CITY A.M.

BUSINESS WITH PERSONALITY

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE UNDER THE HOOD OF THE FASTEST SUV IN TOWN **P29**

RORY'S RETURN WHY EUROPEAN TOUR COULD GET A FACELIFT **P31**

TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2019 | ISSUE 3,503 CITYAM.COM FREE

LEADERS MAKE THEIR CITY PITCH

"Because we believe emphatically in fiscal prudence... I announce today that we are postponing further cuts in corporation tax

"We believe that any form of Brexit, whether it's hard or soft, blue or red, will be bad for jobs, businesses and our public services

"If a Labour government is elected on 12 December, you're going to see more investment than you ever dreamed of

STEFAN BOSCIA AND HARRY ROBERTSON

@Stefan_Boscia @henrygrobertson

THE THREE major party leaders made their election pitches to the business community yesterday as they addressed the CBI conference in London.

Boris Johnson was the first to take to the stage at the annual conference, delivering a shock announcement that the Conservatives had shelved plans to cut corporation tax next year from 19 to 17 per cent. The Prime Minister said the U-turn was made to free up £6bn in funding for the NHS as "the nation's priority".

The bitter pill was partly sugar-coated by Johnson's confirmation that the Tories would reduce business rates, lower national insurance contributions for 500,000 employers and increase the scope of research and development tax credits.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn was met with a decidedly frosty reception at the conference, despite claiming an "investment blitz" would create fresh business opportunities under a Labour government.

It came just days after the party pledged to expand its widespread nationalisation plans to include BT's Openreach network at a cost of at least £20bn.

Corbyn made his pitch to businesses by saying Labour's Brexit policy would provide "the certainty of a customs union and access to the single market".

The Labour leader also declined to name a single FTSE 100 firm which he felt was doing "good for community and society" when asked by Sky News.

Meanwhile, Jo Swinson declared the Liberal Democrats were now "the natural party of business". She sought to appeal to bosses who felt let down by the Tories and threatened by Labour, adding: "We're the only ones standing up for you."

HOW THE CITY REACTED: P6

Firms cool on Duke of York over backlash

EDWARD THICKNESSE

@edthicknesse

FIRMS are under scrutiny over their support for Prince Andrew's Pitch@Palace initiative, as the fallout from the Duke of York's interview regarding his relationship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein continues.

Founding partner of the entrepreneurs' mentoring scheme KPMG is said to have decided not to renew its sponsorship, which expired at the end of last month. It declined to comment on the cause for the lapsed deal.

Astrazeneca, another sponsor of the programme, said: "Our three-year partnership with Pitch@Palace is due to expire at the end of this year and is currently being reviewed."

Aon, which had been listed as a supporter, also distanced itself. The firm said it was not connected with the scheme and never had been.

The project is also supported by Easygroup founder Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou's charitable foundation. *City A.M.* understands the charity has no plans to change the existing relationship.

A Buckingham Palace spokesperson told Sky News: "KPMG's contract with Pitch@Palace ended at the end of October. A full programme of Pitch@Palace events is continuing across [the UK]."

FTSE 100▲ 7,307.70 +4.76 FTSE 250▲ 20,440.50 +36.10 DOW▲ 28,036.22 +31.33 NASDAQ▲ 8,549.94 +9.11 £/$▲ 1.296 +0.006 £/€▲ 1.170 +0.003 €/$▲ 1.108 +0.002

CITY A.M.

THE CITY VIEW

Leaders bid to charm top bosses at CBI bash

THE ELECTION campaign intruded on the CBI's annual conference yesterday, making the event even more political and even less about business than it otherwise would have been. That said, the topics slotted into the agenda around the political speeches focused mostly on climate change, inequality, profit with purpose (Justin Welby was on stage for that) and mental wellbeing. Interesting topics, and there were a couple of panels on the global economy and technological change, but even without the political pitches this wasn't exactly a festival of capitalism. A sign of the times, perhaps. As for the politicians, the Prime Minister was up first, promising to reform business rates and cut employers' national insurance contributions. He also revealed that the planned corporation tax cut (from 19 to 17 per cent) will be postponed — in order to splash a bit more cash on (you've guessed it) the NHS. Businesses were, in the words of the CBI president John Allan, "disappointed but not devastated". It's true that there's been no great clamour to reduce the corporation tax rate, and the more interesting voices in this debate have favoured reform over reductions. However, Johnson's move shows the Tories are worried about fighting a defensive campaign on tax cuts for business while Labour hammer away on the NHS. It also makes it all but impossible for Tories to claim in the future that lower tax rates yield higher revenues. The calculation appears to be that the party doesn't need to run the risk of committing to tax cuts, since Jeremy Corbyn isn't competing with them on that pitch. The Labour leader turned up to the CBI conference with a message that he wasn't anti-business but, thanks to a question from the audience, ended up having to insist that he wasn't antisemitic. And then there was Liberal Democrat leader Jo Swinson, who keeps telling us that she's running to be Prime Minister. She had to contend with an audience member who said that even though he liked her, he couldn't do anything other than vote Tory since he was so scared about letting in a Corbyn government. She was well received, but then again if her "cancel Brexit" message didn't land well at a CBI conference, where would it? Business leaders absorbed the promises and policies pledged by the three would-be PMs, but will ultimately face the same choice as the rest of us: which party do you trust to run the economy? Brexit or not, there's no Corbyn-shaped answer to that question.

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CAMPUS CHAOS Senior Tory MP denies British interference in Hong Kong after Chinese ambassador slams Western countries

A SENIOR Tory MP yesterday denied that the UK is interfering in foreign affairs after the Chinese ambassador to London blasted Western countries for their response to the Hong Kong crisis. Liu Xiaoming yesterday accused the government and the influential Foreign Affairs Select Committee of making "irresponsible remarks" and taking the side of the protesters. Committee chair Tom Tugendhat said: "Calling for an end to violence isn't foreign interference, it's defending the Joint Declaration." It came as police laid siege to Hong Kong Polytechnic University during a dramatic escalation of violent clashes in the former British colony.

Augmented reality to add £62.5bn to British coffers

EMILY NICOLLE

@emilyjnicolle

VIRTUAL and augmented reality (AR) technologies are forecast to add £62.5bn to the UK economy in the next decade, as businesses embrace innovation in the workplace.

More than £44bn of the 2.44 per cent injection to UK GDP will come from AR, according to research published today by PwC. The technology is used by the likes of Snap and Instagram to present graphics, data or objects in the real world through a mobile device or headset such as smart glasses.

AR is already being utilised by workers to show diagrams alongside complex processes such as engineering repairs, or to allow site managers to visualise a workplace and spot safety hazards in real time.

Virtual reality (VR), which immerses the user in a fully digital environment through the use of a headset, is set to provide £18.1bn to the British economy by 2030.

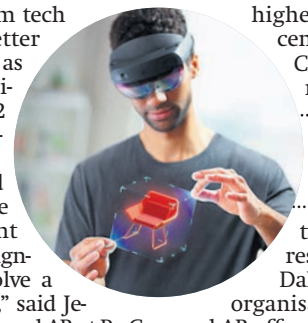
The sectors have attracted increasing attention from tech giants seeking to better serve businesses, such as Microsoft which repositioned its Hololens 2 headset towards enterprises earlier this year.

"Organisations need to look beyond the software development stage and focus on designing the solution to solve a specific business issue," said Jeremy Dalton, head of VR and AR at PwC.

"VR and AR can be used to speed up processes, improve safety, reduce costs or open up new revenue streams... However, the technology needs the full support of key stakeholders in order to fully prosper."

Globally VR and AR could add £1.4 trillion to the world's GDP in the next 10 years.

The US economy is set to reap the highest benefit at a 2.83 per cent increase in GDP, while China and Japan could realise 2.09 per cent and two per cent increases respectively.



Microsoft launched the Hololens 2 for businesses in March this year

Dalton added: "While many organisations might think VR and AR offer no major benefit to their business, our research has shown that's not the case. Now is the time for them to think about how these technologies can improve their performance or they risk being left behind."

WHAT THE OTHER PAPERS SAY THIS MORNING

FINANCIAL TIMES

CIVIL SERVANTS WARNED ON 'CASH FOR ACCESS' EVENT

The Cabinet Office and Ofcom have warned civil servants against attending a paid-for networking event amid complaints that "cash for access" events could block small businesses from government work. Potential bidders for government contracts have been offered sessions with civil servants for sponsorship packages worth roughly £4,000 per hour.

FORMER TORY MINISTER MAKES LIB DEM DONATION

A former Conservative minister has made a "substantial" donation to the Lib Dems as fears mount among traditional Tory supporters that Boris Johnson could take Britain out of the EU without a deal. Timothy Sainsbury, former trade minister under Margaret Thatcher and John Major, has donated to the campaign of Sam Gyimah.

THE TIMES

JAMIE OLIVER TESTS A NEW RECIPE FOR RESTAURANTS

His Italian food chain may have been taken off the menu in Britain after going bust, but Jamie Oliver is adding a new concept to his expanding overseas restaurant operations. The celebrity chef yesterday launched Jamie Oliver Kitchen, an all-day dining concept that will offer "accessible food from a diverse menu".

PERNOD RICARD STAFF SUE FIRM IN ALCOHOLISM ROW

An employee of Pastis maker Pernod Ricard has taken the firm to court for allegedly plying him with so many drinks that he became an alcoholic. Two colleagues have backed his case.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

INSURANCE BOSS HIT WITH FINE FOR PAYOUTS TO WIFE

An insurance boss has been fined more than £154,000 after allegedly concealing payments to his wife as a tax-dodging ruse. Stuart Forsyth, chief executive of the Scottish Boatowners Mutual Insurance Association, is accused of diverting more than £200,000 of his pay to his spouse, who also worked at the company, in a bid to reduce his tax bill.

EU FOSSIL FUEL INVESTMENT BAN TO HURT ENERGY FIRMS

The European Investment Bank's recent decision to phase out funding for fossil fuel projects could have far-reaching implications for energy companies, a number of experts have warned.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

SONY STRIKES GAME SHOW NETWORK DEAL WITH AT&T

Sony Pictures Entertainment is buying AT&T's stake in Game Show Network for $380m (£293m), a deal that will make Sony the sole owner of the US cable channel. The purchase of AT&T's 42 per cent stake implies a valuation of about $905m for Game Show Network, which airs quiz show staples like Family Feud and Deal or No Deal.

AMEX PAYS TO ENCOURAGE BUSINESSES TO TAKE CARDS

American Express is offering sign-on bonuses to some businesses that do not take its cards in a bid to catch up to rivals Visa and Mastercard. The bonuses reach up to $450,000 (£347,500).

TSB's £370m IT meltdown blamed on failure to test both data centres

JAMES WARRINGTON

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THE IT meltdown that left nearly 2m TSB customers without access to online banking is set to be partly blamed on the company's failure to test one of its new data centres.

A long-awaited inquiry by law firm Slaughter and May has concluded that the decision to test only one of the new data centres ahead of a huge IT upgrade made it "impossible to identify the problems" with the new system, Sky News reported.

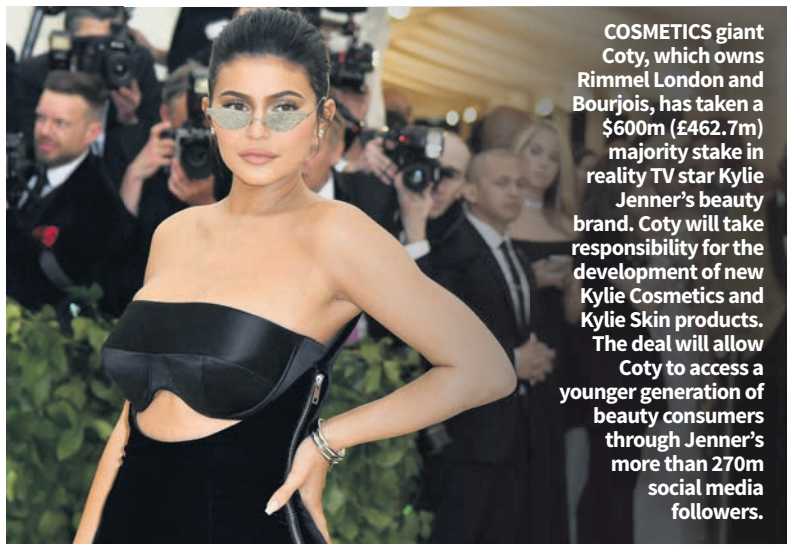
The failure to identify these problems in turn led to a huge meltdown, which cost chief executive Paul Pester his job and TSB roughly £370m in compensation and expenses.

The report, which will be published today, is expected to outline a raft of failings at the high street bank, with some of the criticisms levelled at top executives.

One source told Sky News that the report will accuse the TSB board of failing to address "common sense challenges" about aspects of the upgrade.

Another insider said it had concluded that the decision not to test both data centres was taken by Sabis, the tech division of TSB's Spanish owner Sabadell.

MAKEOVER Coty snaps up $600m stake in reality star Kylie Jenner's beauty brand



COSMETICS giant Coty, which owns Rimmel London and Bourjois, has taken a $600m (£462.7m) majority stake in reality TV star Kylie Jenner's beauty brand. Coty will take responsibility for the development of new Kylie Cosmetics and Kylie Skin products. The deal will allow Coty to access a younger generation of beauty consumers through Jenner's more than 270m social media followers.

Property tycoon Tchenguiz blasts First Group chair

ALEX DANIEL

@alexmdaniel

DIRECTORS at First Group have been branded "immature" by major investor and property tycoon Robert Tchenguiz, as shareholders demanded the struggling transport giant launch a full strategic review and sell off its US businesses.

The bus and rail operator is in the process of selling its US coach service Greyhound, but said earlier this year it would make its two other American bus businesses a major focus.

But Tchenguiz, who has a nearly five per cent economic interest in First Group, and private equity firm Coast Capital, which is a 10 per cent shareholder, have both demanded it sell the rest of its US assets.

Tchenguiz, who shares a £20m mansion in Kensington with his girlfriend, his ex-wife and their two children, said: "Clearly, the rationale of a vibrant US business which is being managed in Aberdeen, six time zones away, is not the most effective or efficient management strategy."

Shares in First Group fell 20 per cent last Thursday as it announced its interim results. Chairman David Martin told shareholders he was "looking at all options" regarding the US assets.

But in a broadside against First's management, a furious Tchenguiz said this statement was "ambiguous, confusing and misleading".

He told *City A.M.* that he had asked Martin on Friday to announce a formal strategic review of the business with a view to selling off the US assets, in a bid to boost shares again, but that Martin had refused.

Robert Tchenguiz is a major shareholder in First Group

Tchenguiz said this was "unforgivable". He added that the refusal was "very immature to be honest".

First Group said it had been "consistent and clear" that it hopes to drive value.

EY's UK partners set to take pay cut after revenue growth stalls

JAMES BOOTH

@Jamesdbooth1

UK PARTNERS at EY are set to take a pay cut this year after the audit firm today announced anaemic revenue growth of 1.5 per cent.

Average partner pay for the year ended 30 June slipped to £679,000 from £693,000 the previous year.

The firm said investments in tech and audit quality and an increase in the number of partners were the reasons for the fall in partner pay.

Revenue grew 1.5 per cent to £2.45bn, up from £2.41bn the previous year.

Distributable profit before tax increased to £477m, from £472m last year.

EY's UK chairman Steve Varley told *City A.M.* that the results reflected a focus on investing in the firm's audit quality and its technology and infrastructure.

"This last financial year was an opportunity for some internal tidying up," he said.

Varley said the firm's investments should bear fruit this year.

ELECTION 2019

City puzzles over delayed tax cuts

STEFAN BOSCIA

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THE BUSINESS community offered a surprisingly muted reaction to the Prime Minister's announcement of a delay to a planned corporation tax cut yesterday.

Boris Johnson told the CBI conference that the Conservatives would not cut corporation tax from 19 to 17 per cent next year as planned, and will instead spend the money on the NHS.

CBI director general Carolyn Fairbairn said postponing the tax cut could work under certain conditions.

"Postponing further cuts to corporation tax to invest in public services could work for the country if it is backed by further efforts to [address] the costs of doing business and promote growth," she said.

Dan Neidle, tax partner at law firm Clifford Chance added: "No one's really asking for corporation tax to go to 17 per cent. If you asked me to list 20 things to change about corporation tax, reducing the rate would not be one of them."

However, free market think tanks were united in offering scathing assessments to the U-turn from the Prime Minister's camp.

Adam Smith Institute deputy director Matt Kilcoyne said it was a "retrograde move".

"Corporation tax is a particularly poor way of raising government revenue," he said.

Meanwhile, the Taxpayers' Alliance said the Prime Minister had "ignored" the public's desire for lower taxes.

The Taxpayers' Alliance chief executive John O'Connell said: "In order to boost the economy, pay for first-class public services and put money into the pockets of taxpayers, the leaders of the parties ought to be committing to cutting the tax burden immediately."

LABOURING THE POINT

THE LABOUR party will today take aim at "obscene" British billionaires once again, pledging a radical redistribution of wealth to cut the power of the super rich. Shadow chancellor John McDonnell will say he wants to "rewrite the rules of our economy" to crack down on tax breaks for political donors.

Labour reports Gyimah to police

STEFAN BOSCIA

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A LABOUR election candidate yesterday reported Tory-turned-Liberal Democrat Sam Gyimah to the police over "inaccurate and dangerous" allegations about her role in the Grenfell.

Emma Dent Coad — a Jeremy Corbyn ally who won the Kensington and Chelsea seat in 2017 — made the complaint after Gyimah told *City A.M.* that she and other Kensington Council members were involved in "conversations" around cladding that led to the fire.

Gyimah is standing against Dent Coad in the General Election. Dent Coad referred Gyimah to the police on the grounds that the comments were "inaccurate" and "libellous".

POLL WATCH

A new poll from Survation, which correctly predicted 2017's hung parliament, has bad news for Labour. Boris Johnson leads Jeremy Corbyn by **47 per cent** to **17 per cent** in terms of who the public believe would make a better PM.

GOOD DAY

After plenty of speculation that he was already packing his bags, Boris Johnson left the country in no doubt that **Sajid Javid** would stay on as chancellor if the Tories win the election. The PM gave a "categorical assurance" that the "great guy" and former banker Javid would remain in place. No assurances were given to other senior colleagues, though...

BAD DAY

Jo Swinson's attempt to cleave her way into ITV's leadership debate today fell down in the courts yesterday. The Lib Dems and the SNP had brought a legal challenge against the broadcaster's decision, but two High Court judges ruled ITV was not exercising "a public function" in law when it set the format of the debate. Swinson and SNP bigwigs will have to make do with Twitter.

US gives Huawei 90-day reprieve on trade outlaw

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US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's administration yesterday issued a fresh 90-day extension allowing American companies to continue doing business with controversial Chinese tech firm Huawei.

In May the US added Huawei to a trade blacklist, citing concerns its technology could be used for spying by authorities in Beijing.

But the US Commerce Department has since granted the tech giant a series of reprieves, and the latest 90-day extension marks the third time US authorities have pushed back the ban.

The Trump administration had previously planned only a two-week reprieve to the ban, but ran into bureaucratic issues and opted for a further 90 days, Reuters first reported on Sunday.

"The Temporary General License extension will allow carriers to continue to service customers in some of the most remote areas of the United States who would otherwise be left in the dark," US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in a confirmatory statement yesterday.

"The department will continue to rigorously monitor sensitive technology exports to ensure that our innovations are not harnessed by those who would threaten our national security," he added.

