McDonnell distances Labour from union-backed plan to nationalise BT

Workers’ Union to bring the company back into public ownership. Labour’s shadow chancellor John McDonnell poured cold water on the story, saying: “There will be a number of unions that will always raise their individual policies but no, we’re not looking at it.” Despite his words, the notion of renationalisation once again sparked concerns over whether Labour would seek to pay the market price in the event of such a grab.

Last month, Unison threw its weight behind Labour’s plan to nationalise parts of the energy sector, issuing a report called Power to the People. The party has already said it will bring rail firms, energy suppliers, water companies and the Royal Mail into public ownership if it formed the next government, and pledged to allow MPs to set the rate of compensation for shareholders.

Dan Neidle, a partner at law firm Clifford Chance, stressed that the UK government has traditionally renationalised companies at market value, comparing the move to the likes of Venezuela. He said: “That’s not company that any British government of any political complexion wants to keep.

“Pension funds and other institutional investors here and abroad would lose out, and in many cases they would sue.”

Uncertainty hits Funding Circle shares

SHARES of small business lending platform Funding Circle closed 29 per cent down yesterday following a major revenue warning.

Funding Circle, a peer-to-peer lender, halved its revenue growth projection to 20 per cent following poor demand for its loans. Chief Samir Desai said “uncertain economic environment has reduced demand” from smaller firms.

The lending platform’s shares dropped sharply in response to the news, closing at 115.6p yesterday – down from 160p at Monday’s close.

Funding Circle has struggled to meet the ambitious growth targets set out in its initial public offering (IPO) last year, when shares launched at 440p. It reported an operating loss of £51.6m last year, up 40 per cent on the year before.

“One of the worst crimes a company can commit is failing to deliver on promises set out at its IPO” because of the consequent loss of credibility, said Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell.

Helal Miah, an investment research analyst at The Share Centre, said the plunge was “brutally punishing” for investors who took part in Funding Circle’s float.

MEET THE NEW NEIGHBOURS

Von der Leyen was not the only surprising name to be put forward for a top job, with EU leaders also backing International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director Christine Lagarde (left) to take over from Mario Draghi as president of the European Central Bank (ECB).

Lagarde, who has headed up the IMF since 2011, has no direct experience of central banking and faced criticism from the IMF’s watchdog over her role in supporting controversial measures at the height of the Eurozone financial crisis.

A report found that under her leadership, the fund’s conduct “raised issues of accountability and transparency.” She was also found guilty of negligence over her handling of a fraud case from her time as French finance minister.

Last September, Lagarde, who would be the first woman to run the ECB, appeared to rule herself out of the job, saying: “No, no, no, no, no, no … I am not interested in any of the European – ECB, Commission jobs, no.” Yet after she was nominated, she tweeted that she was “honoured” and announced she would step down from the IMF during the confirmation process.

CMC Markets’ Michael Hewson said: “So much for political independence for the ECB – the two top jobs will now be in the hands of two ex-politicians – De Guindos, ex-Spanish finance minister and Lagarde, ex-French finance minister. The optics are terrible.”

Belgium’s Prime Minister Charles Michel (centre) is tipped to replace Donald Tusk as European Council president.

OWEN BENNETT

THE HEADS of EU member states last night confirmed their preferred candidacies for a raft of top jobs, setting the potential future direction of the bloc for the next five years after weeks of frantic negotiations.

Germany’s defence minister Ursula von der Leyen (pictured, right) was nominated as the new EU Commission president, replacing the outgoing Jean-Claude Juncker.
Funding Circle woes are a warning sign

A FORMER top City regulator was withering in his assessment of peer-to-peer lending, saying three years ago that the likely losses facing the sector “will make the worst bankers look like lending geniuses”. Adair Turner, who used to chair the Financial Services Authority, may have backtracked on those comments months later, but financial services professionals have been voicing similar concerns about the risk and resilience of peer-to-peer lending since the fledgling sector started gaining popularity. Now, with the UK’s peer-to-peer poster child Funding Circle warning of disappointing growth prospects, such criticism is beginning to look like a prophecy.

Funding Circle went public last October at a massively hyped price, and since then the UK’s uncertain economic environment has hit demand for small business loans. In April, it announced that it would wind down its SME income fund because investors were reluctant to put more money into new credit assets. Worried about where the company (valued not long ago at north of £1bn) has not yet made a profit in its nine-year history, this might focus the minds of investors across the sector.

Meanwhile, Share Centre analyst Helal Miah has called for the group to tighten its lending standards to protect the business. Nothing demonstrates the potential dangers of peer-to-peer lending like the collapse of an entire platform, as we saw with Lendy back in May. Despite having a provision fund designed to safeguard investors’ cash, Lendy customers are still waiting to get their money back. This is the crux of the peer-to-peer issue. More than £1bn flowed into just eight platforms in the first quarter of this year. Most of this will be people’s life-savings, yet experts routinely warn that many of these investors simply aren’t clued up on the risks. It’s no wonder that the Financial Conduct Authority is set to prevent retail investors from investing any more than 10 per cent of their assets in peer-to-peer loans. And the UK’s Financial Conduct Authority is set to prevent retail investors from investing any more than 10 per cent of their assets in peer-to-peer loans.

Nothing demonstrates the potential dangers of peer-to-peer lending like the collapse of an entire platform, as we saw with Lendy back in May. Despite having a provision fund designed to safeguard investors’ cash, Lendy customers are still waiting to get their money back. This is the crux of the peer-to-peer issue. More than £1bn flowed into just eight platforms in the first quarter of this year. Most of this will be people’s life-savings, yet experts routinely warn that many of these investors simply aren’t clued up on the risks. It’s no wonder that the Financial Conduct Authority is set to prevent retail investors from investing any more than 10 per cent of their assets in peer-to-peer loans. And the UK’s Financial Conduct Authority is set to prevent retail investors from investing any more than 10 per cent of their assets in peer-to-peer loans.

Carney warns trade war may shipwreck economy

“much impact” on its business as it adjusts to a new era of American hostility. Ren said his company would continue to “focus on doing our own job right”.

Follow us on Twitter @cityam

Carney will leave his post next year up to £90bn, while Moody’s warned it would likely prompt a recession. The chancellor has been in a dispute with Tony leadership hopefuls Jeremy Hunt and Boris Johnson over the true cost to the UK of leaving the EU without a deal in place.

Both candidates have indicated they would boost spending and introduce tax cuts, while also saying they are prepared to leave the EU without a transition deal in place. In the event of a no-deal Brexit, the £16bn “headroom” would need to be funnelled towards dealing with the economic disruption, Hammond said. “I have no doubt whatsoever that in a no-deal Brexit we will need all of that money and more to respond to the immediate impacts of the disruption of a no-deal Brexit,” he told MPs.

“And that will mean there is no money available for longer-term either tax cuts or spending increases.”
Woodford cuts shrimp stake in disposal spree

NEIL Woodford has slashed his fund’s stake in Benchmark Holdings, a genetics firm that develops disease-resistant shrimp, offloading £23m of shares as his asset-selling spree continues.

Woodford Investment Management cut its stake in Benchmark from 12.5 per cent to under two per cent in a transaction last Friday.

Benchmark’s shares closed up 5.94 per cent at 53.5p yesterday compared with 50.5p on Monday.

The biotech company, which is listed on London’s Aim, develops solutions for the aquaculture industry – the farming of fish, molluscs, and other aquatic organisms.

Woodford Investment Management had previously held a 19.6 per cent stake in Benchmark, but cut it to 12.5 per cent in December.

Woodford has been offloading assets since his Flagship Equity Income fund was suspended on 3 June, after becoming overwhelmed by investor withdrawals. Woodford also jettisoned his 12 per cent stake in property investment firm Raven.

It was announced on Monday that the fund would remain suspended for at least another 28 days. In a video released on social media on Monday evening, Woodford defended his strategy of focusing on “undervalued assets”, and said it would “remain at the front and centre of his portfolio.”

Merkel forced to abstain from top EU job vote

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Von der Leyen is seen as a keen EU federalist, and in 2011 she called for “a united states of Europe – run along the lines of the federal states of Switzerland, Germany or the US”.

An ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, von der Leyen emerged as the top candidate after EU leaders rejected a host of other contenders, including current Commission vice-president Frans Timmermans.

