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CAPITAL FRIGHT

RECORD DROP IN NUMBER OF WEALTHY NON-DOMS BLAMED ON BREXIT AND FEAR OF CORBYN

HARRY ROBERTSON

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BREXIT uncertainty, the prospect of a Labour government and a change in the rules have all led to a drop in the number of super-rich UK residents known as non-doms, a City law firm claimed yesterday.

The number of non-domiciled taxpayers, who do not pay UK tax on their foreign earnings, has fallen to a new low, causing tax receipts to suffer, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) figures revealed.

There were 78,000 non-domiciled taxpayers in Britain last year, down from 98,500 the year earlier.

The fall meant the tax paid into UK coffers by so-called non-doms tumbled from £9.5bn to £7.5bn last year.

The majority of non-doms are rich UK residents whose permanent home is outside Britain. For example foreign bankers who work in the City can have non-domiciled status and avoid UK taxes on their income from outside Britain.

HMRC said that of those who stopped using non-dom status, about half switched to domiciled status and continued to pay tax in the UK while half left the British tax system altogether.

While some super-rich have converted to regular UK taxpayers, law firm Pinsent Masons said Brexit uncertainty and the prospect of a Labour government were also driving away non-doms.

The firm's senior tax manager Josie Hills said: "Non-doms are internationally mobile and if the UK is no longer an attractive place for them, then they can easily relocate."

Alex Ruffel, a partner at law firm Irwin Mitchell, however, said the "number one" factor in the drop in non-dom numbers was new "deemed-domicile" rules.

The rules say UK residents can no longer apply for the tax status if they have lived in the UK for 15 out of the last 20 years.

Ruffel said that it was Britons rather than non-doms – who are mostly foreign – that were most worried about a Jeremy Corbyn government. Non-doms have assets abroad and so have "many other options, they don't have all their eggs in the English basket," she said.

Another factor in the drop could be the "non-dom levy", a charge of between £30,000 and £60,000 that comes into force after between seven and 12 years, Ruffel said. She said some non-doms may have chosen to pay tax in the UK or move away rather than face the charge.

Pinsent Masons said the levy only brought in £315m last year.

Separately, a report by Oxford Economics yesterday found a Labour government would cause an "immediate" 10 per cent drop in sterling, or more if it followed a no-deal Brexit.

Burford bites back after US 'short attack'

ANNA MENIN

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BURFORD Capital shares rebounded yesterday after the litigation funder came out swinging in response to allegations made by US short-seller Muddy Waters, with two executives buying up shares before markets closed.

Burford yesterday denounced Muddy Waters' report as "baseless", accusing the short-seller of spreading "fallacious insinuations" and "inflammatory rhetoric".

The litigation financier said the report contained "many factual inaccuracies, simple analytical errors and selective use of information".

Burford also said it is considering a buyback in an attempt to bolster shares, which crashed on Tuesday and Wednesday in the wake of the short attack, with £1.8bn wiped off the company's value.

The rebuttal helped to lift shares up 25.6 per cent to 760p, recouping around £338m of lost value.

Its boss and chief investment officer both confirmed they had bought more shares yesterday. Each now owns 4.08 per cent of the company.

Muddy Waters published a report on Wednesday describing Burford "a poor business masquerading as a great one" and criticised some of its accounting practices.

CONTINUES ON P5

FTSE 100 ▲ 7,285.90 +87.20 FTSE 250 ▲ 119,137.61 +196.61 DOW ▲ 26,378.19 +371.12 NASDAQ ▲ 8,039.16 +176.33 £/$ 1.214 unc. £/€ ▲ 1.085 +0.001 €/$ ▼ 1.119 -0.002

OT MORE EXPANSIVE

ODDS

MAN CITY PREMIER LEAGUE WINNER

1/2

2019/20 PREMIER LEAGUE WINNER			*Each Way 1/3 1-2*
Manchester City	1/2	Newcastle United	750/1
Liverpool	5/2	Southampton	1000/1
Tottenham Hotspur	16/1	Crystal Palace	1000/1
Chelsea	33/1	Bournemouth	1000/1
Manchester United	33/1	Aston Villa	1000/1
Arsenal	50/1	Watford	1000/1
Everton	200/1	Burnley	1500/1
Leicester City	200/1	Brighton & Hove Albion	2000/1
Wolves	200/1	Norwich City	2500/1
West Ham United	500/1	Sheffield United	2500/1

OUR FUTURE IS ALL BETTING

What does the new season hold? Pep may have been busy bolstering his midfield options with a record signing, but we have an unveiling of our own to boost your betting options. Now offering fixed odds.

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SPORTINGINDEX ODDS

CITY A.M.

THE CITY VIEW

The City's status is its key to future success

JUST how much is a reputation worth? As the UK prepares to leave the EU, status could be key for the City. A report published yesterday by the Central Bank of Ireland found that even in the worst Brexit scenario, London will remain a leading global financial centre – and the biggest in Europe. The EU-based central bank found that even in the worst Brexit outcomes, the impact on London's financial and professional services industry could be very small thanks to the 'premium' the capital enjoys. This premium – a reflection of historical legacy, rather than modern metrics relating to market size or productivity – is by no means invulnerable. Future policy choices and a shift in international perception could chip away at London's hard-earned status. One of the City's great triumphs, as the bank notes, is its technological prowess. If politicians and regulators want to futureproof the capital, they must continue to put the UK at the cutting edge of market innovation. The Irish central bank made a pragmatic assessment of the City's prospects, but what will the wider EU make of London's status post-Brexit? For all the talk of restricting market access, the bloc would be foolish to turn its back on the City. The EU is yet to deliver on its floundering capital markets union project, and Brexit will force it to decide whether it wants to welcome the capital's financial powerhouse into the fold, or turn itself inwards. While the prospect of a no-deal exit may shake some industries, the Square Mile has prepared itself for all scenarios and emerged as the most resilient sector of the economy. What it can't do, though, is mitigate a broader economic slowdown sparked by a bungled Brexit. Policymakers cannot afford to be complacent. But, as the Irish central bank points out, London has built an unrivalled status that no forecast or survey could ever fully quantify, and this has undoubtedly fostered an additional layer of resilience. With the City's future looking secure, the more pressing question is how the EU will treat the City after we part ways. Will it pursue a capital markets union that excludes London, the largest pool of capital on its doorstep? It seems unwise to do so. Ireland's analysis should be required reading in Brussels.

> **London has built up a status that no survey or forecast could ever quantify**

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DAY TRIPPERS Beatles fans travel to the iconic Abbey Road to recreate the famous image 50 years on from the original photo

YESTERDAY Beatles impersonators from across the world recreated the iconic 'Abbey Road' photograph made 50 years ago. Half a century ago, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr held up traffic on the now famous zebra crossing outside their recording studio in St John's Wood in north London to get the cover shot for their album Abbey Road.

Ex-Barclays trio face Qatar trial

JAMES BOOTH

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THREE senior former Barclays executives are set to face a criminal trial in October on charges relating to their involvement in Qatar's participation in an emergency fundraising at the height of the financial crisis.

Barclays' former investment head for the Middle East and north Africa Roger Jenkins, former wealth management boss Tom Kalaris and former European financial institutions group head Richard Boath will appear at Southwark Crown Court before Justice Popplewell from 7 October in a trial that is expected to last between four and five months, the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) said yesterday.

Jenkins has been charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit fraud by false representation and two counts of fraud by false representation, according to an indictment published yesterday.

Kalaris and Boath have both been charged with one count of conspiracy to commit fraud by false representation and one count of fraud by false representation.

All three deny wrongdoing.

The charges date from the financial crisis when Barclays turned to Qatar during two emergency fundraisings that raised £12bn for the bank as it sought to avoid a government bailout.

Jenkins, Kalaris and Boath allegedly conspired to make false representations in documents relating to Barclays capital raising in June 2008.

Former Barclays chief executive John Varley was acquitted at an earlier trial after a judge ruled the evidence against him was insufficient to proceed. That ruling was appealed by the prosecution. The appeal was dismissed by the Court of Appeal.

Bankers hit by drop in fees as deals subside

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY

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FEES at all but one of the world's 20 largest investment banks tumbled in the first half of 2019, as fewer mergers in Europe and a global slowdown in initial public offerings (IPO) dented corporate pay cheques.

Europe's investment banks earned a combined $13.3bn (£11bn) worth of fees in the first half of 2019, plunging 14 per cent on the same period in the previous year.

Compared with their US and Asian peers, European banks have failed to achieve fee growth and recovery post-financial crisis, according to the new research produced by Refinitiv.

JP Morgan earned the most in fees over the period, reaping in $3.3bn in total.

Chinese group Citic was the only bank to record a rise in fees.

WHAT THE OTHER PAPERS SAY THIS MORNING

FINANCIAL TIMES

CHINESE STATE MEDIA SLAM CATHAY OVER PROTESTS

Cathay Pacific has become the latest company to come under attack from Chinese state media over the Hong Kong protests, highlighting risks for businesses operating in the region. Even though Hong Kong's biggest airline did not take an official stance on the anti-government demonstrations that have rocked the city, the state-owned Global Times yesterday warned Cathay that it would "pay a painful price" for "its actions".

FARFETCH BUYS NEW GUARDS IN $675M DEAL

Farfetch has acquired the group behind streetwear label Off-White as the New York-listed luxury e-tailer seeks to move into design, production and brand development. The deal gives New Guards an enterprise value of $675m (£556m).

THE TIMES

JACOB REES-MOGG LOOKS FORWARD TO £1M REWARD

Cabinet minister Jacob Rees-Mogg appears to be in line for a £1m payday as the fund management group he co-founded is to report healthy profits in spite of difficult market conditions. Somerset Capital Management has booked distributable profits of £19.5m for the year to March, down from £25.3m in the previous year.

LABOUR PARTY LOSES 125 MEMBERS A DAY LAST YEAR

Labour lost 125 members a day last year as Brexit woes and antisemitism allegations widened the party's divisions. The party's membership fell by 45,784 in 2018 from 564,443 members.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

EUROPEAN GAMERS BUILD MARKET WORTH €240M

Europe's market for competitive video gaming generated revenues of €240m (£212m) last year as the fast-growing "e-sports" sector broke into the mainstream. Major new tournaments for games like Fortnite attracted an audience of 86m people in Europe last year, according to a report from Deloitte.

TRADE WAR COULD TRIGGER GLOBAL HOUSING CRISIS

The world economy is vulnerable to a major housing crash that could lead to a credit crunch, analysts have warned, potentially hitting global growth harder than the trade war or a no-deal Brexit.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

BROADCOM MAKES $10.7BN DEAL TO BUY SYMANTEC ARM

Broadcom struck a $10.7bn (£8.8bn) deal to buy Symantec's enterprise security business, as it steps up efforts to expand beyond chip making. Semiconductor maker Broadcom, which has a history of acquisitions, yesterday said the cash acquisition was the next logical step in building a business around software for companies.

CHINESE EXPORTS STAGE SURPRISING TURNAROUND

Chinese exports rebounded 3.3 per cent in July but economists expect the turnaround to be short-lived as trade wars ramp up.

Uber's car crash results reveal a new record loss

AUGUST GRAHAM

@AugustGraham

UBER disappointed investors late last night as the ride-hailing app showed its biggest-ever loss, and slowest revenue growth to date.

Second-quarter net loss reached $5.2bn (£4.3bn), widening from $878m last year, as the company paid out $3.9bn in costs for its May listing.

Finance chief Nelson Chai said the company had made progress towards "healthy growth" as it threw an extra $5.1bn at costs overall, including research and development for its self-driving car initiative.

Shares fell as much as 16 per cent in after-hours trading, having been up 8.3 per cent before close. It dragged down rival Lyft almost two per cent.

"While we will continue to invest aggressively in growth, we also want it to be healthy growth, and this quarter we made good progress in that direction," said Chai.

Revenue was up 14.4 per cent to $3.2bn, but was below the $3.4bn analysts had predicted.

The numbers contrast heavily with Lyft, which on Wednesday reported better-than-expected results and predicted lower losses for the year.

"... To say that earnings were disappointing would be an understatement, Uber has turned into the magical money-burning machine," said Alyssa Altman, transportation lead at consultancy Publicis Sapient.

"It is also facing increased pressure from Lyft in the US, after its better-than-predicted quarterly results," she added.

Chief executive Dara Khosrowshahi remained confident, telling investors that Uber's strategy "continues to deliver strong results".

He said the company will "become a more and more integral part of everyday life in cities around the world" as it reached over 100m monthly active users for the first time.

Uber has disappointed investors since its listing as it languishes below the tail end of its listing price range.

The firm raised more than $8bn on the day, but ended well short of the $100bn valuation some foresaw.

Short-seller targets Woodford picks as law funders try to limit contagion

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The US company criticised some of Burford's accounting practices. Aim-listed Burford yesterday defended its "accounting and financial reporting" as "transparent" and "appropriate."

Carson Block, head of Muddy Waters, also warned that short-sellers are targeting Neil Woodford's investments, "especially... outside of large cap value". Woodford is a significant investor in Burford – collectively, his funds own just under seven per cent of the company.

AJ Bell analyst Russ Mould said the best way for Burford to "reassure people" was to "continue to deliver" earnings growth and dividends.

Mould said the timing of Muddy Waters' challenge was "opportunistic".

"A lot of hedge fund managers might view shorting Woodford stocks as shooting fish in a barrel right now," he added.

Other London-listed litigation funders distanced themselves from Burford Capital yesterday after their shares were hit by the attack.

Manolete Partners' chief executive Steve Cooklin told *City A.M.* "[Burford's model] is James Bond, ours is Play School," while Litigation Capital Management said it used "conservative cash accounting".

DIAL M FOR GOVE Minister downloads Whatsapp to check in on business sector

MICHAEL Gove has suggested forming a Whatsapp group so that business leaders can better collaborate with the government on no-deal Brexit planning. The minister, who is in charge of preparing for no deal, told a group of top businesspeople yesterday that he has asked the taxman to help smaller companies through what could be a tricky period, Sky News reported. HMRC will not stop collecting taxes, but should prioritise helping firms under strain, Gove is said to have urged.

PM unveils immigration shakeup to attract 'best and brighest' to UK

ALEXANDRA ROGERS

@city_amrogers

BORIS Johnson announced a revamp to immigration policy last night that would see the cap on the number of exceptional talent visas scrapped in order to attract the "brightest and best" to British shores.

The Prime Minister said a new fast-track visa route would allow Britain to attract world-class specialists in science, technology and engineering after it leaves the European Union.

The new system will abolish the cap on numbers of the Tier One exceptional talent visas, as well as remove the need for immigrants to have secured a job offer before arriving to the UK.

Matthew Percival, head of employment at the CBI, said: "The most important immigration priority for business is replacing free movement with a new system that builds public confidence and supports a strong economy.

"It's essential that a new system also recognises the value of jobs paid less than £30,000."

Political fallout threatens future of Westminster Holocaust memorial

ALEXANDRA ROGERS

@city_amrogers

THE FATE of a proposed £100m Holocaust memorial in the heart of Westminster is hanging in the balance following a major political fallout.

The memorial, which has been widely backed by MPs and will also include a learning centre, has been proposed for Victoria Tower Gardens on Millbank, a world heritage site.

However, Westminster council said the application was heading towards an "unfavourable recommendation" due to opposition from residents.

In a heated letter exchange with the council leader, Nickie Aitken, former Labour minister Ed Balls and former Tory minister Lord Eric Pickles, who co-chair the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation, said they were "both surprised and concerned" at the suggestion that the application was likely to be refused. They accused the council of giving "undue weight" to the number of objections on its planning portal, which they said was contrary to "good practice and proper administration".

Housing secretary Robert Jenrick told the council it risks being a "bystander" in the battle against antisemitism, the Times reported.

WHAT A STEAL Government on cusp of finding buyer for beleaguered British Steel

BUSINESS secretary Andrea Leadsom is poised to reveal that the government has entered exclusive talks with its preferred buyer of stricken industrial firm British Steel. Oyak and Liberty House are understood to be among the frontrunners.

Boris doubles on Corbyn's appeal with UK voters

CATHERINE NEILAN

@CatNeilan

BORIS Johnson is twice as popular as Jeremy Corbyn among UK voters, the latest YouGov polls showed – even in Labour's traditional heartlands.

The Prime Minister, who was mayor of London from 2008 to 2016, came ahead of the Islington North MP in every region including the capital (30 per cent versus 24 per cent), the south (45 per cent vs 15 per cent), the midlands and Wales (41 per cent versus 16 per cent) the north (38 per cent versus 21 per cent) and Scotland (31 per cent versus 28 per cent).

However 'not sure' was more popular than both candidates in every region except the south, YouGov found.

The data was published yesterday amid speculation that a general election could happen as early as 1 November – the day after the UK is due to leave the EU – as Johnson seeks to benefit from his Brexit-boost in popularity.

The Conservatives remained the most popular party in the YouGov poll, taking a 31 per cent vote share, while the Lib Dems were nipping at Labour's heels.

Some 21 per cent of respondents now favour Jo Swinson's Remain-campaigning party – just one percentage point behind Labour.

There was a slight uptick in the number of people who named Brexit as the most important issue facing the country, to 68 per cent of respondents, and a marginal increase in the number of people who think the government is doing a good job in negotiations, to 12 per cent. However, YouGov pointed out this "simply reflects a preference for Boris Johnson as Prime Minister given no further negotiations have taken place since the new PM took over".

The proportion of people who think the UK was wrong to leave the European Union continued to be slightly higher than those who think it is right to do so, at 47 per cent vs 41 per cent respectively.

Funding Circle founder takes a step back as lender's losses rise

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FUNDING Circle said yesterday one of its founders was stepping back from the running of the peer-to-peer lender as its losses widened at the half-year.

Losses hit £30.8m for the six months to 30 June and the lender said co-founder James Meekings was stepping down as managing director to take up a non-executive role at the company.

Funding Circle has had a rocky ride since its October float after its shares plummeted from their listing price of 440p.

Funding Circle's shares closed up nearly seven per cent at 105p yesterday.

Revenue for the first half was £81.4m, up from £63m in the first half of 2018.

Hargreaves gets a boost despite Woodford woes

ANNA MENIN

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HARGREAVES Lansdown reported a drop in net new business as the impact of the Neil Woodford saga on the investment provider begins to become clear, but revenues and assets under administration still rose.

Shareholders were undaunted by the loss, however, as Hargreaves' share price bounced 11.8 per cent yesterday.

The investment giant posted a four per cent drop in net new business for the year ending 30 June, which fell from £7.6bn in 2018 to £7.3bn.

Total assets under administration climbed eight per cent, growing to £99.3bn compared to last year's £91.6bn.

Revenue also rose, increasing seven per cent to £480.5m.

The company said its pre-tax profit was £305.8m, a five per cent increase, and that the total dividend per share for the year would be 42p, also a five per cent rise.

Hargreaves said it now has a record 1.2m active clients, with 133,000 joining over the course of the year.

The firm has been under a lot of scrutiny for its longstanding support of Neil Woodford's now-suspended Equity Income fund, which the company continued to recommend to investors right up until it was gated on 3 June after becoming overwhelmed by withdrawals.

As these results only cover the year up to the 30 June, they only show the initial impact of the suspension on the investment platform.

The gating of the fund affected over 290,000 Hargreaves Lansdown investors – about a quarter of its total. The company is waiving fees for clients invested in the fund, at an estimated cost of £360,000 a month.

Four Hargreaves executives, including chief executive Chris Hill, announced on Wednesday that they would not take bonuses this year because of the Woodford scandal.

Hargreaves will still be encouraged by the increases seen in these results, however, which come during a particularly challenging period for the investment industry.

Co-op Bank narrows its losses but warns over mortgage competition

HARRY ROBERTSON

@henrygrobertson

CO-OPERATIVE Bank cut its losses in the first half of the year but said "margin headwinds" from mortgage competition was holding it back.

Co-op Bank made a statutory pre-tax loss of £38.5m in the first half, its interim results showed yesterday, compared to a £39.5m loss a year earlier.

Operating income fell slightly to £191.2m in the six months to 30 June from £192.9 in the same period a year before.

Yet the bank revealed its net interest margin – the difference between the rate at which it borrows and lends money and the key to profitability – was squeezed to 1.83 per cent from 2.08 per cent in 2018.

"We've delivered a positive first-half financial performance that is ahead of expectations, and although loss-making overall, is near break-even on an underlying basis," said chief executive Andrew Bester.

"We have seen margin headwinds this year so far, but our safe lending book provides resilience in what is a challenging retail banking market."

The bank returned to profitability in February for the first time in five years after it came close to collapse and had to be rescued in 2017.

AVENGERS: LONG GAME Cineword pins hopes on upcoming hits as revenue falls

CINEWORLD has posted a sharp drop in revenue for the first half, which it blamed on the timings of major film releases. Revenue dropped 11 per cent despite hits such as Avengers: Endgame, but the cinema chain maintained its targets for the full year.

Abandoned outlook leaves bitter taste in the mouth at Kraft Heinz

RICHA NAIDU

KRAFT Heinz reported weak sales yesterday, prompting the food giant to write down the value of several business units and drop its full-year forecast as it struggles to lure back customers.

