

Rachel Reeves ‘I’m a worrier and a geek’

→ Interview G2



Second 8-year-old dies after Wimbledon school crash



News

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The Guardian

Newspaper of the year

Exclusive The ‘secret’ stakes held by MPs in top UK firms

Ex-PM among politicians who did not publicly disclose shares, raising questions over potential conflicts of interest



Westminster shareholdings
A Guardian special investigation

Henry Dyer

More than 50 MPs have owned stakes in publicly listed companies that raise questions about possible conflicts of interest and that have until now been, in effect, secret, the Guardian can reveal.

Parliamentary rules mean MPs’ shareholdings, including investments that were held by the former prime minister Theresa May and the former education secretary Gavin Williamson, do not need to be publicly disclosed in parliamentary registers. But as a result voters are left in the dark about some of the financial interests of their elected representatives.

The Guardian has found dozens of MPs have shares in banks, house-builders, defence companies, energy suppliers and supermarkets – companies that could be affected by legislation or new policies introduced by parliament. They include Barclays, HSBC, BP and Sainsbury’s.

Almost all of the holdings found are not strictly required to be publicly declared under current transparency

Inside £130,000 worth of shares linked to attorney general Page 12

Former minister kept quiet about wife’s £50,000 stake in BP Page 12

requirements. Parliamentary rules, unchanged since 2015, require MPs to register holdings they have in a single company when they own more than 15% of its shares or when their shares in it are worth more than £70,000.

Transparency campaigners have said the findings “raise serious questions about vested interests in our democracy” and called for a review.

Steve Goodrich, the head of research at Transparency International UK, said: “If an MP has shares in a company affected by legislation going through parliament, there’s invariably a tension between them protecting

10 →

BBC to talk to police as presenter suspended

**Jim Waterson
Ben Quinn**

Police officers are set to meet BBC bosses today, after a prominent male television presenter was suspended by the broadcaster over allegations that he paid a teenager for sexually explicit images.

The BBC is struggling to contain the growing scandal over claims that the household name paid £35,000 over three years to a young person who used the money to fund their crack cocaine habit.

The Metropolitan police confirmed they were in discussions with the BBC about the incident, but said they had not received a formal allegation. “We will require additional information before determining what further action should follow,” a spokesperson said.

Media outlets have not named the presenter, with sources at the Sun citing the UK’s increasingly strong privacy laws as a reason for not identifying him. Last year the supreme court ruled that, in most cases, individuals under investigation by official organisations should not be named before charges were brought because it could unfairly damage their reputation.

The young person, who was allegedly 17 years old when they began talking to the presenter, is said to have sent the BBC employee explicit images and performed on video calls.

Although the age of consent in England and Wales is 16 years old, the minimum age at which people are allowed to send explicit photographs is 18.

The young person’s mother complained to the BBC in mid-May about the presenter’s alleged actions but he remained on air.

She told the Sun that she had seen the presenter “stripped to his underpants for a video call” with her child, who is now 20. “I blame this BBC man for destroying my child’s life,” she said. “Taking my child’s innocence and handing over the money for crack cocaine that could kill my child.”

She added: “We never wanted an investigation.”

6 →



PHOTOGRAPH: ASHLEY ALLEN/GETTY IMAGES

Tense England victory keeps Ashes hopes alive

Mark Wood and Chris Woakes pulled off a gutsy England run chase to seal victory over Australia, making the series score 2-1 to the tourists with two tests left to play **Sport Page 44** →

Inside 10/7/23
Four sections
every day

News and Sport

Doreen Lawrence

Police under investigation should hand over personal mobile data, says peer

Page 8

Journal Outside G2

Opinions and ideas

Young people, please know this: your anxiety is not permanent

Lucy Foulkes

Page 1

G2 Centre pullout

Features and arts

Hot chef summer

Jess Cartner-Morley on how cookery has never been sexier

Page 7

Save up to 34% with a subscription to the Guardian and the Observer
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Weather

Page 30

Quick crossword

Back of G2

Cartoon

Journal, page 4

Cryptic crossword

Back of Journal

Contact

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News



At the Thurrock food bank in Corringham, Essex, a volunteer sorts groceries into boxes for distribution

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH/THE GUARDIAN

on UC, with bigger effects for those with higher levels of earnings. These households tend to be further up the income distribution and often already above the poverty line.

In contrast, the £20 uplift applies equally to all UC recipients (except those who were subject to the benefit cap), therefore boosting incomes for those who were near the poverty line.

Xiaowei Xu, an IFS researcher, said: "Poverty rates fell over the pandemic despite the wider economic turmoil. This is in large part due to the £20 uplift, which shows the power of the government to reduce poverty."

"However, the changes to universal credit that replaced the uplift, which are aimed at working households further up the income distribution, have a much smaller effect on poverty. Poverty rates are likely to be higher than in 2021 now that the £20 uplift has been withdrawn."

During the first year of the pandemic, absolute poverty among the whole population fell by about a percentage point, from 17.9% to 16.8%. In 2021-22 it rose slightly, but at 17.1% it was still 0.7 points (479,000 people) below the pre-pandemic level.

The IFS said it expected the absolute poverty rate to be 0.16 points (106,000 people) higher in 2022-23 than in 2021-22 as a result of the policy changes. A household with less than 60% of the UK's 2010-11 median income, adjusted for inflation, is defined as being in absolute poverty.

A Department for Work and Pensions spokesperson said: "The temporary £20 uplift to universal credit was brought in to support claimants during the pandemic. As the country has reopened, we have rightly moved towards more targeted support to those most in need, providing record financial support worth an average £3,300 a household and employment support to help people back into work."

"We also raised benefits, including universal credit, by over 10% and increased the national living wage."

End of universal credit's Covid top-up 'fuelling rise in poverty'

Larry Elliott

Economics editor

The scrapping of the government's £20-a-week pandemic boost to universal credit has set back the fight against poverty and led to an increase in the number of families struggling on low incomes, a leading thinktank will reveal this week.

Research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) seen by the Guardian shows that the emergency programme of universal credit (UC) support led to a sharp fall in the number of households living in absolute poverty during the 18 months it was in force.

But the thinktank has found the replacement for the benefit top-up - changes to work allowances and taper rates that allow workers to keep more of their benefits as earnings rise - have been far less effective.

After a fall of almost half a million people living in absolute poverty in 2020-21 - the first year of the pandemic - the IFS estimates the total will have risen by more than 100,000 in 2022-23 as a result of the changes to the two policies.

Rishi Sunak, the chancellor in 2020 and 2021, came under pressure from anti-poverty campaigners and MPs to make the emergency boost to UC permanent but thought the £6bn-a-year bill was too high. The permanent

changes to work allowances and taper rates cost £3bn a year.

The IFS report will say that the greater impact on poverty of the increase in UC was only partly due to it being a more expensive programme. On a per-pound basis, the £20 uplift had a 40% larger effect on poverty than the changes to work allowances and taper rates.

It notes the taper rate reduction benefits only working households

100,000

Estimated additional number of people living in absolute poverty in 2022-23 because of policy changes

Care operators accused of exploiting staff from overseas

Robert Booth

Social affairs correspondent

Care operators have been accused of "shocking abuse" of migrant workers who are allegedly being forced to pay back thousands of pounds in recruitment fees, are housed in substandard accommodation and are asked to work 80-hour weeks.

Christina McAnea, the general secretary of Unison, the health care trade union, has written to the social care minister, Helen Whately, urging the government to step in, and demanding a meeting over a situation she described as a crisis.

In the year to March about 58,000 people came from overseas to help fill around 165,000 vacancies in the social care workforce. But Unison said it was receiving increasing reports about care workers who are:

- Required to be permanently on call.
- Working 19-hour shifts without breaks.
- Having their wages withheld.
- Required to pay large sums to recruitment agencies, which are then split with the care operator.

The union quoted the case of Lisa, a nurse from the Philippines, who had more than £10,000 deducted from her salary when she handed in her notice. Listed in the charges were costs that the Home Office explicitly forbids being passed on to workers, such as the immigration skills charge.

Sandra, also from the Philippines, was chased for more than £8,000 when she resigned. She and other migrant workers were accommodated in their care home but were permanently on call and asked to work when they were meant to be off. She alleged unsafe working practices

and was frequently not paid for the extra work and hours she was made to do, the union said.

"The government must stop unscrupulous care employers from luring overseas workers under false pretences, only to then exploit and harass them," said McAnea. "These practices have no place in a modern society. Migrant staff deserve nothing but respect and dignity for coming to look after those who need care the most. This makes the case for why a national care service that mirrors the NHS is needed so urgently."

The demand for Whately to take action comes after the Observer revealed last month that nurses hired from India to work in a social

'These practices have no place in a modern society'

Christina McAnea
Unison

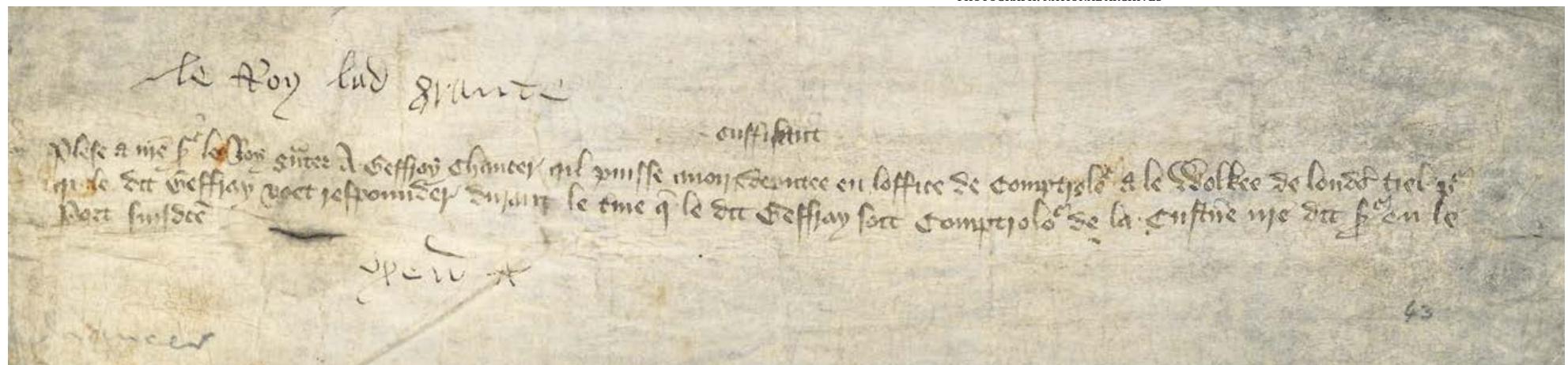
care chain were left in debt and were in some cases suicidal after being stranded without pay for months.

McAnea wrote to Whately: "These workers deserve our praise, thanks, and good working conditions, not the outright exploitation many are facing. Care worker ill-treatment is rife, irrespective of migration status. But unscrupulous employers have greater powers over migrant care workers, which leads to the most extreme and disgraceful practices."

Martin Green, the chair of Care England, an association of care home providers, said: "Migrant workers should be entitled to the same working conditions as all care staff and should always be treated with dignity and respect, and not exploited because they are overseas workers."

Concerns should be reported to the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority, said a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Social Care. "All employers of international health and care staff must follow the code of practice to make sure staff are treated with respect," they said.

▼ The request, previously attributed to a clerk, is said to show Chaucer's writing, with his signature below left
PHOTOGRAPH: NATIONAL ARCHIVES



Off to Canterbury? Chaucer's writing identified on request for annual leave

Dalya Alberge

A 14th-century bureaucratic document requesting time off work for a civil servant has been identified as the only surviving handwriting of Geoffrey Chaucer, revered as the father of English literature.

While it was known that the individual seeking leave of absence was the author of *The Canterbury Tales* – during his 12-year employment as controller of the London Wool Quay – the application was assumed to have been made on his behalf by a clerk.

Now a leading scholar argues it was written by Chaucer and submitted by him for King Richard II's approval.

Prof Richard Green, a Canadian academic, said: "This would be the only known example of his hand."

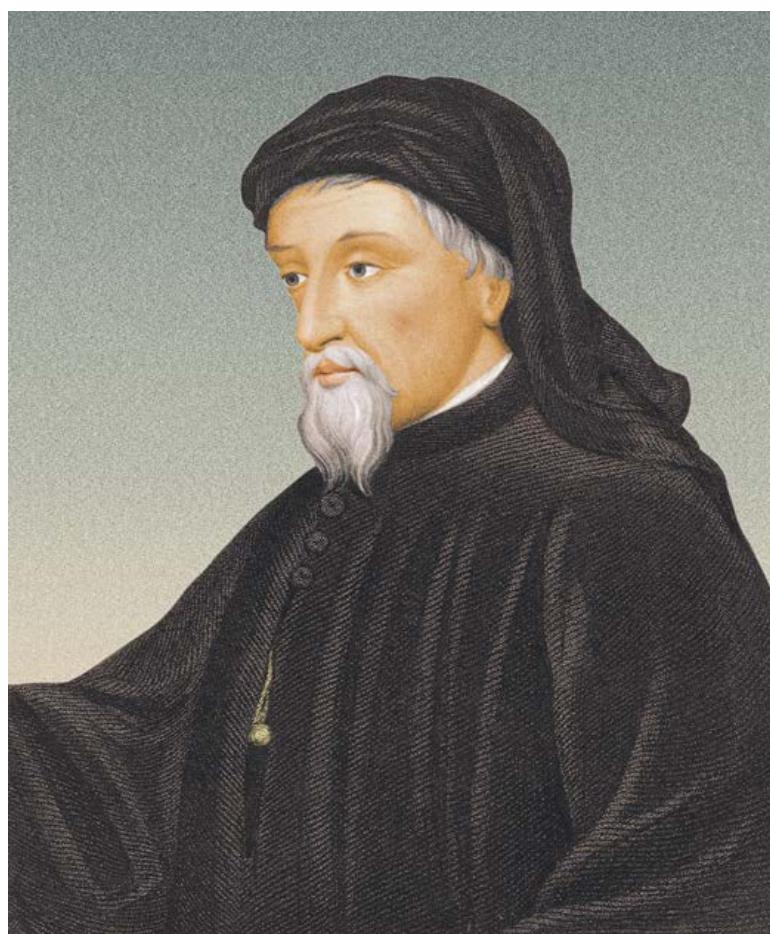
The potential for discovering more about Chaucer through an example of his handwriting was huge, he said. "There are still lots of public records

from the middle ages that haven't been looked at. My hope is that, if we identify the hand, then it might be recognised in other documents."

The document is held in the National Archives and has been known about for more than 150 years. Although it bore the name of "Geoffrey Chaucer", the spelling used on the author's own seal, Green argued it had never been recognised for what it was. This was "partly because of Victorian snobbishness" about its informal nature, "which is short, simply worded, and carelessly written".

"The real question is why would anyone else write it? ... It's been, for a long time, an assumption that [a] superior gentleman wouldn't have written like an ordinary scribe ... The Victorians dismissed it as not being likely to be in his hand – and people have just followed them ever since," said Green.

From 1374 to 1386, Chaucer was the king's controller, overseeing the payment of duty on exported and



imported wool, among other goods. In the late middle ages, the English crown charged an export tax on wool. Each of the principal ports around the coast, including London, provided two citizens known as collectors to levy this tax. The king appointed a

supervisor – known as the controller – to ensure that he was not cheated.

The document, a thin strip of parchment (27.5cm x 7cm), bears a spidery hand written in French, the primary bureaucratic language of the day. The applicant requested

◀ Chaucer, revered as the father of English literature, oversaw duty payments for the king from 1374-86
PHOTOGRAPH: STOCK MONTAGE/GETTY

permission to appoint a proxy to perform his duties.

Green, a professor emeritus at the Ohio State University, argued that the evidence included the fact that Chaucer had no clerical staff and was expected to provide his own official documentation. "Employing a professional scrivener for such a document would be like hiring a lawyer to write an inter-office memo."

Although Chaucer was famously so infuriated by one scribe's carelessness that the poet threatened to curse him with an outbreak of scabs, the script of this document did not exhibit the kind of attention to detail one might expect of a professional scrivener, Green said.

He added that while Chaucer's contemporaries wrote petitions that were far more elaborate, this document was "both informal in tone and casual in execution".

His research will feature in *The Chaucer Review*, to be published this month by the Pennsylvania State University.

Green's paper states: "The cumulative evidence is conclusive. Chaucer may well have known in advance that his request for leave of absence would be granted, but he was still obliged to go through a formal process ... There is every indication that [this] represents the actual document that he submitted, and that he wrote it in his own hand."

'Coarse' painting proves to be fine work by Gainsborough

Harriet Sherwood

After being consigned to dark storage rooms for up to six decades as the work of an unknown artist, a portrait of a one-armed naval veteran has been reattributed to the celebrated 18th-century painter Thomas Gainsborough.

A fundraising drive has been launched to raise £60,000 for extensive conservation work on the painting and its frame before it is hung in the Queen's House, part of Royal Museums Greenwich (RMG), next year.

The unsigned portrait of Captain

Frederick Cornewall was bequeathed to RMG by the art collector Edward Peter Jones in 1960. Although it was attributed to Gainsborough, RMG's curator at the time was not convinced.

"In his notes, he said that although there was an affinity with Gainsborough, the painting was too coarse to be his work," said current RMG curator Katherine Gazzard.

Last year the art historian Hugh Belsey, an authority on Gainsborough who had been trying to trace the portrait, discovered it had been bequeathed to RMG.

"We got the painting out of storage. Everything stacked up: it had all the visual hallmarks of Gainsborough's

style in this period," said Gazzard. The misattribution was "a cautionary tale", she added. "It's a reminder to take care over our judgments, to be rigorous. But we're excited rather than embarrassed."

Belsey said he was "delighted that this splendid portrait is now identified as a fine early work by Gainsborough". He dated the painting to about 1762 when Gainsborough was working in Bath.

The artist's work was "developing at a very fast pace and as he attracted more commissions his style became more assured and his brushstroke freer", said Belsey.

The painting needs urgent work. "It appears in good condition but it's very fragile," said Miranda Brain, RMG's painting conservation manager. The frame was also unstable, flaking, dirty and with losses to the decorative surface, she said. Conservation on the painting would take an estimated 125 hours,



It looks simple, but the more you look, the more there is to see'

Katherine Gazzard
RMG curator

◀ Gainsborough's portrait of Captain Frederick Cornewall has been in storage for six decades
PHOTOGRAPH: NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

with a similar amount of time needed to work on the frame.

The portrait had a "quiet dignity – no showiness, no flashiness", said Gazzard. "At first glance it looks simple, but the more you look, the more there is to see, such as a tiny loop attaching the captain's empty sleeve to a button."

Gainsborough portrays Cornewall as a courageous fighter, highlighting his missing arm, amputated after the Battle of Toulon in 1744.

It was "thrilling to be able to rescue this lost masterpiece from obscurity", Gazzard said. "Those of us lucky enough to see the portrait in the museum stores knew it was something special, but it was only with Hugh's help that we were able to piece together the full story."

PM likely to soft-pedal on cluster bomb issue to mend US relations

Ben Quinn

Political correspondent

Joe Biden will meet King Charles today for the first time since the coronation, in a fleeting UK visit that will be used by Rishi Sunak and the US president as a “pre-meeting” ahead of

joint efforts at this week’s Nato summit in Vilnius, Lithuania.

What will be the sixth meeting between Biden and Sunak since the prime minister took office in October has been partly overshadowed by the US president’s decision to send cluster munitions to Ukraine, weapons that are prohibited by 100 countries

including Britain, which currently holds the presidency of a convention banning them.

Sunak – who said in careful comments on Saturday that Britain “discouraged” the use of cluster munitions – has a choice about how much to make of the difference when Biden visits Downing Street, but it is likely to be limited as he seeks to continue the process of repairing UK-US ties frayed over the course of the Boris Johnson and Liz Truss premierships.

Biden said yesterday that providing the weapons had been a very

difficult decision for him and, without naming Britain, added he had discussed it with allies. They were being provided because Ukraine was running out of ammunition at a time when its forces were engaged in their offensive and needed to get through Russian trenches, he told CNN.

But Tobias Ellwood, a Tory MP and chair of the defence select committee, warned it could cost the “high moral ground” for Ukraine’s backers.

“And that could easily see this international coalition of support for Ukraine start to crumble away,

because many people will be deeply concerned that we’re using munitions which have been outlawed,” he told GB News.

Biden’s meeting with the king will be seen as a move to dispel allegations that the president had snubbed Britain by not attending the coronation.

They will speak to top financiers at Windsor Castle for what the government is billing as a “climate finance mobilisation forum”. The aim is to unlock private capital and increase support for developing economies to make a net zero transition.

Nato or not Sunak will have to raise his game to sway Biden

Patrick Wintour
Diplomatic editor

Joe Biden’s meeting in Downing Street with Rishi Sunak today – their fifth in the past five months and sixth since Sunak became prime minister – probably carries more significance than any of its predecessors, never mind that it is essentially a stopover on the way to the Nato summit in Vilnius.

The two men are increasingly far apart on how to handle Ukraine. The hope is the meeting can narrow the differences. The US disapproves if the junior partner goes public on any disagreement, or is perceived to be trying to bounce Washington into action. Pushiness, some say, was the undoing of the Nato ambitions of Ben Wallace, the UK defence secretary, after he tried to force the pace on arms supplies. Similarly, the watchword of Nato, built on consensus, is unity.

It is evident the two leaders lean towards different positions. At issue are the conditions set for the path for Ukraine’s future membership of Nato, and the security guarantees that an ad hoc alliance of states should provide to Ukraine in the interim. Behind that lie questions about escalation and Nato’s relationship with Russia, with a nervous Germany at one extreme and the impatient Baltic states and Poland at the other.

These disagreements are

matched by shorter-term conflicts over the restrictions the US continues to place on arms deliveries – particularly delays in F-16s that in British eyes have left the Ukrainian counteroffensive struggling across miles of heavily mined land in a way probably not seen since the Iran-Iraq war.

In contrast, the open disagreement over Friday’s decision by the US to supply cluster munitions is less important. As a signatory to the cluster munitions convention, Britain can hardly approve of the US decision, but neither is Sunak in a position to try to block a request that has come from Ukraine itself.

Going into a summit of this significance, the US and the UK cannot afford to be at loggerheads, so the next 48 hours is a test of Sunak’s persuasive powers. All sides agree Ukraine cannot join Nato in the middle of a war, since that would commit Nato states to fight Russia. The US and UK also agree the Nato-Ukraine commission founded in 1997 should be upgraded to a Nato-Ukraine council. The change could give Ukraine some extra leverage in the organisation’s bureaucracy.

What the UK wants is something tangible to show Ukraine it is not being offered the same pledges of future membership made 15 years ago at a Nato summit in Bucharest.

British ministers have been very clear that, as a signal of this intent, Ukraine should not need to fulfil a membership action plan. The foreign secretary, James Cleverly, said: “I think the UK’s position would be very, very supportive if we moved on from the membership action plan, recognising that the offer to Sweden and Finland didn’t require that and Ukrainians have demonstrated their commitment to reform the military for requirement of Nato membership through their actions on the battlefield.”

However, Jake Sullivan, the US national security adviser, said at a briefing on Friday the issue was still “under active discussion”. Biden told CNN in an interview: “We have to lay out a rational path for Ukraine to be able to qualify to get into Nato. It is a process that takes time to meet all the qualifications from democratisation to a whole range of other issues.” It sounded as if he was sceptical about a shortcut.

Torn between UK dependence on the US and Britain’s natural allies in the Baltic states and Poland, Sunak will need to show a new degree of diplomatic sinuousness.



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▲ Sunak and Biden at a meeting at the White House early last month

War in Ukraine Page 21 →

Chris Packham
Hopes for impact of
TV 'terror factor'

Page 13

Blur live review
A Wembley set charged
with ragged energy

Page 15



National

Family pays tribute after second child dies following Wimbledon school crash

Christy Cooney

A second child has died after a Land Rover crashed through a school fence in south-west London last Thursday.

The Metropolitan police named the girl as eight-year-old Nuria Sajjad.

Several people were injured after the car came off the road and collided with a building at the Study prep school in Wimbledon at 9.54am. The death of another girl, eight-year-old Selena Lau, was confirmed later the same day.

In a statement, Nuria's family said: "It is with profound sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved Nuria on Sunday 9 July 2023. Nuria was the light of our lives. She embodied joy, kindness and generosity and she was loved by all around her."

"We would like to thank the efforts of the emergency services, all the

extraordinary staff at St George's hospital, the parents of Nuria's class fellows and staff of the Study prep for all they have done to ease Nuria's journey. We request that our privacy is respected at this difficult time."

Sadiq Khan, the mayor of London, tweeted: "My heart goes out to the family of eight-year-old Nuria Sajjad and everyone affected by this tragic incident."

Following the crash, 35 police vehicles attended the scene with other members of the emergency services. In total 16 people were treated at the scene and 10, including a seven-month-old girl, were taken to hospital.

A woman in her 40s remains in hospital in a serious condition, while others were treated for non-life threatening injuries.

Police have said that the injured adults were parents or carers and not staff at the school.



▲ Nuria Sajjad, left, and Selena Lau, both aged eight, were fatally injured after a car crashed through a fence at the Study prep school in Wimbledon

The driver of the car, a 46-year-old woman from Wimbledon, was arrested at the scene on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. She was taken to hospital, where her condition was also assessed as non-life threatening, and has been bailed to a date in late July pending further enquiries.

Detectives from the Met's serious collision investigation unit are leading the investigation and their

inquiries are ongoing. The incident is not being treated as terror-related.

A statement released by Selena's family after her death had been confirmed described her as an "intelligent and cheeky girl" who had been "adored and loved by everyone".

A police cordon was lifted on Friday and locals began to lay floral tributes at the gates to the school.

One woman wearing a blue sling around her arm visited the scene

and left flowers in a box and a card. A note she left at the scene read: "Dear Selena, you will always be our shining star. We will miss you so much."

Another tribute read: "The community of Wimbledon beats and pulses as one. Let us help. We pray that the many happy memories formed at this wonderful school and in your family lives can wrap their arms around you and, in time, bring some comfort."

Some expressed thanks to staff at the school. One read: "Dear all staff that work here, I hope you are all OK. I'm so sorry. Thank you for all that you are doing to help."

DCS Clair Kelland, the policing commander for south-west London, said: "It is difficult to imagine the pain and upset the families of those involved are going through and we will do all we can to support them as our investigation continues."

"I know the impact of this tragic incident is also being felt in the wider community and we are working with our partners to ensure the appropriate support is in place."

"I understand many people will want answers about how this happened and there is a team of detectives working to establish the circumstances."

Just Stop Oil praises stunt at Osborne's wedding but denies any role

Mark Brown

Just Stop Oil has applauded a woman who threw orange confetti at the wedding of the ex-chancellor George Osborne but denied that it, as a campaign group, was responsible.

The protest took place as Osborne and his bride, Thea Rogers, left a church in the village of Bruton, Somerset, on Saturday.

As bells pealed, an unknown woman wearing a floral dress threw orange confetti from a union flag paper bag over the slightly startled newlyweds.

It was immediately assumed that Just Stop Oil, the environmental campaign group, was behind it - an assumption helped along by a tweet from the group saying: "You look good in orange @George_Osborne - congratulations to the newlyweds."

Yesterday afternoon Just Stop Oil published a statement about what it called "Confettigate".

It said: "The lady who threw confetti in Bruton yesterday... was upholding a tradition that is common across many cultures. We absolutely defend the right for people to throw



confetti (of whatever colour) at weddings and other celebrations.

"If it was a form of protest - which is yet to be established - we applaud it and thank the person concerned. It was peaceful and not especially disruptive, but got massive media attention for Just Stop Oil's demand."

But it continued: "As much as we applaud the use of orange confetti at this wedding, we were not responsible."

It urged the media to focus on more important matters, such as "the current government's plans to license

over 100 new oil and gas projects, which will result in excess deaths the likes of which we have never seen. Or the fact that the UN secretary general has said that 'climate change is out of control' as we've just seen the hottest average temperatures since records began. Or the fact that Canadian wildfires have now burned down an area the size of Portugal."

The confetti protest was condemned by politicians across the spectrum.

The former home secretary Priti Patel posted on Twitter: "[JSO] [Just

Stop Oil] are shameful, attention seeking, disrespectful low life."

Asked about the matter, the shadow chancellor, Rachel Reeves, told Sky News that she thought this form of protest was "counter-productive and rude".

