10.2 A Coleman
7 L6 ALL PARK (15) H Evans 5 10.2 B Poste(3)
8 34 RIZAL FOR THE BEST (H) Robert Stephens 4 10.2 T J O'Brien

9 INTIFADAH (24) P Griffin (IRE) 4 10.10 — B Hughes
10 25-2 SINGAL LONG (12) D Scudamore 4 10.10 T Scudamore
11 93-9 KOKOMO (75) Noel Williams 5 10.5 J Banks
TONGUE TRAP: Nos. 2, 9 CHECK PIECES: No. 2
HOOD: Nos. 3, 7
W-Factor: All For The Best (99); Magna Cartor (97); Sand Blast (97).
SP FORECAST: 15-8 Sand Blast, 7-2 Grivelin, 5 Maga Cartor, 6 Singal Long, 10 All For The Best, 12 Code Of Law, 14 Others.

2.50 NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (DIV 1)
£3,245 (5) 3m 2yds (10)

1 3-3 FLEMING (42) P Phillips 6 11.2 A Popham
2 4-5 GRAND GIGOLO (31) N Williams 7 11.1 T J O'Brien
2 45-4 AWAY DOWN WEST (24) Mrs R Evans 6 11.6

461 BERNIE (9) J Farrelly 5 11.2 — L Heard
4 81-1 EIGHTY ENOUGH (32) J Snowden 11 11.1 C Poste
5 5-14 ACADIAN (53) N Hawke 6 11.1 T Bellamy(3)
6 2-15 MOLLIES GENT (59) P Stafford (IRE) 8 10.2

8 P-14 JACKFIELD (42) R Dickinson 10 9.9 — M Shane Quinn(7)
9 23-6 MADDOXTOWN (24) Mrs R Ford 10 10.1 R McLernon
10 P-8 PRIVATE JONES (24) Miss I Pickard 7 10.1

BLINKERS: Nos. 4, 5, 8 TONGUE TRAP: Nos. 5, 7
CHECK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3, 6, 9
W-Factor: Grand Gigolo (99); Bernmo (90); Flemensbury (96).
SP FORECAST: 15-8 Bernmo, 6 Jackfield, Grand Gigolo, 13-2 Right Enough, 7 Acadian, 8 Mollies Gent, 10 Flemensbury, 25 Others.

BATH: Good to firm
2.00-LITTLE NOSEGAY (F) Egan, 10-3 fav; 1. Big Lachie (9-2) Affordability (7-1) 3. Hcap 7 ran. 1/4, 1/4, 1/4 (P Evans). Tot: £2,900. Tricraft: £15,300. exalta: £19,000. Tricraft: £108,710. CF: £7,474.

2.30-STAINTEAD LASS (H Bentley, 11-1) Nag's Wag (5-1) Quick March (4-1) 2nd ran. 3/4, 7 ran. 3/4, 1/4 (E Vaughan; 11-8 fav Free To Love). Tot: £15,200. Tricraft: £15,800. exalta: £59,900. Tricraft: £24,310. CF: £6,639.

3.05-KASSIA (B Baker, 5-1) Papa Luigi (9-1) fav; 2 Southern Belle (7-1) 3. Hcap 6 ran. 1/4, 1/4 (M Channon; 9-4 jfav Dark Shells). Tot: £5,800. Tricraft: £13,200. exalta: £17,520. Tricraft: £59,759. Tricraft: £14,240. CF: £10,600. Non-runners: P. 11.

4.10-DILETTA TOMMISA (P Bradley, 4-1) 2nd fav; 1 Doctor Kehoe (3-1) fav; 2 Tamjulin (8-1) 3. Hcap 9 ran. 1/4, 1/4 (D Loughnane). Tot: £5,600. Tricraft: £15,500. exalta: £19,300. Tricraft: £92,272. Tricraft: £131,800. CF: £16,800.

3.25 NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (DIV 2)

£3,249 (5) 3m 2yds (9)

1 L6L ROYAL BENEFIT (19) (F) M Sowersby 8 11.2 R Day(5)
2 L-P-8 DAULYS ANTHEM (14) David Dennis 6 11.0 S Twiston-Davies
3 4-55 SNOWBALL (29) D Arbuthnot 9 11.5 T Cannon
4 P-8-3 COPPERFACE JACK (P) Webber 6 11.3 C Poste
5 P-4F BROKETHEDGE (147) C Grant 11 11.2 T Kelly
6 L-P-8 SHOUTING HILL (9) J Farrelly 6 11.2 James Best
7 82F SCHINDLER'S PRINCE (41) Katy Price 11 10.10 B Poste(3)

8 P-F5 STITCHED IN TIME (8) Sara Endor 9 10.9 — N Moscrop(5)
9 37P SOLISTICE DAWN (23) P Winks 8 10.0 R Twiston-Davies
TONGUE TRAP: Nos. 6, 7, 8 CHECK PIECES: Nos. 6, 7, 8
W-Factor: Snowball (99); Brokethedge (97); Shouting Hill (94).
SP FORECAST: 5-2 Copperface Jack, 11-4 Snowball, 7 Daulys Anthem, 8 Stitched In Time, 10 Others.

4.00 HANDICAP HURDLE
£2,859 (5) 1m 7f 168yds (13)

1 14-0 MULLIGAN'S MAN (77) (C&D) Clare Egan 11.2 D Endor
2 61/P SALOMO (44) (D) A Wintle 10 11.2 B Poste(3)
3 5/3-0 MOSS STREET (27) (J) Flint 6 11.9 R Flint
4 292 ANTON DOLIN (17) (D) M Mullineux 8 11.8

472 BARABOY (8) (C&D) F Murtigh 6 11.7 — R Day(5)
6 P-29 PEDAR MIGUEL (21) (D) M Mullineux 9 11.5 C Ring(5)
7 74-5 VIC'S LAST STAND (17) K Revey 6 11.2 J Dawson(5)
8 44-4 GRISENDUFF (8) T Wall 4 10.13 J Wall(5)
9 650 TOM WADDE (7) P Kirby 9 10.12 C Gettings(5)
10 624 BOLD HENRIE (19) P Kirby 5 10.12 A Nicol(3)
11 51-6 ROSE RED (17) (C&D) B Summers 9 10.12 T Whelan
12 P-12 JAWANAL DU MATHAN (24) A Whitehead 8 J Banks

13 543 FLAMINGO BEAT (17) Mrs C Dunnett 6 10.0 — Jamie Moore
TONGUE TRAP: Nos. 1, 4, 5 HOOD: No. 6
W-Factor: Mulligan's Man (99); Salomo (96); Moss Street (96).
SP FORECAST: 7-2 Baraboy, 4 Anton Dolin, 6 Jawanal Du Mathan, 8 Moss Street, 10 Flamingo Beat, 12 Others.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good to Soft. Left Hand. TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2011-16): R Johnson 200 Strike rate. TOP TRACK TRAINER (2011-16): J O'Neill 145 Strike rate. FIRST TIME: 145 Hurdle/purse chase (cheek pieces), Excellent Team (tongue strap), 215 Intifadah (tongue strap), 250 Jackfield (blinkers), Right Enough (tongue strap), Away Down West (cheek pieces), 325 Shouting Hill (cheek pieces, tongue strap), 400 Tom Wade (blinkers), 505 Deogoch (blinkers), Thinger Light (blinkers), 535 Yeatcamp Lady (tongue strap), BEATEN FAVOURITES: 215 Singal Long, 250 Jackfield (hpl), Right Enough, 400 Rose Red (hpl), 430 Arthur Mc Bride(hpl), Victor Hewgo, 510 Hindon Road(hpl), LONGEST TRAVELLER: Lachie (1-45), Intifadah (2-15), Mollies Gent (2-50), Castletown Bridge (1-45), Yeatcamp Lady (3-55) Ireland, Acadian (2-50), 174 miles. STABLE SWITCH: 145 Morianour from F Fitzgerald to E Williams, 215 Code Of Law from John Cummins in Ireland to N Mulligan, Intifadah from M Callaghan in Ireland to P Griffin, 250 Mollies Gent from F Gallagher in Ireland to P Stafford, Right Enough from Francis Nimmio to J Snowden, 440 Salomo from Gareth Moore to A Wintle, 430 Castletown Bridge from Sean F Gallagher in Ireland to P Stafford.