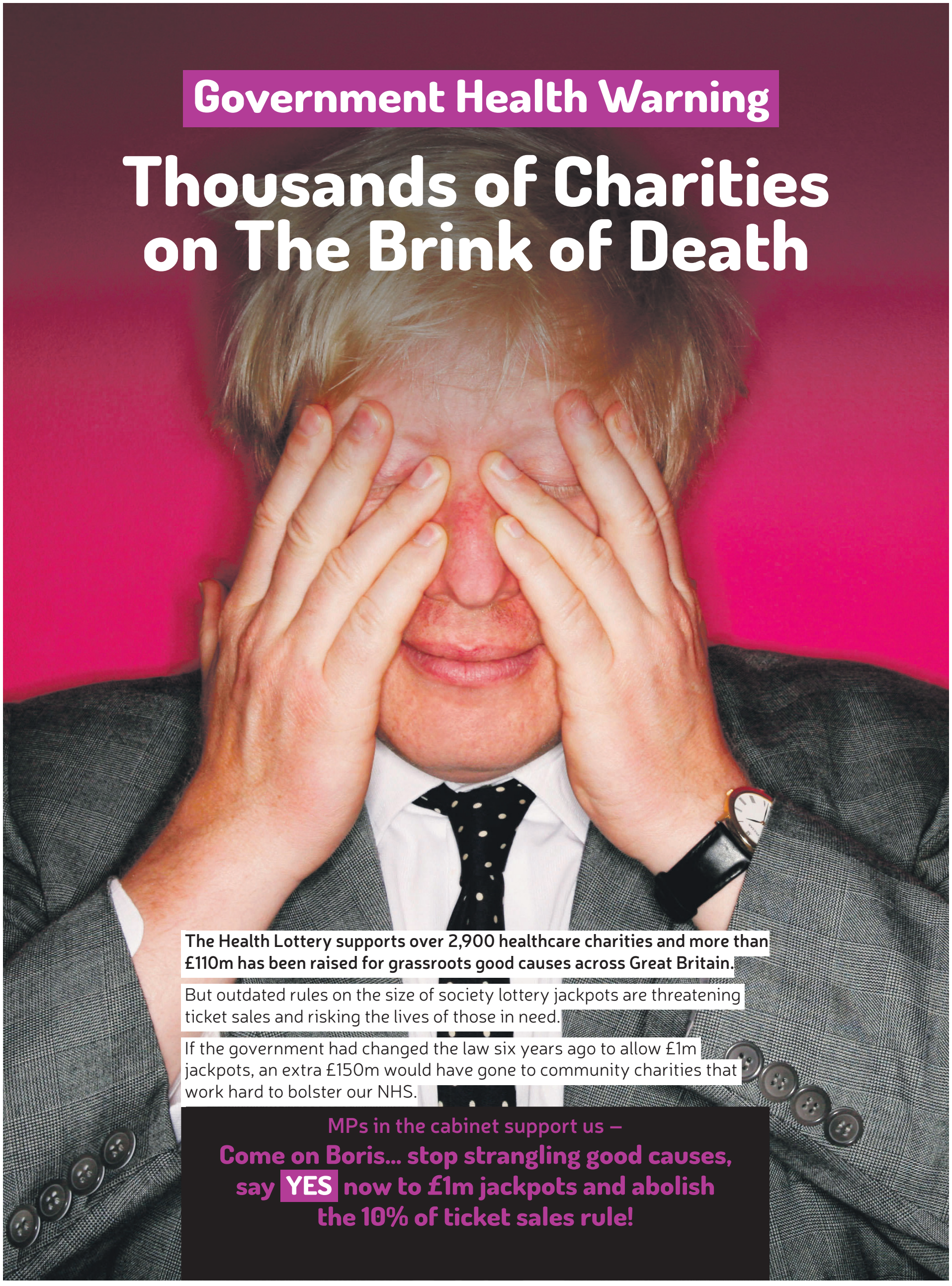
Shares fell to a record low as the Chicago-based firm marked a twelfth straight quarter of poor sales.

Kraft Heinz, in which billionaire Warren Buffett is the largest investor, has been battered by competition from private-label brands, changing consumer tastes and lower investment.

The earnings report, delayed by an internal investigation into accounting practices at Kraft Heinz's procurement team, underscored these issues and pushed shares down by more than 15 per cent.

"Some may say that it's not a disaster and thus better than feared – we're not yet in that camp," JP Morgan analyst Ken Goldman said.

Kraft Heinz's struggles have also rocked other major consumer goods companies this year. *Reuters*



Government Health Warning

Thousands of Charities on The Brink of Death

The Health Lottery supports over 2,900 healthcare charities and more than £110m has been raised for grassroots good causes across Great Britain.

But outdated rules on the size of society lottery jackpots are threatening ticket sales and risking the lives of those in need.

If the government had changed the law six years ago to allow £1m jackpots, an extra £150m would have gone to community charities that work hard to bolster our NHS.

MPs in the cabinet support us –

Come on Boris... stop strangling good causes, say YES now to £1m jackpots and abolish the 10% of ticket sales rule!

EDITOR'S NOTES

News and views from the City, Westminster & beyond

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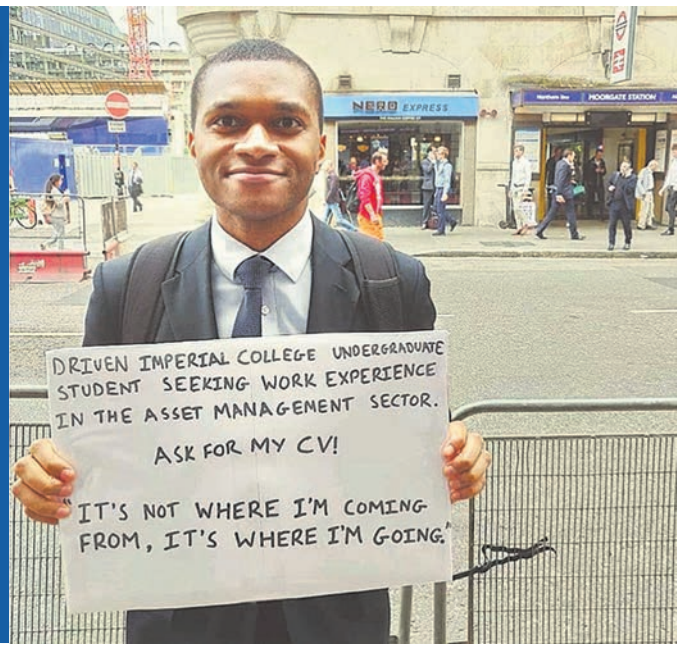
Short-sellers raise eyebrows but they have their place

HERE's a reasonable statement: "For markets to work properly and efficiently, all parties need access to accurate information." This claim can be found in the 'About Us' section of the website of Boatman Capital Research, but the philosophy does not extend to providing information about their own identity. Boatman Capital, the anonymous short-seller research outfit, appeared out of the blue in October last year with the sole purpose of torpedoing the defence and engineering giant Babcock whose shares slumped 10 per cent in the wake of the attack. Boatman is untraceable. According to Companies House and the FCA, it doesn't exist. Its website, which now hosts two incendiary attacks on Babcock plus another targeted at a mining company, is registered in Panama and nobody knows for sure who's behind it. In recent weeks, an equally anonymous outfit has cropped up online, claiming to have pieced together enough circumstantial information to unmask Boatman's crew, but without hard evidence this sleuthing will remain confined to the internet. This week's raid on Burford Capital by short-seller Muddy Waters had a dramatic and immediate impact on the London-listed firm, wiping nearly £2bn off its value. Having taken a short position before releasing its 25-page critique, Muddy Waters looks to be quids in. The only difference between them and Boatman is that they're not anonymous. Indeed, its founder Carson Block said yesterday his investment strategy has "made my share of enemies". Two main issues arise here. Firstly, where is the line between short-selling research and market abuse? And secondly, does he have a point about Burford? The victim of Block's research said yesterday that the Muddy Waters strategy is "to alarm investors, depress a company's stock and profit from the decline". Indeed so. But the short-sellers only cash in if they convince the market they've got a case. Boatman's second assault on Babcock barely registered, so for a research note to trigger a massive share price fall it has to hit a nerve. Short-sellers are entitled to conduct (and publicise) their research – just as Burford's team is entitled to respond as they have done – accusing the report's authors of "factual inaccuracies and fallacious insinuations". Muddy Waters has made the most serious allegations, even invoking Enron as it attacked "a poor business masquerading as a great one". Traditional hedge funds can build their short positions with relative stealth and the likes of Muddy Waters who favour a shock and awe approach certainly raise eyebrows, but as the Boatman statement says – it's about access to information, and we'd all be poorer without that – just as long as it's accurate.

Fortune favours the bold...

Meet David Tyoember, a chemistry undergraduate at Imperial College where he also runs the Investment Society. City commuters may have clocked him outside Moorgate station earlier this week, where he took an admirably direct approach in his hunt for work experience in asset management. His case was taken up by a number of industry figures who shared his image on social media, with many pointing him to the sector's access scheme Investment 20/20. If you want to get in touch, search for @DavidTyoember on Twitter.



CAN I QUOTE YOU ON THAT?

I might want to invent it

Shadow chancellor John McDonnell, when asked which law he would use to prosecute Tories "as social criminals".

Brexit and trains: two areas of interest guaranteed to have their fair share of cranks and eccentrics. Of all the strange letters I'm sent, these are the topics that dominate. When it comes to trains, I've received ideas for the reopening of branch lines, designs for new carriages and allegations of conspiracy involving HS2 and mineral rights. This week, Brexit and trains collided – or at least, some people were determined to bang them together. Rail operators announced that UK lines were pulling out of the Interrail scheme. This was presented by many, despite assurances to the contrary, as a consequence of Brexit and evidence of the miserable, insular future that awaits us. It wouldn't have affected Brits' ability to enjoy the scheme but would have made UK travel harder for Europeans. The dispute arose after UK rail bosses fell out with Eurail over new Interrail tickets. Still with me? Anyway, following an online backlash the UK's Rail Delivery Group have agreed new terms and will stay part of the scheme come what may. Now everyone take a breath.

Zurich expects to beat targets as profit jumps

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY

@SebMcCarthy

ZURICH Insurance Group hailed its best performance in a decade yesterday after reporting a double-digit rise in profit and predicting that it would beat previous financial targets.

Europe's fifth largest insurer reported a business operating profit of $2.8bn (£2.3bn) in the first six months of 2019, rising 16 per cent from the same period last year.

The combined ratio, a key figure in the insurance business, dropped to 95.1 percent in non-life – the best it has been in 10 years.

Citing underlying growth across the business and a "strong underwriting performance" in property and casualty, the Swiss company said it was on track to exceed all 2017-2019 group targets.

Shares in Zurich, which is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange, closed up four per cent yesterday.

Group chief executive Mario Greco said: "In 2016 we gave ourselves ambitious targets and we launched a bold new strategy. Today, we are proud to report that we are set to exceed all our targets and that the strategy is proving successful."

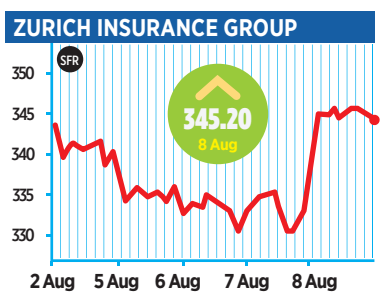
In its UK market, the insurance giant posted a 74 per cent rise in earnings to £248m, while combined ratio improved to 85.6 per cent from 95.5 per cent in 2018.

Business operating profit fell year on year from £67m to £63m.

UK boss Tulsi Naidu put the rise in earnings down to "significant improvement in the trading performance, driven by simplification, digitisation and innovation."

She added: "We are at a time of unprecedented change, so our challenge is to continue to push hard and focus on the customer experience."

Naidu told *City A.M.* that the company has been looking to improve its diversity, amid wider efforts among London's insurance market to improve its reputation.



SALVI-NO Italian coalition skirts collapse as deputy Prime Minister calls for elections

ITALY's deputy prime minister Matteo Salvini yesterday said he could not patch up difficulties in the country's ruling coalition. Salvini, who leads the right-wing League party, said he wants to "give the choice back to the voters". It calls into serious doubt the future of the government led by Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, formed last year. Salvini has faced criticism this week for partying on the beach.

AA share price rises as earnings accelerate at breakdown insurer

JOE CURTIS

@joe_r_curtis

BREAKDOWN insurance firm AA saw its share price rise more than five per cent yesterday as it said half-year profits will outpace 2018 growth.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) for the six months to July will beat last year's corresponding period, AA said, even as performance is expected to improve in the second half of the year.

"We are building positive operational momentum across the business as we continue to make significant progress on our strategic plan," chief executive Simon Breakwell said.

"We reiterate our confidence that the roadside membership base will be broadly flat this year and will return to growth in the year to 31 January 2021. Our insurance business is also performing strongly supported by the growth of our in-house underwriter."

It expects to hit Ebitda targets for the full-year, and generate "strong free cash flow" as it remains on track for medium-term targets in 2023.

Aviva confirms potential sale of Asian units

JOE CURTIS

@joe_r_curtis

AVIVA confirmed it is reviewing its Asian insurance arms and was open to selling as it revealed a "mixed" bag of half-year results yesterday.

The insurer saw operating profit climb one per cent year on year to £1.45bn in the first six months of 2019, beating forecasts of £1.38bn.

Earnings per share also beat a forecasted dip to rise two per cent to 27.3p.

Aviva's rise in profits masked weakness in the UK, where life insurance profit dropped 10.5 per cent to £187m. A surge in Canadian profits to £98m offset the drop.

Aviva has since separated management of its life insurance in the UK and merged UK digital and general insurance.

The insurer's fund management group also saw profit slip, down from £74m this time last year to just £61m.

New chief executive Maurice Tulloch also confirmed he is considering options for Aviva's Asian units, which boosted operating profit to £161m in the six months to June.

"We have decided to examine strategic options for our Asian businesses," he said.

"Our Asian operations are strategically and financially attractive, however, we are evaluating a range of options to enhance the value of the businesses to shareholders."

Shares closed up two per cent.

Property investment plummets in first half amid Brexit uncertainty

ALEX DANIEL

@alexmdaniel

BRITISH commercial property investment plunged by a third in the first half of the year because of Brexit-related uncertainty, while residential transactions were at their lowest since the global financial crisis, said real estate giant Savills.

Investment activity in greater London commercial property fell 31 per cent in the first half of 2019, while the rest of the country suffered a 33 per cent drop.

Meanwhile the company reported its revenue from sales of new homes was down 10 per cent in the first six months. Underlying profits in Savills' residential transaction business decreased 44 per cent.

Uncertainty over the terms on which Britain will leave the European Union has hampered the UK property market for months. UK house prices' growth rate fell to a modest 0.3 per cent annual rise in July. Experts have warned the market is stuck in "Brexit limbo".

Savills said that in the UK, "political and economic uncertainty has considerably reduced the volume of real estate trading activity in recent months".

Savills shares fell 2.4 per cent yesterday.

July heat wave fails to warm up high street sales

JESS CLARK

@jclarkjourno

SOARING temperatures failed to lift high street sales last month but benefited online stores as consumers turned to fast fashion for their heat wave wardrobes.

In-store like-for-like sales only increased 0.1 per cent in July as shoppers sheltered from the heat, upping the pressure on retailers as the third quarter continues, according to the latest High Street Sales Tracker from accountancy firm BDO published today.

BDO head of retail and wholesale Sophie Michael said: "2019 is proving to be a year to forget for the great British high street.

"Discounting has been relentless this summer; July's flat sales figures will not only be disappointing for retailers but will also add further pressure to margins that are already being squeezed to the extreme."

However, online sales received a 20.5 per cent boost from a base of 14.7 per cent growth last year - the strongest performance for the category since December 2017.

It comes as fast fashion platform Boohoo snapped up the online businesses of Karen Millen and Coast earlier this week, as the e-commerce retailer seeks to build upon its successes and expand into higher price point sales.

"Traditional brands are in a difficult situation but the high street is still a very important part of the future of UK retail," Michael said.

"Boohoo's acquisition of Karen Millen and Coast this week is indicative of that."

Lifestyle sales at bricks and mortar stores reported the worst July on record as like-for-like sales fell three per cent from a base of minus 2.6 per cent last year.

The in-store fashion sector reported the first signs of growth in three months, as sales increased three per cent.

BDO called on Prime Minister Boris Johnson to take action to improve conditions for high street retailers.

Michael added: "It is crucial that the new Prime Minister delivers on his pledge to implement measures that will help save the high street and provide some much-needed reassurance to retailers and the hundreds of thousands of people they employ."

MISSING GOALS Adidas aims to fix supply issues after falling short of expectations

SPORTSWEAR giant Adidas promised to fix supply shortages in North America after it missed sales and profit expectations in the second quarter. Sales were up four per cent to €5.5bn (£4.5bn) and profit rose nine per cent to €643m. Shares fell yesterday, closing down more than two per cent.

Derwent sells Clerkenwell office block for £103m as rent increases

JESS CLARK

@jclarkjourno

PROPERTY developer Derwent London has exchanged contracts to sell The Buckley Building in Clerkenwell for £103m, the company announced yesterday as it reported boosted rental income for the first half of the year.

New lettings in the first half totalled £18.1m, 7.5 per cent above December 2018 estimated rental value. Net rental income was up 7.1 per cent to £876.3m.

The developer completed the Brunel Building in Paddington during the period, and 98 per cent of the office space has been let. It has signed off on two building contracts totalling £252m.

In the second half so far lettings have reached £5.1m.

Going forward, the company said demand for London office space remains strong, particularly in the flexible office sector.

Derwent raised its interim dividend 9.9 per cent to 21p per share from 19.1p in 2018.

The world's local bank has new boss on its doorstep

Mark Kleinman

IT IS JUST 4.3 miles from One Canada Square, HSBC Holdings' headquarters, to 20 Gresham Street, the home of Lloyds Banking Group.

How fitting, then, that "the world's local bank" should have no further to look than its near-neighbour for its next chief executive.

Mark Tucker, HSBC's chairman, cautioned this week that his search for John Flint's successor could take between six and 12 months.

The first part of the process should be far swifter.

Antonio Horta-Osorio is ideally placed to take on the challenge of running Europe's largest bank – a company still riven by the internal fiefdoms and sprawling bureaucracy that have been the biggest barrier to its evolution for decades.

When Stuart Gulliver, Flint's predecessor, announced in 2017 that he would be stepping down, HSBC board members drew up a checklist of essential attributes that his replacement must possess.

Of those prerequisites, only significant experience in Asia is something Horta-Osorio lacks.

That should not be an insurmountable challenge. Horta-Osorio's track record at Lloyds – reshaping an admittedly smaller institution, integrating strategically rational bolt-on acquisitions – puts him at the top of a short list of candidates.

The internal candidates to replace Flint do not benefit from the hinterland of running a corporate behemoth, while external rivals from the US would almost certainly price themselves out of a role at the top of a British company.

Horta-Osorio has another advantage: he and Tucker served together on the Court of the Bank of England, where they are said to have got on well.

That rapport highlights the fact that the Tucker-led decision to oust Flint was the right one.

Their relationship had been dysfunctional almost from the day they began working together, according to colleagues, and the chairman impressed upon boardroom colleagues the importance of acting swiftly.

HSBC's advantageous position in some of the world's fastest-growing economies risks being squandered without decisive leadership.

One example of the sluggishness of its decision-making is the perpetual wrestling with the future of its asset management business.

HSBC has explored mergers with several European rivals, and has only this week come to the end of a tortuous search for a new chief executive for the unit.

Horta-Osorio's swift – albeit messy – termination of Lloyds' asset management deal with Standard Life Aberdeen, and creation of a potentially valuable wealth joint venture with Schroders, provides a further point of contrast with the interminable bureaucracy of HSBC.

Whether he would be able, single-handedly, to inject the momentum that Tucker believes Europe's biggest lender needs remains an open question – but he should be given the chance to try.

UNLUCKY BATTLE OF WILLS?

Throwing good money after bad? It might prove to be an unlucky £13m that Mike Ashley's Sports Direct International has spent on acquiring Jack Wills.

It's hard to see the preppy fashion brand making a compelling difference to Sports Direct's broader retail offering, while it adds more high street space to a group already struggling to deal with a surplus.

The timing is also frustrating for Ashley's external investors who waded through the interminable rant in Sports Direct's recent results in which he fired bullets at virtually everyone he has had dealings with in the last year.

More pertinently, Ashley's unwillingness to step back from his prolific buying spree will make it harder for Sports Direct to secure a new auditor to replace Grant Thornton.

The incumbent plans to resign after the company's annual meeting in October. It's hard to see any other outcome than the Department for Business being asked to step in to appoint a new auditor. Extraordinary.

SUPERFUNDS NOT MOTORING

It has been a frustrating start to life for superfunds, the new breed of pension consolidators conceived as a way of reducing deficits in the UK's vast final salary retirement fund arrangements.

The two main vehicles to emerge so far – Clara-Pensions, backed by an arm of buyout firm TPG, and the Pension Superfund, spearheaded by City financier Edi Truell – have found the going tough, largely because approval remains to be granted by regulators.

Progress on that front is expected in the autumn, but in the meantime the new entrants are busy striking deals with unwanted pension schemes.

Last month, the Pension Superfund announced that it had struck an agreement with an unnamed company to absorb £300m of defined benefit liabilities.

I understand that the scheme in question belongs to Hartwell, the used-car dealer. Coincidentally, the privately owned company marks its centenary this year.

At this glacial pace, superfunds might be allowed to demonstrate their potential by, say, the turn of the century.

Mark Kleinman is the City Editor of Sky News. @MarkKleinmanSky

Hastings shares sink as discount comes into force

ALEX DANIEL

@alexmdaniel

INSURER Hastings' share price fell as much as seven per cent yesterday as profits were slashed nearly in half over the first six months of the year.

Last month, the government changed the Ogden discount rate, which determines how much insurers have to pay out to people who have been injured in accidents, to a level which is unfavourable to insurers but guarantees better payouts to accident victims.

This hurt profits at Hastings, which provides car, bike, van and home insurance. Pre-tax profit tumbled to £38.2m, a 47 per cent fall on a year-on-year basis. Net revenue was down slightly at £370.3m.

Hastings said the impact of the new rate had been included within the reserve calculations for personal injury claims, resulting in a one-off pre-tax charge of £8.4m.

Even excluding the impact of the Ogden rate change, adjusted operating profit fell 25 per cent to £68.1m.

Net debt fell to £218.2m, while the firm had a £31.8m cash deficit, up from £17m the year before.

Hastings did, however, attract a four per cent growth in customers, with live policies up to 2.81m.

The company said its loss ratio – the amount it spends on claims compared to how much it earns on premiums – including the impact of the new discount rate was 81.1 per cent, compared with 73.8 per cent.

Gross written premiums rose three per cent to £499.2m.

