CITY A.M.

BUSINESS WITH PERSONALITY

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MONDAY 22 JULY 2019 | ISSUE 3,418 CITYAM.COM FREE

FISCAL PHIL'S FINAL FIGHT

HAMMOND LEADS STRING OF ANTI-NO-DEAL MINISTERS EXPECTED TO RESIGN THIS WEEK

ALEXANDRA ROGERS
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SENIOR Cabinet ministers have warned Boris Johnson that they will attempt to inflict maximum damage to his government if he pursues a no-deal Brexit upon reaching Downing Street.

Chancellor Philip Hammond confirmed yesterday that he would quit the Treasury before he was sacked by Johnson, who is expected to be crowned Britain's next Prime Minister tomorrow.

The revelation that Hammond intends to jump before being pushed followed an article in the Sunday Times in which justice secretary David Gauke announced that he too will resign in opposition to a no-deal Brexit, which he said would lead to "national humiliation".

Hammond told the BBC: "Assuming Boris Johnson becomes the next Prime Minister, I understand that the conditions of serving in his government would include accepting a no-deal exit on 31 October.

"That is not something I could ever sign up to."

Johnson has repeatedly said the UK must leave the EU by the October deadline "do or die, come what may", and has not ruled out suspending parliament in order to push through a no-deal Brexit in the event he could not secure new terms with Brussels.

The proposal has caused mounting alarm among several senior Tories and last week four Cabinet ministers – Hammond, Gauke, business secretary Greg Clark and international development secretary Rory Stewart – defied a three-line whip to abstain in a vote that made the suspension of parliament more difficult.

Chancellor Philip Hammond will resign his post this week

The chancellor said yesterday that he would campaign from the backbenches to allow parliament to block a no-deal Brexit, but stopped short of saying he would support a vote of no confidence in a Johnson government.

However, a number of disgruntled Tories are said to be considering a no-confidence vote or a defection to the Liberal Democrats to deprive Johnson of a parliamentary majority if he sticks to his pledge of leaving without a deal.

One senior Lib Dem source told *City A.M.* a small number of Tories whose position had become "untenable" in the party were considering a defection, while those opposed to a no-deal exit were likely to wait until after the summer to launch a no-confidence motion in their new leader.

"If there is a no-confidence motion it will be down the track when Johnson is making a mess of Brexit," the source said. "It has the effect of rallying the faint-hearted."

As a number of senior Tories consider their position, speculation has mounted as to who Johnson might appoint to his Cabinet.

The Independent reported that former international development secretary Priti Patel was being lined up as a potential home secretary, while a growing number of Westminster-watchers say Liz Truss could be made business secretary.

Current home secretary and former banker Sajid Javid looks set to replace Hammond at the Treasury.

TROUBLED WATERS Iran crisis escalates after UK tanker drama

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY
@SebMcCarthy

TENSIONS between the UK and Iran showed no sign of easing over the weekend following the seizure of a British-flagged tanker on Friday.

Foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt is set to brief MPs later today on measures the government may take in response to the crisis, having warned of "serious consequences" if the tanker Stena Impero is not released by Iran.

A dramatic radio recording emerged yesterday showing an Iranian vessel telling HMS Montrose, above, that it wanted to inspect the Stena Impero for security reasons moments before the tanker was seized.

CONTINUES ON P3

FTSE 100 ▲ 7,508.70 +15.61 **FTSE 250** ▲ 19,621.66 +86.53 **DOW** ▼ 27,154.20 -68.77 **NASDAQ** ▼ 8,146.49 -60.75 **£/$** ▼ 1.250 -0.004 **£/€** ▲ 1.113 +0.001 **€/$** ▼ 1.122 -0.005

CITY A.M.

THE CITY VIEW

Will a new government overhaul planning law?

BORIS Johnson hasn't exactly broken a sweat in this leadership election. He's ducked debates, declined interviews and appeared generally unenthusiastic about subjecting himself to too much scrutiny. His defenders may point out that he's participated in a large number of hustings for party members, but these have been treated as occasions to give his supporters what they came for: the Boris show – and a feel-good night out. This observation doesn't take away from the fact that the hustings have been skilfully moderated by broadcaster Iain Dale, nor does it do a disservice to the Tory party members who took seriously their role as democratic wine-tasters on behalf of the rest of us. But for Boris, waving a plastic-wrapped kipper above his head and erroneously claiming that the product is at the mercy of draconian EU rules (it isn't) constituted a successful performance.

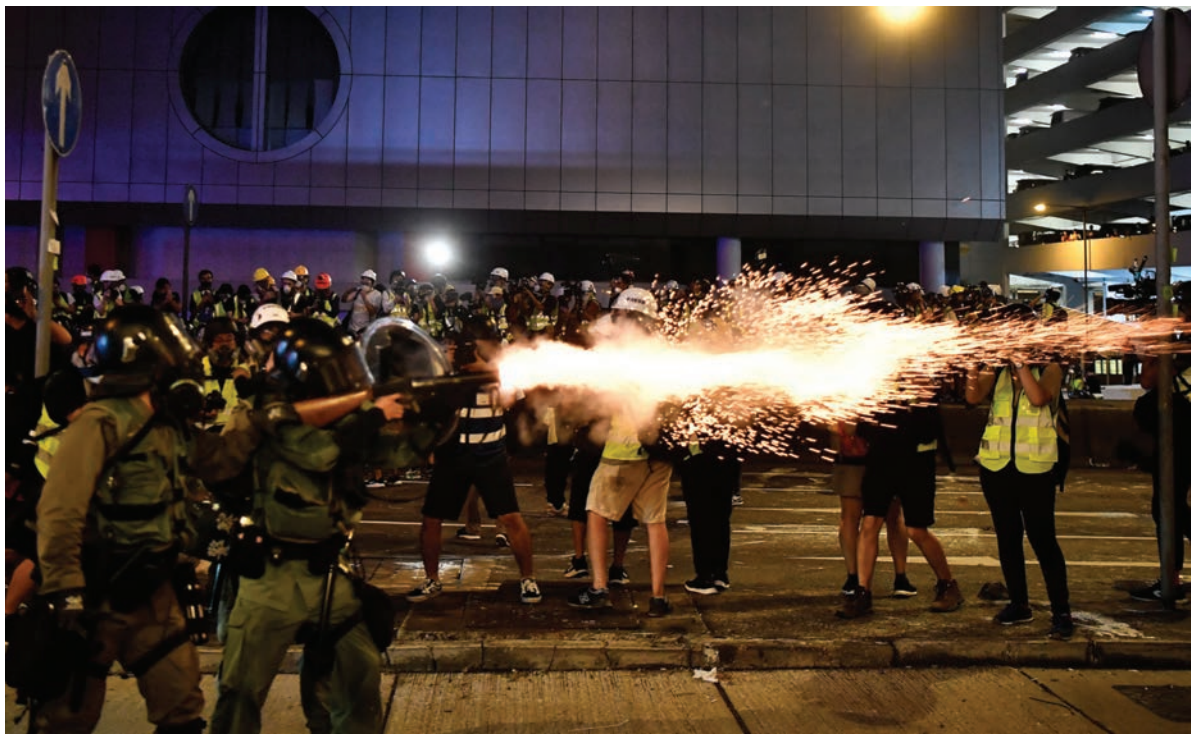
If, as expected, he is crowned the winner of the Tory leadership race tomorrow morning, he will make a speech in Downing Street on Wednesday evening, stressing his credentials as Prime Minister to unite the country and tackle issues beyond Brexit. His leadership team, having been spared the inconvenience of a tight race, have been planning his first 100 days in detail. While Brexit will consume almost all of his government's energy and capacity, we can expect a flurry of announcements on infrastructure, policing and the economy.

One area in urgent need of reform is housing policy, and today one of Johnson's most committed backers rides to the rescue with a plan to shake things up. Jacob Rees-Mogg has co-written a meaty new report with the Institute of Economic Affairs, proposing radical free-market reforms "to our sclerotic planning laws to free up land for development" while also taking aim at a tax system that "distorts the housing market". Tory MPs are notorious for talking the talk on planning reform, especially when it comes to land classified as green-belt, but reverting to nimbyism when back in their leafy constituencies. Rees-Mogg leads a large group of Tories who fall under this description, so his backing for far-reaching reform (including reclassifying swathes of green-belt land) is significant.

If he can build a coalition of support for these ideas among his colleagues, and get a fair hearing from the new PM, we could yet see a long overdue change not only to housebuilding and development but tax law, devolution and the entire national planning framework.

Follow us on Twitter @cityam

CHINA CRISIS Hong Kong police fire rubber bullets and tear gas as people march on Beijing's liaison office and demand freedom



HONG Kong police fired rubber bullets and tear gas in running clashes with protesters late yesterday as thousands of people descended on China's representative office in the city in a direct challenge to authorities in Beijing. Activists had daubed graffiti on massive concrete pillars leading up to Beijing's Liaison Office, with the words "Restore Hong Kong, Revolution of The Time".

MPs ratchet up pressure on Winters over pay row

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY

@SebMcCarthy

STANDARD Chartered's under-fire boss is facing mounting pressure from politicians following a major fallout with shareholders over his controversial pay packet.

Chief executive Bill Winters has come under fire today from public figures over a pension pay row that has rocked the firm's relationship with its investors over recent weeks.

Chair of the Work and Pensions Select Committee Frank Field has written to the bank's remuneration chair Christine Hodgson to demand answers over the firm's pension pay plans.

Field has asked whether the remuneration committee agrees with the view, recently expressed by Winters to the Financial Times, that investors were "immature" for focusing on his pension arrangements.

The comments, which sparked a backlash from investors, came after 36 per cent of shareholders voted against a pay package for Winters in May that gave him a pension allowance of £474,000 – 40 per cent of his cash salary.

According to Proxy Insight, the vote was the biggest rebellion against a bank in five years.

"The investors are right. It seems that a decade after the banking crisis, the bad old habits and sense of entitlement are making a comeback," outgoing Liberal Democrat leader Vince Cable told *City A.M.* He added: "It's important that investors stamp on it."

Intervention from MPs is likely to turn up the heat on Standard Chartered as it seeks to ease shareholder tensions following the comments by Winters, which he has since expressed regret over making.

Boris Johnson's former pensions adviser and City financier Edi Truell, who has served on panels looking at executive pay, said yesterday: "It seems particularly insensitive to be getting 40 per cent... when virtually all his employees receive 'up to 12 per cent' on much lower salaries."

Over the weekend sources told the Financial Times that Standard Chartered's largest investor Temasek was in touch with the group to urge it to find a way of solving the current crisis.

The row over the pension contribution, which marks the largest for a chief executive of any of the big UK banks, underlines current corporate tensions over the issue.

The bank said: "As we indicated at our [annual meeting] in May, the board is engaging with our shareholders on the group's remuneration policy. That engagement is ongoing and no decisions on executive remuneration will be taken until it is completed."

WHAT THE OTHER PAPERS SAY THIS MORNING

FINANCIAL TIMES

MARKET BOUNCE CATCHES BRIDGEWATER OFF GUARD

Bridgewater's flagship fund suffered one of its worst first-half performances in two decades this year after being wrong-footed by rebounding markets. The $150bn (£120bn) hedge fund group founded by Ray Dalio saw its Pure Alpha fund, which tries to surf macro-economic trends, lose 4.9 per cent in the six months to June as global equity and bond markets bounced on hopes of looser monetary policy.

ALCENTRA AND BLUEBAY SEE DIRECT LENDING GROWTH

Investor interest in lending to European businesses has risen significantly this year, with asset managers including Alcentra and BlueBay raising jumbo-sized funds as the industry takes on the role traditionally held by banks. Alcentra raised €5.5bn (£4.9bn) for its European-focused direct lending fund.

THE TIMES

COLLAPSE IN GRASSROOTS SUPPORT FOR CORBYN

Jeremy Corbyn's popularity among Labour party members has plummeted, with two-fifths wanting him to stand down as leader before the next general election, polling for The Times found.

AIR TRAVELLERS TO BE HIT BY NEW CARBON CHARGE

Air passengers face having a carbon charge added to the price of tickets automatically under government plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Ministers are considering measures that would require all airlines to introduce carbon offsetting payments at the point of ticket sale.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

EX-LLOYD'S BOSS CALLS FOR BUSINESS GENDER QUOTAS

City heavyweights have called on the next prime minister to punish companies that continue to keep women out of the boardroom. Dame Inga Beale, ex-boss of insurance market Lloyd's of London, said the "time for action around setting targets and quotas… is here".

VIRGIN MEDIA OWNER PLANS BROADBAND INVESTMENT

The "Cable Cowboy" John Malone is saddling up for a new venture that could invest billions in full-fibre broadband infrastructure in Britain, increasing pressure on BT to upgrade its ageing network.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

J&J FACES TEST IN DEFENCE OF TALC-SAFETY LAWSUITS

Johnson & Johnson, still facing thousands of lawsuits over the safety of its signature baby powder, will make a high-stakes attempt to head off future losses in a courtroom battle beginning yesterday.

TRUMP STILL TARGETING DEMOCRATIC POLITICIANS

US President Donald Trump yesterday continued to target four progressive congresswomen known as the "squad" while his top advisers rejected assertions from Democrats that he was racist. Tweeting from his golf club in New Jersey, he said he didn't think they were "capable of loving America".

Slowdown signs dampen record dividend payout

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY
@SebMcCarthy

A THREE-MONTH period of record dividends might normally bring a smile to the face of shareholders, but a spate of huge one-off special payouts has been masking a wider market slowdown over the past quarter.

Temporary boosts from a falling pound and several large special dividends pushed the total sum paid out to a record £37.8bn during the second quarter of 2019, but underlying dividend growth of five per cent was weaker than expected over the period.

Large-cap companies that benefitted disproportionately from the weaker pound paid out at a much higher rate than their mid- and small-cap counterparts, with special dividends from Rio Tinto, Micro Focus International and RBS all contributing to the headline increase.

Banking sector giants such as Barclays, which handed out its largest dividend since the financial crash, also drove the record rise.

Link, which produced the figures, said underlying growth in 2019 is forecasted to be 2.9 per cent when excluding volatile special dividends.

"Investors are being dazzled by eye-catching specials and exchange-rate trimmings, but the UK's dividend clothes are starting to look a bit threadbare underneath," said Michael Kempe, chief operating officer at Link Market Services.

He added: "As the world economy slows, and a looming Brexit exacerbates the underperformance of the UK economy, corporate profits are under pressure and that is limiting the scope for dividend growth.

"[The second quarter] marks both the second upgrade this year to our headline forecast and the second downgrade to our underlying one. The true picture for dividends this year is therefore notably weaker than a first glance might suggest."

Link today downgraded its forecast for underlying dividends by £500m to £98.7bn.

Vodafone and Marks & Spencer are among the large companies to have cut their dividends this year.

Questions over next step as UK and Iran remain in Gulf crisis deadlock

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The owners of the Stena Impero have been seeking to visit the detainees since it was captured on Friday night, when Iran's Revolutionary Guard stormed the tanker after claiming it had violated international maritime rules.

The move came weeks after Britain seized an Iranian tanker allegedly carrying crude oil to Syria in breach of European sanctions, sparking threats of retaliation from Tehran.

Oil traders have been anxiously watching the diplomatic stalemate, which pushed up prices on Friday night after the tanker was captured in the Strait of Hormuz.

A second tanker, the British-owned MV Mesdar, was also boarded by armed guards but later released.

Defence minister Tobias Ellwood said yesterday sanctions are among "a series of options" being considered.

However, Ellwood added that the Royal Navy is currently not large enough for it to continue to play a full role on the international stage.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister yesterday condemned Iran's seizure of the Stena Impero, and urged the international community to take action to deter such "unacceptable" behaviour.

Air France, Emirates and Etihad Airways continue to operate flights to Cairo

Lufthansa resumes Cairo flights as British Airways stays grounded

ALEXANDRA ROGERS
@city_amrogers

GERMAN airline Lufthansa yesterday resumed flights to Cairo after temporarily suspending them, along with British Airways (BA), over safety concerns.

BA and Lufthansa cancelled all flights to the Egyptian capital from Heathrow on Saturday over security fears. BA said its suspension will remain in place for a further six days.

"We constantly review security arrangements at all our airports around the world, and have suspended flights to Cairo... as a precaution to allow for further assessment," said the British airline.

BA's decision came after the Foreign Office updated its travel advice, saying there was a "heightened risk of terrorism against aviation".

Egypt's aviation minister Younis Al-Masry "expressed his displeasure" at BA's suspension, saying the airline had taken its decision "without referring to the competent Egyptian authorities" after he held talks with UK ambassador Geoffrey Adams.

