Light relief: UK steers clear of recession as July delivers unexpected GDP growth

HARRY ROBERTSON
@henrygrobertson

THE UK ECONOMY has defied fears of a recession after growing by more than analysts had expected in July. British GDP expanded by 0.3 per cent month-on-month in July after growing by 0.2 per cent in June. Economists were expecting just 0.1 per cent growth.

The better-than-forecast figures have allayed fears that the UK economy is teetering on the edge of a recession – two consecutive quarters of contraction – after it shrank 0.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2019.

Brexit uncertainty and a global economic slowdown driven by the US-China trade war have damaged the third quarter,” said Samuel Tombs, chief UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics. The pound finished up 0.3 per cent on the day against the dollar at $1.234.

However, Rob Kent-Smith, head of GDP at the ONS, said that despite the surprise growth in July, “the underlying picture shows services growth weakening through 2019”. PwC chief economist John Hawksworth said that “the underlying picture is still one of an economy that is flat-lining, with zero GDP growth in the three months to July as compared to the previous three months”.

He added: “If there is a disorderly Brexit, the UK economy could be tipped into recession.”
No smooth flying for BA with Cruz in control

O FLY. To serve. It may be the tagline of one of the UK’s best known brands, but passengers of British Airways can be forgiven for grimacing at what has been dished out to them recently. In the past two years, BA customers have endured data leaks affecting more than 550,000, an IT meltdown which cost the firm £58m, and days of strike action, which this week alone grounded 1,700 flights, left its Heathrow T3 hub a ghost town and is costing the airline at least £40m a day. All on top of the usual ‘travel chaos’ weather events which affect all carriers.

The brand damage follows BA’s much-derided move down-market to scrap free seat selection and food and drink on economy short-haul flights in a cost-cutting drive to compete with budget carriers. The budget-busting coincided with Alex Cruz buckling to the airline’s parent, International Airlines Group (IAG), and a much-diluted brand power. That profit protection is due to a share slide in the long-run and is yet another test for Cruz who is deemed necessary to reverse IAG’s share price decline which analysts say was sky-high this time last year based in-part on Cruz’s cost control. Keeping a handle on pilots’ pay will be worth yesterday’s share slide in the long-run and is yet another test for Cruz who is charged by IAG head office to balance competing with the likes of Emirates on long-haul and Ryanair and Easyjet on short-haul routes. It isn’t an easy balancing act. While you won’t have to search far to find a leisure or business passenger who has sworn off the British flag-carrier, City analysts and IAG are keeping the faith that the BA boss will continue to deliver profitability (making around £2bn in profits in 2018) for the mothership. Aviation analysts agree that the airline’s financial performance is somewhat insulated from headline-grabbing mishaps, IT underinvestment and a much-diluted brand power. That profit protection is due to a legacy issue from well before Cruz’s tenure and more permanent than a few PR disasters. Heathrow airport. It’s full, but BA has 55 per cent of all the landing slots. And BA’s London hub remains the airport of choice for its sought-after high-value travellers. The summer slide of its share and reputation is unwelcome turbulence for the airline – and its customers. This week’s battle may prove a necessary blip on the radar in the longhaul.

Brexit set to take its toll on EU’s capital markets

Financial Times

Brexit is set to take its toll on EU’s capital markets. The latest EU’s capital markets post-Brexit will be nearly a third smaller than they would have expected Frankfurt, and France has got all the big markets – the biggest asset management firms, insurers, banks, bank lending – it has pretty much got a clean sweep.

Pensions assets and assets under management will shrink by more than half, while bond markets in the EU will be around one-fifth smaller and equity markets will shrink by around one quarter. “The overall depth of capital markets relative to GDP will fall, and the EU economy will be more reliant on bank lending and bank savings than it is today,” the report added. New Financial has also forecast that the EU will witness a change in tone and direction of policy and regulation in its capital markets post-Brexit: “Not only will the capital markets union initiative is likely to look very different under the leadership of France and Germany than it does today. France, Germany and the Netherlands have been seeking to develop a “capital markets union” aimed at breaking down barriers to cross-border investment and boosting financial services, saying in recent months that Brexit has raised the importance of an integrated arrangement between European states.

SoftBank urges WeWork to shelve flotation

SoftBank, the biggest outside shareholder in WeWork, is urging the loss-making property group to shelve its hotly-anticipated initial public offering after it received a cool reception from investors, according to people briefed on the discussions. WeWork’s parent company, the We Company, has been aiming to raise between $3bn (£2.4bn) and $4bn in its flotation.

Lazard UK’s new boss: UK firms vulnerable to M&A

The new chief executive of Lazard UK, Cynus Kapadia, said British-listed companies were becoming increasingly attractive targets to overseas buyers as

WHAT THE OTHER PAPERS SAY THIS MORNING

Activist investor takes $2.8bn shot at AT&T

The hedge fund that waged a 15-year debt battle with Argentina has acquired a $2.8bn (£1.6bn) stake in the owner of the Warner Bros film studio and HBO pay TV channels. Elliott Management, a New York-based activist investor, has called for a radical shake-up at AT&T after buying 1.2 per cent of its shares.

ABCAM deflated by big expansion plans

Ambitious plans to almost double revenues at Cambridge-based biotechnology company Abcam in the next five years have been met with scepticism by the City over fears that they amounted to “jam tomorrow”.

Soros to sell stake in fibre broadband venture

Billionaire investor George Soros is holding discussions about selling his stake in British ultrafast broadband venture Hyperoptic, backed by Soros’ Quantum Strategic Partners since 2013 in a deal that is expected to value the company at more than £500m.

Islington first London council to ban fur sale

Islington has become the first London council to ban the sale of fur, and the second in the country to do so. Traders will no longer be able to sell products containing fur in the markets of the borough, after council members said “the cruelty can no longer continue”.

Moody’s cuts Ford’s bond rating to junk status

Moody’s Investors Service cut Ford Motor’s bond rating to junk status, citing weak cash generation and a year’s long restructuring plan that the auto maker is undertaking just as the car market softens globally. The ratings company yesterday cut Ford’s rating one notch to Baa1 from Baa3.
Barclays and Lloyds weather costs of PPI rush

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY
AND JAMES WARRINGTON
@SebMcCarthy @j_a_warrington

TWO OF Britain’s biggest banks yesterday warned of billion-pound costs from a rush of claims for mis-sold payment protection insurance (PPI).

Barclays revealed after trading closed last night that it was facing costs of up to £1.6bn following a bigger-than-expected stampede of complaints in the run-up to the 29 August deadline.

Lloyds Banking Group also said that PPI costs could total as much as £1.8bn before the bell opened yesterday, prompting the bank to suspend its share buyback plan.

It brings the total to be paid out from the scandal to around £50bn.

Lloyds said it received between 600,000 and 800,000 claims per week in August.

Yesterday’s shock announcements came a week after the Royal Bank of Scotland and CYBG warned that an unprecedented number of complaints could cost up to £900m and £450m respectively, with both groups blaming higher claims last month for a worse-than-expected blow.

The Co-operative Bank revealed it had received “a substantially greater volume of inquiries and complaints than expected”, but said it needed more time to give full estimates.

The Financial Conduct Authority has reported that roughly £36bn in compensation has been paid out so far, with the typical payout amounting to £2,000. However, think tank New City Agenda predicted the PPI bill could be as much as £53bn.

“The extra costs do knock the investment case for Lloyds, as they hit return on equity, hamper the bank’s plans to build up its capital buffers and therefore its ability to distribute spare cash once regulators are satisfied that it has sufficient financial ammunition to withstand any future crisis,” said Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell.

“The good news is that this should at least see Lloyds through PPI and,” he added. Shares in both banks edged upwards by yesterday’s close.

Nissan crisis: Car maker’s chief resigns after long year of turmoil

ALEX DANIEL
@alexdaniel

THE CRISIS at Japanese automotive giant Nissan deepened yesterday after chief executive Hiroto Saikawa was asked to quit by the board.

In an at times heated press conference in Japan yesterday, board members confirmed that Saikawa, who had already expressed a desire to leave the top job, would step down in due course.

The announcement comes days after Saikawa admitted that he had received payments that flouted company rules – but were not illegal – via a scheme designed by disgraced former chairman Carlos Ghosn, who faces criminal charges in Tokyo for financial misconduct.

Saikawa has overseen a period tarnished with financial failure, corporate scandal and job cuts since he took the job in 2017. Yesterday, he apologised to stakeholders that he had to go “while things are yet to be done” to turn the firm around. The news came as Nissan wrapped up a 10-month internal probe into Ghosn.
Ashley seeking to cuff Links to his retail empire

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY
@SebMcCarty

Retail magnate Mike Ashley is hoping to ramp up his bidding, with the Thomson Reuters Johnston Partners, for a joint venture. It will see the group join forces with Jardine Plc in three years.

The move would mark the latest in a string of major high street acquisitions from Ashley over the past 12 months, having bought up the likes of House of Fraser and Jack Wills.

SAGE kicks off sale of payments processing business division

SAGE has lined up bankers to find a buyer for its payments-processing arm Sage Pay. The investment bank Rothschild has been appointed to sell the firm, which has around 50,000 small and medium-sized business customers, Sky News reported.

It is unclear what the business could sell for, or if the bank has found much interest since it started the process weeks ago.

The news comes as Sage tries to transform itself into a cloud software firm. Sage did not respond to request for comment. It would be the third big disposal in three years.