4.45-BERNISDALE (D Muscull, 8-1) 1. Lady Hare (2-1) Racing Knight (7-1) 3. Hcap 8 ran. 1/4, 1/4 (J Flint; 6-4 fav Harry's Endeavour). Tot: £7,000. Tricraft: £18,400. exalta: £15,310. Tricraft: £116,433. Tricraft: £128,780. CF: £145,351.

Placemat: £421.60
Quodrat: £40.40

BEVERLEY: Good
2.20-DANDY HIGHWAYMAN (J Butterfield, 7-2) 2nd fav; 1 Perfect Symphony (10-1) fav; 2 Harbour Lightning (11-2) 3.13 ran. 1/4, 1/4 (O Pears). Tot: £7,400. Tricraft: £12,300, £11,000, exalta: £17,600. Tricraft: £89,300. CF: £12,719. Non-runners: Blastomagic, Jolly.

2.30-COMPTON RIVER (P Mulrennan, 7-2) 2nd fav; 1 Tinsill (6-1) 2. Minty Jones (6-1) 3. Hcap 9 ran. 1/4, 1/4 (M Smart; 3-1 fav Slim Chance). Tot: £5,900. Tricraft: £11,600, £2,100, exalta: £22,400. Tricraft: £123,556. Tricraft: £17,600. CF: £24,310.

3.25-NOAH AMOR (B McHugh, 9-2) 1. Classic Fyfe (7-2) fav; 2 Euxton (4-1) 2nd fav; 3 Hcap 9 ran. 1/4, 1/4 (D Nicholls). Tot: £5,900. Tricraft: £11,600, £2,100, exalta: £18,700. Tricraft: £68,810. Tricraft: £94,300. CF: £20,940.

4.00-ST MICHEL (R Powell, 8-15) fav; 1 Arrowtown (7-1) 2nd fav; 2 Gabriel's Star (2-1) 3. Hcap 7 ran. 1/4, 1/4.

4.30 HANDICAP HURDLE

£3,769 (4) 2m 7f 70yds (8)

1 0-61 DRIFTASHORE (27) Sally Randall 9 11.2 Miss R Hampson(7)
2 26-5 THEATRE GOER (27) Noel Williams 7 11.8 J Banks
3 2-51 PRESENCE FELT (21) (D) Juno O'Neill 8 11.8 R Johnson
4 P-1 CASTLETON BRIDGE (38) P Stafford (IRE) 9 11.8 Miss Aileen O'Sullivan(7)
5 267 COUNT SALAZAR (13) (D) Sally Randall 11 11.4 B Poste(3)
6 2-51 PERSEID (48) (C&D) Mrs S Smith 6 11.0 Sean Quinn
7 042 VICTOR HEWGO (24) (C) K Revey 11 11.2 Mr J Dawson(5)
8 5-32 ARTHUR MC BRIDE (19) (S) N Twiston-Davies 7 10.11 S Twiston-Davies

BLINKERS: No. 7 VISOR: No. 3 CHECK PIECES: No. 5
W-Factor: Perseid (99); Victor Hewgo (97); Arthur Mc Bride (94).
SP FORECAST: 11-4 Perseid, 4 Presence Felt, Arthur Mc Bride, 13-2 Theatre Goer, Victor Hewgo, 8 Castleton Bridge, 14 Others.

5.05 HANDICAP CHASE
£4,304 (4) 2m 4f (8)

1 P-1/3 WEYBURN (21) N Keighly 5 11.12 A Tinkler
2 6-12 HINDON ROAD (14) (D) A King 9 11.12 W Hutchinson
3 37-6 DEOGUCH (65) (D) J Farrelly 7 11.12 N Fehilly
4 2P-1 THINGER LIGHT (29) (D) R Skelton 7 11.11 N Skelton
5 14-5 THEATRE MILL (8) Mrs R Ford 8 11.1 R McLernon
6 8L-P RIVER PURPLE (76) (C&D) J Mackie 9 11.4 B Hughes
7 1P-5 SIGNED REQUEST (21) Henry Oliver 9 11.3 J M Davies
8 L/P-1 HIT THE TOP (24) Mrs S Smith 9 11.1 Sean Quinn

BLINKERS: Nos. 3, 4 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 5, 6
W-Factor: Hindon Road (99); Thinger Light (98); Deoguch (94).
SP FORECAST: 9-1 Hindon Road, 3 Thinger Light, 2 Deoguch, Weyburn, 8 Theatre Mill, 10 Hit The Top, Signed Request, 14 River Purple.

5.35 STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE
£2,599 (5) 1m 7f 168yds (9)

1 GOLDEN BANNER (F) D McInnis 5 11.2 T Greatorex(7)
2 CHATO A King 11.0
3 CHATO A King 11.0
4 DODDINGTON D Mrs T Barfoot-Saunt 4 11.0

MATTS LEGACY T Vaughan 4 11.0 — R Johnson
5 SEARAZZINA N Mulligan 5 11.0 N Fehilly
6 TUCKERS SPRING B Leavy 5 11.0 C Gettings(5)
7 WIZARD'S SLIAH F O'Brien 5 11.0 P Brennan
8 YEATCAMP LADY P Stafford (IRE) 5 10.9 B Hughes
9 OURLITTLE MYRTLE Miss I Pickard 4 11.0 M Shane Quinn(7)

TONGUE STRAP: No. 8
W-Factor: Gold (99); Wizard's Sliah (97); Matts Legacy (89).
SP FORECAST: 7-4 Chato, 9-2 Matts Legacy, 5 Wizard's Sliah, 13-2 Golden Banner, 7 Searazzina, 8 Yeatcamp Lady, 16 Others.

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

Cotswolds: ARTHUR MC BRIDE (4.30 Utttoxeter)
Newmarket: GOTHIC EMPIRE (3.00 Lingfield)
North: BROOKHOLDS (5.00 Catterick)
South: JACK THE LAIRD (6.00 Yarmouth)

THE SCOUT

2.05 Queen Kindly 4.25 CORONATION DAY (nap)
2.40 Wotabreeze 5.00 Spirit of Zeb
3.15 Twentysvthlancers 5.30 Togetherwecan
3.50 Smart Mover

2.05 EBF FILLIES' NOVICE STAKES 2YO

£3,234 (Class 5) 5f (7 declared)

1 (1) 16 ANGEL MEADOW (16) (D) Hammond 9 7.7 C Shepherd(5)
2 (1) 31 QUEEN KINDLY (26) (C&D) F Fahy 9 7.7 J P Spencer
3 (1) 33 JEANY (11) B Smart 9.0 J Fanning
4 (1) 3 NEITY NIECE (21) Mrs A Duffield 9.0 J McDonald
5 (1) 34 SKY GYPSY D Brown 9.0 J Tom Donoghue(7)
6 (1) 84 VIOLET MISS H Haslam 9.0 R J Fitzpatrick(5)
7 (2) 40 YORKSHIREDEBUT (33) P Midgley 9.0 J Mulrennan
W-Factor: Queen Kindly (99); Angel Meadow (95); Jeany (93).
SP FORECAST: 2-5 Queen Kindly, 6 Angel Meadow, 10 Jeany, 14 Nitty Niece, 16 Sky Gypsy, 25 Violet Miss, 33 Yorkshiredebut.

2.40 ST TERESA'S HOSPICE HANDICAP 3YO

£3,881 (5) 1m 3f 214yds (9)

1 (8) 123 WOTABREEZE (16) J J Quinn 9 7.7 Adam J McLarnan(5)
2 (6) 444 BECKY THE THATCHER (16) Hammond 8 13.5 P McDonald
3 (3) 5-0 UL TOP OF THE ROCKS (R) T Dacombe 8 12.0 G Gibbons
4 (5) 264 ADHERENCE (16) J Coyle 8.1 B McHugh
5 (1) 618 RAINBOW LAD (21) (D) M Appleby 8.8 A B Curtis
6 (3) 332 FALCON'S FIRE (35) K Dalgleish 8.7 J Hart
7 (1) 841 SANDRA'S SECRET (10) T Easley 8 6.66 C Hardie
8 (9) 755 SHULMITTE MAN (1) G Swinbank 8.4 J Fanning
9 (2) 730 KAZOYE (58) F Cairhurst 8.2 D Fentiman
VISOR: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: No. 8
W-Factor: Wotabreeze (99); Falcon's Fire (98); Rainbow Lad (93).
SP FORECAST: 5-2 Wotabreeze, 4 High On Light, 9-2 Falcon's Fire, 6 Rainbow Lad, 12 Adherence, 10 Becky The Thatcher, 16 Others.