Over the past year Just Stop Oil activists have staged protests that have included throwing tomato soup over Van Gogh's Sunflowers, gluing themselves to the frame of Turner's Thomson's Aeolian Harp at Manchester Art Gallery and pouring orange paint powder over a snooker



◀ A mystery woman throws confetti - dyed in Just Stop Oil's now-signature orange - over the newlyweds George Osborne and Thea Rogers (above) as they leave church

in Bruton, Somerset, on Saturday. The environmental campaign group said it was not responsible for the incident

PHOTOGRAPHS:
FINNBARR WEBSTER/
GETTY IMAGES

table at the world championships in Sheffield.

Reeves said: "I have got no time for Just Stop Oil ... it is a bit pathetic and quite tedious disrupting tennis, snooker [and] other people's weddings. They are not building support for their cause."

Osborne's wedding, his second, was attended by politicians including Michael Gove, David Cameron, Matt Hancock, Ed Balls and Yvette Cooper as well as journalists including Emily Maitlis, Jon Sopel and Nick Robinson.

Corporation chiefs to meet police after suspension of unnamed star

Continued from page 1

We just wanted the BBC to tell him to stop. Initially the security boss gave us a number that didn't exist."

The presenter remained on air until last week, when journalists at the Sun approached the BBC for comment. A specialist unit at the Met police, which deals with high-profile individuals, was informed of the allegations on Friday, with further conversations with the police set to take place this week.

Questions are already being asked over whether the BBC acted fast enough to suspend the presenter. One BBC source suggested the initial complaint from the mother had been "concerning", but the claims she had made to the Sun were more substantial and had triggered a full-blown investigation. It is not known if the young person is cooperating with any inquiries.

One key legal issue is whether the young person sent the BBC presenter any explicit pictures when they were 17, which could amount to possession of child sexual abuse images, a criminal charge that incurs a minimum six-month prison sentence. If explicit photographs were exchanged only after the teenager turned 18, it is possible that no law was broken.

The corporation said yesterday: "The BBC takes any allegations seriously and we have robust internal processes in place to proactively deal with such allegations. This is a complex and fast-moving set of circumstances and the BBC is working as quickly as possible to establish the facts in order to properly inform appropriate next steps."

"It is important that these matters are handled fairly and with care. We have been clear that if - at any point - new information comes to light or is provided to us, this will be acted upon appropriately and actively followed up."

The mother told the Sun that she had gone to the press because she felt the BBC was not acting quickly enough on her allegations: "My child said they had run out of money and then suddenly had this cash. It's



▲ Lucy Frazer, the culture secretary, said she had spoken to Tim Davie

obvious to me the BBC hadn't spoken to this man between our complaint on 19 May and in June, as they thought he was too important."

The BBC director general, Tim Davie, also emailed staff about the allegations, confirming that the corporation had first received a complaint almost two months ago. He said new allegations of a different nature were put to the corporation on Thursday, prompting the suspension of the presenter: "By law, individuals are entitled to a reasonable expectation of privacy, which is making this situation more complex," he said.

Davie also condemned false accusations against other well-known male BBC presenters on social media, forcing the likes of Nicky Campbell, Jeremy Vine and Gary Lineker to distance themselves from the claims.

Davie said: "I also want to be very clear that I am wholly condemning the unsubstantiated rumours being made on the internet about some of our presenting talent. We are in contact with the family referenced in the media reports."

The suspension of one of the BBC's presenters has shocked staff. Senior executives have been locked in regular meetings since the story broke as they work out how to handle the crisis, while the culture secretary, Lucy Frazer, has already held talks with Davie. She said: "Given the nature of the allegations, it is important that the BBC is now given the space to conduct its investigation, establish the facts and take appropriate action. I will be kept updated."

Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor, said there needed to be a full investigation. She added that it went "beyond the BBC", with standards applying more broadly to broadcasters needing to be "reformed and looked at again" in the wake of other controversies, such as that which led to Phillip Schofield's departure from ITV's This Morning in late May.

"The investigations need to be much swifter," she said on Sky News. "Action needs to be taken quicker when there are serious complaints like this. But the standards at which presenters operate just need to be much, much higher."

I blame this BBC man for destroying my child's life... handing over money for crack cocaine'

Mother

Claims made to the Sun



Explainer What is the BBC presenter accused of and why wasn't he named?

What is the BBC presenter alleged to have done?

The BBC suspended one of its male presenters yesterday after he was accused of spending £35,000 buying explicit images from a young person who spent the money on crack cocaine. Their interactions allegedly began when the young person was 17 years old, meaning the BBC star may have been commissioning child pornography, a serious criminal offence.

Everything that has been made public so far relies on reporting by the Sun, which anonymously quoted the mother of the young person. She told the newspaper her child, now 20, had shown her an online bank statement that had multiple deposits from the BBC presenter: "There were huge sums, hundreds, or thousands of pounds at a time. One time he had sent

£5,000 in one lump. The money had been in exchange for sexually explicit photographs of my child."

The mother said the BBC star requested "performances" from her child, who would "get their bits out" for him before spending the funds on drugs: "I blame this BBC man for destroying my child's life. Taking my child's innocence and handing over the money for crack cocaine that could kill my child."

When did the BBC learn of the allegations?

The BBC has confirmed the mother's claim that an initial complaint was made in mid-May and they began investigating. However, the presenter remained on air until the Sun approached the BBC for comment on its story almost two months later. BBC sources suggested the initial

allegations were not as strong as the allegations made by the Sun, which triggered a full-blown investigation. The BBC has now suspended the presenter, launched an internal investigation, and informed a specialist police unit that deals with high-profile individuals. Further contact with police is expected today.

Why did the mother speak to the media?

The Sun, which often pays members of the public for information, says the mother made clear she did not want any money for her story. It is not clear if their child has cooperated with the Sun.

She told the newspaper she saw the BBC presenter "stripped to his underpants for a video call" with her child. She said she went to the press as she felt the BBC was not acting on her allegations: "My child said they had run out of money and then suddenly had this cash. It's obvious to me the BBC hadn't spoken to this man between our complaint on May 19 and in June as they thought he was too important."

"We never wanted an investigation. We just wanted the BBC to tell him to stop. Initially the security boss gave us a number that didn't exist."

▼ Broadcasting House in London yesterday. The BBC has suspended a presenter and informed the police
PHOTOGRAPH: HENRY NICHOLLS/AFP/GETTY



Who is the BBC star accused of buying the explicit images?

The Sun and other news outlets know the identity of the BBC presenter accused of wrongdoing but have so far declined to publish his name. Sources at the tabloid cited the UK's increasingly strong privacy laws, along with other legal concerns about linking an individual to such damaging allegations. There is not believed to be any injunction banning the disclosure of the name.

Is the anonymity creating a witch-hunt?

Social media has been flooded with false allegations against other prominent high-earning male BBC presenters. Gary Lineker, Jeremy Vine and Nicky Campbell are among the high-earning BBC presenters who have issued statements distancing themselves from the allegations.

Could the presenter have broken the law?

If the presenter solicited pictures of a 17-year-old performing sexual acts then they could have come into possession of child pornography, which is considered a serious sexual offence with a starting sentence of 26 weeks in prison.

However, if no explicit photos were exchanged until the young person turned 18, then that is likely to be legal and within the law.

What does the young person think?

They have not been quoted in any of the Sun's articles and it is unknown if they are taking part in any BBC investigation.

How bad could this be for the BBC?

In the last year alone there have been allegations of a failure to deal with allegations of sexual assault against the former presenter Tim Westwood, the resignation of the BBC chair Richard Sharp over his failure to disclose his links to the former prime minister Boris Johnson, and a successful rebellion by staff over the suspension of Gary Lineker for tweets about government policy.

Everyone at the BBC agrees the latest allegations are potentially far worse than anything in recent memory. The director general, Tim Davie, has been trying to steady the ship after the Lineker incident but the potential for a BBC presenter to be investigated by the police over allegations of possessing child pornography is seen as far worse than anything it has faced so far.

Jim Waterson

Analysis

Davie faces biggest storm of rocky stint as BBC boss

Jim Waterson
Media editor

Tim Davie is facing possibly the biggest crisis of his crisis-strewn stint as the BBC's director general, after one of the corporation's prominent male television presenters was suspended yesterday. How Davie handles the fallout could define his tenure as boss of the broadcaster, as well as shape the BBC's future.

Running the BBC is like trying to steer an oil tanker through a narrow strait, blindfolded, with the controls jammed. Add in the knowledge that there is always a giant storm on the horizon to knock you off course and it's one of the most challenging jobs in UK media.

That requires a calm head, clear direction and luck. Yet Davie is still nursing his self-inflicted wounds over the Gary Lineker affair, when he suspended the Match of the Day presenter for an apparent breach of the BBC's impartiality guidelines – but was forced to back down in the face of a mass strike by presenters.

Since then sources at the corporation suggest he has been on the back foot, keen to avoid



confrontation. Now he has been hit by a storm he didn't see coming.

The presenter – who has not been named by media outlets, partly out of concern for privacy law – allegedly sent £35,000 to a young person over three years in return for explicit images and video. The young person's mother claims their child was 17 when they began communicating with the presenter, raising the possibility that any pictures sent at that age could count as child sexual abuse images.

The issue for Davie is that the mother says she only took her story to the media after the BBC failed to act on a complaint she sent to the corporation in mid-May.

It is inevitable that parliament and other organisations will investigate the BBC's handling of her complaint. They are likely to focus on why it took almost two months between the mother's initial contact and the presenter being suspended after the Sun put the story on its front page.

Sources at the BBC suggest there was a substantial difference between the complaint filed in May and more severe allegations put to

▲ The way Tim Davie handles the crisis could define his tenure as director general of the BBC

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW MILLIGAN/PA

the BBC by the Sun last week. But Davie, struggling to convince staff that they can confidently blow the whistle on wrongdoing, will have to prove it was not fear of negative publicity that led to the change in the BBC's approach.

To make matters worse for Davie, the BBC's annual report is due to be published tomorrow, meaning he will be asked to justify the pay of the BBC's biggest stars.

Not naming the presenter means public interest in the story will remain enormous, with guessing games and whispers across the nation. Politicians are demanding answers. Staff are wondering if they were sufficiently protected at work.

The BBC has plenty of experience of scandals but even old hands are shocked by the allegations against the presenter. One veteran employee compared it to the crisis in 2004 over the BBC's reporting on the Iraq war: "This is Hutton on crystal meth."

Legal position Jail term is possible for explicit photos

Jim Waterson

The BBC presenter accused of paying a 17-year-old for explicit photographs could face a six-month prison sentence if they are found guilty of a criminal offence, according to a leading obscenity lawyer.

Myles Jackman, who has represented individuals accused of similar crimes, said possessing images of a child undertaking sexual acts had a starting sentence of 26 weeks in prison. That could increase if they are found to have shared those images.

Jackman said: "Any child under 18 that takes a photo of themselves is manufacturing child pornography, they are in possession of it, and they have distributed it.

"Anyone soliciting photographs from someone under 18 has committed a serious raft of offences."

Although the age of consent for sexual activity in England and Wales is 16, the law on indecent images treats all under-18s as children. "The Protection of Children Act 1978 prohibits any production, possession, or distribution of images of a sexual nature of children – and that means under the age of 18," he said.

According to the Sun, the unnamed BBC presenter paid tens of thousands of pounds to a young person to provide explicit photos. It has been claimed that communications started when they were 17.

The newspaper quoted the young person's mother, who alleged her child had provided "performances" for the BBC employee and used the money to fund an addiction to crack cocaine. The BBC has suspended a prominent male presenter and said it was urgently investigating the allegation. It is understood to have contacted the police on Friday.

Based on the reporting in the Sun,

For possession alone, it's 26 weeks' custody as a starting point'

Myles Jackman
Obscenity lawyer

Jackman said any material produced while the young person was 17 could be considered category-B material. This encompasses "possession of images involving non-penetrative sexual activity" by a child.

Jackman, who has also lectured on the topic, said: "For possession alone, it's 26 weeks' custody as a starting point. There are then aggravating features for establishing what level of guilt and culpability."

He added: "Their biggest question will be, can they avoid custody – and that's on the images alone. You could also have elements of abusive or coercive control. The moment they take into account abuse of power, then mitigating features vanish and the aggravating features take over."

Issues that a judge would take into account include the vulnerability of the child depicted, the number of images possessed, abuse of trust, and whether the child appeared to be intoxicated or drunk.

Jackman said securing a suspended sentence – and staying out of prison – could come down to convincing a judge that this was a one-off. "Quantity becomes important. Anything over around 50 images is generally considered a large amount. Based on the possession of a small quantity of category-B images, they are at risk of prison," he added.

Police under investigation should hand over their personal mobile data, says Lawrence

Vikram Dodd
Police and crime correspondent

Police officers under investigation for discipline offences should have to hand over data from their mobile phones, Doreen Lawrence has said.

Concerns have been raised that attempts to streamline and reform the system for rooting out bad officers are too slow and being delayed.

The government supports dismissing officers who fail vetting and giving chief constables greater powers to sack officers instead of independent chairs of discipline panels, after claims that they are too lenient.

Lady Lawrence has spent decades campaigning for justice after the Metropolitan police bungled the investigation into the murder of her son, Stephen, who was stabbed to death by a racist gang in 1993.

Lawrence said she supported the creation of “a ‘duty to hand over’ to obtain relevant information from an officer’s personal phone during a misconduct investigation”.

Stephen Lawrence’s death and the campaign led by his parents prompted the Macpherson inquiry, which found police failings and institutional racism.

In February, a review of the Met by Louise Casey found major failings at Britain’s biggest force as well as institutional racism, misogyny and homophobia. No officer has faced any sanction despite the failings in the Stephen Lawrence case.

Lawrence, a Labour peer, said: “Thirty years later, the Casey review into the Metropolitan police service has found that many of the same issues persist, with the Metropolitan police remaining institutionally racist.”

Baroness Casey also highlighted the many changes needed to help rebuild trust and confidence in the Metropolitan police service, and the processes for the dismissal of officers are key to delivering that aim.

“I remain profoundly concerned about the slow pace of reforms ... and I believe this concern is shared across the political spectrum.



‘Changes are needed to empower police chiefs and give them the tools to take action’

Doreen Lawrence

“Vital changes to the legislative framework are needed to empower police chiefs and give them the tools they need to take fair and effective action to remove anyone falling short of the high standards the public rightly expect of the police.”

“For the Metropolitan police to truly reform and to gain the trust and confidence of London’s diverse communities, we must see urgent changes to police misconduct and performance legislation.”

Lawrence backs plans drafted by Labour’s Harriet Harman and the mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, which were announced two months ago.

The home secretary, Suella Braverman, is yet to respond to them, Khan’s spokesperson said. Urging her to take action, Lawrence said: “I have sadly felt the institutional failings of the Metropolitan police service first-hand, and we must work together so other Londoners are not failed by those who seek to protect them.”

Other measures backed by Lawrence include sacking officers convicted of a serious criminal offence, suspending those charged with a serious criminal offence, dismissing those who fail vetting, a duty of candour, and greater powers for chief constables to reopen misconduct investigations.

Police chiefs believe reforms are needed and have lobbied the Home Office for changes, but the Police Federation, which represents most officers, is less convinced.

Some of the most far-reaching reforms would require MPs to pass new laws, and some worry the process will not be completed before a general election is called by late 2024.

Officials declined to discuss when the plans would be unveiled and the Home Office said: “Officers who fall seriously short of the standards expected have no place in our police, and we must ensure they can be dismissed as swiftly as possible.”

“Culture and standards in policing must improve. We recognise the importance of swiftly and diligently identifying where improvements can be made to the police dismissals process and will look to conclude the review as soon as practicable.”

Khan said: “Government proposals promised long ago still haven’t materialised. The public and those thousands of decent officers are being let down.”

Everyone needs a safe place to call home

Together with Crisis, we’re calling for 1 million new, genuinely affordable homes to be built by 2033 to help people at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness.

Helping Britain Prosper



Working together to end homelessness

Vulnerable women 1.7 times more likely to die prematurely in north-east England

Mark Brown

North of England correspondent

A growing number of disadvantaged and vulnerable women living in one of the poorest parts of England are dying prematurely because public services are not meeting their needs, according to a report.

Research published today calculates that in 2021, a woman in the north-east of England was 1.7 times more likely to die early as a result of suicide, addiction or domestic murder than women living in England and Wales as a whole.

Between 2018 and 2021, such deaths increased by 15% in the north-east, the report says.

Women with complicated needs are dying early because they are seen

as a "nuisance to the system", campaigners warn.

Changing Lives, a charity working with women at risk in the north-east and nationally, has calculated that the average age of women who are known to have died while accessing its services is 37, compared with 47 before 2020.

Research for the report was conducted in Northumberland and Tyne and Wear, and involved data analysis, survey responses, focus groups and in-depth interviews.

Laura McIntyre, the head of women and children's services at Changing Lives, described the report as shocking. "But I'm more saddened," she said. "To not reach your 40th birthday is just not right."

The report says that the reasons for early and avoidable deaths are

complicated, involving a patchwork of unaddressed issues including domestic abuse, debt, poverty, mental and physical ill-health, alcohol and substance misuse, and housing problems.

But the conclusions are striking. "Put plainly, women living in the north-east are more likely to live shorter lives, to spend a larger proportion of time living in poor health and to die prematurely from preventable diseases," the report states.

It identifies a "triple shock" to multiple services in the region of austerity, the pandemic and the cost of living crisis.

Many women in the north-east, who can be most acutely in need of help, cannot access stretched mental health services because they have not shown that they have stopped drinking or taking drugs, the report says.

It identifies a huge discrepancy between the supply of and demand for mental health services in the north-east in 2021-22, with 81% of women who needed support not receiving it.

McIntyre said: "Time and again, we hear the same things, that women didn't engage or they turned up being aggressive or turned up being difficult. We have to start being different.

"We have to start looking beyond the behaviour and work out what's going on... women are dying because they are seen as a nuisance to the

15%

The rise in deaths from suicide, addiction or domestic murder of women in the region from 2018-21

62%

Percentage of women with multiple needs in the north-east who skip meals and do not buy essentials

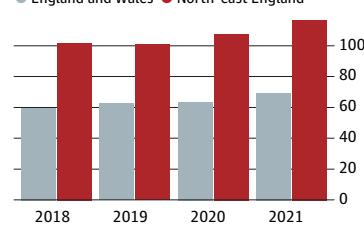
26%

The poverty rate in the north-east of England. This is the highest rate of all regions in the country

In 2021 women in the north-east were 1.7 times more likely to die early of suicide, addiction or domestic murder than in the rest of England and Wales

Age-standardised rate per 100,000

England and Wales ● North-east England



Source: Agenda Alliance

system. We have mental health services saying we can't properly treat mental health issues because the main presenting issue is drug abuse and, until that's sorted, we can't look at what is going on emotionally. It's back to front, isn't it?"

The report, *Dismantling Disadvantage*, was published by Changing Lives and the women's rights charity Agenda Alliance.

Indy Cross, the chief executive of Agenda Alliance, said: "Again and again, public services are failing women in need in the north-east and the consequences are fatal. If this doesn't serve as a wake-up call to make levelling-up promises live up to reality, it's hard to know what will."

The cost of living crisis is hitting hard, the report suggests. The impact is demonstrated by a survey of women with multiple unmet needs, of whom 62% said they were skipping meals and had stopped buying essentials, 43% said they used food banks and 45% said they went somewhere outside their home to keep warm.

The report also identifies a rising number of children being removed from the care of their mothers. At 26%, the north-east has the highest poverty rate of all regions in England.

The report makes a number of recommendations, including a call for the formation of a taskforce to help create a national strategy for people with multiple unmet needs.



What the deuce! Influencers promote Wimbledon fashion

Emine Sinmaz

Wimbledon is working with influencers to promote its clothing range for the first time in its 146-year history. In a break from tradition, the club has hired style influencers with hundreds of thousands of followers to appeal to a younger audience.

Melissa Holdbrook-Akposoe, who is better known as Melissa's Wardrobe and is the rapper Stormzy's stylist, normally posts pictures of herself wearing Prada and Victoria Beckham. This week, the 32-year-old Londoner, who has 314,000 Instagram followers and is one of Britain's biggest fashion influencers, posted a photo of an £85

Oxford shirt from Wimbledon's new "semi-formal" collection.

The club is trying to appeal to a wider, younger audience with the range, which takes advantage of the boom in tenniscore, a fashion based on the sport. The capsule collection for men and women, sold exclusively online, features £55 pleated mini skirts, £89 varsity sweatshirts and cotton chino trousers and shorts.

A spokesperson for the All England Club said: "It is the first time that Wimbledon has worked with influencers in this capacity. We've opted to work with genuine tastemakers that are known for their preference of high-quality aspirational brands. They have beautifully styled the collection, to demonstrate its versatility.



▲ The Wimbledon Collection for men and women, above left, takes advantage of a boom in the fashion trend known as tenniscore

▲ Melissa Holdbrook-Akposoe, a major fashion influencer, posted a photo of herself in a shirt from the new collection

PHOTOGRAPH: MELISSASWARDROBE

"The collection isn't just for Wimbledon, it consists of timeless staples that can be worn on and off the court."

The fashion broadcaster Polly Sayer, who has partnerships with brands such as Next and Reiss, told her 162,000 Instagram followers she was "buzzing" to be working with the club.

"If you're loving Wimbledon as

much as I am, you might want to check out the Wimbledon Collection. Its own fashion collection designed in house using ethically sourced fabrics and manufacturing methods, the pieces are designed to be worn both on and off the court and [in my opinion] they're very chic," the 30-year-old added.

David Hewitt, the head of retail and merchandise at Wimbledon, said the club was trying to move beyond sportswear with the release. He added the club was inviting "guests to wear something from Wimbledon to Wimbledon for the first time".

It comes after tennis stars such as Emma Raducanu, Carlos Alcaraz, and Jannik Sinner, the 21-year-old Italian and men's world No 8, landed deals with designer fashion brands. The players have become known for their style on and off the court.

The former tennis star Boris Becker has tried to cash in on the trend by launching his own clothing store in Istanbul, Turkey. On Friday, the three-times Wimbledon men's singles champion, who served eight months of a two-and-a-half-year jail sentence for hiding £2.5m of assets and loans in a bankruptcy fraud case, posted a tour of the shop.

Wearing a top featuring his own name and a "BB" logo, Becker, 55, who is banned from entering the UK for 10 years, said: "Today is 7 July and 38 years ago I won my very first Wimbledon. Unfortunately, I cannot be at Wimbledon but I'm in Istanbul to visit my new shop."

Becker, who was released from prison in December and deported from the UK, added: "Maybe you can't play tennis like Boris Becker, but now you can dress like Boris Becker."

The German received many congratulatory messages from his well-wishers, including Novak Djokovic's wife, Jelena.

Invested interests

'Secret' shares held by scores of MPs and their relatives

Reporting team Henry Dyer, Sam Cutler, Mario Savarese and Dominic Kendrick

Continued from page 1

their financial affairs and advancing the public good. Having these details out in the open is a key safeguard against abuse of public office.

"The public have the right to know what role money plays in our politics. Cumulatively, financial interests undoubtedly influence - whether consciously or otherwise - the outlook of MPs and ministers, and how they set about tackling the big issues of our time. Understanding who has skin in what game is essential to unpicking policy inertia, be it on housing, climate change or the cost of living."

The list of MPs with shareholdings includes the chair of the environment select committee, Robert Goodwill; the Conservative backbencher Desmond Swayne; the shadow business minister Seema Malhotra; and the SNP chief whip, Brendan O'Hara. All these holdings are below the threshold.

The investigation has also established that Rishi Sunak had a financial stake in National Grid until

two days before he was selected as the Conservative candidate for his constituency. The prime minister said he had put his current investments into a blind trust, a mechanism used by MPs to distance themselves from their financial interests, in July 2019.

May owned shares in BP while she was the home secretary, while at the same time her husband held shares in BP, Barclays, BT and Centrica. Four months after she became the prime minister these shares also seem to have been moved into a blind trust.

The majority of the shareholdings found by the Guardian fall under the £70,000 threshold, but the investigation has uncovered apparent conflicts of interest, including May holding meetings with BT as home secretary while her husband, Philip May, held shares in the company, which had not been publicly disclosed.

A spokesperson said: "Theresa May entirely rejects any suggestion that she breached parliamentary rules or the ministerial code in relation to a financial interest in BT held

by her husband." They added that May had introduced legislation that was not in BT's interest and that she had always declared all financial interests to the relevant civil service officials.

Even shareholdings, such as those owned by May and her husband, that are under the £70,000 threshold could still need to be declared under House of Commons rules, which require MPs to publicly disclose any interests, including those held by their close family, that might reasonably be thought to influence their actions, speeches or votes in parliament. This requires MPs themselves to make the judgment about whether to declare shares, and campaigners have suggested the current threshold is therefore too high.

The Guardian has identified ministers who have met with lobbyists for companies, including BP, while not declaring the shares held by themselves or their close family members. MPs have also voted against amendments that would have increased windfall taxes on oil and gas companies in which they had undisclosed shares.

The shareholdings identified are all within companies that would have been affected by recent government policy or where there has been parliamentary debate that could result in actions that would affect a company's bottom line, such as a potential energy windfall tax.

'Having these details out in the open is a key safeguard. The public have the right to know what role money plays in our politics'

Steve Goodrich

892	-
4,713	1,148

Banks to supermarkets to energy firms

The shareholdings identified by the Guardian have come to light after a six-month investigation that involved working with lawyers to gain access to shareholder registers, and then with software engineers to analyse the tens of thousands of pages of entries.

Shareholder registers used to be

32

The number of FTSE 350 companies whose registers were searched for evidence of shareholdings linked to MPs

+17.0
+96
+35
+96



'It is very concerning that it should be so hard to uncover who owns shares in listed companies, rendering them, in effect, secret'

Dr Susan Hawley

available upon request to the public. In 2006, however, changes were made to the Companies Act that made it significantly more difficult to get access to the registers amid concerns about how they were being used to target directors and shareholders in companies perceived to be connected to animal rights violations.

The registers can still be accessed if a member of the public or a journalist makes a formal request that satisfies stringent tests to ensure the registers will be used for a "proper purpose".

Dr Susan Hawley, the executive director at Spotlight on Corruption, said: "It is very concerning that it should be so hard to uncover who owns shares in publicly listed companies in this country, rendering them in effect secret."

Goodrich, at Transparency International UK, suggested the registers should return to being easily accessible by the public. "That it's been such a slog to access basic information on PLC shareholders highlights the opacity of corporate law for listed companies," he said. "These findings show why investor information should be more accessible."

The Guardian analysed the registers of members, which provide a full list of shareholders, of 29 companies in the FTSE 100. Three from the FTSE 250 were also analysed.

These include the registers for high street banks that have found themselves under pressure after steep increases in mortgage rates; supermarkets that have lobbied against a potential crackdown on processed food; and energy companies that have publicly argued against increasing a windfall tax while announcing record profits.

The investigation found that six MPs or their close family members have shares in BP that in total are worth nearly a combined £120,000, including the former government minister David Duguid, whose wife

↑A1472.0	+17.
↑A6264	+9
↓A3130	+3
↓A5866	+9
↑R2850.5713	+35.
↑A1437.0	+24.

£120,000

◀ The former prime minister Theresa May, centre, and Gavin Williamson, a former education secretary. Below left, Rishi Sunak

holds a stake worth £50,000. They also include the Labour MP Diana Johnson, the chair of the home affairs select committee, who personally holds shares in BP worth nearly £1,400.

Seven MPs or their close family members hold shares worth more than £60,000 in total in Barclays and four MPs, including Williamson, have shares in HSBC.

Six MPs have shares in International Distributions Services, formerly Royal Mail, which was controversially privatised in 2013 by the government. Five of these shareholders have held their investments since the privatisation, when share prices rose rapidly after markets opened. Other MPs appear to have sold their shares in Royal Mail.

None of these shareholdings identified were individually above the £70,000 threshold that requires an MP to publicly declare their stake, but questions arise as to whether they may still be considered relevant for disclosure under the rule that suggests elected parliamentarians should register any

The value at which shares in a single company held by an MP must be publicly declared. The rule also applies if the MP owns more than 1% of a company's stock

£70,000

interest that might be reasonably thought to influence their actions in parliament.

Disclosure rules

In the US, members of the House and Senate have 45 days to declare any trade in stocks worth more than \$1,000. These rules were brought in as part of the 2012 Stock Act after a CBS investigation into stock trades made by members of Congress.

Without similar rules in the UK, an MP could trade £69,999.99 in shares in a single company and not strictly be required to disclose the financial dealing. They could hold stakes of this level in several companies in the same sector and still not be required to declare the holdings.

The Commons threshold for disclosure is less strict than it is in other areas of the British political system. Peers have to declare shareholdings worth more than £50,000. Members of the Senedd in Wales and members of the Scottish parliament have to register shares worth more than 50% of their annual salaries, lowering the threshold to about £34,000.