Metro Bank in talks to sell £500m of mortgages back to US hedge fund

HARRY ROBERTSON

@henrygrobertson

EMBATTLED lender Metro Bank is set to sell £500m of mortgages back to US hedge fund Cerberus in a bid to shore up its capital position.

In February 2018, Metro Bank bought £523m of buy-to-let mortgages, mainly made up of London and south-eastern properties, from Cerberus to boost its loanbook, according to reports by Sky News last night.

Times have been tough for the bank after an accounting error that classified loans as less risky than they were was revealed at the start of the year. Metro Bank's shares have plummeted over 70 per cent since January to around 470p.

Sky reported that a source close to New York-based Cerberus said the deal could be announced as soon as Wednesday, when Metro is due to post half-year results.

The sale would mark a move away from Metro's increase of its loan-to-deposit ratio which has seen it buy more than £1bn of assets from Cerberus. None of the loans Metro Bank is set to sell is to customers of the lender.

A Metro Bank spokeswoman would not comment on the story. Cerberus could not be reached.

Labour is under fire for in-house contracts plan

ALEX DANIEL

@alexmdaniel

BUSINESS leaders have pilloried a Labour policy announcement to bring local council jobs such as construction, bin collection and school dinners in-house.

John McDonnell said over the weekend the party wants local councils to carry out the services themselves, rather than pay companies to do it.

The CBI's chief UK policy director Matthew Fell said: "Labour's rejection of the innovation, investment and cost savings [that] suppliers can bring to vital public services and infrastructure is an extreme move devoid of evidence, based on the ideology of the past."

One industry chief executive told *City A.M*: "This is yet another example of extremely poor, unfunded policy making from the Labour party."

They accused the shadow chancellor of "putting ideology before actual analysis of the benefits that outsourcing has delivered: improving services and significantly reducing the cost of services to the taxpayer".

In a speech on Saturday, McDonnell said Labour would roll back four decades of outsourcing policy.

The party hopes to change the law to make councils carry out the services unless there are "significant barriers" to doing so.

He called the industry a "rip off", accusing firms of profiteering when they should be doing a public good.

A spokesman for communities secretary James Brokenshire told *City A.M*: "It should be for local councils and local communities to decide which services to outsource, not John McDonnell. We should be looking at what further powers we can give to local communities to deliver the services they need."

Several high-profile failures such as that of Carillion have thrust the question of whether private firms should provide public services into the spotlight in recent years.

Labour also said it would make outsourced public contracts subject to the Freedom of Information Act. This would force private companies to be more transparent about how well they deliver services.

Jack Wills has been badly affected by the UK's mounting high street troubles

Billionaire tycoon Philip Day eyes acquisition of retailer Jack Wills

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY

@SebMcCarthy

TROUBLED preppy fashion retailer Jack Wills is said to have become the takeover target of tycoon Philip Day.

The billionaire is among a number of parties interested in bidding for the upmarket fashion brand, according to the Sunday Times.

A source told the paper a deal was likely within the next two weeks.

Earlier this month, Jack Wills appointed accountancy and advisory firm KPMG to assess the group's potential future options, sparking speculation in the City of a possible sale amid reports of a cash crunch at the company.

Owned by private equity group Bluegem, Jack Wills hired former Debenhams executive director Suzanne Harlow as chief executive in September last year in a bid to revive the firm's fortunes.

The retail group has been battling a number of high street challenges in recent months, with higher costs and a rise in online competitors taking its toll on the company.

ROARING SUCCESS Disney's Lion remake shows who's the King in its debut weekend

SIMBA and Mufasa reigned supreme this weekend as Disney's The Lion King dominated the box office. The remake of the animated classic raked in a huge $185m (£148m) from 4,756 North American cinemas in its first three days of release.

Train passengers 'missing out' on £100m in compensation every year

ALEXANDRA ROGERS

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RAIL passengers are missing out on up to £100m a year in compensation, a transport watchdog has found, as it urged consumers to make a claim whenever they can to send a message to train operators to improve.

Transport Focus today launched a campaign to encourage passengers to claim for any delays or cancellations.

Its research found that just over a third of passengers claimed £81m in compensation in 2017-18. This means that much as £100m remains unclaimed from train operators every year.

Meanwhile, 39 per cent of passengers claimed compensation for journeys delayed for 30 minutes or more, which fell to 18 per cent for delays of 15 minutes or more.

Transport Focus chief executive Anthony Smith said: "Too many rail passengers miss out on compensation for late running trains.

"When things go wrong, train operators must ensure every eligible passenger knows about delay repay and how to claim.

"They must also do more to make it easy to claim and automate this process wherever possible. To make their voice heard, passengers must claim every time."

Business groups warn on delays for troubled HS2

ALEXANDRA ROGERS

@city_amrogers

BUSINESS groups have said they remain broadly supportive of HS2 in light of the admission from its chairman that the costs of the project could spiral by as much as £30bn.

Over the weekend it emerged that Allan Cook had written to Bernadette Kelly, permanent secretary at the Department for Transport (DfT), to warn that the railway, which will link London to the north, is unlikely to be completed under its official budget of £56bn, and could instead end up costing between £70bn and £85bn.

The admission, reported by the Financial Times, is likely to add to calls to scrap the plan, the future of which is already hanging in the balance.

Boris Johnson, who is expected to be confirmed as Britain's next Prime Minister tomorrow, has appointed former HS2 chairman Douglas Oakervee to carry out a review of the project amid concerns over mounting costs.

The CBI has already said it will participate in any review and hinted it would not support the beleaguered project at all costs. Tom Thackray, its infrastructure director, said: "Taxpayers' money should always be spent wisely. HS2 must continue to strive to reduce costs and stay on target.

"But we mustn't overlook the benefits of HS2 for rail capacity, job creation and extending economic growth across the midlands, the north and Scotland."

Claire Walker, co-executive director of the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC), said: "There is a strong business case for HS2, which the BCC fully supports.

"Business communities do not want any further delays to the project. The new Prime Minister and government must reaffirm its commitment to the delivery of HS2."

An HS2 spokesperson said: "We have previously noted that our chair, as you would expect, continues to scrutinise the programme, and regularly reports back to the department."

A DfT spokesperson said a review by the chairman into the project schedule and cost was ongoing. "We expect Allan Cook to provide his final assessment in due course," they added.

Section 17 Licensing Act 2003
Licensing Act 2003
Application for a new Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **Epic Pies Ltd** has applied to the City of London on **Friday 12th July 2019** for a new premises licence to use **Epic Pies 53 – 55 Carter Lane, London, EC4V 5AE** for the provision of the licensable activity of **The Sale by Retail of Alcohol** (for consumption on and off the premises) as follows:
Monday – Sunday 08:00 – 22:30
(maximum hours open to the public 08:00 – 23:00)
A record of this application is held by the City of London and can be viewed by members of the public online by visiting www.cityoflondon.gov.uk or by appointment at the offices of City of London licensing authority, Walbrook Wharf, 78-83 Upper Thames Street, London EC4R 3TD. Any person wishing to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to the licensing authority at the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by **Friday 9th August 2019**. The licensing authority must receive representations by the date given above. The licensing authority will have regard to any such representation when considering the application. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5,000.

Centrica 'to cut dividend' in a bid to shed debt

ALEX DANIEL

@alexmdaniel

CENTRICA is said to be planning to cut its dividend and start looking for a buyer for its oil and gas business.

The British Gas owner is reportedly planning to cut its payout in a bid to keep its credit rating. It would join the likes of Vodafone, Marks & Spencer and BT in doing so.

Centrica is Britain's biggest supplier of gas and electricity. Its market value has plummeted since chief executive Iain Conn joined the company in 2015, from nearly £14bn to £5.3bn.

The FTSE 100 firm is perilously close to dropping out of the blue-chip index after intense competition in the sector hit its finances.

The news was first reported by the Sunday Times.

Analysts warned in May that a dividend cut is on the horizon. Centrica has said the government's new energy price cap had dented its figures. This includes suffering a one-off £70m hit in the first quarter.

Conn has also faced criticism over his 44 per cent pay rise last year, which corresponds to around £1 for every one of the 742,000 customers his firm lost in 2018.

Centrica is preparing to inform the market of its recent fortunes in its half-year results on 30 July.

If the dividend cut is to go ahead, Conn would likely present the plan to shareholders on the same day.

The Times also reported Conn is likely to put Centrica's 69 per cent stake in oil and gas explorer Spirit Energy up for sale.

The company is already selling stakes in nuclear plants. With these, it could raise around £1.8bn if it steps away from Spirit Energy. Centrica is currently saddled with £2.7bn in debt.

When Conn joined the firm, it cut its dividend by 30 per cent.

Centrica declined to comment on the matter.

IT IS WHAT IT IS ITV sales poised to slip despite record Love Island viewing figures

ITV INVESTORS are said to be bracing for a six per cent fall in ad revenue this week. Shares in the broadcaster have fallen 12 per cent in 2019. It comes despite hit show Love Island attracting record ratings this month, with 6m viewers for one episode.

London law firm Mishcon de Reya to explore flotation option

MICHAEL SEARLES

*@michaelsearles_*

LONDON law firm Mishcon de Reya has begun preparations for a flotation or stake sale valuing the firm at several hundred million pounds.

Mishcon is looking to hire bankers in the coming months to explore its options, although any formal decisions about raising capital are yet to be made, according to Sky News.

However, the firm is contemplating a stock market listing to attract new investors, a source said.

Another option is that the firm may sell a stake to a private equity investor to diversify its professional services portfolio further.

Revenue highs for Cashplus as it eyes licence

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY

@SebMcCarthy

CASHPLUS, one of Britain's longest-established digital challenger banks, has hailed a record year of revenues, as it gears up to submit its final banking licence in the coming weeks.

The digital lender told *City A.M.* that revenues rose 19 per cent year-on-year to £45.6m in March, while operating profit rose for the eighth consecutive year.

Profit after tax fell to a reported £1.1m loss, with the firm citing an exceptional cost of £1.3m which it spent on preparing for its banking licence application.

Cashplus is set to submit its final bank licence application in the next month, as it looks to grow its small and medium-sized enterprise credit business and join the likes of Monzo and Starling in taking on Britain's largest lenders.

"This is another outstanding performance for Cashplus, maintaining operating profit and rapid revenue growth against a backdrop of growing losses for many other UK fintechs," said Rich Wagner, chief executive of Cashplus.

Electric cars get £80m in public cash

ALEX DANIEL
@alexmdaniel

THE GOVERNMENT has committed to putting £80m into the technology behind electric cars.

The investment is designed to help Britain supply power electronics, electric machines and drives to firms in the UK and abroad.

Business secretary Greg Clark said: "Companies like Jaguar and Lotus are choosing the UK to develop their new electric vehicles, while Easyjet and Rolls-Royce have chosen the UK to develop their hybrid planes – all recognising and investing in the expertise and talents of the UK."

The investment is part of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's (Beis) so-called Mobility Grand Challenge.

The challenge hopes to help eliminate diesel rolling stock from British railways by 2040.

By collaborating with research companies, Beis hopes it will deliver tech that will "dramatically reduce emissions" on the UK's road, rail, maritime and aviation networks.

UK Research and Innovation chief executive Sir Mark Walport said: "Driving the electric revolution will strengthen the UK's capability to deliver next generation electric vehicles, hybrid aircraft and smart grids.


Theresa May last week promised Jaguar Land Rover a £500m loan for electric cars

Fewer firms hit the skids in the second quarter

HARRY ROBERTSON
@henrygrobertson

FEWER companies went bust in England and Wales in the second quarter than in the first three months of 2019, according to professional services firm KPMG, despite a handful of high profile business collapses.

The number of firms going into administration fell 14 per cent to 310 between April and June 2019, a study by KPMG of notices in the London Gazette showed.

Blair Nimmo, head of restructuring for KPMG UK, said: "You could be forgiven for thinking there had been a dramatic increase in corporate insolvencies."

High street name Bathstore was one of the better-known firms to collapse in the second quarter of the year. Jamie's Italian restaurant chain was another business that failed.

The number of retailers going into administration remained relatively flat, falling from 28 in the first quarter to 26 in the second.

However, there was a more pronounced increase in the number of businesses in the food and drink sector entering into administration – 18 failed in the second quarter compared to 13 in the previous three months.

"It's perhaps too soon to say whether the modest spike in food and drink insolvencies is a one-off or the start of a longer-term trend," said Steve Elsigood, restructuring director at KPMG. But he said businesses are "under significant pressure" due to more expensive "ingredients, packaging, labour and power".

Nimmo added: "Prolonged uncertainty around Brexit has perhaps further delayed a 'moment of truth' for companies in those sectors which are more vulnerable to economic volatility. Our advice [to companies] is to maximise reserves... Always plan for a worst case scenario."

UK households remain weary of debt levels

JOSH MARTIN
@JoshMartinNZ

UK HOUSEHOLDS remain concerned about their economic outlook, disposable incomes and debt levels, according to survey data out today.

Deloitte's consumer confidence index for the UK in the second three months to 30 June remained at minus eight per cent – unchanged from the first quarter – but down four percentage points from the same time last year.

Despite resilient employment and earnings figures released last week by the Office for National Statistics, Brits were still feeling uneasy about their ability to cover costs.

Consumer sentiment towards disposable income and levels of debt fell by five and four percentage points year on year, respectively.

The professional services firm suggested the contrast was due to economic and political uncertainty, potential risks to UK GDP growth from trade wars, and a messy divorce with Brussels.

Ian Stewart, chief economist at Deloitte, said consumers' finances were "in good shape" thanks to a long boom in jobs and strong wage growth. Yet he said uncertainties about Brexit and growth were also weighing on spending plans.

Although many of the 3,000 respondents cited a lack of confidence in their disposable income levels, there was also a marginal increase in discretionary spending, up one percentage point (to net minus five per cent), though spending in essential categories has fallen three percentage points to 10 per cent.

Deloitte's Ben Perkins said: "As we've headed into the summer months, consumers have started to spend more on clothing and footwear... as well as making home improvements and some major household appliance purchases."


Employee perks are often the first to go when a company seeks to cut costs

Employees getting perks falls to 12-year low

ALEX DANIEL
@alexmdaniel

CORPORATE cost-cutting has pushed the number of people receiving major job perks to a 12-year low, according to research published today.

The number of employees who received taxable job perks such as company cars, private medical insurance and staff accommodation fell 3.6m last year. The figure is 600,000 less than in 2016-17.

UHY Hacker Young, which carried out the study, said the decline could also have been driven by the increasingly challenging economic environment businesses face.

Employee perks are often the first things to get the chop when firms look to cut costs.

Company cars were one of the most common perks, but they suffered from an increasing tax burden in recent years. They declined five per cent last year to 890,000 in 2017/18. There were 940,000 in 2016/17.

The complexity of the tax system on perks has also made them less popular among employees, the research continued. Confusion over what is tax exempt has led businesses to scrap employee perks altogether.

SET SAIL FOR THE 1700s: SHIPPING TURNS TO THE HISTORY BOOKS

August Graham on the methods being used to cut carbon emissions in the global cargo industry

Louis Dreyfus hopes to attach kite-like sails to cargo ships

AS COUNTRIES and companies try to curb their climate impact, many are turning to futuristic space-age solutions. Bucking the trend, the shipping industry is poring through the history books for inspiration.

Sails are making a comeback as companies bid to drive down emissions and cut back on costs. But modern sails look very different from their ancestors.

Finnish company Norsepower's rotor sail is a metal cylinder which spins at high speeds. It uses the same physics that allows Wimbledon stars to curve tennis balls, to propel ships, spinning perpendicular to the direction of the wind (or tennis players' racquets).

Its designers reckon it can save 10 per cent on the cost of fuel, driving down emissions.

Another innovator is Louis Dreyfus, which hopes to mount kites to the front of container ships. This would allow container ships to avoid sacrificing the precious space on deck they need to store cargo.

Wartsila, one of the world's top ship engine builders, also this month announced a low-emission cargo ship which uses a sail positioned at the bow.

These new innovations let ships harness wind, a renewable source of energy, directly at source, rather than relying on wind farms.

"It's a complete no-brainer – if you can make the technology work on your routes and your ship specification," says Tristan Smith, an expert in low-carbon shipping at UCL.

International shipping is responsible for between two and three per cent of global emissions. But for a sector which, unlike cars, is unable to rely on electrification – batteries are simply too heavy and bulky for ships – sails can only form part of the solution.

Wartsila sees the future of the shipping industry ultimately lying elsewhere.

Andrea Morgante, the vice president in charge of business development, believes hydrogen or ammonia could become the dominant fuel for the sector in the coming decades.

However, it will take around a decade for production to scale up, experts warn.

In the meantime, Wartsila is putting its money on liquid natural gas (LNG), a fossil fuel with fewer pollutants than traditional methods.