Hastings also said it had to pay more for property damage costs due to a rise in the cost of car parts as well as labour.

The cost of a motor insurance policy in the UK recovered in the latest quarter after falling in the first quarter of the year.

Insurers last month accused the government of being "misleading and wholly disingenuous" in its decision about the Ogden rate last week, saying it would cost the industry hundreds of millions of pounds and potentially hike car insurance premiums as a result.

Yesterday, Hastings' results reinforced the view that it was unhelpful to insurers.

Hastings said its outlook and guidance for the year was unchanged, after it maintained its share of new business on price comparison websites.

Chief executive Toby van der Meer said: "I am pleased by the strong progress we have made on our strategic initiatives whilst navigating current market conditions. Our focus on digital initiatives continues, resulting in both improvements in our net promotor scores and an 11 per cent reduction in customer service phone calls per policy."

Shares closed down almost three per cent yesterday.

PINT ON THE HOUSE Golden handshake reached £850,000 for Green King chief

FORMER Greene King chief executive Rooney Anand received a payout of £850,000 after he quit the pub chain. The FTSE 250 brewery said the payment was made after Anand agreed to "various post-termination covenants" outside of his contract.

Fintech giant Robinhood gains approval for UK fee-free stocks

JOE CURTIS

@joe_r_curtis

COMMISSION-FREE stock trading giant Robinhood is bringing its fintech platform to the UK after receiving the go-ahead from the UK's financial regulator, it said yesterday.

The US startup, which is valued in the billions of dollars, will have to contend with rivals Revolut, Freetrade and Etoro in the UK space after the Financial Conduct Authority greenlit its platform.

Robinhood has hired Transferwise veteran and ex-Plum investment head Wander Rutgers to lead its London office and UK business.

"Today marks the beginning of a new chapter for Robinhood, and we're excited to take the first important step towards bringing our investing platform to customers in the UK," Rutgers said.

"I'm thrilled to be a part of Robinhood and our effort to expand into a new international market."

The firm is now hiring to fill out roles spanning compliance, user research, marketing and operations.

Robinhood was founded in 2013 as a cheaper method of buying and selling US stocks and shares. Now the business is worth $7.6bn (£6.3bn).

A launch date for its platform in the UK has yet to be confirmed, but it will follow hot on the heels of Revolut's own fee-free trading service.

IN BRIEF

ETF SECTOR NO THREAT TO STABILITY, SAYS FCA

Britain's financial watchdog yesterday said the exchange-traded funds (ETFs) market is not a threat to financial stability and can cope with the sort of liquidity issues that damaged Neil Woodford's flagship fund. The wider world of funds has come under scrutiny after Woodford's open-ended fund was dramatically suspended in June when investors rushed to take their money out. This has drawn the attention of the UK's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), which said it does "does not detect any initial signs of concern to financial stability" in the market as there are players willing to step in and maintain liquidity at times of stress.

ARROW GLOBAL HITS THE TARGET IN PROFIT BOOST

Arrow Global has reported a huge increase in pre-tax profit but a dip in assets under management, and the debt-purchase specialist has announced a £20m cost-cutting programme. Profit before tax for the first half of the year surged 203.7 per cent to £32.5m, a significant increase on £10.7m in the same period last year. Arrow saw a slight dip assets under management, which dropped to £52bn compared to the £52.6bn reported at the end of last year. Finance costs for the group rose from £22.8m last year to £26.5m.

GUY HANDS 'PULLS OUT OF TAKEOVER PLANS'

Private equity magnate Guy Hands is said to have abandoned takeover plans for a European packaging business. His firm, Terra Firma Capital Partners, has withdrawn from negotiations to buy German packaging firm Cartonplast, Sky News reported yesterday. The withdrawal raises questions about the ability of one of the most prominent British financiers to land fresh acquisitions. It is understood efforts to persuade other would-be backers to support the deal have failed in recent weeks.

Boom in first-half activity as world bond market sets quarterly record

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY

@SebMcCarthy

THE WORLD's green bond market hit a record quarterly high in the last three months, as investor appetite in environmental assets picked up pace.

Issuers brought $66.6bn (£54.8bn) of green bonds to market globally in the second quarter of 2019, propelling issuance in the first half of the year and shattering records.

Growth in green bonds, which are typical defined investment products created to boost the development of renewable energy projects that tackle carbon emissions, has been led by European issuers.

First-half issuance was 47 per cent higher than the same period of 2018, compared against an 11 per cent year-over-year rise in the previous year, according to a new report by Moody's Investors Service.

"The green bond market remains on course to eclipse our 2019 forecast of $200bn of total issuance," said Moody's analyst Matthew Kuchtyak in the report.

Corporates were the strongest contributors to overall green bond issuance in the second quarter, with $14.9bn of non-financial corporate issuance and $13.6bn of financial corporate issuance accounting for 22 per cent and 20 per cent of total volume respectively.

European issuers accounted for a leading 54 per cent of total issuance, driven by the large debut $6.7bn sovereign green bond from the government of the Netherlands.

DON'T HAVE A COW Eating habits must drastically change to curb global warming

A BODY of UN experts has called for changes in land management practices, food production and consumption to prevent global warming. They called for major changes to eating habits, but stopped short of explicitly promoting meat-free food.

Thyssenkrupp issues another profit warning

ALEX DANIEL

@alexmdaniel

THYSSENKRUPP, the German steel making giant, yesterday gave its fourth profit warning under chief Guido Kerkhoff, who faces mounting pressure to turn the company around.

The firm announced it expects to make around €800m (£738m) in profit this year, a significant downgrade on its previous forecast for a figure between €1.1bn and €1.2bn.

Despite this, shares rose 4.3 per cent yesterday as Kerkhoff revealed fresh plans to restructure the sprawling conglomerate.

Thyssenkrupp brought in €34.8bn of revenue last year. It employs more than 160,000 people across more than 600 divisions, whose functions include making submarines, elevators and steel parts for the automotive industry.

The latter of those industries has done part of the damage this year.

Thyssenkrupp said its growth had suffered from a "marked downturn" in the global car manufacturing industry.

Growth has also struggled amid high raw materials prices and a weakening German economy.

German manufacturing orders picked up this month, but the sector has been in the doldrums for most of this year. The US-China trade war, slowing global growth, Brexit and new car emissions tests in Germany have caused demand for German manufactured goods to slump.

"One thing will stop, which is that businesses without a clear perspective are burning cash on a permanent basis, destroying value that other business areas have generated," Kerkhoff told journalists.

Chief executive Kerkhoff's reputation has taken a battering at the firm, after he oversaw a botched merger with Tata Steel and he failed to sell its capital goods business.

The German is plotting next to sell Thyssenkrupp's elevator business, which the firm has already earmarked for its own float on the German stock market.

He said yesterday the firm has received expressions of interest from several parties for a potential sale.

"The obviously great interest of competitors and financial investors shows us how attractive the elevator business is," Kerkhoff said.

More than 80 per cent of Orsted's energy comes from green sources

Denmark's Orsted goes to green as new wind farms come online

AUGUST GRAHAM

@AugustGraham

EARNINGS ticked up at Danish renewables giant Orsted in the first half of the year, putting the firm on track to meet forecasts, it said yesterday.

The company reached an operating profit of 8.8bn Danish krone (£1.1bn), up two per cent year-on-year.

Meanwhile, earnings from offshore wind jumped 18 per cent as more farms came online, and the proportion of energy from green sources hit 82 per cent, up from 71.

"Over the past decade, we have undertaken one of the most ambitious green transformations in the global energy industry, guided by our vision of creating a world that runs entirely on green energy and our strong commitment to the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals," said chief executive Henrik Poulsen.

"We are fully on track to meet our target of a 98 per cent reduction of the carbon emission intensity from our energy generation by 2025, making it essentially carbon free."

Evraz 'healthy' despite heavy earnings drop

AUGUST GRAHAM

@AugustGraham

MINER Evraz hailed a set of "rather healthy results" yesterday even as net profit dropped by more than two thirds in the first six months of the year.

Lower prices for vanadium and coking coal took a 22 per cent chunk off the company's earnings before interest, tax appreciation and amortisation.

Sales fell six per cent in the vital steel segment to $4.2bn (£3.5bn), though North American steel posted a 14 per cent jump to $1.3bn.

Net profit fell to $344m, down from $1.1bn in the same period last year, the company said yesterday.

"We have finished the first half of the year with a set of rather healthy results, supported by positive trends in our key product markets," said chief executive Alexander Frolov.

"In Russia, we saw a recovery of the construction activity and, as a result, an increase in the consumption of most of our products."

Steel consumption grew 11 per cent year-on-year in Russia, driven in part by demand from the railway sector. But revenues in the country still fell by $157m, or 6.8 per cent, to $2.2bn, the company said.

Shares closed the day up 2.2 per cent, hitting 617.6p.

The funding will be used to develop treatments and automate admin tasks

Boris Johnson pledges £250m for NHS artificial intelligence tech lab

JAMES WARRINGTON

@j_a_warrington

THE NHS is set to receive £250m in funding to boost research into artificial intelligence that could help develop treatments for cancer, dementia and heart disease.

The money will be funnelled into a new National Artificial Intelligence Lab, health secretary Matt Hancock said yesterday.

AI is already being used in some hospitals to help predict cancer survival rates and cut the number of missed appointments.

In addition to medical research, the funding boost could benefit patients by freeing up beds and providing treatment closer to home, the Department of Health said.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "Today's funding is not just about the future of care though. It will also boost the frontline by automating admin tasks and freeing up staff to care for patients."

The new lab will sit within NHSX, the new organisation tasked with overseeing the digitisation of the health and care service.

It comes after the Prime Minister pledged a £1.8bn emergency NHS cash boost to improve hospitals and infrastructure, and resolve issues with doctors' pensions.

CITY DASHBOARD

YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR BROKER VIEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

LONDON REPORT

Mining stocks raise FTSE 100 for second day

MINING stocks thrust London's main index higher yesterday after a round of Chinese data dissipated some global growth fears and nickel prices hit a 16-month high amid supply worries, while **Hargreaves Lansdown** advanced after strong annual results.

The FTSE 100, which fell almost five per cent in the days after US President Donald Trump said he would slap tariffs on more Chinese imports last week, recovered for the second session running and surged 1.2 per cent.

The more domestically focussed mid-cap index rose one per cent on its best day in nearly three months.

"The trade spat is far from over, but while the rhetoric and the actions have been dialled down, traders are swooping in snapping up relatively cheap stocks," CMC Markets analyst David Madden said.

Data showed that China's unwrought copper imports bounced back in July after two months of declines, which helped markets find their feet after an aggressive sell-off earlier this month.

Fund supermarket Hargreaves Lansdown, whose shares took a beating in June as nearly a quarter of its clients were exposed to Neil Woodford's suspended fund, advanced nearly 12 per cent after a forecast-beating rise in full-year assets.

Miners, which have been pressured recently as US-China trade tensions hit metal prices, snapped seven straight days of losses as nickel prices jumped amid worries that Indonesia could soon ban ore exports.

Gains in the blue-chip index were kept in check by a 5.9 per cent drop in telecom giant **BT** as the stock traded ex-dividend.

There was a 5.9 per cent drop in telecom giant BT.

On the mid-cap index, automotive fluid storage firm **TI Fluid Systems** tumbled 15 per cent after poor half-year results, while motor insurer **Hastings** slid three per cent to an eight-month low after its first-half profit missed market view.

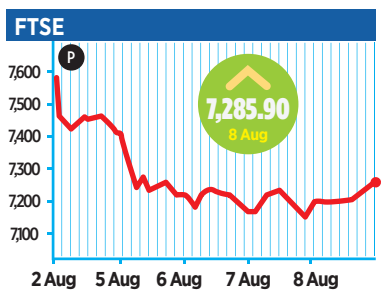
AIM-listed **Burford Capital**, whose shares nearly halved in value on Wednesday after short-seller Muddy Waters criticised its accounts, recouped some losses and ended up 15.2 per cent as the fund said it was considering buying back shares.

TOP RISERS

1. **Hargreaves Lans** Up 11.84 per cent
2. **Rolls-Royce** Up 5.97 per cent
3. **Antofagasta** Up 5.41 per cent

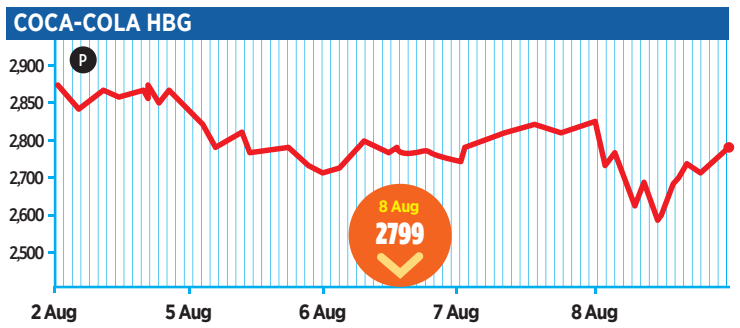
TOP FALLERS

1. **BT** Down 5.88 per cent
2. **Direct Line** Down 2.64 per cent
3. **Standard Life** Down 1.77 per cent

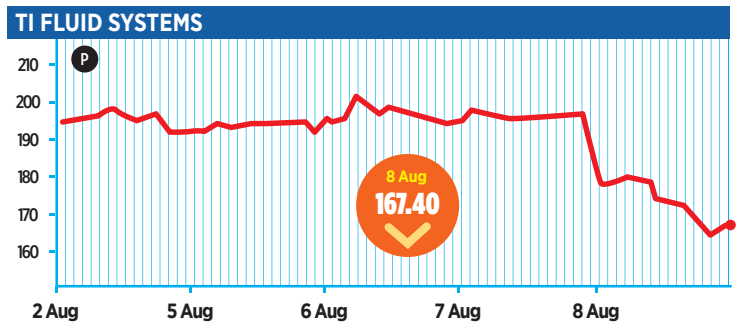


BEST OF THE BROKERS

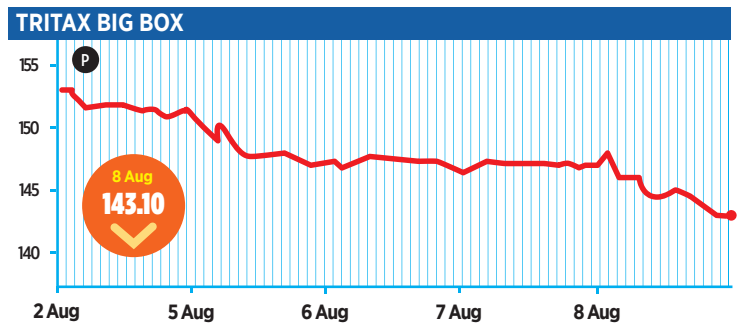
To appear in Best of the Brokers, email your research to notes@cityam.com



If you like Coca-Cola, you are sure to love the Coca-Cola Hellenic bottling company, which bottles Coca-Cola across 28 countries. Analysts at Jefferies think Coca-Cola HBG has got plenty of bottle, giving the stock a "buy" rating and a refreshing target price of 3,000p. The analysts say it is in the "sweet spot of staples" with "stock not expensive for this growth". In the medium-term the analysts said: "The growth outlook is favourable given natural volume growth in Coca Cola Hellenic markets, improving execution and innovation."



TI Fluid Systems scored a "buy" rating from broker Peel Hunt despite a gloomy set of interim results in a "tough first half". The company, which makes fluid delivery systems for vehicles, beat broker expectations in its results, but posted an organic revenue drop of 5.3 per cent on constant currency. Peel Hunt said the company "continued to prove the durability of its business" despite a global fall in vehicle production. It stressed that the company is "continuing to outperform the underlying market". The broker trimmed its target price to 335p from 380p.



Real estate investment trust Tritax Big Box got a "hold" rating and a target price of 155p from brokers Liberum. The analysts said Tritax's first-half results "continue to show a positive backdrop for industrial real estate, albeit a combination of continued uncertainty and already low yields have lowered capital growth as expected". Analysts said Tritax's portfolio of big box assets should benefit from growth in e-commerce. They warned it was taking a risk with more development at a time where there was increasing speculative development in the space.

NEW YORK REPORT

Tech stocks provide boon to Wall Street

US STOCKS jumped yesterday, giving the S&P 500 its biggest one-day percentage gain in about two months, as bond yields climbed a day after falling sharply while better-than-expected economic data in the United States and China helped to offset trade worries.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 371.46 points, or 1.43 per cent, to end at 26,378.53, while the S&P 500 gained 54.18 points, or 1.88 per cent, to 2,938.16. The Nasdaq Composite added 176.33 points, or 2.24 per cent, to 8,039.16.

The S&P 500 technology sector, which was at the heart of the recent selloff, provided the biggest boost to the benchmark S&P 500 index.

Advanced Micro Devices gained 16.2 per cent after the chipmaker launched its second generation of processor chip and said that it had landed **Alphabet**'s Google and **Twitter** as customers.

Symantec jumped 12.3 per cent after on rumours that chipmaker **Broadcom** was in talks to buy the business.

The two companies later confirmed the sale after markets closed, in a $10.7bn (£8.8bn) deal.

US data pointed to a robust labor market as the number of Americans filing applications for unemployment benefits unexpectedly fell last week, allaying some worries about a recession and helping US Treasury yields rise.

That followed better-than-expected export numbers out of China and some improvement for the country's yuan currency, whose slide over the weekend spurred Wall Street's worst day so far this year on Monday.

On the down side, **Kraft Heinz** sank after it pulled its full-year forecast and wrote down the value of several business units by over $1bn, capping a rough few months for the company.

Lyft advanced three per cent after the ride-hailing service raised its annual outlook and hinted at the end of its price war with **Uber**.

Uber, due to report after the bell and a high-profile loser since its market launch this year, rose 8.2 per cent.

CITY MOVES WHO'S SWITCHING JOBS

ASSURANT

Global provider of housing and lifestyle solutions Assurant has announced the appointment of Christian Formby as its new president, Europe, subject to receipt of regulatory approval. Formby will have responsibility for developing and executing strategic priorities for Assurant's European operations to drive profitable growth in France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and the UK. Formby will focus on delivering innovative solutions that meet the needs of clients and their customers to improve the customer experience. Formby has over 17 years of experience in financial services, working for global brands including Goldman Sachs, Marsh, EY and Zurich Financial Services before joining Assurant. During his eight-year career at Assurant, Formby has held leadership roles in both the company's global Housing and Lifestyle business units, including country leadership, regional P&L management and business development across regions. Most recently, he was senior vice president, global property international with oversight and management of Assurant's International Property business. In his new role, Formby will be based in the UK and report to Keith Meier, president, International.

OSTC

Global derivatives trading and education business OSTC has announced the appointment of Nigel Holt as head of internal audit, effective 1st October 2019. Nigel is a 30-year veteran in the fields of audit, risk, internal control and corporate governance. He joins OSTC from Colas UK. Prior to this Nigel has held senior audit roles at a range of corporations including Friends Life, Partnership Assurance and the London Stock Exchange. In his role as head of audit, Nigel will focus on quality and excellence and will promote a culture which emphasises a control framework that ensures compliance with global standards and requirements. He is a chartered member of the Institute of Internal Auditors and will report to the Audit Committee.

MEDIA CHAIN

The social-first publishing arm of Social Chain has announced the appointment of Jon Edwards as head of sales. Jon previously held the role of brand partnerships account director at Ladbible and was also formerly at the Trinity Mirror. At Media Chain, Jon will be based in London and will hold responsibility of all Media Chain brand partnership sales across the UK. He will initially focus on growing the social media publishing business and will work to deliver engaging and effective campaigns. Previously Jon has held positions at Ladbible, Hearst and Trinity Mirror and has worked with the likes of Pepsico, Amazon, Sony Columbia, Ladbrokes Coral and Warner Brothers. He was part of the original commercial set up at Unilad.