Civil servants are required to declare to their department any shares held by themselves, their spouse or partner, their parents, siblings or children "which they would be able to further as a result of their official position". There is no threshold set for these declarations.

There is also no requirement for MPs to declare income from dividends nor any income gained from the sale of shares. This contrasts with rules around income from employment, where anything more than £300 a year must be disclosed.

Ten years ago the standards committee rejected calls by the European anti-corruption body Greco to lower the threshold for registering MP shareholdings. The committee said that "leaving aside questions of privacy, we believe too low a threshold could obscure significant matters in a blizzard of trivial details".

The report was passed unanimously by committee members, including Christopher Chope. The investigation reveals that Chope, first elected in 1983, seems to have had a personal interest in keeping the threshold high. Unknown to the public he has held shares in the defence company BAE since 1998; in BT since 2001; and in Barclays since 2002. A close family member holds shares in BT and Lloyds. Today, the shares together are worth over £11,000, raising questions about whether it is appropriate for MPs to make decisions about lowering the threshold without declaring all shareholdings. Chope has never declared these shares.

Chope did not respond to requests for comment.

A Guardian special investigation Westminster shareholdings



Attorney general Registers reveal family stakes in top UK firms

Henry Dyer

The attorney general, Victoria Prentis, and a number of her close family members have shares in six FTSE 100 companies worth more than £130,000 that have never been publicly disclosed, the Guardian can reveal.

Prentis and her family members hold shares in BP, Tesco, HSBC, Lloyds, the beverages multinational Diageo and the defence contractor Rolls-Royce. The financial stakes have not been disclosed in parliamentary or ministerial registers, despite posing potential conflicts of interest.

Their financial interests are being revealed today by a Guardian investigation into the effectively secret shareholdings of more than 50 members of parliament.

All of the financial stakes of Prentis and her close family members are under the £70,000 threshold required for disclosure of shares under House of Commons transparency rules. However, some could arguably be subject to the requirement on MPs to register any interest that might reasonably be thought to influence their actions, speeches or votes.

Prentis, who as attorney general has a wide-ranging and powerful brief that could impact any number of companies, personally holds shares in the defence contractor Rolls-Royce and previously held shares in BP and Tesco.

The Tesco shares were held while she was in a previous ministerial job

in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), where she met lobbyists for the supermarket chain six times. The Tesco shareholding was not publicly disclosed in the list of ministers' interests.

While Prentis no longer holds shares in Tesco, other family members do. Two of her close relatives also hold stakes in Diageo, each worth more than £41,000. The close family members are not in her household, but their financial interests could be perceived as creating potential conflicts of interest for the minister.

Prentis is also listed as a former shareholder in BP. It is not clear when she ceased owning a stake in the company or whether the shareholding overlapped with her time as a Defra minister.

Her spokesperson declined to comment on any of her or her family's shareholdings, which were identified in company shareholder registers. The registers, which are only accessible by members of the public in specific circumstances, were secured by the Guardian after formal legal requests.

A barrister who worked as a government lawyer before being elected as the MP for Banbury in 2015, Prentis was appointed as attorney general by Rishi Sunak in October 2022. Her father, Tim Boswell, served as an MP until 2010.

The former attorney general Dominic Grieve told the Guardian the role's functions required a "superabundance of caution" towards potential conflicts of interest. The attorney general has powers on

judicial proceedings such as prosecutions and appeals on sentencing.

Grieve said he had moved all of his and his wife's investments into a blind trust upon his appointment as attorney general in 2010. This involves moving investments into a trust managed by an independent third party, removing the ability to affect individual investments. The trustees can be given general directions about the nature of the investments by the beneficiary, but they do not give specific information on the shares in the trust.

But this did not completely resolve the potential for conflicts of interest, Grieve said.

"There was still an issue - I knew what I had at the time I became a minister," he said. "And if for any reason an issue might have arisen when I was attorney general that might have related to issues to shareholdings I knew I had, there might have been a conflict of interest, in which case I'd have flagged it up with my private office and the solicitor general would have dealt with the matter. That didn't arise but that's the sort of issue you need to think about."

Prentis's most recent entry in the list of ministers' interests is sparse. It states she is a trustee of a family trust but provides no further information on the holdings or beneficiaries of the trust. While she was a Defra minister, the list of ministers' interests in May 2022 did note that Prentis held shares in the consumer goods group Reckitt Benckiser, raising a question about why other shareholdings were not declared.

► Victoria Prentis and members of her family hold shares in firms including BP, Rolls-Royce and HSBC. Below: David Duguid, a former junior minister in the Scotland Office

Energy investment

Ex-minister who criticised windfall tax did not declare wife's £50,000 in BP shares

Henry Dyer

An MP criticised windfall taxes on oil and gas companies, including BP, without declaring his wife's shares in the company, worth more than £50,000. David Duguid, a former junior minister in the Scotland Office, has spoken out in parliament against windfall taxes on energy companies four times since the beginning of 2022.

The Conservative MP for Banff and Buchan has also voted against proposals to examine the impact of increasing such taxes. These levies could affect the size of dividends paid to shareholders, as they would reduce the profits made by the companies, raising questions over a potential conflict of interest.

An analysis of BP's shareholder register suggests Duguid moved his shares into his wife's name five years before his election as an MP. Today, she has more than 11,000 shares and will have received more than £2,000 last year in dividends.

The rules require MPs to declare the financial interests of a spouse or other family member, where there could be considered a conflict. Duguid has never publicly disclosed his wife's financial interest in the House of Commons register.

The revelation is part of a Guardian investigation into MPs' shareholdings and raises questions about whether parliamentary transparency rules and systems are fit for purpose. Under the current system MPs have to declare any holdings in a single company over £70,000, meaning that a large number of MPs have financial stakes in companies of which the electorate are unaware. MPs do, however, need to declare any shares of any value that might reasonably be thought to influence their actions, speeches, or votes in parliament.

Since the beginning of 2022, Duguid has declared interests in BP in two debates, but only by reference

to his prior employment for 25 years in the oil and gas industry, including 10 years with BP.

The Guardian's investigation also raises questions about the processes for ministerial declarations, which similarly require the declaration of interests of close family members.

Despite Duguid's involvement with energy policy in the Scotland Office, his wife's shares were not included in the list of ministers' interests published by the Cabinet Office. He was a junior minister in the department from June 2020 until September 2021 under Boris Johnson, and again in Liz Truss's brief administration in October 2022.

As a minister, Duguid met nine times with lobbyists from the trade association Oil and Gas UK, now known as Offshore Energies UK (OEUK). OEUK's members include BP and its recent activity has included arguing against an increase in windfall taxes on energy producers such as BP and Shell. Duguid attended the opening of OEUK's new offices in Aberdeen in August 2021.

The ministerial code requires newly appointed ministers to provide their department's permanent secretary with a list of all the interests held by themselves, their spouses and close family members that could give rise to a conflict - including shareholdings under the £70,000 threshold. It is the decision of the independent adviser on ministers' interests which "relevant" interests are published.

Ministers, the code says, "must scrupulously avoid any danger of an actual or perceived conflict of interest between their ministerial position and their private financial interests".

As well as meeting with oil and gas lobbyists, Duguid worked on the North Sea transition deal, announced in March 2021. This was an agreement between the UK government and the oil and gas industry to work together on meeting net zero commitments by 2050, with the government pledging to support bringing billions of pounds of investment into the industry.

BP's shareholder register shows Duguid stopped being a shareholder in BP in November 2012, on the same day his wife joined its register of members. He was first elected in 2017.

A spokesperson for Duguid said: "Mr Duguid followed the prevailing rules for reporting relevant financial interests."

Duguid is vice-chair of the British offshore oil and gas industry all-party parliamentary group, which is supported by OEUK. He has suggested in parliament that plans proposed by Labour to ban new oil and gas drilling were "based on ideology".

Why I took on SNP leader, by victim of rogue neurosurgeon

Libby Brooks
Scotland correspondent

When Theresa Mallett walked into Caird Hall in Dundee a little more than a fortnight ago, it was not her intention to bring Humza Yousaf's keynote address to a standstill.

Mallett, a nationalist, was attending the independence convention as an SNP member, but had hoped she might tell her story to a party worker or journalist at the event.

She claims she has been in "soul-destroying" pain for more than a decade since a botched sciatica operation performed by Sam Eljamal, a disgraced surgeon from Tayside. Mallett is one of 118 former patients calling for a public inquiry into what they believe is years of negligence, cover-ups and bad governance.

When the first minister got up to speak, she decided to do the same.

"I was listening to Humza and he came out with something like 'every

person in Scotland counts,'" said Mallett, 61, as though still incredulous at what she did next. "I felt enraged and I just started shouting at him. Eleven years of trauma and pain, getting no answers, gaslit by doctors - that all came out. Where my voice came from, I don't know. I'm usually easy-going. But I was glad I got it out."

Some audience members started booing the disruption, but stopped when they realised the source of Mallett's fury. Yousaf called for calm, then walked into the crowd.

What happened next is a bit of a blur, Mallett said. "The only thing I can remember clearly is him standing in front of me with his back to the cameras and saying, 'a public inquiry is not off the table'."

It was December 2012 when Mallett "walked in the door of Ninewells hospital and left my life behind".

Although Eljamal, the then head of neurosurgery at NHS Tayside, assured her that the operation to remove a nerve had been a "complete

success", Mallett, who had led an active lifestyle including hill walking, soon discovered that her pain was worse, not better. She spent the next 10 years increasingly isolated and disabled, searching for answers that were not forthcoming.

Last year she read a local news report and found more than 100 others had reported similar stories. The list is harrowing: descriptions of paralysis, blindness, nerve damage, constant pain and incontinence.

A long-time campaigner, Jules Rose, alleged she had had her tear gland removed instead of a brain tumour, while another woman claimed she had felt like "a guinea pig" after Eljamal used an experimental glue to seal her skull, which then burst, leaving her with spinal fluid leaking on to the floor.

Alan Ogilvie, who helps coordinate the former patients' group, said: "Sometimes, folk comment that our demos are small. But that's because so many of Eljamal's victims can't leave the house."

NHS Tayside said concerns were first raised about Eljamal's conduct in June 2013, when he was put under supervision, although he had been working at the health board since 1995. But former colleagues told the BBC last month that bosses were warned of his malpractice in 2009. They suggested he was allowed to continue because of the



▲ The first minister Humza Yousaf with Theresa Mallett, 61, who interrupted his speech in Dundee

**I felt enraged ...
Eleven years of
trauma and pain,
getting no answers.
gaslit by doctors -
that all came out'**

Theresa Mallett
Patient of Sam Eljamal

research funding he brought to his department.

The board said it was not aware of "any whistleblowing concerns or complaints by staff", pointing out that it escalated the matter once alerted, and he was suspended in December 2013. Eljamal gave up his right to practise in the UK in 2015 and is believed to be working in Libya.

The board said Eljamal was appointed by an expert panel in line with national guidance of the time, and that its clinical and professional governance had been "continually strengthened".

Ogilvie said the matter went beyond NHS Tayside: "It reaches to upper levels of the medical establishment across the UK."

Last week, Yousaf kept his promise to talk to Mallett, visiting her home in Glenrothes. She did not have enough seats for his entourage, who had to requisition some garden chairs.

A Scottish government spokesperson said: "We are considering what the best next steps would be, including an independent commission, to ensure patients and their families can have confidence that they have the answers they need on their own cases and questions about Professor Eljamal's practice."

Mallett said she would reserve judgment for real evidence of listening. "But there's 117 others. Will he bother with them, too?"

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O2

Too early to celebrate rise in rape convictions - activists

Rachel Hall

Violence against women campaigners have accused ministers of being "too quick" to celebrate increased rape convictions while overall reporting rates remain low.

The justice secretary, Alex Chalk, has said that the government is on course to exceed a target to reverse low conviction rates for rape by the end of this parliament.

He said that "significant progress" had been made since the government's 2020 end-to-end rape review, which revealed that the number of reported cases in England and Wales resulting in a prosecution had declined since 2016.

The Home Office and Ministry of Justice's progress report acknowledged that there was more work to be done, but said it had already met two of the three ambitions set out in the rape review ahead of schedule, including restoring the number of

police referrals and cases reaching court to 2016 levels. The third ambition, to increase charges, is on track to be exceeded before the end of this parliament, the report stated.

Campaigners warned that Chalk's claims were premature and misleading. Andrea Simon, director of the End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW), said: "While we have seen some progress, the government have been too quick to claim that they've tangibly changed the justice system for rape survivors. We're barely off the starting blocks, but we now have a roadmap which is going to need a lot of support to realise its ambitions."

"It still remains the case that the vast majority of rape survivors don't report to the police, and the majority who do will leave the system altogether due to the barriers to justice they find themselves up against."

The progress report shows that the number of adult rape cases referred by the police to the CPS is up by 41% on the 2016 quarterly average, from

766 cases to 1,079 cases in the year to December. In the year to March last year, 605 cases made it to crown court - 9% above the government target.

However, the number of charges for adult rape is still 12% lower than the 2016 quarterly average (538), and CPS charges lag 12% below the target of 538, at 472. EVAW said it was "concerned" by how data had been interpreted and presented.

The Home Office is also announcing today that all rape prosecutors and 43 police forces across England and Wales will begin implementing a new evidence-based approach to dealing with rape and other serious sexual offences.

Known as Operation Soteria, which has been piloted in 19 forces already, this will see police conduct

thorough investigations that focus on the suspect and the rights and needs of victims.

The Home Office said there were early signs of improvements in the police forces and Crown Prosecution Service areas participating in the programme, with data suggesting more victims are reporting rape and sexual offences to the police.

EVAW noted that Operation Soteria is "one of the most promising outcomes of the government's end-to-end rape review". However, it warned that it needs more independent academic oversight than is envisaged, as well as adequate funding, to transform the prevailing culture within policing.

Other changes include 2,000 extra police investigators specially trained in rape and sexual offences by April 2024, while new recruits will be required to undertake rape and sexual offences training. Victims will also be given the option to hear their attacker being sentenced away from a courtroom to avoid seeing them face to face.

The National Police Chiefs' lead for rape and adult sexual offences, Sarah Crew, said that reports from the roll-out of the Soteria pilot had "made for difficult reading", but that this was an essential step in dealing with "one of the most complex and challenging crimes the criminal justice system deals with".

Jesus would be weeping at safeguarding crisis, says archbishop

Harriet Sherwood

The archbishop of York has said there is a "crisis for safeguarding" within the Church of England after its executive disbanded an independent body on abuse.

Stephen Cottrell told the C of E's ruling body, the General Synod, yesterday that "mistakes have been made" and that Jesus would be weeping at events of recent weeks.

"We recognise things have gone wrong," he said. "This is a watershed moment for us. We can't get this wrong again."

Furious members of the synod forced the suspension of proceedings to allow two members of the Independent Safeguarding Board (ISB) who were sacked last month to address the meeting in York.

Steve Reeves, one of the sacked board members, said: "When the archbishops' council talks about 'independence', they do not mean independence in the way ... the average person in the street means independence. They mean semi-detached, not independent."

Jasvinder Sanghera, the other sacked board member, said: "We were too independent. We did our job too well."

The three-member ISB was set up in January 2022 to pave the way for fully independent safeguarding in the C of E. Its chair, Maggie Atkinson, resigned in March and the archbishops' council, the C of E's executive, replaced her with Meg Munn, who remains the chair of the national safeguarding panel.

Critics said there was a conflict of interest between Munn's roles, and Reeves and Sanghera refused to meet her. On 21 June, their dismissal was announced.

The synod later backed a proposal to set up a £150m redress fund for survivors of church-related abuse.

Cottrell said the archbishops' council had referred itself to the Charity Commission, "an acknowledgment that we recognise things have gone wrong, and there are things to learn". Asked what Jesus would think of the debacle, he said: "I imagine Jesus weeps over this situation ... And I know many of us are not far from those tears as well."



▲ Stephen Cottrell, the archbishop of York, said mistakes had been made

Music review

Unvarnished, unchanged and unjaded, the 90s stars excel

Blur

Wembley Stadium, London

★★★★★

Dorian Lynskey

Has anyone ever been more excited to headline Wembley Stadium than Damon Albarn? The Blur frontman anoints it "a temple for the agnostic", pays tribute to Freddie Mercury at Live Aid, delights in the echo when he speaks and turns breakneck instrumental *Lot 105* into an ode to the place, coaching the crowd to chant "Wembley" in rhythm. "Obviously we've been waiting for this moment all our lives," he says. That much is clear.

Blur give good reunion. Their bridge-mending set at Glastonbury in 2009 was one of the most emotional nights in the festival's history. Marking the closing of the 2012 Olympics at Hyde Park, they felt rather like Britain's national band. The thrill of headlining Wembley for two nights - a trophy that eluded them at their mid-90s peak - insures against diminishing



▲ Damon Albarn, left, was visibly moved to be sharing the stage with bandmates including Graham Coxon

PHOTOGRAPH: JIM DYSON/GETTY IMAGES

returns. Albarn may be a famously restless musician, slaloming among Gorillaz, Africa Express and so on, but he is always visibly moved to be sharing a stage with Graham Coxon, Alex James and Dave Rowntree. Fundamentally unchanged in their 50s, they still look like the only 90s band who could have been an animated TV show.

Albarn is a winning frontman, unvarnished and unjaded. He buzzes with a lairy, ragged energy. Just four songs in and he's wading

into the crowd to sing *Tracy Jacks*. "I didn't think it would be like this," he admits. For Parklife, guest vocalist Phil Daniels emerges from a canvas wardrobe like Kramer walking through Seinfeld's door. Notwithstanding a pair of giant mirrorballs, there's none of the standard stadium-rock hardware: no B stage or hi-tech visuals. The songs carry the weight.

And what songs they are. The set's chronological opening stretch drives home the hungry velocity of Blur's evolution, from indie dance to punk petulance to Kinksian character studies to lo-fi squall, telling a very 90s story of ambition and ambivalence.

Many Blur songs run on melancholy, doubt and a yearning for better days. Two strong songs from the album *The Ballad of Darren* (released on 21 July) suggest that the essential push-and-pull has not been lost.

Blur's return reminds you how much more interesting Britpop was than the naff Cool Britannia caricature; what it meant for such sharp, characterful music to be so widely beloved, and how well it holds up now. Albarn takes in the roaring crowd. "You're properly mad, you lot, for sticking with us for so long," he says. "Why?"

Blur have just spent two glorious hours answering that question.

Lammy sets out plan to fight global corruption

Patrick Wintour
Diplomatic editor

Labour will restore the UK's international reputation by backing a global anti-corruption court and reinserting a requirement to follow international law into the ministerial code, the shadow foreign secretary will say today.

David Lammy will say the measures will also go some way to undo the damage caused by recent Conservative party scandals.

In his speech to the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, he will say international law is "the connective tissue which binds us to other nations", but has been treated with cavalier disrespect by the government.

Lammy's support for an international anti-corruption court puts him at the forefront of support for a concept proposed by a US judge, Mark Wolf, co-founder of the NGO Integrity Initiatives International. Wolf argues global oligarchs currently escape legal penalties too easily.

The Foreign Office minister Lord Ahmad last week dismissed the idea of establishing such a court, claiming a meeting in November of 40 countries in The Hague had rejected the proposal. Campaigners contest this, saying the meeting had not been convened to discuss the plan. Lammy said the court would prosecute the worst corruption, adding: "Labour is determined to clean up the London laundromat at home and defeat kleptocracy around the world."

The idea of the court has wide international support. A survey by

the Stimson Center thinktank found the highest level was 87% in China. Among European members of the G7, 70% or more back it.

Lammy will point to Margaret Thatcher's "abiding respect for the rule of law" to claim the Tories have abandoned the old bipartisan consensus, saying: "No British government of modern times has been so brazen in its contempt for international law or brought such a litany of law-breaking legislation for parliament to consider as this Conservative government."

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Labour diversity scheme may not be worthy of MP's name, says widow

Aletha Adu
Political correspondent

Labour must do more to dispel the perception of racism within the party, the widow of one of the country's first black British MPs has warned, amid frustrations that no graduate of the party's sole scheme for developing minority ethnic talent has been selected to stand as an MP.

The party has launched the second cohort of its Bernie Grant leadership programme (BGLP), dedicated to developing black politicians, in recognition of a lack of diversity across all levels. Promoting the scheme, David Lammy said it was vital for "our politics to represent the communities we serve".

Sharon Grant criticised the party for not following through with its promise to provide support to graduates, many of whom are councillors, adding the BGLP may not be "worthy of bearing Bernie's name" unless there is tangible progress on black representation across the party.

Many graduates recall leaving the BGLP 2019 two-day programme "feeling inspired" by the Labour MP Dawn Butler. They were promised further support from the party officials in their careers.

"Unfortunately, it appears that very little of that support materialised, and none of the graduates appears to have been employed or selected," Grant told the Guardian. "Indeed I understand that several of them have been barred from

shortlists, and others have since been expelled from the party."

Bernie Grant was one of the first black British MPs, having been elected as a Labour MP in 1987.

His widow notes the Labour leadership at that time "accommodated" minority ethnic MPs because they recognised the need for politicians to reflect communities' "lived experience of exclusion and discrimination", even though "there were tensions at times".

Grant now fears the "hard-fought-for natural support amongst black voters is ebbing away".

Some graduates, who have asked to remain anonymous, fear they will never be able to reach a leadership role because they have campaigned for migrant rights or challenged structural racism, which puts them "in conflict" with Labour officials.

"It's disheartening," a black graduate said. "I've accepted I ... need to 'stay in my lane', as one official suggested, and not strive to become an MP. If you are genuinely working on issues such as structural racism, it's very likely you won't enjoy the fruits of victory within Labour."

Some insiders fear black hopefuls who applied to become a parliamentary candidate have been deemed "problem candidates" by Labour officials to justify installing another candidate with deep party connections.

While some insiders are concerned Labour could backslide on its gender diversity progress, the Jo Cox Women in Leadership Programme and Labour Women's Network training have seen many graduates flourish including Angela Rayner, the deputy leader; Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor; and Tracy Brabin, the mayor of West Yorkshire.

Within the last decade three minority ethnic MPs have held shadow portfolios for the four great offices of state: Diane Abbott, Lammy and Lisa Nandy.

A Labour spokesperson said: "[Labour] already has more MPs from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds than the other political parties put together. We wish all participants in the new programme every success, as we do to all those who have participated in one of the other candidate programmes."



▲ Bernie Grant became one of the first black British MPs, in 1987

Reporter sues CNN for race and disability discrimination

Jim Waterson
Media editor

A former CNN reporter is suing the news channel for unfair dismissal and racial discrimination after she was severely injured while on assignment in Jerusalem.

Saima Mohsin was left disabled in 2014 while reporting on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Her cameraman ran over her foot in a car, causing tissue damage that left the British-Pakistani journalist struggling to sit, stand and walk or work full-time.

After the incident, Mohsin claims she was refused alternative duties

and support for rehabilitation. She also alleges that she asked CNN if she could switch to a presenting role but was told "you don't have the look we are looking for". Three years later the channel terminated her contract.

Mohsin said she decided to bring the employment tribunal claim, which is being heard in London today, because the network failed to support her after the injury: "I risked my life many times ... for CNN believing they would have my back. They did not."

Mohsin also alleges race and disability discrimination, and is making a



▲ Saima Mohsin says she was told she lacked 'the look we're looking for'

complaint about the gender pay gap at the broadcaster.

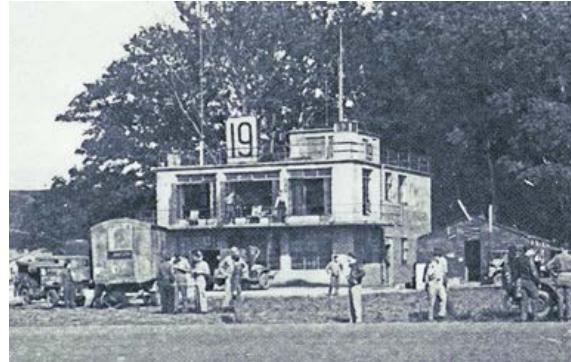
CNN declined to comment. It is opposing the claim, arguing Mohsin's contract terms mean she cannot bring a case in London.

The case comes at a tricky time for the news network, which has made deep job cuts and is dealing with the fallout from a number of scandals, missteps and struggling ratings.

Mohsin said: "I am bringing my claim to ... call for change to ensure women journalists and women journalists of colour are better protected."

It has almost a modernist feel. It's a wonderful light-filled space'

Caroline Stanford
Historian



▲ The concrete watch station, with its Crittall windows, in July 1944, when it was in use by the US air force. Left: RAF Ibsley in its current derelict state

PHOTOGRAPHS:
RAF IBSLEY AIRFIELD HERITAGE TRUST;
LANDMARK TRUST



Heritage group calls for urgent rescue of 1940s watch station at RAF Ibsley

Esther Addley

Its walls are made of crumbling concrete and covered in graffiti, its windows shattered or stolen, and the landscape it was built to oversee was long ago dug up and carted away - but this derelict shell in a corner of rural Hampshire is so rare and important that it must urgently be saved, according to building conservation campaigners.

The Landmark Trust, which rescues at-risk historic buildings, has launched an appeal to save the ruin, once a wartime watching station at the long-forgotten site of what was RAF Ibsley, close to the New Forest.

Hastily built from precast concrete in 1941 and overlooking three runways, the airbase played a crucial role in RAF and US air force missions across the Channel.

Similar watch stations were thrown up across the country, but rarely with the innovative combination of concrete promenade and huge Crittall windows at the "special" Ibsley site, according to Caroline Stanford, the

trust's historian. The Ibsley building is thought to be unique and, she says, it is astonishing that it has survived.

The base witnessed some wartime film star glamour when Leslie Howard, fresh from appearing in *Gone with the Wind*, cast David Niven alongside him in the patriotic 1942 Spitfire movie *The First of the Few*, which was filmed at RAF Ibsley.

The trust, custodian to more than 200 historic properties across the UK and overseas, had been looking out for wartime buildings in peril when it was directed to Ibsley by airfield researchers. "It's got an almost modernist feel," said Stanford. "Our vision is that we can bring it back to that wonderful light-filled space again."

As with its other properties, the trust wants to rent out the watch station as a holiday house. "Finding a financially viable future for our buildings is at the heart of what Landmark does," said Stanford, though community open days will ensure it is accessible to the general public.

Early donations and a sizeable grant mean the trust has raised more than half of the £3.1m it expects the renovation to cost - that still leaves a target of £1.3m to be found.

It is a lot of money for one small building, but Stanford said it is more important than ever to preserve the rare and fragile ruins still standing from the second world war.

"It's incumbent on all of us to remember our past and learn lessons for the future," she said. "Everybody has a connection with the second world war. And that makes the recent past in many ways more resonant than airy-fairy Elizabethan-age buildings."

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'Parents are desperate'

Pioneers build homes for autistic young adults

Amelia Hill

Parents across Britain have started forming partnerships with local councils to build pioneering supported-living homes for their severely autistic children. Growing numbers of parents are increasingly unable to find suitable and safe residential accommodation for their young adult children, while cash-strapped councils incur high costs when expensive placements break down.

One solution found by the two groups is based on the success story of Linden Farm, built by the Simon Trust and Surrey county council, working together in what is thought to be the first venture of its kind.

The Simon Trust was set up after Sally and Peter Lawrence were told by their local authority that there

was nowhere local for Simon, their 25-year-old son, to live after he moved from the school that had been his home since he was eight.

The Lawrences persuaded their council to buy a local 2.4-hectare (6-acre) site. They raised £250,000 and worked with the council to create the 10-bed Linden Farm, which offers accommodation, activities and specialised care for severely autistic adults.

"We have been inundated with parents absolutely desperate to find somewhere for their children to go once they enter adult social services," said Sally Lawrence. "There's barely anything available across the UK. We started putting these parents together, saying that if they were determined, and had a lot of time and energy, they could do what we did."

Peter Lawrence said it was an "automatic response of social services" to send young adults out of county but it was potentially a



recipe for other problems such as poor or inappropriate care.

Mark Nuti of Surrey county council said: "We're pleased that Linden Farm has come to fruition and we value our partnership with the Simon Trust."

The Lawrences are now helping five parent groups to bring create similar schemes. Sarah recently submitted a proposal to her local council. "My son is severely autistic, nonverbal and has severe learning disabilities," she said. "It was horrific enough to have to send him, as a seven-year-old, to a different part of the country to

▼ Linden Farm provides care and accommodation for severely autistic adults - as well as activities, below
PHOTOGRAPH: SIMON TRUST



live because there was nowhere for him in our county. But now he's an adult, provision is even worse."

Fraser Hardie, the chair of the Autism Centre of Excellence at Cambridge, said: "There is a crisis playing out in this country if you're autistic. In my county, there are between 30 to 50 children who will need this care in the next five years - and literally nothing for them."