3.15 OPEN GOLF AT 188BET HANDICAP 3YO

£3,234 (5) 1m 3f 214yds (9)

1 (6) 915 NEW ROAD SIDE (16) (D) J Coyle 9.7 B McHugh
2 (1) 675 CROMBAY (12) (D) T Easley 9 9.6 J P Mulligan
3 246 SOCIALITES RED (32) (D) S Dixon 9 9.6 B A Curtis
4 (1) 134 TWENTYSVTHLANCERS (13) (D) P Midgley 9.2 G Lee
5 (5) 750 DANCEZ (30) Mrs A Duffield 9.1 R Scott(7)
6 (1) 541 HIGH ON LIGHT (10) T Easley 9 9.1 J Hart
7 (1) 127 JUSTICE PLEASING (18) David Loughnane 9 1.5 J James
8 (2) 4-4L MAJESTIC GRIFF (23) T R Cowell 8 7.7 J Fanning
VISOR: No. 1 CHECK PIECES: No. 5 HOOD: No. 2
W-Factor: Twentysvthlancers (99); Dancez (95); Socialites Red (92).
SP FORECAST: 7-2 Crombay, Twentysvthlancers, 5 Sandra's Secret, 6 Socialites Red, 7 Majestic Griff, 8 New Road Side, Dancez, 10 Justice Pleasing.

3.50 25 FREE BET AT 188BET SELLING STAKES

£2,264 (6) 5f 212yds (8)

1 (4) 431 PERFECT WORDS (10) (C) M Miss F File 6 9.6 J Butterfield(3)
2 (2) 855 GRENADE (54) P Holmes 4 9.0 Paula Muir(7)
3 (8) 807 AY UP AUDREY (9) Falcone Bastiman 5 8.9 J P Sullivan
4 (6) 192 BETTY BOO (14) (C&D) S A Harris 6 8.9 J P McDonald
5 (1) 938 CHARLIE'S APPROVAL (43) B Haslam 4 8.9 R J Fitzpatrick(5)
6 (7) 616 SMART MOVER (25) (D) J J Quinn 3 8.9 J Eaves
7 (3) 633 LADY NAHEMA (21) Mrs A Duffield 3 8.3 David Gernot(7)
8 (1) 209 THE LILLISTER (16) A Carroll 3 8.3 J Norton
BLINKERS: Nos. 5 CHECK PIECES: No. 1 HOOD: No. 2
W-Factor: Smart Mover (99); Lady NaHEMA (96); The Lillister (92).
SP FORECAST: Evens Smart Mover, 4 Perfect Words, 9-2 Lady NaHEMA, 12 Betty Boo, The Lillister, 20 Charlie's Approval, 25 Ay Up Audrey, Grenade.

CATTERICK RUK

4.25 188BET MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (11)

1 (1) 11 DECLINED (12) D Griffiths 4 9.13 S Gray
2 (1) 498 SWISS LAD (22) P Holmes 3 9.5 Paula Muir(7)
3 (4) 549 BALLY PEARLY (8) D Loughnane 3 9.5 D Swift
4 (9) CAPTAIN REAKY P Holmes 3 9.5 J Garrity
5 (1) 260 STEELBER (19) (D) D Barron 6 9.11 G Gibbons
6 (2) 76 KOUKOUTIMAKESBEE J Bethell 3 9.5 Nathan Evans(5)
7 (7) 4-9 TRIASSIC (16) M Johnston 3 9.5 J Fanning
8 (3) 48 A FITTING FINALE (20) K Ryan 3 9.0 T Eaves
9 (7) 141 COQUINE (29) D O'Meara 3 9.0 D Tudhope
10 (5) 263 CORONATION DAY (25) (F) J Tate 3 9.0 D Allan
11 (5) 488 PICCARE (12) (D) D Thompson 5 9.1 D Allan

CHECK PIECES: No. 11 HOOD: No. 3
W-Factor: Coronation Day (99); Triassic (95); Piccare (89).
SP FORECAST: 10-3 Coronation Day, 3 Triassic, 4 Bally Pearly, 14 Koukoutimakessbee, 16 A Fitting Finale, 20 Coquine, 25 Others.

5.00 MARGARET AND TED THOMPSON H'CAP

£6,469 (4) 5f 212yds (10)

1 (9) 119-1 USTINOV (266) (D) D O'Meara 4 9.12 D Tudhope
2 (1) 236 BEST TRIP (18) (C) D R Miffle 9 9.11 S James
3 (2) 258 STEELBER (19) (D) D Barron 6 9.11 G Gibbons
4 (5) 346 MISHAL (10) D M Herrington 6 9.7 J Mulrennan
5 (10) 331 SPIRIT OF ZEB (15) (D) R Fahy 4.7 Adam J McLarnan(5)
6 (6) 343 MANATEE BAY (11) (D) Nicholls 6 9.4 F Norton
7 (10) 140 MESHARAL (18) (C&D) Mrs R Carr 6 9.4 J Sullivan
8 (4) 108 THE HOODED LAD (32) (C&D) T Easley 5 9.1 D Allan
9 (2) 076 BE BOLD (40) (D) Rebecca Bastiman 4 9.1 B McHugh
10 (8) 231 BROCKHOLDS (14) (C) Mrs A Duffield 3 8.3 P McDonald

W-Factor: Spirit of Zeb (99); Manatee Bay (93); Brockhols (96).
SP FORECAST: 10-3 Brockhols, 9-2 Ustinov, 5 Spirit of Zeb, 6 Manatee Bay, 8 Mishaal, 10 Best Trip, Steelber, 12 Mesharal, 16 Others.

5.30 BETFAIR AMATEUR RIDERS' HANDICAP (13)

£2,184 (6) 1m 3f 214yds (13)

1 (6) 346 MERCHANT OF MEDICI (27) (C) M Hammond 9 11.7 Mr Joe Wright
2 (8) 256 DUKE OF YORKSHIRE (11) (C) D T Easley 6 11.5 Miss S Easterby
3 (2) 220 APPEAL JACK LAD (57) M Smith 5 11.3 Mr M Ennis
4 (3) 131 TOGETHERWE CAN (11) (C) M Johnston 4 11.0 Mr M Ennis

MISS Emma Bedford
5 (12) 985 GLASGOW (20) R Craggs 6 10.13 Miss A McCain
6 (5) 324 TOBOGGAN'S GIFT (44) (D) Mrs A Duffield 4 10.10 Mr R Greenwood
7 (13) 269 CHAUVELIN (5) (D) R C Guest 5 10.8 Mr R Greenwood
8 (1) 0-7 CHRISTMAS LIGHT (29) A Luckwood 9 10.2 Miss Emily Bullock
9 (5) 514 NATALIA (16) Sarah Hollinshead 7 10.3 Dr M Volkonsky(3)
10 (7) 309 GRACEFUL ACT (57) R Barr 8 10.3 Miss P Bridgwater
11 (10) 678 THIEPVAL (10) J Ward 4 10.3 Miss C Bridgwater
12 (4) 014 FURAT (10) R Barr 8 10.3 Miss P A Greenway
13 (9) LLL COE THORNTON (10) J Ward 4 10.3 Mr J Pearce

BLINKERS: Nos. 4, 7 TONGUE STRAP: No. 3
CHECK PIECES: Nos. 2, 3, 9, 10, 12
W-Factor: Togetherwecan (99); Duke Of Yorkshire (92); Chauvelin (92).
SP FORECAST: 7-2 Toboggan's Gift, 6 Merchant Of Medici, 12 Togetherwecan, Appeal Jack, 8 Duke Of Yorkshire, 10 Others.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good to Firm. Left Hand. TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2011-16): P McDonald 145 Strike rate. TOP TRACK TRAINER (2011-16): R Fahy 200 Strike rate. FIRST TIME: 2.40 Top Of The Rocks (vry), tongue strap, BEATEN FAVOURITES: 2.40 Falcon's Fire(hpl), Wotabreeze(hpl), 3.15 Sandra's

By Rob Maul

JUST in case there is any doubt, Louis Smith is quick to reassure anybody who might otherwise question his commitment or focus on the 'Road to Rio'.

"Look, I am – and always will be – an Olympic gymnast rather than a celebrity personality," he said. "Moving forward, I want my gymnastics to speak for itself."

There will be many who read this who will only acknowledge Smith, the winner of three Olympic medals, as Britain's most successful male gymnast for more than a century.