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

FTSE 100	FTSE 250	FTSE ALL SHARE	DOW JONES	NASDAQ	S&P 500
7285.90	19137.61	3981.33	26378.19	8039.16	2938.09
87.20 ▲	196.61 ▲	45.57 ▲	371.12 ▲	176.33 ▲	54.11 ▲

£					
£/€	1.0842	▲ 0.0005	€/$	1.1188	▼ 0.0015
£/$	1.2134	▼ 0.0008	€/£	0.9221	▼ 0.0004
£/¥	128.37	▼ 0.5771	€/¥	118.35	▼ 0.6430

GILTS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Tsy 3.750 19	100.25	-0.01	103.3	100.2
Tsy 2.000 20	101.36	-0.02	102.5	101.3
Tsy 4.750 20	102.41	-0.03	106.4	102.1
Tsy 3.750 20	103.45	-0.03	106.3	103.4
Tsy 2.500 20	355.64	-0.04	361.4	355.5
Tsy 8.000 21	113.82	-0.04	120.4	113.4
Tsy 4.000 22	109.28	-0.05	111.3	109.0
Tsy 0.500 22	100.40	-0.04	100.5	97.7
Tsy 1.875 22	116.98	-0.19	118.3	115.5
Tsy 2.250 23	107.66	-0.01	107.9	104.7
Tsy 2.500 24	374.97	-0.24	377.1	358.7
Tsy 0.125 24	114.99	-0.23	115.6	110.9
Tsy 5.000 25	125.57	0.06	125.9	122.1
Tsy 4.250 27	131.28	0.27	131.8	122.6
Tsy 1.250 27	138.68	-0.09	139.5	128.4
Tsy 6.000 28	150.18	0.29	150.8	140.5
Tsy 0.125 29	131.44	-0.11	132.3	118.8
Tsy 4.750 30	145.10	0.43	146.0	132.1
Tsy 4.125 30	394.52	-0.06	396.8	355.2
Tsy 4.250 32	142.82	0.50	143.7	128.5
Tsy 1.250 32	161.63	0.06	162.6	144.1
Tsy 0.125 36	154.33	0.21	155.7	133.4
Tsy 4.250 36	150.77	0.77	151.9	133.1
Tsy 4.750 38	165.43	0.89	167.0	144.9
Tsy 0.625 40	175.52	0.36	177.4	152.8
Tsy 4.500 42	168.96	1.11	171.0	145.9
Tsy 3.500 45	151.09	1.29	153.0	128.0
Tsy 4.250 46	171.54	1.34	174.0	145.7
Tsy 4.025 49	178.20	1.46	180.6	150.0
Tsy 0.500 50	207.59	0.65	210.3	173.7
Tsy 0.250 52	204.39	0.64	207.3	168.8

AEROSPACE & DEFENCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BAE Systems	569.0	15.6	636.2	443.9
Cobham	163.9	0.3	168.3	96.8
Meggitt	615.4	11.8	615.8	458.0
QinetiQ Group	281.4	2.4	312.4	267.9
Rolls-Royce Holdi	773.6	43.6	1089.0	730.0
Senior	200.2	6.3	327.8	185.4
Ultra Electronics	2120.0	52.0	2164.0	1232.0

BANKS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Bank of Georgia G	1398.0	40.0	1878.8	1310.0
Barclays	145.9	-1.6	193.1	143.5
Close Brothers Gr	1304.0	10.0	1660.0	1281.0
CYBG	156.6	6.2	364.2	149.9
HSBC Holdings	634.3	6.9	725.8	600.8
Lloyds Banking Gr	49.8	-0.5	66.6	48.5
Metro Bank	312.8	0.2	3050.0	305.0
Royal Bank of Sco	207.5	3.1	270.4	197.5
Standard Chartere	635.4	8.4	736.8	519.8
TBC Bank Group	1382.0	30.0	1728.0	1242.0

BEVERAGES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Barr (A.G.)	670.0	9.0	975.0	610.0
Britvic	876.5	9.0	971.0	745.0
Coca-Cola HBC AG	2799.0	-31.0	3074.0	2244.0
Diageo	3362.0	-17.0	3526.0	2523.5

CHEMICALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Croda Internation	4752.0	116.0	5447.7	4576.0
Elementis	144.0	3.5	247.8	129.8
Johnson Matthey	2964.0	77.0	3752.0	2620.0
Sirius Minerals	9.6	0.3	37.4	9.3
Synthomer	292.2	10.0	537.2	279.8
Victrex plc	1963.0	72.0	3408.0	1868.0

CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Balfour Beatty	197.7	3.5	296.5	194.2
CRH	2661.0	79.0	2735.0	1971.5
Galliford Try	568.5	12.0	1104.0	512.0
Ibstock	220.8	3.0	262.0	193.1
Marshalls	616.5	11.0	690.0	412.2
Polypipe Group	398.0	3.0	453.8	307.8

ELECTRICITY

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Contour Global	164.0	0.0	246.0	150.1
Drax Group	280.4	-4.2	427.2	260.2
SSE	1092.0	8.5	1280.0	1008.0

ELECTRONIC & ELECTRICAL EQ.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Halma	1972.0	61.5	2094.0	1237.0
Morgan Advanced M	255.6	4.6	361.4	237.0
Oxford Instrument	1300.0	2.0	1424.0	842.0
Renishaw	3600.0	140.0	5520.0	3460.0
Spectris	2382.0	42.0	2898.0	1966.5

EQUITY INVESTMENT INSTRUM.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aberforth Smaller	1142.0	-8.0	1394.0	1120.0
Alliance Trust	808.0	15.0	838.0	672.0
Apax Global Alpha	154.5	-1.0	159.0	127.0
AVI Global Trust	752.0	5.0	781.0	660.0
Baillie Gifford J	805.0	-3.0	866.0	663.0
Bankers Inv Trust	943.0	16.0	970.0	766.0
BBGI SICAV S.A. (	154.5	0.0	168.0	142.5
BlackRock Smaller	1332.0	24.0	1585.0	1160.0
BMO Global Smalle	1372.0	20.0	1495.0	1220.0
Caledonia Investm	3010.0	25.0	3110.0	2650.0
City of London In	406.0	4.5	434.0	376.0
Edinburgh Inv Tru	542.0	1.0	699.0	537.8
F&C Investment Tr	711.0	17.0	741.0	616.0
Fidelity China Sp	211.0	4.5	250.0	182.4
Fidelity European	249.5	3.5	257.5	202.0
Fidelity Special	246.0	2.0	278.0	220.0
Finsbury Growth &	929.0	19.0	956.0	740.0
GCP Infrastructur	126.0	1.2	130.8	122.4
Genesis Emerging	757.0	15.0	783.0	615.0
Greencoat UK Wind	137.4	-0.4	143.2	122.8
HarbourVest Globa	1678.0	12.0	1726.0	1314.0
Herald Investment	1296.0	12.0	1364.0	1055.0
HGCapital Trust	209.0	3.5	220.0	175.0
HICL Infrastructu	163.4	1.4	170.1	149.9
International Pub	160.2	0.8	163.4	146.8
JPMorgan American	479.5	12.0	494.5	386.5
JPMorgan Emerging	1018.0	19.0	1066.0	759.0
JPMorgan Indian I	725.0	18.0	790.0	566.0
JPMorgan Japanese	447.0	5.0	470.0	367.0
Jupiter European	844.0	10.0	895.0	666.0
Law Debenture Cor	570.0	2.0	636.0	534.0
Mercantile Invest	194.4	1.4	219.0	168.0
Monks Inv Trust	932.0	20.0	964.0	710.0
Murray Internatio	1148.0	14.0	1208.0	1056.0
NB Global Floatin	89.7	0.0	93.3	87.6
NextEnergy Solar	120.0	0.0	124.5	108.0
Pantheon Internat	2280.0	45.0	2330.0	1955.0
Perpetual Income	293.0	0.0	364.5	290.0
Pershing Square H	1452.0	18.0	1480.0	990.0
Personal Assets T	42750.0	150.0	42800.0	38900.0
Polar Capital Tec	1416.0	28.0	1500.0	1066.0
RIT Capital Partn	2085.0	45.0	2150.0	1892.0
Riverstone Energy	727.0	7.0	1282.0	720.0
Schroder Asia Pac	445.5	12.0	469.5	379.0
Scottish Inv Trus	819.0	10.0	902.0	748.0
Scottish Mortgage	542.0	16.0	568.5	441.4
Sequoia Economic	113.6	0.2	115.2	106.0
Smithson Investme	1246.0	22.0	1278.0	1000.2
Syncona Limited N	236.0	1.5	302.5	213.5
Temple Bar Inv Tr	1210.0	18.0	1366.0	1116.0
Templeton Emergin	782.0	14.0	829.0	649.0
The Renewables In	128.0	0.2	133.2	109.3
TR Property Inv T	418.0	1.0	433.5	353.5
Vietnam Enterpris	472.5	6.5	475.0	420.0
VinaCapital Vietn	354.5	5.5	356.0	318.0
Witan Inv Trust	215.5	3.5	227.6	189.6
Woodford Patient	40.9	0.8	91.0	40.0
Worldwide Healthc	2750.0	15.0	2915.0	2325.0

FINANCIAL SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
3i Group	1101.0	25.0	1164.5	756.2
3i Infrastructure	287.5	4.5	303.0	232.5
AJ Bell	389.5	0.0	477.0	220.0
Allied Minds	59.6	0.5	87.0	37.3
Amigo Holdings	140.4	-3.6	297.5	137.0
Arrow Global Grou	258.0	-8.0	273.0	167.2
ASA International	370.0	-20.0	510.0	320.0
Ashmore Group	520.5	11.5	542.5	337.0
Brewin Dolphin Ho	297.0	4.2	366.0	292.8
Charter Court Fin	274.0	3.0	375.0	228.8
City of London In	430.0	0.0	440.0	360.0
CMC Markets	86.7	0.8	193.0	77.4
Coats Group	75.3	1.4	91.3	69.8
Georgia Capital	1016.0	10.0	1260.0	941.0
Hargreaves Lansdo	2050.0	217.0	2433.0	1633.0
IG Group Holdings	564.8	3.8	915.0	474.8
IntegraFin Holdin	387.0	-2.5	406.1	269.0
Intermediate Capi	1349.0	20.0	1429.0	899.0
International Per	99.9	1.8	243.0	95.3
Investec	433.1	6.2	561.0	423.4
IP Group	60.8	1.6	131.2	59.2
John Laing Group	386.4	1.4	402.0	285.0
JTC	352.0	-8.0	440.0	287.0
Jupiter Fund Mana	341.4	-6.4	433.3	287.6
Liontrust Asset M	768.0	-12.0	816.0	532.0
LMS Capital	50.2	0.0	53.5	44.0
London Finance &	38.5	0.0	43.5	37.5
London Stock Exch	6810.0	20.0	7058.0	3867.0
Man Group	156.0	1.0	183.0	126.8
OneSavings Bank	337.0	3.8	447.4	330.0
Paragon Banking G	396.6	4.6	502.0	379.2
Plus500 Ltd (DI)	593.0	1.2	2040.0	495.0
Provident Financi	374.9	3.7	692.6	364.7
Quilter	136.5	0.7	156.6	110.6
Rathbone Brothers	2135.0	30.0	2634.0	2085.0
Real Estate Credi	167.0	-0.5	175.5	163.0
Record	31.7	0.3	42.1	27.3
River and Mercant	260.0	-4.0	330.0	212.0
S&U	2120.0	20.0	2605.0	1767.5
Sanne Group	536.0	0.0	752.0	450.0
Schroders	2935.0	45.0	3210.0	2334.0
Standard Life Abe	256.0	-4.6	378.9	224.9
TP ICAP	283.8	2.4	324.5	267.2
Walker Crips Grou	26.5	0.0	39.0	24.0
XPS Pensions Grou	113.0	-0.5	180.0	95.0

FIXED LINE TELECOMS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BT Group	173.6	-10.8	264.7	172.7
TalkTalk Telecom	105.7	1.5	137.0	96.6
Telecom Plus	1298.0	-10.0	1528.0	1010.0

FOOD & DRUG RETAILERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Greggs	2130.0	16.0	2476.0	1006.0
Morrison (Wm) Sup	186.0	1.3	269.4	184.0
Ocado Group	1208.0	50.0	1435.0	749.8
Sainsbury (J)	191.8	1.6	341.5	187.9
SSP Group	708.0	4.0	744.4	615.1
Tesco	219.7	2.9	266.2	189.6
UDG Healthcare Pu	782.0	9.0	813.0	551.0

FOOD PRODUCERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Associated Britis	2381.0	10.0	2638.0	2041.0
Bakkavor Group	101.8	1.0	190.0	99.9
Cranswick	2604.0	20.0	3454.0	2472.0
Greencore Group	208.5	2.3	230.0	162.9
Hilton Food Group	914.0	0.0	1088.0	884.0
Tate & Lyle	724.2	8.6	800.4	630.6
Unilever	4867.0	4.0	5091.0	3931.0

FORESTRY & PAPER

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Mondi	1601.0	39.0	2230.0	1553.5

GAS, WATER & MULTIUTILITIES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Centrica	67.6	-0.8	155.6	66.8
National Grid	846.7	3.6	889.2	748.7
Pennon Group	707.6	3.0	792.8	684.2
Severn Trent	1990.0	23.5	2153.0	1770.0
United Utilities	766.0	7.0	873.6	682.4

GENERAL INDUSTRIALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Smith (DS)	333.3	13.0	513.4	292.2
Smiths Group	1570.0	34.0	1666.0	1279.5
Smurfit Kappa Gro	2468.0	92.0	3292.0	1934.0
Vesuvius	479.8	-1.0	662.0	473.2

GENERAL RETAILERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Auto Trader Group	530.0	9.8	606.0	388.5
B&M European Valu	349.2	2.2	426.3	278.6
Card Factory	163.7	2.8	210.8	159.8
Dixons Carphone	113.6	1.2	179.8	107.6
Dunelm Group	907.0	16.0	981.0	482.8
Inchcape	586.0	8.5	716.5	486.6
JD Sports Fashion	607.2	9.8	649.8	318.5
Just Eat	802.6	12.8	805.6	533.8
Kingfisher	212.6	0.8	299.4	202.2
Marks & Spencer G	189.7	0.7	299.1	188.8
Next	5858.0	-20.0	6064.0	3991.0
Pets at Home Grou	228.4	1.4	236.0	110.0
Sports Direct Int	235.8	5.0	406.7	214.4
Ted Baker	909.0	-21.0	2378.0	800.0
Vivo Energy	117.0	1.0	148.6	96.0
WH Smith	2040.0	32.0	2186.0	1697.0

HEALTH CARE EQUIPMETN & S.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Assura	66.0	0.5	66.4	52.4
Convatec Group	182.6	-0.7	239.0	118.6
Mediclinic Intern	321.2	4.3	504.8	293.4
NMC Health	2095.0	95.0	4120.0	2000.0
Smith & Nephew	1876.5	37.0	1924.5	1258.0

HHOLD GDS & HOME CONSTR.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Barratt Developme	634.0	2.4	663.0	434.0
Bellway	2817.0	-65.0	3226.0	2419.0
Berkeley Group Ho	3856.0	73.0	3981.0	3226.0
Bovis Homes Group	1034.0	0.0	1177.0	828.0
Countryside Prope	281.8	2.4	353.2	270.0
Crest Nicholson H	353.8	-1.4	404.8	296.4
McCarthy & Stone	135.8	-0.1	142.7	108.8
Persimmon	1916.5	8.0	2501.0	1859.5
Reckitt Benckiser	6027.0	66.0	7155.0	5593.0
Redrow	555.0	2.0	674.6	460.8
Taylor Wimpey	148.8	0.1	192.3	129.3

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Bodycote	692.5	5.5	1024.0	676.0
Hill & Smith Hold	1170.0	39.0	1306.0	902.5
IMI	970.2	3.6	1227.0	870.0
Melrose Industrie	174.0	3.9	233.9	146.3
RHI Magnesita N.V	4172.0	-30.0	5085.0	3318.0
Rotork	315.5	7.8	342.8	235.7
Spirax-Sarco Engi	8095.0	35.0	9400.0	5900.0
Weir Group	1363.0	41.0	1939.0	1240.0

INDUSTRIAL METALS & MINING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Evraz	617.6	17.6	709.4	442.1
Ferrexpo	229.0	5.6	301.3	143.5

INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BBA Aviation	306.2	2.0	324.8	207.0
Clarkson	2510.0	-10.0	2900.0	1878.0
Fisher (James) &	1990.0	-6.0	2260.0	1600.0
Royal Mail	210.9	4.2	489.0	194.5

NON LIFE INSURANCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Admiral Group	2061.0	-10.0	2300.0	1932.5
Beazley	572.0	15.0	599.0	492.6
Direct Line Insur	298.8	-8.1	366.5	298.2
Hastings Group Ho	185.3	-5.7	274.2	172.3
Hiscox Limited (D	1577.0	-9.0	1777.0	1418.0
Lancashire Holdin	678.5	2.5	725.5	530.0
RSA Insurance Gro	534.4	-5.0	641.0	496.6
Sabre Insurance G	259.5	-1.5	294.0	249.0

LIFE INSURANCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aviva	388.8	6.8	502.8	364.6
Legal & General G	241.2	3.5	291.2	223.7
Phoenix Group Hol	698.0	23.5	724.8	544.0
Prudential	1531.0	18.0	1824.0	1340.0
St James's Place	950.2	17.2	1171.0	914.0

MEDIA

	Price	Chg	High	Low
4Imprint Group	2910.0	-30.0	2940.0	1800.0
Ascential	369.6	-2.4	434.8	337.2
Bloomsbury Publis	228.0	0.0	243.0	190.5
Centaur Media	41.5	-0.5	56.5	34.7
Entertainment One	425.0	-1.8	483.4	336.4
Euromoney Institu	1340.0	-6.0	1412.0	1132.0
Future	1036.0	12.0	1248.0	375.0
Goco Group	83.5	1.5	118.4	64.6
Haynes Publishing	223.0	0.0	227.0	160.0
Huntsworth	99.0	3.0	125.0	81.0
Informa	845.4	9.8	892.0	605.8
ITE Group	72.9	2.0	83.7	56.3
ITV	110.6	0.9	170.1	104.7
Moneysupermarket.	353.9	4.2	417.7	264.0
Pearson	832.6	9.6	1027.5	769.2
Reach	88.0	-1.6	91.2	54.6
Relx plc	1937.5	13.5	1978.0	1491.5
Rightmove	518.5	9.0	585.1	420.9
STV Group	360.0	-12.0	432.0	318.0
Tarsus Group	424.0	-1.0	438.0	243.0
WPP	915.0	2.8	1301.0	800.4

MINING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Acacia Mining	239.0	-4.0	256.6	96.1
Anglo American	1864.4	72.6	2266.0	1464.6
Antofagasta	869.6	44.6	1022.5	727.2
BHP Group	1835.0	75.0	2049.0	1490.6
Centamin (DI)	137.5	-0.2	139.5	79.8
Fresnillo	685.4	4.6	1027.5	601.0
Glencore	235.8	6.5	341.5	228.5
Hochschild Mining	226.0	3.0	228.2	149.1
Kaz Minerals	520.0	23.6	738.4	436.7
Polymetal Interna	1055.5	9.5	1063.5	597.2
Rio Tinto	4158.0	-37.0	4976.5	3486.0

MOBILE TELECOMS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Inmarsat	575.0	0.0	578.8	362.8
Vodafone Group	150.5	3.3	186.7	123.3

OIL & GAS PRODUCERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BP	502.9	-2.7	598.3	485.9
Cairn Energy	159.7	10.1	249.2	140.0
Energean Oil & Ga	1056.0	12.0	1082.0	510.0
Premier Oil	71.5	2.7	143.6	55.6
Royal Dutch Shell	2382.0	51.5	2666.0	2213.0
Royal Dutch Shell	2345.0	26.5	2705.5	2227.0
Tullow Oil	179.4	4.1	266.3	165.2

OIL EQUIPMENT & SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Hunting	439.2	4.8	849.0	426.2
Petrofac Ltd.	399.7	11.8	663.4	381.5
Wood Group (John)	475.4	9.9	796.4	389.9

PERSONAL GOODS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Burberry Group	2217.0	62.0	2345.0	1623.5
PZ Cussons	207.5	-6.5	244.0	178.6

PHARMACEUTICALS & BIOTECH

	Price	Chg	High	Low
AstraZeneca	7227.0	105.0	7240.0	5325.0
BTG	840.0	0.0	853.0	508.5
Dechra Pharmaceut	2884.0	34.0	3168.0	2014.0
Genus	2636.0	70.0	2890.0	2098.0
GlaxoSmithKline	1667.4	9.4	1730.0	1418.0
Hikma Pharmaceuti	1841.0	36.0	2025.0	1510.5

REAL ESTATE INVEST. & SERV.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BMO Commercial Pr	110.0	1.8	149.4	106.0
Capital & Countie	192.8	3.7	279.5	186.9
CLS Holdings	233.0	-5.0	255.0	195.4
Daejan Holdings	5490.0	0.0	6190.0	5420.0
Grainger	219.6	1.6	278.5	205.8
NewRiver REIT	159.4	1.0	274.0	156.8
Safestore Holding	610.0	5.0	658.5	499.4
Savills	925.0	-22.5	961.0	678.5
St. Modwen Proper	375.0	-4.0	441.5	365.0
UK Commercial Pro	83.8	1.1	92.7	80.2

REAL ESTATE INVEST. TRUSTS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Big Yellow Group	986.5	17.0	1062.0	852.5
British Land Comp	489.1	7.6	647.2	479.3
Derwent London	2910.0	20.0	3328.0	2761.0
Great Portland Es	656.6	6.8	773.6	645.4
Hammerson	222.0	6.7	513.2	206.8
Intu Properties	38.8	0.3	201.5	37.7
Land Securities G	780.4	2.6	942.7	772.2
LondonMetric Prop	199.5	1.2	215.2	172.7
Primary Health Pr	130.6	0.0	139.0	106.4
SEGRO	749.8	7.4	789.0	585.2
Shaftesbury	756.0	1.5	928.5	748.0
Tritax Big Box Re	143.1	-3.7	159.7	129.0
Unite Group	1020.0	7.0	1076.0	797.5
Workspace Group	831.5	5.0	1088.0	789.5

SOFTWARE & COMPUTER SERV.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Avast	329.6	2.6	345.8	229.6
Aveva Group	3872.0	82.0	4170.0	2284.0
Computacenter	1445.0	15.0	1572.0	952.0
FDM Group (Holdin	792.0	7.0	1000.0	734.0
Funding Circle Ho	105.8	6.8	440.0	99.0
Kainos Group	512.0	-12.0	676.0	354.0
Micro Focus Inter	1700.0	50.6	2491.6	1434.4
Playtech	411.4	1.7	560.4	361.8
Sage Group	715.8	13.6	820.4	525.6
Softcat	919.0	13.5	993.5	565.0
Sophos Group	407.4	8.1	539.5	298.2

SUPPORT SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aggreko	852.0	13.8	882.0	691.8
Ashtead Group	2232.0	82.0	2438.0	1586.5
BCA Marketplace	241.8	0.4	247.0	178.5
Bunzl	2112.0	38.0	2551.0	2047.0
Capita	138.4	0.4	150.2	99.9
DCC	6490.0	140.0	7390.0	5555.0
Diploma	1477.0	17.0	1634.0	1150.0
Electrocomponents	554.6	12.0	761.6	480.0
Equiniti Group	213.4	1.4	266.0	186.2
Essentra	397.4	7.6	486.2	325.4
Experian	2558.0	61.0	2558.0	1728.5
Ferguson	6102.0	112.0	6556.0	4749.0
G4S	183.7	1.4	282.0	175.9
Grafton Group Uni	691.0	8.0	937.0	630.0
Hays	152.4	2.6	212.0	135.7
Homeserve	1105.0	5.0	1263.0	849.0
Howden Joinery Gr	533.2	7.8	573.4	416.4
Intertek Group	5656.0	134.0	5962.0	4387.0
Network Internati	615.0	18.0	628.0	500.0
Pagegroup	458.0	4.6	623.5	415.0
PayPoint	959.0	12.0	1118.0	748.0
Rentokil Initial	449.3	6.4	449.3	284.8
Robert Walters	520.0	-8.0	475.0	814.0
Serco Group	141.1	1.9	147.4	84.1
SIG	118.9	1.8	153.0	102.2
Travis Perkins	1248.0	14.5	1465.0	970.0