US officials have said the extensions are designed to minimise the impact of the ban on Huawei's customers, many of whom operate telecoms networks in rural America.

The trade ban could also have a significant impact on Huawei, which has always denied allegations of espionage.

Last week it emerged the company will pay 2bn yuan (£284.6m) in bonuses and double almost all October salaries as a reward to staff for helping to fight US sanctions.

The short term rental firm will provide accomodation for athletes and visitors

Airbnb strikes Olympic sponsor deal before Tokyo 2020 games

JESS CLARK
@jclarkjournno

HOLIDAY home rental company Airbnb has agreed a deal to become an Olympic partner, in a bid to reduce the cost of the games.

Airbnb hosts will provide accommodation for athletes, Olympic officials and visiting fans at the Tokyo games next year, followed by Beijing, Paris, Milan and Los Angeles. The partnership is designed to prevent the need to construct new accommodation in host cities and will also provide revenue for the community.

The deal comes after the Olympics faced criticism at the last summer games in Rio de Janeiro due to the cost of the event while Brazil was in recession.

Snapchat fact checks political ads, says boss

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SNAPCHAT boss Evan Spiegel yesterday revealed that his platform fact checks all political ads, as he took a swipe at rival social media firm Facebook.

Tech giants have come under fire in recent months over their failure to crack down on adverts that spread misinformation that could unfairly influence elections.

Facebook boss Mark Zuckerberg has defended his decision to allow political advertising on the social network after Twitter chief executive Jack Dorsey announced a complete ban.

Spiegel has now weighed in on the debate, saying his firm allows political ads only after they have been approved by its fact checkers.

"We subject all advertising to review, including political advertising," he told CNBC. "I think what we try to do is create a place for political ads on our platform, especially because we reach so many young people and first-time voters we want them to be able to engage with the political conversation, but we don't allow things like misinformation to appear in that advertising."

T-Mobile's US boss John Legere to step down as he denies Wework rumours

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JOHN Legere will step down from his role as chief executive of T-Mobile in the US next year, and will be replaced by current chief operating officer Mike Sievert.

The departure of the outspoken telecoms boss comes amid frantic speculation that he could be linked with the top job at Wework. However, Legere has since ruled himself out of the running, CNBC reported.

T-Mobile is currently in the final stages of completing its $26.5bn (£20.5bn) merger with rival Sprint, which is controlled by Wework's majority owner Softbank. Legere's mooted move to the troubled office space provider could therefore pose a conflict of interest.

Nevertheless, Legere said he will step down from his role when his contract expires at the end of April 2020, though he will retain a seat on the board. Legere said he will now focus on pushing through the Sprint merger — which has been fraught with legal difficulties — and handing over the reins to Sievert.

"I hired Mike in 2012 and I have great confidence in him," Legere said. "I have mentored him as he took on increasingly broad responsibilities, and he is absolutely the right choice as T-Mobile's next chief executive."

Meanwhile Wework is set to start a 4,000-strong US job cull this week.

FROZEN OUT
Disney Plus customers hit by hackers

THOUSANDS of accounts for Disney's new streaming service have reportedly been hacked after scammers preyed on subscribers eager to view exclusive hits such as the Mandalorian. Since Disney Plus launched last week, hackers have broken into accounts and put them up for sale on the dark web, a Zdnet investigation revealed.

Ex-Stobart boss courts City figures to back Eddie Stobart rescue plans

JAMES BOOTH

@jamesdbooth1

FORMER Stobart boss Andrew Tinkler is said to be lining up heavyweight City support for his proposed financing package for struggling haulier Eddie Stobart.

City A.M. revealed on Sunday that Tinkler was putting together a £75m financing package for the ailing firm and had the backing of 11.8 per cent shareholder the Stobart Group.

"Shareholders do take my offer seriously, and even Stobart Group has supported me on this transaction," Tinkler said. He has been in discussions with fund managers M&G and Ruffer to drum up support for his plan to inject £50m into the business, the Telegraph reported.

Tinkler is also understood to have been in talks with Eddie Stobart's board about his proposed rescue bid.

His approach faces competition from hedge fund Douglas Bay Capital (Dbay) which holds a 10 per cent stake in the company.

Eddie Stobart's board accepted an offer on Friday from Dbay to inject £55m into the business in exchange for a 51 per cent stake.

Dbay's financing package, which would come with an 18 per cent rate of interest, is set to be voted on by shareholders in early December.

Aramco calls off European shows ahead of listing

EDWARD THICKNESSE

@edthicknesse

SAUDI Aramco yesterday reportedly cancelled its planned European roadshow for its long-delayed initial public offering (IPO), a day after doing the same for investor meetings in the US and Asia.

The decision means that shares will not be formally marketed outside of the Gulf. Meetings will now only take place in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman.

The success of the IPO will now depend on local demand, with 0.5 per cent of shares reserved for Saudi nationals, who will then get access to a bonus share scheme as long as they maintain their stock for a fixed period.

On Sunday, Aramco, which is the world's largest oil producer, released the official price range for the sale, which would value the company at $1.7 trillion (£1.31 trillion).

The kingdom's leadership were told that this was still higher than foreign institutions were willing to pay, two people familiar with the matter told the Financial Times.

In a statement the company said that it would sell 1.5 per cent of the company's shares on Riyadh's Tadawul exchange at a price of 30 to 32 Saudi riyals.

At the top end of the price range a sale of this size would give the oil giant a value of $25.6bn, just surpassing the $25bn raised by Chinese e-commerce retailer Alibaba in its debut in New York in 2014.

Although this would make the IPO the largest of all time, it falls well short of initial predictions that the company would sell a reported five per cent of shares, with both a local and international offering.

The sale is a central pillar of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's plan to diversify the gulf state's economy away from oil by 2030.

For the first nine months of 2019, Saudi Aramco's income slipped from $83.3bn in 2018 to $68.2bn, with revenues down from $233.3bn to $217.1bn.

Saudi Aramco declined to comment.

MUSICAL SHARES Spotify stock slips as rivals Amazon and Tiktok turn up the heat

SPOTIFY shares fell almost five per cent yesterday after Amazon unveiled an ad-supported free version of its music streaming service. Tiktok owner Bytedance is also in discussions over the launch of a rival platform, the Financial Times reported.

Kape Technologies snaps up US cyber firm in deal worth $95.5m

JAMES WARRINGTON

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LONDON-BASED security software firm Kape Technologies today said it has acquired US online privacy company Private Internet Access (PIA) for $95.5m (£74m).

Kape, which provides privacy-focused security software, said the merger will create a new global cyber company and almost double its profit. The Aim-listed firm has secured the mixed cash and share takeover with LTMI Holdings, PIA's parent company, in a deal that values the US cyber firm at $127.6m.

PIA, which was established in Colorado in 2009, specialises in so-called virtual private networks (VPN), which allow users to set up an encrypted internet connection.

The deal will double Kape's customer base, taking it to more than 2m global paying subscribers. The cyber firm will also acquire LTMI's digital privacy products.

"This is a game-changing moment in Kape's development," said Kape chief executive Ido Erlichman.

Pawnbroker H&T's shares plunge on watchdog review

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY

@SebMcCarthy

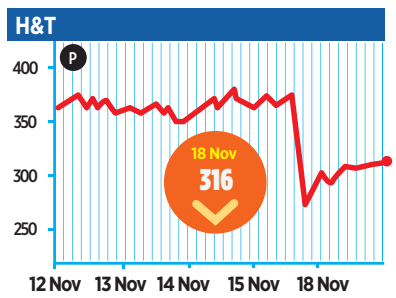
SHARES in the UK's leading pawnbroker crashed yesterday after the firm revealed it was working closely with the City watchdog to review its high-cost short term credit (HCSTC) loans business.

H&T's share price plummeted by as much as 25 per cent in trading yesterday before closing down 15 per cent at 316p.

The firm announced it has ceased all HSCTC unsecured lending, at least temporarily, while it works with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

The review is focusing on H&T's creditworthiness assessments and lending processes for HCSTC loans in light of new rule changes over affordability assessments. Over the last six years the firm said total customer interest payments were £24m.

The company said: "Should any redress be payable, H&T anticipates being able to fund this from its existing financial resources."



Tata Steel to cut 3,000 jobs across Europe as sector faces flat demand

INDRANIL SARKAR

TATA Steel is planning to cut 3,000 jobs in its European operations, the company said yesterday, citing oversupply, flat demand in the continent and high costs.

In a statement, Tata said it was urgently seeking to improve performance by increasing sales of higher value products, efficiency gains and reducing employment costs by cutting employee numbers by up to 3,000 across its European operations.

Around two-thirds of the job losses are expected to be office-based roles, it said.

Indian-owned Tata Steel, which launched a transformation programme in June to strengthen its European business, has operations in the Netherlands and Wales and downstream operations across Europe.

There will be no plant closures, Tata said, adding the aim was to shield Tata Steel Europe from challenges, such as weak demand, excess capacity and trade issues, and to become cash positive by the end of its financial year ending March 2021.

European steel makers largely blame China for the extent of a surplus in the market. *Reuters*

UK tech firm IQE stock sinks after revenue caution

HARRY ROBERTSON

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SHARES in UK technology company IQE plunged over 23 per cent yesterday after the firm issued its second revenue warning in five months.

IQE, which makes parts for chips used in products made by Apple and various Asian manufacturers, said it had "experienced very challenging market conditions in 2019".

The raging US-China trade war has dented global trade and business confidence, and hit firms with connections to both countries especially hard.

IQE now expects revenue this year of £136m to £142m, down from previous estimates of £140m to £160m. Its revenue was £156.3m in 2018.

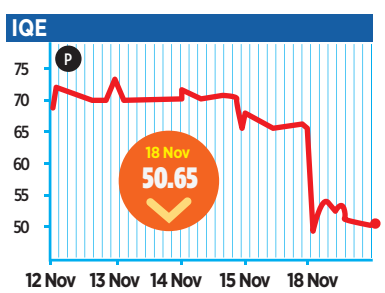
The warning dragged shares down 23.1 per cent yesterday to 50.65p.

It is the second revenue warning IQE has sounded in recent months. The Welsh company said in June that it would miss its 2019 revenue forecast due to a hit from US restrictions on Chinese tech giant Huawei.

Yesterday, IQE chief executive Drew Nelson said in a statement that the shortfalls in revenue "relate predominantly to two major customers". He did not name the customers, however.

Analysts at broker Peel Hunt said they now expected IQE to post a loss of £5.3m this year.

IQE said next year is likely to start with a weak first quarter.



Investment trust McKay Securities has put 30 Lombard Street on the market

St James's Place City of London office seeking buyers at £76.1m

JESS CLARK

@jclarkjourno

THE OWNER of the St James's Place office in the City of London has put the building up for sale for £76.1m.

McKay Securities, a real estate investment trust focused on property in London and the south-east, is looking for buyers for 30 Lombard Street, which is let to the wealth management firm.

The company has hoisted the for sale sign "given the strength of overseas investment demand in the Central London office market".

"We have recently instructed agents to explore the opportunistic disposal of 30 Lombard Street, EC3," the company said yesterday.

Aviva's shares fall on lack of Asian sale plan

JAMES BOOTH

@Jamesdbooth1

4.58%

SHARES in insurer Aviva fell 4.6 per cent yesterday after it said it was not planning on selling its business in Singapore or exiting its joint venture in China.

Aviva made the announcement in response to reports it was mulling a disposal of the two businesses.

"Aviva's Singapore and China business units delivered double digit operating profit growth in 2018 and are earning attractive returns. Both countries are expected to pay dividends to group centre in 2019," it said.

The insurer confirmed it was examining the future of its operations in troubled Asian financial hub Hong Kong, and Vietnam and Indonesia.

Boss Maurice Tulloch is expected to outline plans to streamline the business at the company's investor day tomorrow.

Reuters reported in September that Aviva was hoping to sell the Singapore and Vietnam businesses for up to $2.5bn (£1.9bn).

The lack of a sale is likely to be "disappointing for investors," said Shore Capital analysts.

Sadiq Khan confirms TfL fare freeze

STEFAN BOSCIA
@Stefan_Boscia

TRANSPORT for London (TfL) fares will remain unchanged in 2020, Sadiq Khan has confirmed.

The mayor of London's fare freeze is now into its fourth year, after promising to not rise TfL prices in his first term at City Hall.

The freeze will continue after next May's London mayoral election, effectively binding the hands of whoever wins the poll.

The freeze only includes individual journeys and not weekly, monthly and annual travel cards.

"Alongside my £1.50 Hopper fare — which allows people unlimited changes on bus and tram journeys for free within an hour — we are making transport more affordable for millions of Londoners," Khan said.

"In stark contrast, when he was mayor, Boris Johnson increased TfL fares by a staggering 42 per cent."

Shashi Verma, Tfl's director of strategy, added: "Millions of people travel using bus, Tube and rail services across London and through our pay as you go fares system we are helping to encourage more people out of their cars and onto public transport."

However, Khan's fare freeze has attracted criticism from some quarters for contributing to TfL losses.

The London mayor has frozen TfL fares for four consecutive years

Sage to sell its payments arm to Elavon unit

HARRY ROBERTSON
@henrygrobertson

UK SOFTWARE firm Sage Group is to sell its payments arm Sage Pay for around £230m to Elavon, a payments firm and unit of US Bancorp.

Sage Pay is a major provider of payment services in both the UK and Ireland. Announcing the deal, Sage Group said: "The divested business will remain an important payments partner for Sage after completion."

Newcastle-based Sage said the deal would boost its profit this year. The software firm said it expects to report a statutory profit of around £180m after the deal.

For the year ended September 2018, Sage had operating profit of £15m and revenue of £41m.

The completion of the deal is subject to Elavon obtaining approval by US regulators.

Sage chief executive Steve Hare said: "We will continue to focus on serving small and medium-sized customers with subscription software solutions for accounting and financials and people and payroll."

"Payments and banking services remain an integral part of Sage's value proposition and we will deliver them through our growing network of partnerships, including Elavon."

Hannah Fitzsimons, president and general manager of Elavon Merchant Services in Europe, said: "We are a customer-focused company that is helping businesses succeed in a global marketplace that is changing rapidly."

"This acquisition brings tremendous talent and leading technology to Elavon, which can be leveraged across the European market," she added.

Declan Lynch, chief executive of Elavon Financial Services, said: "We are thrilled to bring the talents and capabilities of Sage Pay employees to Elavon, where they will be an integral part of our company."

UK leads G20 in the race for net zero emissions

EDWARD THICKNESSE
@edthicknesse

THE UK has topped the list of decarbonisation rates within G20 countries since 2000, according to PwC's low carbon economy index released this morning.

However, the UK's annual rate of 3.7 per cent is well short of the 9.7 per cent that is required if the UK is to achieve its 2050 net zero emissions pledge.

The report found that the majority of the UK's reduction in emissions have come from the phase-out coal, a process that can only be done once.

During the peak of the coal phase-out between 2012 and 2016, the UK averaged a decarbonisation rate of 6.9 per cent. 2014 was the only year that the UK achieved the 9.7 per cent rate required to hit the 2050 targets.

PwC warned that outside of the power and industry sectors, the UK is making limited progress in achieving its target, which will require dramatic changes to every part of the UK's economy.

Dr Celine Herweijer, partner and global climate change leader at PwC, said: "Achieving net zero will require companies across all sectors to transform, drive innovation and grow whilst managing transition risks."

"It's one thing for leading companies to set ambitious targets, but the ability to meet these will need strong government action to stimulate new market solutions," she added.

Businesses are adopting climate commitments in increasing numbers, with over a hundred declaring net zero targets by 2050. A thousand more have signed up to initiatives such as RE100.

The report comes the same day as trade group Energy Networks Association will launch a manifesto calling on political leaders to take "bold action to achieve net zero."

Gourmet Burger Kitchen completed a restructuring agreement in November last year, closing 24 stores

GBK widens losses after store closure plan

JESS CLARK
@jclarkjourno

CASUAL dining chain Gourmet Burger Kitchen (GBK) suffered widening losses last year after taking a £15.7m hit on its restaurant closure programme.

The burger restaurant completed a company voluntary arrangement (CVA) during the period, which saw it shutter 24 sites, contributing to a pre-tax loss of £24.3m in the year ended 24 February, compared to £6.3m in the previous period. Last year the firm opened 10 new sites.

GBK reported a £15.7m charge related to the restructuring plan, which contributed to the loss for the year, according to the firm's latest financial accounts.

Revenue fell seven per cent to £76.1m from £81.7m due to the impact of the restaurant closures and increasing competition in the casual dining market.

The decline "was driven by site closures, difficult trading conditions in the wake of economic uncertainty ... continued over supply in the sector and a significant number of new entrants," the company said in its annual accounts.

Volkswagen to cut forecast as demand brakes

ALEX DANIEL

@alexmdaniel

GERMAN car maker Volkswagen has cut its forecasts for operating profit and sales growth because of a downturn in demand for passenger cars.

"It is fair to say that the very best of the party is over," chief financial officer Frank Witter told analysts yesterday.

VW has become the latest automotive giant to warn that the industry is facing difficult times, as firms pump money into electric and self-driving cars while a trade war between the US and China hampers growth.

The firm said it now expects operating profit to rise at least 25 per cent over the four year period up to 2020, down from its previous forecast of more than 30 per cent, according to presentation slides.

The company also cut its forecast for sales growth over the period to 20 per cent from more than 25 per cent.

Shares fell four per cent to €176.

"We believe this largely reflects softer volume growth expectations," Citi analysts said in a note.

Volkswagen maintained its targets for an operating margin of 6.5-7.5 per cent in 2019-2020 and seven to eight per cent in 2025.

To counteract the costs of rolling out electric cars, Volkswagen would increase sales of higher-margin SUVs and try to bring down the cost of making electric cars, chief executive Herbert Diess said.

Volkswagen's new ID3 electric vehicle, for example, will be 40 per cent cheaper to build than the electric version of its Golf model, he told investors.

As the battery pack in the new ID3 can be used to add structural rigidity, some savings can be made to the vehicle body.

The modular layout of the battery will also aid efficient packaging and economies of scale, he added.

The announcements were made at the Dubai air show yesterday

Airbus reports Middle Eastern jet request worth more than $30bn

ALEX DANIEL

@alexmdaniel

AIRBUS announced orders for more than 170 planes yesterday, in a mammoth set of deals valued at more than $30bn (£23.1bn) at list prices.

Air Arabia, a low-cost Emirati carrier, has ordered 120 narrow-body planes including the A320 Neo and A321 XLR models, while Dubai government airline Emirates placed an order for 50 of the bigger A350 planes.

Emirates' deliveries are expected to begin in 2023. It replaces a previous agreement in February, when Emirates said it wanted to buy 30 A350s and 40 of the smaller A330s.

Boeing investor sues board for deadly crashes

ALEX DANIEL

@alexmdaniel

A BOEING shareholder last night filed a lawsuit accusing the firm's board of doing nothing to investigate the safety of the 737 Max until the fast-selling plane suffered a second deadly crash in five months.

The lawsuit, brought by the Kirby Family Partnership, said the first crash was "the biggest red flag an airline manufacturer can face".

The legal action, filed in Delaware where Boeing is incorporated alleges the directors breached their fiduciary duties to shareholders and seeks to hold them personally liable for damage caused to Boeing, which could run into the billions of dollars.

It came after Boeing received an order for 10 of its 737 Max jets, which remain grounded worldwide after the crashes that killed 346 people in total.