Poland and Hungary were opposed to the left-wing Timmermans securing the job following his sustained criticism of those countries for a lack of independence in their judicial systems. His rejection meant Merkel had to abstain from voting for von der Leyen, as parties in Germany were unhappy with the choice.

That anger is likely to be reflected in the European Parliament, which has to approve all the nominations.

German MEP Manfred Weber was the choice of the European People’s Party, while Timmermans had the backing of the Social Democrats. With both men eliminated from the process, MEPs may reject von der Leyen on a point of principle.

Sotheby’s sets record as English watch rockets to £3.6m price tag

ABOUT TIME

Sotheby’s sets a world auction record for an English watch yesterday evening, when George Daniels’ Space Traveller I sold for £3.6m. The price tag is more than 30 times the amount set by the same watch 31 years ago, and is the highest price achieved for a watch at auction this year.

Daniels made the Space Traveller I to commemorate the Apollo 11 moon landing in July 1969.

Tesla share price revs up after Model 3 triumphs over Wall Street targets

EMILY NICOLLE

SHARES in electric car maker Tesla gained an eight per cent boost in after-hours trading last night, after the firm beat expectations for deliveries of its Model 3 sedan.

Tesla delivered 77,550 Model 3 cars in the second quarter, compared with the average estimate of 73,144. The move could ease market concerns about demand for its newest model.

Deliveries of all models rose 51 per cent from the first quarter, hitting 95,200 vehicles compared to the average estimate of 89,084.

It comes after a difficult start to the year, in which deliveries plunged and Tesla lost $702m (£557.4m).

ABOUT TIME

Sotheby’s sets record as English watch rockets to £3.6m price tag

ABOUT TIME

Sotheby’s sets record as English watch rockets to £3.6m price tag

Merkel forced to abstain from top EU job vote

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Von der Leyen is seen as a keen EU federalist, and in 2011 she called for “a united states of Europe – run along the lines of the federal states of Switzerland, Germany or the US”.

An ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, von der Leyen emerged as the top candidate after EU leaders rejected a host of other contenders, including current Commission vice-president Frans Timmermans.

Poland and Hungary were opposed to the left-wing Timmermans securing the job following his sustained criticism of those countries for a lack of independence in their judicial systems. His rejection meant Merkel had to abstain from voting for von der Leyen, as parties in Germany were unhappy with the choice.

That anger is likely to be reflected in the European Parliament, which has to approve all the nominations.

German MEP Manfred Weber was the choice of the European People’s Party, while Timmermans had the backing of the Social Democrats. With both men eliminated from the process, MEPs may reject von der Leyen on a point of principle.

Sotheby’s sets record as English watch rockets to £3.6m price tag

ABOUT TIME

Sotheby’s sets a world auction record for an English watch yesterday evening, when George Daniels’ Space Traveller I sold for £3.6m. The price tag is more than 30 times the amount set by the same watch 31 years ago, and is the highest price achieved for a watch at auction this year.

Daniels made the Space Traveller I to commemorate the Apollo 11 moon landing in July 1969.

Tesla share price revs up after Model 3 triumphs over Wall Street targets

EMILY NICOLLE

SHARES in electric car maker Tesla gained an eight per cent boost in after-hours trading last night, after the firm beat expectations for deliveries of its Model 3 sedan.

Tesla delivered 77,550 Model 3 cars in the second quarter, compared with the average estimate of 73,144. The move could ease market concerns about demand for its newest model.

Deliveries of all models rose 51 per cent from the first quarter, hitting 95,200 vehicles compared to the average estimate of 89,084.

It comes after a difficult start to the year, in which deliveries plunged and Tesla lost $702m (£557.4m).

ABOUT TIME

Sotheby’s sets record as English watch rockets to £3.6m price tag

Merkel forced to abstain from top EU job vote

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Von der Leyen is seen as a keen EU federalist, and in 2011 she called for “a united states of Europe – run along the lines of the federal states of Switzerland, Germany or the US”.

An ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, von der Leyen emerged as the top candidate after EU leaders rejected a host of other contenders, including current Commission vice-president Frans Timmermans.

Poland and Hungary were opposed to the left-wing Timmermans securing the job following his sustained criticism of those countries for a lack of independence in their judicial systems. His rejection meant Merkel had to abstain from voting for von der Leyen, as parties in Germany were unhappy with the choice.

That anger is likely to be reflected in the European Parliament, which has to approve all the nominations.

German MEP Manfred Weber was the choice of the European People’s Party, while Timmermans had the backing of the Social Democrats. With both men eliminated from the process, MEPs may reject von der Leyen on a point of principle.

Sotheby’s sets record as English watch rockets to £3.6m price tag

ABOUT TIME

Sotheby’s sets a world auction record for an English watch yesterday evening, when George Daniels’ Space Traveller I sold for £3.6m. The price tag is more than 30 times the amount set by the same watch 31 years ago, and is the highest price achieved for a watch at auction this year.

Daniels made the Space Traveller I to commemorate the Apollo 11 moon landing in July 1969.

Tesla share price revs up after Model 3 triumphs over Wall Street targets

EMILY NICOLLE

SHARES in electric car maker Tesla gained an eight per cent boost in after-hours trading last night, after the firm beat expectations for deliveries of its Model 3 sedan.

Tesla delivered 77,550 Model 3 cars in the second quarter, compared with the average estimate of 73,144. The move could ease market concerns about demand for its newest model.

Deliveries of all models rose 51 per cent from the first quarter, hitting 95,200 vehicles compared to the average estimate of 89,084.

It comes after a difficult start to the year, in which deliveries plunged and Tesla lost $702m (£557.4m).

ABOUT TIME

Sotheby’s sets record as English watch rockets to £3.6m price tag

Merkel forced to abstain from top EU job vote

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Von der Leyen is seen as a keen EU federalist, and in 2011 she called for “a united states of Europe – run along the lines of the federal states of Switzerland, Germany or the US”.

An ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, von der Leyen emerged as the top candidate after EU leaders rejected a host of other contenders, including current Commission vice-president Frans Timmermans.

Poland and Hungary were opposed to the left-wing Timmermans securing the job following his sustained criticism of those countries for a lack of independence in their judicial systems. His rejection meant Merkel had to abstain from voting for von der Leyen, as parties in Germany were unhappy with the choice.

That anger is likely to be reflected in the European Parliament, which has to approve all the nominations.

German MEP Manfred Weber was the choice of the European People’s Party, while Timmermans had the backing of the Social Democrats. With both men eliminated from the process, MEPs may reject von der Leyen on a point of principle.
ST MODWEN BOOSTS PROFIT IN FIRST-HALF RESULTS

FTSE 250 property developer St Modwen boosted profit in the first half of 2019 driven by its expansion in the warehouse and logistics sector. Profit for the six months to the end of May was £23.1m, up from £20.8m compared with the first half of 2018. The company hiked its interim dividend per share by 16.1 per cent to 3.6p, “reflecting solid growth in earnings.” Changes to the way people shop has increased the need for well-located logistics space, the company said. The firm’s industrial and logistics business now makes up 39 per cent of St Modwen’s assets. The FTSE 250 company has increased its pipeline from 1.5 sq ft to 1.6 sq ft due to increasing customer interest in its warehouses. It hopes to benefit from rising demand for last mile delivery and warehouse space.

OFFICE OWNER SEeks RESTRUCTURE OF £45M DEBT

The owner of footwear store Office yesterday confirmed it is in discussions to restructure £45m of debt at the retailer. South African outfit Truworths, which bought the UK high street giant for £250m in 2015, said it must pay a “significant portion” of the debt in a lump sum payment by December 2020. A restructure could lead to closures of some of Office’s approximately 100 UK stores. “In light of the depressed retail trading environment currently being experienced in the UK, Office has entered into discussions with the relevant lenders regarding potential debt restructuring options,” Truworths said. Office and its lenders have appointed Alvarez & Marsal Europe and Deloitte as their respective advisers, Truworths confirmed yesterday.

DIALIGHT SHARES DIM ON CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S EXIT

Shares in Delight crashed yesterday as the LED giant warned of weakening sales and revealed its boss is set to step down. The London-listed lighting firm led the market fallers as its share price plunged by 38.8 per cent, having announced an additional £4m of costs following a botched effort to move production to Samarra in Mexico. Ahead of its half-year results next month, the group said underlying operating profit is expected to be within the range of £6.0m to £13.3m, while also warning that a weakening in order intake seen in the second quarter could continue for the remainder of the year. In its trading update yesterday morning, the troubled firm also said that chief executive Marty Rapp will step down as head of the business after 18 months in the role.