"Our message is that we cannot wait for new technologies to become available to start changing," says Morgante.

"We need to start having a serious conversation that [hydrogen and ammonia] are the only two options, and then get on with getting the investment in," adds UCL researcher Smith. He worries that switching to LNG could lock the industry on a path where it is burning fossil fuels well into the future.

By contrast, hydrogen and ammonia could create ships with no operating emissions.

The push to modernise fleets is gathering steam, and last week the government published its Clean Maritime Plan, which aims to make the UK a leader in the field.

The plan lays out a vision that all new ships being ordered for use in UK waters will by 2025 be "designed with zero emission propulsion capability".

However, the plan merely sets goals and has few concrete policies.

The same can be said for new rules from the International Maritime Organization, which last year put the industry on course to halve emissions by 2050.

Many big firms are falling behind on these targets, according to the CDP, a London-based organisation that lobbies for environmental reporting from big companies.

> "For a sector which is unable to rely on electrification – batteries are too heavy for ships – sails can only form part of the solution

"The sector can't sail under the radar anymore," says Carole Ferguson, the CDP's head of investment research. "I think that people are looking at what they are doing."

These people include investors, and, perhaps more importantly, lenders.

Last month, major banks including Citi, Societe Generale and DNB signed up to a new disclosure project.

The Poseidon Principles commit the banks to take climate change into account when lending to the shipping industry.

But this is not just about helping solve climate change.

If regulation or technology runs away from ship owners, it could force them to scrap whole fleets, experts have warned.

And banks are not keen on the risk.

Last week, a study from analysts at Maritime Strategies International warned that whole fleets could be left stranded as demands shift in a decarbonising economy.

It forecast that demand for oil tankers will fall by just under a third by 2045 as countries switch to other energy sources.

The impact on the shipping industry "will go far beyond the impact of general market cycles", says James Frew, who co-authored the report for MSI.

"Particularly for tankers, where we're seeing demand destruction year on year, for 20 years. That's going to make the tanker market a really tough place to be."

Woodford props up £50m funding for Atom Bank

EMILY NICOLLE
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DIGITAL banking stalwart Atom Bank has today raised £50m from its existing investors, including disgraced fund manager Neil Woodford.

Woodford, who formerly held a stake in Atom through his beleaguered Equity Income fund, has invested £10m in the fintech firm through his other listed entity Woodford Patient Capital Trust.

The trader transferred his stake into the trust earlier this year, before the Equity Income fund was suspended following a rush from investors taking their money out.

Other participating investors included Spanish banking giant BBVA, London-based investment firm Toscafund and funds advised by Perscitus. BBVA holds a 39 per cent stake in Atom, while Woodford now holds roughly 18 per cent.

Atom, which itself has been subject to reports of financial difficulties, said the new capital would be used to fund further growth and product development.

Chief executive Mark Mullen told *City A.M.* suggestions the bank had slowed down lending were "concerning", adding it had increased mortgage lending 76 per cent in the last year alone.

Mullen said the bank has "a very clear plan" to chase a public listing between April 2021 and March 2022, if market conditions are suitable. He added that Atom remains in "growth mode", after filing a £53m loss last year.

Market foresees smaller US rate cut after mixed signals from New York

HARRY ROBERTSON
@henrygrobertson

THE US FEDERAL Reserve is set to lower interest rates for the first time in nearly a decade when it meets at the end of this month, although there is confusion about the size of the cut.

Market participants now think it is certain that the Fed will ease interest rates, according to a gauge from exchanges company CME Group updated yesterday.

The market thinks there is a 77.5 per cent chance that the cut will be 25 basis points, or 0.25 percentage points, while 22.5 per cent think the cut will be deeper at 50 basis points.

Hopes of a heavy rate cut were boosted last week by John Williams, the president of the New York Fed, who in a speech said it "pays to act quickly to lower rates at the first signs of economic distress".

The New York Fed later rowed back on his comments, saying they reflected his academic research and did not indicate policy. This steered markets back to thinking a smaller rate cut was likely.

An interest rate cut aims to boost the economy by making borrowing cheaper.

Firms to invest in green packaging

ALEX DANIEL
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BUSINESSES are expected to jointly invest up to £149m in using new forms of packaging made from plants, wood chippings and food, in a bid to cut down on plastic waste.

The government has said it will also put in £60m to help slash Britain's single-use plastic output.

Funding will be used to cut waste in supply chains and create new "sustainable recyclable materials," it said today.

The government also hopes the funding will help firms to eventually use plants instead of oils to make plastic, which it believes will aid in reducing their carbon footprint.

Business secretary Greg Clark said: "The race is on to develop new effective and practical solutions to end the scourge of single-use plastics."

Around 80m tonnes of plastic packaging is produced annually and if left unchecked, this is expected to triple by 2050.

Unilever chief research officer Richard Slater added: "Unilever is actively working to reduce the impact of its plastic packaging.

"Many of the key challenges we face can only be overcome by working in partnership and across the whole system."

Business secretary Greg Clark hopes firms will invest in biodegradable packaging

EU companies still struggling with data laws

HARRY ROBERTSON
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ALMOST one third of European businesses are still not compliant with the wide-ranging EU laws on data protection and privacy introduced last year, according to accounting firm RSM.

RSM said medium-sized businesses were "struggling to understand and implement" the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which came into force in May 2018.

GDPR affects every company operating in the EU and is designed to strengthen the rights of consumers to know what firms are doing with their data and to simplify and better coordinate European regulation.

RSM's survey, which was conducted with the European Business Awards and spoke to more than 300 firms, comes soon after companies found to have breached the rules were given hefty fines.

British Airways is to be fined £183m and Marriott hotel group almost £100m after hackers stole the records of customers and guests. UK regulators said the companies' security was not good enough.

The RSM survey showed that 57 per cent of businesses are confident that their business follows the rules and 13 per cent are unsure either way.

"With so much pressure on organisations to meet complex requirements, we saw GDPR fatigue setting in last year," said Steven Snaith, technology risk assurance partner at RSM UK.

Medium-sized businesses were "overwhelmed" and many "simply gave up and reverted back to the old way of doing things". Yet he said the high-profile fines "have demonstrated that regulators across the EU are serious about enforcement".

"Businesses are scrambling to catch up once again," he added.

The survey also found GDPR is improving cybersecurity within the EU.

EY in diversity push with half of new partners

HARRY ROBERTSON
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EY TODAY announced that 57 people are to become equity partners at the professional services firm in the UK, of whom 34 per cent are women and 22 per cent from black and minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds.

Earlier this year, EY's UK business set itself the target of ensuring 40 per cent of its more than 700 equity partners were women and 20 per cent were BME by 2025. When the commitment was made just 20 per cent were women and 10 per cent BME.

The firm's 2019 intake was more diverse than in 2018, when 19 per cent were women and 17 per cent BME out of the 71 people who became equity partners.

However, EY will need to significantly increase the rate it hires both groups in order to hit the targets it has set itself.

The company reported a gender pay gap – the percentage difference between average hourly earnings for men and women – of 18.9 per cent in 2019 among employees and partners.

Increasing the number of female equity partners would help close that gap. Equity partners took home an average of £693,000 in the 2018 financial year.

EY has made strong progress at board level. With the appointment of Justine Belton in June, six out of 10 of the firm's UK LLP board members are women.

Justine Campbell, EY UK and Ireland managing partner for talent, said: "Congratulations and welcome to this year's new cohort of partners. As we look to the future, we must continue to make strides in improving the diversity of our new partner admissions.

"By making sure we execute consistently on our diversity and inclusiveness strategy, as we would any commercial priority, we will accelerate progress."

The number of approved 40-year mortgages has skyrocketed 20-fold in 2018

Rise in 40-year mortgages for homeowners

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THE NUMBER of approved UK home mortgages with a term of more than 40 years rocketed in 2018, rising over 20-fold to 3,483 from just 162 in 2017, according to analysis by London estate agent Ludlow Thompson.

The figures are the latest sign that British buyers are lengthening their mortgages to reduce monthly payments as they struggle to afford rising house prices, which are outstripping wage growth.

UK house prices are now over 20 per cent higher than their pre-financial crisis peak. The average house price was 7.8 times higher than average yearly earnings in 2018, compared to 7.2 times in 2007. In London, the average house price was 12.3 times higher than average yearly earnings. In 2007, the figure was 7.9 times.

"The huge increase in longer term mortgages is a much-needed addition of innovation to the mortgage market," said Ludlow chair Stephen Ludlow. "Many individuals who are getting on the ladder at 30 now expect to be working still well into their 70s so stretching their mortgage out makes perfect sense."

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LONDON REPORT

FTSE ends higher as miners line up to report earnings

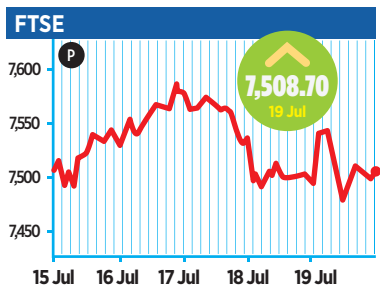
HOPES of a US interest rate cut stoked risk appetite as the FTSE 100 ended higher on Friday – though the index's advances were reined in after political turmoil in Italy triggered a broad sell-off in bank stocks.

The blue-chip index ended up 0.2 per cent at 7,508.70 points, after climbing as much as 0.7 per cent. The mid-cap FTSE 250 rose 0.4 per cent, as **Acacia Mining** soared 19.26 per cent after agreeing to an increased buyout offer from **Barrick Gold**.

Results next week include the likes of **Fevertree** (tomorrow), **ITV, Glaxosmithkline** (Wednesday) and **Astrazeneca** (Thursday) all reporting before the August slowdown kicks in.

Today there are also results from **Tungsten** and **Ascential,** while tomorrow, **IG Group** and **PZ Cuzzons** are among those publishing their earnings reports.

On Wednesday, there are also reports from **Informa** and **Tullow Oil**, while Thursday will see **Acacia Mining, Anglo American, National Express** and **Halfords** all publish figures.



BEST OF THE BROKERS

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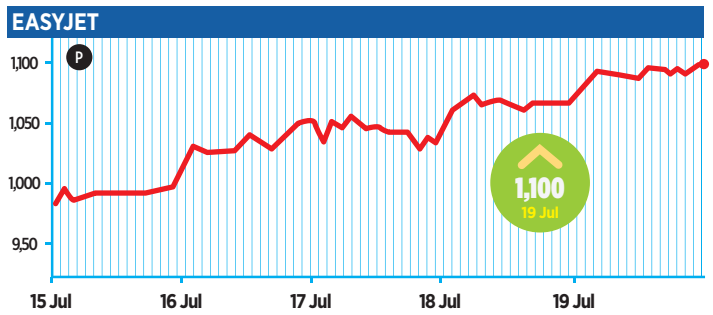
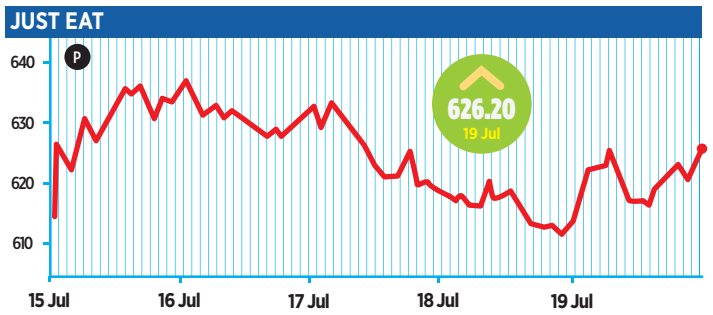


Airlines may be facing turbulent market conditions, but budget carrier Easyjet has done well to lower its unit costs by four per cent in the third quarter of its current financial year, and it remains on track to reduce them for the full year. Broker Canaccord Genuity reiterates its "Hold" rating with a 1,080p target price.



Concerns about Just Eat's UK growth and lack of a permanent chief executive and competition have been overegged, according to broker Liberum, which expects the company to reiterate guidance at its first-half results on 31 July. Liberum confirms its "Buy" rating with a target price of 1,360p.

NEW YORK REPORT

Indices slip on lower cut fears

WALL Street's main indices fell on Friday following a report that the Federal Reserve plans to cut interest rates by only a quarter-percentage point at the end of the month.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 68.77 points, or 0.25 per cent, to 27,154.20, the S&P 500 lost 18.5 points, or 0.62 per cent, to 2,976.61 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 60.75 points, or 0.74 per cent, to 8,146.49.

For the week, the Dow lost 0.64 per cent, the S&P fell 1.23 per cent and the Nasdaq shed 1.19 per cent.

On Thursday, stocks had risen as comments from New York Fed President John Williams increased hopes of a bigger rate cut. Later that day, however, a New York Fed representative said Williams' comments were not intended to telegraph any hints about upcoming Fed policy actions.

"It appears that the Fed has communicated its message," said Bucky Hellwig, senior vice president at BB&T Wealth Management in Birmingham, Alabama. "They're basically trying to clarify their policy."

CITY MOVES WHO'S SWITCHING JOBS

KIN + CARTA

Kin + Carta, the international digital transformation business, has announced that following a global recruitment process, it has appointed John Kerr as non-executive chairman designate. John will become chairman at the company's annual general meeting in November, succeeding Richard Stillwell, who will step down as part of a planned succession process outlined in November last year. John was global vice chairman of Deloitte Consulting from 2016 to 2018, after serving as chief executive from 2011 to 2015. John previously served in a number of senior leadership roles at Deloitte Consulting, steering the business through a period of significant revenue growth driven by a focus on helping businesses develop their digital capabilities.In addition, John led the creation of Deloitte Digital in 2012, the first dedicated digital consulting business, and grew the business organically and by strategic acquisition to $4bn (£3.2bn) in revenue with operations in 30 countries.

LIONTRUST

Mandy Donald will, subject to regulatory approval, join Liontrust's board on 1 August 2019 as an independent non-executive director and will become chairman of the audit & risk committee on 20 September 2019. Mandy has board experience in both complex organisations and early-stage environments, and brings a background of strategic planning and operational management to the company. A chartered accountant by training, she spent 18 years with EY before steering her focus towards the growth of new companies, serving on the boards of a diverse range of start-up businesses. Mandy is a trustee of the Institute of Cancer Research, where she is also chair of the audit committee. She is also a non-executive director and chair of the audit committee of Punter Southall Group. Mandy holds a Financial Times non-executive diploma with a focus in corporate governance.

PUBLIC SECTOR

John Webber has been appointed chief financial officer of Public Sector, which partners with local authorities to offer strategic asset management. John, who has almost 20 years' experience in the sector, joins from Legal & General Investment Management (LGIM), one of Europe's largest asset managers and a major global investor. At LGIM, John led the finance function for six real estate funds and joint ventures worth more than £10bn and led the delivery of more than £5bn of transactions. John led the debt origination for LGIM's Build-to-Rent Fund, securing £225m development finance from three lenders to support six PRS development schemes in England. Before that, he was at PwC.

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NEWS

Abe's bloc wins upper house vote but falls short of 'super majority'

LINDA SIEG

PRIME Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling bloc yesterday won a solid majority in Japan's upper house election.

However, his coalition and its other allies fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to push ahead with revising the pacifist constitution, a projection by public broadcaster NHK showed.

Abe, who took office in December 2012 pledging to restart the economy and bolster defence, is on track to become Japan's longest-serving premier if he stays on until November, a stunning comeback after he abruptly ended a first, troubled one-year term in 2007.

Turnout, however, looked likely to have fallen below 50 per cent for the first time since 1995 in an upper house poll, NHK said, a sign that many voters feel they lack an attractive option.

Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and its junior partner, the Komeito party, were assured at least 69 of the 124 seats being contested in parliament's 245-seat upper house, with nine seats yet to be called, an NHK projection showed. That, together with uncontested seats, assures them a majority.

But NHK said the ruling bloc and its allies fell short of the 85 seats needed to retain the two-thirds "super majority" required to begin revising the constitution's pacifist Article 9 to further legitimise the military, a controversial step.

Abe, however, said the size of victory showed voters wanted to debate changing the charter for what would be the first time since its enactment after Japan's defeat in the Second World War. "Of course, we cannot take the timing as a given, but I would like to achieve it [constitutional reform] somehow during my term," Abe said. *Reuters*

Bolton travels to Tokyo and Seoul amid dispute

CHRISTOPHER BING

US NATIONAL security adviser John Bolton is visiting Japan and South Korea this week, two key Washington allies embroiled in a trade dispute.

A White House National Security Council spokesman tweeted that Bolton planned to "continue conversations with critical allies and friends."