Turkish airline Sun Express, which already has 32 of the planes on order, put its faith in the under-fire US manufacturer with an extra $1.2bn (£930m) worth of the jets, in a deal confirmed at the Dubai air show yesterday.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Stefan Boscia dissects what's really behind the People's Vote power struggle

THE BITTER row among rival factions in the People's Vote campaign ostensibly came to an end last week when controversial chairman Roland Rudd resigned.

Rudd, also chairman of PR firm Finsbury, faced three weeks of public insurrection from staff after sacking People's Vote director James McGrory and communications chief Tom Baldwin in what was described as a "boardroom coup". His decision was met with a torrent of criticism from staff, which escalated as the saga unfolded.

Staff voted no confidence in Rudd and newly appointed chief executive Patrick Heneghan, and refused to go back to work. *City A.M.* then revealed that Heneghan was facing sexual harassment allegations from a number of female members of staff. He quit two days after our revelations.

Rudd finally gave in last Friday and quit as chairman of Open Britain — one of five founding groups of the campaign for a second referendum — and as People's Vote boss.

However, the choice of his successor raised eyebrows. Anne Weyman was appointed to the chair of Open Britain — and effectively the entire campaign — after serving as a director for less than two months.

Entrepreneur Sangeeta Siddhu-Robb was appointed as vice chair.

Interestingly, the pair make up half of the board of Open Britain's shadowy parent company Baybridge 2019.

Baybridge 2019 was formed on 19 August by Rudd, Weyman, Siddhu-Robb and entrepreneur Richard Reed.

The company controls the People's Vote campaign, with sole control over finances, data and the hiring and firing of staff. People's Vote insiders claim Rudd is pulling the strings.

"[Weyman] has had a quite rapid ascent to the chair," a senior Open Britain source said. "She's been loyal to Rudd on everything."

The source added that Siddhu-Robb had "taken Rudd's side at every turn" and that Reed "marches to Roland Rudd's tune".

A spokesperson for Siddhu-Robb and Weyman denied the claims and so too did Rudd's spokesman. However, if the allegations are true then Rudd's resignation from the campaign means little and raises further questions.

Cardiff University professor Leighton Andrews said the transfer of data from People's Vote to Baybridge was "of grave concern" and asked the Information Commissioner's Office to investigate.

The day after being fired, Baldwin told the BBC that Rudd was trying to position the campaign as a Liberal Democrat vehicle — a charge Rudd's spokesman said was "absurd".

The theory is also promoted by campaign heavyweight Alastair Campbell who has alleged that the PR tycoon is angling for a life peerage via a Liberal Democrat nomination. Adding fuel to the fire is Reed's involvement at Baybridge — the multi-millionaire has given almost £60,000 to the party.

A senior People's Vote figure told *City A.M.*: "Rudd wants to change the landscape of British politics and the price of that is to allow Brexit to happen," adding that money controlled by Baybridge had been given to the Liberal Democrats to help them "try to get 25 per cent of the vote at the election".

If Baybridge is indeed trying to improve the Liberal Democrat vote then the potential value of the data of 500,000 people collected from People's Vote cannot be underestimated.

In any case, don't expect Rudd's resignation to restore harmony at the People's Vote campaign.

Diploma lifts its dividend after a successful 2019

EDWARD THICKNESSE
@edthicknesse

LONDON-LISTED Diploma yesterday announced that it would list its final dividend by 15 per cent, after posting strong double-digit growth in both earnings and revenue.

Shares in the company rose 4.3 per cent yesterday to 1,773.25p.

The firm, which supplies technical products such as wiring and seals for the life sciences, said that profit rose 14 per cent to £97.2m, up from £84.9m in 2018.

Revenue also grew 12 per cent to £544.7m from £485.1m last year, driven by a strong performance across healthcare divisions.

Cash flow slipped seven per cent to £56.5m, with net debt at £15.1m at the year end.

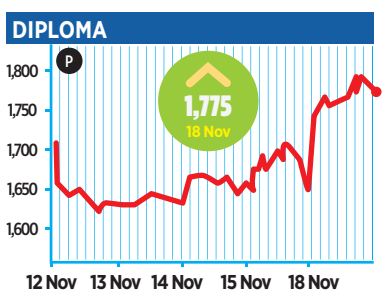
Earnings per share and total dividend per share each saw double-digit growth, to 64.3p and 29p respectively.

2019 was a record year for acquisitions for the company, which invested £78.3m in four new businesses.

Diploma said that the growth in uncertainty in global industrial markets had resulted in a healthier pipeline of opportunities for such purchases.

Chief executive Johnny Thomson said: "Diploma has delivered another strong set of results with double-digit revenue and earnings growth in the year."

He added he was "confident" in the firm's business model for next year.



The jewellers reported a turnover of £77.1m over the last trading year

Boodles sales shining bright on appeal of its anniversary range

JESS CLARK
@jclarkjourno

LUXURY jewellery retailer Boodles yesterday reported sales growth following a strong Christmas trading period last year and a 220th anniversary collaboration with Swiss watchmaker Patek Philippe.

The family-owned jeweller reported turnover of £77.1m for the year ended 28 February, up 8.9 per cent from £70.8m in 2018. Profit after tax increased from £5.17m last year to £8.32m.

Expenses increased five per cent, mainly due to higher London rents.

Boodles said it is not planning to expand but will invest its earnings in high-value diamonds.

IN BRIEF

SOCGEN WORKERS MOVE INTO NEW LONDON HQ

Bankers at Societe Generale began moving into their new Canary Wharf offices yesterday as the French lending giant looks to consolidate its London business. The firm's new London HQ will house a range of divisions including corporate and investment banking, securities services, asset management and back and middle office private banking activities. Socgen is taking eight out of the 26 floors at the office building on One Bank Street, where it is equipped for nearly 3,000 workstations and is "designed with flexible working in mind".

TWO STOCK EXCHANGE OPERATORS BID FOR BME

Two rival stock exchange operators are battling it out to buy Spanish bourse Bolsas y Mercados Espanoles (BME). In a sign of the consolidation efforts within Europe's financial exchanges sector, Euronext and Six Group have both revealed they have had talks to buy the Madrid-based national stock exchange . Swiss group Six has made a €2.8bn (£2.4bn) cash offer.

BOOST FOUNDER SAYS HE WANTS TO BUY FIRM BACK

Boost Mobile founder Peter Adderton is willing to pay up to $2bn (£1.5bn) to buy back the prepaid wireless brand from Sprint, he told Reuters yesterday, marking a significant potential premium to what satellite TV provider Dish Network agreed to pay for Sprint's entire prepaid wireless business.

Telecoms firms' credit ratings 'at risk' from Labour's broadband proposal

JAMES WARRINGTON

@j_a_warrington

TELECOMS companies may take a hit to their credit profiles if Labour's plans to nationalise parts of BT go ahead, a top rating agency has warned.

Shadow chancellor John McDonnell last week unveiled plans to bring Openreach into public ownership and offer free full-fibre broadband to all UK households by 2030.

But Fitch Ratings warned providers such as Talktalk and Virgin Media could see their revenue and profitability "severely impacted" by the move unless they completely overhauled their business models.

It would also reduce or negate the value of the collateral of their debt security package, the firm said.

In a note issued yesterday, Fitch said Labour's scheme would likely put an end to private sector investment in the UK's broadband network by challenger firms such as Cityfibre, and would remove incentives for investment in convergent products and services.

The firm also warned that the sector's ability to innovate could be hamstrung if alternative providers were to drop out of the market.

DOUGH! Pizza Express downgraded despite recent royal endorsement of Woking outlet

RATING agency Moody's yesterday downgraded Pizza Express after they judged recent actions by shareholders will make a restructuring of company debt more likely. The agency expects tough trading conditions to weigh on profit. Prince Andrew on Saturday denied a sexual assault allegation from 2001, saying he was at a Pizza Express in Woking.

DWF beats Brexit gloom to expand first-half revenue

ANNA MENIN

@annafmenin

LISTED law firm DWF managed to boost its revenues in the first half despite persistent political uncertainty, it said yesterday.

In a trading statement to the City, DWF said it had increased group revenues by at least 10 per cent in the six months to the end of October.

Chief executive Andrew Leaitherland said the performance has been "robust" in the face of Brexit disruption that has weighed on business activity.

"The first half of the year has seen a number of important milestones achieved as we continue to deliver on our initial public offering (IPO) promises, developing the business in our first year as a listed entity," he said.

Shares rose 2.8 per cent to 129p on the announcement yesterday.

DWF's flotation in March — the first main market listing for a law firm — valued the business at £366m. The company had been aiming for a higher valuation, understood to be between £400m and £600m.

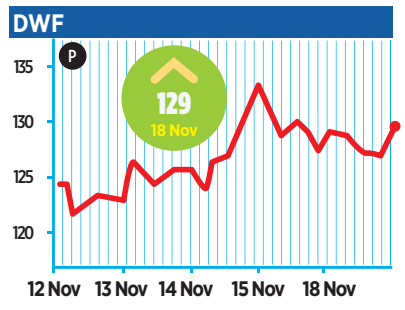
In yesterday's update, DWF said organic activity had underpinned the "vast majority" of its growth.

The firm said this was driven by strong growth in its international and connected services divisions, which are expected to record increases of approximately 29 per cent and 18 per cent respectively.

DWF's net debt hit £49.5m during the first half — a £9.5m drop compared the same period last year, but an increase on the £35.3m it reported for the year ending 30 April.

The company said this increase "primarily reflects the normal cyclicality of partner tax payments in addition to the £3m dividend payment in September".

The firm also increased its net partner headcount by 20 on a full-time equivalent basis during the first half, including the recruitment of 15 senior hires.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LONDON

Notice is hereby given that the Common Council of the City of London as traffic authority for the undermentioned streets will make several Orders on **28 November 2019** under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended by the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991. The effect of these Orders will be to prohibit vehicles (or pedestrians where stated) from entering the said roads.

London Wall (Copthall Avenue to Blomfield Street) ---- *Mobile Crane*

From 7am on Friday 3 January to 5am on Monday 6 January 2020. Alternative route: E/B via Moorgate, South Place, Eldon St & Blomfield St. W/B via Wormwood St, Bishopsgate, Threadneedle St, Mansion House St, Queen Victoria St, Cannon St, New Change, Newgate St, King Edward St, Little Britain, Montague St, Aldersgate St & London Wall. Copthall Ave, Circus Place and Great Winchester St junctions with London Wall will be closed. Great Winchester St, Copthall Ave & Great Swan Alley to be made temporary two way for access.

Enquiries to Traffic Management Services on 020 7332 1551

Carolyn Dwyer BEng (Hons), DMS, CMILT, FCIHT
Director of the Built Environment

CITY OF LONDON

Dated **19 November 2019**

Microsoft alters cloud contracts in EU crackdown

JAMES WARRINGTON

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MICROSOFT has unveiled changes to its commercial cloud contracts after EU regulators warned the company may be breaching data privacy laws.

The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) last month said it had "serious concerns" about Microsoft's compliance with data protection rules and the use of its services by EU institutions.

Microsoft yesterday acknowledged that it is a data controller — a designation that means it will take on greater responsibilities under the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

"The change to assert Microsoft as the controller for this specific set of data uses will serve our customers by providing further clarity about how we use data," said Julie Brill, Microsoft's vice president for global privacy and regulatory affairs and chief privacy officer.

Brill added Microsoft would make certain it is "accountable under GDPR to ensure that the data is handled in a compliant way".

The company will also offer new contractual terms to its commercial customers in both the public and private sectors — a move Brill said would create greater transparency.

The changes come after the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security (MoJ) commissioned a review into the use of Microsoft Office Proplus amid concerns it was sending large amounts of data from Europe back to the US.

The review urged Microsoft to accept greater data protection responsibilities for additional processing involved in providing enterprise services, such as account management and financial reporting.

Microsoft will now roll out the suggested changes made by the Dutch MoJ to its global customers.

Brill added that these changes would also focus on trying to combat cyber attacks.

The firm said it has begun work to introduce the new privacy terms and expects to offer the new contract from the beginning of next year.

Barrick agrees sale of super pit as it begins $1.5bn asset disposal plans

EDWARD THICKNESSE

@edthicknesse

BARRICK Gold, one of the world's largest mining corporations, has begun the disposal of $1.5bn (£1.2bn) of its non-core assets by agreeing to sell its 50 per cent stake in Australia's Kalgoorlie mine for $750m.

The so-called super Pit, located in the renowned golden mile region of Western Australia, will be bought by Saracen Mineral Holdings, an ASX-listed company which already owns two other gold mines in the area.

The Kalgoorlie mine produced 490,000 ounces of gold in the last financial year, making it one of Australia's largest. Newmont Goldcorp, the world's leading gold company, will retain its 50 per cent stake in the joint venture.

Mark Bristow, Barrick chief executive officer, said: "The sale of our non-operating interest in KCGM represents the first step in our plan to realise in excess of $1.5bn from the disposal of non-core assets by the end of next year."

"While this iconic gold mine has been a valuable contributor to Barrick over the years, the asset does not fit with our strategy of operating mines that we own. The sale allows us to further focus our portfolio on core operations," he added.

The German Chancellor has been criticised for her lack of public investment

Merkel pushes back against calls for higher public spending levels

MICHAEL NIENABER

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel and finance minister Olaf Scholz yesterday brushed aside demands by German trade unions and business leaders to ditch their balanced budget policy and boost investment with a debt-financed spending plan.

The BDI — Germany's main business lobby — and the DGB labour union formed an unusual alliance yesterday to demand an extra €450m (£384m) public investment in Germany amid concerns that the country's infrastructure is failing.

However, Merkel yesterday told reporters after a cabinet meeting that the "black zero" policy of no new borrowing remained the guiding principle as the government was still able to boost the economy.

"We can regenrate growth with this fiscal policy," she said.

Scholz said the government had already increased public investment to record levels, adding that he viewed the rare joint spending call by BDI and DGB rather as a support of his expansionary fiscal policy. *Reuters*

CBI economist: Measure growth with happiness

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY

@SebMcCarthy

BRITAIN'S financial system has long been viewed through the lens of output and productivity, but now the CBI is calling for a more unconventional way of measuring growth: happiness.

The CBI's chief economist said yesterday that the government and businesses should take into account "much more holistic measures" than productivity levels when considering how to improve the economy.

Rain Newton-Smith told a conference hall of business figures that "productivity isn't everything" and that companies ought to look "beyond shareholder value".

She called on the government to follow New Zealand's approach by not "looking narrowly at GDP as a measure of policy success in favour of an index based on happiness and wellbeing".

Under former prime minister David Cameron, the government tasked the Office for National Statistics (ONS) with measuring happiness levels throughout the country for the first time.

The official statistics body carries out the work to look "beyond purely economic measures for how the nation is doing" and to measure "inequalities in society".

According to the latest findings released by the ONS, people in Britain generally grew happier over the year to March, but those in Northern Ireland grew sadder and more anxious as the original Brexit deadline drew near.

Oli Ikechi, a managing director of capital markets at Accenture, told *City A.M.* that there is "a broader sense that businesses are now looking to encourage people to bring their true self to work because happiness creates a freedom to let people make mistakes and ask questions".

The blue diamond from the Cullinan mine is worth nearly $741,000 per carat

Diamond in a rough year: Petra sells blue gem for nearly $15m

EDWARD THICKNESSE

@edthicknesse

PETRA Diamonds has sold a 20.08 carat blue diamond found at South Africa's famous Cullinan mine for $14.9m (£11.49m).

The company said that this was equivalent to roughly $741,000 per carat. It added that the buyer was a leading diamond company that wished to remain anonymous.

Richard Duffy, Petra's chief executive, said: "We are very pleased with this result which is in line with our expectations and confirms the resilience in the value of very high quality blue diamonds."

The sale is good news for Petra after the company reported a double-digit fall in annual profit in September as a result of weak prices.

US announces Iran sanctions waiver repeal

DOINA CHIACU

US SECRETARY of State Mike Pompeo said yesterday that the United States is terminating the sanctions waiver related to Iran's Fordow nuclear plant.

Speaking at a press briefing in Berlin about the Fordow site, Pompeo added that the US is closely monitoring ongoing protests in Iran and is deeply concerned by reports of several fatalities.

"The right amount of uranium enrichment for the world's largest state sponsor of terror is zero," he said.

Pompeo added that he saw "no legitimate reason for Iran to resume enrichment at this previously clandestine site."

The waiver will be ended on 15 December.

The UN atomic watchdog has accused Iran of enriching uranium at its Fordow nuclear site.

Yesterday, the watchdog also accused Iran of accumulating more than 130 tonnes of heavy water — a substance used in a type of reactor being developed at the site – thereby breaching another limit in its nuclear deal.

Reuters

Brazil's Amazon deforestation soars to its highest level in more than a decade

MARCELO TEIXEIRA

DEFORESTATION in Brazil's Amazon rainforest rose to its highest in over a decade this year, government data yesterday showed, confirming a sharp rise under the leadership of right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro.

Brazil's INPE space research agency said deforestation reached 9,762 square kilometers, up 29.5 per cent, for the 12 months through July 2019.

That's the worst level of deforestation since 2008, heaping further pressure on the environmental policy of Bolsonaro who favours developing the Amazon region economically.

The Amazon is the world's largest tropical rainforest and is considered key to the fight against climate change because of the vast amounts of carbon dioxide it absorbs.

Risks to the forest drew global concern in August when fires raged through the Amazon.

Environment minister Ricardo Salles said the rise in deforestation showed the need for a new strategy to combat illegal logging, mining and land grabbing, which he said were to blame for the increase in deforestation.

Environemntalists have blamed Brazil's leader. "The Bolsonaro government is responsible for every inch of forest destroyed," said Marcio Astrini, public policy co-ordinator for Greenpeace.

Reuters

Brazil was ravaged by fires in August, drawing sharp criticism from global leaders

Are central banks out of bullets?

Harry Robertson assesses if central bankers have the tools to fight the next economic downturn

THE GLOBAL economy has not had a good year, to put it mildly. Trade-war uncertainty and Chinese weakness have taken a heavy toll, with growth in 2019 set to be the worst since the financial crisis, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Such an environment has produced many doomsters and gloomsters, to use Boris Johnson's phrase. But there are few in finance as gloomy as Donald Amstad, head of Asian investment specialists at Aberdeen Standard Investments.

In a video from August that went viral (by the financial world's standards) with 700,000 views, Amstad argued that the developed world is on the brink of an economic and political crisis that its policymakers are poorly placed to tackle.

One of Amstad's chief concerns is that central banks in developed economies "are very close to being out of bullets," he tells me. Having saturated markets with printed money and slashed interest rates, in some cases to below zero (meaning investors pay to lend), there seems to be little left in the arsenal with which to slay the next downturn.

A major question is whether interest rates can go much lower than zero without serious distortions. Minus one per cent may be possible, but "I'm not sure you can go to minus 10," Amstad says.

Yet some see things another way, arguing that rate-setters have innovated before and will do again.

Danae Kyriakopoulou, chief economist at central bank forum Omfif, says: "Throughout the crisis central bank toolboxes have been strengthened, they have more powers now."

Many policymakers and pundits say negative interest rates and other ultra-unorthodox policies are already a problem, which are now worsening the slowdown rather than soothing it.

Amstad sees merit in this argument. "I give the example of my mother, God bless her, who's not earning any money on her savings in the bank and therefore feels that she has to economise," he says. Across an economy, such attitudes damped growth.

The chief executives of Deutsche Bank and UBS have said European lenders are also suffering under the policy.

With rates so low, there is little money to be made from the interest margin, they say.