UK warns China to honour Hong Kong freedoms

BRITAIN has warned China to honour its commitment to protect freedoms in Hong Kong following mass protests in the city, which saw police fire tear gas at demonstrators and activists storm the government building.

Thousands of demonstrators gathered around the Legislative Council building in the city’s financial district on Monday to mark 22 years since the end of British rule.

Foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt, who is in the running to become the next Conservative Party leader and British Prime Minister, condemned violence by both the authorities and protestors in Hong Kong.

Speaking at a campaign event in Belfast, Hunt said China must stand by the commitments it made when it took back Hong Kong from British rule under the so-called one country, two systems plan, including the freedom to protest and an independent judiciary.

“We can make it clear we stand behind the people of Hong Kong in defence of the freedoms that we negotiated for them when we agreed to handover in 1997, but we can remind everyone that we expect all countries to honour their international obligations,” Hunt said.

“There is a way through this which is for the government of Hong Kong to listen to the legitimate concerns of the people of Hong Kong about their freedoms,” he added.

On Monday, China said Britain should stop “gesticulating” over the city, saying the country no longer has any responsibility for Hong Kong.

Protesters are demanding that the controversial extradition bill, which would allow Hong Kong to send people to China to face trial, is completely scrapped.

Opponents to the bill fear it is the latest step towards mainland control. Last month, Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam agreed to suspend the bill indefinitely in the wake of earlier protests, however, demonstrations have continued. Lam is now facing calls for her resignation.

BYE BYE, BYERS Veteran executive at Sports Direct leaves Mike Ashley’s team

Sports Direct leaves Mike Ashley’s team

BYE BYE, BYERS Veteran executive at Sports Direct leaves Mike Ashley’s team

 Veteran executive at Mike Ashley’s Sports Direct, has left the high street retailer with immediate effect KAREN Byers, a senior executive at Mike Ashley’s Sports Direct, has left the high street retailer with immediate effect. Byers, who has previously worked at the firm for nearly three decades, has been a pleasure to work closely with, said founder and chief executive Mike Ashley.

“Karen is highly experienced and has been performing the role of chief operations officer on an interim basis since the departure of Shirine Khoury-Haq in March. The official move comes as Lloyd’s ramps up its efforts to change the culture of the insurance market with a new code of conduct through moves such as curbing alcohol consumption during work hours. Rigby’s remit will include business transformation, operations, data, innovation and corporate real estate. Lloyd’s chief John Neal said: “It has been a pleasure to work closely with her since I joined Lloyd’s and I know that her leadership, experience and energy will be pivotal to our success as we look to set ourselves up for the future.”

Lloyd’s of London data boss nabs top operations job at global firm

Veteran executive at Mike Ashley’s Sports Direct, has left the high street retailer with immediate effect after working at the firm for nearly three decades.

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY

Veteran executive at Mike Ashley’s Sports Direct, has left the high street retailer with immediate effect after working at the firm for nearly three decades.
UK construction activity falls to worst in decade

JOE CURTIS @joe_r_curtis

Activity in the UK construction sector “dropped like a stone” last month as it suffered its steepest fall in output since the height of the financial crisis, according to a closely followed industry index.

Construction activity plummeted to its lowest level since April 2009 in June, on the back of the sharpest drop in UK housebuilding demand for three years.

IHS Markit’s UK Construction Purchasing Managers’ Index revealed yesterday that total construction activity fell to a reading of 43, sharply down from 48.6 in May.

Anything below a measure of 50 on the index marks a decline in activity.

Commercial construction dropped for the sixth month in a row, recording its steepest fall since December 2009 in the process.

Construction firms told IHS Markit that delays to projects as a result of Brexit uncertainty had hurt commercial activity, making it the worst performing area in the sector.

Civil engineering output also declined at the quickest rate since October 2009. Political uncertainty, delays to new projects and longer waiting periods for the award of new contracts all hurt activity.

Meanwhile, new orders dried up, sinking to their lowest level in a decade.

“Purchasing activity and new orders dropped like a stone in June,” said Duncan Brock, group director at the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply.

“This abrupt change in the sector’s ability to ride the highs and lows of political uncertainty shows the impact has finally taken its toll.”

Tim Moore, associate director at IHS Markit, warned the figures were so bad it was “almost impossible to sugarcoat” the industry’s performance.

“While the scale of the downturn is in no way comparable to that seen during the global financial crisis,” he said, “the abrupt loss of momentum in 2019 has been the worst experienced across the sector for a decade.”

Trump threatens tariffs on $4bn EU products in aircraft dispute

JESS CLARK @jclarkjourno

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump has threatened to slap extra tariffs on $4bn (£3.2bn) of EU products as a spat over aircraft subsidies escalates.

The US Trade Representative’s Office released a list of 89 products that could be hit with tariffs, including ham, olives, coffee, pasta and Irish and Scotch whiskies.

The latest announcement builds on an initial threat made in April that warned the US could impose tariffs on $21bn of products including wine, champagne and olive oil.

Washington and Brussels are involved in a nearly 15-year-old dispute at the World Trade Organization (WTO) over aircraft subsidies given to US plane manufacturer Boeing and its European rival Airbus.

The WTO found that Boeing and Airbus received billions of dollars of harmful subsidies in a pair of cases marking the world’s largest ever trade dispute.

Risk of missing housing targets if modern methods are not embraced

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY @SebMcCarthy

AN INFLUENTIAL group of MPs has warned the government that it risks missing its target to build 300,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s if it does not shrug off a reliance on traditional construction methods.

Fears over a current shortage of housing have been underlined in a new report from the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee, which has urged policymakers to “unlock the potential for modern methods of construction” (MMC).

Suggestions made by the committee include the use of new materials, digital working and precision manufacturing techniques to speed up the rate at which homes could be built across the UK.

“The housing system is in urgent need of a major boost, and if the government is to have any chance of meeting its ambitious target, it must grasp every opportunity new technologies allow. But they must act fast and act now,” said Clive Betts, chair of the committee.

Among the recommendations is that the government should report annually the total amount allocated to MMC developments across all its different funding streams.
Amazon to create 2,000 UK jobs in ‘clear vote of confidence’ post-Brexit

EMILY NICOLLE

E-COMMERCE giant Amazon will create 2,000 new jobs in the UK this year, as it seeks to up its total workforce to almost 30,000 roles.

Amazon said the new positions would include engineers, software developers, data scientists and experts in cloud and machine learning, along with a number of entry-level roles.

Of those created, more than 170 roles will be based in Amazon’s tech development centres in Cambridge, Edinburgh and London. The research and development hubs are home to some of Amazon’s most innovative programmes, such as drone delivery initiatives Amazon Prime Air.

“We are delighted to be able continue to invest and grow our UK business,” said Doug Gurr, Amazon’s UK country manager. “The UK is a fantastic hub for global talent and the exciting, innovative work that takes place here benefits Amazon’s customers around the world.”

The London development centre will take on software engineers and computer programmers to continue work on services, such as Amazon Video, its Netflix streaming rival.

They will also work on designs for so-called living room devices, and web and mobile applications.

Amazon’s cloud computing arm Amazon Web Services is also included in the jobs boost. The move follows the firm’s plans to create 1,000 new apprenticeships in the UK over the next two years.

Chancellor Philip Hammond said the decision was “a clear vote of confidence in the British economy”.

“They’re WORTH IT

L’Oreal in talks to buy Azzaro and Mugler from Clarins

L’Oreal is in talks to buy perfume and fashion brands Azzaro and Mugler from Clarins Group, it said yesterday. The company did not disclose the financial details of the proposed deal.

Clarins said the two brands have combined sales of €415m (£372m), representing 26 per cent of Clarins’ annual sales of €1.6bn. Cyril Chapuy, president of L’Oreal Luxe, said: “The category is at the heart of our global strategy for growth. We would be thrilled to welcome Mugler and Azzaro.”

Social media ad spend growth plummets as public trust falls

JAMES WARRINGTON

Three women are among the top 10 highest-paid BBC stars for the first time ever as the broadcaster looks to address its gender pay gap.