US President Donald Trump on Friday offered his help to ease tensions in the political and economic dispute between Washington's two biggest allies in Asia, which threatens global supplies of memory chips and smartphones. He added that South Korean President Moon Jae-in had asked him whether he could get involved.

Lingering tensions, particularly over compensation for South Koreans forced to work for Japanese occupiers during the Second World War, worsened this month when Japan restricted exports of high-tech materials to South Korea.

Japan has denied that the dispute over compensation is behind the export curbs, even though one of its ministers cited broken trust with Seoul over the labor dispute in announcing the restrictions.

The export curbs could hurt global technology companies. *Reuters*

FTSE 100	FTSE 250	FTSE ALL SHARE	DOW JONES	NASDAQ	S&P 500
7508.70	19621.66	4098.32	27154.20	8146.49	2976.61
↑ 15.61	↑ 86.53	↑ 9.75	↓ 68.77	↓ 60.75	↓ 18.50

£/€	1.1136	↑ 0.0010	€/$	1.1221	↓ 0.0056
£/$	1.2505	↓ 0.0041	€/£	0.8976	↓ 0.0009
£/¥	134.64	↑ 0.0203	€/¥	120.86	↓ 0.1172

GILTS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Tsy 3.750 19	100.40	-0.01	103.5	100.4
Tsy 2.000 20	101.43	0.00	102.5	101.4
Tsy 4.750 20	102.63	0.00	106.6	102.6
Tsy 3.750 20	103.60	0.00	106.5	103.6
Tsy 2.500 20	356.36	-0.02	361.4	355.8
Tsy 8.000 21	114.11	0.00	120.8	113.7
Tsy 4.000 22	109.24	0.01	111.6	109.0
Tsy 0.500 22	100.10	0.02	100.2	97.7
Tsy 1.875 22	116.56	-0.04	118.3	115.5
Tsy 2.250 23	107.22	0.03	107.4	104.7
Tsy 2.500 24	371.87	-0.05	372.0	358.7
Tsy 0.125 24	114.03	-0.08	114.8	110.9
Tsy 5.000 25	124.81	-0.02	125.5	122.1
Tsy 4.250 27	129.56	-0.01	130.3	122.6
Tsy 1.250 27	136.44	-0.12	137.4	128.4
Tsy 6.000 28	148.07	-0.01	149.1	140.5
Tsy 0.125 29	128.84	-0.14	129.7	118.8
Tsy 4.750 30	142.49	-0.01	143.4	132.1
Tsy 4.125 30	387.03	-0.11	387.0	355.2
Tsy 4.250 32	139.88	0.01	140.7	128.5
Tsy 1.250 32	158.01	-0.23	159.1	144.1
Tsy 0.125 36	150.41	-0.41	151.7	133.4
Tsy 4.250 36	146.95	0.01	148.0	133.1
Tsy 4.750 38	160.85	0.00	162.2	144.9
Tsy 0.625 40	171.31	-0.53	173.5	152.8
Tsy 4.500 42	163.93	-0.01	165.5	145.9
Tsy 3.500 45	146.18	-0.01	147.6	128.0
Tsy 4.250 46	165.96	0.01	167.7	145.7
Tsy 4.025 49	172.26	-0.01	174.2	150.0
Tsy 0.500 50	200.81	-0.92	207.7	173.7
Tsy 0.250 52	197.02	-1.05	204.9	168.8

AEROSPACE & DEFENCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BAE Systems	523.2	6.0	676.4	443.9
Cobham	119.2	1.5	131.7	96.8
Meggitt	557.2	4.8	572.0	458.0
QinetiQ Group	275.2	-2.6	312.4	264.3
Rolls-Royce Holdi	863.2	7.2	1094.0	759.2
Senior	203.2	0.8	334.4	185.4
Ultra Electronics	1772.0	32.0	1790.0	1232.0

BANKS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Bank of Georgia G	1613.0	-1.0	1878.8	1310.0
Barclays	155.6	-0.7	194.0	146.1
Close Brothers Gr	1400.0	-51.0	1660.0	1374.0
CYBG	196.8	2.5	364.2	173.9
HSBC Holdings	662.7	1.3	731.4	600.8
Lloyds Banking Gr	56.8	-0.6	66.6	50.0
Metro Bank	472.2	-1.6	3422.0	452.4
Royal Bank of Sco	228.1	-2.6	270.4	203.0
Standard Chartere	713.2	-1.0	736.8	519.8
TBC Bank Group	1528.0	-26.0	1774.0	1290.0

BEVERAGES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Barr (A.G.)	614.0	4.0	975.0	609.0
Britvic	886.5	0.5	956.0	745.0
Coca-Cola HBC AG	2735.0	-9.0	3074.0	2244.0
Diageo	3387.0	-12.5	3482.5	2523.5

CHEMICALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Croda Internation	4836.0	16.0	5447.7	4576.0
Elementis	132.0	2.2	247.8	127.3
Johnson Matthey	3131.0	85.0	3760.0	2620.0
Sirius Minerals	16.0	0.1	38.5	13.5
Synthomer	336.2	3.2	537.2	324.3
Victrex plc	1948.0	4.0	3408.0	1943.0

CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Balfour Beatty	224.2	-0.4	296.5	222.8
CRH	2651.0	4.0	2720.0	1971.5
Galliford Try	642.0	12.0	1104.0	512.0
Ibstock	238.6	1.6	282.6	193.1
Marshalls	641.5	4.5	690.0	412.2
Polypipe Group	416.4	0.2	453.8	307.8

ELECTRICITY

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Contour Global	177.4	-0.6	248.0	150.1
Drax Group	279.8	4.4	427.2	260.2
SSE	1159.0	-5.0	1363.5	1008.0

ELECTRONIC & ELECTRICAL EQ.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Halma	1993.0	7.0	2094.0	1237.0
Morgan Advanced M	255.2	6.2	363.0	237.0
Oxford Instrument	1338.0	40.0	1424.0	842.0
Renishaw	3710.0	-6.0	5650.0	3670.0
Spectris	2688.0	15.0	2898.0	1966.5

EQUITY INVESTMENT INSTRUM.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aberforth Smaller	1180.0	-2.0	1394.0	1120.0
Alliance Trust	820.0	3.0	827.0	672.0
Apax Global Alpha	152.0	1.0	153.0	127.0
AVI Global Trust	770.0	-7.0	782.0	660.0
Baillie Gifford J	796.0	4.0	869.0	663.0
Bankers Inv Trust	966.0	13.0	966.0	766.0
BBGI SICAV S.A. (	153.5	1.0	168.0	142.0
BlackRock Smaller	1388.0	0.0	1600.0	1160.0
BMO Global Smalle	1354.0	2.0	1495.0	1220.0
Caledonia Investm	3065.0	5.0	3110.0	2650.0
City of London In	429.0	1.5	436.0	376.0
Edinburgh Inv Tru	590.0	4.0	699.0	571.0
F&C Investment Tr	713.0	0.0	741.0	616.0
Fidelity China Sp	222.0	0.5	250.0	182.4
Fidelity European	254.5	1.5	257.5	202.0
Fidelity Special	260.5	0.0	278.0	220.0
Finsbury Growth &	934.0	-2.0	941.0	740.0
GCP Infrastructur	127.8	0.0	130.8	122.2
Genesis Emerging	776.0	1.0	777.5	615.0
Greencoat UK Wind	141.6	-0.2	143.2	122.8
HarbourVest Globa	1710.0	10.0	1720.0	1288.0
Herald Investment	1280.0	6.0	1364.0	1055.0
HGCapital Trust	218.5	0.5	220.0	175.0
HICL Infrastructu	159.6	2.2	170.1	149.9
International Pub	157.2	2.0	163.4	146.8
JPMorgan American	479.0	1.5	485.0	386.5
JPMorgan Emerging	1050.0	6.0	1054.0	759.0
JPMorgan Indian I	767.0	1.0	790.0	566.0
JPMorgan Japanese	442.0	4.0	470.0	367.0
Jupiter European	841.0	2.0	895.0	666.0
Law Debenture Cor	590.0	0.0	636.0	534.0
Mercantile Invest	202.5	0.0	220.5	168.0
Monks Inv Trust	937.0	3.0	946.0	710.0
Murray Internatio	1166.0	4.0	1208.0	1056.0
NB Global Floatin	89.6	-0.3	93.3	87.6
NextEnergy Solar	120.5	1.0	124.5	108.0
Pantheon Internat	2320.0	10.0	2325.0	1955.0
Perpetual Income	317.0	3.5	365.5	301.5
Pershing Square H	1440.0	-8.0	1470.0	990.0
Personal Assets T	42500.0	150.0	42600.0	38900.0
Polar Capital Tec	1416.0	20.0	1418.0	1066.0
RIT Capital Partn	2115.0	5.0	2130.0	1892.0
Riverstone Energy	850.0	0.0	1282.0	840.0
Schroder Asia Pac	468.0	0.0	471.6	379.0
Scottish Inv Trus	834.0	4.0	902.0	748.0
Scottish Mortgage	548.5	1.0	568.3	441.4
Sequoia Economic	115.2	0.2	115.2	106.0
Smithson Investme	1248.0	-2.0	1274.0	1000.2
Syncona Limited N	244.5	3.5	302.5	213.5
Temple Bar Inv Tr	1252.0	8.0	1366.0	1116.0
Templeton Emergin	811.0	2.0	818.0	649.0
The Renewables In	130.4	-1.6	133.2	108.9
TR Property Inv T	417.5	0.5	433.5	353.5
Vietnam Enterpris	454.5	0.0	472.0	420.0
VinaCapital Vietn	341.0	-2.0	350.0	318.0
Witan Inv Trust	219.5	-0.5	227.6	189.6
Woodford Patient	54.0	-1.1	91.0	53.5
Worldwide Healthc	2745.0	-20.0	2915.0	2325.0

FINANCIAL SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
3i Group	1116.5	3.0	1164.5	756.2
3i Infrastructure	286.0	0.5	303.0	232.5
AJ Bell	424.0	0.0	477.0	220.0
Allied Minds	67.3	-3.7	87.1	37.3
Amigo Holdings	160.6	-10.4	297.5	146.1
Arrow Global Grou	267.8	0.4	268.6	167.2
ASA International	326.0	6.0	510.0	320.0
Ashmore Group	523.5	1.5	529.0	337.0
Brewin Dolphin Ho	311.8	1.2	366.0	295.4
Charter Court Fin	302.0	6.0	375.0	228.8
City of London In	440.0	6.0	440.0	360.0
CMC Markets	96.5	-3.2	197.0	77.4
Coats Group	83.0	0.0	91.3	69.8
Georgia Capital	1006.0	4.0	1260.0	941.0
Hargreaves Lansdo	2070.0	20.0	2433.0	1633.0
IG Group Holdings	592.8	-3.8	954.5	474.8
IntegraFin Holdin	383.0	0.0	406.1	269.0
Intermediate Capi	1387.0	24.0	1403.0	899.0
International Per	116.6	2.6	248.8	109.0
Investec	504.0	-2.2	561.0	423.4
IP Group	69.5	-0.5	135.0	68.7
John Laing Group	382.0	-2.0	402.0	283.2
JTC	352.0	-2.0	440.0	287.0
Jupiter Fund Mana	378.4	1.5	452.2	287.6
Liontrust Asset M	796.0	2.0	802.0	532.0
LMS Capital	49.6	-1.5	53.5	44.0
London Finance &	38.5	0.0	44.5	37.1
London Stock Exch	5752.0	-18.0	5810.0	3867.0
Man Group	168.4	1.6	184.9	126.8
OneSavings Bank	366.8	3.2	447.4	330.0
Paragon Banking G	444.4	-3.4	505.5	379.2
Plus500 Ltd (DI)	652.8	-16.2	2040.0	495.0
Provident Financi	405.4	-1.1	692.6	394.9
Quilter	149.5	2.0	156.6	110.6
Rathbone Brothers	2115.0	-10.0	2634.0	2080.0
Real Estate Credi	169.0	0.5	175.5	163.0
Record	32.3	-0.3	42.8	27.3
River and Mercant	263.0	7.0	330.0	212.0
S&U	2280.0	-40.0	2605.0	1767.5
Sanne Group	733.0	10.0	741.0	450.0
Schroders	2947.0	-21.0	3234.0	2334.0
Standard Life Abe	301.9	1.4	378.9	224.9
TP ICAP	318.9	-2.6	324.5	267.2
Walker Crips Grou	27.0	0.0	39.0	24.0
XPS Pensions Grou	112.0	4.5	182.5	95.0

FIXED LINE TELECOMS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BT Group	189.0	-0.6	264.7	187.2
TalkTalk Telecom	106.9	-2.1	137.0	96.6
Telecom Plus	1328.0	-10.0	1528.0	1010.0

FOOD & DRUG RETAILERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Greggs	2466.0	18.0	2494.0	942.0
Morrison (Wm) Sup	209.4	1.0	269.4	195.3
Ocado Group	1194.5	54.0	1435.0	749.8
Sainsbury (J)	205.9	4.7	341.5	187.9
SSP Group	701.0	20.0	744.4	615.1
Tesco	238.3	1.6	266.2	189.6
UDG Healthcare Pu	778.5	-3.5	851.0	551.0

FOOD PRODUCERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Associated Britis	2343.0	-2.0	2638.0	2041.0
Bakkavor Group	112.0	3.4	192.0	107.0
Cranswick	2508.0	14.0	3454.0	2472.0
Greencore Group	225.0	1.1	230.0	162.9
Hilton Food Group	927.0	-22.0	1088.0	884.0
Tate & Lyle	762.6	6.4	800.4	622.6
Unilever	5011.0	-54.0	5105.0	3931.0

FORESTRY & PAPER

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Mondi	1762.5	-16.5	2236.0	1584.0

GAS, WATER & MULTIUTILITIES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Centrica	90.3	0.5	155.6	86.3
National Grid	834.8	2.8	889.2	748.7
Pennon Group	749.6	12.4	792.8	684.2
Severn Trent	2041.0	4.0	2153.0	1770.0
United Utilities	778.0	13.6	873.6	682.4

GENERAL INDUSTRIALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Smith (DS)	357.2	-6.2	513.4	292.2
Smiths Group	1586.0	6.0	1649.0	1279.5
Smurfit Kappa Gro	2542.0	-18.0	3292.0	1934.0
Vesuvius	519.0	9.0	662.0	473.2

GENERAL RETAILERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Auto Trader Group	544.6	-5.2	606.0	388.5
B&M European Valu	355.0	-2.4	426.3	278.6
Card Factory	170.5	-0.9	212.4	162.6
Dixons Carphone	120.0	0.9	180.9	107.6
Dunelm Group	906.5	15.0	981.0	482.8
Inchcape	602.0	4.0	799.0	486.6
JD Sports Fashion	612.6	1.0	635.6	318.5
Just Eat	626.2	10.0	883.4	533.8
Kingfisher	218.6	-2.7	318.1	202.2
Marks & Spencer G	206.1	0.9	299.4	203.5
Next	5460.0	20.0	6130.0	3991.0
Pets at Home Grou	200.2	0.8	201.4	110.0
Sports Direct Int	227.6	0.8	422.3	221.0
Ted Baker	838.0	-3.5	2378.0	800.0
Vivo Energy	122.2	-0.8	156.0	96.0
WH Smith	2110.0	8.0	2186.0	1697.0

HEALTH CARE EQUIPMETN & S.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Assura	64.4	-0.3	65.9	52.4
Convatec Group	146.5	-0.6	239.0	118.6
Medidinic Intern	334.8	0.9	528.6	293.4
NMC Health	2300.0	42.0	4120.0	2192.0
Smith & Nephew	1733.0	-4.0	1761.0	1258.0

HHOLD GDS & HOME CONSTR.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Barratt Developme	634.0	2.6	635.0	434.0
Bellway	2840.0	-9.0	3226.0	2419.0
Berkeley Group Ho	3756.0	-73.0	3981.0	3226.0
Bovis Homes Group	1050.0	-7.0	1177.0	828.0
Countryside Prope	289.0	1.0	353.2	270.0
Crest Nicholson H	352.4	-1.6	404.8	296.4
McCarthy & Stone	138.5	-0.2	142.7	103.6
Persimmon	1974.0	-4.0	2509.0	1859.5
Reckitt Benckiser	6583.0	-60.0	7155.0	5593.0
Redrow	544.0	-6.0	674.6	460.8
Taylor Wimpey	165.0	0.1	192.3	129.3

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Bodycote	761.5	14.5	1041.0	676.0
Hill & Smith Hold	1148.0	-24.0	1516.0	902.5
IMI	991.2	6.8	1242.0	870.0
Melrose Industrie	183.1	-0.5	233.9	146.3
RHI Magnesita N.V	4562.0	-14.0	5085.0	3318.0
Rotork	304.2	2.8	361.4	235.7
Spirax-Sarco Engi	8770.0	-10.0	9400.0	5900.0
Weir Group	1455.0	26.5	1996.0	1240.0