In 2021 the Health Foundation estimated turning round the adult social care crisis would cost £7.6bn in 2022-23, and £9bn in 2024-25.

Richard Parry, a trustee of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, said the government's autism strategy did not have any extra funding - and promises in the 2021 white paper have been broken. He said: "The government is taking us backwards: £600m has been held back from the £1.7bn of improvement programmes between now and 2025 that it committed to."

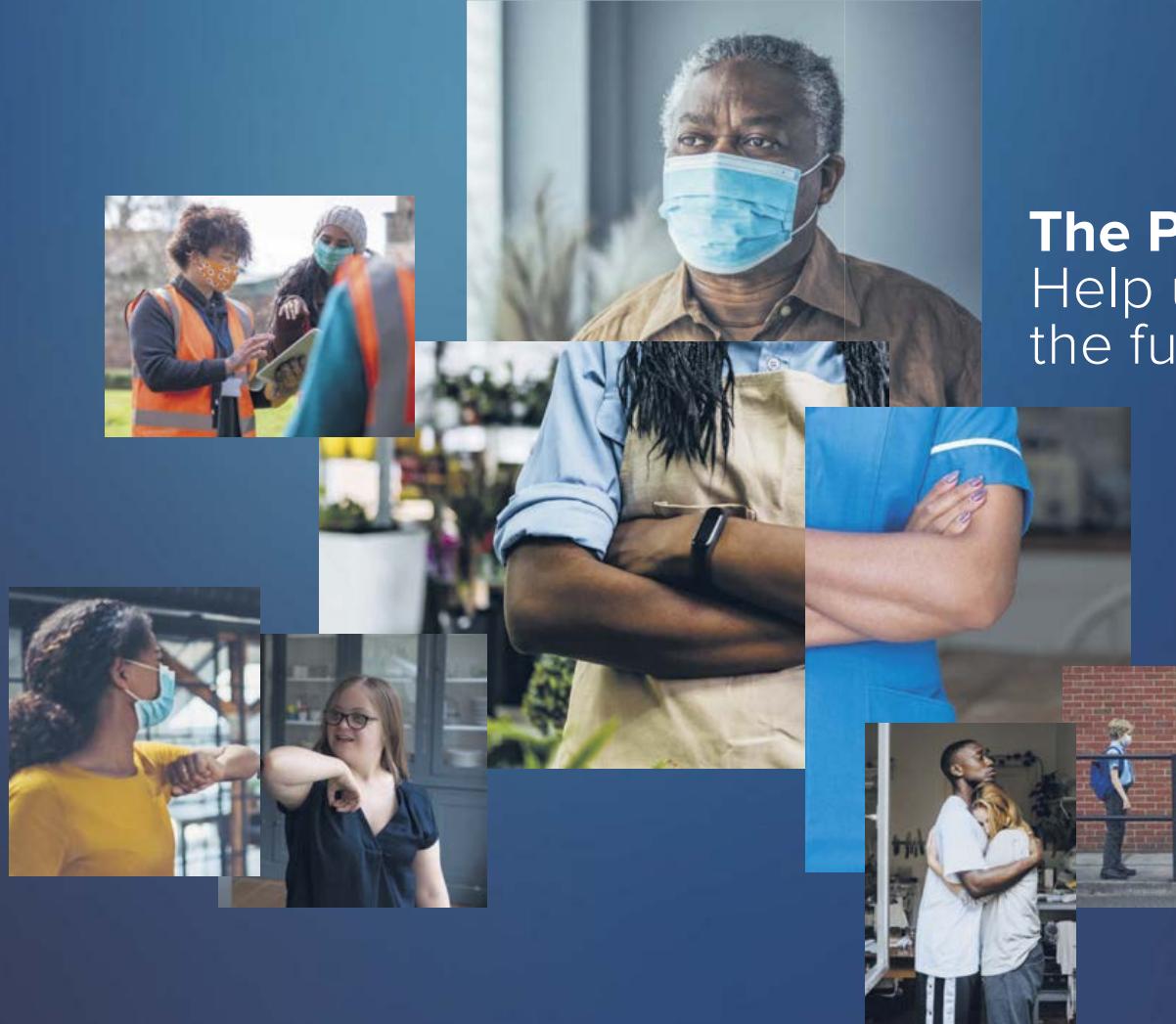
A government spokesperson said: "We are committed to increasing the supply of supported housing, and the £11.5bn affordable homes programme includes provision for the delivery of new supported housing. Additionally, the care and support specialised housing fund helps fund housing developments across England for those with a range of needs."



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Ukraine

Cheaply made missile plugging weapons gap

Page 21

**Iran**

Female students barred over protests

Page 25

World



▲ Assa Traoré, centre, taking part in the Justice for Adama demonstration held in Paris

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM NICHOLSON/SHUTTERSTOCK

Roussel. "Truly, nothing is being done to calm the situation down."

Tensions have been simmering since a police officer shot dead Nahel Merzouk, a 17-year-old with Algerian roots, during a traffic stop on 27 June in Nanterre, Paris, sparking six days of rioting from Lille to Marseille.

Fearing further unrest, the government yesterday outlawed the "sale, possession, transport and use of pyrotechnical articles and fireworks" until after 15 July "to prevent the risk of serious disturbances to public order" during the 14 July festivities.

Firework rockets, along with stones and bottles, were used against police after Merzouk's shooting, which inflamed resentment among poor, racially mixed, urban communities in France over police violence and allegations of systemic racism.

Horizontally fired firework rockets, which can reach velocities of up to 100km/h, have become a favoured weapon of rioters due to their low cost and availability, with suppliers reportedly offering delivery within minutes on TikTok and other networks.

"Local officials I have met are concerned about the possibility of more incidents during the national holiday," the prime minister, Élisabeth Borne, told Le Parisien, promising "massive means to protect the French" over the 14 July weekend.

The government spokesperson, Olivier Véran, said authorities would ensure peace and security prevailed and it was "out of the question to imagine our annual festivities should be expected to give way to a few thousand rioters in our cities".

More than 3,700 people were arrested, including at least 1,160 minors, in the riots, during which 5,000 cars were burned, 11,000 fires lit, 2,000 shops looted and hundreds of public buildings trashed including bus depots, schools and community centres.

The government aimed to push through emergency legislation to repair damaged buildings before the summer parliamentary recess, Borne said, and would also release funds to ensure swift compensation for the owners of cars that were set alight.

Merzouk, who was known to police for refusing to obey previous traffic stops, was pulled over for a series of traffic violations, including driving illegally. The 38-year-old officer who fired has been charged with voluntary homicide and is in provisional detention.

The French government has repeatedly denied allegations of police violence and racism from human rights groups and national and international NGOs. On Saturday, the foreign ministry said the "fight against racism and all forms of discrimination" was a priority.

It noted that at least 800 police officers, gendarmes and firefighters had been injured during the riots.

French policing called into question again after man's brutal arrest at peaceful protest

Jon Henley
Paris

A brutal arrest during a peaceful march against police violence has again put French law and order under the spotlight, as the government, fearing further unrest, banned fireworks outside authorised displays during the Bastille Day holiday weekend.

Amid continuing tensions after rioting sparked by last month's fatal shooting of a teenager, police faced further accusations of brutality yesterday when video emerged of the arrest of the brother of a black man who died in custody seven years ago.

Youssouf Traoré, 29, was tackled forcefully to the ground and held face down by officers from a controversial rapid reaction force, BRAV-M, at an

unauthorised march on Saturday in memory of his brother Adama, who died aged 24 in 2016.

The arrest at the march, which gathered an estimated 2,000 protesters in central Paris, and other images of demonstrators being violently pushed by officers were filmed by several witnesses and spread rapidly on social media.

Led by his sister Assa Traoré, the family allege Adama - who has been called "the French George Floyd" - was pinned to the ground by police and died of asphyxiation. There have been no charges in the case, which they want brought to court.

Paris police forbade the annual march - which had been banned from its original route outside the capital - saying it was "likely to attract radical elements seeking to commit acts



of violence" and authorities had not had enough time to prepare.

But Assa called for a peaceful gathering at Paris's Place de la République, telling the crowd: "France cannot give moral lessons: its police is racist, its police is violent."

Youssouf's lawyer, Yassine Bouzrou, told Le Monde his client had suffered injuries to his skull, eye, nose, stomach and back and been hospitalised. The officers had used "disproportionate and illegitimate" force and he had filed a formal complaint, he said.

Paris police said Youssouf had been detained for "violence against a person of public authority".

The Paris prosecutor's office yesterday said the charges had been lifted while he was being treated in hospital, but could be reinstated.

▲ Youssouf Traoré collecting his belongings at a Paris police station yesterday after leaving hospital

PHOTOGRAPH: BERTRAND GUAY/AFP/GTETY

Almost 100 associations, unions and leftwing parties including the Greens and Unbowed France, had urged demonstrators across France to demand "a profound reform of the police, its intervention techniques and its weapons".

At least two journalists said they were mishandled by police during the Paris march. Leftwing politicians - several of whom attended the demonstration - yesterday denounced the brutality during Youssouf's arrest.

"A violent arrest of Youssouf Traoré - unacceptable at the end of a peaceful demonstration," tweeted the Communist party leader, Fabien

Beijing trip has paved the way to closer ties, says Yellen

Emma Graham-Harrison
Taipei

The US treasury secretary, Janet Yellen, said yesterday that a four-day trip to Beijing had paved the way for better communication between top officials who run the world's two largest economies.

This relatively modest outcome had been flagged by US officials and expected by analysts before Yellen arrived, and is a reflection of how fraught one of the world's most critical relationships had become.

"My hope is that we can move to a phase in our relationship where senior-level diplomacy is simply taken as a natural element of managing one of the world's most consequential bilateral relationships," Yellen said

at a press conference before returning home yesterday.

China has accused the US of trying to hobble its growth and choke off trade between the two countries. US sanctions on hi-tech computing chips are a particular concern.

Yellen said despite "significant disagreements", the US did not view its economic might as a weapon to use against China. She said economic controls needed to protect the US's national security would be narrow and closely focused on key concerns.

Yellen also used the trip to seek greater cooperation on key areas including climate financing, where more support from the world's current top emitter of greenhouse gases should push faster change. She said she had raised Russia's invasion of Ukraine, telling reporters: "I communicated that it is essential that Chinese firms avoid providing Russia with material support or assistance with sanctions evasion."

High-level talks were once a regular part of the relationship between Washington and Beijing. However, they were brought to an end by controls on movement in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, even as tensions rose on issues from trade and Taiwan to the origin and handling of Covid. Trips this summer by Yellen and the secretary of state, Antony Blinken, were the first by top US officials since before the pandemic began.



► The US treasury secretary, Janet Yellen, with China's vice-premier, He Lifeng, in Beijing

PHOTOGRAPH:
MARK SCHIEFELBEIN/
AFP/GTETY

the relationship between China and the west, perhaps best captured in a term coined by the EU in 2019 when it officially designated Beijing a "systemic rival".

There now exists an uneasy mix of mutual dependency and mistrust. Looming over disputes about trade, AI, Beijing's close ties with Russia, China's human rights record and other controversies, is the remote but real risk of a war precipitated by a Chinese military campaign to capture Taiwan. President Xi Jinping has told China's armed forces to be ready to do this by 2027, US intelligence believes.

There is a more urgent risk, that sanctions and other tensions could escalate towards an economic war. That would be catastrophic for both, something Yellen acknowledged yesterday, saying US economic moves to protect national security would be narrow and carefully targeted.

This fear of mutually assured economic destruction is one reason to hope that both countries will try to build on this diplomatic thaw. But it was perhaps a sign of how bad things have got between the US and China that one of the most senior visits to Beijing in years had the most modest of aims: better communication.

Emma Graham-Harrison

Diplomacy A thaw in relations, but can two sides build on this?

When Janet Yellen left Beijing yesterday after four days of talks, the US treasury secretary in effect admitted the delegation had achieved its main objective simply by sitting down with top Chinese officials.

After years of dangerous and deepening separation between the people running the world's two biggest economies, they were finally back in a room together.

Now the two sides are talking, will their diplomacy aim only to stave off crisis, or can they use it to make constructive progress in a difficult relationship?

Yellen highlighted areas where collaboration was desperately needed, from investments to tackle the global climate crisis, to dealing with the heavy debts of some of the world's poorest countries. But the milestones of this trip may be challenging to build on. The Covid-19 pandemic cut off in-person meetings, and accelerated a shift in



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Kyiv pessimistic about fast-track Nato membership ahead of Vilnius summit

Dan Sabbagh
Defence and security editor

Ukraine is increasingly pessimistic of achieving a significant step forward in its hope of rapidly joining Nato as leaders of the western military alliance are set to assemble tomorrow in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius.

Kyiv is expected to be offered a package of last minute "enabling security guarantees" at the two-day summit - an assurance from countries such as the US, UK, France and Germany that military aid and training will continue for the long term.

But the US and Germany, in particular, appear unwilling to support Ukraine joining the 31-country alliance while conflict with Russia is

ongoing - leaving those close to Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, not hopeful of obtaining the concrete pathway to membership it had sought.

Dmytro Kuleba, Ukraine's foreign secretary, acknowledged on Saturday "what is missing" is a decision to make the country's path to Nato membership even faster with "clarity on Ukraine's accession invitation". Vilnius, he suggested, would be "a unique moment" to bring this forward.

President Joe Biden told CNN yesterday that Ukraine was "not yet ready" for Nato membership.

"Nato is a process that takes some time to meet all the qualifications - from democratisation to a whole range of other issues," he said, adding

Nato needed to "lay out a rational path" for membership. He suggested the US could provide military aid in the interim similar to the support it has long provided to Israel.

Kyiv believes Nato membership, carrying with it the defensive prospect of the western nuclear umbrella, is the only realistic guarantee of its long-term security since it is still likely to face a hostile Russia even if it can somehow force Moscow to sue for peace.

Lingering in the background is the Bucharest summit in 2008, when a then enthusiastic US was talked out of offering Ukraine and Georgia a path to Nato membership and the two countries were simply told they could become members at some indeterminate point in the future.

Georgia was attacked by Russia that year and Ukraine was first invaded six years later as the promise of eventual membership proved to be no deterrent while full alliance members - including the three Baltic states, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia - remained unthreatened by direct military aggression from Moscow.

Politically too, there is also a firm recognition that Ukraine should be allowed to become a member at some point. But even such a simple commitment hands Moscow an incentive to keep on fighting.

"If Nato promises Ukraine membership when the war ends, that in a way allows Russia to procrastinate in the war," said Orysia Lutsevych, a Ukraine expert with the Chatham House thinktank. Alternative

wording, suggesting Ukraine could join when the security situation allowed might help, she added, but Nato members understood the commitment it would bring, meaning it remained "a difficult balance to strike".

Vilnius is expected to result in fresh guarantees emphasising long-term weapons supply and other forms of support, including economic, by a group of Nato members including the US, UK, France and Germany.

Last minute discussions about the package is likely to form part of Biden's stopover in London today, where he will meet Rishi Sunak, before both go separately to the Vilnius meeting, which starts tomorrow lunchtime.

The theory is the so-called "porcupine strategy" - where the country becomes highly militarised and, in the style of Israel, hard to defeat. French officials on Friday referred to "enabling security guarantees" designed to show Putin that key countries in the west would support Ukraine "for as long as it takes" - allowing Kyiv to sustain a long war.

'People's missile' Ukraine fills weapon gap with its own doodlebug

Luke Harding
Kyiv

On an industrial estate near Kyiv, a group of engineers stand next to a tube. The metal device is part of a homemade rocket. After twiddling with an ignition cable, the engine sparks into flame. There is a terrifying, ear-splitting roar. Two dogs that guard the compound slink away and hide; swallows fly off. The centre of the pipe glows red. After a minute, the awful din stops.

This is the Trembita, also known as the "people's missile". The prototype is Ukraine's 21st-century answer to the V-1 flying bomb, or doodlebug, the long-range missile used by Nazi Germany in the second world war against targets in south-east England.

The Ukrainian version has a range of 140km (87 miles), can carry 25kg of explosives and runs on diesel or petrol that you can buy in the local garage.

Best of all for Ukraine's armed forces, the Trembita is cheap. It costs about £2,300 to build the rocket and another £5,500 to equip it with a modern navigation



system. The price is a fraction of the cost of Russia's hypersonic and cruise missiles, Kinzhal and Kalibr, estimated to cost £800,000 to £1.6m each. The project's chief engineer, Akym Kleymenov, says his low-tech bomb can be transported in the boot of a car. It has enough fuel for a half-hour journey into enemy territory, though not quite far enough to hit the bridge connecting Russia with occupied Crimea.

According to Kleymenov, its purpose is to overwhelm Russia's defences. "It's simple, cheap, and good at exhausting enemy air defence systems," he explains, standing in a garage full of welding equipment, metal cylinders and an old car missing a wheel. Asked if he is Ukraine's answer to Q, the gadget master from the James Bond films, he replies: "Probably, yes."

The plan is to launch the Trembitas in a battery of 20 or 30, fired simultaneously. The rockets have a "negative psycho-emotional" effect on Russian soldiers, exposing them to a deafening 100db noise, Kleymenov says.

Volodymyr Zelenskiy, the Ukrainian president, has repeatedly asked western partners to supply Ukraine with long-range missiles. High-precision HIMARS rocket launchers with a range of 70-80km were sent by the US last summer, and in May, the UK sent Storm Shadow cruise missiles with a claimed range "in excess of 250km", according to its manufacturer.

The White House has so far refused to give Kyiv ATACMS artillery, which can be deployed in HIMARS systems and have a 300km range, but reports in the US have

suggested Washington was on the brink of including them in a new package of security assistance.

Meanwhile, Trembita's developers have set up a mini-production line. In one corner of the workshop are faulty Ukrainian Grad missiles, stacked next to captured Russian Grads. These are used as a source of valuable missile fuel accelerant. Asked if this makeshift production facility is safe, engineer Serhii Biriukov replies: "For us, yes. For the Russians, no."

Yuriy Sak, an adviser to Ukraine's defence ministry, says the Trembita is one of several interesting grassroots projects being carried out by volunteer groups. "We can't rely for ever on our western partners for military assistance and supplies. This is an example of Ukraine thinking strategically

87

The range in miles of the Trembita missile, which runs on regular diesel or petrol

£8k

Cost of building a Trembita missile with a modern navigation system

► The man behind the Trembita project, Viktor Romaniuk, a former MP, aims to crowdfund the production of up to 1,000 missiles a month

PHOTOGRAPH: ALESSIO MAMO/THE GUARDIAN

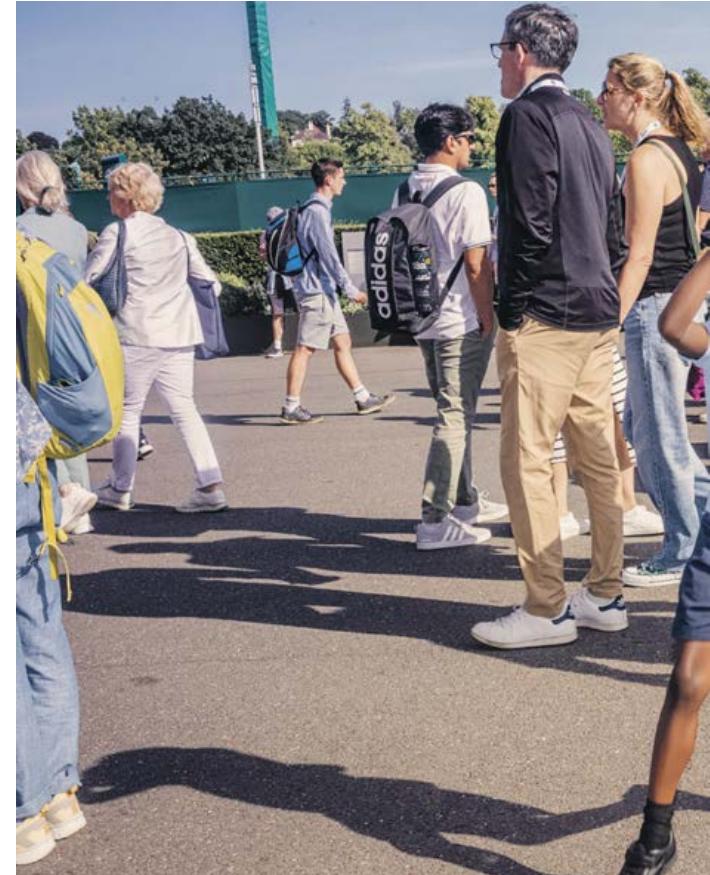
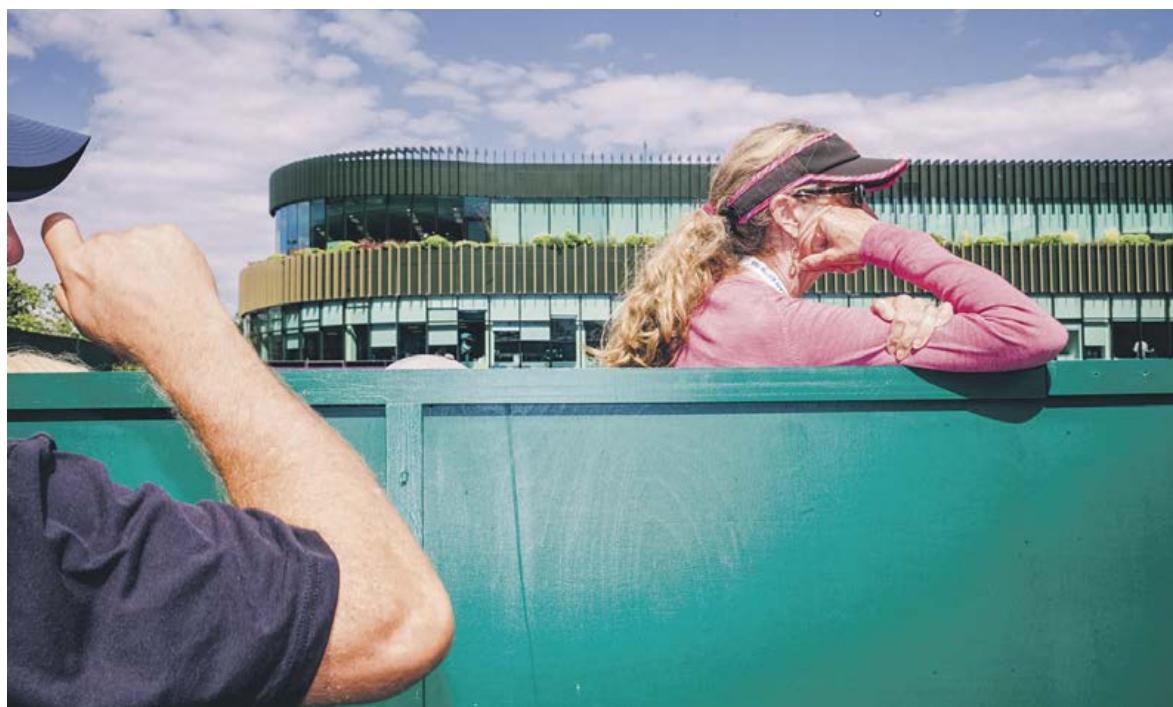
and implementing ideas that build up our defence industrial base," he says.

He says he is confident Ukraine will win in the end because it encourages and welcomes individual initiatives and bottom-up technical creativity.

The project's organiser, Viktor Romaniuk, a former Ukrainian MP, aims to crowdfund production of up to 1,000 limited-range cruise missiles a month. This will cost the equivalent of £270,000 to £470,000, he estimates.

Back at the workshop, the engineers are preparing for another ear-splitting test. "The dogs start barking whenever Russia attacks us with Iranian drones," Biriukov says. "Our weapon is more powerful. When we start up the Trembita, they always run away."

Eyewitness



**Wimbledon 2023**

The Guardian photographer Sarah Lee mingled with crowds and employees during the first week of Wimbledon, which featured rain, long queues and British defeats



Musk's Twitter faces legal challenge for not removing antisemitic tweets

Jason Burke

Twitter is facing a legal challenge after the social media firm failed to remove a series of hate-filled tweets reported by users, in what could be a turning point in establishing new standards of scrutiny of online antisemitism.

The California-based company, owned since last year by Elon Musk, was alerted by researchers at HateAid, a German organisation that campaigns for human rights in the digital space, and the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS), to six antisemitic or otherwise racist tweets in January this year but did not remove them despite the tweets apparently clearly contravening its own moderation policy.

Four of the tweets denied the Holocaust in explicit terms, one said “blacks should be gassed and sent with space x to Mars”, while a sixth compared Covid vaccination programmes to mass extermination in Nazi death camps.

All were reported in January but Twitter ruled that three of the tweets had not violated its guidelines and failed to respond to the other reports, the legal action claims.

HateAid and the EUJS applied this year to a Berlin court to have the tweets deleted, arguing that they broke German law and that Twitter had failed to meet contractual obligations to provide a secure and safe environment for its users.

Twitter has now received notice of the legal action and has since acted to block some of the offending tweets.

Avital Grinberg of the EUJS said the decision to take legal action had been taken out of “despair, disappointment and anger”.

“All our efforts and advocacy have led nowhere and Twitter has become a space where antisemitism and Holocaust denial is just growing and growing. This is so much bigger than us, so we needed the biggest and strongest tool that democracy has to offer, and that is the law,” Grinberg said.

Experts in extremist violence say the evidence that online hate encourages physical attacks on targeted minorities is undeniable.

Repeated studies have detected a huge surge in antisemitic online content since the Covid pandemic, while in 2022 the Anti-Defamation League in the US tracked the highest number of antisemitic incidents in the US since they started recording in 1979.

In the UK, the Community Security Trust recorded the fifth highest total since 1984. The interior ministry of Germany has also logged record highs in antisemitic crimes over recent years.

Hateful and conspiratorial online ecosystems are a very significant factor in the radicalisation of individuals towards antisemitic world views. They are also key to the mass



▲ Research suggests the number of antisemitic Tweets has doubled since Elon Musk, above, took over Twitter

PHOTOGRAPHS: BLOOMBERG; REUTERS

proliferation of narratives which seek to hold Jews responsible for the world’s ills. But this is not only an issue of online abuse and harassment. It can often translate into offline violence as well,” said Jakob Guhl of the Institute for Strategic Dialogue in London, a thinktank specialising in countering extremism.

Twitter has faced repeated accusations of failing to act against online hate in recent years, but these have intensified since Musk took over in October. The billionaire, who has described himself as a “free speech absolutist”, restored the accounts of thousands of users who had been banned from the platform, including white supremacists with a history of involvement in neo-Nazi propaganda.

At the same time, Musk dissolved Twitter’s independent trust and safety council responsible for advising on tackling harmful activity on the platform, and dramatically cut

staff, reportedly including those working on content moderation.

Research published by the ISD this year found a major and sustained rise in antisemitic posts on Twitter since the company’s takeover by Musk, with the volume of English-language antisemitic tweets more than doubling.

In total, analysts detected 325,739 English-language antisemitic tweets from June 2022 to February 2023, with the weekly average number of antisemitic tweets increasing by 106% when comparing the period before and after Musk’s acquisition. The rate of creation of antisemitic accounts more than tripled after Musk’s takeover.

Repeated efforts by the Guardian to contact Twitter were unsuccessful. An email containing a detailed list of the alleged failures sent to Twitter’s press office was answered by an automated response of a poo emoji.

Josephine Ballon of HateAid said the aim of the legal action was to force Twitter to take more responsibility for content on its site.

“Freedom of expression does not

and hostile invective about immigrants to the UK. The tweet reported by HateAid on 11 January was posted by the account in November, and read: “The holocaust is a lie, everything they told you about the holocaust is a lie, the jews have taken credit of footage that has never happened to them.” Twitter found this tweet did not violate their guidelines.

Twitter has said it is “committed to combating abuse motivated by hatred, prejudice or intolerance, particularly abuse that seeks to silence the voices of those who have been historically marginalised” and that “behaviour that targets individuals or groups with abuse based on their perceived membership in a protected category” is prohibited.

The company’s code specifically mentions the Holocaust: “We prohibit targeting individuals or groups with content that references forms of violence or violent events where a protected category was the primary target or victims, where the intent is to harass. This includes, but is not limited to media or text that refers to or depicts genocides, (eg the Holocaust).”

In January HateAid reported a tweet by the user Abdulla74515475 that was posted on 18 December and claimed that the Holocaust was “the biggest lie of the 20th century” and that “no one killed 6 million Jewish people”. Twitter found that this tweet did not violate its guidelines. The company reached the same conclusion with another tweet posted by Cologne1312 in January and reported two days later, which included an image of the gates of Auschwitz death camp with the infamous motto Arbeit macht frei (work sets you free) replaced with “Vaccines will make you free”.