Claudia Winkleman, Zoe Ball and Vanessa Feltz ranked among the BBC’s top earners with salaries of more than £350,000. Last year, no female stars made it into the top 10.

However, the majority of the most lucrative roles are still held by men.

Ex-footballer and Match of the Day host Gary Lineker has retained the top spot, pulling in an annual salary of roughly £1.75m.

The row reached fever pitch last year when China editor Carrie Gracie resigned in protest at alleged pay discrimination, and MPs have criticised the organisation for its “weak” response to the issue.

The new figures showed the BBC has cut its median gap from 7.6 per cent to 6.7 per cent in the past year.

Directer general Tony Hall said the corporation had made “good progress” on reducing its pay gap, but admitted there was more work to be done.

“This is significant change. The task is not complete, but we are well on our way,” he said.

Presenter’s paid by the broadcaster’s commercial division BBC Studios were not included in the report.

Publicis completes its $4bn acquisition of data company Epsilon

JAMES WARRINGTON

ADVERTISING giant Publicis Groupe has completed its takeover of data marketing company Epsilon from Alliance Data with a final price tag of $3.95bn (£3.1bn).

Publicis said the deal, which represents eight times Epsilon’s adjusted earnings, will boost its creative and technology operations.

The French ad group said its new capabilities will be available to all parts of its business.

Epsilon chief executive Bryan Kennedy will join Publicis’s executive committee.

Japanese tech giant sets up in City of London

JAMES WARRINGTON

Japanese telecoms giant NTT has unveiled the launch of its new $11bn (£8.7bn) merged business, which will be headquartered in London.

NTT said it has merged 28 of its companies, including NTT Communications, Dimension Data and NTT Security, to form one combined tech services provider.

The newly-formed firm, NTT Ltd, will employ more than 40,000 people in offices across more than 70 countries and regions, with headquarters in the City.

NTT Ltd will be led by former Dimension Data boss Jason Goodall.

“We’ve created a global technology services provider that delivers a full breadth of industry-leading products, solutions and managed services that address customers’ business needs,” Goodall said.

NTT said it had considered several locations before choosing London.
CLIFFORD Chance became the first Magic Circle law firm to report its 2018-19 financial results yesterday, announcing modest gains in revenue and profit. The firm said revenue for the year to 30 April grew 4.3 per cent to £1.7bn. Partnership profit rose two per cent to £637m and profit per equity partner (Pep) grew one per cent to £1.6m. In 2017-18, the firm boosted revenue five per cent and Pep 16 per cent. Managing partner Matthew Layton told City A.M. that the results “consolidate the strong growth over the past four years”. Layton said the first two months of the financial year “have been strong for us”, but warned that there “continues to be a huge amount of uncertainty and volatility in the geopolitical picture”. Earlier this month, the firm followed rival Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in upping pay for its newly qualified lawyers to above £100,000. Freshfields’ pay hike came after a round of pay increases at US law firms last summer that raised salaries for first-year lawyers at top firms to $190,000 (£150,000). Layton said: “We saw big increases in early summer 2018 in the US market, and it’s natural they would have some ripple effects in other markets as we saw this year in London.” Layton said the pay rises could have an impact on the firm’s profits next year. “Obviously, it has an impact on our cost base here in London,” he said. Freshfields is set to report its results today, while Linklaters and Allen & Overy will report next week.

Alcohol tycoon Mallya wins right to appeal in extradition battle

INDIAN alcohol tycoon Vijay Mallya yesterday won permission to appeal to London’s High Court against his extradition to India to face fraud and money laundering allegations. Mallya is chairman of United Breweries, the company behind beer brand Kingfisher. He fled to the UK in 2016 following the collapse of Kingfisher Airlines in 2012. Yesterday he tweeted: “God is great, justice prevails. A Division Bench of the English High Court with two senior Judges allowed my application to appeal against the Magistrates judgement on the prima facie case and charges by the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation]. I always said the charges were false.” Mallya has been accused of fraud and money laundering in connection with the failure of Kingfisher Airlines, which went bust owing more than £1bn. He denies the charges and says they are politically motivated.

Pimlico Plumbers boss Mullins is backing Boris Johnson to be Prime Minister

PIMLICO Plumbers boss Charlie Mullins yesterday said Tory leadership candidate Boris Johnson is a “great champion for business”. The colourful entrepreneur told City A.M. that he was backing Johnson as the UK’s next Prime Minister, despite taking opposing sides in the Brexit debate. “He’s a fan of business, I know he made that chuck away comment, but he’s a great champion for business,” Mullins said. During the referendum campaign, Johnson was reported to have said “F *** business” in response to corporate concerns about the impact of a hard Brexit. In an interview broadcast on Sunday, Johnson defended his record as a supporter of corporate Britain. “I can’t think of anybody in my party…that has stuck up for financial services in London during some very difficult times, and indeed I can’t think of anybody who has gone around the world championing UK businesses,” he told Sky. Mullins said that to win the trust of business, the new Prime Minister must deliver “modern, fit-for-purpose, employment laws suitable for 21st-century Britain”.

London Stock Exchange Group Academy

Your introduction to the financial markets.

A new online course dedicated to those who are interested in finding out more about the financial markets.

www.lseg.com/academy/financial-markets
Academy_UK@lseg.com

Price: £129

London Stock Exchange Group Academy
Boris Johnson has pledged to launch a review of the sugar tax to see if it is unfairly penalising poorer people in the country.

The Tory leadership hopeful has made the vow in the wake of government plans to place a levy on milkshakes in a bid to tackle childhood obesity.

Johnson opposed the plan when it was first unveiled, and is now vowing to launch a review of all so-called sin taxes should he become Prime Minister.

He said: “The recent proposal for a tax on milkshakes seems to me to clobber those who can least afford it. If we want people to lose weight and live healthier lifestyles, we should encourage people to walk, cycle and generally do more exercise.”

Rather than just taxing people more, we should look at how effective the so-called sin taxes really are, and if they actually change behaviour.”

The sugar tax was introduced by then-chancellor George Osborne in 2016, and it came into force two years later. Drinks with more than eight grams of sugar per 100ml face a tax rate equivalent to 24p per litre, while those containing five to eight grams of sugar per 100ml pay 18p per litre.

The announcement was greeted by Daniel Pryor from the Adam Smith Institute, calling the move “sweet deliverance”.

WORKERS at risk of automation need to be retrained if the country’s Brexit divisions are to be healed, a new report has warned.

The report argued that unless the government commits to retraining workers in these areas, voters could abandon traditional political parties and flock to non-mainstream groups, such as Nigel Farage’s Brexit Party.

Workers who lose their jobs to robots could flock to non-mainstream parties
moneawy Magazine and interactive investor of the Year Award.

Rachel Rickard Strauss, Editor, Moneywise Magazine, said: “Good personal finance education is absolutely crucial for everyone and our winning teachers and runners up set the gold standard. One of the regulator’s key priorities is intergenerational inequality, and just like a good education can be a key driver of social mobility, good money management skills are essential if we are to help younger generations navigate a much more financially complex world than their parents and grandparents had to face.”

Moira O’Neill, Head of Personal Finance at interactive investor, who sponsored these awards, says: “Financial education in schools is so important but needs to be fun, engaging and relevant – a wedding bar tab, as used by our secondary school winner, teacher Helen Westwood, literally ‘raised the bar’ and it is this type of memorable approach that can have a lasting impact.

“Good money management can give you options, whether it’s keeping you out of debt, or saving and investing to allow you to change career, retrain, leave an unhappy relationship or fund a comfortable retirement. Our winners show that a real education is not just about the three Rs – if we are to equip young adults with the skills to lead a healthy financial future, it has to start with financial education.

The judges were: Bobby Seagull: Author; maths teacher; doctoral student and University Challenge Finalist; Guy Rigden: Chief Executive of charity MyBnk; Jeff Prestridge: Personal Finance Editor, Mail on Sunday; Russell Warren: Director of Programmes and services at Young Enterprise and Young Money; Alex Kovach: Chief Commercial Officer, interactive investor; Rachel political hostility.

Heathrow outlined its ambitious expansion last week, which estimates will cost £30bn and includes rerouting part of the M25. LCA is in the middle of a four-year £48bn expansion that will extend the existing terminal and build eight new aircraft stands, plus a parallel taxiway next to the current runway.