INDUSTRIAL METALS & MINING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Evraz	645.0	6.4	709.4	442.1
Ferrexpo	265.1	1.2	301.3	143.5

INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BBA Aviation	286.6	1.0	350.0	207.0
Clarkson	2600.0	-10.0	2900.0	1878.0
Fisher (James) &	2010.0	-10.0	2260.0	1600.0
Royal Mail	221.6	5.5	489.0	194.5

NON LIFE INSURANCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Admiral Group	2281.0	6.0	2300.0	1897.0
Beazley	549.5	-3.0	599.0	492.6
Direct Line Insur	335.0	-1.3	366.5	304.9
Hastings Group Ho	199.0	2.0	274.2	174.0
Hiscox Limited (D	1723.0	3.0	1777.0	1418.0
Lancashire Holdin	694.5	-9.5	725.5	530.0
RSA Insurance Gro	577.2	1.6	644.2	496.6
Sabre Insurance G	285.5	-1.5	294.0	249.0

LIFE INSURANCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aviva	419.8	-1.2	502.8	364.6
Legal & General G	269.1	-2.3	291.2	223.7
Phoenix Group Hol	716.0	2.2	724.8	544.0
Prudential	1715.5	-4.0	1824.0	1340.0
St James's Place	1098.0	-13.5	1216.5	914.0

MEDIA

	Price	Chg	High	Low
4Imprint Group	2630.0	20.0	2700.0	1800.0
Ascential	379.4	3.2	460.2	337.2
Bloomsbury Publis	233.0	0.0	243.0	190.5
Centaur Media	47.0	1.0	56.5	34.7
Entertainment One	447.8	18.8	483.4	336.4
Euromoney Institu	1298.0	8.0	1414.0	1132.0
Future	1006.0	16.0	1248.0	375.0
Goco Group	85.3	-1.6	132.0	64.6
Haynes Publishing	224.0	0.0	231.0	160.0
Huntsworth	88.0	-2.0	135.0	81.0
Informa	836.2	7.0	850.0	605.8
ITE Group	73.8	0.7	87.3	56.3
ITV	110.2	0.8	172.9	104.7
Moneysupermarket.	360.1	-8.9	417.7	264.0
Pearson	882.2	4.0	1027.5	769.2
Reach	80.0	0.2	83.2	54.6
Relx plc	1940.0	5.0	1973.5	1491.5
Rightmove	512.2	-5.0	585.1	420.9
STV Group	358.0	15.0	458.0	318.0
Tarsus Group	424.0	-1.0	438.0	243.0
WPP	916.8	-21.0	1301.0	800.4

MAIN CHANGES UK 350

Risers ↑		%
Acacia Mining	222.6	19.3
Kaz Minerals	581.0	6.4
TUI AG Reg Shs DI	804.0	5.1
Ocado Group	1194.5	4.7
Entertainment One	447.8	4.4
Antofagasta	934.0	3.9
Daejan Holdings	5770.0	3.4
GVC Holdings	630.6	3.2
Bakkavor Group	112.0	3.1
Oxford Instruments	1338.0	3.1

Fallers ↓		%
Amigo Holdings	160.6	-6.1
Close Brothers Gro	1400.0	-3.5
Plus500 Ltd (DI)	652.8	-2.4
Moneysupermarket.c	360.1	-2.4
Hilton Food Group	927.0	-2.3
Fresnillo	794.8	-2.3
Funding Circle Hol	121.0	-2.3
WPP	916.8	-2.2
Big Yellow Group	1009.0	-2.1
Hill & Smith Holdi	1148.0	-2.1

MINING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Acacia Mining	222.6	36.0	256.6	96.1
Anglo American	2234.0	49.5	2266.0	1464.6
Antofagasta	934.0	35.4	1022.5	727.2
BHP Group	2028.5	31.3	2049.0	1490.6
Centamin (DI)	118.0	2.5	136.2	79.8
Fresnillo	794.8	-18.6	1123.0	724.8
Glencore	272.3	2.6	341.5	254.7
Hochschild Mining	207.2	2.0	215.6	149.1
Kaz Minerals	581.0	35.0	846.4	436.7
Polymetal Interna	995.0	6.6	1031.0	597.2
Rio Tinto	4851.0	71.0	4976.5	3486.0

MOBILE TELECOMS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Inmarsat	560.8	-0.8	581.4	362.8
Vodafone Group	129.3	2.4	186.7	123.3

OIL & GAS PRODUCERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BP	517.7	2.0	598.3	485.9
Cairn Energy	158.2	0.5	250.0	140.0
Energean Oil & Ga	972.0	12.0	1002.0	507.0
Premier Oil	78.0	1.0	143.6	55.6
Royal Dutch Shell	2539.0	18.0	2671.0	2213.0
Royal Dutch Shell	2542.5	11.5	2745.0	2227.0
Tullow Oil	199.5	1.6	266.3	165.2

OIL EQUIPMENT & SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Hunting	527.5	2.5	849.0	453.6
Petrofac Ltd.	405.2	0.2	663.4	381.5
Wood Group (John)	512.2	11.6	796.4	389.9

PERSONAL GOODS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Burberry Group	2328.0	-4.0	2355.0	1623.5
PZ Cussons	217.0	0.5	244.0	178.6

PHARMACEUTICALS & BIOTECH

	Price	Chg	High	Low
AstraZeneca	6390.0	-12.0	6602.0	5325.0
BTG	836.5	0.5	853.0	496.2
Dechra Pharmaceut	2890.0	6.0	3168.0	2014.0
Genus	2620.0	20.0	2992.0	2098.0
GlaxoSmithKline	1646.4	-3.4	1665.0	1418.0
Hikma Pharmaceuti	1809.0	8.5	2025.0	1510.5

REAL ESTATE INVEST. & SERV.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BMO Commercial Pr	116.0	-0.2	151.0	110.8
Capital & Countie	217.6	0.8	285.3	209.5
CLS Holdings	221.0	-0.5	255.0	195.4
Daejan Holdings	5770.0	190.0	6400.0	5420.0
Grainger	234.2	-2.2	278.7	205.8
NewRiver REIT	170.0	3.0	281.0	163.4
Safestore Holding	637.0	-7.0	658.5	499.4
Savills	906.0	-9.5	949.5	678.5
St. Modwen Proper	414.5	-0.5	441.5	365.0
UK Commercial Pro	87.5	-0.2	92.7	81.0

REAL ESTATE INVEST. TRUSTS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Big Yellow Group	1009.0	-22.0	1062.0	852.5
British Land Comp	537.8	0.6	660.2	523.0
Derwent London	3062.0	-8.0	3328.0	2761.0
Great Portland Es	689.6	-0.8	773.6	652.3
Hammerson	272.8	-1.8	535.4	266.9
Intu Properties	81.1	0.1	201.5	74.7
Land Securities G	845.4	2.8	943.6	791.8
LondonMetric Prop	205.6	-1.4	215.2	172.7
Primary Health Pr	136.8	-0.2	139.0	106.4
SEGRO	751.6	-3.8	758.6	585.2
Shaftesbury	821.0	3.0	932.0	803.0
Tritax Big Box Re	159.3	-0.4	159.9	129.0
Unite Group	1046.0	-8.0	1055.0	797.5
Workspace Group	888.5	9.5	1127.0	789.5

SOFTWARE & COMPUTER SERV.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Avast	339.6	2.6	345.8	228.2
Aveva Group	4002.0	-24.0	4170.0	2284.0
Computacenter	1336.0	10.0	1620.0	952.0
FDM Group (Holdin	891.0	-12.0	1000.0	734.0
Funding Circle Ho	121.0	-2.8	440.0	115.6
Kainos Group	602.0	-2.0	676.0	340.0
Micro Focus Inter	1657.2	-15.0	2491.6	1434.4
Playtech	450.0	0.9	560.4	361.8
Sage Group	803.4	4.4	820.4	525.6
Softcat	938.5	16.0	993.5	565.0
Sophos Group	453.4	6.1	539.5	298.2

SUPPORT SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aggreko	785.2	1.4	882.0	691.8
Ashtead Group	2211.0	22.0	2438.0	1586.5
BCA Marketplace	243.6	-1.0	247.0	178.5
Bunzl	2175.0	30.0	2551.0	2059.0
Capita	118.0	1.7	164.9	99.9
DCC	6884.0	4.0	7390.0	5555.0
Diploma	1482.0	25.0	1634.0	1150.0
Electrocomponents	594.2	0.4	761.6	480.0
Equiniti Group	220.0	0.8	266.0	186.2
Essentra	417.6	2.6	507.0	325.4
Experian	2408.0	28.0	2463.0	1728.5
Ferguson	5888.0	84.0	6556.0	4749.0
G4S	194.3	1.2	282.0	175.9
Grafton Group Uni	750.0	0.5	937.0	630.0
Hays	151.0	1.6	212.0	135.7
Homeserve	1145.0	10.0	1263.0	849.0
Howden Joinery Gr	495.0	6.7	528.4	416.4
Intertek Group	5524.0	26.0	6014.0	4387.0
Network Internati	610.0	5.0	611.0	500.0
Pagegroup	449.8	-1.0	623.5	415.0
PayPoint	903.0	-14.0	1118.0	748.0
Rentokil Initial	419.8	0.8	423.3	284.8
Robert Walters	510.0	-6.0	475.0	814.0
Serco Group	143.5	1.1	145.8	84.1
SIG	126.4	0.7	153.0	102.2
Travis Perkins	1278.0	6.5	1465.0	970.0

TOBACCO

	Price	Chg	High	Low
British American	3093.0	-11.5	4222.5	2375.0
Imperial Brands	2145.0	2.5	2987.5	1846.8

TRAVEL & LEISURE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Carnival	3512.0	6.0	5000.0	3412.0
Cineworld Group	246.9	-4.2	323.6	245.1
Compass Group	1961.5	9.5	1973.5	1483.0
Domino's Pizza Gr	258.0	1.6	350.6	224.4
EI Group	284.2	-0.8	286.4	152.0
FirstGroup	108.7	0.2	116.6	79.3
Flutter Entertain	6970.0	102.0	8390.0	5525.0
Go-Ahead Group	2168.0	-4.0	2220.0	1480.0
Greene King	661.8	9.8	704.4	472.8
GVC Holdings	630.6	19.6	1170.0	507.5
InterContinental	5514.0	-5.0	5575.0	3958.4
International Con	450.1	-5.9	711.4	439.5
Marston's	124.7	3.1	125.7	89.9
Merlin Entertainm	449.7	-0.3	450.6	307.1
Millennium & Copt	685.0	5.0	685.0	436.0
Mitchells & Butle	307.5	5.0	308.5	238.0
National Express	416.8	-4.6	433.2	361.4
PPHE Hotel Group	1900.0	0.0	1990.0	1490.0
Rank Group	156.0	-0.8	189.0	135.0
Restaurant Group	147.9	1.2	221.9	111.9
Stagecoach Group	135.6	0.9	177.0	115.5
TUI AG Reg Shs (D	804.0	39.2	1646.5	698.0
Wetherspoon (J.D.	1571.0	44.0	1576.7	1066.0
Whitbread	4902.0	17.0	5114.0	3883.0
William Hill	163.7	1.5	300.2	132.3
Wizz Air Holdings	3626.0	35.0	3750.0	2329.0

AIM 50

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Abcam	1405.0	16.0	1539.0	1017.0
Advanced Medical	288.5	-2.0	370.0	260.0
Alliance Pharma	69.4	0.4	95.8	60.0
ASOS	2181.0	74.0	6228.0	2033.0
Blue Prism Group	1420.0	19.0	2575.0	1040.0
Camellia	10700.0	0.0	11850.0	9100.0
CareTech Holding	373.0	-2.0	406.0	325.0
Central Asia Meta	209.0	2.5	266.5	200.5
Clinigen Group	950.0	0.5	1069.0	721.0
CVS Group	830.0	40.0	1153.0	395.0
Dart Group	778.0	2.5	1017.0	751.0
Diversified Gas &	112.5	-1.0	134.0	100.0
Draper Esprit	540.0	2.0	645.0	458.0
Eland Oil & Gas	120.0	-1.6	134.5	97.0
EMIS Group	1206.0	10.0	1242.0	864.0
Fevertree Drinks	2193.0	3.0	3956.0	2070.0
First Derivatives	3045.0	15.0	4390.0	2050.0
Frontier Developm	966.0	-19.0	1385.0	740.0
Gamma Communicati	1010.0	10.0	1195.0	688.0
GB Group	571.0	6.0	631.0	410.5
Gooch & Housego	1170.0	30.0	1880.0	954.0
Hurricane Energy	45.2	-0.5	60.8	39.0
Impax Asset Manag	260.0	-5.0	295.0	184.0
Iomart Group	333.0	-2.5	475.0	308.0
IQE	52.4	-1.0	112.5	51.6
James Halstead	512.0	2.0	532.0	367.0
Johnson Service G	167.6	0.6	170.0	113.6
Keywords Studios	1694.0	36.0	2065.0	900.0
Learning Technolo	93.8	0.0	166.5	62.2
M&C Saatchi	345.0	7.0	394.0	270.0
M. P. Evans Group	667.0	0.0	800.0	637.0
Majestic Wine	264.5	-2.0	472.0	219.0
Midwich Group	550.0	0.0	685.0	491.5
Mortgage Advice B	600.0	22.0	720.0	490.0
Next Fifteen Comm	604.0	4.0	658.0	469.0
Nichols	1680.0	55.0	1840.0	1240.0
Numis Corporation	248.0	-7.0	433.0	221.5
Polar Capital Hol	578.0	0.0	680.0	448.0
Purplebricks Grou	110.2	-1.8	308.4	90.0
Redde	120.2	2.8	196.0	90.0
Renew Holdings	399.0	4.0	436.5	333.0
RWS Holdings	633.0	4.0	652.0	415.5
Scapa Group	162.8	-4.6	473.4	157.0
Secure Income Rei	400.0	3.0	414.0	371.0
Serica Energy	119.4	-0.6	142.0	68.2
Smart Metering Sy	508.0	-3.0	690.0	480.0
Telford Homes	350.5	-0.5	430.0	267.0
Thorpe (F.W.)	326.0	-1.0	340.0	248.0
Watkin Jones	200.0	-0.5	232.5	192.2
Young & Co's Brew	1600.0	0.0	1885.0	1322.5
Young & Co's Brew	1070.0	20.0	1300.0	1030.0

WebfinancialGroup
http://corporate.webfg.com
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globaltechsales@webfg.com

EU SHARES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
AB INBEV	83.61	4.39	91.14	56.32
ADIDAS N	279.75	-2.25	283.55	178.30
AIR LIQUIDE	121.90	-0.45	124.35	101.85
AIRBUS BR	131.50	-0.60	133.86	77.50
ALLIANZ	215.85	0.75	218.70	170.50
AMADEUS IT GRP BR-A	72.02	-0.02	82.20	58.06
ASML HLDG	199.50	0.00	202.70	130.12
AXA	23.58	-0.06	23.99	18.40
BANCO SANTANDER	4.00	-0.04	4.82	3.80
BASF N	60.89	0.44	84.80	57.26
BAYER N	59.51	0.57	96.97	52.00
BBVA	4.78	-0.08	6.33	4.48
BMW	66.47	0.47	86.71	61.31
BNP PARIBAS A	42.00	-0.38	56.94	38.14
CRH PLC	29.47	0.00	34.87	26.53
DAIMLER N	45.51	-0.04	59.99	44.54
DANONE	75.30	-0.44	76.70	59.72
DEUTSCHE POST N	29.49	0.14	32.20	23.43
DEUTSCHE TELEKOM N	14.72	-0.03	15.88	13.36
ENEL N	6.29	-0.27	6.62	4.22
ENGIE	13.75	-0.08	14.28	11.31
ENI N	14.22	-0.08	16.71	13.39
ESSILORLUXOTT	119.10	0.30	129.55	95.50
FRESENIUS	45.13	-0.29	71.00	38.50
IBERDROLA	8.51	-0.10	9.13	5.81
INDITEX	27.48	0.03	29.50	21.85
ING GROUP	10.08	-0.16	13.28	9.09
INTESA SANPAOLO N	2.01	-0.04	2.66	1.80
KERING	522.70	3.10	539.80	351.70
KON AH DEL BR	20.39	0.02	24.01	18.60
L'OREAL	248.00	-2.60	257.80	182.00
LINDE	181.30	1.25	0.00	0.00
LVMH	382.30	-0.55	389.45	242.30
MUENCHENER RUECKV N	225.90	2.40	228.70	180.00
NOKIA	4.59	0.04	5.76	4.17
ORANGE	13.23	-0.04	15.25	13.15
ROY.PHILIPS	38.94	-0.31	40.01	29.05
SAFRAN	133.30	3.35	133.95	99.98
SANOFI	74.57	0.57	80.44	71.32
SAP I	112.06	-0.84	125.00	84.02
SCHNEIDER EL	76.30	0.20	81.18	57.54
SIEMENS N	99.50	0.40	121.40	90.90
SOCIETE GENERALE	22.37	-0.35	35.06	20.81
TELEFONICA	7.24	-0.04	8.06	6.59
TOTAL	48.20	0.17	55.39	44.23
UNILEVER	53.77	-0.40	55.40	45.30
VINCI	93.00	-0.14	94.96	69.98
VIVENDI	24.91	-0.10	26.69	20.40
VOLKSWAGEN VZ I	151.98	0.60	163.70	131.02