TOBACCO

	Price	Chg	High	Low
British American	3071.0	65.0	4222.5	2375.0
Imperial Brands	2115.0	51.0	2987.5	1846.8

TRAVEL & LEISURE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Carnival	3634.0	56.0	5000.0	3412.0
Cineworld Group	242.6	-3.4	323.6	231.7
Compass Group	2049.0	19.0	2110.0	1483.0
Domino's Pizza Gr	228.5	-1.2	302.7	224.4
EI Group	281.4	-0.2	285.0	155.2
FirstGroup	114.7	1.4	116.6	79.3
Flutter Entertain	6700.0	100.0	7550.0	5525.0
Go-Ahead Group	2092.0	18.0	2200.0	1480.0
Greene King	577.2	-20.2	704.4	472.8
GVC Holdings	570.2	10.0	1138.0	507.5
InterContinental	5285.0	24.0	5738.0	3958.4
International Con	464.1	7.3	711.4	413.5
Marston's	107.7	1.7	124.7	89.9
Merlin Entertainm	451.3	0.4	453.8	307.1
Millennium & Copt	680.0	0.0	685.0	436.0
Mitchells & Butle	318.5	-1.5	321.1	238.0
National Express	420.2	-3.2	438.4	361.4
PPHE Hotel Group	1830.0	0.0	1990.0	1495.0
Rank Group	158.0	1.0	187.4	135.0
Restaurant Group	139.9	1.0	221.9	111.9
Stagecoach Group	129.8	0.4	177.0	115.5
TUI AG Reg Shs (D	827.4	7.4	1582.5	698.0
Wetherspoon (J.D.	1498.0	13.0	1581.0	1066.0
Whitbread	4299.0	51.0	5114.0	3929.0
William Hill	146.8	2.2	269.5	132.3
Wizz Air Holdings	3530.0	53.0	3769.0	2329.0

AIM 50

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Abcam	1220.0	0.0	1539.0	1017.0
Advanced Medical	285.0	-5.0	370.0	260.0
Alliance Pharma	72.5	0.4	95.6	60.0
ASOS	2462.0	92.0	6222.0	2107.0
Blue Prism Group	1176.0	20.0	2575.0	1040.0
Camellia	10025.0	-75.0	11750.0	9100.0
CareTech Holding	376.0	-4.0	406.0	325.0
Central Asia Meta	195.0	1.6	266.5	193.4
Clinigen Group	940.0	-12.5	1069.0	721.0
CVS Group	899.5	-12.0	1023.0	395.0
Dart Group	777.0	0.0	1017.0	751.0
Diversified Gas &	106.5	0.5	134.0	100.0
Draper Esprit	508.0	22.0	645.0	458.0
Eland Oil & Gas	122.8	1.8	134.0	97.0
EMIS Group	1216.0	-6.0	1242.0	864.0
Fevertree Drinks	2248.0	37.0	3956.0	2070.0
First Derivatives	2720.0	50.0	4390.0	2050.0
Frontier Developm	913.0	47.0	1385.0	740.0
Gamma Communicati	1100.0	-15.0	1195.0	688.0
GB Group	573.0	8.0	631.0	410.5
Gooch & Housego	1205.0	0.0	1880.0	954.0
Hurricane Energy	40.8	0.2	60.8	39.0
Impax Asset Manag	232.0	-8.0	295.0	184.0
Iomart Group	331.5	-1.5	475.0	308.0
IQE	59.1	1.1	112.5	51.6
James Halstead	514.0	10.0	532.0	367.0
Johnson Service G	166.4	2.4	174.8	113.6
Keywords Studios	1631.0	45.0	2065.0	900.0
Learning Technolo	108.0	3.2	166.5	62.2
M&C Saatchi	336.0	-2.0	394.0	270.0
M. P. Evans Group	667.0	7.0	800.0	637.0
Majestic Wine	272.5	1.5	422.0	219.0
Midwich Group	540.0	-10.0	685.0	491.5
Mortgage Advice B	576.0	6.0	720.0	490.0
Next Fifteen Comm	596.0	16.0	658.0	469.0
Nichols	1785.0	-30.0	1840.0	1240.0
Numis Corporation	236.0	1.0	424.5	221.5
Polar Capital Hol	544.0	16.0	644.0	448.0
Purplebricks Grou	117.8	1.6	300.0	90.0
Redde	114.8	-0.2	196.0	90.0
Renew Holdings	401.0	13.0	436.5	333.0
RWS Holdings	597.0	0.0	652.0	415.5
Scapa Group	207.0	5.0	473.4	157.0
Secure Income Rei	417.0	-2.0	420.0	371.0
Serica Energy	107.4	3.0	142.0	74.9
Smart Metering Sy	463.6	0.2	665.0	455.4
Telford Homes	348.5	0.0	430.0	267.0
Thorpe (F.W.)	325.0	-1.0	340.0	248.0
Watkin Jones	211.0	5.0	232.5	192.2
Young & Co's Brew	1630.0	-20.0	1885.0	1322.5
Young & Co's Brew	1160.0	0.0	1275.0	1030.0

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MAIN CHANGES UK 350

Risers ▲		%
Hargreaves Lansdow	2050.0	11.8
Aston Martin Lagon	501.0	8.1
Funding Circle Hol	105.8	6.9
Cairn Energy	159.7	6.8
Rolls-Royce Holdin	773.6	6.0
Antofagasta	869.6	5.4
NMC Health	2095.0	4.8
Kaz Minerals	520.0	4.8
IWG	411.0	4.7
Ocado Group	1208.0	4.3

Fallers ▼		%
TI Fluid Systems	167.4	-14.9
BT Group	173.6	-5.9
Greene King	577.2	-3.4
PZ Cussons	207.5	-3.0
Hastings Group Hol	185.3	-3.0
Direct Line Insura	298.8	-2.6
Tritax Big Box Rei	143.1	-2.5
Amigo Holdings	140.4	-2.5
Savills	925.0	-2.4
Kainos Group	512.0	-2.3

EU SHARES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
AB INBEV	87.57	0.77	92.71	56.32
ADIDAS N	268.40	-5.90	297.95	178.30
AIR LIQUIDE	124.40	3.30	127.20	101.85
AIRBUS BR	127.16	5.16	133.86	77.50
ALLIANZ	202.25	2.49	218.70	170.50
AMADEUS IT GRP BR-A	69.80	1.62	82.20	58.06
ASML HLDG	195.76	5.16	211.50	130.12
AXA	21.86	0.44	23.99	18.40
BANCO SANTANDER	3.70	0.08	4.70	3.57
BASF N	58.68	1.75	81.73	56.20
BAYER N	62.20	2.30	96.55	52.00
BBVA	4.52	0.11	6.05	4.37
BMW	62.62	0.42	86.71	61.31
BNP PARIBAS A	40.75	0.79	55.34	38.14
CRH PLC	28.77	0.89	34.87	26.53
DAIMLER N	43.87	0.11	59.90	43.00
DANONE	77.94	1.80	79.42	59.72
DEUTSCHE POST N	29.25	0.38	32.20	23.43
DEUTSCHE TELEKOM N	14.60	0.03	15.88	13.36
ENEL N	6.14	0.01	6.62	4.22
ENGIE	13.43	0.11	14.39	11.31
ENI N	13.43	0.24	16.71	13.15
ESSILORLUXOTT	128.15	3.15	129.60	95.50
FRESENIUS	42.93	0.53	69.76	38.50
IBERDROLA	8.80	0.02	9.13	5.81
INDITEX	26.73	0.44	28.86	21.85
ING GROUP	8.88	0.13	12.70	8.64
INTESA SANPAOLO N	1.95	0.04	2.47	1.80
KERING	456.10	9.10	539.80	351.70
KON AH DEL BR	21.11	1.05	24.01	18.60
L'OREAL	238.00	5.00	257.80	182.00
LINDE	171.40	3.70	0.00	0.00
LVMH	368.25	10.60	392.65	242.30
MUENCHENER RUECKV N	215.00	3.20	228.70	180.00
NOKIA	4.82	0.13	5.76	4.17
ORANGE	13.34	0.05	15.25	13.08
ROY.PHILIPS	41.74	0.80	43.67	29.05
SAFRAN	127.55	4.65	137.20	99.98
SANOFI	74.61	1.92	80.44	71.32
SAP I	108.86	2.98	125.00	84.02
SCHNEIDER EL	74.30	1.34	81.36	57.54
SIEMENS N	90.48	0.68	114.10	88.88
SOCIETE GENERALE	22.77	0.67	35.01	20.81
TELEFONICA	6.53	0.02	8.06	6.43
TOTAL	43.91	0.73	55.39	42.65
UNILEVER	50.83	0.08	55.40	45.30
VINCI	93.88	2.48	94.96	69.98
VIVENDI	25.37	0.40	26.69	20.80
VOLKSWAGEN VZ I	144.02	0.48	163.70	131.02

US SHARES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
3M	164.22	0.58	219.75	158.04
ABBOTT LABORATOR	85.56	0.96	88.76	63.07
ADOBE	297.78	8.76	313.11	204.95
ALPHAB RG-C-NV	1204.80	30.81	1289.27	970.11
ALPHABET-A	1206.19	30.28	1296.98	977.66
AMAZON.COM	1832.89	39.49	2050.50	1307.00
AMERICAN EXPRESS	125.29	1.75	129.34	89.05
APPLE	203.43	4.39	233.47	142.00
AT&T	34.54	0.48	34.64	26.80
BANK OF AMERICA	28.38	0.49	31.91	22.66
BERKSHIRE HATH RG-B	200.52	2.31	224.07	186.10
BOEING CO	336.35	4.97	446.01	292.47
CATERPILLAR	122.02	1.24	159.37	112.06
CHEVRON	123.23	4.13	127.60	100.22
CISCO SYSTEMS	53.16	0.82	58.26	40.25
CITIGROUP	66.74	1.60	75.24	48.42
COCA-COLA CO	53.69	0.51	54.82	44.25
COMCAST-A	42.66	0.93	45.30	32.61
DOW	46.79	1.90	0.00	0.00
EXXON MOBIL	72.38	1.88	87.36	64.65
FACEBOOK-A	190.16	5.01	208.66	123.02
GOLDMAN SACHS GR	207.00	1.26	245.08	151.70
HOME DEPOT	211.57	3.66	219.30	158.09
IBM	140.10	0.99	154.36	105.94
INTEL	47.17	0.44	59.59	42.36
JOHNSON & JOHNSO	131.68	1.47	148.99	121.00
JPMORGAN CHASE	109.86	1.83	119.24	91.11
MASTERCARD RG-A	278.04	8.73	283.33	171.89
MCDONALD'S	218.01	1.18	219.74	156.17
MEDTRONIC	102.28	0.89	103.95	81.66
MERCK	84.73	0.48	87.07	65.68
MICROSOFT	138.89	3.61	141.68	93.96
NETFLIX	315.90	11.61	386.80	231.23
NIKE -B-	83.00	1.72	90.00	66.53
ORACLE	54.65	1.31	60.50	42.40
PEPSICO	129.47	1.69	135.24	104.53
PEPSICO	118.61	0.56	119.74	101.06
PFIZER	36.87	0.29	46.47	35.86
PHILIP MRRS INT	82.48	1.12	92.74	64.67
PROCTER&GAMBLE	117.44	1.92	121.76	78.49
SALESFORCE.COM	143.82	2.18	167.56	113.60
TRAVELERS COS	148.22	0.86	155.09	111.08
TWITTER	42.07	0.34	43.48	26.19
UNITEDHEALTH GRO	247.62	1.17	287.94	208.07
UTD TECHS	131.48	2.47	144.40	100.48
VERIZON COMM	55.82	0.73	61.58	52.20
VISA RG-A	179.90	4.58	184.07	121.60
WALGREENS BOOTS	53.02	0.54	86.31	49.31
WALMART	108.52	0.32	115.49	85.78
WALT DISNEY	137.89	3.03	147.15	100.35
WELLS FARGO	46.40	0.59	59.53	43.02

COMMODITIES

Gold	1506.05	40.80
Silver	16.82	0.43
Brent Crude	56.23	-2.71
Krugerrand	1498.60	34.15
Palladium	1429.00	-4.00
Platinum	854.00	-1.00
Tin Cash Official	17095.00	-70.00
Lead Cash Official	1938.50	66.00
Zinc Cash Official	2351.00	10.00

Copper Cash Official	5665.00	8.50
Aluminium Cash Official	1740.00	-11.50
Nickel Cash Official	15020.00	-285.00
Aluminium Alloy Cash Official	1250.00	16.00
Cocoa Futures	2225.00	-31.00
Coffee 'C' Futures	97.17	0.27
Feed Wheat Futures	144.00	0.80
Soybeans Futures Continuation Contract	863.00	14.20

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	-0.463	0.00
LIBOR Euro - 12 months	-0.369	0.00
LIBOR USD - overnight	2.099	0.00
LIBOR USD - 12 months	1.977	-0.02
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	2.25	0.03
Euro Euribor	-0.403	0.01
The vix index	16.91	-2.58
The baltic dry index	1712.00	-22.00
Markit iBoxx EUR	248.00	-0.95
Markit iBoxx GBP	354.12	-2.36
Markit iBoxx USD	260.79	0.86

WORLD INDICES

	Price	Chg	%chg
FTSE 100	7285.90	87.20	1.21
FTSE 250	19137.61	196.61	1.04
FTSE All-Share	3981.33	45.57	1.16
FTSE AIM All-Share	884.94	8.57	0.98
S&P 500	2938.09	54.11	1.88
Dow Jones I.A.	26378.19	371.12	1.43
Nasdaq Composite	8039.16	176.33	2.24
Xetra DAX	11845.41	195.26	1.68
CAC 40	5387.96	121.45	2.31
Swiss Market Index	9751.55	217.57	2.28
ISEQ Overall Index	5943.65	127.49	2.19
FTSEurofirst 300	1474.38	24.46	1.69
Hang Seng	26120.77	123.74	0.48
Shanghai Composite	2794.55	25.87	0.93
STI Index	3168.46	-18.14	-0.57
ASX All Ordinaries	6642.30	53.80	0.82

OFFICE POLITICS

Why the four-day week is a dumb idea

Working fewer days won't miraculously cure the workplace of excessive stress

DESPITE mooting plans to trial a four-day working week, research foundation the Wellcome Trust then did a complete U-turn on its proposal, following a review which found that the initiative could put extra pressure on some of its workforce.

The news caught my eye because it confirmed what I already knew: while I wholeheartedly support a flexible working culture, imposing a shorter working week on employees won't solve the UK's stress and productivity crisis. Yet, our own research showed that nearly a third of employees think a four-day working week would relieve stress.

In today's always-on culture, it's not surprising that people are looking for a way to manage this pressure. But shortening the working week could actually have the opposite effect, creating more pressure by cramming five days' worth of work into four.

Contrary to popular opinion, pressure isn't always a bad thing. In fact, a certain amount can actually help improve people's performance.

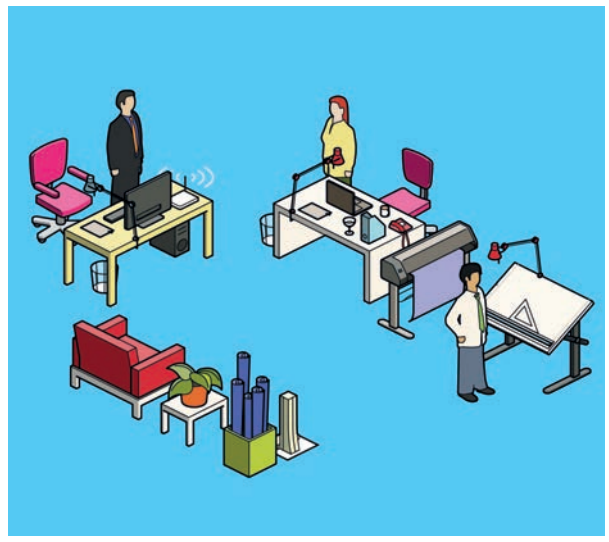
The problem starts when pressure isn't managed well – and that results in stress.

Over a long period of time, stress can become a way of life, and workers subconsciously accept it as part of a normal working day. Worryingly, our research of UK workers shows that this is increasingly becoming the case, with 43 per cent saying that they usually feel stressed at work.

The root cause of the issue seems to be the fact that there is not enough support from management.

Close to half of the people we interviewed feel as though their business isn't giving them the resources to cope with stress. This is concerning, especially when you consider that the large majority think that being able to better cope with stress would not just improve their overall wellbeing, but also their performance at work.

With that in mind, what can businesses do to not just help their employees to better manage pressure, but actually enable them to use it to their advantage?



Shortening the working week could actually create more pressure by cramming five days into four

One of the key problems today is that managers themselves are not receiving enough support, which has a cascading effect, as they find themselves unable to support those that they manage.

When people get promoted into a management role, they are suddenly no longer just responsible for their own performance and wellbeing, but also for that of their entire team.

This not only requires a shift in mindset, but a completely different set of skills. Almost everyone has a story of someone they know who is a high individual performer, but a terrible manager.

To help people make the transition from individual performer to manager, businesses need to ensure that they provide an induction package to go alongside new management roles – and that they are keeping up this support on an ongoing basis.

With company performance predicated by the skillset and capability of this group's ability to support their team, providing the relevant resources and training to help them be better managers is a vital investment.

People are more likely to work hard and perform if they are valued, and equipped with the tools they need to do their job and look after themselves. Also don't underestimate the importance of having a bit of fun at work.

Working fewer days in a week won't miraculously cure the workplace of excessive stress. Instead, the trick for businesses is to help the workforce use pressure to their advantage, while offering flexible working options which are suitable at the individual level, rather than an organisational imposed policy.

This will benefit the wellbeing of their workforce, and the business bottom line.

Adrian Moorhouse is a former Olympic gold medallist and managing director at Lane4.

FULL STREAM AHEAD

Freeview
Free

For the first time, viewers can watch live Freeview programmes without having to access an aerial. The app provides viewers with a one-stop shop for the country's most watched TV shows. Viewers can stream live channels from BBC, ITV and Channel 4, and access on-demand content.

COFFEE BREAK

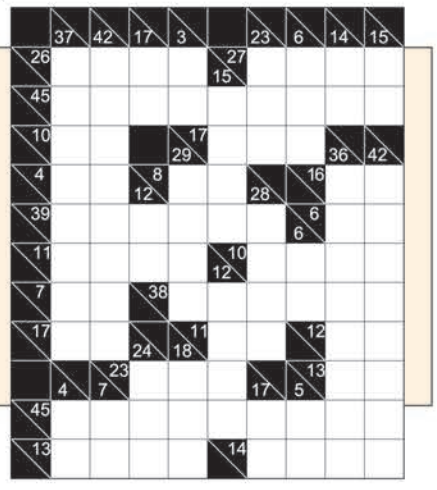
SUDOKU

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

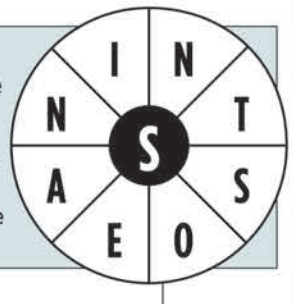
KAKURO

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.

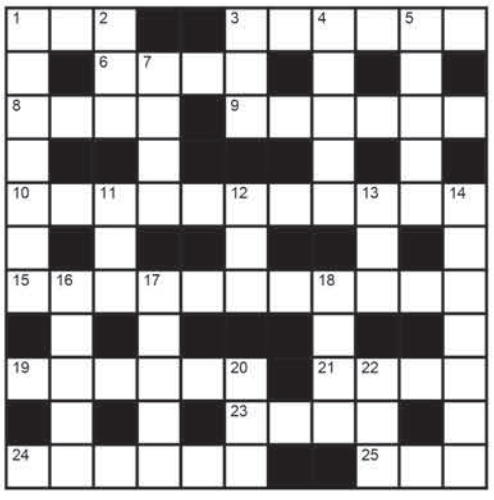


WORDWHEEL

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 Force by impact (3)
3 Russian soup with a beetroot juice base (6)
6 Disease of the skin (4)
8 Chomp (4)
9 Business leader (6)
10 Christian symbol with a circle around the centre (6,5)
15 Overwhelmed by wonder (3-8)
19 Coined (6)
21 Heavy book (4)
23 Estimation (4)
24 Large gathering of people (6)
25 Edge, border (3)

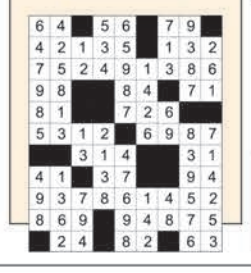
DOWN

1 Daphne du Maurier novel (7)
2 Rug (3)
3 Wager (3)
4 Come back (5)
5 Cuts into pieces, as with an axe (5)
7 Division of a dollar (4)
11 Bruce ___, expert kung fu actor (3)
12 Automobile (3)
13 Hard durable wood (3)
14 Ray of natural light (7)
16 Determine the heaviness of (5)
17 Fight (3-2)
18 Doves' home (4)
20 Archaeological site (3)
22 Implement used to propel or steer a boat (3)

LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

KAKURO



SUDOKU

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

WORDWHEEL

The nine-letter word was **INSOLVENT**

FORUM

EDITED BY RACHEL CUNLIFFE

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

McDonnell has put a nationalist cat among the Scottish pigeons

Rachel Cunliffe
Comment and features editor at City AM

LABOUR has a problem – and for once it isn't antisemitism. This time, it's second-in-command John McDonnell, who this week defied party policy and threw a spanner in the constitutional works by declaring that he backed allowing Scotland to vote again on independence.

Speaking at an event at the Edinburgh Fringe (a festival more commonly associated with comedy than politics), the shadow chancellor announced that a second referendum "will be for the Scottish parliament and the Scottish people to decide", saying "that's democracy".