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Treasury refuses MPs’ calls to publish shortlist for Bank of England governor

HARRY ROBERTSON
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The Treasury yesterday refused the demands of opposition MPs to publish the shortlist of candidates to be considered for the top Bank of England governor since 2012, is due to step down in January. Javid will pick the next Bank boss if he stays in office.

The letter to Javid from MPs such as SNP Commons leader Ian Blackford and Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesperson Ed Davey said: “It’s crucial that the appointment of the next governor is made on merit, not narrow political expediency.”

Yet the Treasury said it will not publish the shortlist and said the Treasury Select Committee can scrutinise the process once the appointment has been made. A spokesperson said: “As we confirmed when we launched this process, we will be publishing relevant statistics covering the shortlist. It would not be appropriate to put personal information, including names from the shortlist, into the public domain.”

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Spread bets and CFDs are complex instruments and come with a high risk of losing money rapidly due to leverage. **74% of retail investor accounts lose money when trading spread bets and CFDs with this provider.** You should consider whether you understand how spread bets and CFDs work, and whether you can afford to take the high risk of losing your money.
BA boss blames ‘cynical’ pilots union for strikes

ALEXANDRA ROGERS
@city_amrogers

BRITISH Airways chief executive Alex Cruz yesterday blamed the “cynical actions” of its pilots’ union for the two-day strike that will continue today.

BA pilots who are members of the British Airline Pilots’ Association (Balpa) began a 48-hour walk-out in a dispute over pay and working conditions yesterday.

“We’re very, very, very sorry that due to the cynical actions of the pilots’ union we found ourselves having to cancel flights affecting, indeed, thousands of passengers,” Cruz told Sky News.

“It is by all means an own goal – it’s punishing our customers first, it’s punishing our brand, it’s punishing British Airways the best airline in the world.”

Pilots have rejected an 11.5 per cent pay rise over the next three years, which they claim is not in line with airline-owner IAG’s £2bn profits. BA has said the pay proposal is “generous” and has been accepted by the Unite and GMB unions.

BA was forced to cancel almost all flights due to the strike action, which is also scheduled for 27 September. Shares in IAG closed down 1.53 per cent at 423.50p yesterday.

Fifty US state attorneys general join antitrust probe into Google

A GROUP of US states have opened a probe into Google, attorney general for Texas Ken Paxton said last night.

The antitrust investigation, led by Paxton, will look into big technology firms, with a focus on Google’s advertising arm.

Only two states attorneys general, from Alabama and California, have not signed up to the joint effort.

It comes amid growing pressure on technology giants from authorities in the US. Last Friday, a separate group of states said it was looking into Facebook.

The firm settled for $5bn (£4bn) earlier this year over a data scandal.

Luton is ranked the UK’s worst large airport

ALEXANDRA ROGERS
@city_amrogers

LUTON airport has been ranked the worst large airport in the UK for the fourth year running by consumer watchdog Which.

Luton managed a 43 per cent customer satisfaction score in a Which survey of 4,499 of its members, who were surveyed about 6,237 experiences at UK airports. Passengers cited long security queues, airside crowds and limited seating as their reasons for ranking the airport poorly.

According to Which, Luton has found itself at the bottom of every ranking since it launched its survey in 2013.

A spokesperson for Luton airport said: “We’re disappointed by our ranking but pleased to see this year’s customer score has improved by 23 per cent compared to last year.”

ITALIAN STALLION Ferrari accelerates with two new models in bid for profit boost

ITALIAN supercar manufacturer Ferrari lifted the lid on two new cars yesterday as it pushes on with an roll-out plan designed to keep its recent profit growth in top gear.

The iconic brand unveiled the F8 Spider and 812 GTS at its Maranello headquarters.

This information is correct as of September 2019 and is relevant to Halifax products and services only. Halifax is a division of Bank of Scotland plc. Registered in Scotland No. SC327000. Registered Office: The Mound, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ. Bank of Scotland plc is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority under registration number 169628.
Podcast startup Entale secures £2m backing from Daily Mail

INTERACTIVE podcast startup Entale has received £2m in funding from the Daily Mail’s venture capital arm to help expand its artificial intelligence technology. Entale, founded in 2017 by former Conde Nast digital boss Wil Harris, enables audiences to view social media posts, images and product links while listening to podcasts. The London startup is among a string of firms cashing in on the booming popularity of podcasts such as Off Menu.

Deloitte offers training for aspiring lawyers as part of legal expansion

JAMES BOOTH
@Jamesdbooth1

DELOITTE Legal will offer training contracts to aspiring lawyers for the first time from today, as the Big Four continue their expansion into the legal sector.

Deloitte launched a UK legal practice in 2018, becoming the last of the Big Four firms to do so.

Today, the firm opened applications for up to 10 training contracts for aspiring solicitors to start training from September 2020, qualifying as solicitors in 2023.

Last year, Deloitte Legal hired senior Allen & Overy partner Michael Castle to lead its expansion in the UK.

At the time of his hire Castle said he wanted the firm to become a “significant player” in the UK’s £26bn legal market.

“Want to broaden access to the profession and make it as inclusive as possible. This is a fantastic opportunity for aspiring solicitors to earn while they learn, while also encountering the wealth of expertise beyond legal work that Deloitte Legal can offer as a multidisciplinary firm.”

Internal auditors say cyber attacks are greatest threat

JAMES BOOTH
@Jamesdbooth1

A SURVEY of internal auditors published today has found cybersecurity, regulatory change and digitalisation are the top three risks faced by businesses across Europe.

The survey of 528 chief internal auditors found 78 per cent named cyber and data security as a top five threat facing their businesses, 59 per cent cited regulatory change and 58 per cent flagged digitalisation.

The number of chief internal auditors citing cybersecurity as a top five risk has increased 18 per cent since last year, while this year 21 per cent named it as the greatest risk their business faced.

Sixty eight per cent of chief internal auditors said cyber and security risk is one of the top five risks to which internal audit dedicates time and resources.

The chief auditor of a German multinational insurer said cybersecurity "is not just a compliance risk, but also a commercial risk and opportunity. It is something that can set us apart from our competitors."

The chief auditor of a German transport group said: "We have almost doubled our IT auditor headcount in recent years."

Other key threats were outsourcing, supply chains and third party risk (36 per cent), business continuity and resilience (31 per cent), financial risks and macroeconomic and political uncertainty (29 per cent).

Ian Peters, chief executive of the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors, said: "Cybersecurity is a problem we regularly see on the news from the theft of 500m Marriott hotel guests’ personal information, to the security breach which exposed 50m Facebook user identities."

Chinese car maker Geely invests in flying taxi firm Volocopter

ALEX DANIEL
@alexmdaniel

GEELY has hedged its bets on a German startup that hopes to bring flying taxis to cities around the world, as the Chinese firm seeks to branch out from its traditional automotive business ventures.

The car maker has taken a minority stake in Volocopter, which hopes to bring air taxis to cities, and said it has raised €45m (US$44.8m) from Geely and others.

The startup, which claims it is building the world’s first manned, electric vertical takeoff air taxis, said yesterday that other investors in its latest funding round include German car maker Daimler, which had taken a stake in it previously.

It said the deal increased the total capital it has raised to €85m, and that the new funds will go towards bringing its Volocity aircraft to commercial launch within the next three years.
Investment in the technology grew almost six-fold from 2014 to 2018, with UK AI scallops raising almost double that of France, Germany and the rest of Europe combined last year, according to figures collated by Tech Nation.

AI funding in the UK has beaten 2018’s figures, rising from $1.02bn (£830m) in 2018 to $1.06bn in the first six months of 2019. “Britain has a long history as a global leader in computing technologies and it is home to the early pioneers of AI - Ada Lovelace and Alan Turing. It’s great to see our legacy in this field continue by the next generation of British AI startups who are using the power of technology to solve real-world problems such as tackling fake news, detecting cancer earlier and efficiently managing waste,” said digital minister Matt Warman.

INVESTORS poured a record level of money into the UK’s artificial intelligence sector this year, according to a new index of the greatest threats to world economic growth.

Global temperature change has become the top extreme risk for investors, according to a new index of the greatest threats to world economic growth.

Weather hazards, a collapse in global trade and cyberwarfare were ranked as the greatest risks in a report that catalogues rare events that could have a high impact on world growth and asset returns.

Biodiversity collapse, the abandonment of flat money and cyberwarfare have all moved into the top 15 risks for the first time, while deflation, insurance crises and terrorism have all dropped out.

Those that have risen up the rankings this year include infrastructure failure (up eight places) and global trade collapse (up ten places)....
Tourism plunges amid Hong Kong protests

HONG KONG suffered a sharp annual fall in tourist visits last month as mass demonstrations took their toll on the city's economy.

Tourist arrivals in the city slumped year on year by almost 40 per cent in August, financial secretary Paul Chan wrote in a blog post.

Visitor numbers have been sinking amid violent clashes between police and protesters, which were sparked earlier this summer by a controversial extradition bill.

The standoff between authorities and protesters has rocked parts of the region’s economy, which is home to some of the world’s biggest financial and business groups.

According to data compiled by Bloomberg, the drop marked the biggest annual decrease since May 2003 when arrivals plummeted in the wake of a disease outbreak.

Chan said the unrest had “severely damaged Hong Kong’s international image” as a safe city for trade, aviation and finance.

“The most worrying thing is that the road ahead is not easily going to turn any better,” he added.

Intu shares rise on reports of takeover offer

SHOPPING centre owner Intu led the FTSE risers yesterday following reports of a potential buyout led by Orion Capital Managers.

Orion, run by private equity tycoon Aref Lahham, is said to be seeking partners for a buyout of the struggling company, which has felt the impact of tough trading conditions for UK retailers.