Both schemes have survived continued political pressure. Former PM David Cameron ruled out any further runways for London airports back in 2010. Parliament eventually voted in favour of a new runway at Heathrow last year. Separately, Boris Johnson, when he was mayor of London, managed to successfully block LCA’s earlier expansion efforts in 2015.

As Johnson enters the final stages of the Conservative leadership race, Sinclair says he hopes “any PM, especially Boris, would see the massive value and importance to ensuring that airports like London City Airport can continue to thrive, and continue to keep the UK and its capital connected to Europe”. Sinclair wants more support and certainty with regards to planning approvals. The airport chief is careful to state that the expansion plans are constrained. “We never want to be the biggest airport and we never will be. There is beauty in small. Our DNA is all about speed, convenience, and ease of use.”

But the airport chief does need support as he seeks to better connect the airport to London’s public transport. Politics has already cost the airport a dedicated station on the new Crossrail/Ellizabeth Line, despite the fact that it runs close to 100 metres from the airport – “a huge wasted opportunity”.

The expansion will certainly be welcomed by passengers. The airport is becoming increasingly crowded on a Thursday and Friday night. Last Monday, LCA reported a record number of passengers when 20,000 passengers travelled through the airport – a record Sinclair expects to be broken again later this summer.

DICKON HARRIS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

ROYAL ALBERT DOCK

WINNING OVER THE SCEPTICS

These green initiatives are good news for London’s airports, which are slowly expanding – despite historic
PLUS500 ADJUSTS TO NEW TOUGHER BETTING RULES

Online trading platform Plus500’s revenues picked up in the second quarter, having been hit hard by new regulations on highly leveraged betting earlier in the year. Revenue for the second quarter hit $94m (£75m), a significant increase on the first quarter’s $53.9m. Its shares closed yesterday on $62.36p — a 4.42 per cent increase on Monday’s close. As a result, revenue for the first half totalled just $148m, a far cry from the $465.5m that Plus500 reported a year earlier.

CORRECTION

In yesterday’s Best of Brokers section, we said Peel Hunt had a target price of 48p for the company i3 Energy. This was incorrect. Peel Hunt has not set a target price.

AUGMENTUM RAISES £26M FOR NEW INVESTMENTS

Augmentum Fintech has raised £25.8m in an initial placing as it looks for new investment opportunities. The London-listed venture capital fund issued 23.1 million ordinary shares at 112p each. Shares closed at 113p last night following the announcement. Tim Levene, chief executive of the company, said: “We’re looking to issue further capital to further our growth plans to capitalise on a significant amount of deal flow that we have developed over the past 12 months.” In a video on the firm’s website, Levene said Augmentum was currently looking at £450m of new investments. Augmentum had been hoping to raise £30m from the sale, but just missed its target. The firm is seeking to raise £150m in total, with the capital to be used over the next 18 months.

SIRIUS ON COURSE TO FINISH FUNDRAISING IN SEPTEMBER

Fundraising for a major fertiliser mine project in the north of England is on course to be finished this autumn, Sirius Minerals has said. The firm said it would likely complete the £3.1bn (£3.3bn) raise before the end of September. So far it has raised £425m through selling shares, and £400m from bonds. The construction is also going well, Sirius reported yesterday. It said production will start on time in 2021 and within budget, in line with earlier expectations. Sirius started the second stage of fundraising in April. It said it would need the money to mine the polyhalite — which is used to make Poly4, its trademark fertiliser — found near Whitby. It claims that the north Yorkshire site is the world’s largest and highest grade deposits.

IN BRIEF
Saudia Aramco re-floating talks to restart stock exchange listing plans

**NEWS**

**AUSTRALIA**

@AugustGraham

**THE PRICE of decommissioning the UK’s oil and gas infrastructure is dropping as engineers become more experienced, new figures have shown.**

The Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) said the cost of future decommissioning fell to £51bn in 2019, from £59.7bn two years ago.

The report came as OGA expects operators to take down more assets and infrastructure.

Meanwhile, like-for-like decommissioning costs fell 17 per cent to £49bn. “Better capability and experience is providing greater certainty of actual UK decommissioning costs with several operators already achieving significant cost savings through adopting different approaches, learning and sharing with others, and challenging previous norms,” said Nils Colurs, the Oil and Gas Authority’s head of decommissioning.

He added that “simpler supply chains is also bringing new solutions to the market in terms of pricing structures, business models and technology.”

The news brings the UK halfway towards meeting a 2017 target to reduce the cost of decommissioning by 35 per cent.

---

**Ftse 100 lands a 10-month high as sterling weakens**

**LONDON REPORT**

**BEST OF THE BROKERS**

To appear in Best of the Brokers, email your research notes to cityam.com

**NYSE REPORT**

Wall Street edges higher

**NEW YORK REPORT**

US shares managed modest gains yesterday after holding near the unchanged mark for most of the session as enthusiasm over the China-US trade truce faded after Washington threatened tariffs on additional European goods.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 63.25 points, or 0.26 per cent, to 27,756.81, the S&P 500 gained 8.65 points, or 0.29 per cent, to 2,972.38 and the Nasdaq Composite added 17.93 points, or 0.22 per cent, to 7,157.14.

With US and global economic data showing signs of slowing, the focus for investors will now turn to monetary policy and a supra-supercycle earnings season.

“We’ve got a wait and see on the trade deal, a wait and see on the Fed, a wait and see on earnings and all of that is in front of us at least two weeks,” said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at National Securities in New York. “I am not surprised at all to see this market shift into sideways action.”

---

**NEWS**

**CITY MOVES**

**WHO’S SWITCHING JOBS**

To appear in CITYMOVES please email your career updates and pictures to citymovess@cityam.com

---

**TEESPRING**

Nick Bell has been appointed official adviser to create and sell commerce platform Teespring. Nick, who will assist the company to expand as a creator-based platform, worked at Snap, and before that was senior vice president of digital products at News Corp. During his time at Snap, Nick was responsible for leading the business through significant change, including Snapchat Discover and Original Shows.

---

**OSTC**

Global derivatives trading and education business OSTC has announced the appointment of Surya Subramanian as chief risk officer, effective 1 July. Surya joins from CIBOE, where she has been head of risk in Europe for the past six and half years. Prior to this, she was an executive director at UBS, where she held responsibility for operational risk control for several corporate functions. Surya served 10 years at NSE Europe where she was executive director, risk and audit services for Europe. Earlier roles included risk and audit work at Natwest Markets, LIFFE and the London Stock Exchange. Surya holds an MA honours in Modern History and International Affairs from St. Andrews University. She replaces Rob Brophy who has rejoined the trading team as trading performance director to continue to grow OSTC’s international network. Chief executive Lee Hodgkinson said: “Both Surya and Rob will be invaluable in delivering and supporting OSTC’s strategic plans over the coming years, at a time when the company is targeting growth in new and existing markets.”

---

**PERKBOX**

Employee experience platform Perkbox has appointed Marissa White and Ed Ellis as revenue operations director and organisational readiness director respectively. Marissa, whose previous experience in sales operations included leadership at Bazaarvoice, Concentra Analytics, BAE Systems and EMC, will help drive scalability of sales processes and infrastructure across internal teams. She will be responsible for operationalising the new team from Perkbox’s HQ in London. Ed, who has an extensive background in process improvements working in global leadership roles at EMC and Symantec, will lead the systems operations and customer experience teams across the London and Sheffield offices to ensure a great customer experience and increase penetration of the full funnel to drive growth and ensure Perkbox’s international infrastructure remains world class as Perkbox scales internationally.

---

**NEWS**

**Cost of taking down oil and gas rigs is dropping**

**NEWS**

**AUSTRALIA**

@AugustGraham

The price of decommissioning the UK’s oil and gas infrastructure is dropping as engineers become more experienced, new figures have shown. The Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) said the cost of future decommissioning fell to £51bn in 2019, from £59.7bn two years ago.

The report came as OGA expects operators to take down more assets and infrastructure. Meanwhile, like-for-like decommissioning costs fell 17 per cent to £49bn. “Better capability and experience is providing greater certainty of actual UK decommissioning costs with several operators already achieving significant cost savings through adopting different approaches, learning and sharing with others, and challenging previous norms,” said Nils Colurs, the Oil and Gas Authority’s head of decommissioning.