PRINTING PROBLEMS

Part of the problem for the economy, Amstad argues, is that central banks' money-printing schemes have not gone to plan.

The idea was that firms would invest the cheap money they were handed, therefore kickstarting the economy. Instead, "they've used this as an opportunity either to pay special dividends or to buy back stock," Amstad says. "Then we've had a sustained period of austerity."

What can be done to wean the world off cheap money and boost growth? Absent of a US-China trade deal, one increasingly talked about solution is government spending.

But this route runs into a major obstacle, Amstad says — a bubble in the bond market. Driven by central bank policy and a slowdown, investors have piled into safe-haven assets. More than $15 trillion (£11 trillion) of bonds, roughly a quarter of global government and corporate debt, are trading with negative yields, indicating a surge in demand.

Governments turning on the taps might cause a rush out of bonds towards new assets. Using fiscal policy to boost growth will be like "trying to let the air out of the balloon very gently, without the whole thing going pop," Amstad says.

The consequences of getting it wrong could be dire.

Bonds are the supposedly risk-free asset class, so if they rapidly lose value "there is no stabiliser," says Amstad. "It could wipe trillions of dollars off the value of portfolios."

EASTERN PROMISE

A silver lining for the global economy is that developing economies, particularly in Asia, seem better-placed to deal with the next crisis. Amstad, who has worked in Singapore for 12 years, says: "There will be firepower here to be put to work in the event of a downdraught."

"When we look at current account balances broadly in the region, when we look at fiscal deficits broadly in the region," he says, "they are being broadly sensibly managed".

> "Having cut rates and printed money there seems to be little left in the arsenal to slay the next downturn

Gerard Lyons, chief economic adviser at investment service Netwealth, says that although things are undoubtedly gloomy right now, the long-term picture for developed economies is much brighter.

He says the "fourth industrial revolution" — the development in things like cloud computing and 3D printing — is likely to drive productivity and growth. Despite the slowdown, "one is still seeing much investment in [research] and in innovation by some leading companies," he says.

For now, the push towards fiscal policy as a solution seems hard for policymakers to resist.

The Conservative party's promised spending splurge sums this up, Amstad says. "To me that sounds rather Keynesian and it sounds rather Corbynesque, dare I say." We will have to wait and see whether the turn to Keynes will be effective.

SIGNED OFF Outernet secures London deal for 'world's largest' LED screen deployment

OUTERNET, a new immersive advertising and live entertainment space in central London, has secured a deal to install the world's largest deployment of LED screens. The site, on the corner of Oxford St and Tottenham Court Rd, will boast 260-degree screens.

Jadestone Energy shares soar in New Zealand sale

EDWARD THICKNESSE

@edthicknesse

SINGAPORE-BASED Jadestone Energy yesterday agreed to buy a 69 per cent stake in New Zealand's Maari project oil field for $50m (£38.6m).

The London-listed firm's shares jumped at the announcement, rising 16.2 per cent to 73.5p.

Jadestone, which focuses on oil and gas production in the Asia Pacific region, said that the purchase, from OMV New Zealand, would increase its net production by approximately 20 per cent. It added that it expected payback from the acquisition within a year of closing the transaction.

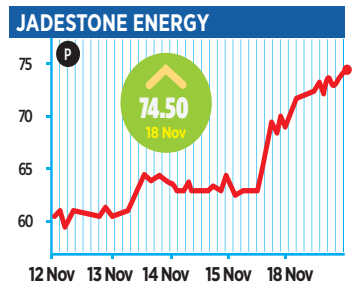
Jadestone's chief executive Paul Blakeley said: "The Maari project adds both significant opportunity and diversity to our operations. New Zealand is a natural fit for Jadestone, where we see many shared values with regards to sustainable energy investment."

The firm said it expected to complete the transaction in the second half of 2020. The field is located about 80 kilometres south west of New Zealand's North Island, and includes both the Maari and Manaia oil fields.

Production, which began in 2009, stands at 4,000 to 5,000 barrels per day. It peaked in 2010 with 16,400 barrels per day.

Although the fields are scheduled to stop producing in 2031, Jadestone said the field has considerable upside potential.

The company is targeting New Zealand as an extension of its core operations area in Australia. The island nation has the best fiscal regime in the Asia Pacific region for upstream oil and gas activity and a simple tax system.



EU parliament accepts Hungarian candidate for Commission launch

JAN STRUPCZEWSKI

THE EUROPEAN Parliament yesterday accepted Hungary's candidate for commissioner in the new European Union executive arm, removing a key obstacle to the launch of the new Commission on 1 December a month later than planned.

The parliament, which under EU law can reject the make-up of the new Commission as a whole if it objects to individual commissioners, had earlier forced changes of candidates from France, Hungary and Romania.

New candidates put forward by Paris and Bucharest passed hearings in the European Parliament last week, but deputies asked the Hungarian to answer additional questions in writing by the deadline yesterday before they would endorse him.

Parliament spokesman Jaume Duch said on Twitter that party grouping chiefs had recommended the approval of Commissioner-designate Oliver Varhelyi.

The new EU executive, which can propose binding laws in all 27 countries of the European Union after the UK leaves, had been due to start on 1 November but the rejection of the three candidates made that impossible.

New Commission spokeswoman Dana Spinant said there was now a clear window of opportunity for the executive of president Ursula von der Leyen to take office at the start of December.

"The objective of the president-elect is, more than ever, to have her team at work on 1 December," she said.

The European Parliament is expected to endorse the entire Commission in a vote on 27 November.

The launch of the new Commission will steer EU policy for the next five years. *Reuters*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LONDON

Notice is hereby given that the Common Council of the City of London as traffic authority for the undermentioned streets made several Orders on **14 November 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 South Place which will be made under Section 14(2) & 14(1), Finsbury Avenue order made on 11 July 2019 which has been extended and Bartholomew Lane which has been amended. The effect of these Orders will be to prohibit vehicles (or pedestrians where stated) from entering the said roads.

South Place (Moorgate to Dominion St) ---- *Urgent Traffic Signal Works*
8am each Saturday to 6pm each Sunday from 16 November to 8 December 2019. Alternative route: via Lackington St & Dominion St; or Moorgate, London Wall, Aldersgate Rotunda, London Wall, Wormwood St, Bishopsgate, Primrose St, Appold St, Sun St & Wilson St.

Finsbury Avenue (Entire length) ---- *Utility Works*
Extended until 11.59pm on Monday 31 August 2020. Alternative route: None.

Bartholomew Lane (Throgmorton St to Threadneedle St) ---- *Carriageway Works*
8am each Saturday to 4pm each Sunday from 16 November to 8 December 2019. Alternative route: N/B via Threadneedle St, Poultry, Old Jewry, Gresham St & Lothbury. S/B via Lothbury, Prince's St & Threadneedle St.

Long Lane (Cloth St to Lindsey St) ---- *Christmas Trading*
From 14 to 25 December 2019. Loading & waiting restrictions will be increased to "At Any Time".

Smithfield Market Area ---- *Christmas Trading*
9pm to 9am each day from 18 to 20 & 22 to 24 December 2019. Parking, access & egress restrictions to the Market Area. All parking bays will be suspended. Affected streets: Long La, West Smithfield, Smithfield St, Snow Hill, Charterhouse St, Charterhouse Sq, Carthusian St, St John's St, East Poultry Ave & Grand Ave.

Prince's Street (Entire length) ---- *Carriageway Works*
9am on Saturday 7 December to 4pm on Sunday 8 December 2019. Alternative route: via Mansion House St, Poultry, Cheapside, King St, Gresham St & Lothbury.

Cornhill (Bank Junction to Birchin Lane) ---- *Carriageway Works*
9am Saturday 14 December to 4pm Sunday 15 December 2019. Alternative route: W/B via Bishopsgate and Threadneedle Street.

Bishop's Court (Old Bailey to Fleet Place) ---- *Building Site*
From 6.01pm on Saturday 7 December 2019 to 6pm on Monday 25 January 2021. Alternative route: None.

Lawrence Lane (Entire length) ---- *Mobile Crane*
7am each Saturday to 8pm each Sunday from 7 December to 15 December 2019. Alternative route: None. Motorcycle to be suspended.

Newgate Street (Queen's Head Passage to Rose Street), **Warwick Lane** (junction with Newgate Street) ---- *Mobile Crane*
8am each Saturday to 6pm each Sunday from 7 December to 15 December 2019. Alternative route: via New Change, St Paul's Churchyard, Ave Maria Ln and Warwick Ln. Warwick Ln will be closed to southbound traffic to facilitate diversion.

Fenchurch Street (Lloyds Avenue to Aldgate) ---- *Mobile Crane*
7pm each Friday to 3am each Monday from 13 December to 23 December 2019. Alternative route: E/B via Mincing Ln, Great Tower St, Byward St, Tower Hill, Minories, Goodman's Yard & Mansell Street. W/B via Aldgate, Leadenhall St & Gracechurch St.

Bride Lane (Fleet Street to New Bridge Street) ---- *Utility Works*
8am on Monday 9 December to 5.30pm on Friday 13 December 2019. Alternative route: via Fleet St, Salisbury Crt, Salisbury Sq, Dorset Rise, Tudor St, New Bridge St & Bride Ln. Remainder of Bride Lane to be made temporary two-way to facilitate access.

Rood Lane (Fenchurch Street to Eastcheap) ---- *Mobile Crane*
8am each Saturday to 4pm each Sunday from 14 December to 22 December 2019. Alternative route: via Fenchurch St, Mincing Ln & Eastcheap.

Enquiries to Traffic Management Services on 020 7332 1551

Carolyn Dwyer BEng (Hons),
DMS, CMILT, FCIHT
Director of the Built Environment

CITY OF LONDON

Dated **19 November 2019**

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FORUM

If three Labour members had voted differently in 1983, we might never have heard of Jeremy Corbyn

JOHN OXLEY ON THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR MPS
PAGE 24

CITY A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LONDON

THE PLANNING ACTS AND THE ORDERS AND REGULATIONS MADE THEREUNDER

This notice gives details of applications registered by the Department of The Built Environment

Code: FULL/FULMAJ/FULEIA/FULLR3 – Planning Permission; LBC – Listed Building Consent; TPO – Tree Preservation Order; OUTL – Outline Planning Permission

21 Thomas More House, Barbican, London, EC2Y 8BT
19/01134/LBC
Internal refurbishment comprising: (i) reconfiguration of plan form to kitchen/living room, (ii) construction of new mezzanine areas over the living room and bedroom, (iii) refurbishment of the existing bathroom and kitchen and (iv) replacement of flooring and installation of suspended ceiling.

1 Prince's Street, London, EC2R 8BP
19/01148/LBC
Adaptation of entrance doors to become automated.

1-6 Lombard Street, London, EC3V 9AA
19/01154/FULL & 19/01155/LBC
Installation of a freestanding plant deck and acoustic louvred screen enclosure at rooftop level.

The Counting House Public House, 50 Cornhill, London, EC3V 3PD
19/01160/LBC
Erection of three angled flagstaffs for advertising the union flag

Salisbury House, 31 Finsbury Circus, London, EC2M 5SQ
19/01162/LBC
Installation of ten glazed screens to internal walls on the second, fifth and sixth floors.

Applications can be viewed at www.planning2.cityoflondon.gov.uk or at the Department of the Built Environment, North Wing, Guildhall, Basinghall Street, London EC2, between 09.30 and 16.30. Representations must be made within 21 days of the date of this newspaper online or in writing to PLNComments@cityoflondon.gov.uk or the Chief Planning Officer, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London, EC2P 2EJ. In the event that an appeal against a decision of the Council proceeds by way of the expedited procedure, any representations made about the application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

CITY OF LONDON

CITY DASHBOARD YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR BROKER VIEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

LONDON REPORT

Election polling lifts mid-caps to 14-month high

UK MID-CAPS closed at their highest level in nearly 14 months yesterday, boosted by polls pointing to victory by the ruling Conservatives in upcoming elections, while a near five per cent drop in insurer **Aviva** weighed on the main board.

The domestically-focused FTSE 250 index rose 0.2 per cent while the FTSE 100 added 0.1 per cent.

A win by the opposition Labour party "could cause turmoil on the markets given the party wants to renationalise several sectors and shake up taxes," Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell, said.

"However, a lot can change in politics in three weeks so the markets are likely to remain volatile right up to the big vote."

The bluechips ended higher after their worst weekly performance in four despite a fall in oil majors, as investors pooled their money into the so-called defensive stocks that are perceived less risky at times of uncertainties.

Contradictory reports on the US and China's trade dispute kept the market on edge. Chinese news agency Xinhua said the two countries had had "constructive talks," while CNBC reported that US President Donald Trump was reluctant to roll back tariffs.

Defensives from healthcare giant **Astrazeneca** to consumer goods company **Reckitt Benckiser** gained, despite rises in the pound.

Aviva fell 4.6 per cent to its lowest point since October after the insurer said it would keep its operations in Singapore and China amid speculation of a sale of the Singapore business.

Among smaller companies, **IQE** plunged 23 per cent after the tech firm warned on results amid issues with two of its main customers.

Astrazeneca's share price rose 1.86 per cent to 7,383p yesterday

Consort Medical sky-rocketed 44 per cent past the £10.10 a share level on a bid from Sweden's Recipharm .

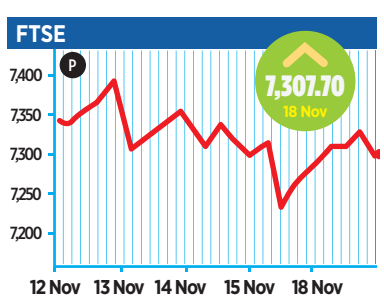
Biotechnology firm **Puretech** jumped 14 per cent to top the FTSE 250 index after its affiliate Karuna Therapeutics said its experimental treatment for acute psychosis in schizophrenia met key goals in a mid-stage trial.

TOP RISERS

1. **NMC Health** Up 6.17 per cent
2. **M&G** Up 3.01 per cent
3. **SSE** Up 2.18 per cent

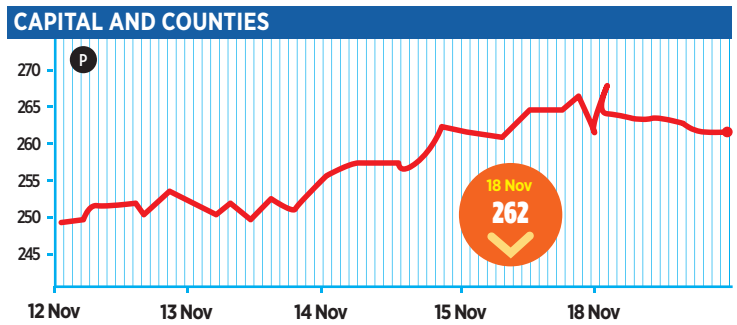
TOP FALLERS

1. **Aviva** Down 4.93 per cent
2. **Burberry** Down 3.02 per cent
3. **Glencore** Down 2.30 per cent

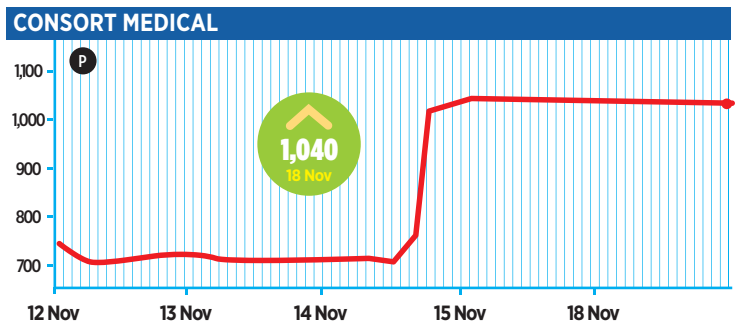


BEST OF THE BROKERS

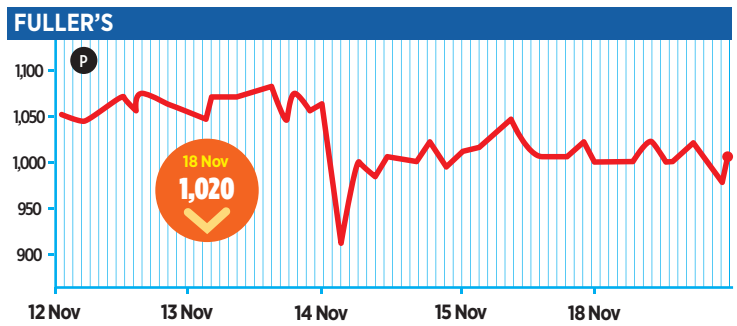
To appear in Best of the Brokers, email your research to notes@cityam.com



Property developer Nick Candy might have been left with a sour taste in his mouth after missing out in the race to buy a luxury property development in west London. Capital and Counties revealed late last week that it has sold its vast Earls Court site to APG and Delancey for £425m, despite one of Candy's funds considering a swoop on the FTSE 250 business. At a 16 per cent discount to book value, the deal is better than Peel Hunt analyst expected. They say the disposal is "clearly positive for the company", reiterating a "Buy" rating with a target price of 310p, up from 300p.



Swedish pharmaceutical group Recipharm looked to strengthen the health of its business yesterday after agreeing to buy its British peer Consort Medical for just over £500m. It said the offer represented a premium of 39.1 per cent to Friday's close of 726p. According to analysts at Shore Capital, Recipharm's return on capital means the deal looks attractive for Consort shareholders. The broker has moved its recommendation from "Buy" to "Hold" with a price of 726p after saying that it thinks shareholders should accept the offer.



Fuller's has announced that overhead costs in the retained pubs business will be materially higher than initially thought, leaving little room for any cheers at Liberum. The broker said that the announcement "will not help confidence in Fuller's short term transition into a pure premium pub and hotel business", as it cut the price target from 1,050p to 915p while recommending a "Hold" rating. Despite the short-term hit to profit, Liberum concluded that Fullers is still an exciting position with a large acquisition war chest it can deploy.

NEW YORK REPORT

Wall St inches up after mixed China reports

WALL Street's main indexes eked very slightly higher yesterday after closing at records on Friday and investors digested mixed headlines on US-China trade relations.

The market appeared to welcome Washington's grant of an extension for US companies to do business with Huawei since the Chinese telecommunications equipment maker was put on a US blacklist in May.

But also on investors minds was a CNBC report that the mood about a potential trade deal was pessimistic in Beijing due to US President Donald Trump's reluctance to roll back tariffs.

This was after Chinese state media said on Saturday that the two sides had held "constructive" trade talks, days after White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said they were close to a deal.

"We keep getting told we have this deal and it has yet to be finalised and then you get these reports going in the other direction," said Michael O'Rourke, chief market strategist at Jonestrading in Connecticut. "Investors are being patient because they don't want to chase new all times highs until they have clarity on trade."

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 31.4 points, or 0.12 per cent, to 28,036.22, the S&P 500 gained 3.25 points, or 0.10 per cent, to 3,122.03 and the Nasdaq Composite added 9.72 points, or 0.18 per cent, to 8,549.94.

Later this week, investors will turn their attention to minutes from the Federal Reserve's latest policy meeting, where the central bank cut interest rates for the third time this year. Also ahead are results from US retailers, including **Home Depot**, **Kohl's** and **Target**.

Shares of **HP** fell 1.51 per cent after the company rebuffed a $33.5bn (£25.9bn) offer from **Xerox** and said it was open to exploring a bid for the latter.

Coty gained 2.18 per cent after the cosmetics maker said it would pay $600m for a majority stake in Kylie Jenner's beauty business.