The firm, which owns the Trafford Centre in Manchester and Lakeside in Essex, suffered an 18 per cent decline in rental income in the first half while pre-tax loss fell to almost £900m, prompting the firm to cancel its interim dividend.

The mooted buyout, first reported by the Sunday Times, sent shares soaring as much as 22 per cent in early trading, before settling up 10.47 per cent at 40.32p.

Intu’s share price has plunged more than 60 per cent since the start of the year, as retailers have been forced to close swathes of stores and launch company voluntary agreements to slash rent. It fell out of the FTSE 250 index last week.

Intu is also battling to pay down its £4.7bn debt pile. Analysts have warned it is at risk of breaching covenants on more than £1bn of this debt as the value of its assets continues to fall.

A takeover bid would likely resolve the debt problem, according to the report. Orion holds a 9.2 per cent stake in Intu, and would need to work with other potential bidders such as Orion Capital Managers, which has a 27.2 per cent stake, to secure a buyout.

Renewed interest in Intu would come after a consortium led by major investor John Whittaker dropped a £2.9bn bid last November. The consortium’s U-turn followed a similar abandoned £3.4bn bid by rival Hammerson in April last year.

Intu declined to comment on reports of a private equity buyout.

Primark expansion to offset slump

The expansion of its international store portfolio has offset a two per cent dip in like-for-like sales.

In the UK, predicted sales growth of three per cent was driven by new selling space including the retailer’s new “megastore” in Birmingham.

However, like-for-like sales are expected to have slumped one per cent as the business battled challenging market conditions on the high street.

The retailer opened 14 new stores in the year across the UK, Germany, Spain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Slovenia, bringing its total estate to 373 shops.

The retail giant is continuing to expand in the US following a year of strong sales growth, with its 10th store in New Jersey set to open this autumn followed by a Florida branch in 2020.

The company has also exchanged contracts on a Chicago store.

Shares closed down at 2.305p.

Primark owner Associated British Foods expects full-year sales to rise four per cent

Associated British Foods (ABF) said in November, are expected to be four per cent up on last year, Primark-owner ABF said in a trading update yesterday.

The company has also exchanged contracts on a Chicago store.

Shares closed down at 2.305p.

Tourism plunges amid Hong Kong protests

Hong Kong anti-government protesters have faced police violence.

Primark expansion to offset slump

Primark is expected to report sales growth in its full-year results, driven by the budget hotel chain’s more up-market options.

The firm’s “super rooms” and Travelodge Plus brands, which offer additional facilities and extra comfort, helped to drive sales up six per cent to £337.3m in the first half.

Travelodge is targeting more short-break leisure destinations, the budget hotel chain’s more up-market options.

The year driven by the success of the Super rooms, which have been create about 300 new jobs. The firm, which owns the Trafford Centre in Manchester and Lakeside in Essex, are expected to be four per cent up on last year, Primark-owner ABF said in a trading update yesterday.

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Intu is also battling to pay down its £4.7bn debt pile. Analysts have warned it is at risk of breaching covenants on more than £1bn of this debt as the value of its assets continues to fall.

A takeover bid would likely resolve the debt problem, according to the report. Orion holds a 9.2 per cent stake in Intu, and would need to work with other potential bidders such as Orion Capital Managers, which has a 27.2 per cent stake, to secure a buyout.

Renewed interest in Intu would come after a consortium led by major investor John Whittaker dropped a £2.9bn bid last November. The consortium’s U-turn followed a similar abandoned £3.4bn bid by rival Hammerson in April last year.

Intu declined to comment on reports of a private equity buyout.

Tourism plunges amid Hong Kong protests

Hong Kong anti-government protesters have faced police violence.

Primark expansion to offset slump

Travelodge’s ‘super rooms’ boost revenue

TRAVELodge yesterday reported boosted revenue in the first half of the year driven by the success of the budget hotel chain’s more up-market options.

The firm’s “super rooms” and Travelodge Plus brands, which offer additional facilities and extra comfort, helped to drive sales up six per cent to £337.3m in the first half.

Travelodge chief executive Peter Gowers said: “It’s quite a tough end of the year, which it expects to have slumped one per cent

But in the longer term, the fundamentals for low-cost hotels remain good, and with our clear brand proposition and strong development pipeline, we are well positioned for the future.”
Blazing success: British cannabis firm picks up £7.8m in funding round

A LEADING British cannabis company has raised £7.8m in a series A funding round as it prepares to launch an “aggressive strategy” to dominate the budding industry across Europe.

Cannaray, which manufactures medical cannabis and consumer cannabidiol (CBD) products, also announced that it had bought Thermitos – a company with licences to import, handle and distribute controlled drugs in the UK and across the EU.

The company has partnered with Newey, the largest horticulture firm in the UK, to develop growing facilities and a pharmaceutical research base to “explore new cannabis-based medical formulations”. It is also applying for a cannabis cultivation licence – only two of which have ever been granted before.

The global medical cannabis market is set to be worth over £60bn by 2026, while the CBD consumer sector is predicted to hit £20bn by 2024.

Medical cannabis has been a hotly debated topic in the UK recently. It has been legal for the NHS to prescribe cannabis since November last year, but campaigners have argued that under current rules the drug remains almost impossible to access.

Cannaray said it is planning to raise additional capital to fund the production of medical cannabis and expand into markets beyond the UK – beginning with Germany and Poland later this year.

Chief executive officer Scott Maguire said the firm wants to become “not only the leading European cannabis player, but eventually one of the global leaders in research and development of improved cannabis therapies”.

Eddie Stobart says it has received buyout interest

Eddie Stobart suspended its shares and said its chief executive was standing down last month after an accounting error.

The trucking company delayed its half-year results in early September and it said it would review its dividend policy as a result of the error.

Embattled fund manager Neil Woodford owns a 22.9 per cent stake in the company. Dhay owns a 10.1 per cent stake in the logistics group, whose brands include Biforce, Logistics People and Speedy Freight, according to data from Refinitiv Eikon.

Dhay did not respond to a request for comment.

Supporting City Giving Day

We are proud of our work making our capital a better place, in particular through our Philanthropy, Social Mobility and Volunteering strategies.

Our charitable funder, the City Bridge Trust, London’s largest independent funder, makes grants of £20 million a year to reduce inequality and tackle disadvantage.

How will you celebrate CGD?

We aim to turn Guildhall red! We will be celebrating the fantastic volunteering that our staff are engaged in through photos and case studies. To show support, employers are being asked to wear red, and pledge to use their 14 hours employer supported volunteering leave in the next twelve months.
Navigating Your Pension and the Lifetime Allowance

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To register your interest in this event, please visit www.cityam.com/event/netwealth. Places are limited and subject to availability.

This event is for professionals only, with minimum investable assets of £100k.

Thomas Salter, Chief Operating Officer, Netwealth
Matt Conradi, Head of Client Advisory, Netwealth
Christian May, City A.M. Editor

Join Our Evening Event

Our Speakers

Thomas Salter, Chief Operating Officer, Netwealth
Matt Conradi, Head of Client Advisory, Netwealth
Christian May, City A.M. Editor

The Discussion

Having a strategy for when and how to draw from your pension is essential. Weighing up your objectives between maximising income in retirement and passing wealth on to the next generation will help define the appropriate strategy for you.

Our panel of experts will help you to understand how to optimise your pension savings.

During the evening we will:
• Look at the impact the LTA charges could have on your pension
• Consider the strategies for navigating the LTA in accumulation and drawdown
• Learn how controlling certain factors when investing can improve your chances of achieving your goals

Join Us

Tuesday 24th September
Registration 6.30 pm
Discussion 7-8 pm
Drinks and canapés 8-9 pm

Location

Andaz London, 40 Liverpool St,
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To register your interest in this event, please visit www.cityam.com/event/netwealth. Places are limited and subject to availability.

This event is for professionals only, with minimum investable assets of £100k.
Notice is hereby given that the Common Council of the City of London as traffic authority for the undersigned streets made several Orders on 3 September 2019 under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended by the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991 with the exception of the Order in Old Broad Street where the dates have been extended. The effect of these Orders will be to prohibit vehicles (or pedestrians where stated) from the said roads.

**Old Broad Street (Liverpool St to Sun St Passage) — Carriageways Works**

Extended until 12 October 2019

Alberic Street

(Cannon St to King William St) — Carriageways Works

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(Old Broad St to Bartholomew Lane) — Carriageways Works

Extended until 10 September 2019

Burghley Street

(Throgmorton St to Bartholomew Lane) — Carriageways Works

Extended until 10 September 2019

Clerkenwell Road

(Gough Sq to Eastern Harding St) — Utility Works

Extended until 10 September 2019

Com pared Lane

(Church St to Chancery Lane) — Utility Works

Extended until 10 September 2019

Coutts Street

(Throgmorton St to St Mary Aldermary) — Utility Works

Extended until 10 September 2019

Curtier Street

(St Mary Aldermary to Sun Lane) — Utility Works

Extended until 10 September 2019

**The Sussex climate – even as I imagine proper summer across the Channel – is actually similar to Champagne.**

**Because of the cool climate there is something that we all share: the freshness and fruitiness of the wine, it is dry, which appeals to us.**

**The appeal is not limited to Heerema, who swapped running an investment company for running Nyetimber in 2006. The Cuvées and Prestige Cuvées have gone toe-to-toe with the world-famous Champagne houses in blind taste tests and been judged the pick of the bunch – by帕尼法官，in fact. It isn’t just French champagne quaffers heaping praise on the Sussex winery. Tom Lloyd-Jones, who runs English Wine Adventures, says the awards recognized English wine in the eyes of British drinkers. “Nyetimber winning awards, beating Champagne, by French judges no less, was a real game-changer for the English wine industry.”**

Lloyd-Jones has only been running tours for just over a year, but a steady stream of tourists and Londoners paying to spend a day among the vines is another sign of things to come for the industry. “Come back in five years and you’ll be like, ‘What’s with all these people?’ he predicts, with the industry wanting to emulate wine tourism markets such as Australia where it is key to a resurgence.”