Then there are those who will only recognise the 27-year-old for the various endorsements, the TV shows, the ever-expanding Twitter profile and the showbiz circles in which he mingled in recent years.

Most notably, the images of him in various popular magazines, hanging out with a succession of beautiful women. Not that anybody could blame him for making the most of his time in the limelight.

In the four years since winning bronze with the GB men's team at the London 2012 Olympics, Smith has transcended his sport like no other British gymnast.

Physically and mentally exhausted, he left the pommel horse in the shed and took a year-and-a-half break.

Quite quickly, he embraced the celebrity lifestyle, winning a legion of fans. Most specifically, he was watched by millions on BBC when he won the 2012 version of Strictly Come Dancing.

There was a danger, of course, he would simply vanish from elite sport altogether and become yet another ex-sportsman turned celebrity, moving from one reality show to the next, picking up whatever pay cheque was available.

However, since rededicating himself to gymnastics in 2014, he has knuckled down and shown that he is a true competitor. Yesterday his place on the 13-strong gymnastics squad for Rio was confirmed. And he duly reaffirmed his desire to win more medals. His

RIGHT BALANCE: Louis Smith competing at the European Championships and right, winning Strictly in 2012

Smith learns all that glitz is not gold

appearance in Rio is no gimmick. He was back on merit. All because he loves the sport immensely.

"When I made my comeback, it became quite apparent that some people saw me as a joke,"

said Smith. "Because of this other celebrity lifestyle I had, being in magazines, doing interviews about showbiz."

"I realised that if I wanted to be taken seriously again, I couldn't live in two different worlds."

"Well, you can but you will shoot yourself in the foot. For example, I wasn't selected for the 2014 European

Championships, even though I had done all the results and showed I was consistent."

"I kicked off about it on Twitter. I asked: 'What is different now to three or four years ago when I was being selected? I am doing all the same routines'."

"But I needed to be taken more seriously. So I stopped doing certain media commitments. I stopped the celebrity culture."

"I want to be taken more seriously. I wanted to strip away all the other stuff."

"In 10 years' time, when people ask me to introduce myself, I will do so as an Olympic gymnast. Not as a celebrity personality."

At the past two Olympic Games, Smith was the GB standard bearer in gymnastics, the man who everybody looked up to and wanted to speak with. Things have changed drastically for Brazil. There is greater strength-in-depth with several medal prospects.

In the pommel horse, Smith's chosen discipline, his biggest rival will actually be on the same flight to Brazil. Max Whitlock, 23, is the reigning world champion in that particular event and he will be expected to carry his exceptional form into Rio.

Whitlock, alongside Smith, will lead a men's team consisting of Kristian Thomas and Olympic rookies Nile Wilson and Brinn Bevan.

The women's artistic field has five world championship medallists with Becky Downie returning for her second Games, along with her younger sister Ellie, Amy Tinkler, Ruby Harrold and Claudia Fragapane, who is a four-time Commonwealth gold medallist.

'When I made my comeback some saw me as a joke'

Depression nearly made Green quit

EXCLUSIVE

By Rob Maul

AFTER almost quitting athletics due to being "extremely suicidal" and not being able to run while taking anti-depressants, British 400metres hurdler Jack Green says he is finally on the right road after being named in the squad for the Rio Olympics.

One of Britain's most promising athletes was scouting around for jobs on the internet as he thought about

BATTLING THROUGH: Jack Green has told of his dark moments

quitting track-and-field. Back in the spring, his love for the sport had gone. The well-documented depression, which he has bravely spoken about in the past, had resurfaced and was forcing him to question whether he would be good enough to secure his spot.

However, with the GB athletics squad confirmed today, the 24-year-old can at least board the plane to Brazil in less than three weeks' time knowing that his decision not to quit has proved to be the right one.

"I've had a very interesting journey along the way to Rio," said Green. "It was only a few months ago that

I was going to retire and was looking for jobs – and applied for jobs – because things weren't in a good place. I was taking anti-depressants but the problem is I can't run on them, so had to come off."

"Whenever I'm taking them I can't run faster than 80 per cent. They put me in a box, which shows they work, but they don't work for an athlete. You have to feel that high but the problem is I now have my lows as well. So I'm making that sacrifice."

"It's a typical athlete thing of funding myself, and I'm self-coached as well. I coach myself and train on my own. It has been a tough journey."

In the end, a conversation with his US-based

psychologist prevented him from hanging up the spikes altogether.

He said: "I started racing and was still on meds at the end of April and start of May. I spoke to my psychologist in Florida and said, 'I'm done unless we can fix something'."

"We tried to change my stride pattern back to what I was doing as a kid. I said, 'If this isn't going to fix it then I'm done' – and then started running really well. It's not that I don't have my bad times any more but I'm enjoying my running again."

Green suffered from depression throughout the Olympic year of 2012. A year later he took a break from the sport, which meant he had to forgo his high-

performance funding. Times got really tough, there were plenty of extremely dark moments in his life, but it is to his credit that he emerged on the other side and remains a competitive athlete.

He said: "It has been well documented that I was extremely suicidal in that time. I can speak on that side of things of how rough it can get. People from the outside look in and it's a great life. I have got a great life but it doesn't mean I can't suffer from bad times."

"I have enough money to have a full tank of petrol and have food in the fridge. As long as I've got that, I've got good family and friends – which is why I moved home – life can't be that bad can it?"



Main picture: PETER CZIBORRA

We have lots of climbing still to do

EDDIE JONES revealed he wants his England team to get on their bike if they are to climb to the top of the mountain after being blown away on a visit to the Tour de France.

The England head coach spent Sunday in the Pyrenees at stage nine of the epic race travelling in the Orica-BikeExchange team car behind the peloton.

Jones observed as the cycling unit – who have a fellow Aussie in Matt White as sporting director and Bury-born rider Adam Yates on their books – prepared for the stage and took notes on how they went about their recovery after the gruelling 185km stage.

The 56-year-old coach, who has won nine out of nine games with England, is still not satisfied after their 3-0 series triumph over Australia and claims his side can learn a lot from the cyclists.

Jones, who was at Lord's with the England cricketers yesterday, said: "It was just the professionalism of the preparation, really good individually before the ride, during the ride the information that each rider gets and, post-ride, the debriefing they did."

"Also the way that they set up, the preparation, it just shows that we've done some good things in rugby but there's still a long way to go. There is almost a race behind

By Adam Hathaway

the bike race as the cars with the head coaches drive behind the bikes giving instructions and water. It's quite incredible – just the toughness of the riders and what they do.

"They have done that nine days in a row and they were talking about their recovery. They had a day off on Monday and they'll still ride for an hour and half to recover. That's professional."

Jones has instilled a harder edge to an England team who crashed out of their own World Cup, winning a first Grand Slam in 13 years ahead of their success Down Under. And he pointed to their final Test win in Sydney as evidence

for the improvement when they already had the series wrapped up but still won 44-40 after being behind four times.

"It's definitely evolving," he said. "To me, the hardest game that we had on tour was the last Test. It was difficult for us, as we'd won 2-0 and Australia had nothing to lose and they gave it everything."

"Our guys had been up since last June and I could see physically during the week that there were signs of wear and tear in the players. So to put in that effort mentally, more than physically, is what we need."

"It's what we were talking about with the Tour de France. Those guys go up that first

slope for 45 minutes, it was tiring enough driving up there, and then they've got to keep going for another four and a half hours.

"That's not physical toughness, that's mental toughness, and our guys exhibited that which was really pleasing."

"But you're never there. It only takes one thing to change, one person to come into the squad and change the dynamics, so it is something that we've got to be aware of as complacency is always around the corner."

Jones will see his players for a three-day camp in London next month, and again briefly in September, before the autumn internationals against South Africa, Fiji, Argentina and Australia.

He has been reviewing the wins of the England Saxons in South Africa and the Under-20s in their World Cup and hinted that some of the youngsters could be catapulted into the senior squad.

He also said Dylan Hartley remains his first-choice captain but he will have a chat with the Northampton hooker before rubber-stamping his appointment.

"I'll sit down with Dylan when he gets back and have a chat with him but, all things being equal and if he has got the same level of commitment that he has had, then I would anticipate him continuing on during November," said Jones.

'Toughness of the riders is incredible'



BRIT HITS: Adam Yates, right, is second overall behind Froome, left



TOP THREE: Matthews pips Sagan, right, to the line

Cavendish feels Green with envy

TOP sprinter Mark Cavendish believes he has little to no chance of a repeat win of the Green Jersey in the Tour's points competition this year.