HateAid said there was no response from Twitter to the other three tweets reported in January. On 15 June, HateAid and the EUJS were informed by Twitter that the company had moved to block the offending tweets, though some have only been hidden from users in Germany where there are strict laws on Holocaust denial and demonstrations of Nazi sympathies. At least one account has now been suspended.

Musk has said that allegations of increased hate speech were “utterly false” and that “hate speech impressions” had dramatically fallen on the platform since he took over.

The ISD research found the proportion of antisemitic content removed by Twitter appeared to have increased in the period since the takeover, with 12% of antisemitic tweets subsequently unavailable, compared to 6% before the takeover. But this removal rate has not kept pace with the increase in overall antisemitic content, with the result that hate speech remains more accessible on the platform than before Musk’s acquisition, the ISD said.

Despite Musk’s claims that “hate Tweets will be max deboosted & demonetized” – suggesting that they will not be algorithmically recommended to users on their news feeds and will not be able to be displayed as adverts or able to generate revenue – the ISD found little change in the average levels of engagement or interaction with antisemitic tweets before and after the takeover, the organisation said in a statement.

If you are a Jewish person on Twitter, the sad reality is that it is neither secure nor safe for you'



Josephine Ballon
HateAid

Iranian universities bar dozens of students for defying hijab law

Deepa Parent

At least 60 female students in Iran have been barred from university for flouting the country's mandatory hijab law as female activists warn that detentions and arrests of young women are on the rise.

The Guardian spoke to nine suspended students who fear their plans to study further are uncertain after they were given suspensions and banned from their campuses.

One student from a university in Tehran said: "We're being banned from the campus for refusing to wear a hijab, and in the past few days there has been a violent crackdown on us for peacefully sitting in protest." She said security officials "violently threw us out of the classrooms".

Female university students across the country have been recording

themselves without headscarves in response to videos recently shared by citizen journalists show the harassment of women and girls in subways and streets by disciplinary committees and pro-regime civilians.

The students who spoke to the Guardian said their professors had been attacked and banned from the campus for supporting them.

The NGO Human Rights Activists in Iran (HRAI) said that at least 64 students had been suspended and three expelled nationwide.

Students have also said the university security teams are violently raiding dormitories and kicking students out for sharing social media posts in support of protesters and those sentenced to death.

"Three days after I shared a post about death sentences, the university security team confiscated my phone after raiding our residence hall," said a student from Tehran. "They also

collected protest posters or anything related to the ongoing revolution and warned us of worse consequences.

"I doubt the officers barging into our dormitories are from the university's security team. I've never seen them before. The next day, I was temporarily suspended along with three of my friends." The student was also warned that their course grades would be marked as zero.

Another student in the city said: "The university administration is

'There has been a violent crackdown on us for peacefully sitting in protest'

University student
Tehran

acting like an extended arm of the Islamic Republic. I was preparing my applications for a master's in the EU, but I fear I'll neither receive a recommendation letter, nor the grades necessary for my application. I've been warned by my university's administration that I'll get zero grades if I don't apologise and retract my social media posts in support of the revolution."

Jasmin Ramsey, the deputy director of the nonprofit Centre for Human Rights in Iran, said the Iranian government had a history of persecuting students accused of participating in peaceful protests.

"University disciplinary committees in Iran have conducted sham 'hearings' where students and professors are treated as guilty without any opportunity to prove their innocence," she said.

Another student said court-like trials were being held in universities, with women given a verdict based on the accusations and then suspended. However, she was stoical about her treatment, saying: "There are those who lost their eyes; there are those who were murdered. Compared with what they've suffered for the freedom of Iran, my suspension is nothing."

In brief

Georgia

Anti-LGBTQ+ activists disrupt Pride festival

Up to 2,000 anti-LGBTQ+ protesters broke up a Pride festival in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, on Saturday, scuffling with police and destroying flags and placards.

Georgia aims to join the EU but its ruling Georgian Dream party has been accused of drifting towards authoritarianism.

Mariam Kvaratskhelia, director of the Pride event, said: "I think this was a... coordinated action between the government and radical groups... to sabotage the EU candidacy of Georgia."

The police and government could not be reached for comment.
Reuters Tbilisi

Syria

Islamic State leader killed in drone strike

The US military said yesterday it had killed Usamah al-Muhajir, an Islamic State leader in eastern Syria, in a drone strike.

There were no signs civilians had been killed in the strike on Friday, US Central Command said. The drones involved in the strike had earlier been "harassed" by Russian aircraft. Lt Gen Alex Grynkevich said a Russian pilot had moved their aircraft in front of a drone and engaged its afterburner.

Washington has stepped up operations against IS in Syria, which US commanders say remains a significant threat in the region.
Guardian staff and agencies

South Korea

K-pop stars BTS launch keenly awaited memoir

A hotly anticipated memoir from the K-pop megastars BTS was published in South Korea yesterday amid heavy rain that kept all but diehard fans away from bookshops.

Beyond the Story: 10-Year Record of BTS shot to the top of the Amazon bestseller list in May on the strength of pre-orders of its initial print run of 1m copies.

"I wish I could say more," said Audrey, a fan from Malaysia who visited Seoul for the book's release, "but I am going to cry now."

The seven-member band is currently on hiatus while two of its stars complete military service.
AFP Seoul



Cleanup means Parisian bathers will soon take a dip in the Seine

Jon Henley
Paris

Grenelle to the west and at Bercy in the east - will be monitored by lifeguards and marked by buoys, Anne Hidalgo said yesterday.

The bathing zones will be "accessible by pontoons and equipped on the quaysides with spaces where swimmers will be able to change, shower and keep their belongings safe," city hall said in a statement.

The mayor wants swimming in the Seine to be a "major legacy" of

the 2024 Paris Olympics, in which the river is to feature in the opening ceremony and three aquatic events, including the triathlon.

Hidalgo, the mayor since 2014, tweeted a video showing her deputies "taking the first plunge" and promising it would "soon be your turn - and mine".

Bathing in the Seine has been banned since 1923, when city authorities outlawed open-bottomed swimming boats that lined the quaysides because of the danger from barges and pleasure traffic and deteriorating water quality.

A €1.4bn cleanup project over the past seven years is now bearing fruit,

▲ An artist's impression of the pontoons and changing facilities for bathers on the River Seine by the Quai de Grenelle in Paris

authorities say, with tests last year showing waterborne bacteria - notably E coli and enterococci - at a safe level for swimming more than 90% of the time. Only after particularly heavy rainfall is water quality unacceptable. There will be daily testing when bathing is officially opened.

The cleanup involved cracking down on homes, boats and businesses emptying wastewater into the river, improving sewage treatment plants and building storage basins.



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Ecological recession

As planet heats, the world economy cools

Page 29



Tunnel vision

In the Alps near Kaprun, Austria, work takes place underground as part of a project aimed at storing hydropower. Austria draws 60% of its electricity from the renewable energy source.

PHOTOGRAPH:
JOE KLAMAR/
AFP/GETTY IMAGES



UK broadband firms accused of hiding cheap social tariffs

Richard Partington
Economics correspondent

Some of Britain's largest mobile phone and broadband providers have been accused of burying cheaper deals for vulnerable customers on their websites, despite pressure from the government to promote them in light of the cost of living crisis.

Charities and consumer groups warned that millions of low-income households across Britain were missing out on hundreds of pounds of savings, with many left to deal with inflation-busting bill increases of up to 17% this spring.

The chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, last week announced measures to get Ofcom, the telecoms regulator, to push suppliers to raise awareness of "social tariffs" to drive consumer take-up. The tariffs are cheaper broadband and mobile phone packages for people claiming universal credit and some other benefits.

Millions of people are missing out, with as few as 220,000 out of 4.3m eligible households having signed up.

Analysis of mobile and broadband providers' websites by Broadband Genie, a comparison website, shows

that several companies do not promote them on their homepage, or on the landing page for their main deals.

Social tariffs are invisible on the homepages of BT and its EE mobile brand, and missing from the main pages of Sky's website. TalkTalk does not offer a social tariff, although it does provide vouchers for six months of free broadband for jobseekers on universal credit.

"There's no excuse at all for our current situation, where some of the biggest companies keep them squirrelled far away from their homepage," said Alex Tofts, broadband expert at Broadband Genie. "It means that even if customers know a tariff exists, they often have to trawl through websites, past more expensive and far better promoted deals, to reach the information they need."

BT has a dedicated webpage for its Home Essentials broadband social tariff. However, it cannot be accessed from the catalogue of pricier deals, which start at £26.99 a month. Unlike other deals, which can be bought online, prospective Home Essentials customers must call BT. It does not advertise the price. Ofcom's website lists it at £15 a month.

At Sky, details of its social tariffs

are not listed in its main deals, which start at £25 a month, and are only accessible via its help pages. The firm's £20-a-month social tariff is only available to existing customers.

Other providers advertise their social tariffs more prominently. Voxy, the low-cost mobile network owned by Vodafone, promotes its For Now package on its homepage.

Virgin Media does not promote its Essential Broadband among its main deals, but does highlight plans for low-income families elsewhere on its homepage. A spokesperson for Virgin Media O2 said customers could apply "in just two clicks - a matter of seconds - on our website".

Sky declined to comment. TalkTalk

4.3m

Households eligible for social tariffs on broadband and mobile; only 220,000 have signed up

£15

BT's monthly social tariff, on Ofcom's website. BT's easy-to-find mainstream deals start at £26.99

Business

Permanent job recruitment slows amid uncertainty over economy

Jasper Jolly

British businesses are slowing down hiring just as the number of people looking for work rises, according to data that suggests "lingering uncertainty" over the economic outlook.

The availability of candidates for new jobs rose in June at the sharpest rate since the height of the UK's Covid restrictions in December 2020, according to the latest report on jobs by the Recruitment and Employment Confederation (REC) and KPMG.

The number of people placed in permanent jobs by recruitment agencies also fell, and wage growth dropped to its weakest rate in more than two years in June.

UK labour market data to be released tomorrow is forecast to show unemployment remaining at 3.8%, still near four-decade lows. However, economists are watching keenly for signs of weakening growth.

The Bank of England has raised interest rates rapidly from 0.1% in late 2021 to 5% now. Financial markets have priced in further increases in the coming months as the Bank attempts to drive down inflation, which has remained stubbornly high.

Claire Warnes, a partner at KPMG, said: "The sharp upturn in candidate availability this month - the highest for two and a half years - is a big concern for the economy, reflecting the effects of a sustained slowdown in recruitment along with increasing redundancies across many sectors."

She added that it appeared that employers were favouring temporary hiring over permanent jobs because of "lingering economic uncertainty".

Neil Carberry, the chief executive of the REC, said it was likely that more people were looking for new jobs in reaction to rising inflation, as well as a higher number of redundancies. He said it was "no surprise, therefore, that the rate at which wages are rising has dropped again".

He added that it was a mixed picture. "Despite these trends, the labour market remains very tight," he said. "There are still broad skills shortages, with accountancy, construction, teaching and nursing among those sectors struggling to find and retain workers."

"The growth in vacancies for temps and permanent staff in hotel and catering and blue-collar jobs, and for temp positions in retail, suggest businesses anticipate that people are still prepared to spend their wages on goods and services despite the cost of living crisis."

Post-Covid increase in gambling boosts profits for Betfred founders

Jasper Jolly

The bookmaker Betfred has reported a jump in profits after gamblers' losses mounted following the end of Covid restrictions.

The gambling company made profits after tax of nearly £20m in the year ending 25 September 2022, up from just over £5m the year before, according to newly published accounts at Companies House.

Gambling shops were among the last to reopen in the UK during the pandemic, but since then their sales have risen sharply. Betfred's turnover grew by nearly £200m in the year to September 2022 to reach £723m.

Betfred customers wagered £8.8bn in 2022, a sharp increase on nearly £7bn the year before. However, that fell short of the £10.1bn bet in 2019.

Betfred's billionaire owners, the Done family, paid themselves a £50.8m dividend in November 2021



▲ Betfred closed 51 shops over the year, and says it may close more

£50.8m

The dividend that the billionaire brothers who own Betfred paid themselves in November 2021

£723m

Betfred's turnover in the year to 25 September 2022, a rise of nearly £200m on the year before

as an increase in online gambling helped the company remain profitable, although the company reported no dividend payments during 2022.

The Done brothers, Fred and Peter, first worked for their father's illegal bookmaking business. They expanded their gambling empire after opening a betting shop in Salford in 1967 using winnings from betting on England's victory in the 1966 World Cup. The brothers' fortune was worth £1.87bn in May, putting them 93rd on the list of Britain's richest people, according to the Sunday Times.

Betfred closed 51 shops during the period, leaving it with 1,419. In 2019 the group had 1,578 shops. It said it would consider loss-making shops for closure.

The company paid significantly higher machine games duty of £54m compared with £31m in the previous year, which was heavily affected by Covid restrictions.

Many gambling companies weathered Covid restrictions by relying more heavily on online operations. However, online gambling is under stricter scrutiny after the UK government this year said it would consult on new affordability checks and other measures to reduce the harms from gambling, including addiction. The changes, which are heavily opposed by the industry, are expected to be brought in by next summer.

BT starts search for new chief to lead cost-saving programme

Jasper Jolly

BT has started the search for a successor to its chief executive, Philip Jansen, as the telecoms company prepares for a major cost-cutting programme.

The FTSE 100 company has hired the headhunting firm Spencer Stuart to look for a new chief executive to take over from Jansen.

It comes after Jansen in May revealed plans to cut as many as 55,000 jobs by 2030, citing the need for a leaner business as well as the impact of artificial intelligence.

Under that plan, the company, which owns the EE mobile network and a large broadband internet network, would cut staff numbers from 130,000 globally to 75,000-90,000 between 2028 and 2030.

BT could announce a succession plan at its annual shareholder meeting on Thursday, according to Sky.

Jansen has reportedly indicated to BT's board, chaired by former ITV boss Adam Crozier, that he may consider leaving during 2024.

A BT Group spokesperson said: "As normal course of business the BT board undertakes regular succession planning to ensure it is preparing appropriately for the future."

Jansen, who previously led the payments company Worldpay, has led BT since 2019 after taking over from Gavin Patterson, who left after failing to win round investors to his own turnaround plan.

In May, Jansen said that using AI could make BT more efficient. Once the company had completed its introduction of 5G mobile networks it would be able to make do with fewer employees as well, he said.

Yet Jansen has struggled to make an impact with investors. BT's share price has dropped by nearly half since February 2019.



▲ Philip Jansen, the outgoing chief executive, called for 55,000 job cuts

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**The
GuardianWeekly**

Economies cool as planet heats The global recession we all face is an ecological one

▼ A wildfire in British Columbia this month. Blazes across Canada led to New York City choking in noxious smog

PHOTOGRAPH:
NOAH BERGER/AP

Larry Elliott



First it was the pandemic. Then it was the war in Ukraine. Next it could be the climate crisis. On Monday last week the world registered its hottest day, but the record lasted only 24 hours before it was beaten by an even-more sizzling Tuesday. And while the planet continues to heat up the global economy continues to cool down.

Germany is already in recession and plenty of other developed countries – including Britain – aim to be heading in that direction. China's post-lockdown recovery has petered out, the US jobs market seems to be cooling in response to higher interest rates.

The combination of weak activity and the increasing number of extreme weather events is worrying. Normally, pressure on the environment intensifies during booms, which is why there were big surges in support for the green movement in the early 1970s, the late 1980s and the period immediately before the global financial crisis of 2008.

If, as seems likely, there will be no letup in global heating despite slower growth, that's a real concern. The US economy may technically avoid recession, but the fact that the recent Canadian forest fires led to New York City being choked in a noxious orange smog speaks of a planet heading for a catastrophic slump. In a sense, the real recession is the ecological one.

Generally, governments focus on the future of the planet when they feel they have nothing much else to worry about. That, at least, has been the record until now. Recessions – and even the threat of recessions – have the effect of making policymakers focus on the short term. Stretched public finances coupled with the desire to remain popular engender a growth-at-all-costs mentality. Fears are now surfacing about the costs of the transition to a cleaner, less carbon-intensive economy, particularly on those least able to bear them.

Make no mistake, some of these concerns are legitimate. Heat pumps are expensive. Electric cars are only seen in the driveways of the better off. Fossil fuels make up three-quarters of the UK's energy mix and ending that dependency will be neither quick nor easy.

In the current circumstances, politicians think they have more pressing matters to deal with than hitting net zero goals. Action to tackle the climate emergency can be put off to another day when, fingers crossed, science and market



The green movement needs to focus on the real enemy: a form of capitalism that is eating itself

▼ England's Ben Stokes confronting a Just Stop Oil protester during the second Ashes Test at Lord's

PHOTOGRAPH: MATTHEW CHILDS/REUTERS



forces will come up with a solution that will allow us all to consume as much as we like without destroying the planet.

This may be shortsighted. It may be foolish thinking. It no doubt infuriates the Just Stop Oil protesters who have made their presence felt at Lord's and Wimbledon. But for those in positions of power, the temptation to delay action remains strong. Rishi Sunak's plan to renege on the government's £11.6bn pledge to help poor countries deal with climate change is a case in point. It would be an act of betrayal, but one sadly in keeping with the prime

minister's lack of interest in the net zero agenda.

It would be wrong to assume it is only the politicians at fault. Our political masters respond to the signals from voters, and the message is by no means as clear-cut as those urging more drastic action on the climate emergency would hope. In part, that's due to the cost of living crisis, but it goes deeper.

Many support football teams sponsored by fossil fuel interests and the fans really don't care if the new star striker is being bought with dirty Middle East oil money so long as he scores plenty of goals. People worry more about the future of the planet than they did when EF Schumacher wrote *Small is Beautiful* half a century ago, but what they really want is a painless transition that doesn't force them to stop doing things they like, such as driving to see friends and family or jetting off for a holiday abroad.

There is still time to step back from the edge of the abyss. For a start, the green movement needs to heal the divide between those backing no growth and those favouring sustainable growth, and focus on the real enemy: a form of capitalism that is eating itself.

Next, there is low-hanging fruit to be picked. Andrew Simms, a co-director of the New Weather Institute campaign group, says sport sponsorship was a key

battleground in the successful struggle to end tobacco advertising and that fossil fuels have become the new tobacco. From football to cycling's Tour de France, from the forthcoming rugby World Cup to athletics, Simms notes sport has long been dependent on the largesse of high carbon promoters.

Some problems will be tougher to crack. The green transition would be easier were Britain a less unequal country. What's more, Britain's energy infrastructure is in a poor state and needs a lot of sustained investment if it is to be ready for the new power sources being developed, such as floating windfarms and hydrogen.

The Institute for Public Policy Research, a left-leaning thinktank, is proposing a £30bn a year public investment package, including in clean energy, which it says would improve the supply side of the economy, boost growth potential and be good for the public finances.

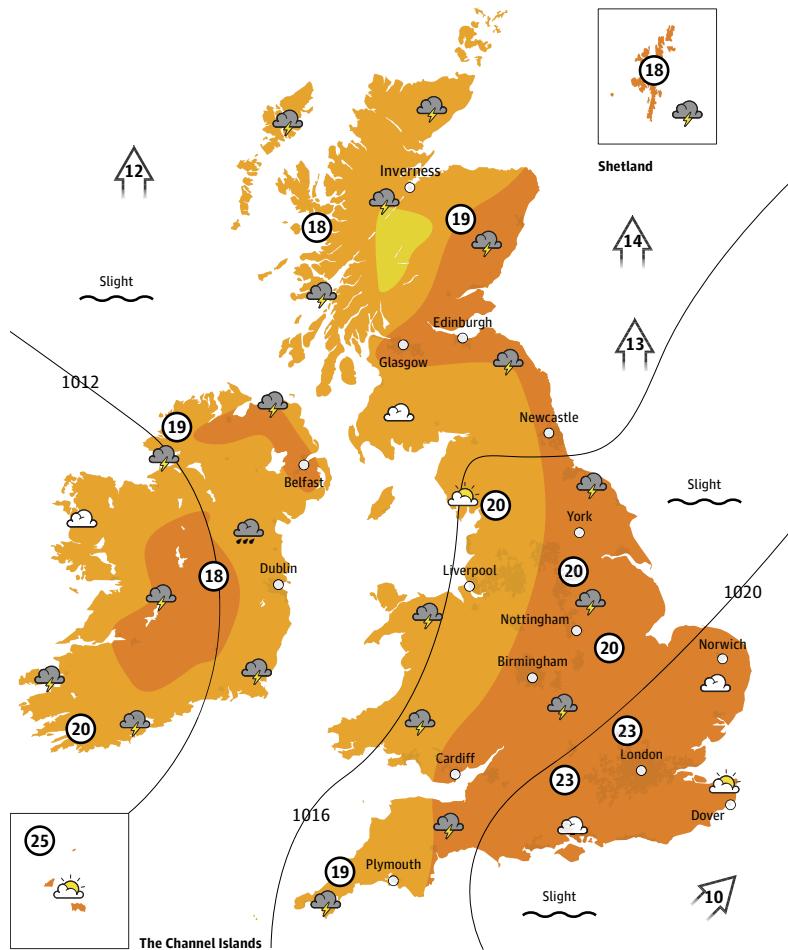
There are other suggestions for how the government might speed up the green transition, all of which meet the same riposte: the plans are unaffordable, irresponsible and the stuff of fantasy.

In truth, the real fantasists are those who cling to the belief we can continue to exploit the natural world to satisfy our desires. If that's what economics is about, we badly need a new economics.

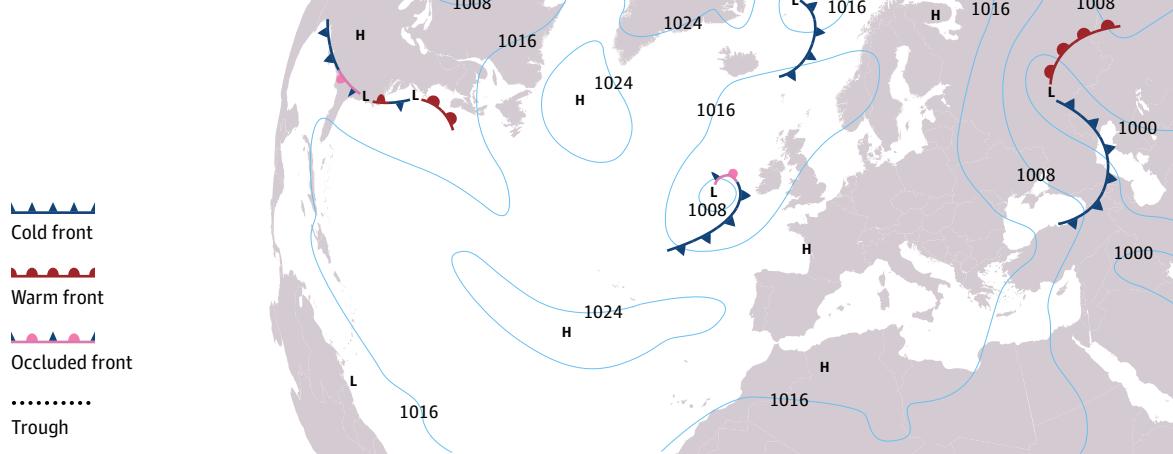
Weather

Monday 10 July 2023

UK and Ireland Noon today



Atlantic front



High tides

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Aberdeen	0729	4.0m	2025	3.6m
Avonmouth	0100	12.0m	1326	11.5m
Barrow	0529	8.6m	1803	7.9m
Belfast	0508	3.5m	1803	3.1m
Cobh	--	--	1146	3.6m
Cromer	0049	4.4m	1241	4.7m
Dover	0515	6.0m	1731	6.2m
Dublin	0543	4.0m	1836	3.5m
Galway	--	--	1144	4.4m
Greenock	0614	3.4m	1901	3.0m
Harwich	0555	3.8m	1807	3.7m
Holyhead	0422	5.3m	1709	4.7m
Hull	0024	6.6m	1222	7.0m
Leith	0849	5.2m	2134	4.8m
Liverpool	0510	8.7m	1744	8.0m

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Sun & Moon



Sun rises 0454
Sun sets 2115
Moon rises 0026
Moon sets 1401
New Moon 17 July

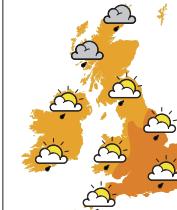
AccuWeather.com
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Lighting up

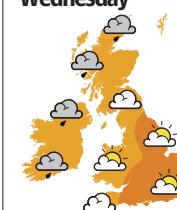
Belfast	2158 to 0503
Birm'sham	2128 to 0458
Brighton	2113 to 0500
Bristol	2126 to 0507
Carlisle	2147 to 0447
Cork	2151 to 0528
Dublin	2151 to 0510
Glasgow	2159 to 0448
Harlech	2139 to 0505
Inverness	2210 to 0434
London	2115 to 0455
M'chester	2135 to 0455
Newcastle	2143 to 0442
Norwich	2117 to 0444
Penzance	2131 to 0525

Forecast

Low 15 High 20
Tomorrow



Low 12 High 19
Wednesday



Carbon count

Daily atmospheric CO₂ readings from Mauna Loa, Hawaii (ppm):

Latest

07 Jul 2023 422.52

Weekly average

02 Jul 2023 422.61

09 Jul 2022 419.96

09 Jul 2013 398.34

Pre-industrial base 280

Safe level 350

Source: NOAA-ESRL

Around the UK

London

Lows and highs

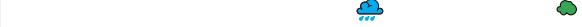
17 23

Precipitation

25%

Air pollution

Low



Starwatch



The moon moves into its last quarter phase today, heralding a new moon next week. In New Zealand, this means it is time for the celebration of Matariki, which in Māori culture marks the new year. Timing of the celebration is determined by the interplay of stars and the moon.

Matariki is the Māori name for the Pleiades star cluster, which disappears from New Zealand skies in May for about a month. When it is seen again, rising in the dawn sky just before the sun, the Matariki festival can begin once the moon reaches its next last quarter phase.

This year the last quarter is reached today. Festivities proceed for a week and end after the new moon. In 2021, Matariki was made a public holiday. This year the holiday takes place on 14 July. While the rest of us do not have a holiday, we can watch the moon traverse the final week of its cycle.

Stuart Clark

Around the world

Algiers	39	Lisbon	31
Ams'dam	23	Madrid	41
Athens	33	Malaga	31
Auckland	15	Mel'b'rene	16
B Aires	15	Mexico C	25
Bangkok	32	Miami	35
Barcelona	30	Milan	36
Basra	47	Mombasa	29
Beijing	39	Moscow	18
Berlin	29	Mumbai	30
Bermuda	28	N Orleans	31
Brussels	26	Nairobi	27
Budapest	34	New Delhi	30
C'hagen	19	New York	26
Cairo	35	Oslo	25
Cape Town	35	Paris	30
Chicago	31	Perth	19
Corfu	32	Prague	31
Dakar	32	Reykjavik	17
Dhaka	31	Rio de J	26
Dublin	18	Rome	33
Florence	39	Shanghai	35
Gibraltar	30	Singapore	30
H Kong	33	Stockh'm	22
Harare	22	Strash'b	33
Helsinki	21	Sydney	21
Istanbul	30	Tel Aviv	30
Jo'burg	9	Tenerife	27
K Lumpur	32	Tokyo	32
K'mandu	29	Toronto	28
Kabul	31	Vancou'r	21
Kingston	33	Vienna	35
Kolkata	32	Warsaw	28
L Angeles	28	Wash'ton	28
Lagos	30	Well'ton	13
Lima	23	Zurich	32

Women's World Cup

Bronze frustrated with impasse over bonuses

Page 33 →

Rugby union

Battered and bruised Hogg retires from rugby

Page 34 →



Sport



▲ Ilkay Gündogan (left) has become an iconic midfielder in the image of Luka Modrić (right)

TOM FLATHERS/MANCHESTER CITY FC VIA GETTY IMAGES

Moving on up Gündogan's canny switch to Barcelona will prepare him for Euro 2024 peak

Philipp Lahm



I watched the Nations League with interest. This mini-European Championship was a foretaste of Uefa Euro 2024. The emotional highlight for me was Croatia's victory against the hosts, the Netherlands, in the semi-finals. The stadium was sold out, the Dutch had been unbeaten at De Kuip for 23 years but after extra time 20,000 Croats celebrated in Rotterdam. Not even 4 million people live in this country, yet Croatia have been to the World Cup last four twice recently.

The team are so strong and so popular with their fans because the players are passionate about playing for their nation. Their outstanding player is Luka Modrić. He has been part of his national team for a good 17 years. Modrić, recognised as a brilliant midfielder in Europe and the world, is an icon like Xavi or Andrea Pirlo.