He added that “simpler supply chains is also bringing new solutions to the market in terms of pricing structures, business models and technology.”

The news brings the UK halfway towards meeting a 2017 target to reduce the cost of decommissioning by 35 per cent.

---

**CITY DASHBOARD**

**YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR BROKER VIEWS AND MARKET REPORTS**

**LONDON REPORT**

**BEST OF THE BROKERS**

To appear in Best of the Brokers, email your research notes to cityam.com

**NEW YORK REPORT**

Wall Street edges higher

---

**NEWS**

**SAUDI Arabia has reportedly looking for a potential investor will decide the price of oil.**

**NEW YORK REPORT**

Wall Street edges higher

---

**NEWS**

**The world’s most profitable oil firm has wait until its has a $10bn target. It set a record,” said OGP in its stated $10bn target. It set a record, when the oil firm hits the market, will be huge.”**

---

**NEWS**

**The investor will decide the price of oil.**

---

**TEESPRING**

Nick Bell has been appointed official adviser to create and sell commerce platform Teespring. Nick, who will assist the company to expand as a creator-based platform, worked at Snap, and before that was senior vice president of digital products at News Corp. During his time at Snap, Nick was responsible for leading the business through significant change, including Snapchat Discover and Original Shows.

---

**OSTC**

Global derivatives trading and education business OSTC has announced the appointment of Surya Subramanian as chief risk officer, effective 1 July. Surya joins from CIBOE, where she has been head of risk in Europe for the past six and half years. Prior to this, she was an executive director at UBS, where she held responsibility for operational risk control for several corporate functions. Surya served 10 years at NSE Europe where she was executive director, risk and audit services for Europe. Earlier roles included risk and audit work at Natwest Markets, LIFFE and the London Stock Exchange. Surya holds an MA honours in Modern History and International Affairs from St. Andrews University. She replaces Rob Brophy who has rejoined the trading team as trading performance director to continue to grow OSTC’s international network. Chief executive Lee Hodgkinson said: “Both Surya and Rob will be invaluable in delivering and supporting OSTC’s strategic plans over the coming years, at a time when the company is targeting growth in new and existing markets.”

---

**PERKBOX**

Employee experience platform Perkbox has appointed Marissa White and Ed Ellis as revenue operations director and organisational readiness director respectively. Marissa, whose previous experience in sales operations included leadership at Bazaarvoice, Concentra Analytics, BAE Systems and EMC, will help drive scalability of sales processes and infrastructure across internal teams. She will be responsible for operationalising the new team from Perkbox’s HQ in London. Ed, who has an extensive background in process improvements working in global leadership roles at EMC and Symantec, will lead the systems operations and customer experience teams across the London and Sheffield offices to ensure a great customer experience and increase penetration of the full funnel to drive growth and ensure Perkbox’s international infrastructure remains world class as Perkbox scales internationally.

---

**NEWS**

**Cost of taking down oil and gas rigs is dropping**

**NEWS**

**AUSTRALIA**

@AugustGraham

The price of decommissioning the UK’s oil and gas infrastructure is dropping as engineers become more experienced, new figures have shown. The Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) said the cost of future decommissioning fell to £51bn in 2019, from £59.7bn two years ago.

The report came as OGA expects operators to take down more assets and infrastructure. Meanwhile, like-for-like decommissioning costs fell 17 per cent to £49bn. “Better capability and experience is providing greater certainty of actual UK decommissioning costs with several operators already achieving significant cost savings through adopting different approaches, learning and sharing with others, and challenging previous norms,” said Nils Colurs, the Oil and Gas Authority’s head of decommissioning.

He added that “simpler supply chains is also bringing new solutions to the market in terms of pricing structures, business models and technology.”

The news brings the UK halfway towards meeting a 2017 target to reduce the cost of decommissioning by 35 per cent.
OFFICE POLITICS

Don’t mind me – I’m just taking a quick nap at work

Allowing slacking and daydreaming in the office can be a recipe for innovative success

What if there’s a killer app for making your company more innovative? Look no further than to your nearest nursery school.

Here, the staff are trained to ensure that their young clients utilise a key innovation technique – the midday nap. As odd as this may seem, something similar may be just the thing to kick-start your company’s creative energies.

When talk turns to how we can make companies more efficient and productive, the common assumption is that this means we all need to work harder and longer. This, however, is a fundamentally flawed notion. The way to create real value in the workplace often comes down to working smarter rather than harder, and usually the way to get smarter is to think creatively about things.

Yet creative thinking isn’t necessarily something that you just sit down and do. On the contrary, research into creativity has shown that it is a form of thinking that is quite irregular, and can be both provoked and dampened by the most surprising things, like naps or creativity workshops.

The latter might seem like a great thing for corporate creativity, but they can turn into “innovation theatre”. As people today have become used to them, they learn how to get through them in as painless a way as possible – as a result, they are practising their acting more than creativity. Workshops can also strengthen the notion that creativity only belongs in such a context, and thus dampen people’s tendency to engage with creativity in their everyday work.

But slacking – in the shape of a cheeky nap or just some strategic daydreaming – that’s another thing entirely. To some, these represent totally unacceptable practices at work – something managers should forbid and exterminate. This is a great idea if you really, truly want a stressed and un-innovative organisation. But if you’d rather have a creative culture and a company that can innovate, it’s time to reconsider the humble nap.

Here’s some evidence to back this up. The think tank RAND has estimated that insufficient sleep costs the UK economy up to £40bn annually, and what’s scary about that figure is that it doesn’t even account for the lost creative potential.

Failing to get enough sleep might not kill you outright, but what it will certainly do is to slaughter your creativity. Without sleep, the mind cannot engage in the full gamut of imagination, as it is too busy just trying to keep core functions running.

This is why good managers should care about the sleep of their employees, and develop an appreciation for the art of the nap. Research into thinking has shown that periods of rest – times when one’s mind is occupied neither with busy work nor the problem at hand – are often the most fertile for creativity. This is why you often get great ideas while walking in nature, just before you fall asleep, or in the shower. As the mind gets to wander freely, creativity kicks in. Naps are part and parcel of this. A short sleep or a daydream gives the brain a chance to tap into its full potential, away from creativity-killing drudgery. This means that a strategic bout of slacking is anything but ineffective. On the contrary, it might be the most value-creating thing that you do all day.

“Sleep Cycle uses this data so that its smart alarm clock can wake you up more gently in the mornings.”

Alf Rehn is a professor of innovation at the University of Southern Denmark.
Leftist support for university students is fuelled purely by political self-interest

Paul Ormerod

It was Iran which established a covert nuclear programme in breach of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and it was Iran which – when this was discovered – spent years developing its nuclear capabilities in breach of UN Security Council Resolutions. The JCPOA was signed in 2015 by a US administration determined to secure an Iran deal at any price in order to secure its legacy. The Trump administration had every right to withdraw from it on the grounds that the JCPOA merely kicked the Iranian nuclear can down the road for a limited period of time, owing to its sunsets clauses. Without offering a blanket ban on nuclear weapon-related activities like the testing of ballistic missiles, the JCPOA denied a permanent solution to oblige the long-term threat posed by a clerical regime with a probable desire to try and dominate the region.

The Brexit decision to trigger Article 50 on March 29, 2017, is a classic case of nuclear blackmail, threatening to invoke Article 50 if the final UK-EU trade deal did not meet the demands of the UK. The likely outcome of the EU negotiations is to produce a deal that is very poor for the UK, and hence the Brexit negotiating strategy is to demand a deal that is worse than no deal. The nuclear blackmail involves the threat of invoking a law that was never meant to be invoked.

Author ORG.

In subjects such as creative arts, the media and by our political leaders.

It’s odd that nobody talks about the每日邮报’s bias, or its coverage of Norway or Switzerland. It is no coincidence, I believe, that heavy water reactor technology is expected to play a role in nuclear power production. It is from this that Rolls-Royce has developed a reactor that can be used to generate electricity.

The French are much better at nuclear power production, but they are no better than the British at social cohesion.

Paul Ormerod is an economist at the University of Sheffield.

By Paul Ormerod

SWITZERLAND has the potential to economy, but also socially and environmentally. The country would be in a very good indeed at the very least, and is a rational resolution to the nuclear arms control problem.

Best of Twitter

If you liked this, you might like the following.