Cavendish is the second most prolific Tour stage winner in history, with 29 victories to date. But his wins have all been on flat stages and yesterday's early ascent of a massive Pyrenean col, the Envalira, effectively eliminated Cavendish from the running.

As a result, Cavendish's previous narrow lead in the Tour's points classification evaporated when reigning world champion Peter Sagan snatched second place behind Australian stage winner Michael Matthews.

The Briton recognised Sagan – a hugely versatile rider and four-time winner of the Tour's Green Jersey from 2012 to 2015 – will likely

continue to rack up the points on hilly and mountainous stages, increasing his advantage.

"We're talking about Sagan here so you could predict it from the beginning that was going to happen," said Cavendish, who last captured the Tour's points jersey in 2011. "I'm just happy to have had the Green Jersey for as long as I have."

The Dimension Data rider has won three stages in 2016 and will battle for a fourth in today's flat finish in Montpellier. Sagan, so far, has won only one.

But Cavendish argued that the Tour's points classification rules, with extra points awarded to the first rider in a mid-stage 'intermediate' sprint,

TOUR DE FRANCE

also played right into Sagan's favour. "On the next stage finish it's likely I'll get a load of points," said Cavendish.

"But in the intermediate sprints, when he gets 20 points and we don't, there's nothing we can do."

Cavendish was ruled out of the running yesterday when a breakaway of 15 riders formed early on the 22km-long Envalira climb, but his team-mates Edvald Boasson Hagen and Briton Steve Cummings made it into the move.

Cummings worked hard to help the break stay clear before fading late on, but Boasson Hagen took third behind Matthews and Sagan.

"Edvald will be disappointed he didn't win. He has the ability to win there but he was up against two of the best riders in the world," said Cavendish. Cummings

had netted a spectacular lone mountain win last Friday and said he would try to make it into another break in the future.

"I don't have any specific days planned, but whenever I feel good, I'll go," said the 35-year-old rider.

Chris Froome remains top of the Tour's overall classification but he admitted he had been worried about a surprise attack.

"The stage had a pretty strange start with a big climb so we had to be ready for that. Then we were descending through mist and I had to keep an eye on my rivals to be sure they didn't take advantage," he said.

ALASDAIR FOTHERINGHAM



CAVENDISH: Points

Haskell injury blow for Jones

JAMES HASKELL is set to miss England's autumn internationals after being told he needs surgery on a toe injury.

The Wasps captain, who was injured in the second Test against Australia last month, will be sidelined for up to six months.

"We're all really disappointed for James and we are all wishing him a speedy

SIDELINED: England No7 James Haskell

By Neil Squires

recovery," said Wasps director of rugby Dai Young.

"His performances with England, both in the 3-0 series win over Australia and in England's Six Nations Grand Slam success, have been hugely impressive. Our medical team will be working closely with James over the next few months to get him back to full fitness." Eddie Jones

has successfully used Haskell to fill England's problem No7 position since taking over as national coach.

Jones turned to Northampton's Teimana Harrison for the third Test Down Under but hauled the debutant off before half-time, with Chris Robshaw switched back to his old position and Maro Itoje moving into the back row.

Jones will have an extra back-row option in the autumn with

Haskell's Wasps team-mate Nathan Hughes having qualified on residency grounds.

England face South Africa, Fiji, and Argentina on successive weekends in November and Australia on December 3.

Former England coach Stuart Lancaster is on Toulon's radar after owner Mourad Boudjellal fell out with Diego Dominguez, who was supposed to take charge next season.



A rocky start for Rodgers

BRENDAN RODGERS claimed there was "no embarrassment" in seeing a policeman score the winner as Celtic were beaten by a team of part-timers in his first competitive game as manager.

Rodgers' Hoops were humbled 1-0 by Gibraltar part-timers Lincoln Red Imps in the first leg of their second Champions League qualifier at the Victoria



RODGERS

stadium. Lee Casciaro, who had scored Gibraltar's first goal in a competitive international against Scotland at Hampden in 2015, got the only goal in the 47th minute.

But Rodgers said: "There's no panic.

We've got enough quality here to get through to the next round. We've given ourselves a bit of work to do. You let the local team have their night, we press on, another week's training and be better for it.

"We never took our chances and they took theirs. The second leg will be different."

Moussa Dembele had a goal ruled out for a foul on the keeper as the Scottish champions battled for their dignity but, buoyed by their stunning breakthrough, the home side held out to inflict the most humiliating result in Celtic's European history.

MIDDLESBROUGH are hopeful of signing Valencia forward Alvaro Negredo.

The club are understood to have opened talks with the former Manchester City striker, right. Negredo, 30, has struggled to find the net in his last two seasons with Valencia but scored 23 goals in his one campaign at City.

Boro are also interested in Negredo's club-mate Antonio Barragan, 29, a right-back.



Sissoko priced out of market

NEWCASTLE boss Rafael Benitez has told Moussa Sissoko he does not want to lose him as he plots a path back to the Premier League.

Interest has grown in Sissoko as a result of his performances for France at Euro 2016, prompting Newcastle to ward off potential suitors with a £35million price tag.

However, speaking from the club's pre-season camp in Ireland, Benitez said: "People are talking about 'this price' or 'this price' - but we don't want to

sell, so we haven't put any price on him.

"A lot of people will be talking about him but we'd like to see him here and that's it."

Despite Benitez's insistence that Sissoko



SISSOKO

is not for sale, Newcastle have warned buyers that they will not get him on the cheap.

And that has not gone down particularly well with the player's camp - and yesterday he reiterated

his desire to leave. "For me, it changes nothing. The interested clubs will know how to find common ground. I hope it will be as early as possible," he said.



THIERRY HENRY says he respects Arsene Wenger's decision over him being unable to coach Arsenal's Under-18 side while continuing to work as a television pundit.

The former Gunners striker, left, had worked with Arsenal's academy players last season to gain his UEFA A Licence.

Ex-Arsenal skipper Tony Adams is set to return on a permanent basis after heart surgery last year.

● **CHELSEA** midfielder Willian has signed a new four-year contract. The 27-year-old Brazilian was voted the club's player of the year last season.

By **Richard Tanner**

MAMADOU SAKHO'S hopes of relaunching his career at Liverpool after his doping controversy have been hit by a double blow.

The France defender will miss the start of the season with an Achilles tendon injury - and has been warned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) they have not ruled out challenging UEFA's decision to end disciplinary proceedings against him.

Sakho maintained his innocence after testing positive for a supposed fat-burning substance after Liverpool's Europa League tie at Manchester United in March.

He missed the last eight games of the season - including the Europa League final - and was not selected by France for their Euro 2016 squad. But after a four-month battle to clear his name, he was

delighted to be vindicated last Friday when UEFA cleared him of taking a banned drug.

WADA faced being sued by Sakho and Liverpool but the doping agency are understood to be considering an appeal against UEFA's verdict.

And on top of that, Sakho has been unable to resume pre-season training after receiving treatment during his lay-off on a long-standing Achilles problem.

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp said: "I can't say too much as manager. I don't know exactly what will happen from Mama's side or UEFA's side.

"But as a human being I can say it's a sad story. He hasn't played for three and a half months. That's not cool but we all know doping is a very, very serious thing and we cannot have that.

"But I am sure they tried to do the right thing. Others have to talk about this because I don't know what I am allowed or able to say.

"That's one thing and the other is that Mama is injured. He had a little issue with his Achilles when he was playing - one day on, one off, this kind of thing.

"When he had his little 'break' he used the time to have a little bit of treatment and that now means another three or four weeks before he

Mama faces new battle over doping



SORE POINT: Klopp, with new boy Sadio Mane, is concerned for Sakho, left

can train again. There was no surgery, but he's not about to train. He has got some rehab and it's not too good a situation for him, us, everybody.

"We will see how he reacts to rehab and then when he can play again."

Klopp has held talks with £15million misfit Mario Balotelli to tell him he has no future at Anfield.

The Italy striker was loaned to AC Milan last season before Klopp replaced Brendan Rodgers last October. With a year left on his contract, he has returned for pre-season training and conducted himself

professionally but Klopp has advised him to move on.

"I have spoken clearly to him about this," said Klopp. "He's not at the stage of his career where he should be battling with four or five other players for one or two positions so it's clear we need a solution.