Now Ilkay Gündogan has joined this squad by winning the Champions League as captain of Manchester City. After seven years and five Premier League titles, the victory in the Istanbul final marked the end of an era. Pep Guardiola has rid himself of a shortcoming, proving that City can now win anything at any time, just like Real Madrid and Barcelona. And Gündogan was an important part of that success. The midfield with him, Rodri and Kevin De Bruyne can be mentioned in the same breath as that of Real Madrid with Casemiro, Toni Kroos and Modrić in their heyday.

Players such as Gündogan and Modrić do not possess *that one skill*. It is not physicality, speed, the one-on-one that makes them, not the perfect shot or an outstanding header. It is the sum of everything. They give their teams order and structure. In every situation,

they recalculate the chances and dangers - those for the opponent, those for their own team. They secure the ball, keep it in their ranks, recognise the moment to attack. Gündogan and Modrić maintain the balance between defence and offence. They are specialists in managing risk on the pitch. That creates stability, security and control.

Successful coaches know that this type of player is indispensable. They also know that great things take time. When Guardiola moved to Manchester, he brought Gündogan from Dortmund. Then they developed something together over the years. Alone you are nothing in team sport. Players such as Gündogan are particularly valuable when the team are well combined. That is the case at Manchester City.

Good players are plentiful, good teams less so. For success, there has to be an overall structure that reinforces the individual qualities. Players such as Gündogan, Xavi or Pirlo benefit from this. A game idea, a clever division of labour, something organic - all the great teams have had something of this. Now, at 32, Gündogan is one of those players who can be the heart of a team. In cooperation with the coach, he has fully developed his abilities. For such players to continue to come into their own, they need an appropriate environment. Players of this calibre check with the coach and club before making a move.

Therefore, it was a logical decision for Gündogan to go to Barcelona. If away from Guardiola, then to Xavi. As a player, Xavi was part of a style-forming midfield with Andrés Iniesta and Sergio Busquets. Now he is seizing the opportunity. Gündogan, who carries the Spanish philosophy, is available. What Xavi lacks at Barcelona, he acquires. That involves a small risk. Arsenal would also have been a good solution, because the former Guardiola pupil Mikel Arteta also trades for the long term. But Paris Saint-Germain, where Gündogan was under discussion, lack continuity and organic growth in the development of the team.

So it will be an exciting new season. In the Champions League, the best international club league, competition could emerge for Manchester City and the eternal Real. Barça have left a gap to the top clubs in recent years but with Gündogan there is a chance to close it. In the Premier League, the strongest national league, Arsenal will be looking to counter the perennial winners City.

He is a specialist in managing risk on the pitch. That creates stability, security and control

As tournament director, I am particularly looking forward to Uefa Euro 2024, the competition between nations with the highest quality density in the world. Modrić finally wants to win a title. He came close in 2018, 2022 and 2023, but it's difficult with Croatia. Gündogan has better credentials, similar to Xavi, who won three times with Spain. Their nations are big enough to become world or European champions.

Everything in club football revolves around Gündogan, because he is predestined for game idea and cohesion. But the German XI is stumbling. Despite Gündogan, you can't see any formation, any approach. The team lack control, balance and stability. There is still time until the opening game on 14 June but something has to happen now: these elements need to be developed.

It would be nice if the hosts are strong. You want to see squads that perform as a team. That was the case with the England women during Euro 2022. There was a bond between them and their compatriots that created identity. Then football works, then it does its job, then it gives something to society.

Philipp Lahm's column was produced in partnership with Oliver Fritsch at Zeit Online, the German online magazine

Bayern try to tempt Spurs with improved £70m offer for Kane

Bundesliga champions had opening bid for England captain turned down

Fabrizio Romano
Sachin Nakrani

Bayern Munich have made an improved offer of £70m plus add-ons for Harry Kane and hope it will be enough to prise the striker away from Tottenham.

Spurs rejected Bayern's opening



▲ Harry Kane has shown little sign of wanting to stay at Tottenham

offer of £60m plus add-ons for Kane, the club deeming it too low for a player they value at least £100m despite the fact his contract expires next summer and he has shown little sign of wanting to sign an extension, leaving Spurs at risk of losing their record goalscorer on a free transfer.

Kane has held positive talks with Bayern over a move to the Bundesliga champions and they remain keen to sign the 29-year-old England captain, who had also been linked with a move to Manchester United this summer before they abandoned their plans to pursue the player, having decided the money it would take to lure him from north London was unrealistic.

Daniel Levy, the Tottenham chairman, is expected to stand firm in his desire to get £100m as a minimum for Kane but Bayern hope their improved offer, allied to the player's desire to join them, will lead to a softening in stance. They await an official response from Spurs, who have offered Kane a new contract that would significantly improve his £200,000-a-week terms, and should it again be negative, a third bid could well be submitted.

Meanwhile, Manchester United and Newcastle are both exploring a deal for Monaco's Axel Disasi. The 25-year-old defender made his debut for France at last year's World Cup.

Bronze frustrated by impasse over bonuses for Lionesses

Suzanne Wrack
Sunshine Coast

Lucy Bronze has described England flying to Australia for the Women's World Cup with discussions over performance-related bonuses still unresolved as "frustrating", but said that pushing for better is "something we've always had to do as players."

The Guardian reported last Monday that the Lionesses were disappointed at being told they would not receive bonuses from the Football Association in addition to the prize money ring-fenced for players by Fifa. It is understood there is a feeling in the squad that in not committing more than Fifa's allocation, the FA has put England on a par with the teams least supported by their federations rather than some of the world's best, such as US, whose governing body has committed to additional bonuses.

"It is frustrating, but I think that's the way the women's game has predominantly been," said Bronze, speaking from the Sunshine Coast Stadium where England are training before the tournament. "As a team we've always been pushing in the background, it's only been recently that it's been made more public, but it's something we've always had to do as players."

"Someone like Steph Houghton, previously, is someone who did a lot of work behind the scenes that probably wasn't reported on and people didn't know as much about. I think we're in a similar situation now, and I think the point of the players, and everyone involved in women's football, is about taking it to the next level and pushing the ceiling, not wanting to have a ceiling put on our game, and making sure we leave the game in a better place than we found it."

The Lionesses trained in front of more than 3,000 spectators in the early afternoon sun, where the only pitch invader was a long-beaked "bin chicken" (Australian white ibis). One young girl standing pitchside also offered her entire life savings of A\$8 in exchange for Bronze's shirt.

After training, the players were treated to a welcoming ceremony by the Gubbi Gubbi people, the traditional custodians of the land in south-east Queensland, before also being welcomed by the mayor of the Sunshine Coast, Mark Jamieson,



ÁLEX CAPARRÓS/
UEFA/GETTY IMAGES

and Vicki Treadell, the British High Commissioner to Australia.

"I'm very confident that our sporting facilities, our friendly hospitality and our beautiful winter climate will provide them with the perfect environment to put the finishing touches on their World Cup preparations," Jamieson said. "Today's open training session is a rare and wonderful opportunity for our community."

Bronze said: "It's like being at home, because in England we get this kind of support for open training

'It's about taking it to the next level and pushing the ceiling'



▲ Lucy Bronze is disappointed talks over bonuses remain unresolved

days. There's so many fans, you can interact and speak with them, which doesn't necessarily happen when you go halfway around the world."

The England full-back also praised the contribution of Megan Rapinoe, after the United States legend's announcement that she will retire at the end of the season. "The word icon gets used a lot but she's an icon on and off the field," Bronze said.

"The way she's stood up and spoken out on so many issues is incredible, it's changed the lives of so many people around the world, not just in football but in society as well. On the pitch she's been an absolute superstar as well, a player that I've played against a few times in head-to-heads."

Bronze believes football is a better place for Rapinoe's efforts, as well as those of the USA women's team in general. "Figureheads like Megan Rapinoe, Carli Lloyd previously as well, those kinds of players that are in the best team in the world and are the best players in that team, use their limelight to increase everything in women's football," Bronze said.

"Whether they're arguing for equal pay, talking about standards at tournaments, or helping other teams out. Alex Morgan is another name that comes out in that conversation. They have built the stage by winning and then off the back of that they use it to support other people and grow the game in a way we don't see anybody else capable of doing."

Golf LIV London

'Thrilled' Smith sees off Reed to tee up his Open defence

Ewan Murray
Centurion Club

Cameron Smith will head for his defence of the Open Championship fresh from victory after seeing off the spirited challenge of Patrick Reed to claim LIV Golf's tournament at Centurion. Smith's next start will be the final major of the year, which tees off at Royal Liverpool on Thursday week.

Having witnessed sellout weekend crowds on their return to England, LIV executives have cause to revel in their return to Hertfordshire. Smith, too, continues to justify a controversial switch to the breakaway tour in the immediate aftermath of lifting the Claret Jug at St Andrews last July.

Smith will collect \$4m for his efforts but, more important, impetus heading to Hoylake. His margin of victory was one, at 15 under par, after a 68 yesterday. "I'm thrilled," Smith said. "It gives me a shot of confidence, absolutely. This was a gutsy win. Over the weekend I didn't have my best stuff with the driver, which had actually been feeling really good. So I still have some work to do on that but I am really happy to get the win."

Interestingly, Smith also conceded "mixed emotions" after his LIV team, Ripper, fell one shy of 4Aces. Perhaps the much-ridiculed team concept really is capturing attention after all.

Smith had started day three with a three-shot lead from Marc Leishman and Louis Oosthuizen. Yet Reed soon came rampaging through the pack, his six back-nine birdies contributing to a 65. He was within one of Smith before the Australian holed out for a crucial birdie two at the 17th. Smith's dropped shot at 18 was irrelevant. Leishman, playing alongside Smith, birdied the last to share second with Reed at 14 under. Oosthuizen claimed fourth at minus 12, two clear of Dustin Johnson.

Matt Wolff, who had been criticised by his LIV teammate Brooks Koepka before a ball was struck, completed a miserable few days with a seven-over-par 78. After Paul Casey withdrew during the final round, Wolff finished last in the remaining field of 47.

On the DP World Tour, Nacho Elvira, Kalle Samooja and Marc Warren earned Open spots with their finishes at the Made in Himmerland tournament in Denmark. Rasmus Højgaard boosted his hopes of a Ryder Cup debut with victory over Elvira at the sixth playoff hole.



▲ Cameron Smith on his way to winning LIV London by one shot

Athletics UK Championships

Neita takes centre stage and Hughes doubles up

Mark Woods
Manchester Regional Arena

evolved," Neita said. "I'm not scared to beat people, I want to be No 1. I know who is running 10.6 and 10.7. I'm not there yet but I'm working towards it. I've done a lot of 100 but not a lot of 200. This week was getting more practice at the event. I'm not bothered about people's predictions, opinions or validations."

The constant comparison with Asher-Smith is a blessing and a curse. Different paths, divergent stories, relay colleagues but competitors apart. That the crowd in Manchester were denied a head-to-head duel removes lustre but each brought



▲ Daryll Neita runs 22.25sec - a women's 200m championship record

A 100m finalist at the Tokyo Olympics, she measures herself against the best of the Caribbean and the USA, and over both sprint distances now. Under the tutelage of her Italy-based coach, Marco Airale, she has made significant gains, a level above the athlete who disappointed herself with bronze at the European Championships and Commonwealth Games.

"I went into the winter, worked on so many things, and my mindset has

star power of their own. Personal decisions, and a gold for each.

"I decided with my coach that we would just focus on the one event this year," said Neita, who headed off Bianca Williams in second. "I think the 200 is wide open and I am still learning it. I am coming out of the races where I want to be. It is a great stepping stone in the right direction towards the worlds in Budapest."

Zharnel Hughes completed the men's sprint double, running a wind-assisted 19.77 in the 200m to finish strides clear of Joe Ferguson. At 27, the European champion is pushing himself harder than ever before - to the extent he was in hospital in the off season after a session that ventured beyond his limits. "I couldn't breathe," Hughes recounted. "I was blanking out a bit. But I'm here and I'm running fast."

Others to secure automatic berths in the British team for Budapest included Victoria Ohuruogu in the women's 400m, Jazmin Sawyers in the long jump, Jessie Knight in the 400m hurdles and Keely Hodgkinson, who was pushed significantly in the 800m by a resurgent Jemma Reekie, who will be worlds-bound as well.

As will Laura Muir, despite a shock defeat to Katie Snowden in the women's 1500m final, the second weekend in succession the Olympic and world medallist has been bested by a domestic challenger.

Rugby union

Hogg retires now in blow for Scotland

Scotland's record try-scorer, Stuart Hogg, announced his retirement from rugby union with immediate effect yesterday, saying his body could no longer take the strain.

Hogg has scored 27 tries for Scotland and had said in March that he would retire after the Rugby World Cup this year, which runs from 8 September to 28 October.

The 31-year-old represented Scotland at two World Cup tournaments and captained them to two Calcutta Cup wins against England. Hogg also won the European Champions Cup and the Premiership in 2020 with his club, Exeter Chiefs.

"It is difficult where to start but with great sadness and an enormous amount of pride, I am announcing my immediate retirement from playing rugby," Hogg said in a statement.

"I fought with everything I had to make the Rugby World Cup but this time my body has not been able to do the things I wanted and needed it to do. We knew this day would come eventually, I just never thought it



▲ Stuart Hogg won 100 Scotland caps and went on three Lions tours

would be this soon. It's hard to put into words just how much of an impact the game has had on my life. I will be retiring knowing that I have given my body and heart to rugby."

Hogg made his Scotland debut in February 2012 and notched up his 100th international in the Six Nations this year when he played against Ireland. He was also called up three times for British & Irish Lions tours, in 2013, 2017 and 2021.

Gregor Townsend, the Scotland head coach, said: "He has been an outstanding player for Scotland, and has had a career lit up with so many achievements, highlights and special memories. To reach 100 caps this year was fitting and just reward for a career that has seen him represent the British & Irish Lions and win trophies domestically and at a European level.

"We respect his decision to step away and understand the stresses and challenges his body has gone through in recent seasons." Reuters

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Cycling Tour de France

Pogacar cuts Vingegaard's lead while Woods wins his first stage

Jeremy Whittle
Puy de Dôme

Tadej Pogacar continued to chisel into Jonas Vingegaard's dwindling lead in the Tour de France, after climbing clear of the defending champion in the finish to the volcanic summit of the Puy de Dôme, overlooking Clermont-Ferrand.

As Michael Woods of the Israel-Premier Tech team took a spectacular stage victory, his first in the Tour, Pogacar and his UAE Emirates team continued to test Vingegaard's resolve on the steepest gradients.

In the modern Tour, with riders so closely matched, every second counts and, ominously for Vingegaard and his Jumbo-Visma team, the gap between the pair is steadily closing, not widening, as the race goes on.

Woods, almost two minutes behind the lone attacker, Matteo Jorgenson, at the foot of the climb, and twice a stage winner in the Vuelta a España, powered his way beyond the exhausted American on the brutal final gradients to claim his first Tour stage success.

"I'm 36 years old, turning 37 this year and not getting any younger," an overjoyed Woods said. "I've always talked about winning a stage at the Tour de France and I've finally achieved it."

Jorgenson, meanwhile, was disconsolate. "A minute from the bottom of that climb wasn't enough, but I did what I could," he said. "I just started to feel empty with a kilometre to go and then, before I knew it, Mike was there and passing me. It was a surprise but there was absolutely nothing I could do."

In the race for the yellow jersey the pendulum has swung again, and this time a little further in Pogacar's favour. A sharp acceleration from the double Tour winner, 1.5km from the finish, enabled the Slovenian to claw back time on



◀ Michael Woods crosses the line to win his first Tour stage while Tadej Pogacar (below) gained time on the leader, Jonas Vingegaard
MARTIN DIVISEK/EPA



his Danish rival, in a race that still remains too close to call.

After the first Pyrenean stage, the defending champion had led Pogacar by 53 seconds, but now his advantage is just 17 seconds. Questioned over his lead ebbing away, Vingegaard played a dead bat.

"It would be nice to have stayed with him and not lose any time," Jumbo-Visma's leader said of Pogacar's attack. "I think there are stages that suit me better than this. I'm happy to still be in yellow. I'm looking forward to coming into the Alps."

Only 48 hours ago, the defending champion assured the media that he was feeling "better and better". Asked if, given that he had dropped Vingegaard at two mountain finishes, his rival might now be feeling the same, he responded: "I think you have to ask Tadej about that."

With stifling temperatures settling on the Massif Central, it was the perfect day for a breakaway to take its chance. So it proved, with a 13 rider attack, that included the American Neilson Powless, of EF Education-EasyPost, and his compatriot Jorgenson of the Movistar team, the Milan-San Remo winner and a past Tour stage winner in Matej Mohoric, of Bahrain Victorious, and Woods, who has Chris Froome as a teammate at Israel-Premier Tech, though the four-time winner is not taking part in this race.

I think there are stages that suit me better than this'

Jonas Vingegaard
Race leader

The break's lead on the peloton was well over 15 minutes by the time Jorgenson, 20th overall in the 2022 Tour, who survived a bee flying into his helmet during the afternoon, approached Clermont-Ferrand as a lone leader with a 20sec advantage on the remnants of the group.

In 35C heat, the lonely climb to the top of the Puy looked a thankless task, but he gradually built up his lead to just under a minute as he reached the foot of the 13km climb. But Woods had timed his effort perfectly and accelerated past the exhausted Jorgenson to secure victory.

It was a better day, too, for Tom Pidcock of Ineos Grenadiers, who moved up through the standings to seventh place overall.

Sport Tennis Wimbledon

Manic Sinner is no saint as he slips and slides his way to quarter-finals

Hannah Jane Parkinson
Wimbledon

Around Wimbledon this past week, an unfamiliar site among the traditional strawberries and cream: giant carrots. Five of them. These are the "Carota Boys", a troupe of travelling Italian fans in carrot costumes supporting the world No 8, Jannik Sinner. (Additional context: he once nibbled on a carrot at a change of ends, instead of the more traditional banana.)

That the wiry 21-year-old, who hails from a small town on the Italy-Austria border, has such dedicated fans makes sense. Sinner has wowed crowds with his almost supernatural all-surface sliding, manic court coverage and blockbuster matches - in particular against Carlos Alcaraz, at both Wimbledon and the US Open last year. Mostly Sinner is a low-key figure who lets his tennis do the talking, although earlier in the tournament he did make lifestyle sections when he graced Centre Court carrying a bespoke Gucci duffel bag.

On No 1 Court he took on the Colombian and surprise fourth-round contender Daniel Elahi Galán. Galán, at his highest ranking of 54, had won just two tour-level grass matches before the tournament. A clay specialist, his booming serve and attacking style had seen him progress. Sinner, meanwhile, has a game tailor-made for fast surfaces, and had dispatched two Argentinians and the tricky Frenchman Quentin Halys.

It proved, initially at least, to be a rollercoaster of a match, an interloping sparrow, farce, chaos, slips worthy



▲ Italy's Jannik Sinner beat Daniel Elahi Galán in three dramatic sets

of banana skins on troublesome turf - and falls as dramatic as Niagara. Sinner's straight-sets win was not as straightforward as the 7-6 (4), 6-4, 6-2 scoreline might appear.

Both blasted a healthy number of aces in the opening set - Sinner six and Galán seven, with the Colombian repelling Sinner's fierce forehands that drew gasps from the crowd. In the fourth game was the first sniff of trouble for Galán, with the underdog saving three break points; something the Italian did himself in the seventh game. At 5-5 Galán looked in trouble again at 30-40, but a combination of an excellent serve and Sinner hitting into the net enabled him to escape. Two Sinner aces brought a tie-break.

Then: chaos. Sinner, who had been unhappy with a couple of line-calls, abandoned his usual tranquil demeanour when the umpire,

Marijana Veljovic, overruled a lack of call from the line judge to assert a Sinner forehand - which clearly seemed to clip the back of the baseline - out. Sinner challenged. It was in. He shot Veljovic a look. Galán took the next point. A sarcastic clap from the Italian in the direction of Veljovic. He took the tie-break anyway, 7-4.

It was not the last contretemps he would have with Veljovic as multiple bad calls were made. The Italian's hand gestures were flowing, at one point holding a racket up to apologise to the crowd and his opponent after a debate of several minutes.

Sinner's frustration increased when Galán broke him in the first game of the second set - and in an epic second game, with no fewer than seven deuces, Galán clung on to his serve. A player other than Sinner might have been in racket-smashing territory. Four more break points came and went before Sinner ground Galán down to level at 4-4. And, back to usual Sinner style, his clutch play enabled him to hold comfortably, then break in the 10th game to snatch the second set 6-4.

Calmer, Sinner was back to his best in the third set. He raced to a 3-0 lead, dipping into his bag of tricks liberally. He marched to a 5-2 lead, the shouts of "Forza!" coming less anxiously from his box. Galán battled to save two match points on his own serve in the next game, and grabbed the first point as Sinner served out at 5-4. But he could not hold off the Italian, who took the first of double match points after a blistering serve was met with a Galán shank ballooning into the air.

Sinner will play his second Wimbledon quarter-final in consecutive years, his opponent Roman Safiullin, who overcame Denis Shapovalov in four sets. Sinner faced Safiullin once before in the ATP Cup, winning 7-6, 6-3. That he also took two sets off Novak Djokovic in his previous quarter-final here and has beaten Alcaraz, will boost his belief that he can fulfil his potential this fortnight. But first: a calming ice bath, perhaps?

Wimbledon diary Umpire tells fan to put a cork in it

One of the things the Diary is always saying is that Wimbledon crowds are more diverse than you'd think. Gender, ethnicity, nationality - class is more difficult to ascertain - it compares favourably to a number of British summer institutions (Glastonbury, we're looking at you). So thanks to whoever let the side down during the Potapova-Andreeva match on No 3 Court.

Just a single point into the first set, a loud popping sound from the stands caused umpire John Blom to issue the following warning to the crowd: "Ladies and gentlemen, please, if you are opening a bottle of champagne, don't do it as the players are about to serve." The official Wimbledon Twitter account labelled it "the most Wimbledon warning ever". The diary is hoping it was a bottle of Tesco cava.

Tsitsipas takeover unravels

The Tsitsipasity is over. What once appeared a distinct possibility - that Stefanos Tsitsipas, the men's No 5 seed, would compete on every court, in every draw, all at once - is now no more. The laws of physics are resting easy after first Paula Badosa withdrew from the mixed doubles because of injury, and then the Tsitsipaseses, Stefanos and his brother, Petros, were beaten 7-6, 4-6, 2-6 in the first round of the men's doubles by the French pair Arthur Fils and Luca Van Assche yesterday.

This leaves the Greek with only a fourth-round men's singles tie



Popping open the champagne is frowned upon during serves

against Chris Eubanks to play, but while cynics had dubbed the attempted Triplipas as nothing more than a publicity stunt, those who want all Tsitsipas, all the time, can still head to Instagram, where he has his own account and a joint number with Badosa, his girlfriend since April and "soul mate". The "tsitsidosa" account hasn't posted since 2 July, but given the extra time in their schedule the pause should only be temporary.

Bublik channels his inner Kyrgios

For those missing the idiosyncratic quirks of Nick Kyrgios at SW19 this year, Alexander Bublik did his best to oblige during his fourth-round match with Andrey Rublev. Not only did the Kazakhstani No 23 seed treat the crowd to a few sarcastic gestures and disdainful drop shots, he also produced an underarm serve - and won the point.

All of that, however, was topped by the rather reckless decision to step in off the baseline to receive a Rublev second serve. The Russian averages 95mph on his second, but Bublik took the point and went on to win the third set on a tie-break. Paul MacInnes

Djokovic cashes in after Hurkacz squanders chances

Champion will resume today needing one more set to beat his big-serving opponent

Tumaini Carayol

Wimbledon

Novak Djokovic is the best tennis player in the world, yet the task of facing him on a tennis court is far more than just forehands and backhands. As a 23-time grand slam champion who has recovered from every possible scoreline deficit, few can even match up to the challenge of standing up to his aura and reputation.

Late last night, as curfew beckoned and time ran out, Hubert Hurkacz fought a losing battle with Djokovic's aura as he generated three set



▲ Hubert Hurkacz held three set points but failed to convert them

points before freezing in the decisive moments. Djokovic will return this afternoon to complete his Wimbledon fourth round match against the Pole while leading 7-6 (6), 7-6 (6) after yet another day of play was halted by the All England Club's strict 11pm curfew.

Djokovic and Hurkacz had emerged just before 9pm after a marathon day of play on Centre Court, with Andrey Rublev narrowly surviving Alexander Bublik in five sets before Iga Swiatek, the women's No 1, recovered from two match points down to defeat Belinda Bencic after three hours. Still, the inability of the tournament to complete a regular day's play will lead to further criticism of the All England Club's decision to start matches on Centre Court at 1.30pm.

The defining question of the men's tournament this year is whether anyone is truly capable of defeating Djokovic. Hurkacz, a 26-year-old who has scaled as high as No 9 and won a Masters 1000 title at the Miami Open in 2021, was on the very short list of players in the bottom half capable of causing Djokovic strife.

He remains one of the few of the younger generation whose game has proven a natural fit for grass. Hurkacz's serve, one of the best in the world, is devastating on the surface, his flatter strokes well suited to its lower bounce and the Pole's willingness to move forward to the net is naturally rewarded on the surface. Two years ago, Hurkacz reached the Wimbledon semi-finals, defeating Roger Federer in what proved to be the final match of the Swiss's career.

As Hurkacz soared, his spectacular serving meant the margins were

tiny. At 3-3 in the tie-break, Djokovic double-faulted, offering up the first mini-break. Hurkacz responded swiftly, slamming down two consecutive aces that carried him to triple set point at 6-3.

But then it all unravelled. After Djokovic pulled both of his service points back, at 6-5 Hurkacz fired down a 130mph serve and presented himself with an easy forehand which he dumped into the net. Two more

unforced errors quickly followed from Hurkacz, who returned to chair having missed an enormous opportunity.

With one set behind him the clock ticking down, Djokovic's returning improved and he imposed maximum pressure on his challenger, who courageously hung on with the force of his serve. At 2-1, Djokovic generated a break point on Hurkacz's serve, to which the Pole responded with three consecutive aces to hold. Djokovic pounced again, forcing triple break point at 0-40. Three unreturned serves later, the world No 18 recovered to deuce before saving a fourth break point with an incredibly fortunate stretch volley.

Both served initially dominated the second-set tie-break that followed. At 5-5, though, Djokovic spectacularly retrieved a 136mph serve while lunging at full stretch, then he anticipated Hurkacz's inside out forehand and flicked a backhand low to the Pole's feet that set up an easy winner. Although he did not take the first set point, Djokovic took the final two points to establish a two-set lead.

Djokovic's suffocating aura would be nothing without the genius behind it. Throughout the match, the Serb matched Hurkacz's enormous serving with his own precise, effective delivery. Even as he watched aces fly past him throughout the two sets, on nearly every decisive point, Djokovic found a way to land a return, to retrieve one more ball and to ensure that he gave nothing away. He forced his younger challenger to step up and beat him, and in both sets the Pole could not.

After taking the second set, Djokovic immediately signalled that the match had finished for the night, tossing a wristband into the crowd. Having opted against competing on grass between his French Open victory and the start of Wimbledon, Djokovic has been charged with finding his feet and form during the tournament. So far, things continue to go well and he will return this afternoon to finish the job.



Yesterday's results

Men: Singles: Third round

G DIMITROV (Bul, 21) bt **P MARINOV** (Aus, 10) 6-2 6-3 6-2.

Fourth round

A RUBLEV (Rus, 7) bt **A BUBLIK** (Kaz, 23) 7-5 6-3 6-7 (6-8) 6-7 (5-7) 6-4; **R SAFULLIN** (Rus)

bt **D SHAPOVALOV** (Can, 26) 3-6 6-3 6-1 6-3; **J SINNER** (It, 8) bt **D GALÁN** (Col) 7-6 (7-4) 6-4 6-3.

Doubles: First round

S GILLÉ & J VLIEGEN (Bel, 12) bt **L DERE & C O'CONNELL** (Ser/Aus) 6-3 6-2; **F FILS & L VAN ASSCHE** (Fr) bt **P TSITSIPAS & S TSITSIPAS** (Gre) 6-2 7 (3-7) 6-4 6-2; **F REBOUL & S DOUMBOUR** (Fr) bt **C EBANKS & J WOLF** (Us) 6-4 6-2; **F CABRAL & R MATOS** (Por/Bt) bt **L BROODY & J O'MARA** (GB) 7-5 6-4; **R GALLOWAY & L HARRIS** (Usa/SA) bt **M GIRON & B VAN DE ZANDSCHUPL** (Us/Neth) 7-5 6-2; **A DAVIDOVICH FOKINA & A MANNARINO** (Sp/Fr) bt **Y BAMBRI & S MYNNEN** (Ind) 6-4 4-6 6-4.