Funding Circle share price down 10% on revenue warning. Shareholders lost 75% of their investment. If you bought at IPO in Sept 2018, you would be down 75%.

It’s odd that nobody talks about illiquidity in peer-to-peer lending which is orders of magnitude worse than what happened with IQ plus. Credit is bad. I guess it’ll take a peer-to-peer liquidity crisis for the media to mention it.

@PensionCraft

I’m sure all the people who criticised the anti-Trump protests because “you should respect the office, even if you don’t respect the man!” will be along to criticise MPs disrespecting the European Parliament. Any… minute… now, I think.

@edaromish

It is now up to the UK, France and Germany to show whose side we are on. It is no coincidence, I believe, that heavy water reactor technology is expected to play a role in nuclear power production. It is from this that Rolls-Royce has developed a reactor that can be used to generate electricity.

The French are much better at nuclear power production, but they are no better than the British at social cohesion.

Paul Ormerod is an economist at the University of Sheffield.

Best of Twitter

If you liked this, you might like the following.

Funding Circle share price down 10% on revenue warning. Shareholders lost 75% of their investment. If you bought at IPO in Sept 2018, you would be down 75%.

It’s odd that nobody talks about illiquidity in peer-to-peer lending which is orders of magnitude worse than what happened with IQ plus. Credit is bad. I guess it’ll take a peer-to-peer liquidity crisis for the media to mention it.

@PensionCraft

I’m sure all the people who criticised the anti-Trump protests because “you should respect the office, even if you don’t respect the man!” will be along to criticise MPs disrespecting the European Parliament. Any… minute… now, I think.

@edaromish

It was Iran which established a covert nuclear programme in breach of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and it was Iran which – when this was discovered – spent years developing its nuclear capabilities in breach of UN Security Council Resolutions.

The JCPOA was signed in 2015 by a US administration determined to secure an Iran deal at any price in order to secure its legacy. The Trump administration had every right to withdraw from it on the grounds that the JCPOA merely kicked the Iranian nuclear can down the road for a limited period of time, owing to its sunsets clauses. Without offering a blanket ban on nuclear weapon-related activities like the testing of ballistic missiles, the JCPOA denied a permanent solution to oblige the long-term threat posed by a clerical regime with a probable desire to try and dominate the region.

The Brexit decision to trigger Article 50 on March 29, 2017, is a classic case of nuclear blackmail, threatening to invoke Article 50 if the final UK-EU trade deal did not meet the demands of the UK. The likely outcome of the EU negotiations is to produce a deal that is very poor for the UK, and hence the Brexit negotiating strategy is to demand a deal that is worse than no deal. The nuclear blackmail involves the threat of invoking a law that was never meant to be invoked.

Author ORG.

In subjects such as creative arts, the media and by our political leaders.

It’s odd that nobody talks about the daily news’ bias, or its coverage of Norway or Switzerland. It is no coincidence, I believe, that heavy water reactor technology is expected to play a role in nuclear power production. It is from this that Rolls-Royce has developed a reactor that can be used to generate electricity.

The French are much better at nuclear power production, but they are no better than the British at social cohesion.

Paul Ormerod is an economist at the University of Sheffield.

Best of Twitter

If you liked this, you might like the following.

Funding Circle share price down 10% on revenue warning. Shareholders lost 75% of their investment. If you bought at IPO in Sept 2018, you would be down 75%.

It’s odd that nobody talks about illiquidity in peer-to-peer lending which is orders of magnitude worse than what happened with IQ plus. Credit is bad. I guess it’ll take a peer-to-peer liquidity crisis for the media to mention it.

@PensionCraft

I’m sure all the people who criticised the anti-Trump protests because “you should respect the office, even if you don’t respect the man!” will be along to criticise MPs disrespecting the European Parliament. Any… minute… now, I think.

@edaromish
Parliament’s arcane rules can finally be understood now that Erskine May is on the internet

John Oxley

THE UK government has allowed the “bible” of parliamentary procedure, Erskine May, to be published online — fully and freely accessible for the first time in the 175-year history of the book.

Anyone with an internet connection can now explore the full intricacies of everything that goes on in Westminster, from “Abseance, leave of” to “Zircon” (an intelligence satellite which caused a stir in parliamentary privilege in 1988), without shelling out £329.99 for the print edition or trying to track it down in a library.

Expect it to go viral. With the rules properly in the public domain for the first time, teens will be sharing Ways and Means memos, online quizzes will finally tell you which standing order you are, and Tinder dates will tap you up for “nemine contradicente and chill”.

Or more likely, the most diligent political journalists will save a few hundred quid, and few else will notice. The audience may be limited, but the publishing of this information in an accessible format is a big step forward for parliamentary democracy.

For our institutions to be properly accountable, it is essential that they do them. We should be making these rules cheaply exists, it is right for the government to put them out there. These rules are designed to protect a product from a certain region, but also geographical indications laws. Since 1992, the EU has protected products such as champagne under its geographical indications laws. These rules are not protectionist — they don’t stop free trade, and they don’t just have to be sparkling wine from the Champagne region, it also has to guarantee a product’s quality, prevent false advertising, and provide consumer confidence in many markets. This is not the case in Europe. Although initially these laws were merely pan-European, they are increasingly a part of bilateral EU negotiations with third-party countries. These rules also lock migrants out of the agriculture sector to retain its global reputation for high-quality produce.

The constitutional growing pains that we have experienced over Brexit and the Lords collide, it is vital to know what rules govern whom and how they operate. Without this, shenanigans can become precedent without anyone really realising, undermining parliament and democracy itself.

The ability of those playing along at home to follow the rules can be a real check on the system. It may only be a peculiarly interested few, but these watchdogs of Westminster can highlight egregious behaviour and try to ensure that it has electoral consequences. It puts important questions – such as the politicisation of the speakership — into the public domain, facilitating better debate and, hopefully, better constitutional outcomes.

Democracy means more than simply voting for things. It is about functioning institutions, governing with the consent of the people. But consent can only be meaningful if it is informed, and so every part of our constitution should be made available to those who want it. Now that the means to provide these rules cheaply exists, it is right for the government to put them out there.

We should all be keeping an eye on our representatives, not just in the policies they enact, but also the way that they do them. We should be making sure that proper procedures are followed, and that those procedures remain effective. We can only do that if the rules are accessible. Now if you’ll excuse me, I need to check “Debts to Crown, remission of”.

John Oxley is a Conservative commentator.

DEBATE

Are labelling rules about designation of origin just a form of protectionism?

YES

Matt Kilcoyne

paying the premium that this monopolistic legal protection creates. These rules also lock migrants out of new opportunities, by saying a Cypriot in Yorkshire using ewes’ milk can’t produce feta as good as in the old country. Origin rules are nonsense on stilts, and we should be rid of them.

NO

Lauren McEvatt

to guarantee a product’s quality, prevent false advertising, and provide consumer confidence in many markets. These rules help British products as much as they help European ones. Maintaining them at a bilateral level with the EU post-Brexit will enable our agriculture sector to retain its global reputation for high-quality produce.

Lauren McEvatt is managing director at Morpeth Consulting.
P Purton and Lor are the Valley’s Reliable Team

T HIS is the time of the year when horses that have been campaigned throughout the season begin to lose their body weight and form, and one or two shocks can surface. Bearing that in mind, it could pay to have a chance with the Danny Shum-trained GREEN DISPATCH who lines up in the 1.15pm over 1m1f.

This son of War Front arrived in Hong Kong back in 2016 after a successful campaign in France having won six of his 10 races, as well as finishing third in the Group One French Derby behind New Bay. Initially given a lofty rating of 93, there were high expectations, but they never materialised.

Despite winning a couple of times, a series of health issues and injuries has curtailed his career and it has taken all of Shum’s patience to get him back on track.

This season he was never sighted in Hong Kong. However, Purton’s best hope of success looks to be when he combines with trainer Frankie Lor. The partnership has a 26 per cent strike-rate this term and will be hoping to improve on that tally when they pair up with RELIABLE TEAM in the 1.45pm over six furlongs and FAT TURTLE in the finale at 3.50pm, over the extended mile.

New Zealand-bred Reliable Team made a successful start to his Hong Kong career when, despite having to work hard from the off, he led for most of the trip and edged off his rivals in the closing stages to win in a good time over course and distance last month.