"I've heard a lot about him but since he has been back here, he's been a good guy and I can't say anything different. It's not that he's come back and said, 'Who's the boss, I'm the boss, no sorry it's you.' It's not been that at all.

"Everything's been good. But it's time to make decisions and I will try to help Mario to

get in the best shape he can be in and we will see what happens. There will be a club who would be happy to have the 'new' Mario Balotelli."

Balotelli, 25, earns £90,000 a week and his maverick reputation is unlikely to encourage interest.

Winger Jordon Ibe looks set for a move to Bournemouth after clearing his locker at the Melwood training ground yesterday.

Liverpool accepted a £15m bid from Bournemouth for him last week but reports emerged saying he was stalling. However, he now appears to have accepted the deal.

Janssen's dream Spurs move



JANSSEN: Big chance

VINCENT JANSSEN cited the lure of working under boss Mauricio Pochettino and the prospect of Champions League football for his eagerness to move to Tottenham.

The Holland striker has signed a four-year contract until 2020 after moving from AZ Alkmaar.

Janssen, 22, was top scorer in the Eredivisie last season with 27 goals in 34 appearances and helped AZ secure a

By **Graham Read**

place in the top four. Tottenham will pay an initial £17million for Janssen but the fee could rise to £18.5m depending on the player's performances.

"One of the reasons I chose Tottenham is the way Pochettino thinks and how he plays. I really like that," said Janssen. "It's always a dream for me to play in the Champions League and now it's coming very

close. When I was a little child I watched every game in the Champions League and now I can play it for myself.

"Tottenham are a beautiful club, a traditional club. They did very well last year and I have a good chance to develop myself here."

Pochettino targeted Janssen as cover for Harry Kane as Spurs look to balance a renewed title challenge with the Champions

League next term. It was made clear to Janssen that, while Kane will remain the team's first-choice striker, he will be given ample opportunity to impress, particularly in cup competitions.

There is also the possibility Janssen could start the new campaign if Kane, who endured a disappointing Euro 2016, is eased back more gradually following an exhausting 12 months.

Picture: GARETH COPLEY

By Gideon Brooks

JOE ROOT says he is ready to shoulder the added responsibility and prove as big a success in the key position of No3 as he has been lower down the batting order.

The England batsman has finally been persuaded to grab the bull by the horns and move up a place in the order after six months of discussion and gentle persuasion from coach Trevor Bayliss.

And the Yorkshireman cut a suitably bullish figure yesterday ahead of the first Test at Lord's that starts tomorrow for what is expected to be England's biggest examination of the summer in the Investec Series against Pakistan.

"I am gaining confidence all the time with the experience I'm getting playing more Tests, so I'm looking forward to getting out there and getting some big scores under my belt," he said.

"There have been a few conversations over the last six months that it was something that could happen down the line. It was in the selectors' thoughts and gave me an opportunity to think about it."

"I was asked leading up to the selection if it could be a possibility. I said, 'Yeah, I think that could be the right thing to do'. All parties were pretty happy on where it stands."

"It will be interesting to see how it goes but I'm just looking forward to getting on with it."

"Alastair Cook takes the mickey out of me, saying, 'You've got such a great record batting where you bat but you should do it at the top where it really matters'. He says I weaselled my way down the order and he is right!"

"I'm pretty happy with the opportunity and I just want to get cracking now."

If the lengthy discussions hint at apprehension - Root started the season insisting he was happy at four in the order - England, Bayliss and captain Cook will be right to keep their fingers crossed for the duration of the summer.

But the risk of upsetting Root's form, which has seen him average significantly more at either four or five in the order than he has in the top three, is one England simply have to take.

The alternative is to push the inexperienced James Vince up to No3 in the order and leave Root unchanged at four but with the former still struggling to find his feet at Test level, that

Joe eager to put his roots down at No3



ON THE UP: Root looking at ease during a net session

would be grossly unfair. Both Bayliss and Cook have sugared the pill with copious plaudits about Root's talent, with the Australian coach insisting that the move is a simple one. "You put your best batsman at three," he has said.

And while Root graciously acknowledged that compliment yesterday, saying it was "nice of them to say so", he will be hoping things go better than in the Ashes of 2013-14 when his average slipped to the low 30s and he was dropped from the side.

He said: "I do think I am better equipped to cope now, definitely. When I was No3 in Australia I was thrown in under strange circumstances in a series when we weren't at our best."

"But I've matured quite a lot as a player since then and my game has developed a lot."

England will be hoping Gary Ballance has made similar strides from when he was dropped during the Ashes last summer with Root's Yorkshire team-mate set to return here at Lord's at No5.

Ballance stressed that he has not made significant technical changes to his game despite getting bowled more times than is comfortable for such a top-level batsman, but he is happier with his form 12 months after falling out of favour.

"I thought I was a decent player before - not in an arrogant way - but it went all right," he said of a 15-Test first coming which yielded just under 1,200 runs. "I'm a bit more relaxed now and I'm backing myself a bit more, especially when the chips are down."

GIDEON BROOKS

SPORT IN BRIEF

UEFA Champions League Second Qualifying Round First Leg

TNS FC (0).....0 A NICOSIA (0).....0 Att: 1,056

LINCOLN RI (0).....1 CELTIC (0).....0

L Casciaro 48

BATE 2 SJK 0, FK Karabakh 2 F91

Dudela 0, Hapoel Beer Sheva 3

Sheriff 2, SV Red Bull Salzburg 1

FK Ljupija 0, Vardar 1, Dinamo Zagreb

2, Zrinjski Mostar 1, Legia Warszawa

1, Dinamo Tbilisi 2, Alashkert FC 0,

Valletta 1, Crvena Zvezda 2.

FRIENDLIES: Berwick 0 Gateshead 4,

Barnsley 2, Lowestoft Town P Norwich

P, Solihull Moors 1 Birmingham 3, Le

Havre 1 Wycombe 1.

CRICKET

Specsavers County Championship - Division One

Surrey v Yorkshire

(Day 2 of 4, Today 11am)

THE KIA OVAL: Surrey have scored 164

for five wickets against Yorkshire

SURREY: First Innings

(Overnight 95-2)

Z Ansari b Willey.....40

A Finch c Plunkett b Patterson.....52

J Roy c Hodd b Willey.....0

S Davies not out.....29

B Foakes not out.....14

82 b2.....4

Total (5 wks., 49.4 overs).....164

Fall: 13, 36, 121, 121, 121.

Bowling: Bresnan 5-3-2-0, Willey 15-

3-48-3, Plunkett 5-4-2-13-0, Patterson

14-4-49-2, Rashid 4-0-23-0, Rafiq 6-1-

25-0.

Umpires: N Bainton & M Saggars.

Somerset v Middlesex

(Day 3 of 4, Today 11am)

TAUNTON: Somerset lead Middlesex

by 203 runs with four second-innings

wickets in hand

SOMERSET: First Innings 236

(Rogers 57, Podmore 4-54)

MIDDLESEX: First Innings

(Overnight 361-8)

J Harris c Allenby b Groenewald.....78

J Fuller c Allenby b Groenewald.....93

H Podmore not out.....2

B13 lb22 w1.....36

Total (119.4 overs).....381

Fall: 0, 51, 74, 115, 117, 133, 177,

212, 374.

Bowling: Overton 30-7-86-3,

Groenewald 30-4-39-2, Overton 3-3-1-

80, Allenby 26-5-67-4, Trego 15-3-3-

41-1, Leach 12-2-38-0, Myburgh

2-0-9-0.

SOMERSET: Second Inns

M Trescott c Simpson b Harris.....124

J Myburgh b Podmore.....12

C Rogers c Bailey b Podmore.....0

J Hildreth c Franklin b Rayner.....0

1 Allenby c Fuller b Podmore.....38

P Trego not out.....115

C Overton c Simpson b Harris.....2

A Barrow not out.....7

84 lb8 w3 nb2.....39

Total (6 wks., 86 overs).....348

Fall: 16, 18, 59, 126, 307, 315.

Bowling: Fuller 17-2-89-0, Podmore

25-6-75-3, Harris 19-3-80-2, Rayner

19-5-62-1, Franklin 1-30-0.

Umpires: S Garratt & D Mills.

Warwickshire v Hampshire

(Day 3 of 4, Today 11am)

EDGBASTON: Warwickshire trail

Hampshire by 400 runs with seven

first-innings wickets in hand

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings 531

(Wheeler 204no, Dawson 116, Ervine

75, Alsop 50, Poysden 4-85)

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings

(Overnight 131-3)Umpires: R Bailey &

P Baldwin.