It's "democracy" that is top of the agenda right now, after a YouGov poll on Monday showed that 52 per cent of Scottish voters now support independence.

The trouble is that a second vote can only happen if the government in Westminster were to allow it, and Labour's official stance, at least up until this week, is not to.

Indeed, Scottish Labour leader Richard Leonard was caught entirely unawares by McDonnell's unsanctioned comments. He hit back hard, insisting that a second referendum was "unwanted by the people of Scotland", in spite of the poll, and on Thursday Scottish Labour issued a statement criticising the national party for the apparent about-turn, courtesy of McDonnell.

The terror for Scottish Labour is real. The party is currently in third place behind the SNP and the Scottish Conservatives in terms of both Holyrood and Westminster seats, and while the SNP remains independence-obsessed, the Tories north of the border have become the leading party of Scottish unionism.

Labour's wavering on the issue makes the Tories the only real choice for Scots who want to remain part of the UK, leaving Leonard and his team little to offer. But right now, McDonnell has an obvious motive for throwing a nationalist cat among the Scottish Labour pigeons.

Anti-Brexit factions in parliament are mulling over a vote of no confidence in the new Prime Minister as soon as recess is over. They are hoping for either a government of national unity or a General Election to oust Boris Johnson and the Brexiteers before the 31 October deadline.

Either way, Labour will need the support of the other parties in Westminster. And with 35 MPs, the SNP is its most important ally.

Of course, backing another independence vote gives the Conservatives a fresh line of attack in the looming election ("a vote for Labour is a vote to split up the UK").

But McDonnell seems to have made a calculation that keeping the SNP on side with the carrot of a referendum is a short-term sacrifice worth making for the sake of bringing down the Tories.

And given Labour's slow slide towards support for a different referendum rerun, this time on Brexit, it makes a certain amount of sense. If one result should be replayed because people didn't know what they were voting for and the situation has changed, why should the other remain inviolate for all of time?

Those who fall into the cognitively dissonant position of backing a people's vote while opposing another Scotland poll will inevitably argue that the situations are different, for any number of reasons ranging from Russian interference to an apocalyptic threat to the economy.

> **If one referendum result should be replayed, why should the other remain inviolate?**

But logically, if you believe that some people should have the chance to change their minds, it's hard to argue that others should not – which is why Scottish Tory leader Ruth Davidson, who was a passionate Remainer, has made her opposition to another Brexit vote irrefutably clear.

Lest anyone think such mental gymnastics are observable only in the pro-EU camp, it's worth looking at the unionist Brexiteers who are plentiful in the Conservative party, particularly in parliament.

If the key reason for Brexit (as cited by a range of subsequent polls) was to reclaim sovereignty, even at the potential cost of a short-term economic shock, then Scotland has as much right to detach itself from Westminster's clutches as the UK does from Brussels'.

That's exactly the case that first minister Nicola Sturgeon has spent three years making, demanding that Scotland's voice be heard in negotiations (whatever that means) and using every Brexit setback as proof that her nation deserves independence from Westminster.

It's working. The EU shenanigans do indeed seem to be gradually bolstering the nationalist cause, as the latest poll shows. But Sturgeon's drum-banging also appears to be weakening support for the union beyond Scotland's borders.

In the midst of the leadership contest, a survey of Tory members found that 63 per cent would be quite happy to see Scotland secede, if that were the cost of the kind of Brexit they wanted.

These are the people who put Boris in office, and ultimately they are the electorate to whom he answers.

While most Brits still support the union, then, they find themselves at odds with the stances of the three biggest parties.

The SNP obviously backs Scottish independence; the Conservative MPs do not but many of their members believe it a price worth paying for Brexit; and now Labour is playing with nationalist fire in a gamble to get their man into Number 10.

So are we headed for the break-up of Great Britain? In the game of three-dimensional Brexit chess, predictions are futile. But don't be too surprised if McDonnell's shock intervention has repercussions that go far beyond the Edinburgh Fringe Festival – and for anyone who believes in the integrity of the United Kingdom, the joke may be on us.

Why Boris could be the man to unlock the potential of the Northern Powerhouse

Emma Revell

IF I ASKED you to think of a politician who could rebalance the economy and reinvigorate the north, Boris Johnson probably isn't the first who springs to mind. With his Eton schooling and eight-year tenure as mayor of London, Boris is very much the stereotypical southern Englishman.

You're much more likely to conjure up Andy Burnham, a man so desperate to remind people that he is northern that, when asked his favourite biscuit, he replied that he preferred beer, chips and gravy.

But could the new Prime Minister be the one to finally make a success of the Northern Powerhouse?

Five years after its inception, this industrial initiative is still struggling to get out of first gear. Yes, it has a jazzy website and its own minister, but when you look at the detail it's hard to see what all the talking up towns and cities above the M62 has actually achieved.

Manchester has its own mayor, as does the Sheffield City Region, but the devolution settlement for Yorkshire is crumbling as the various local authorities fight over who and what should be included.

HS2 – ostensibly a project designed to connect the north – is running at almost twice its predicted £36bn budget, and as I head back to Scunthorpe for the weekend to visit my family, I'm likely to find myself on a Northern Rail pacer train, on a non-electrified line, the mere sight of which would make most Londoners shudder (think the Bakerloo Line with less cushioned seating).

Some argue that the Northern Powerhouse lacks investment – by which they mean taxpayers' money – while others say that the scheme is too broad and vague to have significant impact. But the new Prime Minister seems to think otherwise.

Boris headed to Manchester on only his third day in the job to give a speech which praised the "countless tales of Mancunian pioneers", but also reflected on the towns and cities not too far away which continue to suffer from endemic health problems, generational unemployment, and down-at-heel high streets.

These are places where young people grow up in hopelessness, or with hope that one day they'll get out and never come back. And Boris has set out his stall on how he can help.

With a four-pronged strategy for improving "all the places we call home", Boris built on his campaign promises during the Conservative leadership contest and set out plans to improve the safety, connectivity, culture, and accountability of Britain's towns and cities with plans for better railways, more police officers, a complete review of housing, and fibre broadband roll-out.

This came a day after his trade secretary Liz Truss joined forces with two rare creatures – Conservatives from the north-east – Simon Clarke MP and Tees Valley mayor Ben Houchen, to launch a programme of freeports across the UK.

Freeports will help send investment and jobs flooding into some of the most deprived areas, many of which are in parts of the north often left out of the Northern Powerhouse rhetoric, like Grimsby and the Tyne.

It might all come to nothing – previous Prime Ministers and chancellors have made similar speeches. But with Boris' charisma, electoral appeal which extends beyond the home counties, and apparent desire to lovebomb traditional Labour voters, there are perhaps more reasons to be optimistic than disaffected non-Londoners might think.

Emma Revell is communications manager at the Institute of Economic Affairs.

LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Pound-trashing

[Re: Sterling hits lowest level against global currencies since 2016]

A weakened sterling often means a boom-time for our manufacturers and exporters. But, with an imminent no-deal Brexit looming, the subsequent crashing pound may actually foster a wave of inbound investment. Why? Because in effect we will have a devalued price for assets. For some foreign investors, there will be a cost of funds mismatch, creating an arbitrage opportunity. Simply put, they will be getting more bang for their buck (other currencies happily accepted). There are indications of war chests and teams at the ready to deploy into the UK. However, despite the pound's current distress, they are holding off on investing just yet. Instead, they are anticipating that a bodged Brexit in late October will trash the pound even more, making any investment cheaper. Inevitably it feels disappointing that the UK finds itself currently looking like an emerging market play rather than a staple investment. There are sectors, however, which look like better bets and are seeing more investment than the general market – one such being housing, including the alternative residential sectors such as student housing, build-to-rent, and later living all in comparative favour.

Nick Jacobs, chief executive, Rowan

BEST OF TWITTER

YouGov National Poll. CON 31% LAB 22% LDEM 21% BREX 14% GRNS 7%
@LordAshcroft

Corbyn in third place for best PM behind "Don't Know".
@themarkvipond

English is just 3 languages wearing a trenchcoat pretending to be one tall language
@imdumbledaddy

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Independent central banks are under threat once more

BEING just a couple of decades old, the widespread adoption of independent central banks is relatively new to the world. Yet this is a role which now needs to adapt to a world whose politics is changing very fast.

Different inflation objectives and tools have been discussed plenty of times before, but as the objectives of government change, does the independence of central banks need to change too?

The concept of interest rate policy being set by a group who are not facing the same political cycles as the government was ushered in by a generation of politicians who have since been shown the door, as the nature of politics has changed and the Washington consensus has been rejected.

That marks an interesting time for independent central banks, because their champions have quietly receded while their new masters can still remember a time when governments held the monetary reins.

And, as several governments have begun to pursue a more nationalist agenda, involving increasingly antagonistic negotiations with international peers, a new focus has fallen upon the central bankers.

For instance, theories circulated last week that President Donald Trump may be trying to force the hand of Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell by imposing tariffs on China in order to pressure the Fed into cutting interest rates further. As strategies go, it seems like making a fire out of your coat in order to keep warm.

All indications are that the President's tactics are best viewed through the prism of one-dimensional rather than three-dimensional chess.

Here in the UK, last week also saw governor Mark Carney refusing to be drawn over the Bank of England's response to a no-deal Brexit. Despite his coyness, we can assume that it would involve lower interest rates and quantitative easing. After all, there is no evidence that the Bank's reaction function has changed dramatically over the last three years.

The most significant new information to be incorporated is that global inflationary pressures are muted, even in economies like ours with tight labour markets, while our trade deficit widened – despite the depreciation of sterling.

Carney can always justify his ambiguity by pointing to the requirement to consider the circumstances at the time, but it also looks like he wants to avoid underwriting the government's negotiating strategy with Europe, just as Powell at the Fed won't underwrite the President's negotiating strategy with China.

Mark Carney wants to avoid underwriting the government's Brexit negotiations

So should national central banks align with nationalist agendas? Will Trump replace his Fed chair in four years to aid his efforts with the Chinese? And as Carney will soon need to be replaced after twice extending his term to try and steer the UK economy through Brexit, should the government be pursuing a candidate who is a Brexit advocate?

That would be a mistaken priority. There seems every reason to believe that Carney's clear misgivings over Brexit are helpful to both the negotiations and the eventual outcome of the Prime Minister's strategy, even if he points out that it may not be enough.

The intensive preparations undertaken by the Bank of England also contrast starkly with the failure of the government so far to prepare for a no-deal Brexit – at least up until now, with Michael Gove recently given the new responsibility of accelerating no-deal preparations.

Gove may be a champion of Brexit, but he is also someone who has a far deeper concern about the perils of crashing out than many of the more cavalier Brexiteers, for whom it is their favoured option. That nuance of opinion may be valuable in choosing Carney's successor.

Political polarisation has intensified within many countries, and that risks breeding a culture where you're either for something or against it. But appointments should be made on the basis of competence above all, with diversity of views a helpful byproduct when dealing with complex problems.

While we now have a Prime Minister who may like to hope for the best, it makes sense to have a central banker who prepares for the worst.

Guy Foster is head of research at Brewin Dolphin.

DEBATE

As tensions in the Gulf rise after the seizure of another tanker, is a war with Iran a possibility?

YES

JOHN HULSMAN

Of course war with Iran is a possibility, as political leaderships are composed of human beings, who are by definition highly fallible.

I have always been amused by political analysis which believes that international relations is much like Macbeth, with supremely calculating, rational beings ruthlessly struggling for absolute power.

My decade in Washington instead points to an entirely different Shakespeare play: Hamlet. Good, old-fashioned human error explains far more about foreign policy in the real world than does the House of Cards view of life.

In the case of Iran, the mullahs believe that upping the ante, causing trouble on the high seas and slowly pulling away from the nuclear accord, will jar the Europeans into decisive action, allowing them to pressure the Trump administration into backing off its "maximum pressure" policy toward Iran. Nothing could be further from the truth.

As such, the capacity for miscalculation, and for a war no one wants, is more than a distinct possibility.

Dr John C. Hulsman is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and president of John C. Hulsman Enterprises.

NO

JOHN RAINE

Defending tankers in the Gulf, tense as it can be, has not yet led to war. The hostile relationship between the west and Iran has seen peaks and troughs in the last 40 years, but both sides keep tensions below the threshold of an all-out war. They fight each other by indirect means.

Iran works through regional partners and proxies, while the US "maximum pressure" strategy ratchets up non-military pressure on Iran, especially through sanctions.

The US knows that Iran could use its network to make any war long and messy, with all American interests across the Middle East targeted. Iran's leaders know that an all-out war with the US and its regional allies could cost them everything.

This means that the current "threshold" conflict is likely to continue. It would take a political imperative – an attack on American personnel or US soil – for President Trump to risk a Middle East war, particularly in an election year. So far, there is neither the desire nor strategic logic to punish mistakes with a war.

John Raine is senior adviser for geopolitical due diligence for the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

HOTPROPERTY

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE LONDON PROPERTY MARKET

Edited by **Helen Crane**

NEW BUILDS

NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON THE MARKET THIS WEEK

WHITE CITY LIVING, WHITE CITY

This Saturday, Berkeley's St James division will launch the first show apartment at White City Living in West London. The apartment has been designed around the principles of Feng Shui by Jigsaw Interior Architecture. There are 1,800 new homes being built at the development, which sits next to the BBC Television Centre. The first phase comprises 350 homes and prices start at £754,000 for a one-bed.

Call 020 3811 2536 or visit whitecityliving.co.uk

SOUTHALL VILLAGE, SOUTHALL

From £435,000 for a two-bed

If you want to buy in a Crossrail hotspot, the 48 houses that Catalyst Homes has just launched at Southall Village in the London Borough of Ealing may be worth a look. The Southall Crossrail station is a 10 minute walk from the development, and will provide connections to Heathrow in eight minutes and Liverpool Street in 24 minutes. The two and three bedroom houses are next to the Grand Union Canal and will have views over a new park. A Help to Buy weekend is being held on 10 and 11 August.

Call 020 3369 0158 or visit southallvillage.co.uk

WALTHAMSTOW GATEWAY

From £430,000 for a one-bed

A new show home has just been launched at Walthamstow Gateway – a development of 79 one and two-bed apartments by Solum. The two-bed show apartment has been interior designed by In:Style to reflect Walthamstow's status as London's first Borough of Culture. The 12-storey development is one minute away from Walthamstow Central station, where residents will be able to reach Oxford Circus in 19 minutes. Each apartment features a decked balcony, Porcelanosa bathrooms and Leicht German kitchens.

Call 020 3296 2222 or visit solum.co.uk

EMERY WHARF, WAPPING

From £166,600 for a 33% share of a studio

St George and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, have just launched 28 new homes exclusively for local first-time buyers at Emery Wharf, part of the London Dock development in Wapping. The Manhattan-style studios, one-beds and two-beds will be offered to first-time buyers living or working in Tower Hamlets. Emery Wharf residents will have access to an on-site spa with a steam room, swimming pool and Jacuzzi, as well as a 24-hour concierge, squash courts, virtual golf suite, gym and screening room.

Call 020 7971 7880 or visit londondock.co.uk

HAMPSTEAD MANOR, HAMPSTEAD

From £740,000 for a one-bed

Mount Anvil has unveiled a new show apartment at Hampstead Manor; its 156-home development on the site of the former Westfield Women's College. The development comprises converted buildings from the early twentieth century as well as new blocks. The duplex show apartment has a Scandi-style 'inverted' layout with bedrooms on the ground floor and the living accommodation on the lower ground. A highlight of the decor is an eighteenth-century tapestry which is the focal point of the living room.

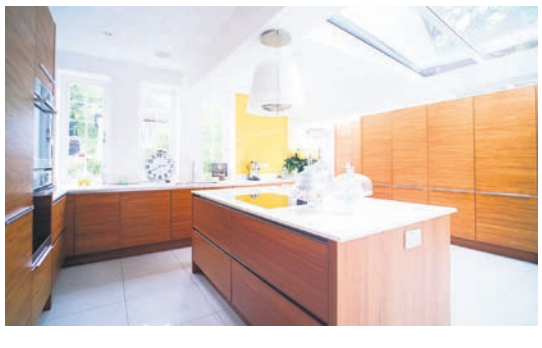
Call 020 3582 5461 or visit hampsteadmanor.com

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

A bargain... for Billionaire's Row

This cottage might be the cheapest house on one of the world's wealthiest streets

THE BISHOPS AVENUE, HAMPSTEAD £3.55M



As the name suggests, Billionaire's Row in Hampstead Garden Suburb is home to some of the capital's most prestigious properties, as well as some of the priciest.

Also known as The Bishops Avenue, the street is known for its palatial mansions and attracts super-wealthy buyers looking for more space and seclusion than the likes of Knightsbridge and Mayfair can offer.

Houses generally start at £10m, and at the upper end have fetched more than 10 times that.

A property coming to market on the street is a fairly rare occurrence, and many have been in the same hands for 20 years or more. However, one of the street's more modest homes has just been listed with Arlington Residential with a price tag of £3.55m. This is 10 times less than the other property currently being sold on the street, which is listed at a hefty £35m.

The 3,200 sqft arts and crafts cottage spans three floors and has six bedrooms, four living areas, three bathrooms and an extended kitchen. It has also retained its original parquet flooring across the ground level. Set back from the road, the property has gardens to the front and rear and a large double garage which could be converted to a studio, playroom or accommodation for guests or household staff.

The Bishops Avenue straddles the boroughs of Barnet and Haringey. Most of the street is actually closer to Finchley than Hampstead, and the property being sold is a couple of minutes' walk from East Finchley underground. Hampstead Heath and Highgate are both a short distance away, and the street is bounded on either side by Hampstead Golf Club and Highgate Golf Club. It is also close to the stately home Kenwood House.

Former residents of the street have included singer Justin Bieber, press baron Richard Desmond and steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal, as well as scores of overseas royals and exiled politicians. Marc Schneiderman, founder of Arlington Residential, which is selling the property, says it "represents an opportunity to buy a home offering family accommodation on this world-renowned street of mansions and ambassadorial residences."

He adds: "At an asking price of under £1,000/ sqft and in a plot of just under one third of an acre, on perhaps one of the world's most famous streets, this home is not expected to be available for any length of time."

AREA GUIDE: N2

HOUSE PRICES *Source: Zoopla*			
DETACHED	SEMI	TERRACED	FLATS
£3.3m	£1.12m	£960,000	£424,300

TRANSPORT *Source: TfL*	
Time to Kings Cross	**16 mins**
Time to Liverpool Street	**29 mins**
Nearest tube station	**East Finchley**

ASKING RENTS *Source: Zoopla*	
Two-bed flat	**£1,815 pcm**
Four-bed house	**£3,625 pcm**

THE PUNTER

Bill Esdaile previews tomorrow's cards from Haydock and Ascot

RACING TRADER

Pondus looks ready to do battle in Rose Of Lancaster

Pondus is fancied to run well at Haydock tomorrow

UNFORTUNATELY, if the weather forecast is to be believed, Haydock is set for another soaking and the ground will be soft for tomorrow's Rose Of Lancaster Stakes (3.05pm).

That will be music to the ears of the connections of Addeybb who fluffed his lines a little when only runner-up in the York Stakes last time having been so impressive at Royal Ascot previously.

Soft ground is crucial for the son of Pivotal who bolted up in the Wolferton Stakes before being trapped in behind a wall of horses on that most recent start at York.

Conditions are likely to be spot on for him here once more and though it would be a major surprise if he wasn't in the shake-up, I'm prepared to oppose him.

The major reason for doing so, apart from the fact that he is as short as 11/10 in places, is that he took an age to get going at York last time and was well and truly put in his place by Elarqam.

Admittedly, Richard Kingscote rides Haydock better than anyone so is likely to keep him out of trouble this time, but at such a skinny price I'm prepared to look elsewhere.

All week I've been keen to take him on with Andrew Balding's Raise You who is another that won't mind the rain.

Three-year-olds have won three of the last four renewals of this Group Three prize and he could easily take advantage with a handy 8lb weight concession.

He looked a really exciting prospect at both Newbury and Newmarket before finding Group One company too much in the French Derby at Chantilly last time.

The son of Lope De Vega was available at fancy prices earlier in the week, but they have long gone sadly.

He remains the most likely to trouble Addeybb, but I'd be worried if the ground got really bad as that would test his stamina.

Instead, I am going to take a chance on another three-year-old in **PONDUS** who chased home Raise You's stablemate Fox Chairman at Newbury last time.

That was a decent performance and followed a below par run at Royal Ascot where he failed to see out the 1m4f trip.

This extended 10 furlongs will play much more to his strengths and he has shown that the rain holds no fears.

I liked the way he stuck to the task all the way to the line at Newbury last time and reckon he can shake up the leading protagonists at 6/1.

The other race of note at Haydock tomorrow is the Listed Dick Hern Stakes (2.30pm) for fillies and mares.

Both **MISS O CONNOR** and Feliciana De Vega will appreciate the rain and they look the two to concentrate on here.

I was really taken with the former when she bolted up by 11 lengths on soft ground at Nottingham on her first start for William Haggas last week.

That was a performance of a filly who is at least up to this class and she can make race fitness tell at 9/4 with Coral.

Ralph Beckett's Feliciana De Vega makes her first start of the season having been unbeaten as a juvenile.

Her form is definitely stronger, but she has been absent for some time and is opposable, although the market on the day will tell us whether she is likely to need the run.

@BillEsdaile

POINTERS	TOMORROW	
Miss O Connor	2.30pm	Haydock
Pondus	3.05pm	Haydock

Backing Spencer for a Victory in the Shergar Cup Sprint

WHILE having some of the world's best jockeys battling it out at one of racing's most iconic venues provides a great spectacle, betting on tomorrow's six-race Shergar Cup card at Ascot should be approached with maximum caution.

Many of the jockeys have never ridden the track, let alone the horses they are partnering, and that can make for some very unpredictable results.

Just one favourite obliged at this meeting 12 months ago and tomorrow's card looks just as open.

Final Venture, who lines up in the opening Dash (1.05pm), is at least a model of consistency having finished second on all three starts so far this campaign but it's **DANZENO** who appeals most.