CITY MOVES WHO'S SWITCHING JOBS

NUVEEN

Global asset management firm Nuveen has promoted its president, Jose Minaya, to the position of chief executive officer (CEO). As CEO, Jose will lead the firm's day-to-day operations, including oversight of investment management teams and client businesses. He will help set strategy and drive key initiatives. He will also chair the Nuveen executive committee and engage with key clients, regulators and industry peers. Jose joined TIAA in 2004 after holding roles at AIG, Merrill Lynch and JP Morgan. In 2015, he became the leader of Nuveen's real assets business, where he was responsible for developing the firm's investment capabilities in real estate, agriculture, timber, infrastructure, energy and alternative credit. He was tapped to lead all of Nuveen's global investments organization in 2016 and was named president of Nuveen in June of this year.

MAZARS

International accountancy and advisory firm Mazars has appointed Frank Strachan as partner and head of tax investigations. Frank joins Mazars from Edwin Coe, where he was head of tax. He joins with a national remit, and will focus upon driving further growth in the tax investigations team across the UK, as well as providing expertise and guidance to Mazars' private client team. Frank has over 30 years' experience in representing clients subject to HM Revenue & Customs investigations. He has been listed as a leading individual in the Citywealth leaders list each year since 2016, and was named one of the 50 most influential private client practitioners in 2017. Lindsay Pentelow, Mazars UK head of tax, said: "Frank's role as the leader of our controversy practice is critical in helping clients to ensure they pay the right amount of tax and protect themselves as fully as possible. As legislation continues to grow in scope and complexity, Frank's expertise and guidance will be hugely valuable to clients."

LOC GROUP

Loc Group, the premier international marine and engineering consulting firm, has announced the appointment of Johan Gahnstrom as its new shipping operations director for London. An accomplished maritime professional, Johan joins the group from the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners, where he was a senior marine manager and led all facets of port, pilotage and nautical operations and tanker operations, while also resolving a variety of complex maritime issues. Johan brings a wealth of experience to Loc Group, having previously held senior positions at Petroport, SSPA, Qatar Petroleum and Angola LNG, amongst others. He also serves as a member of the Chirp Maritime advisory board.

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

FTSE 100	FTSE 250	FTSE ALL SHARE	DOW JONES	NASDAQ	S&P 500
7307.70	20440.50	4035.47	28036.22	8549.94	3122.03
4.76 ↑	36.10 ↑	3.48 ↑	31.33 ↑	9.11 ↑	1.57 ↑

£

/€	1.1698	↑	0.0017	€/$	1.1081	↑	0.0036
/$	1.2963	↑	0.0063	€/£	0.8549	↓	0.0012
/¥	140.75	↑	0.3700	€/¥	120.33	↑	0.1500

GILTS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Tsy 4.750 20	101.20	-0.02	105.2	101.2
Tsy 8.000 21	111.42	-0.05	118.4	111.4
Tsy 2.500 24	363.44	-0.59	377.9	360.6
Tsy 5.000 25	123.35	-0.15	126.0	122.9
Tsy 4.250 27	129.00	-0.12	132.8	125.2
Tsy 6.000 28	147.22	-0.14	152.1	143.1
Tsy 4.125 30	378.46	-0.71	404.2	364.2
Tsy 4.250 32	139.82	-0.23	146.4	131.7
Tsy 4.250 36	147.51	-0.21	155.7	135.3
Tsy 4.750 38	162.00	-0.20	171.8	147.0
Tsy 4.250 46	168.34	-0.38	181.0	146.4

AEROSPACE & DEFENCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BAE Systems	576.0	2.8	588.2	443.9
Cobham	154.8	0.5	168.3	96.8
Meggitt	630.0	1.2	643.0	458.0
QinetiQ	338.0	-0.8	351.6	267.0
Rolls-Royce	728.6	-4.6	988.4	702.0
Senior	184.6	0.0	260.0	174.0
Ultra Electronics	2144.0	6.0	2252.0	1232.0

AUTOMOBILES & PARTS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aston Martin	472.2	-28.6	1374.4	399.3
TI Fluid Systems	215.5	-2.5	223.0	155.2

BANKS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Barclays	170.3	-0.4	172.8	136.2
BGEO Group	1474.0	-18.0	1755.0	1252.0
HSBC Hldgs	575.0	1.3	680.6	570.3
Lloyds Banking	59.7	0.6	66.6	48.6
Royal Bank of Scot	224.9	0.2	270.4	177.7
Standard Chartered	697.6	-5.6	736.8	575.7
TBC Bank Group	1294.0	-36.0	1706.0	1150.0
Virgin Money UK	140.7	-0.2	220.1	104.4

BEVERAGES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Barr (AG)	605.0	23.0	975.0	540.0
Britvic	963.0	8.0	1068.0	782.5
Coca-Cola HBC AG	2454.0	-22.0	3074.0	2244.0
Diageo	3107.0	10.5	3625.5	2701.0

CHEMICALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Croda International	4720.0	-26.0	5375.0	4564.0
Elementis	172.0	-5.7	199.1	129.8
Johnson Matt	3165.0	-71.0	3454.0	2620.0
Synthomer	296.6	-7.8	429.6	29.0
Victrex	2360.0	4.0	2676.0	1845.0

CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Balfour Beatty	226.6	-1.6	295.0	194.2
CRH	2874.0	-12.0	2887.0	1971.5
Galliford Try	703.0	0.5	799.0	512.0
Grafton Group	820.5	-6.5	937.0	630.0
Ibstock	258.6	0.4	262.0	193.1
Marshalls	733.5	3.5	742.0	415.2
Polypipe Group	476.4	-0.4	477.0	312.8

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Smith (DS)	382.9	-5.2	388.1	292.2
Smiths Gp	1612.5	-22.5	1692.0	1340.0
Smurfit Kappa Gp	2728.0	-4.0	2760.0	1934.0
Vesuvius	412.0	-11.0	642.0	341.0

ELECTRICITY

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Contour Global	210.0	0.0	222.5	159.1
Drax Gp	296.2	6.0	413.8	251.0
SSE	1336.5	27.5	1336.5	1008.0

ELECTRONIC & ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Halma	1898.5	18.5	2094.0	1282.0
Morgan Advanced	275.2	-2.8	281.2	232.4
Oxford Instruments	1562.0	10.0	1592.0	842.0
Renishaw	3832.0	-116.0	4670.0	3232.0
Spectris	2598.0	-38.0	2898.0	2188.0

EQUITY INVESTMENT INSTRUMENTS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
3i Infrastructure	292.0	-0.5	306.5	249.7
Aberforth Smlr Cos	1340.0	4.0	1346.0	1114.0
Alliance Trust	810.0	-4.0	838.0	672.0
AVI Global Trust	763.0	-2.0	781.0	660.0
Baillie Gifford Japan	816.0	4.0	840.0	663.0
Bankers InvTst	941.0	-1.0	970.0	766.0
BlackRock Smaller	1520.0	0.0	1520.0	1160.0
BMO Global Smaller	138.1	1.0	140.6	122.0
Caledonia Inv	3025.0	-10.0	3110.0	2740.0
City of London IT	418.5	2.0	431.5	376.0
Edin Inv Trust	596.0	0.0	652.0	535.0
European Opp	792.0	4.0	875.0	666.0
F&C Investment	725.0	1.0	731.0	616.0
Fidelity China SPE	213.5	-2.0	250.0	183.4
Fidelity Euro Values	253.5	-0.5	257.5	202.0
Fidelity Spec Val	267.0	0.5	270.0	220.0
Finsbury G&I Tst	886.0	-1.0	958.0	741.0
GCP Infra Inv	131.4	1.4	131.6	122.4
Genesis Emerging	759.0	-6.0	785.0	618.0
Greencoat UK	145.6	0.2	148.8	124.4
Harbourvest Glb	1676.0	4.0	1786.0	1326.0
Herald Inv Trust	1350.0	-8.0	1364.0	1055.0
HICL Infr	169.4	0.4	174.0	156.6
JPM American	474.0	-1.0	494.5	386.5
JPM Emerg Mkt	987.0	-2.0	1066.0	794.0
JPM Indian IT	720.0	-10.0	790.0	633.0
JPM Japan IT	455.5	-2.5	462.0	367.0
Jupiter Fund Mngt	362.5	3.3	432.0	287.6
Law Debenture	604.0	-2.0	618.0	534.0
Mercantile IT	232.5	1.0	232.5	168.0
Monks Inv Tst	913.0	-3.0	964.0	710.0
Murray Intl Tst	1206.0	-2.0	1248.0	1058.0
NB Glbl Fltg Rate Inc	90.7	-0.1	91.5	87.6
Pantheon Intl Partn	2290.0	-5.0	2330.0	1955.0
Perpetual Inc & Grth	312.5	-0.5	339.0	284.5
Pershing Square	1414.0	-12.0	1570.0	990.0
Personal Assets Tst	42100	0.0	43150	38900
Polar Cap Tech Tst	1476.0	-6.0	1500.0	1066.0
Renewables Infra Gp	125.8	-0.2	133.2	109.6
RIT Cap Partners	2150.0	-5.0	2170.0	1892.0
Riverstone Energy	440.0	6.0	1196.0	434.0
Schroder Asia	447.5	0.5	469.5	389.0
Scottish Inv Tst	813.0	-6.0	843.0	748.0
Scottish Mortgage	512.0	-3.5	568.5	441.4
Sequoia Econ Infra	115.4	-0.2	117.6	108.5
Smithson Inv	1240.0	2.0	1280.0	1000.2
Syncona	221.0	-3.0	294.0	213.5
Temple Bar IT	1328.0	0.0	1366.0	1116.0
Templeton Em Mkts	786.0	-1.0	829.0	670.0
Vietnam Enterprise	489.0	-7.5	509.0	421.5
VinaCapital Vietna	337.0	-2.0	357.5	323.0
Witan Invest	219.0	-0.5	225.5	189.6
Wwide Healthcare	2820.0	15.0	2835.0	2325.0

FIXED LINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BT Gp	192.5	-0.5	262.9	158.9
Talktalk Telecom	104.9	-0.7	130.0	96.5
Telecom Plus	1280.0	2.0	1528.0	1130.0

FOOD & DRUG RETAILERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Greggs	2064.0	8.0	2476.0	1194.0
Morrison (WM)	199.3	2.9	251.2	176.9
Ocado Gp	1164.0	12.0	1435.0	749.8
Sainsbury(J)	209.6	4.8	318.0	177.1
SSP Group	656.0	-3.0	721.0	608.0
Tesco	235.3	1.5	253.0	189.6

FOOD PRODUCERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Assoc British Foods	2465.0	3.0	2575.0	2041.0
Bakkavor	128.8	1.8	170.0	93.3
Cranswick	3218.0	20.0	3408.0	2472.0
Greencore Gp	246.9	0.4	246.9	162.8
Hilton Food Gp	1010.0	6.0	1088.0	884.0
Tate & Lyle	707.4	-5.8	800.4	658.4
Unilever	4567.0	-1.0	5324.0	3941.0

FORESTRY & PAPER

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Mondi	1665.0	-10.5	1898.0	1510.5

GENERAL FINANCIAL

	Price	Chg	High	Low
3i Group	1043.0	-20.0	1184.5	756.2
Ashmore Gp	489.0	-5.4	542.5	343.6
Brewin Dolphin	333.2	-7.2	342.8	287.6
Close Brothers	1430.0	-12.0	1605.0	1227.0
Coats Group	74.2	-0.8	91.3	69.1
Finablr	178.6	0.6	179.0	140.2
Hargreaves Lans	1776.0	37.0	2433.0	1633.0
IG Gp	662.4	-4.8	667.2	474.8
Integrafin Holdings	388.0	3.0	406.1	271.8
Intermediate Capital	1494.0	3.0	1501.0	918.5
Intl Public Prtnshps	160.0	-0.2	165.4	146.8
Investec	429.4	-4.6	518.6	395.3
IP Group	58.1	-0.2	122.0	55.7
John Laing Gp	365.4	4.0	402.0	298.2
London Stock Exch	6840.0	0.0	7514.0	3867.0
Man Group	143.1	1.7	175.2	126.8
Onesavings	363.6	-3.6	447.4	313.6
Paragon	502.0	1.0	518.0	379.2
Plus500	765.0	16.2	1647.0	495.0
Provident Fin	433.0	-6.3	658.6	356.0
Quilter	141.4	0.3	156.6	110.6
Rathbone Brothers	2130.0	-10.0	2540.0	2075.0
Schroders	3209.0	-34.0	3262.0	2334.0
TP ICAP	368.8	-5.0	377.7	270.0

GENERAL RETAILERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
B&M	386.6	8.8	399.6	278.6
Card Factory	162.7	1.7	209.0	151.2
Dixons Carphone	119.3	-0.7	167.2	104.9
Dunelm Gp	826.5	-4.5	981.0	482.8
Howden Joinery Gp	614.8	21.0	614.8	416.4
Inchcape	643.5	-10.5	678.0	519.5
JD Sports Fashion	770.0	13.0	781.0	318.5
Just Eat	750.0	0.2	812.0	535.0
Kingfisher	209.7	-0.2	266.2	185.9
Marks & Spencer	181.5	4.0	309.6	163.9
Next	6726.0	86.0	6850.0	3991.0
Pets at Home Gp	208.2	1.2	239.4	111.5
Sports Direct Intl	331.2	9.6	331.2	214.0
Vivo Energy	124.8	1.8	139.5	105.6
WH Smith	2346.0	16.0	2346.0	1697.0

HEALTH CARE EQUIPMENT & SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Convatec	188.4	0.5	202.8	118.5
Mediclinic Intl	396.5	-4.8	401.3	293.4
NMC Health	2504.0	136.0	3678.0	1801.5
Smith & Neph	1673.5	19.0	1990.0	1380.5
UDG Hlthcare	790.0	0.5	821.0	551.0

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Barratt Devel	655.4	3.6	683.0	434.0
Bellway	3306.0	9.0	3536.0	2419.0
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4582.0	38.0	4589.0	3226.0
Bovis Homes Gp	1168.0	8.0	1226.0	828.0
Countryside Prop	369.8	-1.6	371.4	276.8
Crest Nicholson	367.6	-1.2	435.2	309.4
McCarthy & Stone	137.5	-0.9	158.8	123.5
Persimmon	2512.0	34.0	2512.0	1836.0
Reckitt Benckiser	5915.0	74.0	6703.0	5593.0
Redrow	654.0	6.0	654.0	460.8
Taylor Wimpey	174.4	2.8	192.2	129.3

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Bodycote	816.0	-1.0	903.0	652.0
Hill & Smith	1343.0	-18.0	1361.0	1049.0
IMI	1104.5	-8.5	1136.0	870.0
Melrose Ind	222.4	-0.3	226.0	146.3
RHI Magnesita	3928.0	-48.0	5000.0	3318.0
Rotork	334.6	-5.0	339.6	235.7
Spirax-Sarco	8335.0	-90.0	9400.0	5900.0
Weir Gp	1405.0	-18.5	1814.0	1240.0

INDUSTRIAL METALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Evraz	358.0	-5.3	709.4	351.0
Ferrexpo	137.3	3.0	301.3	123.0

INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BBA Aviation	305.8	-1.0	324.8	207.0
Clarkson	2750.0	-20.0	2900.0	1878.0
Fisher (James)	1862.0	-38.0	2260.0	1600.0
Royal Mail	230.2	-1.9	340.0	188.4

LEISURE GOODS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Games Workshp	5740.0	105.0	5740.0	2800.0

LIFE INSURANCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aviva	414.5	-19.9	438.8	352.3
Lancashire Hldgs	705.0	9.0	746.0	561.5
Legal & General	280.7	4.0	291.2	216.7
Phoenix Gp	719.9	-2.1	724.8	544.0
Prudential	1302.0	-9.5	1790.0	1302.0
St James Place	1068.0	6.0	1143.0	913.6
Std Life Aberdeen	310.5	-0.9	313.8	224.8

MEDIA

	Price	Chg	High	Low
4imprint	3000.0	0.0	3130.0	1800.0
Ascential	341.6	3.6	411.0	332.4
Auto Trader Gp	538.6	3.2	606.0	417.0
Entertainment One	557.0	0.0	589.0	336.4
Euromny Inst Inv	1306.0	-4.0	1498.0	1132.0
Future	1528.0	36.0	1528.0	465.0
Informa	788.4	-4.6	892.0	605.8
ITV	135.2	1.1	153.4	103.6
Moneysupermkt.com	358.6	5.6	417.7	267.0
Pearson	671.6	-6.8	1027.5	671.2
RELX	1855.0	6.0	2011.0	1581.5
Rightmove Group	604.8	11.0	604.8	420.9
WPP	974.8	-13.0	1038.0	800.4

MAIN CHANGES UK 350

Risers ↑		%	Fallers ↓		%
Puretech	249.00	13.7	Aston Martin	472.20	-5.7
NMC Health	2504.00	5.7	Aviva	414.50	-4.6
Diploma	1775.00	4.4	Cineworld Group	191.00	-3.6
Barr (AG)	605.00	4.0	Elementis	172.00	-3.2
Homeserve	1198.00	3.9	Burberry Gp	2083.00	-3.2
Howden Joinery Gp	614.80	3.5	Tullow Oil	143.65	-3.0
Grt Portland Est	807.00	3.1	Petrofac	397.20	-3.0
Sports Direct Intl	331.20	3.0	Premier Oil	85.42	-3.0
Energean Oil & Gas	921.00	2.8	Renishaw	3832.00	-2.9
CLS Hldgs	263.00	2.7	Wood Gp(J)	357.90	-2.7

MINING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Anglo American	2027.0	-10.5	2266.0	1539.0
Antofagasta	879.8	-2.8	1022.5	738.0
BHP Group	1686.2	-3.8	2049.0	1497.2
Centamin	113.6	-1.0	152.3	79.8
Fresnillo	624.6	0.2	1027.5	601.0
Glencore	239.5	-4.1	340.3	222.2
Hochschild Mining	190.2	4.1	227.0	153.2
Kaz Minerals	488.4	-7.8	738.4	380.3
Polymet Int	1185.5	16.0	1272.0	760.0
Rio Tinto	4166.5	12.0	4976.5	3513.5
Sirius Minerals	3.5	0.1	24.3	2.9

MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Inmarsat	558.4	-3.2	608.2	362.8
Vodafone Gp	152.1	-2.5	168.9	123.3

NONLIFE INSURANCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Admiral Gp	2079.0	30.0	2300.0	1958.0
Beazley	538.5	2.5	628.0	492.6
Direct Line Ins	273.7	-1.6	366.5	270.5
Hastings Gp Hldgs	171.1	-0.2	231.6	171.1
Hiscox	1235.0	-14.0	1777.0	1213.0
RSA Ins Gp	539.4	1.8	597.0	496.6

OIL & GAS PRODUCERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BP	501.8	-7.1	582.5	484.9
Cairn Energy	174.0	-2.4	213.8	140.0
Energean Oil & Gas	921.0	25.0	1082.0	568.0
Premier Oil	85.4	-2.6	106.2	55.6
Royal Dutch Shell A	2293.5	-14.5	2612.0	2213.0
Royal Dutch Shell B	2276.0	-16.5	2622.0	2218.0
Tullow Oil	143.7	-4.5	250.0	143.7

OIL EQUIPMENT & SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Hunting	412.4	-9.8	657.0	393.0
Petrofac	397.2	-12.2	559.0	381.5
Wood Gp(J)	357.9	-10.1	674.4	327.4

PERSONAL GOODS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Burberry Gp	2083.0	-69.0	2345.0	1623.5
PZ Cussons	201.5	1.0	244.0	178.6