Convincing locals may be easier than visitors to England – of the record 13.2m bottles produced last year, only around 200,000 were exported. Whether you frame that ratio as a patriotic domestic market looking to buy local, or a hesitant snobbishness from continental consumers depends on your outlook.

Back at Nyetimber, Heerema has lofty ambitions: “We are trying to create a global British luxury brand,” he explains. When I suggest other, perhaps better-known English labels may rival Nyetimber in that regard, Heerema insists his company has no rivals, at least not on this side of the Channel.

Craftsmanship takes time and he admits Nyetimber, after 13 years in his ownership, is not yet to make a profit – a challenge Heerema thinks will be achieved in “the next few years.” Instead of chasing a quick return, Nyetimber invested to expand from 16 to 26 hectares of vines. That now means around 1m bottles can be made in a good year, although, as we pass rain-covered vines, it will be an Indian summer to beat 2018’s harvest.

It also invested in quality control, maintaining itself as a single-estate producer, so no grapes or juice can be brought in from elsewhere. The payoff is control and knowledge of the whole production cycle, and it doesn’t hurt the branding either. As a result, its Prestige Cuvée in Harvey Nichols commands the same price as Dom Pérignon. Heerema also cites the worldwide crisis to explain why, when side-by-side, you would opt for his bottle over one from France. He calls it “the emancipation of Champagne drinking.”

In the depths of the recession, bottles of Bolla were seen as a great alternative, which led to many opting for less-obviously prestigious tipples. “Prosecco was the first one to benefit and now people have a new alternative...English sparkling wine,” he says.
Ten Lifestyle gets share price boost as it lifts forecast

JAMES WARRINGTON
@j_a_warrington

SHARES in Ten Lifestyle closed up 4.78 per cent yesterday after the concierge firm said it expected annual loss to be narrower than previously forecast.

In a trading update ahead of its full-year results, Ten predicted net revenue to come in line with expectations, and forecast an adjusted earnings loss ahead of market expectations.

The London-headquartered firm, which offers a premium concierge service to high net-worth clients, also said it expects net cash of £12m at the end of the year.

Brokers at Peel Hunt said 2020 looked to be an “exciting year” for Ten, which will hold £2m more cash than expected. In June, Ten secured a second contract with HSBC to run concierge services in Singapore, after winning its Jade service last year.

London’s 4Bio raises first tranche of $150m advanced therapies fund

ANNAMENIN
@annamenin

LONDON-BASED venture capital firm 4Bio yesterday completed the first round of fundraising for a new fund focused on the advanced therapies sector, which uses stem cells, genes and tissues to treat chronic medical conditions.

4Bio said the first tranche had attracted over $50m (£40.6m) of capital. The firm is hoping to raise $150m of capital for the fund, which will be known as 4Bio Ventures II, before a final close in the second half of 2020.

The fund will invest in up to 12 private firms developing advanced therapies, focusing on what it called “areas of unmet need”, and without any geographical restrictions. 4Bio has been backing biotech companies since 2010, and has supported 29 firms in the sector since then.

“Advanced therapies are the future of medicine”, said 4Bio managing partner Dmitry Kuzmin, adding the fund would help “scientists, academics and innovative biotech companies as they work to create effective, reasonable and sustainable advanced therapies that could cure chronic disease”.

What does the future of our retail industry look like and is the high street really under threat?

Read insight from Save The High Street, British Independent Retailers Association and IMRG in tomorrow’s City AM.

Mediaplanet is the leading international publisher of high-quality and in-depth analysis on topical industry and market issues, in print and online.
The FTSE 100 fell yesterday as the pound plunged ahead after unexpectedly robust economic data and as no-deal Brexit worries receded, leaving internationally-focused stocks in the dumps. The blue-chip index lost 0.6 per cent to 7,235.81 points, shedding earlier gains and lagging its European peers, due to steep falls in pharmaceutical shares Astrazeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, and consumer goods giant Unilever.

The FTSE 250 dipped 0.1 per cent, at 19,678.45, though losses were thanks to a 10.4 per cent surge in Intu Properties after the Times reported that private equity firm Apax Partners was looking to buy the shopping centre operator.

An unsettled UK political and economic landscape could be with us for some time, Blackrock analysts wrote in their weekly note.

“Six months ago, a negotiated deal looked most likely; now, the extreme outcomes – no-deal or a new referendum – look to have become more plausible.”

Investors in aviation services group Air Partner were cheered yesterday as the firm managed to fly above what it called “challenging” market conditions with stronger than expected profit. Liberum analysts said the firm’s fundamentals remained attractive, and gave it a “Buy” rating with a 115p target price.

Essentra is heading to Spain to get away from the partner and kids and shacking up with a handsome young Spaniard called Nekicesa. With the takeover, it thinks it can grow faster than expected.

The FTSE 100 fell 0.4 per cent, to 7,563.51, while the S&P 500 lost 0.28 point, or 0.01 per cent, to 2,978.43 and Nasdaq dropped 15.64 points, or 0.19 per cent, to 7,907.44.

“The market is absorbing those gains from last week, and, …is in a wait-and-see regarding the European Central Bank meeting,” said Quincy Krosby, chief market strategist at Prudential Financial in New Jersey.

An appeal fell 2.6 per cent after analysts raised questions about data on the company’s lung cancer drug. Fintech firm Revolut have launched cards with no withdrawal fees. Monzo have launched their card, allowing customers to spend money abroad without having to open a current account, allowing customers to spend money abroad without having to open a current account. Starling Bank does not charge for withdrawals.

There were no significant price moves in commodities, with Brent crude down 0.1 per cent.

Another recurring theme in the week-end was media reports said a cargo door failed in a ground test stress.

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT

Baker McKenzie has appointed global chief investment officer of HSBC Global Asset Management. Based in London, Joanna will take over from Chris Cheetham at the end of September, reporting directly to Nicolas Moreau, global chief investment officer. Chris is retiring after more than four decades in the investment industry. Joanna joined the firm in 2005, Joanna has served as head of product and, more recently, chief executive officer of the business’ Asia-Pacific operations. In addition to her work at HSBC Global Asset Management, Joanna is a non-executive director of the Investment Association in the UK and a founding member of the Diversity Project, where she initiated the Early Careers Workstream. Prior to that, she was a non-executive director of the CFA UK and a member of its advisory council.

FXD CAPITAL

Justin Meadows has been named non-executive director of money broker and deposit specialist FXD Capital. Justin is the founder and former chief executive of NEX Treasury (formerly Mymeasure), an award-winning platform that connects a global community of treasurers, banks and money market funds.

NEX Treasury was a division of NEX Group, formerly ICAP’s electronic FX and fixed income business which in 2018 was acquired by CME for £3.9bn. FXD Capital was founded in 2018 by Chris Huddleston and Bobby Jackson. FXD has won multiple awards, establishing itself as a provider of services, government agencies and not-for-profits by helping clients to reduce counterparty risk, enhance liquidity and achieve better returns on their cash deposits.

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER REVEALS IRAN NUCLEAR SITE

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said that Iran had been developing nuclear facilities at a secret site in Abadak, in Iran. In a hastily-convened press conference, one week before a general election, Netanyahu said: “In this site, Iran conducted experiments to develop nuclear weapons”, showing an aerial picture of several small buildings, including their coordinates, that he said were taken at the Abadak facility late in June. “When Iran realised that we uncovered the site, here’s what they did,” he said, showing a picture from July in which the buildings no longer appeared. “They destroyed the site. They wiped it clean.” It was the first time that Netanyahu – who is facing a serious challenge to his 10-year rule – had identified the site. His comments came a day after Reuters revealed that the International Atomic Energy Agency found traces of uranium at a different site pointed to by Netanyahu last year.

US charges professor in Huawei fraud dispute

JAMES WARRINGTON @j_warrington

US PROSECUTORS have filed charges against a Chinese professor who allegedly stole technology from a Silicon Valley firm to give to Huawei. According to the complaint, Bo Mao entered into an agreement with an unnamed individual to obtain its circuit board, claiming it was for academic research.

But prosecutors have accused an unidentified Chinese telecommunications group of trying to steal the technology, saying Bo was complicit in the plot. Sources told Reuters the US company in question was Huawei, while court documents also indicate the case is related to the embattled tech giant.

Bo was arrested in Texas last month, before being released on $100,000 (€80,000) bail. He has since pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiring to commit wire fraud.

The case is the latest run-in between Huawei and US President Donald Trump’s administration, which has accused the Chinese firm of carrying out state-sponsored spying. While Huawei itself has not been charged, it described the case against Bo as “selective prosecution.”

To appear in CITYAM please email your career updates and pictures to citymoves@cityam.com
Think Brexit is a mess? Imagine what Remain would look like

Ignore Elon Musk’s doom-mongering – AI will strengthen our society, not break it

Letters to the Editor

Nothing to gain

Top Brexit. For those working in Westminster, this has become the song of the summer, chanted by the choir of well-paid ultra-Remainers who have pitched camp next to the media gazebos on College Green – it is the intensely irritating – evidence of what the polls increasingly tell us. Just as Leavers are coalescing around a no-deal Brexit, so Remainers are moving towards the cancellation of Brexit full stop. The space in the middle for compromise is increasingly barren.