Second round

N LAMMONS & J WITHEROW (Us) bt **J ROJER & M AREVALO** (Neth/Els, 7) 6-3 7-6 (7-5); **M PURCELL & J THOMPSON** (Aus) bt **A MOLteni & M GONZALEZ** (Arg, 14) 6-4 7-5 6-4; **J MURRAY & M VENUS** (Gb/Nz) bt **A ERLER & L MIEDLER** (Aut) 6-7 (5-7) 7-6 (7-3) 6-3; **L GLASSPOOL & N MAHUT** (Gb/Fr) bt **D PEL & R STALDER** (Neth/Us) 4-6 6-3 7-6 (10-7); **T GRIEKSPOR & B STEVENS** (Neth) bt **S BOLELLI & A VAVASSORI** (It) 2-6 7-6 (7-2) 7-6 (10-7); **M GRANOLLERS & H ZEBALLOS** (Sp/Arg 15) bt **A FILS & L VAN ASSCHE** (Fr) 7-6 (7-1) 6-7 (6-8) 6-4.

Boys: Singles: First round

V FRYDRECH (Gb) bt **C CAMUS** (Aus) 7-5 7-6 (7-4); **J PRADO ANGELO** (Bol, 11) bt **H SEARLE** (Gb) 7-6 (8-6) 6-3; **C WILLIAMS** (Us, 4) bt **L POW** (Gb) 7-5 6-1; **R PACHECO MENDEZ** (Mex, 2) bt **O BONDING** (Gb) 6-4 6-4; **M DHAMNE** (Ind) bt **H JONES** (Aus) 6-2 6-4; **M KRIZNIK** (Svn) bt **M COMAN** (Rom) 2-6 6-1 6-2; **I RADULOV** (Bul, 6) bt **P BARBIER GAZE** (Fr) 4-6 7-6 (7-4) 6-3; **L SCHIAIASI** (It) bt **B DJURIC** (Ser, 7) 6-1.

Women: Singles: Third round

M ANDREEVA (Rus) bt **A POTAPOVA** (Rus, 22) 7-2 7-5.

Fourth round

J PEGULA (Us, 4) bt **L TSURENKO** (Ukr) 6-1 6-3; **M VONDROUSSA** (Cz) bt **M BOUKOVA** (Cz, 32) 2-6 6-4 6-3; **E SVITOLINA** (Ukr) bt **A ZWIATEK** (Pol, 1) 7-6 (7-5) 6-4 6-2; **F PACE** (It) bt **A GRECHKINA** (Rus) 6-3 6-3; **I LACY** (Gb) bt **R GILHEANY** (Aus) 6-4 6-2; **R STOIBER** (Gb) bt **M ROWINSKA** (Pol) 6-3 6-7 (5-7) 6-3; **M EL-ALLAMI** (Mor) bt **A MURTHY** (Us) 6-3 7-5; **A ANAZAGASTY-PURSOO** (Us) bt **D PIANI** (Us) 6-2 3-6 6-2; **C ESQUIVA BANULS** (Sp, 5) bt **A HARMON** (Us) 6-4 6-1.

Doubles: First round

M BOUKOVA & S SORRISES TORMO (Cz/Sp) bt **L NOSKova & Wang X** (Cz/Chn) 6-4 6-4.

Second round

M LUMSDEN & N BAINS (Gb) bt **M LINETTE & B PERA** (Pol/Us); **C GARCIA & L STEFANI** (Fr/Bt) bt **L FERNANDEZ & T TOWNSEND** (Can/Us, 6); **L MAROZOVA & I GAMARRA MARTINS** (Br) bt **A BOGDAN & J CRISTIAN** (Rom) 6-4 6-4;

Third round

S HUNTER & E MERTENS (Aus/Bel, 3) bt **A KALININA** (Rom/Ukr) 6-2 2-0 ret; **WHU F & ZHU L** (Chn/Tai) bt **K BAINDL & D SAVILLE** (Ukr/Aus) 6-4 6-3; **T BABOS & K FLIPKENS** (Hun/Bel) bt **L DAVIS & R VAN DER HOEK** (Us/Neth) 2-6 6-3 2-1 ret; **C GAUFF & J PEGULA** (Us) bt **A DE MINAUR & K BOUTLER** (Aus/Gb) 6-3 4-6 7-6 (10-2); **M PAVIC & L KICHENOK** (Cro/Ukr, 7) bt **M NEKTELIC & B PERA** (Cro/Us) 6-7 (5-7) 7-6 (7-5) 7-6 (11-9).

Girls: Singles: First round

R JAMIRICOV (Svk, 3) bt **M GAE** (Rom) 6-0 6-4; **R BARTUNKOVA** (Cz) bt **L MOYANO** (Arg) 6-0 6-4; **R BARTUNKOVA** (Cz) bt **L MOLNAR** (Arg) 6-0 6-4.

Today's order of play

Centre Court 1.30pm
No 3 Court 11am
No 1 Court 1pm
No 2 Court 11am
Court Five 11am
Court Four 11am
Court One 1pm
Court Six 11am
Court Seven 11am
Court Eight 11am
TBA not before 4pm

B HADDAD MAIA (Br, 13) v **E RYBAKINA** (Kaz, 3); **N DJOKOVIC** (Ser, 2) v **H HURKACZ** (Pol, 17) to finish, overnight 7-6 (6), 7-6 (6), 0-0; **N JABEUR** (Tun, 6) v **P KVITOVA** (Cz, 9); **C CALCARAZ** (Sp, 1) v **M Berrettini**

D MEDVEDEV (Rus, 3) v **J Lehecka** (Cz); **E ALEXANDROVA** (Rus, 21) v **A SABALENKA** (Blr, 2); **DIMITROV** (Bul, 21) v **H RUNE** (Den, 6)

M KEYS (Us, 25) v **M Andreeva** (Rus); **C EUBANKS** v **S TSITSIPAS** (Gre, 5); **S GONZALEZ** & **E ROGER-VASSELIN** (Mex/Fr, 5) v **T Samuel** &

C THOMSON (Gb) **No 3 Court** 11am
J Fearnley & **J Monday** (Gb) v **R BOPANNA** & **M EBDEN** (Ind/Aus, 6); **W KOOLHOFF** & **N SKUPSKI** (Neth/GB, 1) v **R Hijkata** & **J Kubler** (Aus); **A AZARENKA** & **B HADDAD MAIA** (Blr, 14) v **L Siegemund** & **V Zvonareva** (Ger/Rus) (not before 4.30pm)

Court Four 11am
R Munk MØRTENSEN (Den) v **E McDONALD** (Gb, 11); **M Xu** (Gb) v **K QUEVADO** (Us, 6); **M Stojanovic** (Gb) v **L PÉREZ** (Spn) (not before 4.30pm)

Court Five 11am
H Coquelin & **L Pow** (Gb) v **B DJURIC** & **A GEA** (Ser/Fr, 6); **S SAITO** (Jpn, 3) v **F Pace** (It); **A Hamilton** (Us) v **E KOIKE** (Jpn, 8); **A KORNEVA** (Rus, 1) v **V VALDMANN** (Cz); **P Bruncik** & **C Woestendick** (Cz/Us) v **T Boogard** & **R Dodig** (Neth)

Court Six 11am
J Filip & **G Vulpita** (Cz/It) v **J Jones** & **A Razeghi** (Aus/Us); **E JONES** (Aus, 13) v **T Evans**; **S ISHII** (Jpn, 7) v **S Lamsonova** (Cz); **J Jefferson** & **C Robertson** (Gb) v **J FONSECA** & **J PRADO ANGELO** (Br/Bol, 2); **M MRVA** & **J SCHWÄRLER** (Cz/Aut, 5) v **R Barbier Gazeu** & **V Radjenovic** (Fr/Ser)

Court Seven 11am
T VALENTOVA (Cz, 10) v **T Preston** (Aus); **R Dencheva** (Cz) v **M Milic** (Svn); **A MALERO KRETZER** & **R PACHECO MÉNDEZ** (Sp/Mex, 3) v **S Kalina** & **M Kriznik** (Cz/Svn); **N Budkov** & **K J Eriksson** (Nor/Swe) v **J Hrzadil** & **R Sakamoto** (Cz/Jpn); **M Coman** & **K Edengren** (Rom/Swe) v **K Bigun** v **Zhou Y** (Us/Chn)

Court Eight 11am
H Oluwadare (Gb) v **N Bartunkova** (Cz); **F Blaydes** & **B Gusic Wan** (Gb) v **F De Michele** & **D Fix** (It/Ger); **R Stoibler** (Gb) v **C EQUESIVA**

Court Nine 11am
M Kolodziejewa & **M Vondrousova** (Cz) v **M KOSTYUK** & **E RUSE** (Ukr/Rom, 15); **A Davidovich Fokina** & **A Mamarino** (Sp/Fr) v **H NYS** & **J ZIELINSKI** (Mnc/Pol, 4); **R Arneodo** & **S Weisborn** (Mnc/Aut) v **S GILLÉ** & **J VLIEGEN** (Bel, 12); **W KOOLHOFF** & **L FERNANDEZ** (Neth/Can, 4) v **J O'Mara** & **O Nicholls** (Gb)

Court Ten 11am
M Kolodziejewa & **M Vondrousova** (Cz) v **M KOSTYUK** & **E RUSE** (Ukr/Rom, 15); **A Davidovich Fokina** & **A Mamarino** (Sp/Fr) v **H NYS** & **J ZIELINSKI** (Mnc/Pol, 4); **R Arneodo** & **S Weisborn** (Mnc/Aut) v **S GILLÉ** & **J VLIEGEN** (Bel, 12); **W KOOLHOFF** & **L FERNANDEZ** (Neth/Can, 4) v **J O'Mara** & **O Nicholls** (Gb)

Court Eleven 11am
M Kolodziejewa & **M Vondrousova** (Cz) v **M KOSTYUK** & **E RUSE** (Ukr/Rom, 15); **A Davidovich Fokina** & **A Mamarino** (Sp/Fr) v **H NYS** & **J ZIELINSKI** (Mnc/Pol, 4); **R Arneodo** & **S Weisborn** (Mnc/Aut) v **S GILLÉ** & **J VLIEGEN** (Bel, 12); **W KOOLHOFF** & **L FERNANDEZ** (Neth/Can, 4) v **J O'Mara** & **O Nicholls** (Gb)

Court Twelve 11am
M Kolodziejewa & **M Vondrousova** (Cz) v **M KOSTYUK** & **E RUSE** (Ukr/Rom, 15); **A Davidovich Fokina** & **A Mamarino** (Sp/Fr) v **H NYS** & **J ZIELINSKI** (Mnc/Pol, 4); **R Arneodo** & **S Weisborn** (Mnc/Aut) v **S GILLÉ** & **J VLIEGEN** (Bel, 12); **W KOOLHOFF** & **L FERNANDEZ** (Neth/Can, 4) v **J O'Mara** & **O Nicholls** (Gb)

Court Thirteen 11am
M Kolodziejewa & **M Vondrousova** (Cz) v **M KOSTYUK** & **E RUSE** (Ukr/Rom, 15); **A Davidovich Fokina** & **A Mamarino** (Sp/Fr) v **H NYS** & **J ZIELINSKI** (Mnc/Pol, 4); **R Arneodo** & **S Weisborn** (Mnc/Aut) v **S GILLÉ** & **J VLIEGEN** (Bel, 12); **W KOOLHOFF** & **L FERNANDEZ** (Neth/Can, 4) v **J O'Mara** & **O Nicholls** (Gb)

Court Fourteen 11am
M Kolodziejewa & **M Vondrousova** (Cz) v **M KOSTYUK** & **E RUSE** (Ukr/Rom, 15); **A Davidovich Fokina** & **A Mamarino** (Sp/Fr) v **H NYS** & **J ZIELINSKI** (Mnc/Pol, 4); **R Arneodo** & **S Weisborn** (Mnc/Aut) v **S GILLÉ** & **J VLIEGEN** (Bel, 12); **W KOOLHOFF** & **L FERNANDEZ** (Neth/Can, 4) v **J O'Mara** & **O Nicholls** (Gb)</p

▼ Elina Svitolina drops to the ground after beating Victoria Azarenka
GLEN KIRK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Svitolina dedicates emotional triumph to her homeland

World No 76 calls her win over Belarusian Azarenka 'a small victory for Ukraine'

Simon Cambers
Wimbledon

Results always matter but sometimes, results mean everything. In the most incredible atmosphere on No 1 Court last night, Elina Svitolina, driven by a desire to bring a little happiness to her nation in a time of war, produced a stunning, courageous, emotion-filled win over Victoria Azarenka of Belarus to reach the quarter-finals of Wimbledon.

Less than nine months after becoming a mother, the 28-year-old Ukrainian fell on the court after her 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (9) win, almost unable to believe what she had accomplished. Standing alone, she soaked up the applause from a captivated crowd who had been treated to a brilliant contest. A deciding tie-break was a fitting way for a match of this quality to be decided, but this wasn't really about the tennis.

"I think after giving birth to our daughter, this is the second happiest moment of my life," said a beaming Svitolina, who had to wait more than a minute as the crowd gave her a standing ovation.

"It was an extremely tough match. When I was 2-0 down in the second set, I heard you guys cheering for me and I almost wanted to cry. I was really, really struggling and I wanted to really win today. I was just trying

to fight and find a way to win the match. You guys gave me so much strength today.

"I was thinking back home there's lots of people watching and cheering for me," she continued, holding back tears. "I know how much it means to them and any moments that they can share happiness... I was just thinking there are tough times in Ukraine, I just have to play and fight and try to win every single point and in the end, here I am, I won the match."

"I feel responsibility, as well. So if I'm going out to play this match against Russian, Belarusian, I feel of course more pressure that I need to win. In my own way, to bring this victory, small victory, to Ukraine."

After two hours, 46 minutes of the most intense, fantastic tennis, there was no handshake between the two, something commonplace on the tour when Ukrainian players compete against Russian or Belarusian players.

Azarenka raised her hand in a gesture of congratulations towards Svitolina but as she left the court, she was booed by a section of the crowd, who seemingly misunderstood what had happened, thinking it had been



▲ Victoria Azarenka walks off the court, as some spectators boo her



Azarenka that had refused the handshake. The former world No 1 stopped in her tracks when she heard the boos, before offering an offensive gesture of her own, putting two fists together and quickly pulling them apart.

It has been obvious since her return that Svitolina, a former world No 3 who is now assured of a return to the top 40, is playing for something greater than herself. Not just for her family - her husband, Gaël Monfils, is back home looking after their daughter - but for her country.

For some, that responsibility of playing for more than oneself could be a burden; for Svitolina, it has been liberating. Once a player who struggled to cope at the back end of grand slams, Svitolina is a player transformed, with more power, more aggression than before.

What she also has is the hearts of the world on her side and she was willed back into a match that had looked like slipping away from her fast. Azarenka had won all five of their previous matches and at a set and 2-0, she looked almost home and dry. But when Svitolina held serve for 1-2, she gave out a big fist pump and the crowd responded. The match then became a classic, of the absolute highest quality.

Svitolina hit back, levelled the match and went 3-0 up in the third, before being pegged back to 3-3 as Azarenka forced the issue once again. Fittingly it went to a deciding match tie-break, and at 7-4 down, she was in real trouble again. But that inner belief and the support of the fans brought her back. At 9-8, she had match point only for Azarenka to put away a fine smash. At 10-9, Svitolina had another. She took a deep breath and sent down her eighth ace, before collapsing on the court in sheer joy.

Svitolina will play the world No 1, Iga Swiatek, in the quarter-finals. It is a match that on paper, the four-time grand slam champion will be favoured to win, even if grass is not her best surface. Grass isn't Svitolina's best surface either, but she is on a mission.

Swiatek surges back from brink to see off Bencic threat

World No 1 faces two match points before recovering to win 6-7 (4), 7-6 (2), 6-3

Paul MacInnes
Wimbledon

Iga Swiatek faced down a trial of physical and mental strength last night to reach her first Wimbledon quarter-final and answer some of the questions about whether she is ready to compete for the title in SW19.

Holding off two match points to win in three sets over three hours, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (2), 6-3, Swiatek had to wrestle not only with her own game, as she continues to adapt to playing on grass, but also an opponent in Belinda Bencic who is comfortable on the surface, has a mean backhand, and rose to the occasion on Centre Court.

After losing the first set on a tie-break, the turning point came at 5-6 in the second. A combination of bad play and Bencic's assertiveness, a microcosm of the match to that point, had given the Swiss No 14 seed two break points. But in the moment when she needed it most Swiatek was able to raise her game; first finding a low forehand drive, then one off the backhand to pull to deuce before serving out for 6-6.

After winning the second-set tie-break, Swiatek broke early in the third and methodically ground her way to victory. It was not always pretty but it was effective under real pressure.

"It wasn't easy," Swiatek said. "She had match point, right? I don't know if that's even happened in my career [to come back]. I'm really happy. I needed that win to believe in myself a bit more on this surface. I just wanted to be solid and thought that would give me again a chance of victory. I'm happy I stayed disciplined."

On how she had dealt with the possibility of imminent defeat, Swiatek insisted she had felt a release of pressure at that crucial moment. "At a point like that you feel like you gave your best but you're still down so you're playing a little bit... easier. She's leading anyway, so play the shots more fearlessly; there's nothing to lose you're already in a bad position. On a match point, I think the player who is supposed to win has more pressure. I just wanted to play and I guess it worked."

Bencic, the Olympic champion, deserves credit for making the match a high-stakes spectacle that, while peppered with errors, also offered moments of the highest quality, not least off the Swiss's backhand. But after looking the better player for the first two hours, by the end her resistance had been broken.

With her forced to stoop to her

knees to drive the necessary top-spin off her forehand, Swiatek's game still does not seem comfortable on grass. But after taking the title in Bad Homburg, four victories here suggest the adaptation is moving along. "I think I'm learning to love the grass," she said. "Every day my love is growing bigger and I want to stay for as many days as possible to play on this court. The hard work is paying off."

Swiatek will face Elina Svitolina in the quarter-finals, after the Ukrainian's emotional victory against Victoria Azarenka. Elsewhere there were wins for Jessica Pegula and Marketa Vondrousova in the women's draw, while on No 3 Court there was the distinct sense of a buzz building as the 16-year-old Russian qualifier Mirra Andreeva outplayed Anastasia Potapova, the No 22 seed, 6-2, 7-5, to progress to the last 16.

In her first grass tournament, Andreeva showed poise and precision as she pushed her far more experienced compatriot consistently out of her comfort zone. Potapova came back from making 16 unforced errors in the first set to make the second a contest, but Andreeva proved irresistible. After Potapova held off seven break points at 4-4 in the second, Andreeva attacked again at 5-5 and Potapova collapsed, surrendering two double faults and an unforced error.

Having started the year ranked No 312 in the world, Andreeva is making a rapid ascent and cites an internal dialogue that followed her grand slam debut at Roland Garros for her continued improvement. "I talked to myself. Just me and myself, and that's it," Andreeva said after defeating Potapova. "In my head I realised some things. I took some decisions that I think are now important for me. Just about everything: tennis-wise, mental-wise."

One of the changes appears to have been a switch in role model, from Roger Federer to Rafael Nadal, and particularly the Spaniard's final act in 2022 when he came back from injury to claim two late grand slam titles. "I just try to remember what would he do in these moments, what would he do on the score," she said. "Sometimes, yes, I can say that I copy him."

'I needed that win to believe in myself on this surface'

Iga Swiatek
No 1 seed



▲ Iga Swiatek was pushed all the way in her fourth-round victory

Sport

Formula One British Grand Prix

▼ Max Verstappen celebrates his first victory in a British Grand Prix
MOLLY DARLINGTON/REUTERS



Verstappen takes glory but Norris and Hamilton provide fireworks

Homegrown drivers bring the race to life but champion continues his march to title

Giles Richards
Silverstone

After a season of Dutch dominance, what blessed relief for the crowd at the British Grand Prix that if Max Verstappen could not be knocked from his perch there were two homegrown drivers who brought the race alive at Silverstone. Verstappen won, of course. The cynical might now query: when does he not? But behind him Britain's veteran champion Lewis Hamilton went up against Lando Norris, the young gun who had

grown up idolising him. Together they brought the fireworks that rescued the race.

For Verstappen the inexorable march to his third title continued unabated and, indeed, at a pace at this rate that will ensure he seals it well before even the run-in to the season finale. His victory was never really in doubt, even as the crowd enjoyed a surge of uproarious celebration as Norris threw the script out of the window and burst past Verstappen from second on the grid to take the lead up the inside of turn one.

They roared him round at every corner and if will alone were enough he would have been swept to the flag. Alas, it is the horses that matter and there Red Bull remain unmatched. Verstappen calmly closed and on lap

five, swept past into Brooklands to take a lead he would not relinquish.

Indeed, for many of the ensuing laps this was far from a classic, something of a procession, until the racing fates decided it was time to bring the noise. Hamilton, like Verstappen, was out of sorts off the grid in seventh, dropped places and was eighth at the end of the first lap. Being out of place worked for him. He stayed out long and as the pit stops fed through, was behind only Verstappen and Norris who had also yet to stop.

Behind them Kevin Magnussen's Haas decided it had had enough of the struggle and his engine gave out with a fiery chorus. He ground to a halt, the safety car was called and the top three dived into the pits for a free stop.

Hamilton was the net winner in sealing that third place but Norris was less enamoured. He had wanted to take the soft tyres as Hamilton had but the team stuck with their plan of using the hards, the slower rubber

I would say it's the best podium, the most exciting one. It's special hearing everyone chanting'

Lando Norris
McLaren

leaving him vulnerable at the restart.

With the gaps closed the race had the reboot it needed. Per expectations, Verstappen leapt away. Behind him it was battle royale. Hamilton came hard at Norris, throwing himself at him round the outside through Brooklands and Luffield; wheel to wheel, the two drivers separated in age by 15 years went at it. Yet Norris, who had been inspired to enter F1 by watching Hamilton in 2007, was far from afraid of his hero.

A record crowd of 160,000 were on their feet across the expanses of the old airfield, and it was magnificent. Hamilton attacked again into Copse, scant inches between them and a grand, collective holding of breath. Again Norris squeezed out in front. He edged ahead only for Hamilton to come back as they went at it again through the same set of corners the following lap.

Norris held his nerve and the place as his tyres came up to speed and he pulled away. There had been nothing in it. A crucial decision Norris had made might just have been the differentiator. He revealed he had taken some downforce off the car looking for one or two extra kilometres per



Full results

1	Max Verstappen (Neth)	25pts
	Red Bull	1hr 25min 16.938sec
2	Lando Norris (GB)	18pts
	McLaren	+3.798
3	Lewis Hamilton (GB)	15pts
	Mercedes	+6.783
4	Oscar Piastri (Aus)	12pts
	McLaren	+7.776
5	George Russell (GB)	10pts
	Mercedes	+11.206
6	Sergio Pérez (Mex)	8pts
	Red Bull	+12.882
7	Fernando Alonso (Sp)	6pts
	Aston Martin	+17.193
8	Alexander Albon (Tha)	4pts
	Williams	+17.878
9	Charles Leclerc (Mnc)	2pts
	Ferrari	+18.689
10	Carlso Sainz (Sp)	1pts
	Ferrari	+19.448

Also finished

11	Logan Sargeant (US) Williams	+23.632
12	Valtteri Bottas (Fin) Alfa Romeo	+25.830
13	Nico Hülkenberg (Ger) Haas	+26.663
14	Lance Stroll (Can) Aston Martin	+27.483
15	Zhou Guanyu (Chn) Alfa Romeo	+29.820
16	Yuki Tsunoda (Jpn) AlphaTauri	+31.225
17	Nyck de Vries (Neth) AlphaTauri	+33.128

Not classified

18	Pierre Gasly (Fr) Alpine	46 laps
19	Kevin Magnussen (Den) Haas	31 laps
20	Esteban Ocon (Fr) Alpine	9 laps
	Championship standings	
Drivers:	1 Max Verstappen 25pts;	
	2 Sergio Pérez 156; 3 Fernando Alonso 137;	
	4 Lewis Hamilton 121; 5 Carlos Sainz 83;	
	6 George Russell 82; 7 Charles Leclerc 74;	
	8 Lance Stroll 44; 9 Lando Norris 42;	
	10 Esteban Ocon 31.	
Constructors:	1 Red Bull 411pts;	
	2 Mercedes 203; 3 Aston Martin 181;	
	4 Ferrari 157; 5 McLaren 59; 6 Alpine 47;	
	7 Williams 11; 8 Haas 11; 9 Alfa Romeo 9;	
	10 AlphaTauri 2.	

hour as he anticipated being in a fight and it paid off. He held second with Hamilton taking third.

The seven-time champion offered high praise for his young rival. "He's very talented, naturally," he said. "It's great when you can have close battles like that, and rely on the driver that you're competing with to be hard but fair. There was never a moment where we thought we were going to come together. That's what motor racing is all about."

For Norris it was his seventh podium but the one that meant the most. "I would say it's the best, the most exciting one," he said. "It's special hearing everyone chanting, seeing all the fans, seeing all the team below the podium. I'm very proud."

The pair's battle illustrated that in Verstappen's wake there is an almighty tussle taking place that has just become all the more fascinating. Indeed, it must be considered that were Verstappen not in this field, this would be an absolutely captivating season.

Mercedes, Aston Martin, Ferrari and now even potentially McLaren are vying closely with one another.

For all that he doubtless wants to be racing for the win, Hamilton fulsomely approved.

"This is one of the most exciting times we've seen in the sport," he said. "We're finally starting to see the regis pull people closer. The Williams was up there with Alex Albon, you've seen the McLarens now, the Aston. A lot of teams getting very close. Small gaps in qualifying, which is exactly what we need. Looking forward to see the rest of the year evolve."

What Silverstone also illustrated, however, was that while their fight may be fascinating, the gap to Verstappen remains a chasm. By race 10 at Silverstone last season his lead was only 34 points; at the same point this year he now leads teammate Sergio Pérez by 99 points and Red Bull remain unbeaten. The season's understudies lit up Silverstone but its leading actor continues a mighty soliloquy.

Oscar Piastri was in fourth for McLaren, the rookie's best finish. George Russell was fifth for Mercedes with Pérez in sixth. Albon was eighth for Williams, with Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz in ninth and 10th respectively for Ferrari.

Analysis

Nick Ames Silverstone



Pitt stops and turns heads but McLaren's young star is on pace to be Silverstone's next darling

For the boy in the luminous bucket hat, an achievement straight from the bucket list. This may not have been an afternoon of high sporting cinema, even if the presence of Brad Pitt and his phalanx of film crew members ramped up the glamour, but Lando Norris had the ending he wanted. Second place, with a stylish drive to boot, was some way to reaffirm his place in the Silverstone crowd's affections and heighten the sense that he is almost ready to be this venue's darling for the next decade or more. The wins will surely follow; this time, a revelatory weekend's work from Norris and a buoyant McLaren did not feel too far short.

In the context of what, for the rest of this season at least, is inevitable domination from Max Verstappen this was a wider triumph for British racing too. Two local drivers had not stood together on the podium since 1999, when David Coulthard and Eddie Irvine formed a one-two. Norris was joined by his idol, Lewis Hamilton: a tantalising battle between the pair around lap 40 briefly offered the kind of neck-and-neck tussle, not to mention narrative, for which record numbers had flocked expectantly to the circuit since Thursday. Netflix may have cornered the market for soap opera, but Silverstone can still deliver the racing.

This has always been a big-ticket affair and it felt yet more so here. It will take more than one year like this, short of headline twists and turns in its opening 10 races, to remove the sheen Formula One has acquired in the Drive to Survive era. Pep Guardiola and Thomas Frank roamed the

paddock beforehand, perhaps in search of new strategies for a Premier League pre-season; Shakira looked on from the side while Sam Ryder, who had performed the national anthem here in 2022, swooned upon entering the garage set aside for part of Pitt's film set.

The presence of Pitt, who sat in on the Friday drivers' briefing, was perhaps what raised proceedings above the ordinary. Not the fact of his celebrity: more the sight of the fictional APX team, for which he will play a driver in an as yet unnamed F1-themed film, occupying a spot in the pit lane between the garages of Mercedes and Ferrari. To the untrained eye there must have been little difference between the work going on in all three. As the crews dispersed before the formation lap, a crowd of filming personnel followed Pitt, suited up, making his way to the back of the grid. That was where the meeting of fantasy and reality ended but the scene was remarkable for being so frictionless.

