



Clock watch... ref

Ref bias in added on time

By LEN READ

FOOTIE refs favour the home team with added time, research suggests.

They feel pressure from the fans possibly without realising, a study found.

Dr Alperen Kocsoy, of Durham University, analysed 6,259 matches in the English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Turkish leagues.

Refs kept games shorter by a 44-second average with the home side leading by a goal on 90 minutes compared to the other way round.

English games were reduced by 55 seconds – the second-highest after Spain, with 62.

Dr Kocsoy said: "It is kind of pleasing to the crowds, though it might be unconsciously."

He is calling for ball-in-play data to be used instead for timekeeping.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

Prince Harry
Attacks royals after losing security case

Some of my family will never forgive me... I would love reconciliation

Nigel Farage
On Reform triumph at local elections

The most astonishing set of results in the history of our country... a Reform-quake

The King
On his cancer experience

Daunting... frightening... it brings into sharp focus the very best of humanity

Ethel Caterham
Secrets of world's oldest woman, 115

Never arguing with anyone, I listen and I do what I like

David Attenborough
Launching a new documentary at 99

As I approach the end of my life, I now understand the most important place on Earth is the sea

Stacey Solomon
On why she has a TV in the bedroom

My sex life is wonderful and I get to watch favourite films at the same time

NO GO AREA

All public loos are being closed to cut costs in the tiny cathedral city of St Asaph, Denbighshire.

CHURCHILL SAID BRITAIN COULD REJ



'I don't remember curfew, I just remember like freedom...it was

THE D-DAY HEROINE

AFTER proudly shaping history from a secret bunker in Portsmouth during the war, Marie Scott couldn't wait to join the excited VE Day throng in London.

She had been serving her country as a Royal Navy signaller, but was given special leave to travel to the capital for the extraordinary day of celebrations.

Marie, now 98, of New Malden, Surrey, fondly recalls the atmosphere. She said: "London was manic, everybody was absolutely overjoyed, kissing and embracing.

"And if they saw you in a uniform – as I was – you were assailed by kisses and embraces for hours.

"Some of the kisses were repulsive, others not too bad.

"People had queued down the Mall and all the spots where they'd see the Royal Family or notables or celebrities. I remember, and I remember it well."

After the war ended, Marie went

on to work as a secretary, married Maurice, an accountant, and they had daughters Gill, 66, and Cari, 64.

She will be commemorating the fallen alongside other veterans at Westminster Abbey on Thursday.

Marie believes it is vital to keep memories of VE Day alive.

She said: "The veterans are becoming quite rare now.

"We're all dropping off the perch and, within a foreseeable future, there will be nobody left to talk about their participation in World War Two. We fought for a just cause.

"Millions died and all that sacrifice should be honoured and respected."

Marie, who was 18 on VE Day, added: "It really was the best night of my life. A lot of time has passed, but I remember it still so clearly.

"It was full of relief, joy and happiness."



SECRET SERVICE
...signaller Marie
was based in bunker
at Portsmouth

RELIEF AND JOY
...Marie Scott

THE NAVAL

JEAN GREEN and her pals partied well into the night as revellers rejoiced over the end of the conflict.

Now 102, she vividly recalls the moment she heard that peace had been declared while serving at the Royal Naval Air Station at Eastleigh, Hants, then known as HMS Raven.

Jean said: "The news went round so fast and there was such a hum of excitement.

"Lots of us were given the day off, so we all headed to London.

"The train station was packed, but the atmosphere was amazing. I don't remember whether we observed our usual 10pm curfew that night, but I very much doubt it.

"I remember the noise and how happy everyone was. It felt like freedom, it was a celebration like no other." But while

MEMORIES...Naval station HMS Raven



Jean, from Norwich, says the celebrations for VE Day in Europe also meant a lot to her military service. Jean, who looks like a conscript's rationing regulations official, became friends with three women she met while working at the naval station. They became close friends and remained in touch for decades.

MIXED EMOTIONS
...Jean Green