This may say that we did stop Brexit. What then?

The fact is that there has been an avalanche of lot of examination and cross-examination of the consequences of no-deal – and, indeed, of the withdrawal agreement negotiated by Theresa May, and all the other options for Britain’s Brexit arrangement.

In the unknown is by nature unsettled, there is no evidence whatsoever that Leave voters have changed their minds about Brexit in anything like the numbers required to invalidate the result. Those voters would be not just lured to parties of the extreme right or left, but given the most ulterior motives.

You might argue that the way to get around this would be to offer a second referendum. But what would be the criteria?

Labour is proposing a two-way battle between Remain and Leave for a deal. But for many of those who disliked that deal (which, polls show, is a substantial number), this would be a referendum without Brexit on offer.

A vote between Remain and no deal would offer a genuine choice, but would also be straight-jacketed in favour of Remain. And a poll allowing voters to choose between Leave and Remain would be fatally influenced by the architecture and wording of the question and instruction.

Still, let us say that Britain does end up remaining within the EU. We would then have to establish, or even delegitimise, the UK’s political system, with a solid body of opinion campaigning vociferously against continued EU membership in general and every single decision made by Westminster or Brussels in particular.

We would find ourselves in a hellishly awkward diplomatic position.

I nELON Musk’s mind, the dystopian thriller Ex Machina is foremost, not fiction. Debating Alibaba’s Jack Ma at the World AI Conference at the end of August, Musk claimed that humanity was directly threatened by the development of artificial intelligence and that human beings were simply “a biological boot loader for digital superintelligence”.

The billionaire Tesla founder has fully embraced his role as the prophesier of the technological apocalypse, previously claiming that “AI is far more dangerous than nukes”.

Though his hyperbole might have something to do with shares in the technology company Neuralink, Musk isn’t alone in the AI fear camp. As technology continues to expand our horizons and expectations, there’s a wave of alarm swirling with it.

There is no denying that AI has the potential to radically transform our world. Yet giving in to sci-fi fears is both foolish and unproductive.

Granted, the rapid pace of tech development is breath-taking, but this doesn’t mean that we’re headed straight for civilisation breakdown and AI annihilation. In fact, AI technology is already being used to build society up, not break it down or replace it, bringing us together and making services work better for more people.

When listening to Musk’s future predictions, we should remember that as a technology expert, he demonises being used by doctors to help identify disease, traffic controllers to ensure that planes fly safely, police officers to identify suspects from indistinct CCTV, and bank staff to help prevent fraud.

In all these cases, AI isn’t threatening to write humans out of existence, but is instead helping people to do their jobs more accurately and efficiently.

In every sector, there’s a clear role for AI to help our services work better for human populations. Of course, unquestioning optimism is dangerous in its own way too. No technology will – or should – be a magic bullet for all our social issues. AI is a tool like any other – it is how we use and approach it which will make the difference.

So instead of scaremongering, people like Musk should be focusing on creating the structures which allow us to realise AI’s full potential, empowering those innovating in the space, and providing a regulatory framework to guide its expansion.

Fear is never fruitful – we need pragmatism to explore the possibilities of AI without giving way to panic.

The unknown is by nature unsettling, but it’s also incredibly exciting. Instead of focusing on solutions to global issues like climate change, ageing populations, overstretched public services, and world conflict.

The narrative of social breakdown may well sell – in cinemas, conferences, and stock markets – but that doesn’t mean it’s an accurate representation of the facts.

What AI represents is a challenge, though not in the way Musk seems to believe. It is a challenge to our leaders and inventors to seize the opportunities that this technology offers to make the world a better place.

Yes, AI can be the “boot loader” to a tech-driven future – but one which can help humans, if we so choose.

Robert Colvile is a political commentator.
While MPs argue, fintech must take the lead on driving growth

POLITICAL discord, uncertainty, rapid change to the country’s prospects everyday – this is the present state of Britain. To top it all off, the latest survey from IHS Markit suggests that a new recession is possible, with economic growth slipping over the recent period. The UK at a crucial point. How we respond now will shape our economic development in the coming decades. And yet, even with the stakes so high, the government is fully occupied by political manoeuvres and delivering Brexit. Parliament is being suspended. We simply cannot expect politicians to do the heavy lifting when it comes to securing economic prosperity.

Amid such unpredictability, business must take the lead. And with progress at risk of slipping in these uncertain times, that industry effort should be spearheaded by the fast-growing sector of our economy: fintech.

The vibrancy of the UK’s financial services sector, particularly in London, is the lifefeed of our wider economy, providing the capital that stimulates growth and enables emerging industries to thrive. Technology has magnified this – for consumers and businesses alike.

The rapid rise of fintech has led to its proactive adoption by our financial institutions, which are now also creating their own world-leading solutions. Thanks to the UK’s reputation, we can now set global standards on the international stage for democratising finance and inspiring financial inclusion solutions.

Make no mistake – the likes of China, the US and Singapore are on the rise as fintech ecosystems. But no country has yet managed to replicate what the UK has. Leveraging our historical financial services pedigree, global connections, and progressive regulators has proven a winning formula. But with Britain’s relationship with the rest of the world in flux, there’s no room for complacency. We must build on this position of unmatchable credibility, unrivalled reputation and global leadership, which will in turn facilitate the UK’s ability to strike key international relationships and sustain economic growth.

To succeed, we need to tap into all the ambition and vision that got us here. That starts with winning the global race for talent. The UK needs a strong and diverse talent pipeline, as well as working with schools and universities to inspire the next generation to retain their STEM skills, become innovators, and understand the opportunity in financial services.

It is equally vital that the sector has sufficient flexibility to attract talent from abroad. This means encouraging those with advanced skills to choose the UK to develop their careers.

More can be done by fast-tracking the visa process – breaking down restrictions for high-growth businesses to hire efficiently and scale in the UK rather than go elsewhere.

That will require the government to act, so the industry should be decisive on exactly what is needed, making a clear case to busy politicians that can cut through the noise.

Businesses also need to look beyond London and support companies across the UK, investing in innovation centres to work alongside universities to stimulate progress at a local level.

Innovate Finance just co-launched the fintech National Network for hubs across the UK, connecting local and central government support, as well as access to patient capital to scale fintech companies, just imagine the future.

Innovation has enhanced global respect for the UK’s finance sector. It is vital that the industry does not allow itself to be delayed and distracted by political turmoil.

Instead, we must embrace fintech’s key role in the economy, be bold about the future of the sector, and set the foundations for economic success in years to come.

Charlotte Crosswell is chief executive of Innovate Finance.

It is vital that the industry does not allow itself to be distracted by political turmoil.

Ivia WeWork’s IPO really a good idea?

YES

ANDREW BOYLE

With its valuation in question, is WeWork’s IPO really a good idea?

WeWork’s objectives of establishing a dominant market position and global brand demand substantial funding, so an IPO makes sense from the firm’s perspective. For investors, it offers a chance to gain exposure to a business bridging the requirements of landlords who require long leases and growth companies that require flexible space.

WeWork is also creating a valuable ecosystem for startups, where they can attract staff and share resources and experiences. Having started my own business in the graveyard of a Regus office, I understand how important the vibrancy of WeWork can be.

Over the coming decade, 4.5m new businesses will be established in the UK alone, creating increasing demand for “space as a service”. The path to profitability is a concern, but at some point WeWork will raise prices or find other ways of monetising its customer base, operating platform, and data.

The keys to the success of the IPO are valuation and corporate governance. The dramatic shift in price talk suggests that a proper engagement with investors is underway, and that appropriate terms might be found.

NO

GILES FUCHS

WeWork is planning to list as a tech company, yet it is much more similar to a real estate business. Unlike tech firms – which, after investing heavily to create their disruptive product or service, see costs fall – WeWork has to bear significant maintenance and other costs of the buildings it acquires.

WeWork is also seeking a valuation based on earnings before interest, taxes and amortisation (Ebita), yet a yield basis (typical in the property sector) would probably be not far from the norm for the flexible workspace sector of around five or six per cent. Given the disparity between the two operators’ track records, it could be argued WeWork should be valued on a much higher yield, which would leave it struggling to reach its IPO valuation target. Of the two, I know which IPO I would be backing.

Giles Fuchs is co-founder and chief executive at Office Space in Town.
ENTREPRENEURS

When Lydia Yarlott started working as a junior doctor in 2015, she was handed a pager. With this retro piece of technology, she was expected to communicate with her hospital colleagues. For anyone unfamiliar with (or too young to know) how a pager works, the device beeps when someone wants to contact you, sending you an extension number.

You then have to find a landline. But as Yarlott explains, that’s easier said than done in a hospital.

“There might be two phones in the ward and both are ringing, or you’re in the middle of a task so you can’t go and answer your pager immediately. There is a high chance that you end up missing the person who is sitting there waiting by their phone, which may also ring, or someone else might pick it up. There is lots of potential for interruption and it’s very inefficient.”

The paediatrician describes a page text as a message in a bottle, because the caller has no way of knowing whether it has been received or not, with no option but to wait until the recipient calls back.

With this in mind, perhaps it’s not surprising that so many healthcare professionals today have turned to twenty-first century software like WhatsApp to help them communicate more efficiently with each other. But this modern method is also riddled with problems.

First, WhatsApp is reliant on doctors exchanging their personal phone numbers to connect with each other. Second, WhatsApp groups have no way of organising messages about patients in any sensible logical order.