COMMODITIES

Gold	1439.70	22.25
Silver	16.32	0.28
Brent Crude	64.35	-2.13
Krugerrand	1429.55	-7.85
Palladium	1533.00	13.00
Platinum	849.00	14.00
Tin Cash Official	17800.00	25.00
Lead Cash Official	1977.00	40.00
Zinc Cash Official	2469.50	6.00
Copper Cash Official	5921.50	26.50
Aluminium Cash Official	1818.50	11.00
Nickel Cash Official	14210.00	470.00
Aluminium Alloy Cash Official	1270.00	8.00
Cocoa Futures	2473.00	28.00
Coffee 'C' Futures	107.12	-1.48
Feed Wheat Futures	147.75	-0.20
Soybeans Futures Continuation Contract	901.00	19.60

CREDIT & RATES

BoE IR Overnight	0.750	0.00
BoE IR 7 days	0.750	0.00
BoE IR 1 month	0.750	0.00
BoE IR 3 months	0.750	0.00
BoE IR 6 months	0.750	0.00
LIBOR Euro - overnight	-0.469	0.00
LIBOR Euro - 12 months	-0.340	-0.01
LIBOR USD - overnight	2.362	0.00
LIBOR USD - 12 months	2.158	-0.03
Halifax mortgage rate	3.990	0.00
Euro Base Rate	0.000	0.00
Finance house base rate	1.000	0.00
US Fed funds	2.50	0.00
US long bond yield	2.57	0.01
Euro Euribor	-0.400	0.00
The vix index	14.45	0.92
The baltic dry index	2170.00	40.00
Markit iBoxx EUR	244.53	0.00
Markit iBoxx GBP	347.34	0.76
Markit iBoxx USD	255.45	0.30

WORLD INDICES

	Price	Chg	%chg
FTSE 100	7508.70	15.61	0.21
FTSE 250	19621.66	86.53	0.44
FTSE All-Share	4098.32	9.75	0.24
FTSE AIM All-Share	914.24	3.49	0.38
S&P 500	2976.61	-18.50	-0.62
Dow Jones I.A.	27154.20	-68.77	-0.25
Nasdaq Composite	8146.49	-60.75	-0.74
Xetra DAX	12260.07	32.22	0.26
CAC 40	5552.34	1.79	0.03
Swiss Market Index	9937.03	-73.12	-0.73
ISEQ Overall Index	6267.36	-9.71	-0.15
FTSEurofirst 300	1523.31	1.40	0.09
Hang Seng	28765.40	303.74	1.07
Shanghai Composite	2924.20	23.02	0.79
STI Index	3377.31	22.63	0.67
ASX All Ordinaries	6786.20	50.80	0.75

US SHARES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
3M	172.61	-0.45	219.75	159.32
ABBOTT LABORATOR	87.49	-0.27	88.33	62.87
ADOBE	306.87	-3.21	313.11	204.95
ALPHAB RG-C-NV	1130.10	-16.23	1289.27	970.11
ALPHABET-A	1131.55	-15.69	1296.98	977.66
AMAZON.COM	1964.52	-13.38	2050.50	1307.00
AMERICAN EXPRESS	124.82	-3.58	129.34	89.05
APPLE	202.59	-3.07	233.47	142.00
AT&T	32.79	-0.30	34.37	26.80
BANK OF AMERICA	29.40	-0.08	31.91	22.66
BERKSHIRE HATH RG-B	205.97	-2.01	224.07	186.10
BOEING CO	377.36	16.25	446.01	292.47
CATERPILLAR	136.23	1.34	159.37	112.06
CHEVRON	125.04	0.36	128.55	100.22
CISCO SYSTEMS	57.36	-0.38	58.26	40.25
CITIGROUP	70.92	-0.87	75.24	48.42
COCA-COLA CO	51.39	-0.64	52.47	44.25
COMCAST-A	44.06	-0.50	45.26	32.61
DOW	51.52	-0.23	0.00	0.00
EXXON MOBIL	74.99	0.15	87.36	64.65
FACEBOOK-A	198.36	-2.42	218.62	123.02
GOLDMAN SACHS GR	213.52	-1.00	245.08	151.70
HOME DEPOT	213.04	-1.40	219.30	158.09
IBM	149.68	0.05	154.36	105.94
INTEL	50.27	0.33	59.59	42.36
JOHNSON & JOHNSO	130.31	-1.76	148.99	121.00
JPMORGAN CHASE	113.54	-1.13	119.24	91.11
MASTERCARD RG-A	275.60	-1.18	280.63	171.89
MCDONALD'S	213.87	-2.04	216.26	153.13
MEDTRONIC	100.80	-0.54	102.74	81.66
MERCK	81.39	-1.30	87.07	62.01
MICROSOFT	136.62	0.20	140.67	93.96
NETFLIX	315.10	-10.11	386.80	231.23
NIKE -B-	86.55	-0.89	90.00	66.53
ORACLE	57.54	-0.58	60.50	42.40
PAYPAL HOLDINGS	118.63	-1.24	121.48	74.66
PEPSICO	118.61	0.56	119.74	101.06
PEPSICO	130.09	-2.79	135.24	104.53
PFIZER	42.77	-0.29	46.47	37.12
PHILIP MRRS INT	88.73	1.02	92.74	64.67
PROCTER&GAMBLE	115.01	-0.43	116.52	77.54
TRAVELERS COS	150.23	-2.48	155.09	111.08
TWITTER	36.77	-0.89	44.39	26.19
UNITEDHEALTH GRO	256.65	-3.95	287.94	208.07
UTD TECHS	132.39	1.09	144.40	100.48
VERIZON COMM	56.59	-0.62	61.58	50.05
VISA RG-A	179.24	-1.29	181.84	121.60
WALGREENS BOOTS	54.44	-0.38	86.31	49.31
WALMART	113.90	-0.82	115.49	85.78
WALT DISNEY	139.85	-1.78	145.43	100.35
WELLS FARGO	46.03	0.21	59.53	43.02

OFFICE POLITICS

London needs a new type of university

Interdisciplinary degrees offer graduates more value than studying one subject

Ed Fidoe

LONDON is fortunate to have some of the world's best universities. Within a mile or two of the City are four of the top 40 universities in the world.

For decades, recruiters in big firms have taken a university degree as a signal for a graduate's ability to master a subject, write well, and fit into a work environment.

But is this the true value of higher education? Bryan Kaplan, a professor of economics at George Mason University, claims that up to 80 per cent of the value of higher education is now in the signalling, rather than the learning.

And even the strength of that signal is fading, as half a million new UK graduates emerge each year, typically brandishing a 2:1 degree in one of a handful of subjects.

So, which degree should a school-leaver pick to ensure a top job? As automation is able to do more and more, we are moving into what some have called a "post-professional society".

This is just one example of how the modern labour market is creating new demands of the higher education sector. We believe that it is time to add something new: an interdisciplinary degree to complement the hyper-specialised options that dominate.

And so we are creating a new university, the London Interdisciplinary School (LIS), opening close to the heart of the City in 2020, to do just this.

LIS' belief is that we need to move beyond "jobs" and think instead about challenges – the complex problems that we face as a society, such as ecological destruction, an ageing population, and the effects of modern technology.

Employers are putting these issues at the heart of their business purpose, as pressure builds from their own shareholders and boards – as well as their staff and consumers, especially Gen Z.

These problems tend to be "wicked", meaning interconnected and shifting, with no single answer. So we need a new kind of degree to match.

Today's graduates need to be able to grapple with data, machines and cutting-edge technology, but also understand the human condition – in other words, what makes us love or fear, collaborate or fight.

In the US, liberal arts graduates are courted by recruiters from Silicon Valley and the Pentagon

For example, serious youth violence is an issue which matters to people living and working in the City and the rest of London. To tackle knife crime holistically requires data specialists who can find the pattern of attacks, lawyers who know how the courts work, anthropologists who understand the fabric of different communities, and psychologists who grasp the pressures that they face.

If those people understand more than one of these disciplines – and the synergies between them – the chances of success are increased.

These ideas are more familiar in the US, where liberal arts graduates are courted by recruiters from Silicon Valley and the Pentagon. But the UK is behind, particularly the research-led institutions which struggle to move past disciplinary structures.

Instead of forcing students into academic silos, interdisciplinary degrees help integrate knowledge across different areas. If a traditional degree offers a student a hammer to which all problems are a nail, an interdisciplinary degree puts the problem first and allows the student to find the most appropriate tool from a range of academic disciplines.

The ability of LIS students and graduates to tackle problems in this way is why employers like the Metropolitan Police have already joined us as a founding partner. Other partners will provide paid work placements or project commissions, something that we will offer to all our students.

We hope that LIS can help lift the profile of interdisciplinary higher education, and we look forward to becoming near-neighbours of the City in 2020 – and to many of our graduates contributing to the success of the firms based there.

Ed Fidoe is chief executive of London Interdisciplinary School.

WHAT NEXT?

The Graduate Guide
Free

Are you just finishing university, or know someone about to? This app might be helpful. The Graduate Guide contains a wealth of information for fresh-faced graduates, with advice on how to apply for jobs or post-graduate study, tips on CV writing and job interviews, as well as how to survive in the world of work.

COFFEE BREAK

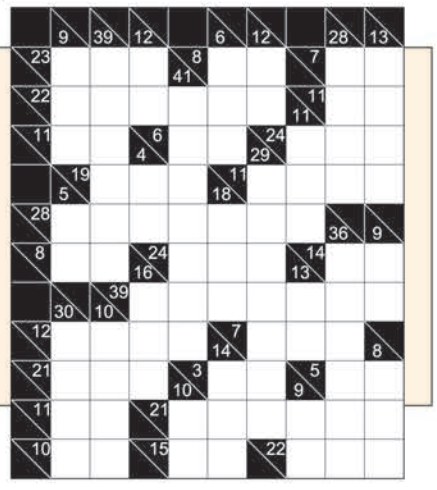
SUDOKU

Place the numbers from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each row, each column and each 3x3 block contains all the numbers from 1 to 9 to solve this tricky Sudoku puzzle.

2							3	
			4			7		1
		4			8			2
6	2		8	4	3			
		3	1				5	8
	1			9				
8			3				6	
			2		5			
5						1	2	

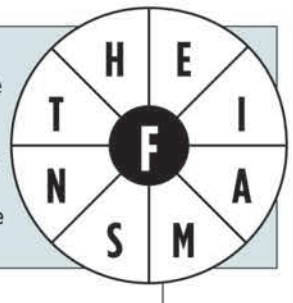
KAKURO

Fill the grid so that each block adds up to the total in the box above or to the left of it.
You can only use the digits 1-9 and you must not use the same digit twice in a block. The same digit may occur more than once in a row or column, but it must be in a separate block.

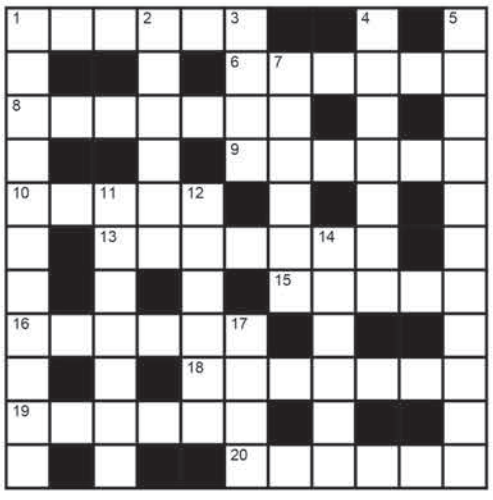


WORDWHEEL

Using only the letters in the Wordwheel, you have ten minutes to find as many words as possible, none of which may be plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. Each word must be of three letters or more, all must contain the central letter and letters can only be used once in every word. There is at least one nine-letter word in the wheel.



QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Stick to (6)
6 Travel around an area regularly to maintain security (6)
8 Set of carpenter's implements (4,3)
9 Silky-coated sheepdog (6)
10 Particle (5)
13 Delicate, frail (7)
15 Move effortlessly (5)
16 Consider not very seriously (6)
18 Skilful at eluding capture (7)
19 Thin, scanty (6)
20 Substance used to curdle milk in cheese-making (6)

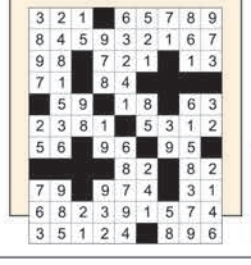
DOWN

1 Impaired eyesight usually resulting from irregular conformation of the cornea (11)
2 Oblong cream puff (6)
3 Long narrative poem (4)
4 Body of water between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan (4,3)
5 London thoroughfare associated with journalism (5,6)
7 Nuclear (6)
11 Native of Chad or Rwanda, for example (7)
12 Port in south-western Italy (6)
14 Make less tight (6)
17 Always (4)

LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

KAKURO



SUDOKU

7	3	4	9	6	1	8	5	2
8	9	5	4	3	2	1	6	7
6	1	2	8	5	7	4	9	3
1	6	3	7	2	5	9	4	8
5	2	8	6	9	4	7	3	1
9	4	7	1	8	3	5	2	6
2	5	9	3	7	8	6	1	4
4	7	6	2	1	9	3	8	5
3	8	1	5	4	6	2	7	9

WORDWHEEL

The nine-letter word was **UNASHAMED**

FORUM

EDITED BY RACHEL CUNLIFFE

The EU's new 'dream team' portends disaster for the bloc

John Hulsman

THE ANCIENT Greek philosopher Heraclitus put it perfectly: character is destiny. In the case of the European Union's recent undemocratic appointment of a comically inept rogue's gallery as its new Commission president, head of the European Central Bank (ECB), and foreign minister, there is little doubt that come the next crisis, these deeply mediocre individuals will only worsen the situation.

The new Commission president Ursula von der Leyen is a classic example of failing upwards.

She is the only minister to have served continuously in Angela Merkel's cabinet since the German Chancellor took office in 2005.

Being at Merkel's right hand is the only true qualification that von der Leyen possesses to be EU Commission president; her record in office as she has advanced is one of hapless futility.

Serving as minister for family affairs and then minister for labour and social affairs, von der Leyen was instrumental in moving Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party towards the political centre.

However, having done well in these relatively minor positions, von der Leyen found herself hopelessly out of her depth when she was made Germany's minister of defence in 2013.

She came to a ministry that was underfunded, understaffed, and in an overall shambles. But she took this dysfunctional situation and somehow made it worse.

Von der Leyen's public reputation plummeted in Germany in 2019 when the country's Federal Audit Office issued a report on Defence Ministry funding irregularities. For example, in 2016, it spent €150m on external consultants while only declaring €2.9m for the purpose.

Following this bombshell report, the German parliament launched an investigative committee to get to the bottom of the scandal.

The key point, of course, is that there are only two logical outcomes to be reached about von der Leyen's role in all this. Either she knew about the irregularities, which opens the door to possible criminality, or she did not, which suggests serial incompetence.

The German people agree with this assessment. According to a recent poll, von der Leyen is the second least popular member of the present deeply unloved German Grand Coalition government.

Only the EU would consider this obviously failing minister for a massive job promotion. But emerging from their smoke-filled room, Chancellor Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron made it clear that the pliant von der Leyen was their candidate of choice.

Even despite their support, she was ratified as Commission president on 16 July with only 383 votes in the European parliament, just nine over the necessary threshold.

Von der Leyen, anointed rather than elected, has limped into office with no sort of actual mandate. Given her past haplessness and present lack of legitimacy, her appointment is a disaster waiting to happen.

Likewise, the appointment of Christine Lagarde as chief of the ECB is hardly better news for anyone serious about competent government.

> **The Commission president Ursula von der Leyen is a classic example of failing upwards**

Long a denizen of the French elite, Lagarde served as her country's finance minister before going on to lead the International Monetary Fund (IMF) through its disastrous involvement in the Greek debt crisis.