PHARMACEUTICALS & BIOTECHNOLOGY

	Price	Chg	High	Low
AstraZeneca	7383.0	135.0	7580.0	5325.0
Dechra Pharma	2712.0	-4.0	3036.0	2014.0
Genus	3042.0	-34.0	3146.0	2146.0
GlaxoSmithKline	1714.2	14.4	1782.0	1418.0
Hikma Pharma	1902.0	13.0	2200.0	1510.5

REAL ESTATE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Assura	71.6	0.1	75.4	52.5
Big Yellow Gp	1192.0	17.0	1192.0	858.5
BMO Comm Prop	118.0	0.8	141.8	106.0
British Land	562.0	6.0	638.4	468.3
Captl & Count Prop	262.0	-6.3	270.5	184.8
CLS Hldgs	263.0	7.0	266.5	195.4
Daejan Hldgs	4915.0	65.0	6160.0	4715.0
Derwent London	3654.0	86.0	3654.0	2779.0
Grainger	273.2	1.8	273.2	205.8
Grt Portland Est	807.0	24.4	807.0	649.4
Hammerson	290.7	4.1	421.0	203.9
Land Securities	917.4	3.6	963.0	735.4
LondonMetric Prop	240.2	1.8	240.2	172.7
NewRiver Retail	189.2	3.2	246.0	147.6
Primary Hlth Prop	143.2	0.6	143.2	108.0
Safestore Hldgs	738.5	14.0	738.5	506.5
Savills	938.5	18.0	967.5	678.5
SEGRO	869.0	13.0	869.0	585.2
Shaftesbury	949.5	12.5	979.5	739.5
St Modwen Props	458.0	7.0	472.0	373.0
TR Property IT	454.0	4.5	454.0	353.5
Tritax Big Box	152.0	3.1	159.7	130.0
UK Commercial Prop	86.9	0.2	92.7	79.9
Unite Group	1200.0	24.0	1200.0	797.5
Workspace Gp	1113.0	19.0	1113.0	789.5

SOFTWARE & COMPUTER SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Avast	438.2	3.2	439.8	259.6
Aveva Gp	4432.0	58.0	4460.0	2284.0
Computacenter	1429.0	3.0	1525.0	952.0
FDM Group	807.0	14.0	994.0	647.0
Kainos Gp	568.0	8.0	676.0	430.0
Micro Focus Intl	1045.2	-17.4	2160.0	1004.0
Playtech	405.3	4.1	461.2	360.5
Sage Group	740.8	3.2	820.4	536.2
Softcat	1176.0	21.0	1176.0	565.0
Sophos	564.8	-5.2	577.0	298.2

SUPPORT SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aggreko	796.2	-3.2	855.2	691.8
Ashtead Gp	2347.0	-39.0	2392.0	1586.5
Babcock Intl Grp	532.6	8.2	594.2	416.7
Bunzl	2043.0	19.0	2551.0	1943.0
Capita	158.8	1.1	173.1	99.9
DCC	6624.0	-70.0	7496.0	5555.0
Diploma	1775.0	74.0	1775.0	1150.0
Electrocomp	633.8	-3.2	729.8	480.0
Equiniti	227.4	2.2	236.2	186.2
Essentra	410.4	-1.8	442.0	325.4
Experian	2427.0	-11.0	2631.0	1799.0
Ferguson	6886.0	-12.0	6898.0	4749.0
G4S	206.4	-0.1	234.3	168.3
Hays	162.0	0.2	165.3	135.7
Homeserve	1198.0	45.0	1263.0	849.0
Intertek Gp	5306.0	56.0	5962.0	4509.0
IWG	401.5	6.4	421.9	199.8
Network Int	532.0	-2.0	628.0	513.0
Pagegroup	460.6	-0.2	539.0	367.8
Paypoint	927.0	-6.0	1118.0	748.0
Rentokil Initial	441.6	-2.7	467.8	315.9
Sanne Group	546.0	6.0	752.0	450.0
Serco	158.2	-0.1	160.0	84.1
SIG	115.2	1.3	153.0	99.3
Travis Perkins	1526.0	30.5	1526.0	1012.0

TECHNOLOGY HARDWARE & EQUIPMENT

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Spirent Comms	217.0	-2.0	219.0	112.8

TOBACCO

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Br Am Tob	2878.0	26.0	3197.5	2375.0
Imperial Brands	1752.6	20.2	2713.5	1692.4

TRAVEL & LEISURE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Carnival	3221.0	-26.0	4650.0	3056.0
Cineworld Group	191.0	-7.2	321.0	191.0
Compass Gp	2015.0	5.0	2138.0	1583.0
Dominos Pizza	295.6	5.6	295.6	221.2
easyJet	1276.5	-25.5	1347.5	854.8
EI Group	282.0	-0.2	285.0	171.4
FirstGroup	116.6	2.9	137.5	79.3
Flutter Ent	8460.0	140.0	8460.0	5525.0
Go-Ahead Gp	2112.0	0.0	2234.0	2.0
GVC Hldgs	837.6	12.6	897.4	507.5
Intercontl Htls	4785.5	24.5	5738.0	4230.4
Intl Cons Airl	548.6	-8.8	667.6	413.5
Marstons	126.5	1.6	131.3	90.5
Mitchells & Butlers	454.0	-2.0	456.0	238.0
National Express	445.6	-3.4	462.0	361.4
PPHE Hotel Gp	1900.0	10.0	1990.0	1540.0
Rank Gp	227.0	2.0	247.5	135.0
Restaurant Grp	142.0	0.7	162.8	111.9
Stagecoach Gp	133.8	-0.6	177.0	115.5
TUI AG	1053.0	-8.5	1250.5	698.0
Wetherspoon (JD)	1569.0	5.0	1624.0	1066.0
Whitbread	4470.0	84.0	5114.0	3988.0
William Hill	177.9	2.6	205.2	132.3
Wizz Air Holdings	3872.0	-38.0	3935.0	2722.0

AIM 50

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Abcam	1345.0	39.0	1500.0	1017.0
Advanced Medical	253.0	3.5	354.5	225.0
Alliance Pharma	74.7	0.7	80.4	60.0
ASOS	3120.0	-34.0	5074.0	2107.0
Blue Prism	834.0	-36.0	1472.0	788.0
Camellia	9200.0	100.0	11750.0	9100.0
Caretech Holdings	385.0	0.0	405.0	325.0
Central Asia Metals	210.5	-1.5	266.5	180.0
Clinigen Group	852.0	-17.5	1069.0	721.0
CVS Group	1049.0	23.0	1049.0	395.0
Dart Group	1309.0	-16.0	1325.0	709.5
Diversified Gas & Oil	103.5	0.0	116.5	97.0
Draper Esprit	472.0	-4.0	548.0	410.0
Eland Oil & Gas	155.0	1.0	165.4	101.0
EMIS Group	1050.0	-14.0	1242.0	864.0
Fevertree Drinks	1907.0	61.0	2475.0	1732.5
First Derivatives	2435.0	-75.0	3555.0	2050.0
Frontier Devs	1220.0	-34.0	1254.0	740.0
Gamma Comms	1120.0	-80.0	1235.0	688.0
GB Group	665.0	8.0	665.0	410.5
Gooch & Housego	1192.5	35.0	1527.5	954.0
Hurricane Energy	41.4	-0.7	53.6	38.7
Impax Asset Mgmt	272.5	7.5	295.0	184.0
Iomart Group	354.5	-1.0	398.0	308.0
IQE	50.6	-15.2	98.0	47.6
James Halstead	504.0	10.0	532.0	367.0
Johnson Service Gp	174.8	2.8	183.2	113.6
Keywords Studios	1289.0	4.0	1838.0	900.0
Learning Tech Gp	111.8	1.8	130.0	62.2
M&C Saatchi	166.0	4.5	394.0	146.0
M.P. Evans	678.0	-4.0	703.0	612.0
Majestic Wine	260.0	2.5	379.5	219.0
Midwich Group	534.0	-4.0	633.0	474.5
Mortgage Advice B	623.0	0.0	630.0	546.0
Next Fifteen Comm	480.0	-2.5	658.0	465.5
Nichols	1560.0	5.0	1880.0	1350.0
Numis Corporation	239.5	3.0	285.0	212.0
Polar Capital Hdgs	528.0	2.0	604.0	448.0
Purplebricks Gp	108.2	0.8	132.0	96.0
Redde	106.6	0.2	127.6	100.6
Renew Holdings	385.0	0.0	436.5	333.0
RWS Holdings	585.0	-14.0	652.0	450.0
Scapa Group	231.5	-1.5	403.0	157.0
Secure Income REIT	422.0	7.0	454.0	371.0
Serica Energy	124.8	1.2	143.4	103.6
Smart Metering Sys	505.0	0.5	665.0	310.0
Telford Homes	349.5	0.0	358.0	267.0
Thorpe (F.W.)	280.0	1.0	340.0	248.0
Watkin Jones	216.5	-0.5	241.5	192.2
Young's Brew NV	1220.0	0.0	1238.0	1030.0
Young's Brew-A	1645.0	25.0	1885.0	1322.5

EU SHARES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
ADIDAS	270.95	3.50	296.35	180.10
AIR LIQUIDE	122.20	0.80	130.80	102.40
ALLIANZ AG	218.05	-0.80	223.80	172.16
AMADEUS IT GROUP	71.70	-0.28	71.98	42.30
ANHEUSER BUSCH INBEV	72.50	0.35	92.71	57.35
ASML HOLDING NV	248.30	-0.70	249.00	130.88
AXA	25.15	-0.09	25.38	18.54
BANCO SANTANDER	314.35	10.60	402.00	301.00
BASF	69.86	-0.63	74.49	56.20
BAYER AG	70.25	-0.18	72.81	52.53
BBVA	4.75	-0.02	9.56	4.19
BMW	73.18	-1.37	77.75	58.70
BNP PARIBAS	50.59	-0.04	51.34	38.55
CRH	2874.00	-12.00	2887.00	1971.50
DAIMLER	50.23	-0.45	59.31	40.53
DANONE	74.92	-0.26	82.00	60.28
DEUTSCHE POST AG	34.12	-0.21	34.34	23.72
DEUTSCHE TELEKOM	15.21	0.01	16.25	14.10
ENEL	6.90	0.04	6.98	4.60
ENGIE	14.34	-0.03	15.12	11.99
ENI	14.11	-0.11	15.94	13.04
ESSILORLUXOTTICA	128.75	0.00	128.75	128.75
FRESENIUS MEDICAL CARE	66.78	0.88	76.32	56.64
IBERDROLA	8.93	0.11	9.54	6.02
INDITEX	28.10	0.12	32.37	2.55
ING GROEP NV	10.49	-0.07	12.05	8.34
INTESA SANPAOLO	2.35	0.01	2.38	1.83
KERING	540.90	-4.90	545.80	374.20
KON KPN NV	2.80	0.00	2.96	2.34
L'OREAL	262.30	0.80	265.00	195.25
LVMH MOET HENNESSY	402.25	-3.25	405.50	243.25
MUENCHENER RUECKVE	256.90	0.50	256.40	185.10
NOKIA	21.88	0.00	21.88	21.88
ORANGE	14.77	0.27	15.16	13.15
ROYAL PHILIPS	40.95	0.01	44.34	29.10
SAFRAN	149.00	-0.90	149.90	100.70
SANOFI	84.41	1.33	85.25	72.24
SAP SE	122.06	-0.54	124.38	85.79
SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC	88.06	-0.08	88.14	57.58
SIEMENS AG	114.40	-0.60	115.00	85.00
SOCIETE GENERALE	28.27	-0.20	33.24	21.13
TELEFONICA SA	6.70	-0.06	9.18	5.94
TOTAL	49.02	-0.25	52.27	43.18
UNILEVER NV	53.67	0.19	57.56	46.03
VINCI	101.90	-0.15	102.40	70.50
VIVENDI	24.90	0.09	26.42	20.93
VOLKSWAGEN AG	175.94	-7.52	183.46	136.26

CRYPTOA.M. DAILY POWERED BY BEQUANT

CRYPTOCURRENCIES

Name	Price (USDT)	↑/↓(24h)	
Bitcoin (BTC)	$ 8,566.71	0.05%	↑
Ethereum (ETH)	$ 183.41	0.84%	↑
Ripple (XRP)	$ 0.26	-0.59%	↓
Bitcoin Cash (BCH)	$ 267.98	0.04%	↑
Litecoin (LTC)	$ 59.38	0.77%	↑
EOS.IO (EOS)	$ 3.40	0.79%	↑
Bitcoin SV (BSV)	$ 124.24	-0.33%	↓
TRON (TRON)	$ 0.01	0.28%	↑
NEO (NEO)	$ 12.31	-2.92%	↓
Cardano (ADA)	$ 0.04	5.33%	↑
CryptoCompare Large Cap Index		0.58%	↑
CryptoCompare Small Cap Index		1.99%	↑

Market	$234,768,724,027	
Bitcoin Volatility	-1.43%	↓
Bitcoin Volume on BEQUANT Exchange (USDT)	166,511,244	

Sources: Bequant.io, CryptoCompare.com
Prices and data are correct as of 09:00, 18.11.2019
Crypto AM features in City AM every Tuesday.
Previous Editions:www.cityam.com/crypto-insider
Read more at: https://bequant.pro/cityam

CRYPTO & COFFEE

The large caps continued to trade weaker which, despite lower liquidity supported flows into small caps where there is a better opportunity to capture alpha on the back of relative value plays or event driven strategies. So much so that over the last month, the small cap MVIS index is up 14%, while the large cap index is only up 5%.

The hashrate for Bitcoin continues to oscillate around 100 quintillion hashes per second and general consensus is that the hashrate will resume its uptrend as miners make the last dash ahead of next year's block reward halving. As such, even though the sentiment is showing no signs up recovering just yet, the current low volatility environment is unlikely to last.

On the global macro front, Hong-Kong liquidity conditions in the FX market are the tightest since the late 1990s, or the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis. Cracks are starting to emerge in HKD and money markets, as traders speculate the local dollar's resilience to increasingly violent protests won't last. However, the safe haven trade hasn't been as straight forward, given that over in the US, all major US stock indexes closed at record highs on Friday.

COMMODITIES

Gold	1466.90	+0.25
Silver (Pence)	1687.00	-16.50
Silver (Cents)	1310.00	-17.00
Krugerrand	1486.15	+4.12
Brent Crude	63.30	+1.02
Platinum	883.00	+11.00
British Sovereign	347.28	+0.94
Lead Cash Official	2003.50	-19.50
Copper Cash Official	5811.75	-22.75
Aluminium Cash Official	1740.50	-15.50
Nickel Cash Official	14985.00	-367.50
Aluminium Alloy Cash Official	1295.00	-40.00
Natural Gas	41.03	+0.44
Tin Cash Official	16250.00	+67.50
Zinc Cash Official	2426.50	-1.00
White Sugar	336.70	+5.30

TOURIST RATES

Canada	1.6293
Croatia	7.8656
Czech Republic	27.53
Denmark	8.3207
Hong Kong	9.6168
Iceland	140.83
India	81.91
Israel	4.046
New Zealand	1.882
Norway	11.22
Poland	4.4065
Singapore	1.6416
Sweden	11.92
Switzerland	1.2207
Turkey	7.0707
United States	1.236

WORLD INDICIES

	Price	Chg	%Chg
FTSE 100	7307.70	+4.76	+0.07
FTSE 250	20440.50	+36.10	+0.18
FTSE All-Share	4035.47	+3.48	+0.09
FTSE AIM All-Share	894.10	+1.80	+0.20
S&P 500	3122.03	+1.57	+0.05
Dow Jones I.A	28036.22	+31.33	+0.11
Nasdaq Composite	8549.94	+9.11	+0.11
Xetra DAX	13207.01	-34.74	-0.26
CAC 40	5929.79	-9.48	-0.16
Swiss Market Index	10347.18	+37.10	+0.36
ISEQ Overall Index	6888.40	33.43	-0.48
FTSEurofirst 300	1589.74	-0.68	-0.04
Hang Seng	26681.09	+354.43	+1.35
Nikkei	23416.76	+113.44	+0.49
STI Index	3258.66	+19.80	+0.61
ASX All Ordinaries	6871.70	-27.20	-0.39

US SHARES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
3M	170.54	-1.34	219.50	150.74
ABBOTT LABORATORIES	84.26	-1.45	88.74	65.56
ADOBE INC	297.16	-0.34	311.27	205.16
ALPHABET NON VTG-C	1320.70	-14.17	1334.87	976.22
ALPHABET-A	1319.84	-13.70	1333.54	1116.79
AMAZON.COM	1752.53	13.04	2020.99	1343.96
AMERICAN EXPRESS	119.66	-1.10	128.57	89.50
APPLE INC	267.10	1.34	265.76	142.19
AT&T	39.63	0.13	39.50	27.36
BANK OF AMERICA	32.96	0.03	33.26	22.73
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY	219.35	-0.39	222.74	187.76
BOEING CO	369.46	-2.22	432.69	294.16
CATERPILLAR INC	143.59	-1.72	148.16	113.38
CHEVRON	118.55	-2.09	126.54	100.99
CISCO SYSTEMS	45.15	0.06	58.05	40.28
CITIGROUP	74.40	0.00	76.12	49.26
COCA-COLA CO	53.03	0.36	55.77	44.69
COMCAST	44.61	0.05	46.97	33.07
DOW	54.32	-0.54	66.65	40.71
EBAY INC	35.10	-0.17	41.57	26.14
EXXON MOBIL	68.52	-0.67	83.38	65.51
FACEBOOK	197.40	2.30	204.87	174.60
GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP	219.73	-0.52	223.29	156.35
HOME DEPOT INC	238.85	1.56	237.93	158.14
HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL	179.80	-1.95	182.01	124.83
IBM	134.31	-0.09	151.36	107.57
INTEL	58.25	0.29	58.82	43.46
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	134.83	-0.11	147.84	122.84
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO	130.62	1.09	130.38	92.14
MASTERCARD INC	280.86	0.08	292.08	174.65
MCDONALD'S	194.28	0.31	221.15	170.28
MEDTRONIC	111.25	-0.81	112.06	82.45
MERCK & CO	84.13	-0.77	86.91	71.15
MICROSOFT	150.34	0.37	149.97	94.13
NETFLIX	302.57	7.54	385.03	233.88
NIKE INC	94.18	1.14	96.22	67.53
ORACLE	56.19	-0.23	60.15	42.69
PAYPAL HOLDINGS	103.66	-0.54	121.30	96.64
PEPSICO	134.06	0.25	140.28	118.61
PFIZER INC	37.22	-0.06	46.23	34.24
PROCTER & GAMBLE	121.89	1.35	124.94	87.36
TRAVELERS COMPANIES	134.29	0.72	154.83	112.63
TWITTER	29.49	0.24	45.42	28.89
UNITED HEALTH GROUP	272.93	3.53	286.33	215.26
UNITED TECHNOLOGIES	149.11	-0.25	149.36	102.06
VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS	59.44	-0.07	61.05	53.05
VISA	179.66	-0.11	185.74	168.86
WALGREENS BOOTS ALLIANCE	61.94	-0.20	76.05	49.29
WALMART	120.25	1.38	120.98	85.82
WALT DISNEY CO	147.65	2.98	148.72	100.35
WELLS FARGO & CO	54.00	0.20	54.35	43.38

FORUM

EDITED BY RACHEL CUNLIFFE

The secret to how our election candidates are really chosen

John Oxley

THE ELECTION is 23 days away, and the close of nominations last week has confirmed the runners and riders: 3,322 people seeking a place on the green benches.