“There is no way of prioritising, and you can’t find people by role,” Yarlott explains. “Imagine that you’ve moved hospital, you certainly don’t know that the orthopedic registrar on call that day is called David - you have to be able to search by role to find them.”

The other issue is that there is no way of separating personal WhatsApp chats with confidential conversations about patients – so doctors could have messages to their families mixed in about patients. “It’s a simple idea, and remarkable that nothing like this existed in the NHS already, which just goes to show how far behind official hospital technology – still heavily reliant on paper-based records – really is. And it’s worrying that old-fashioned and counterintuitive tech is exacerbating existing issues in the NHS, making the working lives of staff even harder.”

“Software should be a joy to use, rather than something that gets in your way,” says Yarlott. “We can’t afford to be inefficient about communication, because we don’t have extra doctors to pick up the slack. People who work in the NHS should feel like they have a choice or some autonomy about the tools that they use.”

With WhatsApp being seen as a sort of sticking plaster to the communication problem, in true doctor fashion, Yarlott started concocting a cure.

With the help of a team of technologists, she has built a secure instant messaging service called Forward Health designed for doctors, nurses, midwives, and other clinicians. Through the app, NHS staff can search by name or role in a hospital or clinic, share patient notes and photos, and even organise messages about patients in any sensible logical order.

“Keeping people out of hospital takes collaboration between local authorities and social services to make sure people can be discharged to safe, equipped houses. That’s where I would like to see Forward go – because healthcare includes social care, and we should be operating a lot more holistically than we do already through preventative measures.”

Yarlott would also like to see her app used to connect healthcare professionals with patients. “At the moment, we’re focused on how useful professionals are finding the platform, but we would eventually like patients to be connected and given updates on what’s happening to them. I really believe in democratisation of healthcare.”

While bringing NHS tech into the modern era is vital, the organisation is such a vast and complex web that updating the system is painfully difficult – not to mention the fact that trusts tend to make standalone decisions, rather than learning from each other.

“Everyone talks about this holy grail of overarching system that will pull in data from everywhere, but realistically that’s still a long way off,” says Yarlott. “To solve the problems, you need to go right back to basics and find out how it’s working today.”

Trying to overhaul the NHS is not for the faint-hearted, and even this young entrepreneur admits that there are days when she feels like it’s never going to change. But Yarlott clearly has her finger on the pulse, and her business is already making a difference.
The Jaguar F-Pace SVR is a fire-breathing SUV brute. But Tim Pitt discovers its softer side

**NOT CONVINCED? CHECK OUT THESE ALTERNATIVES...**

**ALFA ROMEO STELVIO QUADRIFOGLIO**
- **PRICE:** £69,510
- **0-62MPH:** 3.8 SECS
- **TOP SPEED:** 218MPH
- **CO2 G/KM:** 272G/KM
- **MPG COMBINED:** 23.7MPG

**JAGUAR F-PACE SVR**
- **PRICE:** £75,335
- **0-62MPH:** 3.8 SECS
- **TOP SPEED:** 218MPH
- **CO2 G/KM:** 272G/KM
- **MPG COMBINED:** 23.7MPG

**MERCEDES-AMG GLC 63 S**
- **PRICE:** £76,505
- **0-62MPH:** 3.8 SECS
- **TOP SPEED:** 174MPH
- **CO2 G/KM:** 270G/KM
- **MPG COMBINED:** 23.7MPG

**RANGE ROVER SPORT SVR**
- **PRICE:** £101,810
- **0-62MPH:** 4.5 SECS
- **TOP SPEED:** 176MPH
- **CO2 G/KM:** 290G/KM
- **MPG COMBINED:** 22.2MPG
I’ve been another quite bumpy week in the crypto market with the positive gains being erased although at the time of writing Bitcoin (BTC) is slightly up from last week at US$132.5 and Etherium (ETH) is at US$162.44. Ripple (XRP) is at US$0.230, Binance (BNB) is at US$22.8 and Cardano (ADA) is at US$0.047. Overall Market Cap is at US$2.6 trillion data source CoinCompare.com.

I have just returned from an extremely positive trip to Zurich to see how the Swiss are getting on in blockchain and crypto. I was astonished to find how progressive they are but also relieved to find out how seriously the regulatory framework is being crafted. This all bodes very well for the next cycle of adoption by the more traditional financial institutions. This is a lesson the United Kingdom needs to learn fast as, at the moment, the biggest single weakness is the lack of a financial services framework.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

As I return home there is a lot of introspective thinking at the moment, mainly due to Brexit, focused on once proud UK financial services. This is a lesson the United Kingdom needs to learn fast as, at the moment, the biggest single weakness is the lack of a financial services framework.

However, even with an abundance of potential, there are actively almost 50% of the time. However, even with an abundance of underutilised processing power, storage and bandwidth, environmental damage is underway in the bid to store and move data centres to provide organisations with the compute power they require for numerous applications such as medical research, video rendering and AI and ML model building.

Cloud services are an extremely powerful tool which is becoming increasingly popular. These services are expensive however, and with their expected growth they also have a big ecological impact. Distributed computing extends the cloud idea to edge and user devices, in order to reduce the need for massive server rooms and to facilitate the access to these new technologies. This will not only translate into a great reduction of the cost of these services, but also on rewards to the users for contributing to the network. By securely connecting the buyers project with the seller’s IT equipment in a truly elastic way, ensures both parties benefit financially.

Cudo Ventures’ study of 2000 consumers reveals that consumers are open to this model, with over 60 per cent of respondents confirming that they would be interested in renting their spare computing capacity, which rises to 86 per cent for respondents aged 16-24. A particular interest in creating a more sustainable way of computing was registered by all respondents.

Cloud’s distributed workload model means businesses and individuals can save up to 10x compared to leading cloud platforms such as AWS on one side. Self-funded by over $2m to date, Cudo Ventures is now launching their CUDOS token, a service attributed compute token. With the private token sale kick-off at the Dolder Grand in Zurich last Friday, and will next visit various cities across the US before heading over to Korea and Dubai in December. Other central banks are following suit. Beijing has already indicated easier money on the way. European Central Banker Olli Rehn recently flagged the need for a significant easing package in September. Mexico became the latest country to surprise with a cut in rates, the first in five years. Canada’s

For the last decade in my publications and various interviews, I have been consistently saying that it is a race to zero between the US dollar, sterling and the euro. The same applies to interest rates of which more than $17 trillion now hold negative yields. When the dollar rises, gold typically falls. The dollar rallied sharply during July yet failed to dent the gold bull run which underscores the strength in the gold breakout move we’ve seen due primarily to currencies which remain in a perpetual state of free fall due to record levels of money printing.

change rate stability is an illusion. Bitcoin, gold, and hard assets have been and will continue to be the answers to protecting the value of one’s savings.

On 13th August, the yield on the 10-year Treasury Note fell below the 2-year yield for the first time since December 2005. A recession occurs on average 22 months following such an inversion. This has been true over the past half century. The inversion shows investors are harboring elevated worries about the global economy. The trade war against China and a hard Brexit are increasingly worrying some that the world is more connected than before. Chinese presence and control in Hong Kong may accelerate as a consequence of the current crisis between the two countries. Should such occur, perceived risk of doing business in Hong Kong will jump, and eventually, businesses may relocate into countries such as Switzerland and Singapore as safer alternatives. Capital is therefore moving into assets that are perceived to be safer. Earlier this year, the three-month yield moved above the 10-year yield.

That said, just because a yield curve inversion signaled a recession in the past, does NOT mean it will happen in the current environment due to the impact of Fed money printing debt monetization. Investors must keep things in perspective by not taking any single indicator too seriously. What worked in the past has often fallen since 2009 in this age of Quantitative Easing (QE).

But as I’ve written, QE has its limits so it’s a question of whether Trump’s pre-business policies together with exponentially growing technologies, or ExpoTech, can energize growth in the U.S. to where the Federal Reserve will not be forced to lower rates all the way down to 0%, but instead pay down debt via faster growth. Renowned investor Stanley Druckenmiller has doubts and has gone on record predicting rates will have no choice but to hit 0% in the U.S. Ray Dalio of Bridgewater has said a major devaluation across fiat currencies is coming. Former Fed Chairperson Alan Greenspan has said, “this will not end well.” Jim Rogers continues to put his bets on an unavoidable day of reckoning.

CME Fed Fund Futures now expect three rate cuts over the next three Fed meetings - 16th September, 30th October, and 22nd December. Other central banks are following suit. Beijing has already indicated easier money on the way. European Central Banker Olli Rehn recently flagged the need for a significant easing package in September. Mexico became the latest country to surprise with a cut in rates, the first in five years. Canada’s
yield curve inverted by the most in nearly two decades, piling pressure on the Bank of Canada to act. Markets are primed on reduced discount rates and a resumption of bond buying across the board. German 10-year bund yields now stand at a record low of 0.71%. Italian, Spanish and Portuguese bonds sharply rallied on the news. This substantial stimulus would send the U.S. dollar even higher. While hard assets shall continue to rise in value in this endlessly expanding debt bubble, a tidal wave of hard assets to be tokenized is coming. The ex-CEO of NASDAQ stated that in 5 years, all stocks will be tokenized. Others have noted this applies to just about any hard asset. Blockchain technology brings liquidity and efficiency into even illiquid markets by removing the middle men while enabling both retail and institutional investors to participate in fractional ownership. Tokenized real estate on the blockchain is just the ice cube on the iceberg. The economic advantage is massive. As a consequence, HanseCoin is the first and so far only regulated company to target the EUR 50+ billion in construction equity projects starved for funding due to onerous regulations such as MiFID which decimated the commodified fund market. Other companies are focused on tokenizing completed projects ready for the retail market. But investors beware. As we know from the ICO space, many companies were built on broken business models akin to the dot.com boom of the 1990s. Such companies often use ‘lazy’ solutions such as tokenizing the rights to the underlying asset, not to the asset itself. As a consequence, only accredited investors are allowed to invest which avoids regulation and is certainly not groundbreaking. They then claim they tokenize assets which falsely drives up the price of their tokens. HanseCoin instead is moving blockchain forward by staying compliant with evolving securities laws while using blockchain to bring transparency, efficiency, and liquidity at all substantially lower cost into the investment space which benefits the seller, buyer, and investor.