No Play Yesterday

Division Two

Northamptonshire v

Worcestershire

(Day 3)

NORTHAMPTON: Worcestershire

(21pts) beat Northamptonshire (3pts)

by 311 runs

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 277

(Cox 74, Whiteley 65, Leach 51no,

Azharullah 4-68)

NORTHANTS: First Innings 148

(Rossington 55, Leach 5-70)

WORCESTERSHIRE: Second Innings

(Overnight 181-4)

T Fell lbw Sanderson.....45

E Barnard c Murphy b Panesar.....34

R Whiteley c Prasanna b Crook.....45

O Cox not out.....0

J Leach b Crook.....0

G Rhodes not out.....31

B5 lb8 w2 nb6.....21

Total (8 wks., dec 83 overs).....324

Fall: 104, 177, 177, 180, 197, 271,

281, 282.

Bowling: Azharullah 10-0-62-0, Sand-

erson 16-3-34-1, Crook 13-0-65-2, Pan-

esar 18-3-75-1, Prasanna 8-4-14-2,

Keogh 18-2-61-2.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: Second Inns

B Duckett c Whiteley b D'Oliveira.....10

R Newton c Cox b Henry.....11

R Keogh b Henry.....9

A Rossington c Cox b Leach.....3

R Levi lbw Henry.....6

S Crook c Mitchell b Leach.....33

D Murphy c Leach b Henry.....0

S Prasanna c Rhodes b Henry.....31

M Azharullah not out.....14

B Sanderson c Cox b Rhodes.....12

M Panesar run out.....5

81 lb5 nb2.....8

Total (35.3 overs).....142

Fall: 14, 28, 31, 37, 50, 62, 81, 115,

129.

Bowling: Henry 14-3-36-5, Leach 11-

1-18-2, Oliveira 3-3-18-1, Barnard

4-0-29-0, Rhodes 3-0-4-1.

Umpires: A Wharf & S Sharma.

P W L D BT BI Pts

Essex.....9 3 1 5 32 26 131.0

Worcestershire.....9 3 1 6 32 20 130.0

Kent.....10 2 1 7 25 21 113.0

Leicestershire.....9 2 2 5 29 21 106.0

Gloucestershire.....8 2 1 5 28 20 105.0

Sussex.....8 1 0 7 19 17 87.0

Derbyshire.....8 0 2 8 23 18 81.0

Northants.....10 0 2 8 23 18 81.0

Glamorgan.....8 0 3 5 21 19 64.0

NATWEST T20 BLAST - NORTH

DIVISION—Leicestershire v

Nottinghamshire (Grace Road):

Match abandoned due to rain, 1pt

each.

2ND ODI—Afghanistan v Ireland

(Belfast): Afghanistan 250 (49.2

overs); Mohammad Shahzad 66,

Najibullah Najibullah Zadran 59;

K J O'Brien 4-45, B McCarthy

(4-59), Ireland 211 (48.2 overs);

E C Joyce 62). Afghanistan won by

39 runs.

TOUR MATCH—Sri Lanka A v

Pakistan A (New Road): Sri Lanka

A 250 (69.5 overs); A R S Silva 57,

M D U S Jayasundera 53; Mir

Hamza 4-62, and 83-2 (21 overs)

Pakistan A 451-8dec (117 overs);

Saud Shakeel 86, Mohammad

Hasan 73, Mohammad Nawaz 52,

Hasan Ali 50no).

CYCLING

TOUR DE FRANCE—Stage 10

(Escaldes-Engordany - Revel, 198km):

1 M Matthews (Aus) Onica-

BikeExchange 4hrs 22mins 38secs,

2 P Sagan (Svk) Tinkoff Team, 3

F Boasson Hagen (Nor) Dimension

Data, 15 S Cummings (Gbr)

Dimension Data at 5mins 35secs

20 L Rowe (Gbr) Team Sky at 9mins

39secs. Selected Others: 22

1 Stannard (Gbr) Team Sky at 9mins

39secs, 25 C Froome (Gbr) Team Sky,

29 D Martin (Irl) Etixx - Quick-Step, 36

G Thomas (Gbr) Team Sky, 43 A Yates

(Gbr) Onica-BikeExchange, 106

M Cavendish (Gbr) Dimension Data

at same time, 186 S Bennett (Irl)

Bora-Argon 18 at 10mins 38secs,

190 D Mcley (Gbr) Fortuneo - Vital

Concept at 11mins 38secs. Overall:

1 Froome 49hrs 8mins 20secs,

2 Yates at 16secs, 3 Martin at

19secs. Selected Others: 129

Cummings at 1hr 39mins 05secs,

155 Cavendish at 1hr 40mins 35secs,

167 Stannard at 1hr 52mins 32secs,

170 Rowe at 1hr 53mins 11secs,

184 Mcley at 1hr 57mins 06secs,

192 Bennett at 2hrs 23mins 10secs.

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Peterborough 44

Scunthorpe 46.

TENNIS

ATP BET-AT-HOME OPEN GERMAN

CHAMPIONSHIPS (Hamburg)—Rnd

1: (1) P Kohlschreiber (Ger) bt

C Berlocq (Arg) 6-3 6-7 (5-7) 6-3,

R Olivo (Arg) bt M Youzhny (Rus) 7-6

(7-5) 2-6 6-1, (8) G Garcia-Lopez

(Spa) bt K De Schepper (Fra) 5-7 6-2

7-6 (8-6), S Robert (Fra) bt L Mayer

(Arg) 7-6 (7-3) 6-4, I Cervantes (Spa)

bt A Zverev (Ger) 5-7 7-6 (7-2),

(7) M Kilian (Svk) bt M Lajovic (Ser)

6-4 1-6 6-3, L Wessels (Ger) bt

S Diez (Can) 5-7 6-2 6-1,

THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP AFTER WATCHING AT CLOSE-RANGE

Johnson's the man



STEVE STRICKER says the Americans are coming and are ready to prove to the world there is life after Tiger Woods.

Veteran Stricker, one of Davis Love's Ryder Cup vice-captains for the clash with Europe at Hazeltine, believes the US is on the up and primed to do well at a venue where the last six winners have come from America.

Stricker, 49, said: "American golf is in great shape at the moment. There's a lot of good young players – Dustin Johnson, Jordan Spieth, Rickie Fowler, Patrick Reed.

"Golf in general is in good hands, not just in the young Americans but players all over the world who are coming out with games that are prepared to win right away. It's good to see.

By **Iain Macfarlane**

We would still like to see Tiger back on our side and get him playing well again. But it's great that it's not just about Tiger any more. There are so many good young players out there."

Stricker tips US Open champion and world No2 Johnson, above, to make an impact. "He has won his last couple of starts, he's been playing great and he drives it a mile," said Stricker. "He's won since the US Open so I don't see him having a dip after the effort of winning his first Major.

"I can see Dustin being a multiple Major winner now that he's got that first one out of the way. That was a bit of a cloud hanging over his head, having had a few chances to win."

I want to play winner again

LEE WESTWOOD heads into the Open tomorrow halfway to an unwanted Major Grand Slam having held the hand of the winner in the final round of the Masters and the US Open this year.

A close-up view of Danny Willett's first Major in the same pairing and a month later Dustin Johnson's belated breakthrough at Oakmont put Westwood at the centre of events.

The 43-year-old has endured enough bridesmaid moments in his Major career for the upholstery on the best seat in the house to see history being made to wear a little thin.

"If you get into contention then you are going to play with a lot of tournament winners," said Westwood.

"It has been nice to get those feelings of contention back because I hadn't played well for a while, but this week I'd rather win the Open and not play with the winner."

Despite his ache for the crowning achievement to a career that has brought 42 tournament wins across five continents and nine top-three finishes in the Majors, Westwood proved a loyal partner for both men in trying circumstances.

When Willett delivered the cool chip at the penultimate hole at Augusta which took him to the brink of a Green Jacket, Westwood clenched his fist in solidarity with his management stablemate.

With Johnson having the threat of a penalty hanging over him for his closing holes at



NEIL SQUIRES
reports

Oakmont, Westwood and caddie Billy Foster offered their support and encouragement.

"It's that kind of game. Sport isn't life or death, is it? We take it too seriously sometimes," said Westwood.

Touring professional at Close House, near Newcastle, he withdrew from the club championship on Saturday after the first round so as not to win it.