He finished third behind the highly progressive Cape Byron in the Wokingham and then followed up with a win at Haydock last time out.

Shouldering top-weight makes things harder but he did win over this trip off a pound lower in 2017 and should be right there once again.

Mick Appleby also fields Caspian Prince who will hopefully give Danzeno a lovely tow into the race and set it up for his stablemate to pounce late under the experienced Gerald Mosse.

VICTORY DAY in the Sprint (4.00pm) is the other one that can't be ignored.

He caught the eye last time when motoring home late to finish second under Jamie Spencer at York.

Spencer is in the saddle again and this three-year-old looks capable of overcoming a 6lb rise in the weights to land a second win of his career.

Any rain that falls won't be a problem either and he looks worth supporting at 5/2 with Ladbrokes.

POINTERS	TOMORROW	
Danzeno	1.05pm	Ascot
Victory Day	4.00pm	Ascot

THE PUNTER

Charlie Robertson previews the Premier League season

FOOTBALL TRADER

Wilder's Blades could struggle to make the cut

SO, HERE we are again at the start of another Premier League season and, if the 2018/19 campaign is anything to go by, we should be in for another thrilling nine months.

The title race looks set to be a battle between Manchester City and Liverpool again, with a 25-point gap surely too much for the chasing pack.

You'd have to fancy City for a third consecutive title, especially with the addition of Spanish midfielder Rodri, who impressed in the Community Shield last weekend and looks a more than capable understudy to the ageing Fernandinho.

In contrast, Jurgen Klopp hasn't really dipped his toe into the transfer market, but the Reds showed in their successful Champions League campaign they can beat anyone on their day and City will certainly need to be at their best to deliver another Premier League title to the Etihad.

At the other end of the table, you've got to fear for newly-promoted Sheffield United and Norwich.

Both sides are operating on lowly budgets by modern-day standards and are almost guaranteed to be scrapping for their lives right from the get-go.

In recent seasons, it has become fairly usual practice for one side to be the Premier League's whipping boys and I'm confident this year that unenviable title will be given to Sheffield United.

Manager Chris Wilder has spent north of £30million in the transfer window, but given his marquee signing Oliver McBurnie has only scored one Premier League goal, I'm not convinced they have anywhere near enough firepower to stay up.

Chris Wilder will have his work cut out keeping Sheffield United up

Spread betting firm Sporting Index predict the Blades will be the league's basement boys, but still expect them to rack up 33 points, a figure that looks well worth selling.

In the past nine seasons, every bottom-placed team except West Ham in 2010/11 has finished with a points tally of less than 33, many of which were better than this current United side.

McBurnie didn't do anywhere near enough to save Swansea two seasons ago and I fancy Wilder's side to suffer a similar fate this time around.

My other bet in the long term markets is Arsenal to better the firm's prediction of scoring eight more goals than London rivals Chelsea.

Based on their transfer dealings this summer, Arsenal appear to be putting almost all of their eggs in one very an attacking basket.

Unai Emery has brought in talented Real Madrid midfielder Dani Ceballos on loan, while the Gunners smashed their transfer record to sign Nicolas Pepe from Lille.

Alexander Lacazette and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang notched up 50 goals between them last season and the addition of Pepe, who netted 23 in Ligue 1 last campaign, means you can expect Arsenal to have plenty of success in front of goal.

Chelsea's transfer ban means they'll have to rely on the goal-shy Olivier Giroud and the unproven Tammy Abraham.

Gonzalo Higuain has returned to Italy, Callum Hudson-Odoi is resigned to a stint on the treatment table and it's hard to have much confidence in Michy Batshuayi's goal scoring ability.

In short, Frank Lampard looks lacking in offensive options and given the Blues trailed their London rivals by 10 goals last season, it's hard to see that gap narrowing.

@crobertson95

POINTERS

Sell Sheffield United Points	32.5
Buy Arsenal/Chelsea Season Goals	8

Source: Sporting index

Celebrate summer with an early payday on Pep's men

AS MUCH as we love the British summertime, more often than not it can feel like a long old slog until the Premier League gets underway again.

However, it may not have to be too long until a potential pay-out.

While Manchester City to win the league at 1/2 may not be the most attractive betting proposition, Sporting Index, who now also offer fixed odds betting, will pay out if the Citizens are top of the table on September 2nd.

This involves a run of four games against West Ham, Tottenham, Bournemouth and Brighton which, when compared to the opening fixtures of their fellow title challengers, could well be a relatively straightforward start to the campaign.

Liverpool and Spurs must both face Arsenal during this time, while the Lilywhites also have a trip to the Etihad as their second game of the campaign. When you factor in Chelsea's opener at Old Trafford, it certainly makes City an appealing prospect to top the table at the end of August.

Casting a glance toward the other end of the table, Sheffield United have broken their transfer record four times this summer but remain the least valuable side in the Premier League.

The irrefutable correlation between squad value and finishing position justifies the 4/6 on offer for the Blades not to survive the drop a virtual certainty, with their opening fixtures of Bournemouth away and Crystal Palace at home potentially lulling them into a false sense of security.

That said, there is even more value in backing them to finish bottom at a price of 11/4.

POINTERS

Manchester City to win Premier League	1/2
Sheffield United to finish bottom	11/4

Source: Sporting index

VAR IN OUR TIME

A bluffers' guide to how video refs will and won't be used in England. By **Frank Dalleres**

The Premier League's VAR studio is in west London

A QUIET business estate built on the site of a former rubbish tip in the furthermost fringes of west London could hardly feel more removed from the hustle, bustle and stardust of Premier League football.

But it is here, at Stockley Park in Harlington, where the outcome of a new top-flight season will be shaped by a controversial addition to the world's most watched league: the video assistant referee (VAR).

City A.M. paid a visit to the VAR nerve centre – a quiet, dark room illuminated by banks of screens on the second floor of IMG's Premier League Productions HQ – to learn more.

1. MINIMUM INTERFERENCE, MAXIMUM IMPROVEMENT

That, in a nutshell, is how England's leading referees have been told to implement VAR. As ever, it will only be used to examine four types of incident: goals, penalties, direct red cards and cases of mistaken identity.

But where other competitions, notably this summer's Women's World Cup, have seen a fussy approach inflict endless interruptions, the Premier League says it has set "a high bar" for VAR intervention in order to preserve the fast, action-packed nature of its games. More on this later.

Officials have been told to "carry on refereeing" as normal and not to wait for VAR.

2. FEW PITCHSIDE REPLAYS

Refereeing errors corrected by VAR that are of a factual nature – they involve black and white distinctions such as onside or offside, inside the box or outside – do not need to be watched again pitchside by the referee; they can accept the verdict of the VAR, with whom they are in constant radio contact.

But they do not have to watch replays for other types of decision either if the guidance is within their range of reasonable expectations – for instance, if a foul they issued a yellow card for is worse than first thought and requires a red. In all cases, the referee has the final decision.

3. THE "HIGH BAR"

Where subjective decisions are concerned, Premier League clubs have asked that a high threshold be applied when deciding what counts as a "clear and obvious error".

Only when a referee's description of what they have witnessed, as relayed to the VAR team, is markedly different to what the cameras pick up is there scope to overturn. So even if an official makes a questionable call, as long as they have seen it clearly and not missed a key factor, VAR will not intervene. Equally, possible yellow cards are not reviewed unless there is a case for a straight sending off.

4. TIME WELL SPENT?

It takes 84 seconds to review and overturn a decision using VAR, according to the Premier League's research, and 20-30 seconds to perform checks that do not require a stoppage. And while there was a review every 1.9 games at the Women's World Cup and every 3.2 games at the men's tournament last year, it is hoped that they will be less frequent here. If it means officials getting more big calls right – key match incident accuracy was 82 per cent last season – then it may prove worth the occasional pause.

Fans in stadiums will be notified of a review through big-screen messaging

5. SPECTATOR EXPERIENCE

In an attempt to head off complaints that VAR leaves fans in the dark, spectators will be told via stadium announcement and, where possible, big screen when a review is underway. However, replays will only be shown in stadiums if a decision is overturned.

Sunday's Community Shield saw a debut for the on-screen notice that a red card was being checked, although it only seemed to cause confusion over who or what was being reviewed.

6. THE VAR TEAM

Each Premier League match has a three-man VAR team poring over it consisting of: a VAR; an assistant VAR (AVAR), whose job is to keep watching the live action when the VAR stops to watch replays; and a replay operator.

That latter's job is to select and cue up replays from the multitude of cameras at each game, the number of which roughly doubles for those fixtures selected for live broadcast by Sky or BT. The replay operator is an employee of technology provider Hawk-eye and may not work on matches involving their favoured team.

7. HOW THE VAR TEAM WORKS

Tackles: potential red cards are first watched three times at full speed before any slow-motion replays, which can make challenges look worse.

Offsides: replays are frozen at the frame in which the passer has definitely made contact with the ball and then a 3D grid system used to determine positions more accurately than horizontal lines laid over a pitch.

Penalties: VARs are looking for more than "normal contact" in the box. Unlike at the Women's World Cup, there is no appetite to order retakes unless there is "clear" movement from a goalkeeper before the kick is taken – this definition remains a grey area – or encroachment that affects whether a goal is scored.

PREMIER LEAGUE SPENDING BACK IN THE BIG TIME

Top flight narrowly misses out on all-time record as £1.41bn splashed. By **Felix Keith**

WHEN Premier League clubs voted to shut the transfer window before the season started the reasoning was clear: get business done earlier to avoid disruption on the pitch.

The change, which began last year and had its second outing with deadline day yesterday, was not unanimously agreed upon, with five clubs voting against and one abstaining, but it has had its desired effect. Incoming players had to have their paperwork sorted by 5pm yesterday; now only selling players to other leagues is permitted.

Considering that for the last two summers Premier League clubs have had considerably less time in which to do business – the deadline has been moved from 31 August previously to 8 August this year – you might think they would spend less.

However, after spending dipped to £1.2bn in the summer of 2018 and to £180m in the January 2019 winter window, as compared to £430m in the previous winter window, the top flight roared back into big-spending territory this year with a combined outlay of £1.4bn, around the same level as the record spend of 2017, according to Deloitte.

Some £170m was spent by Premier League clubs on yesterday's deadline day – £40m less than the record of £210m from the heady summer of 2017.

But, unlike in previous windows, the spending has not been driven by the upper reaches of the Premier League.

"We've often seen records when it comes to transfer spends driven by the big six clubs, or those looking to challenge at the top end of the Premier League," Tim Bridge, director at Deloitte's Sports Business Group, tells *City A.M.*

"This time it's slightly different as 11 of the 20 clubs that have broken their transfer record this window are those who are looking to take the next step. The majority, like Wolves or Everton, are thinking: 'can we now consolidate our position as a top half club and think about kicking on to European qualification?'

"But it's also those like Aston Villa, who have been out of the Premier League and felt the pain financially of what that means, so have invested heavily in their squad to try and safeguard their position in the league.

"More than ever, it's becoming clear that trying to get to that level, be it European competition or staying in the Premier League, is really important."

BIG SIX CHALLENGED

Of course, the Premier League's top clubs are still spending, just not to the previous levels. Defending champions Manchester City have spent more than £130m to bring in Atletico Madrid midfielder Rodri (£62.8m) and Juventus full-back Joao Cancelo (£60m) among others, but have managed to offset their outlay through the sales of Danilo, Douglas Luiz, Fabian Delph and more.

Arsenal were the biggest movers of the traditional Big Six, with a club-record £72m move for winger Nicolas Pepe adding to the signings of Kieran Tierney for £25m, William Saliba for £27m and £8m David Luiz, but in terms of net spend they were still outdone by newly-promoted Villa.

The big outliers are Liverpool and Chelsea, who have largely kept their cash to themselves, albeit for vastly different reasons. While the Blues have had their hands tied by a transfer ban, the Reds have simply been happy to stick with what they have got.

Bridge points out that while those spending the money may have changed, one key metric has not, with Premier League clubs' transfer expenditure as a proportion of their estimated revenues remaining relatively steady at 27 per cent, as opposed to 24 per cent last summer.

It is not just in the United Kingdom where spending has picked up either. In Spain, where the window remains open until 2 September, the £1bn mark has already been broken for the first time, more than doubling their expenditure from just two years ago, and La Liga could yet still outstrip the Premier League's spend.

"It's a coming together of the impact of collective selling [of broadcast rights], which means everyone has more revenue, tighter financial controls, which means that clubs haven't overspent for the last four or five years, and now the security of a new broadcast deal, which kicks off from this season," Bridge says. "Spanish clubs know they're in for a revenue boost, so they can turn their attention to gaining an on-pitch advantage."

DEADLINE DAY DEALS

Alex Iwobi: Arsenal to Everton, £34m
David Luiz (pictured, right): Chelsea to Arsenal, £8m
Dennis Praet: Sampdoria - Leicester, £18m
Giovani lo Celso: Real Betis - Tottenham, season-long loan
Kieran Tierney: Celtic - Arsenal, £25m
Andy Carroll: West Ham -Newcastle, free
Ismaila Sarr: Rennes - Watford, club-record undisclosed fee
Ryan Sessegnon (pictured, top): Fulham - Tottenham, £25m
Albian Ajeti: Basel - West Ham, £8m
Danny Drinkwater: Chelsea - Burnley, loan until January 2020
Mo Besic: Everton to Sheffield United, season-long loan

Jones's leadership could be England's downfall

RUGBY COMMENT

Ollie Phillips

EDDIE Jones's decision to name his World Cup squad almost four weeks before the official deadline is one typical of the England head coach.

On one hand it's unnecessary because he'll almost certainly have to make changes to the 31 names he announces on Monday due to injuries sustained in the warm-up matches and training sessions.

But on the other, it is fitting of his management style. I think he had a pretty good idea of his World Cup squad at the Six Nations in March.

Jones is trying to provide continuity and show he's decisive by letting the players know where they stand six weeks before their opening World Cup game against Tonga. There's no conjecture. It's black and white.

Once the squad is finalised England can fire on all cylinders towards their goal of winning the game's biggest prize for the first time since 2003.

First of all, however, there's the small matter of Sunday's match against Wales at Twickenham, which is a cracking way to kick off an exciting period.

SQUAD BALANCE

With 33 players in the current group, which has been away in Italy at a training camp for 12 days, and only 31 allowed in the World Cup squad there are some who will obviously miss out.

Injuries to winger Jack Nowell, flanker Brad Shields and prop Mako Vunipola complicates things further, but there are still a few places up for grabs.

Gloucester scrum-half Willi Heinz has been kept in the squad to face Wales ahead of Saracens' Ben Spencer, arguably the best No9 in the Premiership last season.

Now Jones has made that call Heinz has to play on Sunday to see if he can step up from club rugby to international. He's already tried Danny Care, Dan Robson and Jack Maunder, so he needs to settle on his back-up to Ben Youngs.

Ruaridh McConnochie is another uncapped player in the squad and it would be a great story if he were to make the World Cup. The 27-year-old only joined Bath in January having won an Olympic silver medal at Rio in Sevens and it is remarkable that he is in the hunt.

Lewis Ludlam was a stand-out player for Northampton last season but faces stiff competition for a place in the back row, while it's the same for Harlequins' Joe Marchant at centre.

ATTRITIONAL ATMOSPHERE

They've been deservedly picked on form but England's squad is laced with quality, so really it's encouraging that the uncapped players are scrapping for a few places.

> The Australian is an intense character and that can be dangerous to a team environment

When picking a 31-man squad it's about covering all eventualities, mixing styles, getting the right blend of skill sets and ensuring you can deal with injuries and fatigue.

England are an outstanding side on paper and on their day are capable of beating any team in the world. In fact, I think their biggest weakness lies off the pitch with Jones himself.

The Australian is an intense, obsessive character and that can be dangerous in a team environment, as players and coaches can be overworked. If not looked after, the atmosphere can become attritional over a long World Cup build-up and campaign.

After England play Wales on Sunday they still have further warm-ups against Ireland, Italy and Wales once more. If all goes to plan that's a perfect way to gear up for a World Cup challenge; if not it could scupper things before they even take off.

Ollie Phillips is a former England Sevens captain and now a director within the real estate and construction team at PwC.

SPORT DIGEST

CITY'S SANE NEEDS SURGERY AFTER WEMBLEY KNEE INJURY

Manchester City winger Leroy Sane is to undergo knee surgery after suffering a serious injury in Sunday's Community Shield win against Liverpool. Sane was substituted after just 13 minutes at Wembley and medical tests have determined the 23-year-old has torn his cruciate ligament. City, who begin their Premier League title defence against West Ham on Saturday, have not put a timeframe on the German's absence. Sane scored 10 goals and made 12 assists in the league for City last season, but had been linked with a move to Bayern Munich.

RUGBY TO TRIAL WAIST-HIGH TACKLES TO REDUCE INJURIES

World Rugby is considering making changes to the laws of the game which would bring the legal tackle height down to the waist. If trials aimed at making the sport safer are successful players at the 2023 Rugby World Cup in France would not be able to tackle above the waist. The governing body's research concluded that 50 per cent of all match injuries and 76 per cent of all concussions result from tackling. "While injury incidence in the sport is not increasing and concussion incidence is decreasing, we can and must do more to reduce injuries at all levels," said World Rugby chairman Sir Bill Beaumont. "This is an important milestone on that journey."

MORGAN & DE VILLIERS HELP MIDDLESEX THRASH SURREY

England's World Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan smashed 70 from 37 balls as Middlesex thrashed London rivals Surrey by 64 runs in the T20 Blast at Lord's last night. Morgan shared a 115-run partnership with AB de Villiers (64 from 40 balls) as Middlesex posted an imposing 210-8 batting first. Aaron Finch (47 from 25) and Sam Curran (39 from 25) briefly threatened in the chase, but Steven Finn claimed outstanding figures of 5-16 as Surrey were bowled out way short on 146 from 18.4 overs. Middlesex's fifth win from seven matches leaves them third in the South Group, while Surrey are eighth, with just one win from seven games.

WOODS STRUGGLES ONCE AGAIN AT PGA TOUR PLAY-OFF

Tiger Woods's poor form continued yesterday as he shot a four-over-par round of 75 in the first of the PGA Tour's play-off events at Liberty National. Woods, who was playing for the first time since missing the cut at The Open at Portrush last month, ended the day 13 shots behind leader Troy Merritt in New Jersey. The event is just the 43-year-old's fifth start since his remarkable win at The Masters in April and he did not look comfortable, completing another over-par round to go with his rounds of 78 and 70 at The Open. Woods, who complained of a "stiff" back on Wednesday, will today face another battle to make the cut.

MEXICO GP SECURES FUNDING TO STAY ON F1 CALENDAR

The Mexican Grand Prix will remain in the Formula One calendar until at least 2022 after the race secured funding to keep the event. The race in Mexico City looked under threat, with its five-year contract set to expire at the end of 2019. But mayor Claudia Sheinbaum yesterday confirmed that a group of businessmen would help cover the annual cost of hosting the race at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez circuit. "Ever since it returned to the championship calendar in 2015, this event has always proved to be amazingly popular with the public and fans, not just in Mexico, but also around the world," said F1 chairman Chase Carey.

OLD BOYS' NETWORK

Fates of Lampard and Solskjaer will test value of nostalgia and how long it affords a club legend, writes **Harry Jones**

WHEN Chelsea visit Old Trafford on Sunday, a combination of nostalgia and muted expectations will be the makings of an unfamiliar atmosphere between the two giants.

From Jose Mourinho's arrival in summer 2004 until Sergio Aguero's last-gasp winner at Loftus Road in 2012, Chelsea and Manchester United were the only two teams to taste Premier League glory, regularly battling for top spot.

As Frank Lampard and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer face off for the first time, they will serve as bittersweet reminders to their clubs of the glory days they enjoyed as players.

When a top Premier League side recruits a new manager, sought-after candidates typically possess an international pedigree cultivated through years of managerial success.

SENTIMENTAL APPOINTMENTS

Solskjaer and Lampard aren't products of that tried and tested hiring process, but appointments that owe a debt to sentimentality. Clubs seek the poetry of a fan hero resuscitating the team from a low ebb, recreating his glory days from the dugout.

Lampard was the beneficiary of a desperate situation, hired knowing that Chelsea faced a two-window transfer ban and the loss of star player Eden Hazard. Other managers could have been forgiven for seeing the job as a poisoned chalice.

But Lampard, despite his

Wilder's tactical innovation gives edge to Blades

Sheffield United and their roaming defenders out to defy doomsayers, says **Felix Keith**

OVERLAPPING centre-backs. To those well versed in the basics of football tactics it sounds incongruous, like something experimentally toyed with on Football Manager, or conjured up by an over-ambitious Sunday league side.

But this season it is a legitimate approach which will be seen in Premier League grounds all across the country. That's because Sheffield United are back in the top flight for the first time since 2007.

The Blades may have a workmanlike reputation, a small operating budget and a no-nonsense English coach in Chris Wilder, but they are intent on bringing a fresh tactical dimension to their attempts to stay afloat.

Unlike some newly promoted, not-particularly-fancied underdogs of yesteryear, United will stick to their guns – the same ones which have secured two promotions in three hugely successful seasons.

"We play on the front foot," Wilder explained to the Guardian in November 2017, a few months into the club's first year back in the Championship after winning the League One title.

"There are teams who play on the counter-attack, who sit back and retreat to the halfway line.

"Then there's us and we think we play a little bit different to a lot of teams in the division. This is the way that suits us and suits the way we want to play."

ADVENTUROUS

On paper, Wilder's side play a 3-5-2 formation, although that does not explain the half of it.

Once in possession, the left- and right-sided centre-backs, usually Jack O'Connell and Chris Basham, venture forward down their respective flanks, leaving the centrally deployed John Egan to hold the fort alongside a defensive midfielder.

The two adventurous defenders push back their opponents' attackers, create overloads and allow the wing-backs, Enda Stevens and George Baldock or Kieron Freeman to move inside.

Then, using dribbling and crossing skills more often associated with conventional wingers, O'Connell and Basham aim to fashion chances.