Apple Thinks Crypto “Is Interesting”

In news that generated a lot of excitement in crypto circles, Apple finally revealed some of the company’s thoughts on cryptocurrencies. In an interview at CHN’s “Business” live event “The Table” in San Francisco, Jennifer Bailey - Apple’s Vice-President of Internet Services - explained that the company is monitoring the new asset class, saying “we think it’s interesting. We think it has interesting long-term potential, but we’re primarily focused on what consumers are using today.”

In market news, last week saw bitcoin recover strongly from its slump around the $9,500 level to push above the $20,000 mark, the moment at which it carried BTC to a weekly high at $10,851 on Friday. Dropping hard off that mark, however, bitcoin is trading at the time of writing at $10,254. Altcoins failed yet again to make any serious headway, with Ethereum (ETH) trading below $190 for most of the week to trade at the time of writing at $180.24.

Investment management firms VanEck Securities and SolidX Management announced they’re planning to sell a new “ETF-like” product which will give institutional investors access to bitcoin. The VanEck SolidX Bitcoin Trust will give “Qualified Institutional Buyers” such as hedge funds, brokers and banks, the ability to buy shares in a physically-backed bitcoin product. The announcement follows over a year of delays from the US SEC regarding a decision on the two companies’ fully-fledged Bitcoin ETF - which is yet to be approved.

Leading exchange Binance last week announced the launch of a new USD pegged stablecoin. Delivered in partnership with crypto custodian and stablecoin powerhouse, the new coin named BUSD is set for launch later this month on the Paxos platform, and will be available to investors, initially trading against BTC, BNB and XRP.

CRYPTO A.M. INDUSTRY VOICES

A show off strength to help SMEs and Mid-Tier businesses deploying AI, Blockchain, Data & DLT solutions.

While there are regular headlines on how blockchain will transform our daily lives, at the moment its potential application for small and medium size business (SME’s), mid-tier and other underserved sectors in the economy such as education does not feature as a priority on national or international agendas. They are not the audience and fraction of the populations where we see champing at the bit to attend the ever-increasing number of blockchain conferences and are frequently quoted as saying ‘we know we need blockchain but have no idea why’. Most of the new blockchain models favour large or corporate business models. Other obstacles like a higher age demographic for established mainstream SME’s increase the poor advancement uptake compared to the millennial and Z generation social and serial entrepreneurs who are avid digital and tech natives.

Surprisingly more than half the entire population of the work world in SME’s and they are the backbone of the economy, both financial and intellectual development. Collectively that is a huge untapped market and conversely a market where blockchain solutions can have a profound and catalytic impact to an already disproportionate amount paid to intermediaries. Reducing costs, increasing efficiency and overcoming the many challenges that have common causes of angst among SME’s and the population of skills and compliance, greater administrative efficiency, valuing the voice financing, reduced cost in financial transactions, systems to support verification of skills and compliance, greater administrative efficiency, valuing the identity and data of the SME, protecting IP and intellectual property, small businesses, creating business infrastructure that is affordable and trustworthy are good starting points. Imagine if SME’s could use white labelled smart contracts for their clients to purchase打造成infrastucture such as Shareholders Deeds, Employment Contracts and WSH Procedures. The flow on is not just a reduction in cost but a safer, more diverse, secure and sustainable business. Building business enabled blockchain challenges that speak their language and deliver bottom line results will start the trust in the future. The innovative blockchain startup that market is boring. The businesses and sectors in which blockchain/DLT really make sense are those in which SME’s don’t have enough knowledge on how blockchain, AI & data work and how it will benefit in the future.

Blockchain Tariffs and Duty

Troy Norcross, Co-Founder Blockchain Rookies

Could Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) be useful in addressing challenges related to the collection of tariffs duty? In a word, Yes.

Blockchain and DLT systems have characteristics of being distributed, decentralised and immutable. They can be used to record all manner of things from traditional ledger entries associated with accounting to certificates and licenses of businesses, individuals or systems. Blockchain can provide a means to verify duty has been paid on individual items at any point in time. They can provide a means to verify duty has been paid on individual items at any point in time. They can also be used to determine duties that need to be paid on individual items. They can be used to verify that goods have paid full duty. For example, a smart contract automatically issues a certificate on the blockchain. This certificate allows anyone to confirm the tax status of the container.

Beyond recording information in such a way as to create a single source of truth between multiple distrusting parties, blockchain and DLT provide a platform for automating certain business processes. Trade finance, for example, could use white labelled smart contracts to increase efficiency that understand the real challenges, and actively support the step by step development of simple business cases that can deploy solutions. Trade finance, invoice financing, reduced cost in financial transactions, systems to support verification of skills and compliance, greater administrative efficiency, valuing the identity and data of the SME, protecting IP and intellectual property, small businesses, creating business infrastructure that is affordable and trustworthy are good starting points. Imagine if SME’s could use white labelled smart contracts for their clients to purchase打造成infrastucture such as Shareholders Deeds, Employment Contracts and WSH Procedures. The flow on is not just a reduction in cost but a safer, more diverse, secure and sustainable business. Building business enabled blockchain challenges that speak their language and deliver bottom line results will start the trust in the future. The innovative blockchain startup that market is boring. The businesses and sectors in which blockchain/DLT really make sense are those in which SME’s don’t have enough knowledge on how blockchain, AI & data work and how it will benefit in the future.
OFFICE POLITICS

The fears that haunt today’s top bosses

What phobias would Pennywise the clown exploit to terrify you and your office?

WITH the final instalment of Stephen King’s epic horror tale It now in cinemas, offices will be buzzing with talk of Pennywise and the various monsters the character transforms into.

But what if the dancing clown decided to leave the fictional town of Derry and pay a visit to the modern workplace? In honour of It Chapter 2’s release, we’ve decided to look at the phobias that it would exploit to terrify the average boss.

THE VENOMOUS SPIDER

One of the biggest fears for business leaders is seeing the company’s culture deteriorate over time.

The initial ideas that a business is based on can quickly shift once more employees join the company, when new clients come onboard, or as the result of an office move. This is even more terrifying if the initial culture of support and mutual growth ends up transforming into a venomous, “sink or swim” atmosphere.

Of course, some changes are inevitable, so it’s important that bosses accept the fact that their initial view of the company won’t stay the same forever. However, if the business wants to maintain a welcoming and friendly atmosphere, it’s vital that the right hires are made.

If senior management honour their commitment to employee development and support when growing the team, this monster is unlikely to rear its head.

THE LUMBERING ZOMBIE

There’s another kind of phobia that keeps leaders up at night – the fear that, eventually, the company and its people will grind to a halt. Staff will become disengaged, productivity will drop, and the business will just be plodding along.

Even when things are good, it’s easy to worry that the company has hit its peak and it will only be downhill from here.

Ultimately, the ability to maintain a company’s momentum and productivity is in the hands of its managers. Working with senior leaders, managers need to identify how the organisation can continue to grow while still maintaining employee engagement and motivation.

A tailored employee recognition programme can often prove useful here – this can help to ensure that those in the business are continually motivated to deliver high-quality work over a long period of time.

THE ABSOLUTE NOTHING

But as the saying goes, the greatest fear is the fear of the unknown. For many employers, Pennywise would transform into the uncertain future where the livelihood of the business and its staff are a mystery.

Many factors can contribute to this fear – the economy, client sentiment, or even just a bad day. But regardless of the cause, business leaders need to remain confident that the company will continue to succeed.

Having a clear plan and working closely with the senior leadership team can significantly reduce this concern, as bosses should never shoul-der all the stress of keeping the company afloat on their own.

Collaborating with the wider leadership team also makes the job of running a business far easier and allows the company to remain relevant, fresh, and client-ready through the sharing of ideas.

COME OUT FROM BEHIND THE WORKPLACE SOFA

Fortunately, Pennywise won’t be visiting the office anytime soon (we hope), but that doesn’t make these fears any less real. And it’s okay for bosses to feel worried from time to time.

As long as they have a plan and method to overcome these concerns, they can be sure that it won’t impact how their business runs.
SINCE taking charge of England in 2015, Eddie Jones has been working towards victory in the non-nimble World Cup. Everything he has done over the past four years has been with lifting the Webb Ellis Cup in mind.

Yet at the 11th hour he has gambled, opting to sacrifice experience within the squad for talent that is unfamiliar to international players. Jones has repeatedly preached the importance of experience within the squad in order to win the World Cup, often referring to a cap threshold of 700 per XV – he deemed necessary and was determined to meet. He similarly saw it as non-negotiable for there to be two world-class coaches within the team and so brought in former All Blacks boss John Mitchell to work on the defence.