Westwood has always been an even sort of character but that realisation has been brought home to him following the trauma of the break-up of his 16-year marriage last year.

His playing schedule now is dictated by a childcare timetable. His two children are with him at Troon this week.

Living in the North-east of England, with his family in Edinburgh, he plays fewer tournaments, practises less and spends fewer hours in the gym.

Oddly, it is a combination which appears to be doing him no harm when it comes to the big events.

Runner-up at the Masters, he was in contention at the US Open as well until a final-round 80.

"I'm freewheeling along a bit. I still do enough practice but it



THE MASTERS

is less than I used to do," he said. "Practice can be detrimental when you get to a certain age. It can wear your body down.

"The way I am swinging it and the way I am mentally when I do turn up to tournaments, I should contend."

He has happy if indistinct recollections of Troon.

In 1997, as a fresh-faced newcomer to the big time he finished 10th, and the last time the Open was held here in 2004 he came fourth after holing a 35ft birdie putt at the last for a final-round 67.

"I can't remember last week, never mind 2004. I thought I'd led all the way and bogeyed the last," said Westwood.

"I like the out-and-back style golf courses. It's an old



FIRST TIME:
Westwood playing at the Open in 1997

STAMP DUTY:
McIlroy chips out of a bunker on the tough eighth hole



Postage Stamp is

IT IS the shortest hole on the Open rota but the Postage Stamp is living proof that small is beautiful.

While modern course designers feel the need to push a par three out towards 300 yards, finding the world's top players tested by a hole that may play as short as 99 yards in one of the rounds this week is a lesson that size is not everything.

Tiger Woods took six at Troon's iconic eighth hole in the final round of the 1997 Open when it played off its usual 123 yards; Rory McIlroy took nine on it in practice yesterday.

Add them together and you reach the eye-watering 15 that Hermann Tissies managed at the 1950 Open. After that experience of the Postage Stamp, Tissies

By **Neil Squires**

would happily have folded himself up and airmailed himself back to Germany.

The par-three eighth was originally called Ailsa because of the views from the elevated tee of Ailsa Craig off the Ayrshire coast. That was until Willie Park jnr, one of the earliest Open champions, described the target area as "a pitching surface skimmed down to the size of a postage stamp" in an article for Golf Illustrated. That name stuck and the reputation grew.

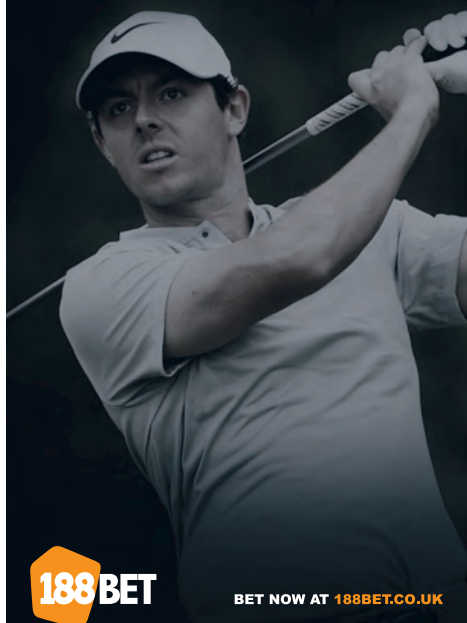
"It's a special hole," said Colin Montgomerie, right, who has played it more often than anyone else in the Open field.

"You are on that tee and you are a professional golfer, you're expected to hit this

THE OPEN. 14TH - 17TH JULY 2016

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AS OTHERS SUCCEED, LEE IS READY TO FINALLY END MAJOR MALAISE

Main picture: STUART FRANKLIN

with a
...me

NEARLY MAN: Westwood, practising yesterday at Troon, was paired with Masters winner Danny Willett in April and with Dustin Johnson, who triumphed at the US Open last month



US OPEN

traditional links type of thing. If it's downwind going out you need to make your score then. "You can get to three, four, five under and then try to hold on coming back."

After 73 Majors, he is past stressing over whether he will ever win one.

It is a similar mindset to the one his great friend Darren Clarke was in when he triumphed at Royal St George's five years ago.

But what Westwood does know, as he sets out in an esteemed group alongside Ernie Els and Phil Mickelson tomorrow, is that when it comes to the Open – or a career-long Major quest – it's never over until it's over.

"The Majors are certainly more of a mental test than other tournaments," he said. "You have to be able to shrug

disappointments off. You can think you are out of it but you're not.

"If you can show a bit of patience and string a few pars together you can get back into it.

"Even if you are playing poorly, if you are mentally strong you can still get in there.

"I'm pretty strong mentally, so even after the near-misses I'm ready and willing to go through it all again.

"You've got to be prepared to take the knocks if you want to keep pursuing the big prize.

"I've been through so many ups and downs in these events now that nothing's ever going to faze me."

[@squiresexpress](#)

'You have to be prepared to take knocks'

first-class test

green at 123 yards – you could throw it on really – but whenever you're expected to win something or do something, it's always more difficult to achieve. And that's why that hole is fabulous.

"It's the first hole on the golf course that you turn into the wind. It's different. It's a change. You haven't done this for two hours.

"Then you suddenly have this shot into the wind and you're in two minds. Self-doubt comes in and hesitation.

"If you do happen to miss the green, it's game on. The drama unfolds from then on, depending where and what lie you're in." Miss to the left and the Coffin bunker awaits, miss to the right and the



vertical faces of the treacherous sand traps can be even more unforgiving.

Of course, they should not miss and on a flat, calm day they probably will not, but a flick with a sand wedge one day can quickly be transformed into a mid-iron shot on the next.

Graeme McDowell used a six-iron in one practice round last week.

"That green becomes a tiny target under those circumstances," said Justin Rose. "When you

get down to the green, you realise how narrow it is.

"You realise it has got quite a steep pitch left to right and you realise if it falls off into that right-hand bunker, it's a really tough proposition to get out of there with a four."

The Postage Stamp can be licked. Ernie Els holed in one at the 2004 Open, emulating Gene Sarazen who had done so 31 years beforehand at the age of 71. But more often than not when the Open comes to town, this masterpiece in miniature is the little 'un that punches well above its weight.



CONCERN: Jordan Spieth will not go to the Games

Rory has no regrets over Rio decision

FROM BACK PAGE

status in terms of drug testing.

"I could use HGH and get away with it," said McIlroy, who has been subjected to three urine tests at tournaments in 2016, there is still no blood testing in the sport.

"Blood testing is something that needs to happen in golf just to make sure that it is a clean sport going forward.

"On average I probably get tested four to five times a year – which is very little compared to the rest of the Olympic sports.

Drug testing in golf is still quite far behind some of the other sports." And he did not stop there.

Talking about his decision to withdraw from the Olympics due to the Zika virus – and as Jordan Spieth

confessed his decision to snub the Olympics had been the "most difficult" of his life, McIlroy said:

"I don't feel like I've let the game down at all.

"I didn't get into golf to try to grow the game. I got into golf to win. I'm very happy with the decision I've made and I have no regrets about it.

"I'll probably watch the Olympics – but I'm not sure golf will be one of the events I watch. I'll probably watch the events like track and field, swimming, diving – the stuff that matters."

Spieth, the last of the top four to pull out of the Games, cited

"health concerns" including – but not exclusively – the threat of the Zika virus for his absence.

However, Masters champion Danny Willett claimed yesterday there is more chance of catching malaria at golf events in South Africa, while Justin Rose, his GB Olympic team-mate, added: "The Zika risk is going to be one of those things that we look back at and think it's a non-event

hopefully. You're going to get down there and you're probably not going to see a mosquito in sight.

"I'm excited about it and treating it as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Just being

a part of Team GB in a sense you feel like you're part of something bigger than just your individual sport, so it's going to be a fun occasion.

"I've never been to an Olympic

Games in any capacity; to go as an athlete is a huge honour."

The women's event has seen only one frontline withdrawal in Lee-Anne Pace, an imbalance that has further exposed the top male golfers.

"The only argument I have is maybe families are not on the cards in the very near future for some of the ladies playing," said Rose.

"It has been a sad situation to see those guys pulling out. It has obviously weakened the field. But you've got to respect their position.

"You do have to put your health and family first from that point of view."

A CADDIE was taken to hospital after being hit on the head by a stray shot from Vijay Singh yesterday. William Ciplinski, bagman for Marco Dawson, was fully conscious but being kept for observation.