He has another awkward barrier to overcome, but subsequent track-work reports suggest he has improved enormously from his debut run and against some average rivals, is capable of defying his penalty.

On paper, Fat Turtle appears to face a stiff challenge when he takes on some tough Class Two opponents in his first attempt over a mile in Hong Kong.

With the likes of course specialist Turin Redstar, Enrichment, Mr So And So and Green Luck in opposition, this has the makings of a thriller, but Fat Turtle can confirm his big reputation now he’s been upped to a mile.

This Australian-bred four-year-old has always been touted as a smart middle distance prospect having won over a mile in his native country last year.

His record of one win and three placings over six furlongs against talented opposition shows how good he is and he will be hard to beat over his optimum trip.

The Zac Purton-ridden Reliable Team should run well for connections. The Zac Purton-ridden Reliable Team should run well for connections.
**11.15 YOUNG SHINE HANDICAP (CLASS 5)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Handicaps</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Margin</th>
<th>Odds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>K.T. Chen (v)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>T.W. Cheung (v)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>C.F. Yiu (v)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8/1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**12.15 YOUNG SHINE HANDICAP (CLASS 5)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Handicaps</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Margin</th>
<th>Odds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>S. Leung (v)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>W. So (v)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Y. Kim</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HAPPY VALLEY**

**12.45 SHAM CHUNG HANDICAP (CLASS 4)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Handicaps</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Margin</th>
<th>Odds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A. Franklin (v)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>S. Leung (v)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>W. So (v)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14/1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**14.00 SHAM CHUNG HANDICAP (CLASS 4)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Handicaps</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Margin</th>
<th>Odds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A. Franklin (v)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>S. Leung (v)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>W. So (v)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14/1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Card provided by RACINGPOST**
Performing under pressure is not necessarily something you’d associate with any England side, in any sport. Yet Eoin Morgan’s men proved their mettle in Sunday’s win over India.

Even after posting an imposing 337-7 from their 50 overs, things got a little tense at Edgbaston as Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli extended their partnership beyond 100. A little tense at Edgbaston as Rohit 337-7 from their 50 overs, things got a little tense at Edgbaston as Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli extended their partnership beyond 100.

Lesser England one-day sides may have crumbled. After all, they’ve snatched defeat from the jaws of victory previously in these tournaments. You only need to think back three years to Carlos Braithwaite’s four consecutive sixes in the T20 World Cup final for the West Indies or to Kevin O’Brien’s breath-taking innings for Ireland in the 2011 World Cup to understand England’s tendency to capitulate.

As we’ve all been insisting for three years though, this is a different England team. This England team has shown they can embrace pressure. Against Australia and Sri Lanka they looked constrained by the pressure situation of a crucial World Cup game, but at Edgbaston, it felt as if they had broken free of those shackles. Their partnership beyond 100.

No individual embodies the spirit of this team more than Jason Roy. The opener made his return in Sunday’s win over India and made a confidence-boosting 66. He’s now passed fifty in seven of his last 10 England innings and I wouldn’t discount him doing so again today.

Sporting Index’s performance market offers one point per catch, 10 points per catch and 20 points per wicket and even though Roy’s spread of 49-54 might be a little inflated, buying at 54 could still provide some value if he can get involved in the field.

Roy again provided the platform and freedom for his partner Jonny Bairstow to go on and make a hundred and remind everyone of his importance to this side in the process.

He made some brave comments during the week in the build-up to the India game, but followed them up in the best way possible. The value of England’s opening partnership cannot be understated.

In games England win, they put on the runs again today and his in-form opening partner Jonny Bairstow can be sure situation of a crucial World Cup final for the West Indies. He’s now passed fifty in seven of his last 10 England innings and I wouldn’t discount him doing so again today.

That only Bangladesh have successfully chased more than 250, winning the toss will be important. If England win the toss and bat first, I fancy them to handle the pressure comfortably and post another impressive total. If they lose the toss, it’s all about restricting New Zealand and chasing a score less than 300.

Buy England’s 100-50 Index at 7/1 looks the way to go for this one, with victory for Morgan’s men winning you 29 times your stake.

Guptill and Latham fancied to fall short of expectations

Although a semi-final place is not yet confirmed, New Zealand will be happy with their tournament so far. Only a heavy defeat to England and a big Pakistan win against Bangladesh on Friday could see them in trouble.

Kane Williamson has of course been their main man, averaging 113.5. His knock against South Africa typified his game, anchoring the innings as wickets fell around him and seeing his side home in the final over.

You wouldn’t bet against him being in the runs again today and his Sporting Index performance is priced at 58-63. New Zealand’s over-reliance on their number three has been evident, however.

They’ve only exceeded 250 in one game during the tournament so far and the frailty of their batting order was exposed somewhat against Australia. They fell 86 short of a reasonable 244 at Lord’s, with Williamson again the top scorer.

England will know that he and fellow starwatt Ross Taylor are the prize wickets, but even so, neither score at a pace that will take the game out of England’s reach.

Martin Guptill looks a shadow of the man who was the 2015 World Cup’s highest scorer. He hasn’t passed fifty since the opening game and has had two ducks to boot. He looks terribly out of nick, and I’d look to sell his Sporting Index performance index at 44.

Another New Zealand batsman in poor form is Tom Latham. The Kiwi vice-captain is yet to score more than 14 in the tournament and I’d expect that run to continue today.

Although he’s likely to pick up a couple of catches with the gloves, I’d still be tempted to sell his performance index at 45.
**SPORT**

**SPORT DIGEST**

**ENGLAND MOTIVATED BY 2015 LOSS, SAYS MORGAN**

Eoin Morgan says England have extra motivation against New Zealand today having been humiliated by the Blackcaps at the 2015 World Cup. England, who need a win in their final group stage match at Chester-le-Street today to guarantee a semi-final place, were thrashed by eight wickets four years ago. “It was as close to rock-bottom as I’ve been,” Morgan said. “Being beaten off the park like that was humiliating.” India qualified for the last four yesterday as Rohit Sharma’s 104 and Jasprit Bumrah’s 4-65 saw them to a 28-run win over Bangladesh, who were eliminated.

**MURRAY TEAMS UP WITH WILLIAMS AT WIMBLEDON**

Andy Murray has confirmed he will play with Serena Williams in the mixed doubles at Wimbledon. Murray, who will also compete in the men’s doubles with Pierre-Hugues Herbert, is expected to play his first match with Williams tomorrow. British No1 Johanna Konta beat Ana Bogdan to reach the second round yesterday on a good day for home players. Konta overcame the Romanian’s 7-5, 6-2 to join compatriots Harriet Dart, Dan Evans, Cameron Norrie and Jay Clarke in progression, although Katie Swan and James Ward were both beaten.

**ENGLAND SLIP TO DEFEAT IN FIRST ASHES MATCH**

Austria wrapped up a wicket win over England to take a 20 lead in the Women’s Ashes at Grace Road yesterday. Nat Sciver scored a vital 64 as England recovered from 19-4 to post 177 batting first, but Alyssa Healy’s 66 helped the visitors to a 28-run win over England to take a 2-0 progression, although Katie Swan and James Ward were both beaten.

**SPURS SIGN NDOMBELE FOR £54M FROM LYON**

Tottenham have signed France midfielder Tanguy Ndombele from Lyon for a club record fee of £54m.

---

**Cricket World Cup**

**Money Back as a Free Bet if Root Scores 50+ Runs in any England Game**

 Applies to top team runscorer bets. 

 APPLIES TO TOP TEAM RUNSCORER BETS

 WHEN THE FUN STOPS STOP

 **Paddy Power Home of the Money Back Special**

 BeGambleAware.org

Online Exclusive. Applies to all England ICC World Cup games. Max free bet £10. Applies to Top Team Runscorer bets, placed pre-match only. T&Cs apply.
"All it needs is one absolute peach from hat-trick hero Trent Boult."

"Root has scored 476 runs including two tons at an average of 68."

58-63

Sell Joe Root's Performance v New Zealand today at 58 or buy at 63

Our Joe Root Performance market awards 1pt per run, 20pts per wicket, 10pts per catch and 25pts per stumping. Kane Williamson, coming in at three for NZ, is also 58-63. No fence-sitting, are you buying or selling?

Spread betting involves risk. Losses can exceed deposit.