However, the England squad that arrived in Japan on Monday consisted of 31 players who have only 1,072 caps between them. When New Zealand traveled to London four years ago, their squad had a total of 1,482 caps; there were 1,013 caps between the northern hemisphere sides in their opening game alone. Meanwhile, the England squad that floundered in front of a home crowd in 2015 had just 793 caps heading into the tournament.

While England have increased that tally this time around, it is a structure that appears to defy Jones’s own beliefs and is in line with his tendency to be unpredictable.

Among the squad are newly-capped players such as scrum-half Tobiloba Ajala, who remains unbeaten since taking the number 2 jersey and Xherdan Shaqiri are among a host of players who represent adopted nations – arguably a couple of young, X-factor players, England are still one of the most experienced of the Six Nations sides heading into Japan. The Ireland and Wales squads carry a similar number of caps, with 1,063 and 1,076 respectively, while Scotland, France and Italy are a little way off in their opening game alone. Meanwhile, the England squad that floundered in front of a home crowd in 2015 had just 793 caps heading into the tournament.

“One of the vital things about selection is knowing when a player is just going to fail,” Jones said. “After two years, I thought we would carry quite an experienced team to the World Cup. Then I found out I needed to make changes so I had to start again. I wouldn’t have done it any differently.” Despite the decision to incorporate “a couple of young, X-factor players”, England are still one of the most experienced of the Six Nations sides heading into Japan.

Why England should beware Kosovo

The Three Lions play Kosovo for the first time today. Here’s the lowdown on them, by Frank Dalleres

KOSOVO ARE RANKED BELOW TAJIKISTAN SO THIS SHOULD BE EASY, RIGHT?

England will be expected to maintain their 100 per cent start to Group A – yes, but they would be unwise to take it for granted given the upssets Kosovo have already caused in this campaign. They have caught Europe’s attention with a 15-match unbeaten run, currently sitting second behind England and there is a growing belief that a national team only fully recognised by governing bodies in 2016 could reach a first major international tournament in Euro 2020.

WAIT. ARE KOSOVO REALLY ON A 15-MATCH UNBEATEN RUN?

Yes, and it hasn’t all been friendly victories against Burundi, Faso and Madagascar – although admittedly wins over those two nations came early in the sequence. Since then they have topped a Nations League group that included Azerbaijan, Malta and the Faroe Islands and further improved in Euro 2020 qualifying. It is a far cry from their previous qualifying campaign, for the 2018 World Cup, when they took one point from 10 games.

SO, HOW ARE THEY DOING IN QUALIFYING?

Kosovo have continued to go from strength to strength. Having begun Euro 2020 qualifying with two draws, they registered a first ever competitive win in June, against Bulgaria. On Saturday they made it back-to-back victories, beating the Czech Republic to overtake them in Group A and take this small but fiercely proud nation further into uncharted territory.

WHO PLAYED FOR THEM THAT I MIGHT HAVE HEARD OF?

The most recognisable players to English audiences may be the handful of Kosovans who play in the Championship, such as Huddersfield’s Florent Hadergjonaj, Swansea’s Bersant Celina, Sheffield Wednesday’s Afieki Nuhu and Nottingham Forest goalkeeper Arjanet Muric. But Kosovo’s most high-profile star is Lazio midfielder Valon Berisha, while leading scorer Arber Zeneli – currently out injured – plays in France for Reims.

AREN’T SHAQIRI AND KHAKA KOSSOVAN? WHY AREN’T THEY PLAYING?

Yes, Liverpool’s Xherdan Shaqiri and Arsenal’s Granit Xhaka are among a number of ethnic Kosovo Albanians who represent adopted nations – Switzerland, in this case – as a result of the diaspora caused by conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Players already capped elsewhere were given a chance to align with Kosovo but Shaqiri and Xhaka declined.

WHO’S THE COACH I’VE SEEN ON THE PITCH LATELY?

Jofra Archer has, despite pace fluctuations, taken to Test cricket like a duck to water. His speed, hostility and angle of attack has pronounced him a match-winning strike bowler. But, with Test Championship trips to New Zealand and South Africa looming over the winter, cracks have appeared.

The side and Chris Woakes are in desperate need of a rest after a packed summer, Jimmy Anderson’s calf problems are concerning, Mark Wood and Ollie Stone are perennially injured and Moen Ali’s contract was recently renewed.

AGEING STAWLWARTS

In general England’s bowling has held up well. Stuart Broad has led the attack with determination and skill, bowling brilliantly to Australia’s left-handers and extinguishing the threat David Warner completely.

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SPORT

KEVIN GOES LARGE De Bruyne leaves Scotland’s Euro 2020 hopes hanging by a thread

Scotland’s hopes of qualifying for Euro 2020 were left in tatters last night after Kevin De Bruyne inspired a 4-0 win for Belgium at Hampden Park. The Manchester City midfielder assisted three goals – for Romelu Lukaku, Thomas Vermaelen and Toby Alderweireld – within 32 first-half minutes before adding a fourth late on to round off the thrashing. Defeat by the world No1 ranked side leaves Steve Clarke’s side fifth in Group I, nine points behind second-placed Russia with four games left. Northern Ireland were beaten 2-0 by Germany at Windsor Park to lose their 100 per cent record. Marcel Halstenberg gave the visitors the lead with a half-volley before Serge Gnabry’s stoppage-time strike sent them above Michael O’Neill’s side at the top of Group C. Elsewhere, Manchester United’s Daniel James produced a fine finish to give Wales a 1-0 win over Belarus in a friendly in Cardiff.

HOW TO MEND ENGLAND

Joe Root’s side need to hit reset button after being outdone by Australia in Ashes, writes Felix Keith

OT SO long ago England were the best Test cricket side in the world. The story of how they went from world No7 in 2009 to the summit just over two years later has been retold recently, first through the gripping film The Edge and now with a gripping book. The current England side’s nadir – a fifth Ashes Test defeat after being outdone by Australia in Ashes, suffering defeat by an innings and 23 runs in Jamaica. In response, then-interim head coach Flower called an “honesty meeting” in which players were encouraged to front up about their failures.

“It was harsh, horrible at times, but cleansing in its candour.” Cook writes in his autobiography. “We had been all over the place. There had been too many excuses, too much distraction. We needed to be more honest in our assessment of where we were, and what we did.”

The meeting has become famous as ground zero of England’s ascent to the top of the Test rankings. It took the shock of such a drastic underperformance to spark a revival: fitness, mental durability, skill levels, decision-making, communication and use of data were all targeted.

The current England side’s nadir – the 67 all out – may have come in the third Ashes Test at Edgbaston, and remarkably in a winning cause thanks to Ben Stokes, but the parallels with 2009 look apt.

Joe Root’s England need to undergo something similar to what happened in Jamaica a decade ago. They have not been good enough. Too many players are underperforming, or are simply not up to the level required. The reset button needs to be pressed. Head coach Trevor Bayliss already has one foot out of the door, his exit coming when his contract expires after this week’s partial dead rubber ending to the series against Australia at The Oval. With a change of direction pending, the opportunity to make a full and frank assessment of the squad, coaching staff, methodology, selection and governance is obvious. It must be taken. Tough decisions need to be made. As Cook writes of the 2009 turning point: “Change is only possible when people are prepared to admit the need to change.”

ROOT’S STRUGGLES

Root has now presided over successive Ashes series defeats. He has captained nine Tests against Australia, losing six, drawing two and winning one – a solitary success for which he owes a massive debt of gratitude to Stokes.

Since taking over the captaincy from Cook in February 2017 Root (picked) has become worse at his key role: scoring runs. His handsome average of 52.80 when not captain has dropped alarmingly to 40.87 since taking on the added responsibility.

In this series he has scored 247 runs at an average of 30.87, with three ducks testament to quality Australian bowling but also his struggle for form.

Root’s position as captain is therefore being questioned. However, with so many other problems to contend with, no obvious alternatives and a recent history of giving captains time in the role, he looks secure for now.

MYRIAD PROBLEMS

The question of where else to start the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

NUMBERS GAME Do England have enough experience to win the Rugby World Cup? PAGE 23

STOKES MAY NOT BOWL IN FINAL ASHES TEST MATCH

England have named an unchanged 13-man squad for the final Ashes Test against Australia at The Oval. Australia won the fourth Test at Old Trafford by 185 runs on Sunday to take an unsailable 2-1 lead and retain the Ashes. England, who will be led by Trevor Bayliss for the last time on Thursday before he steps down as head coach, can still draw the series and keep their unbeaten home Test series record since 2014 intact. Ben Stokes may play as a specialist batsman after suffering a shoulder injury in the defeat in Manchester, meaning bowlers Chris Woakes or Sam Curran could come into the side.

NUMBER OF MAJORS ISN’T EVERYTHING, SAYS NADAL

Rafael Nadal has played down his rivalry with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic after winning the US Open on Sunday. Nadal beat Russian Daniil Medvedev in a five-set epic at Flushing Meadows to move onto 19 Majors – one behind Federer and three clear of Djokovic. But the 33-year-old Spaniard insisted he is motivated by a love of the game, not competition. “I would love to be the one who wins more (Majors), but I am not thinking about that.” Nadal said. “I feel honoured to be part of this battle, but I really believe that I will not be happier or less happy if that happens or does not happen.”

SOUTHGATE TO ROTATE SQUAD AGAINST KOSOVO

Gareth Southgate has hinted that he will make changes for England’s Euro 2020 qualifier against Kosovo this evening. England have no injury problems after Tuesday’s 4-0 win over Bulgaria, but manager Southgate may still rotate his squad to face Kosovo, who sit second in Group A, at St Mary’s. “We might freshen the team a bit, but that will be important,” he said. “We need to make sure we get the balance right.”