But her murky past finally caught up with her.

In August 2014, a French court ordered an investigation into Lagarde's role, while finance minister, in a €403m arbitration deal that favoured the flamboyant businessman Bernard Tapie, an ally of President Sarkozy (who was her boss at the time).

The court charged that Lagarde may have been negligent in not appealing the settlement that resulted in this huge pay-out.

Lagarde was duly found guilty of criminal negligence and misuse of public funds in December 2016. However, she continued on her merry, unaccountable way. For the court decided not to impose a criminal penalty on her, somehow concluding that her lapse was due to her preoccupation with the ongoing global financial crisis, and that, due to her "national and international standing", she should be spared.

This is the woman who this month was nominated as the new chief of the ECB.

Even the new EU-nominated foreign minister, the Spaniard Josep Borrell, was fined €30,000 by his country's securities regulator for insider trading irregularities.

Beyond the obvious question of "where does the EU find these people?", an incredibly important point lurks. History makes it clear that, over time, rewarding failures and promoting those with significant moral lapses almost always comes back to haunt any polity.

Given that the EU is already living on borrowed time before the next crisis hits, the bill for supporting such people will fast be coming due.

Dr John C. Hulsman is senior columnist at City A.M., a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and president of John C. Hulsman Enterprises. He can be reached for corporate speaking and private briefings at chartwellspeakers.com.

We all have a part to play in helping to bridge the UK's disability employment gap

Catherine McGuinness

YOUR first job interview can be a daunting experience. For disabled people, that first time can be even more challenging.

Imagine having to take on a job interview where the preparatory material has been supplied in a format that you cannot read. Or imagine having that interview in the car park, because you can't access the office in your wheelchair.

These are some real experiences of the young disabled people whom we've been speaking to.

Only half of disabled people of working age are in employment, compared with 81 per cent of the rest of the population – the much talked about "disability employment gap". Urgent action is needed to transform these figures.

City Bridge Trust, the City Corporation's charity funder, recognises that the barriers to employment faced by disabled people can be multiple and complex.

That's why we developed Bridge to Work, a £3.3m charity funding pot designed to open a wealth of employment opportunities for young disabled Londoners.

It provides grants for projects offering employability support for the capital's young disabled people – and helps to strengthen links between employers and the disabled community. The programme has a focus on work experience and offers a range of other opportunities.

Bridge to Work helps charities provide vital personalised job search support, advice on employment rights, job coaching, and online help for job seekers. It also pays for research and policy work aimed at employers and education providers.

Looking at the results one year into the programme, we've gained a lot of insight from which both employers and job seekers can learn.

All participants said that the project had improved their employment prospects in the future. Some said it boosted their skills, helping them to find and apply for jobs successfully.

Others said that the scheme gave more clarity about the kind of work they wanted, more appreciation of what it would involve, and more confidence that the career paths they are choosing are right for them.

We found that employers were interested in getting involved when they saw the strong business case and clear benefits to their firms.

Indeed, recent research by McKinsey suggests that diverse companies are more likely to financially outperform less diverse companies. It's the reason why so many blue-chip firms invest heavily in inclusive recruitment programmes. They want the best talent drawn from the widest possible talent pool.

Through Bridge To Work, we want to show commissioners, policymakers, and other funders how to better support more young disabled people into finding employment, and find the right jobs for them. But the issue is not restricted to London.

There are over 11m disabled people in the UK. Nationally, only six per cent of people with a learning disability are in paid employment.

For some disabled people, the picture is even more profound. Research from the National Autistic Society indicates that only 16 per cent of autistic adults are in full-time paid work.

Together, we need to take bold and ambitious action to improve these dire employment statistics.

Because for a society championing diversity and inclusion, they are certainly not good enough. We all have a role to play in bridging the gap.

Catherine McGuinness is policy chair at the City of London Corporation.

LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Finance rules

[Re: Let's end the government monopoly of financial regulation]

Philip Booth is right about the seemingly inexorable growth of financial regulation. Every financial services failure ratchets up political demands for more.

The idea that the government lose its monopoly over regulation and financial regulation become optional, with market participants required merely to disclose whether or not they are, has some merit. But while this approach recommends itself to business between sophisticated counterparties (though even then regulation would still apply to Market Abuse and systemic risks these firms present), its place in retail markets is far less certain.

Regulation serves an important protective function in retail markets. It can even be liberalising; witness the role of regulation in opening up the payments space to new entrants. Sadly, not all consumers are well-informed and rational, and many financial products are inherently complex. Hence the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) is tasked with securing an appropriate degree of consumer protection.

Still, it is important for us to acknowledge both that there is a cost to regulation and that it may not always successfully address market failures.

The current trend is towards more prescriptive and intrusive regulation invoking the protection of vulnerable customers. The FCA is increasingly looking at the "value" of financial services and regulating their price; a significant break with historic approaches.

Regulators must not lose sight of the need to balance consumer protection with personal responsibility for due diligence, reviewing disclosures and taking appropriate precautions. There is a real risk that the current regulatory trend, driven by political pressure, results in less choice and higher costs for all.

Brian McDonnell, partner (financial regulation), Addleshaw Goddard

BEST OF TWITTER

Corbyn is political homeopathy. Aside from him being weak & ineffectual, he claims to be able to cure all ills, but peddles empty, meaningless rhetoric. Like homeopathy, he's harmful because his nonsense gives people false hope.
@Sara_Rose_G

"Boris Johnson put London on the map," says Liz Truss.
@AdamBienkov

I think the Romans put London on the map, strictly speaking
@wmarybeard

Senior Tories seeking to block no-deal Brexit are examining a radical plan involving the Queen. Such a request would be regarded as the most extraordinary political step in her 67-year reign, our political editor says
@BBCNewsnight

"We need you. One last job. The ultimate heist." The Queen doesn't look up from chopping firewood. Smoke curls from the chimney of the log cabin; Philip is making dinner. "I told you, I don't do that sh*t any more."
@pierrenovellie

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS E: theforum@cityam.com **COMMENT AT:** cityam.com/forum : @cityam

The world relies on the Strait of Hormuz more than we realise

IF LAST week's obstruction of a British tanker in the Strait of Hormuz did not illustrate the dangers our seafarers face, we were furnished with further proof on Friday, when Iran seized the Stena Impero in international waters.

Only the timely intervention of a Royal Navy frigate had secured the safe passage of the British Heritage, but it was too late for the Swedish-owned and British-flagged Stena Impero, which was taken swiftly into Iranian waters after its seizure.

It is only the latest development in a series of alarming events in the Gulf. Tensions between the US and Iran – recently reflected in the downing of an Iranian drone by US jammer technology – are rising.

Iran has made it plain that it will not ignore the seizure off Gibraltar of Grace I, which was acting in breach of EU sanctions. Yet it seems that even during a volatile period, we take for granted that our ships will move smoothly around the globe.

This is by no means a given, however, and the stakes are high.

The Strait of Hormuz is a choke point through which one fifth of the world's oil moves. Some 30 per cent of global liquefied natural gas trade, as well as five per cent and 13 per cent of UK oil and gas respectively, pass through it.

It is no exaggeration to say that securing the Strait of Hormuz is an imperative for the UK economy, and indeed for the wider world.

Yet without domestic support and international collaboration, this could become increasingly difficult. The Strait is just 21 miles wide, which means that any ship passing through must enter Iranian territorial waters on the way in, and Omani waters on the way out.

The accidental interruption of the passage of ships through the Strait is already likely, but in these highly charged circumstances, there is every possibility that incidents similar to the Iranian seizure of the Stena Impero will happen again.

There is no doubt that the actions of Iran, as a signatory of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, were unacceptable, as well as deliberate. And as others have pointed out, Iran has long threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz.

Most sinister and concerning was Iran's foreign ministry spokesman's comments to IRNA news in the wake of the British seizure of the Iranian oil tanker Grace I. "This is a dangerous game and has consequences," he said.

We take for granted that our ships will move smoothly around the globe – but this is by no means a given

The good news is that, through international collaboration, this threat can be neutralised. The "coalition of allies" plan proposed by the US is one way to do this, and we fully support it. Freedom of navigation, and therefore the safe passage of goods, must be protected.

This freedom is a fundamental principle of customary international law, which states that "ships flying the flag of any sovereign state shall not suffer interference from other states". Any violation of this principle puts at risk the entire system of global seaborne trade and the interconnectedness of nations on which we rely for our economic stability.

We are fortunate: the Royal Navy's efforts in the region have been outstanding. Equally, the Combined Maritime Forces, a partnership of 33 nations, have been effective in keeping it secure.

But as additional Royal Navy ships head for the Arabian Gulf, we should nevertheless remind ourselves that an international solution aimed at the swift de-escalation of tensions should be our ultimate goal.

For shipping to maintain this security, we must reach an international consensus on the legal way forward. We must come to an agreement that guarantees the safety of ships passing through the Strait, in the same way that international ship owners and seafarers feel safe in the Dover Straits, much closer to home.

And we must not forget its global economic importance.

Bob Sanguinetti is chief executive of the UK Chamber of Shipping.

DEBATE

Is 4G on the Tube something to get excited about?

YES

BEN ASKINS

"Sorry I didn't get back to you, I was on the Tube" is an anecdote that our grandchildren will be shocked by.

While it's true that no one will be able to stop the incoming onslaught of obnoxious "Hello! Yeah I'm on the Tube! No, it's rubbish!" Dom Joly types, the benefits of 4G on the London Underground are stark.

Yes, it's important to switch off, but people will now have choice; Tube delays will be less painful; and 1.35bn passengers every year can continue whatever they were doing when they got on the escalator.

Commuters already spend £22.8bn a year on purchases made while on their journeys to or from work, a vast 14 per cent of annual online UK spend, and 4G will make Londoners' travel useful time.

Adding milk to your Ocado shop, buying those shoes on Asos, admiring Ronaldo's new Bugatti on Instagram, or getting through the life admin you've been putting off for weeks – it's all doable.

For the dreamers and bookworms, there's no obligation to get your phone out. But for the rest of us, we'll no longer have to mind the digital gap.

Ben Askins is managing director at Verb Brands.

NO

ALEX DEANE

Refuges in which one's fellow man is not turned into a screen-gazing, slack-jawed zombie inexorably dwindle to nothing: some flights (for now); churches (generally, at least); now, alas, we lose the Tube. Is there any illustration of our dependence on these obsession boxes more obvious and powerful than the fact that people are apparently incapable of being temporarily offline even when deep underground?

People on the Tube – you may find this hard to believe – actually do this thing called "reading". Actual books. I'm not kidding. Go down and see it, while you can. They talk to their friends without that tediously distracted air of the person perpetually pulling the screen down to refresh in search of something ephemeral rather than looking at what's in front of them.

Now, the same frustration felt while navigating London streets around handset-hypnotised shufflers not looking where they're going will be duplicated in the tunnelled world beneath us too. Thanks, progress.

Don't the clots responsible realise that the absence of signal is the best thing about the Underground?

Alex Deane is a Conservative commentator.

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ENTREPRENEURS

GAME OF DRONES

Katherine Denham meets the founder of SenSat, the company solving construction problems by simulating reality

"THE INTERNET connects all human knowledge, and for the first time in history, we can connect that human knowledge to the actual world we live in through our computers."

It's at this point during my conversation with James Dean, the cooly-named co-founder of SenSat, that I start to grasp how ground-breaking his technology really is.

You can build artificial intelligence (AI), but if it can't truly understand the real, physical world, it's relatively stunted in what it can achieve.

Take driverless cars for instance: until we get to a point where these autonomous vehicles are able to understand what's in front of them, and can react safely to the unpredictable nature of the world, they simply won't enter the mainstream.

Objects, of course, are made up of atoms, which can't be "seen" by computers. However, SenSat is helping to solve this issue by turning objects into a code which computers can read in their language. The company uses drones to create a digital replica of actual places, which can then be used to simulate the environment in real-time.

These simulations can then teach AI to understand the world.

GROUND-BREAKING

The Shoreditch-based startup, which launched in May 2017, is already transforming the construction industry, and has been involved in some major infrastructure projects, such as HS2, the upgrade of the M1, and the Triton Knoll wind farm.

When I ask why Dean and co-founder Harry Atkinson opted to focus on the construction sector, he points out that the industries which haven't yet been revolutionised by digital developments tend to be inherently physical, such as real estate or utilities. And indeed, it is these sectors where productivity has remained stagnant for decades.

"It's not really the industries' fault because computers can't get hands-on with their environment – they can't analyse it, so it can't help them make decisions," he says. "But now we can take those physical working environments and make digital copies of them."

Given that infrastructure is one of the least digitised sectors, Dean tells me that the benefits of using the technology – even for basic projects – become apparent very quickly, particularly considering that the construction industry is plagued by miniscule profit margins.

For example, rather than employing someone to spend weeks measuring an area by hand, SenSat uses drone technology to take 15,000 times as many measurements in a matter of seconds.

"And we can track things much more accurately – down to the level of pebble," Dean explains. "It's almost a game-version of what's actually happening, but statistically very accurate."

The cost savings are huge; Dean estimates that most construction projects tend to spend around five per cent of the budget on surveying. So while surveying a £100m project would typically cost around £5m, SenSat would charge around £100,000 to do the same job. This would leave a business with extra cash freely available to spend elsewhere.

James Dean is co-founder and chief executive of AI company SenSat

While a 0.5 per cent profit margin is common among construction companies, Bam Nuttall – which used SenSat technology to help build a flood defence in Leeds – saw its profit margin reach a 10-year high of three per cent last year.

And it's about more than money. The tech improves safety too, by removing humans from dangerous construction sites – and for many companies, that alone is enough to convince them to use SenSat.

ROGUE ONE

When we think of drones, many of us will be reminded of the disruption at Gatwick in December, costing the airport and airlines millions of pounds.

Given how integral drones are to Dean's business (the company has a licence to fly a drone 12km away from its pilot), I ask what he thinks needs to happen to ensure that these flying robots are being used as a force for good.

"To some extent, it's like the Wild West – it's like cars going out without driving licences, because anyone can fly a drone and cause havoc. So I think that the best way is to regulate it – better transparency and tracking of these things are really essential."

In the same way that cars are registered to drivers, the SenSat chief executive reckons that all drones should be registered to the pilots. And of course the rules need to be properly enforced to deter people from going rogue.

And while Dean agrees that government rules are slow to keep up with new tech, he argues that UK regulation is by far the most advanced in the world when it comes to drones.

"I don't blame the government, because the popularity of drones increased very suddenly – and you can't regulate what you don't know."

AI IN THE SKY

It's hard not to be impressed by this 28-year-old entrepreneur, who manages to eloquently explain in detail how his technology works. "If you are building a 3D representation, you initially take 2D pictures – and if you take enough photos, you can use triangulation to build a 3D replica."

He tells me that while 2D image recognition has been around since the 1970s, 3D object recognition only has about 18 months of research behind it.

"In the 2D problem, the computer only knows what something is because the human has said that's what it is, and has no actual understanding of the image. But with 3D, for the first time ever, the computer can understand the properties of objects by using a mathematical function which describes something's geometry in 128 dimensions. And when computers can actually understand objects, they can do a lot more analysis."

Through SenSat's simulated reality program, called Mapp, Dean wants to build an environment that AI agents can understand. The company also benefits from a feedback loop – the more clients that use the technology, the more advanced it becomes.

In August last year, SenSat secured $4.5m in seed investment, and has already racked up an impressive list of 28 clients in just two years, with Highways England and Network Rail to name but a few. But while construction made sense from both a commercial and technical perspective (SenSat has supported more than £3.5bn infrastructure projects to date), you can see this technology spanning a vast array of other sectors, while also enabling emerging tech like augmented reality and 5G. It could certainly prove integral to autonomous vehicles, which are reliant on a spatial understanding of the world.

> "It's almost a game version of what's actually happening in the real world

Dean reckons that SenSat technology is as big as the internet. And he could be right.

TRAVEL

48 HOURS IN...

BROADWAY, WORCESTERSHIRE

WHERE TO STAY
Chill out at the casual and comfortable **Foxhill Manor**. Speak directly with the chef to get your personalised dinner menu and eat wherever you like, plus there's a complimentary drinks cabinet with champagne. *Visit foxhillmanor.com*

WHAT TO DO
Pack your walking shoes and take a four mile walk to absorb the panoramic views of Broadway. Head to Broadway Tower before descending into the village to check out the Ashmolean Museums and Smallbrook Lake.