It is the kind of blend that must set Liberty Media licking its lips. Moments after Pitt's departure Norris offered a swift reminder of the sport's capacity to write its own scripts, overtaking Verstappen at the start, and even if the natural order was restored quickly enough it felt like the 23-year-old's day. There was a fine drive too from his teammate, Oscar Piastri, who could

Norris became the first McLaren driver on Silverstone's podium since Hamilton in 2012



◀ Lando Norris (left) and Lewis Hamilton embrace after becoming the first home drivers since 1999 to share the British Grand Prix podium

RYAN PIERSE / GETTY IMAGES

not hold off Hamilton for third place but nonetheless confirmed the effectiveness of the upgrade overseen by Andrea Stella, the team principal. Stella, introduced by a beaming Zak Brown an hour after the race, has made a rapid impact since starting work in December and admitted to being pleasantly surprised at the day's endeavours.

While the grandstands in Austria a week previously had been notable for the banks of Dutch orange in support of Verstappen, this time the slightly more papaya hue of McLaren stood out on a day whose skies never quite settled on blue or grey. It spoke volumes for Norris, an amenable and sunny character about whom it is impossible to find a harsh word, that an institution largely down on its luck over the past decade felt at least as well represented as the Mercedes and Hamilton in the home faithful's affections.

Norris became the first McLaren driver on Silverstone's podium since Hamilton's departure in 2012 and spoke touchingly of his colleague. "It's genuinely what made me want to become a racing driver today," he said of watching Hamilton and Fernando Alonso battle their rivals, and each other, in the late 2000s. "I guess little did I know Lewis would still be here 15 years later going strong."

Hamilton's enduring presence, underscored by an excellent surge from seventh that raised Mercedes's previously dampened spirits, means nobody can speak quite yet of generational shifts or handovers from master to apprentice. A 14th podium here reiterated that this is Hamilton's home; the place where he has made hundreds of thousands delirious with some of the most devastating driving of this century.

Stella emphasised afterwards that McLaren are, according to his schedule, two seasons away from competing for regular wins. Norris is yet to cement his own legend but the sense was he has, at least, opened a new chapter.

England flock turn to Good Book to stoke their fervour during faith-testing Sunday

Edgy spectators resort to morning visits to the church and public house before a suitably agonising run chase

Emma John
Headingly

Opposite the Original Oak - the pub where many cricket fans pause for a nerve-settling pint on their way in to Headingly - stands St Michael and All Angels' church. Yesterday its morning congregation were mostly locals, but the vicar had still prepared with cricket-lovers in mind, hiding the players' names in his sermon. "God's love is so Broad, the Root of our faith, it Stokes the fires..."

By mid-afternoon, all 18,000 souls in the ground were in desperate need of fortification, be it from the Good Book or a stiff drink: only in the sporting arena do you get the chance to see so many people's faith being simultaneously tested. The Sunday crowd, if not actually pious, were far less raucous than their predecessors, as the realisation of just how close England were to throwing away an entire Ashes series grew ever more horribly present.

Ben Stokes's presence at the crease after lunch remained, for a while, a bulwark against despairing thoughts, and even with four wickets down and more than 100 runs still needed, the singing of Bon Jovi's Livin' on a Prayer in the stands felt a tad self-deprecating. If this Ashes series has taught us anything, it is that Stokes is a man who has never played his last "definitive" innings, and who is capable of producing miracles on an almost weekly basis.

But even Superman has his kryptonite. For Stokes it may be the ball's inexplicable tendency to laser in on his box. Arguably Scott Boland's greatest contribution to the drama of this match was the in-nipper that downed the England captain and left him recovering in child's pose for so long that the physio felt moved to sprint on, unasked for.

It was at least the third time Stokes has been hit in the midriff in this series, which seems especially unfair on a guy who has plenty of other broken body parts to target. We can't know exactly what was playing on his mind as he chased a Mitchell Starc delivery



Even Superman has his kryptonite. For Stokes it may be the ball's tendency to laser in on his box

to the keeper three balls later, but we can know that some of him was probably still throbbing.

With Stokes gone, the iceberg reality of the scoreline and the consequences of defeat - both of which an ultra-positive England team prefer to minimise or ignore in public - glid into vision. Hope dwindled, and with it, belief. How big is a mustard seed anyway?



▲ Pat Cummins hangs on to a catch but almost collides with Mitchell Starc
LEE SMITH/ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS

Big enough to choke on when Chris Woakes waves airily at his opening delivery from Starc? Or to accidentally snort when he turns a short one off his hip past a leaping short leg?

We should have known it would come to this. A comfortable, sensible run chase? In this Ashes series? Not likely. And yet the day had begun so sedately. Zak Crawley took a single off the first ball of the morning. The field moved round. Ben Duckett dabbed one square. The field moved round. Three more singles, three more rotations, like one of those genteel Georgian-era dances where everyone passes their partner with a polite bow of the head and some risqué eye contact.

If Bazball's wilder excesses were for once missing from the batting, its underlying philosophy (and what some will call flaw) was still present. Wacky hitting was replaced by a collective passion for driving that would have shamed Lewis Hamilton. Crawley's early efforts were languidly elegant but kept finding fielders and some of his best-looking shots were for

nought. Adding a wristy flourish brought him a four, so he tried it again and edged behind.

Having failed to connect on his own initial efforts, Joe Root finally dropped down on one knee like a man so nervous about proposing that he just wants to get it over and done with; the ball shot away like a bolting bride. Root scored three boundaries in his 21 - that one, another like it, and an edge past second slip.

Perhaps the next Test at Old Trafford will begin a new crowd tradition - a rich Lancastrian lowing for Harry "Broooooook". Back down the order, where he looked infinitely more comfortable, the anchor of England's chase cracked balls through the covers with a deep runner's lunge, weathering his own near-misses as much as the wickets falling at the other end. It wasn't a chanceless innings but it was flexible and firm, which is what you need from glue. *Help us, Harry, you're our only hope.*

Overlooking the pitch, the scoreboard took on the terrifying insistence of a nuclear countdown: 90 runs needed ... 80...



Ashes story so far

16-20 June
1st Test
Edgbaston
Australia won by two wickets

28-2 July
2nd Test
Lord's
Australia won by 43 runs

6-10 July
3rd Test
Headingley
England won by three wickets

19-23 July
4th Test
Emirates
Old Trafford
11am

27-31 July
5th Test
Kia Oval
11am

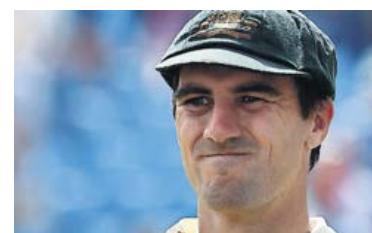
► England's supporters are enthralled but far less raucous than earlier in the Test during a tense final day
STU FORSTER/GETTY

70. Five wickets remaining ... four ... three. With Woakes in and 30 to win, Pat Cummins turned for only the second time to Todd Murphy, who promptly overstepped and a moment of comic relief rippled around the ground. *We'll get 'em in no-balls.*

The closer England got, the more chaotic things began to happen, threatening the very fabric of everyone's sanity. Starc and Cummins nearly left blood on the wicket as they hurtled towards each other for a return catch off Brook.

Mark Wood flayed a wild hook that seemed certain to be heading for one of two fielders on the legside boundary, then appeared almost to change trajectory in the air and fly over their heads for six.

It was the perfect way to keep this improbable, impossible series alive. The morning Bible reading, by the way, was from Zechariah. "Return to your stronghold, o prisoners of hope - today I declare that I will restore to you double." England players and fans alike will go on to the fourth Test believing big.



'Brush it off' Cummins takes defeat on the chin

Simon Burnton
Headingley

Pat Cummins insisted England's victory in the third Ashes Test would not shift the momentum of the series, with Australia able to "brush this one off" in the knowledge they still hold a 2-1 advantage with two games to play.

"We're all plenty used to it, playing cricket - there's normally a winner and a loser," Cummins said of dealing with England's three-wicket win. "We've had a wonderful run up until now, winning the first three matches in this tour." Australia beat India in the World Test Championship final at the Oval before the Ashes began.

He continued: "This is one of those games you can look at and everyone kind of feels like they could have done something that might have contributed to a different result, but we've all played enough cricket so we'll brush this one off."

After Australia won the first Test by two wickets and the second by 43 runs, this was the third successive game to toy with spectators' nerves. "It's not my preference but they've been great viewing," Cummins said. "It's just tense out there, it's great cricket."

"I actually really enjoy being out there and feeling you've got some kind of control of the situation and you're in the middle of it. It's 100 times worse when you're in the changing room and you wish you could do something about it but you can't."

The match leaves Cummins with various selection issues to deal with once the squad has returned from "taking a few days off to recharge and flying to various places", with Mitchell Marsh hard to leave out at Old Trafford given his impact after replacing the injured Cameron Green, and the opener David Warner increasingly ripe for a rest after two failures with the bat.

However, the decision not to pick Mitchell Starc for the first Test looks unlikely to be repeated after the left-arm paceman took five second-innings wickets as Australia strained to defend 251.

"I thought he was fantastic," Cummins said. "He was a class act today. He's really versatile now - you've seen him bowl the wobble seam, he can swing the ball, he can use his bouncers, he's still got that yorker. So he's just becoming a more and more complete bowler every time he plays and as a captain it's a luxury to have a left-armer who's that in control of his skill and pace."

Analysis
Geoff Lemon Headingley

Starc's brilliance cannot get Australia out of a hole and there is work to do for Old Trafford

It was always going to need a lot of things to go right. Chases of 250 were often seen as mountainous in the early days of Test cricket, and on hazardous pitches they still can be. On a top-class Headingley surface that offered enough to both bat and ball, Australia needed to run the day perfectly in order to hold off an England team that had already bitten off 27 runs from the target the previous evening without losing a wicket.

From 171 for six, when Jonny Bairstow lost his stumps for the umpteenth time in Test cricket, the visitors had every chance. Another 80 runs to get. But Harry Brook was still at the crease, the new Yorkshire sensation coming up to join Bairstow and Joe Root, and there he stayed until 21 runs were needed, top-edging a catch on 75.

It was close enough and, after letting a 2-0 lead slip to 2-1 with two matches to play, Australia will have to look back over a performance that too often fell short, especially some of the bowling tactics that twice allowed England to push a collective foot to the floor.

That Australia got close at all fell to the work of Mitchell Starc. Often viewed as a luxury item, with caveats about flighty performances and possible runs per over, Starc deserves a more respectful reappraisal. Once a frequent injury problem, the left-arm quick's last major absence was in 2018. He has become one of Australia's most durable players, while also dropping his bowling average strike rate and economy. He was still left out for the opening match of this Ashes series.

During the Lord's Test he went past Brett Lee's mark of 310 Test wickets and Mitchell Johnson's 311, leaving him trailing only Dennis Lillee and Glenn McGrath in the canon of Australia quicks. At 33, when most fast bowlers are winding down, he seems to be improving. His ability to strike was on display again in Leeds: his 14th five-wicket haul was also his fourth in the final innings of a match: only 10 players have done that more often.

It would be easy to look at some of the dismissals - Bairstow chopping on, Ben Stokes gloving down the leg side, Brook top-edging a slog - and dismiss the bowling as nothing special. The thing is, they don't happen in a vacuum. It is the quality of the deliveries around them, ones that swing in at pace or leave the bat in the channel, that can set up dismissals from other balls,

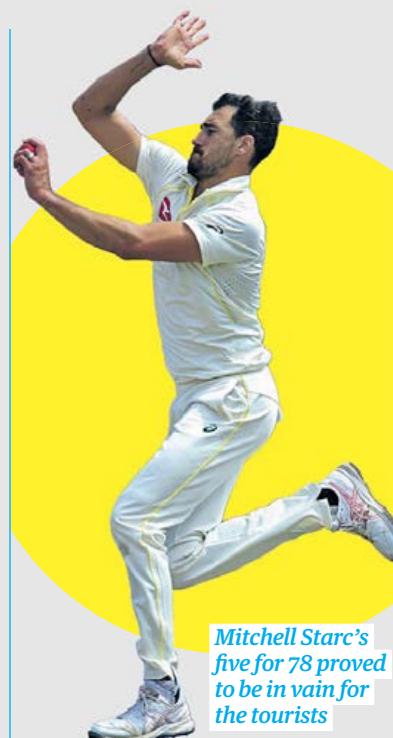


So Starc will play at Old Trafford but other things will need to change. Australia in effect lost this match at a couple of points before finally losing it on the fourth day. One was when Mark Wood amputated their batting tail on day one, the last six wickets falling in no time for 23 runs. They will need to find a way to weather his short bursts of extreme pace.

The second was when England's own tail wagged furiously, led by Wood himself. England were 70 runs behind when Wood came to the crease, but a predictable bouncer barrage let him thrash 24 from eight balls and, along with Stokes and Stuart Broad, helped narrow the gap between the teams to 26. After Brook was out in the fourth innings, the same plan saw Wood hit another 16. Overall he made 40 runs from 16 balls in the match.

At the moment, Australia's short-ball attack has been all or nothing. Either there are six or seven boundary riders with a bouncer every ball or, as through the first two hours of the last day, barely a short ball bowled. When players know that nothing else is coming, as Wood did, they can sit back and get ready to play baseball. It may involve risk and may work for a team with 500 on the board, but short bursts of fast scoring can make the difference in these lower-scoring games.

Conversely, when players have to switch between front foot and back foot, between attack and defence, then confusion is more likely to come into the fray. See that dismissal of Moeen Ali: two balls before coming tentatively on to the front foot, he got pushed back by an unexpected Starc bouncer that whistled past his sternum close enough to give him a chest wax. Variety is broadly agreed on as a positive. Australia have two more chances to get the balance right.



Mitchell Starc's five for 78 proved to be in vain for the tourists

players chasing runs when they sense a chance.

The combination of speed and movement and unpredictable bounce can draw mistakes even from those balls that look innocuous. Not to mention what happens when Starc gets it right. Ben Duckett and Moeen Ali both got a new wobble-seam delivery that Starc has been working on. Full, fast, angled at leg stump before decking back into the left-hander. Duckett got his pad in the way, Moeen didn't even manage that.



▲ Mitchell Starc accepts congratulations after dismissing Ben Stokes (left)
RUI VIEIRA/AP

Brook ensures England breathe again in another Headingley epic

Ali Martin
Headingly

A Test that began amid clouds of acrimony ended with players and families from both sides of the Ashes divide on the outfield in blissful sunshine. Gone was all talk of Lord's, the Long Room and that stumping of Jonny Bairstow a week earlier, the combatants happy to share the space and bask in the afterglow of a thriller.

England were the side to emerge victorious on the day, ensuring Australia's position of strength had taken a haircut in Leeds and this Ashes series remains alive. Ben Stokes and his players now sit 2-1 down going into the fourth Test at

Old Trafford next week, their pursuit of 251 for a three-wicket win in exactly 50 overs - as per Stuart Broad's morning prediction - the latest entry into Headingley folklore.

It wasn't until 3.38pm that the sell-out crowd in this rollercoaster series could finally exhale, Chris Woakes offering shades of his captain here four years ago when he crashed the ball through the covers to seal the deal. It was fitting, too, that Mark Wood should be at the other end when he did so, two universally popular cricketers having injected life into a listing Ashes campaign when England needed them most.

Mitchell Starc was the bowler who suffered this *coup de grâce* from Woakes but was slightly undeserving of it on the day. The left-arm had bounded in with heart, skill and

no shortage of menace to peg back England's chase throughout, his 14th five-wicket haul secured when, despite a slight mix-up with Pat Cummins over the catch, he snuffed out Harry Brook for 75. It left the hosts seven down, 21 short of their target.

What followed frayed English nerves further, Australia straining every sinew to secure a first series win in this country since 2001 and Woakes and Wood seeing balls drop safely into gaps at times. But through Wood's latest salvo - 16 not out from eight balls, after that momentum-shifting 24 from eight on day two - and an unbeaten 32 from Woakes, the inherent sunny optimism of these late arrivals prevailed.

Brook had played an impressive hand before this alliance, looking every bit the cricketer who dazzled



▲ Harry Brook made a crucial 75 from 93 balls on his home ground

for England during his first winter and passing 1,000 Test runs along the way. Gone were the baseball swipes witnessed at Lord's, the Yorkshireman delighting his home audience with nine crisp fours and the calm defence required. After Bairstow's rotten match was ended bowled by Starc for five, Brook put on 59 with Woakes.

Interestingly, in the context of England's XI for the must-win Test next week, this came in Brook's preferred position at No 5, having arrived at 93 for three in the morning, 158 runs required. Moeen Ali had emerged at No 3 - a role that can perhaps now be dubbed the Mohawk - after approaching the head coach, Brendon McCullum, the night before and saying: "I want to take the Aussies on in this run chase."

The promotion didn't pay off by way of runs, Moeen arriving after the loss of Ben Duckett lbw to Starc for 23 first thing, and then his hearing leg stump detonated by an inswinger from the left-arm for five. But it was still singled out for praise by Stokes after his 12th win in charge, the captain describing it as the embodiment of the "selfless cricketers" he had called for when taking on the job.

Stokes was already pleased with Moeen regardless, with the all-rounder's removals of Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith in the space of nine balls on the second day described as pivotal to the win. This was what Stokes saw in Moeen when charming him out of retirement; gamechanging interventions over consistency.

Day four scoreboard

Headingly England beat Australia by three wickets.

Australia First innings 263 (MR Marsh 118; MA Wood 5-34).

England First innings 237 (BA Stokes 80; PJ Cummins 6-91).

Australia Second innings 224 (TM Head 77).

England Second innings (overnight 27-0) Balls 4s 6s

	44	55	5	0
Z Crawley c Carey b Marsh	23	31	3	0
BM Duckett lbw b Starc	5	15	0	0
MM Ali b Starc	21	33	3	0
JE Root c Carey b Cummins	75	93	9	0
HC Brook c Cummins b Starc	13	15	2	0
*BA Stokes c Carey b Starc	32	47	4	0
tJM Bairstow b Starc	5	8	1	0
CR Woakes not out	16	8	1	1
SCJ Broad not out	20			
Extras (b7, lb7, w1, nb5)	254			
Total (for 7, 50 overs)	254			

Fall 42, 60, 93, 131, 161, 171, 230.

Did not bat MA Wood, OE Robinson.

Bowling Cummins 15-0-77-1; Starc 16-0-78-5;

Boland 11-1-49-0; Marsh 6-0-23-1; Murphy 2-0-13-0.

Toss England elected to field.

Umpires HDPK Dharmasena (Sri) and NN Menon (Ind).

TV umpire JS Wilson (WI).





Along with his own hell-raising 80 in England's first innings - a fearsome knock that clawed England back into the contest - Stokes could be pleased with himself selection-wise. As well as Moeen's return, the introduction of Woakes and Wood as part of a five-man attack gave him options with the ball and ensured the loss of Ollie Robinson to back spasms on day one was not terminal for his team's hopes.

Woakes delivered typical understated consistency with the ball. His six-wicket match included some notable pelters, a 100th on home soil, and broke things open on day three after the rain. But Wood was perhaps the greatest difference after the defeats at Edgbaston and Lord's, his scorching speeds - including a high of 96.5mph - and late swing delivering seven of the 20 wickets and bombarding Australia's lower order.

This physical threat will continue for the tourists in Manchester provided Wood recovers well after the nine-day break. The chief question is whether Josh Tongue or Jimmy Anderson replaces Robinson. That said, England will have some thinking to do over Brook and the batting order. There is also Ben Foakes

lurking in the wings amid Bairstow's continuing struggles with the gloves.

Australia have a different selection headache to ponder, Mitch Marsh having continued the theme of a Test match in which the good guys shone with that electric century on day one. The all-rounder also chipped in with a couple of precious wickets, not least on the fourth morning when a seemingly fluent 44 from Zak Crawley was ended caught behind. Marsh waited four years for this chance and took it with aplomb.

But then Cameron Green, Australia's giant wunderkind, is likely to be fit again and Todd Murphy will be needed for Old Trafford, even if he was largely overlooked during a final day in which Nathan Lyon would have been central. There have even been suggestions of Marsh opening, replacing David Warner after his latest double failure against Broad, but that would be some switch given their current lead.

Cummins reminded reporters of the scoreline during the post-match press conference when asked if a momentum shift had occurred. Either way, England finally have a genuine win to speak of - not just a moral one - and their belief is restored.

Chris Woakes (left) and Mark Wood raise their arms at the moment of victory as Mitchell Starc looks on
LEE SMITH/REUTERS

Living to fight another day

Win by numbers

4.75

England's run-rate at Headingley, the **highest ever** in a Test match against Australia. The second highest was at Edgbaston last month

24

At 24 years 137 days, Harry Brook became the **youngest England batsman** to make a half-century in a successful Ashes run chase

3

Since the second world war, only four Ashes Tests have been won by **three wickets or fewer**, two of them in this series

13

Wickets taken between Mark Wood and Chris Woakes. They **also scored 82 precious runs** and saw England past the finishing line

16

Balls faced by Wood to score 40 runs in the match, at a strike rate of 250. Nobody has **scored more runs** in a Test match at a faster rate

Exhausted Stokes salutes his 'selfless' matchwinners

◀ Continued from back page

a little blow-up today. I like getting us over the line and it was annoying I didn't." But his captain was anything but upset with his performance.

Stokes said: "The way Brook controlled the game from ball one with the bat was amazing. He went out there and put the pressure straight back on them. The way he played with Woakes in that partnership was high class. For such a young lad in a high-pressure situation in the Ashes, it was incredible. We've all seen what he can do, he's a gifted player and he's only going to get better the more pressure situations he's put in."

After failing in the first innings when coming in at No 3, Brook returned to his more familiar No 5 to spectacular effect, as a result of Moeen Ali volunteering to move up the order. Moeen lasted only 15 balls but successfully protected Brook from the havoc Pat Cummins and Starc created with the new ball.

"He came to Baz [the head coach, Brendon McCullum] and said: 'I want to go in at three, I want to take the Aussies on in this run chase' - basically, let me out there," Stokes said of Moeen. "We thought it was a real good move for us, and I just loved



▲ England's Jonny Bairstow is bowled for five by Mitchell Starc

12.81

Woakes's all-rounder average (batting minus bowling) in Tests in England. Of those with **at least 50 wickets** in England, the only all-rounder above Woakes is Sir Garfield Sobers (21.94)

39

Runs scored by Joe Root, Stokes and Jonny Bairstow in the second innings. For the **first time in the Bazball era**, England chased a big total without a contribution from any of the big three

74.69

Brook's average when he bats at No 5 in Tests, a **record for any England batsman** who has played at least five innings in that position

the fact that Mo is willing to put himself in those situations, that he wants to get out there and help the team in a positive way.

"When I took on the role I asked for 10 other selfless cricketers, and that little moment of Mo going to Baz and saying: 'I want the opportunity,' is everything we're about as a team."

England were eventually guided to victory by Woakes, who finished with 32, and Mark Wood, who added a wild eight-ball 16 to the wild eight-ball 24 he scored in the first innings. Both had already made a big impact on their first appearances of the series, Woakes taking six wickets while Wood took seven and was named man of the match.

"He just loves playing," Stokes said of Wood. "Whenever he has the ball in his hand he will give everything he can; whether he's fresh, tired, coming back for a fourth spell of the day, he will just keep running in. Even with the bat, he is willing to take it on."

"Having players like that is great, not only for me but for the team. He brings energy, excitement. He has a very special gift and talent."

'For such a young lad, Brook was incredible. He's a gifted player and he's only going to get better'

Ben Stokes
England captain

Simon Burton's player ratings



England

Zak Crawley

Continues to get in and then out, scores of 44 and 33 joining efforts of 48 and 61 earlier in the series, but looked good while going about it. 6

Ben Duckett

A streaky 23 in the second innings and only two in the first, the never-leaving schtick is starting to get tired. A safe pair of hands in the field. 5

Moeen Ali

Nine expensive overs in Australia's first innings, and 17 cheap ones in the second. Batted No 3 yesterday - protected Brook from the new ball. 6

Steve Smith

Scored 24 across two innings. But also took five catches in England's first innings - he is a brilliant fielder, and a ball magnet. 6

Travis Head

Good in the first innings, superb in the second. Head has clearly grown tired of the short-ball theory, but England may be tiring of it too. 8

Mitchell Marsh

A phenomenal reintroduction. He should have been out for 12 but his first-innings 118 was assured and he got Crawley out twice. 9

Alex Carey

Three games in he made his first mistake behind the stumps in the final moments here. He couldn't contribute with the bat this time. 7

Mitchell Starc

A thrilling display with the ball yielded a second-innings five-fer, and there was a useful second-innings stand with Head. 9

Mark Wood

Wood's electric pace transformed England's attack. Rewarded with his first home five-fer and scored important runs in both innings. 9

Ollie Robinson

Had a back spasm midway through his 12th over of the first innings and did not bowl again. With Wood firing, Robinson looks ripe for a rest. 4

Stuart Broad

Dismissed Warner for the 16th and 17th times in his career and the quality of his bowling deserved more than his five wickets. 7

Scott Boland

Ended the game with no wickets and no runs. Decent bowling, but the excellence of Cummins and Starc left him deep in the shade. 3



Australia

Usman Khawaja

After facing 518 balls in the first Test and 257 in the second, he faced "only" 133 here. Still, his 43 second-innings runs were important. 7

David Warner

A couple of safe catches in the first innings represent the highlights of his Test. Just five runs off the bat, and twice more dismissed by Broad. 3

Marnus Labuschagne

Still in search of his first serious score of the series and now averaging 33.2 in his past 11 Tests (from 60.8 in his previous 30). 5

Joe Root

Two disappointing dismissals, and he has now scored 68 in his past four innings combined, three of them ending when he edged Cummins. 5

Harry Brook

The experiment of batting him at No 3 was mercifully abandoned after a single innings; back at No 5 he delivered 75 crucial runs. 8

Ben Stokes

Only 13 in the second innings, but that 80 in the first gave England a chance in the match and he refuses to submit to physical discomfort. 8

Jonny Bairstow

Smouldered on the match programme cover but he has been more letdown than pin-up. Seems uncertain with bat and gloves. 3

Chris Woakes

Three wickets in each innings and he produced a match-winning (if a bit lucky) 32 with the bat on the fourth day. 9

Mitchell Starc

A thrilling display with the ball yielded a second-innings five-fer, and there was a useful second-innings stand with Head. 9

Pat Cummins

Bowled beautifully in the first innings,

taking six wickets for the fourth time in his career; more of the same in the second,

with less reward. 8

Todd Murphy

Thrown into a Stokes-sparked maelstrom Murphy kept going and got his man, but Cummins used him only as a last resort yesterday. 4

Scott Boland

Ended the game with no wickets and no runs. Decent bowling, but the excellence of Cummins and Starc left him deep in the shade. 3

Lee Smith

Lee Smith is a professional sports photographer based in London, specialising in cricket. He has covered major tournaments such as the Ashes and World Cup, as well as Test matches and One Day Internationals. Lee is known for his dynamic shots and ability to capture key moments in the game.

Keen on Kane
Bayern step up
striker pursuit
with improved
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Page 33 →



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wins again but
Norris provides
home cheer

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Swiatek
survives
Bencic
battle
to reach
last eight

Page 37 →



Woakes rekindles the Ashes

Captain Stokes admits he couldn't watch as England hold nerve to stay in series

▲ Chris Woakes (right) and Mark Wood celebrate after sealing a three-wicket win at Headingley
STU FORSTER/GETTY IMAGES

Simon Burton
Headingley

Across the four days of the third Ashes Test, Ben Stokes endured physical pain and crippling pressure without taking a backwards step, but the stress of watching his side's torturous run chase proved too much even for him. England eventually beat Australia by three wickets to keep the series alive, though their captain missed seeing Chris Woakes score *

the winning runs while he engaged in furious stress-marching around the dressing room.

"I was a bit nervous at the end," Stokes said. "I walked about two kilometres around the dressing room in the last half-hour. I didn't watch the last 20 runs being scored. It's completely different when you can't influence the game any more, and you're left watching and hoping things are going to go your way."

Though their performance brought a vital victory, England will

Inside

England finally have a win and their belief is restored'

Ali Martin Page 42 →

'Australia need to find a way to weather Wood's pace'

Geoff Lemon Page 41 →

'This was the perfect way to keep this series alive'

Emma John Page 40 →

not struggle to identify room for improvement when they reconvene in Manchester on Wednesday week, now 2-1 down and hoping to level the series.

"I still think we can be better," Stokes said. "The thing about cricket is no one ever has the perfect answer for how it should be played. We can be better in certain areas and that's all we can do. People always seem to have the answers after the fact but I don't think anyone will ever crack it - that's why it's such a great game."

After scoring 155 in England's unsuccessful run chase at Lord's last Sunday and 80 in the first innings here, Stokes's contribution to the team's efforts this time was limited to 13. Instead Harry Brook shouldered the burden of hauling the team towards its target, scoring 75 before falling with victory 21 runs away.

The 24-year-old was furious after top-edging a Mitchell Starc short ball with the finish line in sight, saying: "I'm not one to blow up in the changing room but I had