Yet despite the enthusiasm of the thousands, from Advance Together (five candidates) to the Young People's Party UK (three candidates), most seats remain a foregone conclusion. Unless you live in one of the few dozen battleground seats, you already know who your MP will be.

For these candidates, the toughest electoral test they faced in 2019 will be long gone: the selection. Though the parties differ in many things, the way to make it onto a ballot is largely similar.

Parties approve a central list, narrow candidates down to seat shortlists, and then despatch them to local party meetings. After a brief Q&A in a draughty church hall, local members vote, and whoever has wowed the assembled hundred or so moves forward.

The approval of fewer than 50 people can easily propel you to a majority of 20,000-plus.

Popular reports suggest that this is a process rife with patronage, schemes, and stitch-ups. That all of the major parties have had to sack candidates between selection and the election shows its failings — with obvious incidents of sexism and antisemitism, for example, coming to light only after a candidate has been garlanded.

The selection of candidates is perhaps the most important and least understood aspect of our democratic system. Those who go into parliament shape politics at the highest level. They vote on legislation, speak in debates, and make up crucial select committees — but they also have a large hand in selecting the leaders of both major parties.

That means, indirectly, that local party members can have a surprising amount of influence. It is worth remembering that if three Labour members in Islington's 1983 selection had voted differently, we might never have heard of Jeremy Corbyn.

The cohort of MPs tends to reflect both the spirit of the age and the peculiar concerns of local people. Glancing back across the makeup of the Commons since the war, it is clear how the green benches have undergone a transformation.

The most obvious is the advance of women MPs. Until the 1980s, no more than five per cent of parliamentarians at any time were female. It is now one third, and is set to rise again this time around.

Equally there is far more representation by individuals from minority ethnic backgrounds (eight per cent) and openly LGBTQ people (seven per cent), even if these numbers lag behind the general population.

These figures, however, mask the broader cultural changes that have run through parliament. The initial post-war parliaments were a curious mix of largely patrician Tories — well-educated and from wealthy families — and Labour members who had often risen up literally from the coalface. Both groups have declined.

Since the 1970s, the proportion of Conservative MPs educated at Oxford and Cambridge has fallen by a third, despite those institutions both expanding in numbers and broadening access.

The selection process is the most important and least understood aspect of our democracy

Meanwhile, the proportion of former manual workers coming on to the green benches has plummeted — just three per cent compared with 16 per cent in 1979. It is arguable that those who work with their hands are the least represented section of our society in parliament, while those who worked as a local politician or political adviser now make up 17 per cent of our legislators. Interestingly, only five per cent of Labour MPs' last job was in business or commerce.

The way the parties choose their MPs, and therefore who they select, matters greatly for the future of our country. MPs rely on the life experiences and skills which they have built up outside of parliament to represent us. That MPs in the fifties and sixties were often men whose youth had been shattered by war was important — it drove their desire to contain the Cold War and prevent the rise of anything akin to Nazism.

Similarly, the grammar school boys and children of immigrants with which Margaret Thatcher surrounded herself — the "Cambridge Mafia" of Ken Clarke, Michael Howard and co. — were imbued with stories of individual hard work and a fear of the authoritarian states their parents had often fled. It was a key ingredient in the advent of Thatcherism.

And the influx of Blair's metropolitan Labourites equally transformed his party into one the managerial classes could vote for.

The makeup of the Commons is as crucial as it is overlooked. It must be representative and diverse — not only in terms of what our MPs look like, but their cultural and working background.

A government with no experience of business will not be helpful for the private sector, while marginalising manual workers excludes the life experiences of many.

There is no easy fix for making our parliament more representative. But until the public becomes more informed about the selection process, the majority of individuals in our legislature will continue to face little electoral scrutiny beyond a handful of local, unrepresentative party members, far away from the ballot box.

John Oxley is a Conservative commentator.

Politicians need to take the brakes off e-scooters for a greener commute to work

Alan Clarke

IF YOU are stuck in traffic, watching another diesel taxi go past, you won't be alone in wishing for cleaner ways to travel around London. New research shows that nearly 70 per cent of people don't think politicians are doing enough to encourage alternative, environmentally friendly transport options.

So, what are these alternatives? Right now, candidates from all parties are out knocking on doors with grand plans to make the UK a greener place. But these grand visions lack simple, pragmatic policies that would give people better choices in how to travel today.

Luckily, there's a policy that could have an immediate, positive impact: legalising electric scooters. E-scooters are an emission-free, convenient and affordable alternative to cars. If you live or work in London, you know how popular they are already.

In fact, with the number you see ridden (illegally, at least for the moment) around the capital, it is no surprise that 48 per cent of people think e-scooters should be legalised.

E-scooters are already commonplace across Europe. In Paris, they now account for around one per cent of all city journeys. To take our own brand as an example, Lime users alone have ridden a distance equivalent to 50 times around the Earth and replaced over a million vehicle journeys.

If usage were similar in London, the potential reduction in CO_2 would be too significant for policymakers to pass up.

The current approach to improving the capital's air quality has focused on banning and penalising polluting travel options. And that works up to a point — London's Ultra-Low Emission Zone (Ulez) is already having a positive impact, cutting levels of nitrogen dioxide by 30 per cent since April. But if initiatives like the Ulez are an environmental policy stick, Londoners still need to be offered a carrot.

Of course, we need to make sure that all e-scooters that make it onto our roads are safe, integrate with other road users, and don't clutter the streets. The city needs simple, clear rules to allow safe and responsible use of e-scooters in the UK.

First, e-scooters must have minimum safety features. They are not toys. They should have a capped top speed of 15.5mph, front and rear brakes, lights, and suspension to cope with London's potholes.

Second, e-scooters should only be allowed on roads and cycle lanes, and banned from pavements to ensure the safety of pedestrians. We already have laws that allow you to ride an e-bike, if it meets safety requirements, without a licence or insurance. These should be applied to e-scooters too.

Regulation should also encourage shared, dockless e-scooter services — an affordable option for nearly 30 per cent of Londoners who say that they would like to travel by e-scooter. But cities should also be able to limit the number of companies allowed to operate, so they aren't overrun with different e-scooters.

Finally, e-scooter companies should give back to cities by sharing anonymised data for policymakers to better understand how people travel, so they can decide where to invest to get people out of cars.

Politicians from all parties should commit to taking the brakes off e-scooters, to deliver the greener future that we all want. F ingers crossed at the election after this one we can legally ride e-scooters to the polling station.

Alan Clarke is director of UK policy and government affairs at Lime.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

We must spread the R&D love

Last week, Boris Johnson committed to doubling the country's research and development budget to £18bn per year over the next parliament: a level of investment that would exceed the £14bn we spend annually on policing.

The UK currently spends less on R&D than other wealthy countries as a percentage of GDP, so other parties have joined the Conservatives in pledging to significantly increase R&D spending across the economy. But currently, too high a share of R&D money ends up in the south-east and on blue-sky research, and too little is spent on making sure that R&D has a real impact on people's lives.

Just spending lots more public money risks exacerbating this problem.

Public R&D funds should be invested in a way that maximises social and economic impact. That means giving more money to places to spend in their own way, directing the money towards societal goals like addressing the climate crisis, and helping researchers and businesses make the most of their ideas.

The incoming government needs to invest increased R&D money wisely. If it does, it can be a real game-changer for the UK economy and wider society.

Greg Falconer, director of innovation policy, Nesta

BEST OF TWITTER

On paper, keeping corporation tax at 19% could raise £6bn pa, based on HMRC's ready reckoners for the *direct* effects of tax changes. But these do not include the impact on revenues from other taxes, or wider economic factors, such as the impact on investment (which will be bad).
@julianHjessop

I've long argued that once we got down to 20% further cuts to corporation tax had diminishing benefits — there are plenty of better other uses of the money to support growth or social priorities
@rbrharrison

We tend to talk about what we will raise by increasing income tax rates separately from what we will raise by closing down avoidance. But of course the two are closely linked. If your tax system looks like a colander it's much harder to raise money by raising rates.
@JolyonMaugham

It's the National Health Service not the International Health Service. Everyone should make a fair contribution towards our NHS — so after Brexit we'll extend the NHS surcharge to all non-UK residents
@MSmithsonPB

Love this country but I'm two years in and I've paid £2400 in NHS surcharges so far despite being a full-time working taxpayer who can't actually claim any public funded benefits should I become ill or disabled until at least 2025
@TaliaShadwell

Pro-tip: if you buy and start an advent calendar today it will count you down until Election Day.
@jamesrbuk

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

Cash injections aren't enough to save an unreformed NHS

Claudia Martinez

IF THERE is one thing you can count on during a General Election, it's that the NHS will be ground zero of the political battle. Labour will scream that the health service is not safe in Tory hands, while the Conservatives will trumpet their undying love — and investment in — our NHS.

The backdrop for this latest campaign is the data last week showing A&E waiting times at a record high, and with the decisions to hold an election in the run-up to Christmas, alarm bells are already ringing about the impending winter crisis.

To absolutely no one's surprise, the parties are responding with a bidding war over NHS funding, each trying to out-do the other by pledging billions more in spending.

Setting aside the questionable affordability of this Santa-style gifting, throwing money at an unreformed system is simply not the answer.

Looking past the headlines, last week's stats reveal that one in three people attended hospital for minor injuries and illnesses. In other words, a third of those turning up could most likely have been treated by GPs and other primary care health workers.

There is a wealth of evidence showing that good primary care can alleviate pressures on emergency departments by preventing conditions from escalating and directing patients to the right services.

Yet despite commitments to boost out-of-hospital care, there has been a worrying lack of focus on community services. Spending in primary care actually decreased in the last decade, and has continued to fall behind investment in hospitals.

Proving the point, only six per cent of the Prime Minister's £1.8bn cash injection for improving buildings and equipment announced earlier this year was earmarked for primary care. Politicians love shiny new things, but if the aim is better care for patients, the priority should be a fit-for-purpose primary care system.

One in 10 people wait at least three weeks for a GP appointment and many struggle even to get through to their surgery on the phone. Just 13 per cent of people think they can make a GP appointment after 6.30pm, and nine in 10 do not think they can book an appointment on a Saturday. No wonder so many people default to A&E when they see hospital as their only option.

Health secretary Matt Hancock recently outlined plans to create 50m more GP appointments every year, but details are thin on the ground. More encouragingly, there are successful models being implemented to increase accessibility to services, including expanding access to GP appointments, co-location of out-of-hours GP practices in A&E departments, or same-day and walk-in health centres.

For these efforts to be successful, however, we need urgent action to address the NHS workforce crisis. The plans from both Labour and the Conservatives to recruit thousands more doctors are laudable — but they are also unrealistic. From outdated working practices and crumbling workplaces, to cultures of bullying and discrimination, and under-investment in training, it is no wonder we are seeing an exodus of health professionals — and struggling to recruit new ones.

To boost GP numbers, the parties must have tangible plans to tackle these issues, and that doesn't just mean throwing money at the problem.

It is undeniable that the health service needs more investment — last week's A&E data is just the latest in a long line of red flags, and with the population ageing, demand is only going to increase. But without serious commitment to wholesale reform, cash injections are not going to deliver the improvements voters want to see.

The electorate is used to being told that there is just "24 hours to save the NHS". Politicians are used to pledging eye-watering levels of cash to prop the system up. But this time, if the parties are serious about putting our health service on a stable footing, they should be trying to out-reform, not out-spend, each other.

A third of those turning up in A&E could have been treated by GPs

Claudia Martinez is health policy lead at the think tank Reform.

DEBATE

Who has the most to gain from tonight's TV debate: Boris Johnson or Jeremy Corbyn?

JOHNSON

LAUREN MCEVATT

The spectre of Theresa May's decision to dodge the debate in 2017 looms in the minds of Conservative strategists. It was a move that proved her poor leadership. Just taking part in tonight's debate marks this Prime Minister out as different from his predecessor. And his poll lead should solidify following a well-executed debate.

Going head-to-head also helps amplify the Conservative messaging that only Boris Johnson or Jeremy Corbyn can be Prime Minister. This should encourage wavering Brexit Party voters who are worried about splitting the eurosceptic vote to come back to the Tories.

Most importantly, it's an opportunity for Boris to put the poor oratorical reputation he has developed after some fairly lacklustre speeches behind him, and prove that he is the more statesmanlike of the two. Away from the rigid PMQs format, he has a chance to nail the Labour leader on his party's antisemitism and double down on the Tory narrative that Corbyn is unfit to be PM. If he performs well, that is.

Lauren McEvatt is managing director at Morpeth Consulting.

CORBYN

TIM BALE

Leader debates aren't everyone's cup of tea. Critics argue that rather than breathing life into a contest, they can suck all the oxygen out of the rest of the campaign. By including certain leaders and excluding others, they massively advantage some parties over others, and effectively turn a parliamentary election into a presidential one.

But research indicates that they can make a difference. And common wisdom suggests that, whereas they mainly present a risk to incumbents, they offer an opportunity to challengers — especially if, as in Jeremy Corbyn's case, expectations are so low that a mediocre performance might do.

Moreover, don't forget that Corbyn — who's fought and won two leadership contests — has plenty of debate experience. He may well be able to use the event to his advantage as style versus substance. He might even demonstrate to the public something which by all accounts is true in private — namely that he's actually likeable. If so, he'll have scored an important win.

Tim Bale is professor of politics at Queen Mary and deputy director of UK in a Changing Europe.

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CRYPTO A.M.

Our series on AI, Blockchain, Cryptoassets, DLT and Tokenisation

PARTNER CONTENT

CITY A.M.'S CRYPTO INSIDER

JAMES BOWATER

Building an entirely new, robust financial system from the ground up was never going to be an easy task, but building that third generation blockchain protocol was exactly the challenge that IOHK's Charles Hoskinson set, leading to the development of Cardano. IOHK utilise formal methods and functional programming languages - more commonly seen in mission-critical applications such as satellite and aerospace, to ensure the highest possible levels of software robustness and security. That approach has meant that the development process had been slow and steady. I have previously compared Cardano to EOS being a reflection of the Aesop Fable 'The Tortoise and the Hare'. Well there has been a sudden rush of activity from IOHK, as they prepare for the pending 'Shelly' era of Cardano's development, later this year, which will bring full decentralisation to the platform - initially via a testnet, which will allow participants to run their own nodes, run a 'stakepool' allowing participants to pool their stake of Cardano's native token, ADA, delegating the task of earning rewards by contributing their ADA to a stakepool.

With most Crypto prices showing red, Cardano has been pretty consistently in the green and at the time of writing Bitcoin (BTC) was trading at US$8,464.09 / GB£6,525.95; Ethereum (ETH) is at US$182.43 / GB£140.69; Ripple (XRP) is at US$0.2585 / GB£0.1990; Binance (BNB) is at US$19.73 / GB£15.67 and Cardano (ADA) is at US$0.04561 / GB£0.03498 Overall Market Cap is at US$233.91bn / GB£180.45bn (data source: www.CryptoCompare.com)

Changing tack, I thought it was time to talk about the OneCoin scandal. After speaking with Crypto AM contributor Jon Walsh, I learned that OneCoin is the world's largest scam at US$4.5bn that most people had never heard of up until this September when the BBC blockbuster podcast "The Missing Cryptoqueen" first aired. The magic of OneCoin was in it's product and the way it was sold directly through friends, family and acquaintances on social media (incentivised via a 10% commission of course). OneCoin was frequently hailed as "the Bitcoin killer" – where bitcoin was hard to buy, OneCoin was easy, where Bitcoin had had frequent attacks on exchanges, OneCoin was secure, where Bitcoin was slow and expensive to send, OneCoin was cheap, and where so few merchants accepted Bitcoin, OneCoin was already building merchants via their own Amazon style platform.

OneCoin though was / is a Ponzi scheme and the Missing Cryptoqueen is Bulgarian Dr Ruja Ignatova who, as the multilingual CEO of OneCoin, would come on stage to fireworks and loud motivational music to mesmerise the audience and harden their belief that OneCoin truly will be the leader of this financial revolution.

The current status is that Dr Ignatova has now been missing and whereabouts unknown for two years, her brother is giving evidence against her in absentia in court in New York this month and ever hopeful affiliates are still blind. Jon will be writing in fuller detail in the coming weeks, so watch this space!

LIBRA'S CHALLENGE TO NATIONAL FIAT CURRENCIES

Facebook announced Libra, it's proposed digital currency, on June 18, 2019. Libra's intended launch was 2020, but international regulatory pushback makes it uncertain when or if Libra will launch. Regardless, simply by being proposed, and simply because Facebook is involved, Libra is already challenging national fiat currencies.

LIBRA OVERVIEW

➢ Libra's stated purpose is bringing financial services to the globally unbanked by "...empower(ing) billions of people through the creation of a simple global currency and financial infrastructure." Users will directly and globally exchange low-volatility Libra (not local national fiat currency) using their mobile devices.

➢ Officially Facebook's Libra involvement is through its subsidiary Calibra. Calibra in turn participates in Libra via membership in the Libra Association (the "Association").

➢ The legality of Libra's novel model is unclear, but it does not seem to be clearly illegal. More likely there exists a regulatory vacuum. Libra's documents and Calibra have emphasized that Libra seeks to coordinate with governments to operate in a regulated and compliant manner. But, Calibra has refused to place Libra's launch on permanent hold pending US congressional approval.

➢ The Association is a non-profit membership organization based in Geneva, Switzerland. The Association was intended to have 28 initial members, scaling to 100+ members around Libra's launch. However, several payment providers, including Mastercard, Stripe, PayPal, and Visa, withdrew after receiving threats from the US Congress. When the Association held its first meeting on October 14, 2019, it had just 21 members.

Next, let's examine why regulators are so adamantly against Libra.

LIBRA CAN RAPIDLY SCALE.

Beyond transactions per second, cryptocurrency scale also refers to the rate of user adoption and ease/recurrence of usage. Bitcoin et al. have not been globally adopted by everyday users engaged in mundane transactions.

Libra is different and its competitive advantages have triggered regulators. Libra could rapidly and massively scale to the level of national fiat currencies. Facebook and its related products are already ubiquitous, with a userbase of 1 billion+. Libra has Facebook's vast monetary and technical resources supporting it. Even if a third of Facebook's users sign up, Libra will have a US-size "population".

LOW VOLATILITY LIBRA.

Libra's key innovation is that it could be the first reliable highly-scaled cryptocurrency to achieve low volatility globally.

The trading prices of most cryptocurrencies freely fluctuate. This volatility precludes their consistent use in consumer and business transactions. Significant fiat currencies (the US Dollar, the Euro, etc.) have low volatility against each other and rarely need to be exchanged given their large continental scales.

"Stablecoins" just inherit volatility from another source. Stablecoins are backed by, and usually exchangeable for, a specific asset. For example, Tether's USDT claims to be backed by and exchangeable for one US Dollar. In one sense USDT has trivial volatility due to its US Dollar correlation. However, since the US Dollar is itself volatile against other crypto and national currencies, USDT inherits that volatility. The same holds true for stablecoins backed by other assets.

Designed by Phill Snelling, Bowater Media

Crypto A.M. shines its Spotlight on Clear Factor

Clear Factor is a decentralised global invoice finance ecosystem designed for SME's with a mission to provide every viable SME with access to fair and affordable working capital.

The birth of Clear Factor came after principal sources of funding for loans to businesses and individuals were no longer available, following the financial crisis of 2008.