WHERE TO DRINK
Get a cosy drink at the **Horse & Hound**, a traditional pub serving up the finest local produce including local beers from the Cotswolds. Expect cracking fires and slouchy sofas to snuggle into. *Visit horseandhoundbroadway.com*

WHERE TO EAT
Get a reservation at **MO**, a 12-seater special tasting restaurant focusing on the best local produce. It offers daily chainging menu of seven courses designed by head chef Simon Bowser. *Visit dormyhouse.co.uk*

MAGNIFICENT MARSEILLE

James Luxford flees a wet summer in search of sunshine and haute-cuisine

MARSEILLES
PROVENCE

THE WEEKEND
Nestled at the bottom of the country, closer to Italy and Spain than it is to Paris, Marseille is France's second largest city, and its most intriguing. Its history as a port city creates a vibrant mix of architecture, with the grittiness of the city counterbalanced by the serenity of its shoreline. About 20 mins drive from Marseille is Aix-en-Provence, a picturesque university city with a more relaxed atmosphere and rich cultural heritage as the birthplace of artist Paul Cézanne.

THE STAY
In Marseille we stayed at Les Bords de Mer, a luxury hotel with just 19 rooms, every single one of which boasting a staggering view of the Mediterranean. The hotel's location almost touching the water means that the same view can also be enjoyed from their rooftop pool or terrace bar. Aix-en-Provence's Grand Hôtel du Roy René kept us within a short walk of the city centre, providing a quick, relaxing break from the city's numerous bars, museums and exhibitions.

THE ACTIVITIES
Aside from the sun and sea, there's a great deal of culture to both cities. New and experimental works can be found in Marseille's Musée Regards de Provence, currently exhibiting works inspired by the love of food. Fans of the masters can look to Aix's Hotel de Caumont art centre, which features work by Van Gogh, Picasso, and of course hometown hero himself, Cézanne. Looking for the best view in town? Head to the Notre Dame de la Garde basilica, where you can get a spectacular 360 degree perspective of the whole of Marseille.

THE FOOD
2019 is Provence's Year of Gastronomy, so it would be downright rude not to sample some of the local cuisine. One must-have dish is bouillabaisse, a Marseille tradition that will be something approaching a spiritual experience for seafood lovers. The stewed fish soup is found cheaply enough at many restaurants around Marseilles, but it's worth paying a little bit more and going to Chez Fonfon, where food is served overlooking the harbour, giving the whole experience a sense of theatre. Those looking for fine dining should head to the Michelin starred Une Table au Sud by the old port, launched in 1999 by Toulouse-born chef Lionel Lévy, who trained with Alain Ducasse.

Offering the same level of expertise in a slightly more relaxed atmosphere is Aix's Pointe Noire, a sleek but unassuming bistro situated within the city centre which offers interesting takes on traditional favourites. There's also plenty to taste outside of the dining rooms, with Marseille's growing reputation as a coffee powerhouse, and the many shops in Aix offering traditional sweet, the Calisson.

AND AFTER THAT?
Head to Château Lacoste. Owned by Irish billionaire Paddy McKillen, it's a maze of rustic restaurants, tasting rooms and modern art sculptures dotted around manicured grounds. There's even a music pavilion, presumably for when frequent guest Bono feels like a sing-along.

NEED TO KNOW

Eurostar fares for Avignon or Marseille start at £49 each way in Standard Class, or £99 in Standard Premier. The journey time is just under 6 1/2hrs to Marseille (6hrs 27mins). Available via *eurostar.com*

Les Bords de Mer is a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World (*slh.com*) Rooms are available from £165

Coaching COCO

Sport is littered with pitfalls for prodigies. So how to avoid them? **Felix Keith** asked the experts

Gauff, 15, reached the fourth round at Wimbledon

A MONTH ago few people knew who 15-year-old Cori Gauff was – and with good reason. Although she had caused a stir on the junior tennis circuit, Gauff was ranked No313 in the world before the offer of a wild card into Wimbledon qualifying, in her own words, "literally changed my life in seconds".

Gauff not only reached the main draw at the All England Club but went on a remarkable run to the fourth round, beating her idol Venus Williams along the way, to be catapulted into the public consciousness overnight. Her Wimbledon heroics captured attention all over the world, while her infectious personality and precocious talent appear to make her the perfect package.

With $303,930 (£244,384) in career prize money already banked, sponsors including New Balance, pasta brand Barilla and racket maker Head on board, and with the backing of Roger Federer's management company, Team8, Gauff now has the world at her feet.

Yet sport, and tennis in particular, is littered with examples of those who rose and disappeared just as quickly. Success at a young age brings excitement and opportunity but also pressure which child prodigies are forced to cope with. Gauff has a tightrope to walk.

POTENTIAL

Although her fame is new, Gauff's desire to be famous is not. Serena Williams' coach Patrick Mouratoglou recalled a story of meeting the American when she was just 10. "They all say they want to be the No1 but she said she wanted more," he said at Wimbledon. "She said she wanted to be the greatest of all time."

Gauff has everything in place to maximise her tennis and career potential. But there is a danger of being swept along by the tidal wave of competing, endorsements and media. Gauff was the subject of more than 300 interview requests at Wimbledon alone.

"It can be very easy for a young player to get distracted by the attention a big win or successful run can bring," Matt Gentry, Andy Murray's co-founder at 77 Sports Management, tells *City A.M.* "Media and sponsors are attracted by good results, but it's a very long journey and it can all disappear just as quickly."

HOT PROPERTY

Gauff is currently hot property, but Gentry believes she and her team should proceed with caution. "There would be a temptation to try to maximise commercially on their increased profile, but as an agent I think it's important to act responsibly and remember they are developing as a player and a person," he adds. "Any commercial contracts and media relations need to be handled sensitively and with the long term in mind."

Toni Minichiello, who coached Olympic champion heptathlete Jessica Ennis-Hill from the age of 11 until her retirement in 2016, echoes Gentry's sentiments. "Gauff will become the face of American tennis once Serena Williams retires," he tells *City A.M.* "People used to say that about Jess: she's the next Denise Lewis. I'd say, 'no you're not the next Denise Lewis, you're the next Jessica Ennis.' But the pressure is built. It's tough when you're the next thing."

Minichiello says Ennis didn't have a kit sponsor until progressing from junior to senior athletics and she then limited her commercial responsibilities to one day per week. "If you go down the money route you're knackered," he adds. "Be great at your sport and the money takes care of itself."

BURNOUT

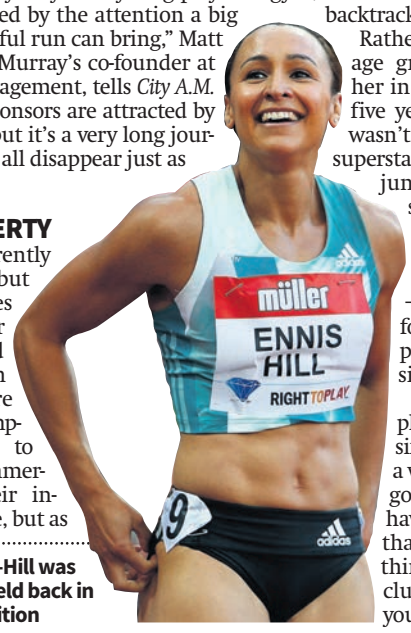
Because of her age Gauff is only permitted by the Women's Tennis Association to play five more professional events before she turns 16 in March. However, her father and coach Corey is lobbying to have the WTA's age restrictions changed, despite his daughter having to fit exams around tennis.

Meanwhile US Open officials are reportedly keen to bend rules which limit players aged 15 and under to three wildcards per year and offer her a fourth for next month's grand slam.

Minichiello warns that coaches of young athletes must be in tune with the emotional aspect and aware of the potential for burnout. "I had more of an opportunity to take my time and develop steadily and slowly," he explains. "For me it's all about shaping the career. Think what the finished product looks like, its physicality – how much they lift in the gym, how often they train – and then backtrack from there."

Rather than push Ennis up the age groups, Minichiello kept her in junior competitions for five years. "I held her back. I wasn't interested in her being a superstar until she was a last year junior." he says. "She was seen as somebody who was quite good – fifth in World Youth at 17, eighth in World Juniors – but she was underperforming, and that was on purpose. That was by design.

"It's a personal philosophy. If you're going to train six hours a day, seven days a week at 16, where are you going to go? You've got to have room to grow into – that's always the critical thing." Minichiello concludes: "Success is nice but you can't get carried away."



A young Ennis-Hill was deliberately held back in junior competition

Man City's Premier League win raised concerns about inequality in the game

Radical change needed if we're to save football

Player auctions and hard caps on spending must be considered, says top sports lawyer **Darren Bailey**

AS MEMORIES of a tumultuous 2018-19 season fade, it is tempting to believe all is well with the beautiful game. Scratch the surface, though, and it is apparent that football faces formidable challenges as market forces tighten their grip on the evolution of the game.

From the growing influence of a small number of global super clubs to the operation of a transfer and loan system that no longer achieves its primary objectives, a fundamental regulatory reset is needed if the domestic and European game is to fulfil its sporting and commercial potential.

To achieve this reset, the authorities must be empowered to introduce new measures to enhance competitiveness, improve transparency and promote more solidarity in relation to talent distribution and financial rewards at all levels of the game.

Fifa has established a task force to examine regulatory matters and the governing body should be applauded for trying to tackle some of the key issues as part of a package of reforms to the transfer and player status framework.

REGULATING INTERMEDIARIES

Fifa has proposed a clearing house for agent payments and transactions. This should be introduced without delay. Greater transparency in money flows in and around football is vital for its integrity.

A ban on clubs paying player agent fees in cases of dual representation – when the agent represents both player and club in the same transaction – is also under discussion. Such a ban would help limit excessive agent fees as players would be less likely to pay such sums for representation.

However, Fifa seems more inclined towards introducing a cap on agent fees as a percentage of the transaction itself. The cap may be vulnerable to legal challenge not least because it is somewhat arbitrary and likely to be difficult to enforce.

If dual representation is to continue, then clubs should not pay the agent fees. The player should pick up the cost and there should be rigorous enforcement to avoid work-arounds such as clubs paying the player a higher salary to defray the cost of paying the agent.

THE TRANSFER SYSTEM

Fifa's proposed reforms include a long-overdue limit to the number of players a club may loan out. The reforms should eventually avoid the current stockpiling of players by bigger clubs and refocus the system on player development rather than financial gain.

But more radical solutions should also be considered. Although logistically challenging, an open auction process for players should be on the table. This would avoid the "gatekeeper problem", where it appears some players are only being made available to certain clubs due to their representation.

The current system only works for the leading clubs and agents. A more open approach needs to be identified which genuinely creates a fair market for players. This would boost transparency, lead to a fairer distribution of playing talent and generate significant public interest.

COST CONTROLS

Cost controls are clearly needed in domestic and European football, but Financial Fair Play is not the answer in its current form.

FFP measures tend to be based on turnover and this locks in the economic advantage of major clubs, skewing competitive balance further. It also precludes new entrants challenging the established elite via accelerated investment.

A hard cap on salaries, fees and related player spend should be applied to all clubs to create a truly level playing field.

WEALTH DISTRIBUTION

Finally, the revenues generated from European competition must be more equally distributed amongst a wider group of clubs in domestic leagues and not disproportionately awarded to those who qualify for Europe. If not, national leagues will continue to be dominated by the same clubs, as increasingly will the latter stages of the Champions League and Europa League.

Each of these potential solutions may impact on the current interests of stakeholders and generate legal challenges, but in the absence of radical policies and cooperation between the football authorities and relevant judicial institutions an increasingly narrow group of clubs will prosper.

It is ironic that to deal with the inequality and lack of competitiveness, some are suggesting the answer is to create a more closed European Super League to ensure the same big clubs qualify. In other words, to pull up the drawbridge.

A more enlightened, innovative approach is needed to redirect the game in these disruptive times. The football authorities at national, European and international level must work together to create a new financial and regulatory framework to safeguard the future of the game and the European judicial institutions should, as in the US, recognise the unique approach required to sustain competitive sport.

Fundamental change is urgently needed to deliver a more balanced, competitive and sustainable future for the beautiful game.

Darren Bailey is a consultant at law firm Charles Russell Speechlys.

SPORT

COACHING COCO How to guide a child prodigy past sport's pitfalls, according to the experts PAGE 18

LOWRY BRINGS THE HOUSE DOWN

Irishman lays his Major ghosts to rest with a commanding Open win, says **Frank Dalleres**

SHANE Lowry may not have been the local hero everyone was talking about leading up to the Open Championship, but after a fourth scintillating round earned him a six-shot win and a first ever Major, the Irishman's was the only name on people's lips at Royal Portrush yesterday evening.

And not just on the lips; also echoing around the grandstands and roaring from the throats of tens of thousands who cheered the self-effacing 32-year-old from County Offaly in the Republic of Ireland on to the biggest victory of his career.

Lowry described the support as "something I've never seen on a golf course". It is hard to imagine the cheers could have been any louder had it been Rory McIlroy, Darren Clarke or Graeme McDowell hoisying the Claret Jug instead.

Calmness personified despite the memories of a previous collapse when leading a Major, Lowry only briefly let his four-shot overnight advantage slip to three, after a bogey at the first.

By the seventh, he had extended his lead over Tommy Fleetwood to six shots, as other challengers sank in increasingly treacherous conditions and rendered the tournament a two-horse race.

Fleetwood paid dearly for missed putts on the front nine and as the weather worsened his bid faltered further while Lowry, a former winner of the North of Ireland amateur championship on these links, looked more and more at home.

In a measure of the conditions, Lowry's one-over-par 72 to finish 15 under was the second lowest round of the day, after American Tony Finau's 71 for third place.

Fleetwood's consolation for a closing 74 was outright second, his best Major finish. Fellow Englishman Lee Westwood shared fourth with world No1 Brooks Koepka.

INSPIRED

Lowry's triumph is not only a feel-good story, it is also that other treasured sporting tale, the unlikely comeback.

His chances of joining the ranks of the Major winners looked to have passed when he saw a four-shot lead evaporate on the final day of the 2016 US Open.

That sense only calcified in the months and years that followed as Lowry slipped outside the world's top 50 and endured a drought that would not end until January this year.

He missed the cut at The Open last year for a fourth time in succession, contributing to his selection of a new caddie. His choice of Northern Irishman Bo Martin now looks to have been an inspired one.

Only at the 15th hole, where he bowed and pumped his fist in celebration of a birdie that restored his six-shot lead, did Lowry hint at the cocktail of emotions coursing through his stocky frame.

"Honestly I feel like I'm in an out-of-body experience. I was so calm coming down the 18th, I just couldn't believe it," he told Sky Sports afterwards.

Lowry was quick to put that down to his caddie. "I talked to Bo a lot today. 'I can't stop thinking about winning, about holding the Claret Jug.' He just said 'stay with me, stay with me'."

This was huge for Portrush, for the whole country, too. The first Open at this fine course for 68 years was a landslide success – organisers the R&A reported total attendance of 237,000 – and the biggest sporting event ever to take place in Northern Ireland.

Now restored to the roster of Open venues, golf's oldest Major will be back, perhaps in 2028 or 2029. After his own spell on the fringes, Lowry already is. And all concerned with the tournament could hardly have wished for a better outcome.

SPORT DIGEST

YATES AND THOMAS ENJOY STAGE 15 OF TOUR DE FRANCE

Britain enjoyed a productive day at the Tour de France yesterday as Simon Yates won his second stage and defending champion Geraint Thomas took time out of rival Julian Alaphilippe. Yates added stage 15 to his stage 12 success on the Prat d'Albis, while Thomas clawed back 27 seconds from leader Alaphilippe, who remains one minute and 35 seconds ahead.

ENGLAND THIRD AS KIWIS WIN NETBALL WORLD CUP

England beat South Africa in the third place play-off match to win bronze at the Netball World Cup in Liverpool yesterday. The hosts eased past the Proteas 58-42 in coach Tracey Neville's final match as coach. Meanwhile, New Zealand held their nerve in a tense finale to beat holders and 11-time champions Australia 52-51 and claim the trophy.

AUSTRALIA RETAIN WOMEN'S ASHES WITH TEST DRAW

Australia have retained the Women's Ashes at the first opportunity after securing a draw in the only Test match at Taunton yesterday. England avoided the follow-on and declared on 275-9 to try and force a win, but the visitors' dominance continued as they reached 230-7 – a lead of 375 runs – before the captains shook hands. Australia, who won all three one-day internationals, have an unassailable 6-0 lead ahead of the remaining Twenty-20s.

ASHER-SMITH CAN'T CATCH FRASER-PRYCE OVER 100M

Britain's Dina Asher-Smith claimed second place as Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce out-classed the field to win the women's 100m at the Anniversary Games yesterday. Asher-Smith ran 10.92 seconds in the London Stadium, but Fraser-Pryce was uncatchable in 10.78. Lynsey Sharp won the women's 800m, while Great Britain also claimed gold in the men's 4x100m relay.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