Alan Knill, the Blades' assistant manager, told The Times that the ploy was first developed in League One during the 2016-17 campaign as a way to break down the most defensively minded opponents, but worked so well that it has developed into a central tenet of the side's philosophy.

"It really suits them," Knill said in April. "It's such a risk-and-reward way of playing, but it's enjoyable to watch."

LONG-SERVING PLAYERS

The reward certainly outweighed the risk last season, when United finished second in the Championship behind champions Norwich to secure promotion thanks in part to having the joint best defensive record, alongside miserly Middlesbrough.

Fittingly, it was O'Connell, overlapping down the left flank, who set up Scott Hogan's opening goal in the 2-0 win over Ipswich that effectively sealed promotion in April.

As if to underline the benfits of the system, the 25-year-old then headed in the second goal.

Wilder has voiced his admiration for the way Saturday's opponents Bournemouth have used long-serving players in their four successive Premier League seasons under manager Eddie Howe, and it follows that his unique system is best played by those familiar with it.

United's attacking options have been bolstered by the arrivals of Bournemouth's Lys Mousset, club record signing Oli McBurnie from Swansea, QPR's Luke Freeman, Preston's Callum Robinson and free agent Ravel Morrison.

But although former Blade Phil Jagielka has returned from Everton to his old stomping ground, it will likely be the same centre-backs who have mastered the rarely seen art of overlapping who are providing the crosses this campaign.


Lampard arrives at Chelsea after just one season in charge of Derby County

inexperience, may have been the safest option available for Chelsea. After all, who better to keep the fans on side during a difficult period than a man so deeply revered?

RECLAIMING LOST IDENTITY

Solkjaer may be granted less patience. His magnificent start as caretaker boss last season ground to a halt once he was given the job permanently.

Before the official appointment, his United won 14 in 19 games. Afterwards, they won two in 10.

Notably, his initial success was attributed to harnessing his former mentor Sir Alex Ferguson's spirit and style, recapturing the identity that was lost during years of dour, defensive football following the Scot's departure. Solkjaer's focus on purchasing home-grown talent is another ode to Ferguson. How big-money signings Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Harry Maguire adjust to top-club football is crucial in determining the success of the Norwegian's rebuild.

Equally important is whether Solkjaer can galvanise a faltering United attack.

With Romelu Lukaku departing and having only youngster Daniel James signed, Solskjaer needs one of Anthony Martial or Alexis Sanchez to recapture form to complement Marcus Rashford.

Goalscoring will also be a key remit for Lampard. Chelsea have lacked a lethal striker since Diego Costa's departure and may pin their hopes on Tammy Abraham, who spent last season on loan in the Championship.

He scored 25 league goals for Aston Villa last term, but whether he can be effective at a club as big as Chelsea is another question.

Sunday's fixture may not be decisive, but it promises a fascinating insight into whether Lampard and Solskjaer have the tactical nous to manage the very biggest games.

Both managers' lack of experience is one of many well-documented obstacles they'll face.

If Lampard or Solskjaer cannot navigate them, this season will be an interesting lesson in the value of nostalgia, and how much time it affords a club legend.

SAINTS LOOKING UP AGAIN

Hasenhuttl has brought hope back to Southampton, writes **Felix Keith**

AT THE start of a new football season, fans' excitement is increasingly directed towards new signings – players who offer hope that this campaign can be different.

For Southampton, there are certainly high hopes for striker Che Adams, who has arrived from Birmingham for £15m, and winger Moussa Djenepo, who has joined from Standard Liege, but it is someone else who is the object of the most affection.

He may have joined the Saints on 5 December last year, been involved in 25 competitive games already and enjoyed a fair bit of success, but the pervasive feeling at St Mary's is that manager Ralph Hasenhuttl is only just getting started.

The former RB Leipzig boss inherited a prize job from Mark Hughes last winter, one which suited him down to the ground, and yet there were caveats.

A bloated, demoralised squad needed reshaping and re-energising to avoid the nightmare but realistic scenario of relegation from the Premier League.

START AFRESH

Hasenhuttl achieved his first objective, winning 30 points from 23 league games to steer the Saints clear of the dreaded drop and finish in 16th place.

There were flashes of the Austrian's ideas, impressive wins over Arsenal, Tottenham and Leicester, and enough glimpses of his passion and personality to endear him to supporters.

But the grim reality of the dreary, stale, uninspiring football of the Hughes era meant that once the spectre of relegation had faded the 2018-19 season was one to be quickly forgotten about and, hopefully, moved on from.

That is what this weekend, away at Burnley, represents: a chance to start afresh.

Hasenhuttl has had a full six-week pre-season in which to run his players around, impart his ideas and work on tactics. He can now put his trademark all-action, high-intensity, high-pressing style into practice.

"It's about pressing, hunting, being hungry," he told Sky Sports shortly after joining Southampton.

"When you have the ball, find a quick decision, a quick transition at the front. It's about emotion, being full of passion and also keeping the tempo on a high level. Don't slow down the game."

NASTY OPPONENT

Like Jurgen Klopp, to whom he is frequently compared following his work in Germany with Ingolstadt and Leipzig, Hasenhuttl wants his side to press high up the pitch, swarm the opposition and win the ball back in dangerous areas.

Possession for possession's sake is regarded as pointless; Saints averaged 45.6 per cent under Hasenhuttl last season and just 34 per cent in their victories.

Formations are flexible too. Hasenhuttl has experimented with 4-2-2-2, 3-4-3 and 4-3-3, but whichever way they line up Southampton's overarching aim, besides the simplistic one of winning, is to be a "nasty opponent" to play against – a description you could hardly attribute to Saints under his most recent predecessor.

With mobile forwards such as Adams, Shane Long and Danny Ings leading the line ahead of a midfield marshalled by the ever-improving Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg and a smattering of academy graduates, Hasenhuttl now has the players willing to carry out his stylistic master-plan.

After treading water under Claude Puel, Mauricio Pellegrino and Hughes for three seasons, Southampton finally have a coherent plan in place that allows them to look up, rather than over their shoulder.

WHY I'M BETTING ON RED THIS YEAR

FOOTBALL COMMENT

Trevor Steven

WHAT separates Manchester City and Liverpool from the rest of the Premier League is that they have settled squads which excelled last season, playing to their optimum level almost every week in a brilliant title race that City eventually just edged.

Sustaining that lead is so difficult and this is why Pep Guardiola got such a kick out of retaining the title. It's a huge challenge for players to be so consistently good, barely dropping a point. On the eve of a new campaign, the question is: how long can that go on for?

The law of averages says that it only becomes more difficult to stay at that level without injuries to key players or a simple loss of momentum intervening. It's inevitable and it's human nature; as great as City are, they are not machines.

So I would have to take my hat off to Guardiola and City if they made it three Premier League titles in a row. It's an achievement that might not be repeated in the modern era. But on the other hand, it's the reason why I feel the door may be slightly ajar for Liverpool.

City have lost an important character in club captain Vincent Kompany. Every team needs a leader and I'm not sure at this stage who will take up that mantle at the club. Sergio Aguero's longevity is another slight concern for me. How long can he sustain his appetite and fitness?

Liverpool fell short by just one point short last term and I think their Champions League victory will give them momentum and even greater determination to finish top this season. I think there will be a fire burning inside them and a sense that City rode their luck.

I'm a big fan of their back four and goalkeeper, and I fancy Mohamed Salah to have a big campaign. Although he scored 27 goals he didn't have the best 2018-19, and I can see him coming back hungry to repeat the sort of numbers he racked up in his first year at Anfield.

There is a slightly different mindset when defending a title, and that makes me think City could be vulnerable. Liverpool played well against them in Sunday's Community Shield and, with Europe conquered, Jurgen Klopp can make domestic dominance his clear priority.

TOP FOUR AND TOP SIX

Tottenham are settled into their new home now and I think they expect a massive season. They have shown they can keep pace with the leaders 75 per cent of the time; their challenge is to improve on that and never let the gap grow to more than three points.

I seem to say this every year but they still don't have an alternative to Harry Kane, who has been shown to be injury-prone. Son Heung-Min and Lucas Moura are very good but not at that level and I struggle to understand why Spurs haven't thrown money at this issue.

The top two may be out of reach but

I think a top four place is assured for Tottenham, and I expect them to finish third.

Chelsea may have lost Eden Hazard and be banned from making further signings, but I believe Frank Lampard is a smart appointment as manager and I think they can claim that last Champions League spot. It would be a massive achievement, though.

Lampard was only away from Stamford Bridge for five years, so he remains part of the fabric of the club – as does his No2 Jody Morris, who used to work in the academy. They have the support of the fans, who have had to temper expectations slightly, and that's a big plus.

I think Lampard is potentially a very good manager. He has been in football all of his life, has had good people around him, has always listened to advice and is bright enough to put it all together. He's always believed in himself and that will be no different now.

Arsenal, meanwhile, are a funny one. In Aaron Ramsey they have lost a player who could have been their heartbeat, as Steven Gerrard was for Liverpool or Lampard for Chelsea – not necessarily at their level, but something close.

At the back they have been uncertain, and questions remain over whether their defenders are good enough. They have tried to address that by signing Kieran Tierney and David Luiz but the fact that the situation was up in the air two days before the season starts is not ideal.

Manchester United's top six status is under threat. There is no semblance of a powerful team, just a gathering of international footballers. Some don't want to be there and some – Alexis Sanchez in particular – are superstars for their country but fail miserably at United.

A top-four spot looks safe for Spurs, but they remain overly reliant on Harry Kane

Even David de Gea looked a nervous wreck last season. Harry Maguire has been brought in at great expense to be that rock and repair the relationship between goalkeeper and defence which for the last 18 months has looked virtually non-existent.

CITY A.M.'S PREDICTIONS

Trevor Steven 1. Liverpool; 2. Man City; 3. Spurs; 4. Chelsea; 5. Arsenal; 6. Man Utd. 18. S'hampton; 19. Brighton; 20. Sheff Utd.
Frank Dalleres 1. Man City; 2. Liverpool; 3. Spurs; 4. Arsenal; 5. Chelsea; 6. Man Utd. 18. C Palace; 19. Aston Villa; 20. Sheff Utd.
Felix Keith 1. Man City; 2. Liverpool; 3. Spurs; 4. Arsenal; 5. Man Utd; 6. Chelsea. 18. C Palace; 19. Newcastle; 20. Sheff Utd
Michael Searles 1. Man City; 2. Liverpool; 3. Arsenal; 4. Spurs; 5. Man Utd; 6. Chelsea. 18. Sheff Utd; 19. Brighton; 20. Norwich.
Harry Jones 1. Man City; 2. Liverpool; 3. Spurs; 4. Arsenal; 5. Man Utd; 6. Leicester. 18. Norwich; 19. Sheff Utd; 20. Brighton.

BREAKING OUT

As we have become used to lately, there will be three leagues within the top flight and it will be fascinating to see who can break their glass ceiling. There are a handful with ambitions of gatecrashing the top six and, of those, I like the look of Everton.

My old club have recruited well: Fabian Delph brings personality and experience, Moise Kean is an exciting young striker, and Idrissa Gueye has been replaced with Jean-Philippe Gbamin. I'd like to see Richarlison step up and become a figurehead, like Kane did at Spurs.

There are some lingering questions about the defence, and Michael Keane needs a really good season, but I am optimistic that Everton will improve this year. Leicester are another team who are widely expected to threaten the big guns and they know all about that. I like the team Manuel Pellegrini has built at West Ham and they can't be discounted. Wolves and Watford will be looking to build on their progress, too.

RELEGATION

Promoted teams are always at risk because they are up against sides who have come through at least one top-flight season already. They tend to have low expectation levels so they can start well, but once the Tuesday-Saturday grind kicks in they can begin to struggle.

Aston Villa are a big club with a great fanbase and they have spent big to try to stay up. They have the benefit of John Terry's knowhow in the backroom staff and I this they will survive relatively comfortably.

I can't help thinking Sheffield United will struggle. They have a strong gameplan but it is high-risk and I wonder whether that will become untenable at some stage.

Norwich have more going for them, with a bright manager in Daniel Farke, a tight ground and good home form. They may have the little bit extra required to avoid going back down to the Championship.

There are lots of relegation candidates this year, though. I'd include Crystal Palace, Bournemouth, Southampton and Brighton in that number, and that can offer some hope to the Premier League newcomers.

Trevor Steven is a former England footballer who has played at two World Cups and two European Championships. @TrevorSteven63

SPORT

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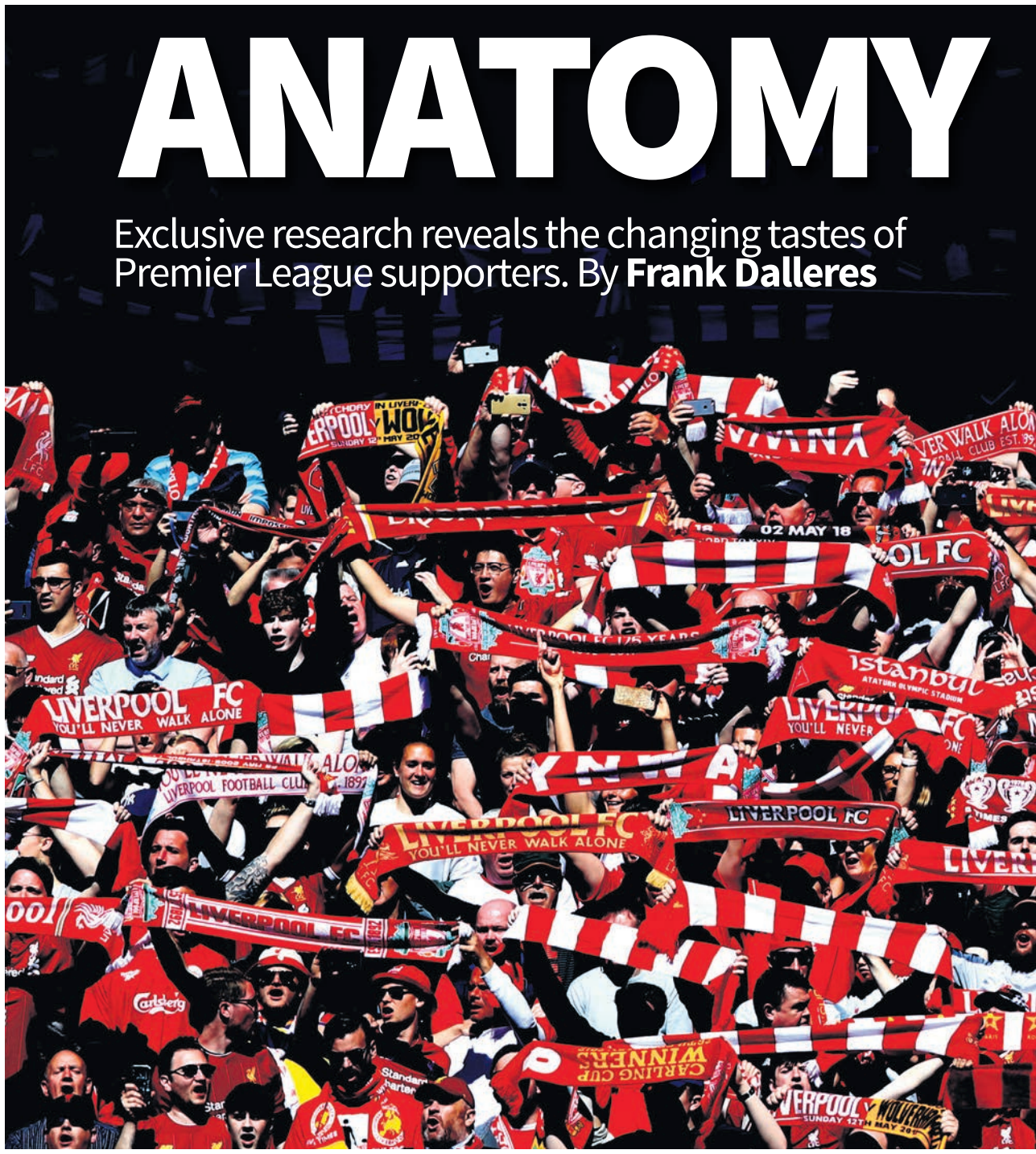
Inside the world of video referees PAGE 23

ANATOMY

Exclusive research reveals the changing tastes of Premier League supporters. By **Frank Dalleres**



CONCEPT kits blurring the lines between football and fashion; freestylers and video gaming encouraging a new breed of young player; supporters following leagues and superstar players before teams; a hunger for more sophisticated and relevant punditry.

It is fair to say that football and fandom is changing. And on the eve of a new Premier League season, we have attempted to take the pulse of the modern supporter and show how their consumption habits and preferences are continuing to evolve.

To do that, *City A.M.* has collaborated with sport and music marketing agency Ear To The Ground, which uses its global Fan Intelligence network of more than 6,000 culturally influential individuals to gather insights and create campaigns for clients such as Nike, Fifa, Playstation and Beats by Dre. The result is a report which draws on Ear To The Ground's worldwide research into Premier League fan behaviour.

It has been broken down into eight digestible topics and offers what we believe is a unique picture of the football supporter in 2019.

MIXED-UP WORLD

The Premier League is a truly global phenomenon but the way in which its followers engage with it varies markedly by territory. In Indonesia, for instance, winning teams are so highly prized that 44 per cent of fans surveyed had switched allegiance.

Merely watching on TV is not enough for Scandinavians, who place great value on the authentic experience of a pilgrimage to their favoured English club.

More than 150,000 Swedes and Danes alone made the trip in 2015-16, according to Visit Britain. Similarly, North Americans take a keen interest in the culture and history of their Premier League teams; two thirds say it is vital to their fandom.

While it has been claimed that China has more Premier League fans than Western Europe, it should be noted that the bar for being considered a supporter is a low one. Research has shown that merely knowing of a team or leading player is enough to self-identify as a fan.

Betting, particularly on mobile devices, has become a prominent facet of fandom in east Africa, especially Kenya, although that has come under threat from new legislation.

ICONS AND IDOLS

Fans following high-profile players, such as Cristiano Ronaldo, above teams and even switching teams when that player moved was a phenomenon first seen in Asia and Africa and was expected to die out as those markets matured. Instead, the trend has spread to Western Europe.

This is attributed to young people watching Champions League football as much or more than domestic games and the result is that 82 per cent of under-18 Premier League fans say their favourite player does not play for their preferred club.

In turn, clubs have increasingly sought to leverage their superstars' profiles. It is a risky game, though, as fans will likely follow them when they move on – as illustrated by Ronaldo's 2018 move from Real Madrid to Juventus.

Football shirts as fashion (above); Ronaldo has a stronger pull than some clubs (right)

LEAGUE POWER

The rise of iconic players has been mirrored by a trend for fans in some markets – notably China, Indonesia, South Korea, Japan, East Africa, North Africa and the Middle East – to support multiple teams in different leagues. One 21-year-old respondent from China said that they followed Arsenal, Barcelona and Juventus, for instance.

In a parallel with the NFL and NBA, meanwhile, a growing minority of fans – 19 per cent up, from 17 per cent – in the above countries called themselves fans of a league or competition over a specific team.

WHERE DOES TV GO?

Live football broadcasts may continue to defy the wider trend of viewers deserting television schedules for Netflix and Youtube, but Premier League fans unwilling or unable to fork out for the necessary Sky, BT and Amazon subscriptions are increasingly turning to illegal streams.

TREVOR STEVEN
Why Liverpool can pip City this time PAGES 28-29

TRANSFERS Record just missed as £1.41bn spent on new players PAGE 24

OF A FAN

Some 5m Britons illegally streamed sport at some point in 2018, while Ear To The Ground's research showed a 300 per cent rise in streaming via Twitter since last year's World Cup.

Fans are particularly seeking out bitesized clips of goals or key moments on social media rather than waiting for TV highlights shows. One respondent said: "It's easy to just pick up a clip on Twitter while the games are still on."

The Premier League faces a challenge to monetise these fans who reject pay TV channels.

The launch of their Youtube channel this week may represent a shift in strategy.

PUNDITRY 2.0

Fans are increasingly participating in their own punditry; three quarters of 16-30 year olds surveyed said they discussed matches in private groups or forums including WhatsApp.

This has coincided with a decreasing appetite for traditional pundits – unless they bring something extra. That added value can take the form of entertainment value, as in the case of fan TV channels and the likes of Copa90, or experts offering a deeper and more sophisticated level of analysis, such as Sky's Gary Neville (pictured below) and Jamie Carragher.

ROOM FOR THE CLASSICS

Traditional platforms such as BBC Sport and Sky Sports still have a role – 62 per cent of under-30s surveyed say they use the websites of the former and 55 per cent the latter – but that role has evolved.

Fans now turn to these sources as quality arbiters; they use them to validate the rumours and stories they have read elsewhere.

The UK launch of The Athletic, a football-focused offshoot of the high-end US subscription publication – raises questions about whether more brands attempt to adopt a more authoritative position.

CROSS-CULTURE

Younger fans no longer see football as an isolated hobby but something that merges with lifestyle, fashion, music, film and gaming.

Football shirts new and old have enjoyed a fashion moment and are now stocked in the high-end sports and trainer stores of Tokyo, New York, Paris and Berlin, while designers such as Xztals and Settpace have captured the zetgeist with their eye-catching concept kits.

"Rappers want to play football and footballers want to rap," said Krept, of UK duo Krept and Konan, and the relationship between music and football is the biggest growth area, with an ever-increasing number of crossover projects.

Some 55 per cent of young fans say they now expect music to be part of their football experience.

BLURRING LINES

"I play 11-a-side, Fifa [the video game], five-a-side and some futsal," said one respondent, illustrating that young fans now make little distinction between different forms of football – even including gaming.

The popularity of short skills clips on social media, meanwhile, has encouraged the concept of "head-to-head" football, in which beating your man – preferably with tricky technique – is everything.

Gaming's influence may also be affecting fans' tastes; they are increasingly seeking extreme drama and skills in short form rather than the ebb and flow of a football match.

For more information on Ear To The Ground: www.eartotheground.agency

300%
Increase in streaming football via Twitter since the 2018 World Cup