More than 10 years on, a group of financial professionals who were all affected, yet survived the financial crisis, joined together to create a community-driven global invoice finance ecosystem that will address a £2 trillion marketplace full of small businesses which are still being denied finance.

The Clear Factor board all have stories to tell, but none more so than the chairman, Ricky Shankar. Shankar launched his then software services firm Amsphere in 2002 which grew quickly and exponentially, posting 100% growth in revenue and profits in its infant years. When payment terms lengthened three years later, Shankar looked in to invoice financing and agreed an invoice finance facility with HBOS whereby Amsphere was able to draw down 85% of all invoices raised immediately.

It all changed in 2009 when HBOS was taken over by Lloyds and they merged to become Lloyds Banking Group. Lloyds recalibrated its risk assessment and Amsphere was now deemed 'high risk' despite being a reliable client and posting no bad debts. Amsphere was given six months to find a new invoice finance lender.

> "Clear Factor is focusing on micro and small segments of the SME market – those that are not currently serviced by banks for invoice finance.

Ricky Shankar, Founder & Chairman of ClearFactor.io

Shankar learnt an important lesson. Banks which provide working capital finance to any business, especially an SME, are able to decide the fate of that business as and when they chose no matter how profitable the SME is. The idea for Clear Factor was spawned with a simple mission, to help small businesses access finance without punitive interest rates.

Clear Factor's fair interest rate will be determined by the auction and agreed to by the SME and during the invoice auction, the interest rate is agreed via smart contract mutual consensus. Investors invest in different interest-rate pots. The pot that fills up the earliest is offered to the SME. If the SME rejects the offer, the auction begins again. All invoices are assessed twice – first by Clear Factor by entering into a legally binding contract with the debtor and latterly by an underwriter in the debtor's country of residence. Clear Factor uses Ethereum to create smart contracts for the outcome of each invoice finance auction and Stellar for cross-border money transfers of invoice finance in any currency.

Clear Factor is focusing on micro and small segments of the SME market – those that are not currently serviced by banks for invoice finance. There are no lock-ins, impositions, hidden costs or contractual binds and there will always be a quick payment against the invoice. The only fee is the ecosystem fee which is 1.0% of the withdrawal amount taken and this applies to the SME, individual investor and trade investor.

Clear Factor has a mandate to make sure that it is recession robust. It is about protecting SMEs from a possible future financial crash and a repeat of 2008.

For more information on Clear Factor please visit www.clearfactor.io

E: CryptoInsider@cityam.com @CityAm_Crypto In association with CryptoCompare

Thus no stablecoin will fundamentally replace or supplant the US Dollar. Stablecoins also have risks related to there being a single small private issuer.

Libra is different. When a user buys Libra, it is from an approved Libra vendor. The user pays in national fiat at the current exchange rate and receives Libra. These payments are deposited into the "Libra Reserve". The Libra Reserve fund is invested in low volatility assets such as the main national fiat currencies, deposits, and bonds. The nature and diversity of the pooled assets should result in very low volatility.

The Libra Reserve's investment profits first go towards maintaining the Libra network, with the remainder distributed to the Association members. Although "backed" by the Libra Reserve, Libra is not exchangeable for any part of it. Cashing out of Libra simply reverses the purchase process, with the user receiving the current selected national fiat market price for Libra.

Suppose Libra achieves Facebook-like scale and becomes a truly global medium of exchange. And, suppose it is low volatility like the US Dollar, but far superior to most developing countries' currencies. Why would a user ever cash out? What role then for national fiat currencies?

Libra's sovereignty implications are staggering. Many policy tools available to countries would become ineffective. For example, devaluing the currency to address a trade imbalance is futile if all transactions are conducted in Libra.

LIBRA'S US DOLLAR CHALLENGE.

The US Congress understands Libra's implications. In a July 2, 2019 letter to Libra, Congress wrote - "It appears that these products may lend themselves to an entirely new global financial system that is based out of Switzerland and intended to rival U.S. monetary policy and the dollar."

The main complaint regards a potential rival to the US Dollar. How is that thinkable? The global reserve currency, backed by the full might of the USA, and oil's trading currency, can be rivaled by... Facebook?!?

The unfortunate truth is that the US has long been debasing the US Dollar. Although the world has long resented the US' "exorbitant privilege", it was considered impolitic or dangerous to complain too loudly. BUT, as a consequence of Libra (and the US' defensive reaction) suddenly it is acceptable even for US allies to overtly discuss and take steps towards replacing the US Dollar. Even the Governor of the Bank of England (i.e., the US' best "special relationship" ally) is speculating about instead using a basket of digital central bank currencies as reserves.

China announced plans for a national digital currency immediately after Libra was announced. This has been a long time coming, but China's move so closely followed Libra's that it is hard to avoid the impression that Libra accelerated China going public.

Stay tuned.

Gordon Einstein, Founding Partner of CryptoLaw Partners, in conversation with James Bowater. Further information visit https://cryptolawpartners.com and Gordon's LinkedIn http://linkedin.com/in/gordoneinstein

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS PROVIDED BY CITY A.M.'S CRYPTO INSIDER AND IN THE CRYPTO A.M. SECTION SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS INVESTMENT OR FINANCIAL ADVICE. ALWAYS CONSULT WITH YOUR FINANCIAL ADVISOR.

CRYPTOCOMPARE MARKET VIEW

Global Access to Cryptoassets on the Rise

Last week bitcoin failed to make any serious headway - remaining below the $9,000 mark to trade at the time of writing at $8,470. Ethereum (ETH) is trading at $183, dropping slightly from last week's $190 level. While prices haven't been rising, other developments in the industry show how global access to cryptocurrencies is growing.

Leading crypto exchange Binance last week revealed that it's looking to support 180 fiat currencies on its platform. Currently supporting the Euro, the Nigerian Naira, Russian Ruble, Ukrainian hryvnia, Kazakhstani Tenge, and the Turkish lira, the exchange is looking to capitalise on markets where crypto presents a viable alternative to volatile fiat currencies.

Bolstering this trend, the number of Bitcoin ATMs throughout the world has now surpassed the 6,000 mark. Over three-quarters of the machines installed globally are in North America, with nearly 20% in Europe and only 2% in Asia.

In other positive news for investors, crypto projects with real products are also growing. The cryptocurrency-powered Brave browser, which rewards users with Brave (BAT) tokens for viewing content, officially moved out of its Beta phase, after gaining over 8 million users across various platforms. To date, it has already powered 475 ad campaigns for brands like Pizza Hut and Intel.

Last week also saw news that an unknown fund pledge to support internet anonymity using bitcoin. Comprising "people from different countries who met on the 4chan English-language imageboard" the group intends to donate $75 million worth of bitcoin to the development and protection of online privacy.

Finally, those looking to bet on the future price of bitcoin are set to be offered a new way to do so. Bakkt, a venture from New York Stock Exchange parent company ICE, is looking to launch cash-settled bitcoin futures. Complementing its existing physically-settled bitcoin futures product, the exchange is also set to launch bitcoin options on Dec 9th.

CRYPTO A.M. INDUSTRY VOICES

Will blockchain based decentralized applications take over the mobile industry?

Decentralisation as a theme and buzzword may not have reached the same levels as Blockchain and AI, however its potential impact on our infrastructure and systems has just as much potential. MONET was established to create an open-source infrastructure for decentralized mobile peer-to-peer applications. Its open source downloadable code enables decentralised applications to be built on mobile phones that envisages a future where like minded groups can congregate, exchange services and ideas in areas such as: transportation, delivery, housing, payments, networking and services.

One existing example of this technology being put to use is the news sharing app Twaddle, it enables users to share and discuss news stories with other users on the same local network. Twaddle uses MONET's consensus algorithm, Babble, to ensure that users see all submitted comments in the same order, thus removing the need for a centralized service, more importantly it enables users to own their data.

Twaddle's launch coincides with a time when the traditional media distribution model is rapidly evolving, the blockchain adds another dimension in how the news content and distribution model is conceptualized. MONET is introducing a suite of DApps to start building the next generation of mobile ad hoc blockchain applications. Users will be able to connect only when they need to and only for the duration of their interaction.

Twaddle provides a practical demonstration about why blockchain matters, the DApps that run on it, have the potential to democratise the Internet and refocus it away from the technology giants that currently control most of the world's information. MONET envisages a future whereby individuals are able to use decentralized applications to carry out tasks and complete transactions within small groups. By empowering individual citizens to have full control of their data, identity and digital assets, MONET's vision fulfills the original vision of an independent and free Internet that its pioneers imagined in the early 1990s. We are not there yet, and won't be as long as blockchain remains synonymous in most people's mind with cryptocurrency.

There is a growing awareness and discussion surrounding DApps, although real live practical applications are few and far between. MONET has been designed to ensure that the benefits of Distributed Ledger Technology can be applied to as wide a variety of mobile applications as possible such as the world's first decentralized chat app, Chatterbox. The Chatterbox app uses the Babble consensus algorithm to enable multiple mobile devices to chat without a centralised server. In addition to Chatterbox, MONET envisages being used to design ride sharing apps, accommodation portals and online platforms that will make up the digital economy of the future. In doing this MONET aims to unleash the promise and potential of decentralised, frictionless transactions and interactions between individuals who have traditionally been dependent on centralised systems and data silos.

The last generation has seen the emergence of the internet and mobile phone technology transform how traditional business models operate. The creation of blockchain technology and emergence of digital currencies as a means of financial exchange free from intermediaries has created an additional dimension in terms of how internet services and goods are conceptualised. Concerns regarding misuse of data and the growing power of Silicon Valley, is in part what fuelled the creation of MONET, its mission is to create an open-source infrastructure for truly decentralized mobile peer-to-peer applications that anyone can use and apply without handing over personal data. The technology now exists, only time will tell how it's applied and the impact it will have on how the internet and online services evolve.

Giacomo Puri Purini, Co-Founder of MONET. For further information visit https://monet.network

BLOCKCHAIN NETWORKS AND VALUE

Troy Norcross, Co-Founder Blockchain Rookies

Blockchain is one example of a distributed ledger technology (DLT). The premise is that a ledger of information is spread across multiple computers and kept in sync as new information is written to the ledger. As there are numerous copies of the ledger, any errors or tampering in one version are apparent. Thus the information in the ledger is tamper-resistant — the more copies of the ledger, the better the security.

A network is created by connecting each of these different computers. The computers are owned and managed by different companies who have all agreed to work together and to accept that the information in the ledger is a single "golden record". This group of companies operates under their governance principles, and the companies themselves form a network.

Blockchain is having the most significant impact at the enterprise level in the area of supply chains. Companies are using blockchain to gain greater transparency into their supply chain. For downstream suppliers, they are benefiting from faster payments. Blockchain is allowing for increased product and financial liquidity across the supply chain. And of course, supply chains are often very networked. Manufacturers may deliver to multiple carriers, wholesalers and retailers. And retailers may use various suppliers. This situation creates a web of goods, information and cash flows which can be recorded and tracked on the blockchain.

The network operates more efficiently because there is no need for reconciliation. Transfer of assets and funds are instantaneous and include finality. All transactions are auditable. There is reduced potential for errors and fraud. When operating blockchain across a complex network, all participants can benefit.

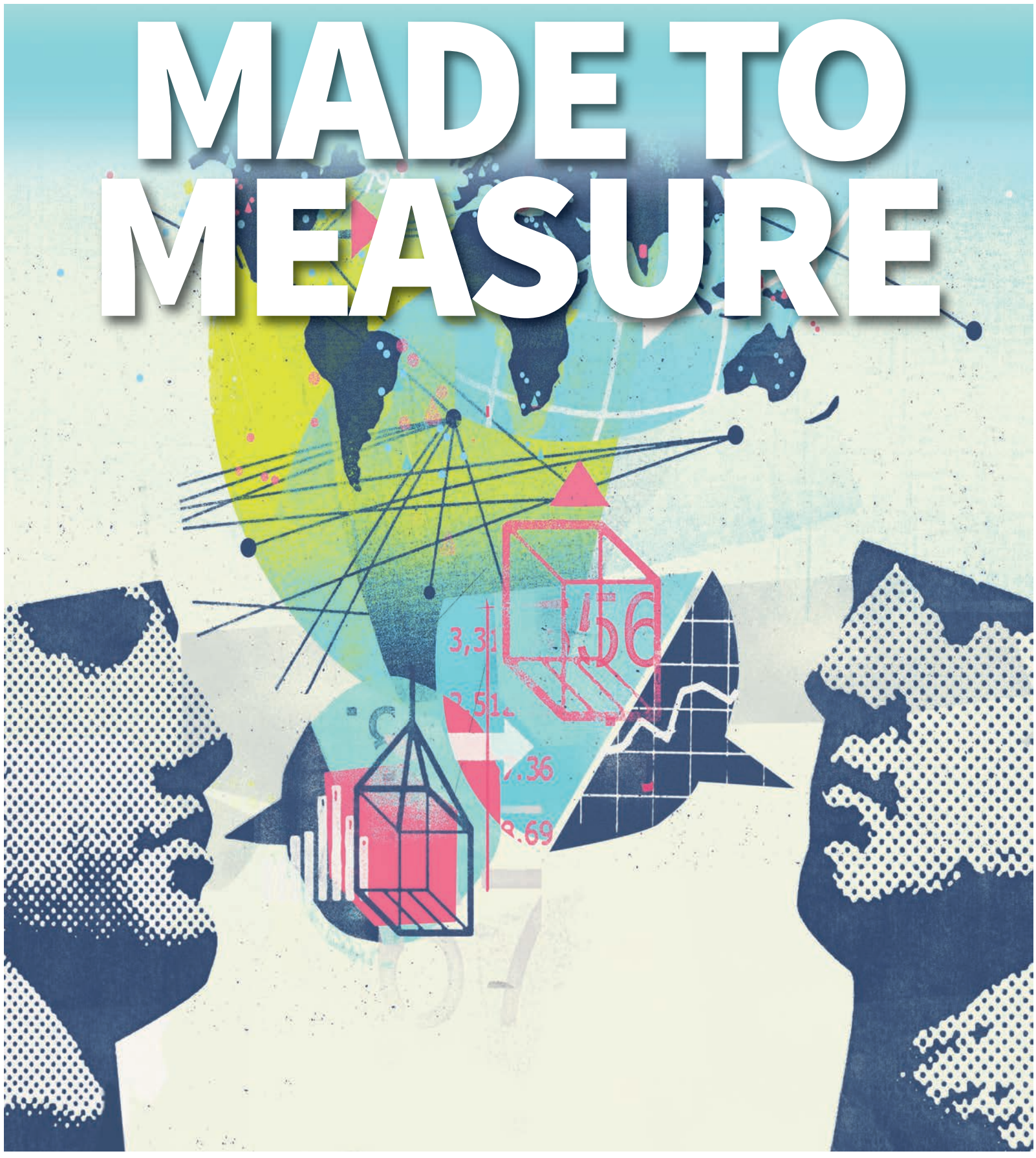
Blockchain is more than cryptocurrency. It is more than just a shared set of information. Blockchain is a network of computers, enterprises and value flows. And it is the network which gives blockchain its value.

Get in touch with us: info@blockchainrookies.com / Twitter @igetblockchain

TRADING & INVESTMENT

MADE TO MEASURE

Should we be worried about bespoke funds? **Katherine Denham** finds out



SEGREGATED mandates — possibly the most unsexy phrase you will come across all year. And yet, these boringly named contracts are becoming increasingly popular.

When wealth management firms hire a fund manager to run a bespoke investment portfolio for their clients, this is known as a segregated mandate. Take, for example, St James's Place (SJP), which hired now-defamed fund manager Neil Woodford to manage client assets across a number of funds in 2014. Woodford got into hot water earlier this year, which prompted SJP to sack him as manager of the £3.5bn mandate in June.

But while Columbia Threadneedle and RWC Partners were hired to replace Woodford for SJP's funds, the investments weren't completely unscathed from the scandal.

A spokesperson for SJP says: "We contract out the management of our funds because it gives us the freedom to choose the best managers from the global investment market, which are often only available to large institutional investors.

"We continually assess our managers and are well positioned to make changes quickly when appropriate."

Of course, if an investment manager gets into trouble, the firm has to find someone else to run the segregated mandate instead, and this can be a complicated process, particularly compared to an off-the-shelf fund where you can simply sell it if it doesn't perform as expected.

And yet despite this clear risk, more money is piling into these types of contracts. Looking across vertically integrated wealth managers and discretionary fund managers, research firm NextWealth estimates that there are £112bn in assets in segregated mandates. The company predicts that retail assets in segregated mandates will reach £190bn by the end of 2020. Meanwhile, some wealth managers, like Hargreaves Lansdown, are starting to use segregated mandates within multi-manager funds too.

And according to figures from the Investment Association, segregated mandates represented 66 per cent of assets managed for third party institutional mandates at the end of 2018, with the proportion increasing slightly from around 62 per cent when the IA began to collect this data in 2011.

Companies that commission these mandates can exercise more control over the investment decisions, laying down rules to meet their own needs. With SJP, for example, the firm restricts investments in unquoted stocks, meaning that fortunately, the segregated mandates were more liquid than Woodford's own Equity Income fund was before it was suspended.

The other, arguably bigger, benefit is that management fees are cheaper than buying regular funds — though whether this saving is passed onto the end client is another question entirely.

Mike Barrett, consulting director at The Lang Cat, notes that wealth managers can potentially get some additional margin from these activities. "The commercial terms of the segregated mandate between wealth manager and fund group are never disclosed, so the wealth manager can set the fees paid by the end client allowing for some margin to be generated." And while the end customer can normally see the total cost of investing, it's almost impossible to see exactly how this is divided between the wealth management firm and the fund manager.

Bearing in mind that pressure has been mounting for asset management firms to be more transparent (particularly when it comes to fees), the increase in this type of process seems like a step backwards.

Barrett also warns that if a fund manager is underperforming and the wealth management company can't secure the same good commercial terms with someone else, the firm could decide to stick with the same fund manager even if they are performing badly. The danger then is that the company fails to act in the best interests of the end consumers, particularly if the customers aren't actually benefiting from the reduced fees.

And even if the company does make the decision to switch managers, this model can make that process longer and more complicated.

> "The commercial terms between wealth manager and fund group are not disclosed

"The segregated mandate will have a legal agreement which may include a notice period, and therefore it may take longer to replace the manager than it does when you buy a fund and simply have to hit the sell button," says AJ Bell's head of active portfolios, Ryan Hughes. "The incoming managers will often have to reposition the portfolio into the companies that they want, which can also take time."

So should we be worried that huge amounts of money is being funnelled into these types of contracts?

"The jury is still out on the use of segregated mandates," says Barrett. "The theory is that they deliver a better outcome for the end investor through a combination of improved governance and a lower cost of investing. There is a lot of evidence for the former, but not a lot for the latter."

Barrett also points out that customers can't hold these funds with anyone apart from their wealth manager, who created the mandate.

"With 'normal' funds, if you decide that you want to work with a different wealth manager, you can do so without having to touch your investment portfolio. But a segregated mandate could well mean that you need to sell out and invest into a new set of funds."

In fact, Barrett warns that segregated mandates could end up being a barrier for people who want to switch wealth managers. With billions of pounds going into these types of funds, and a lack of transparency around the fees and decisions, it's something that we should be keeping a close eye on.

MOTORING

BY MOTORINGRESEARCH.COM FOR CITY A.M.

NEED FOR SPEED

The Bentley Bentayga Speed is officially the fastest SUV on sale, says **Tim Pitt.** But is that reason to buy one?

Zero-point-six-two miles per hour. That slender margin – half the speed of a spider scuttling across your bathroom floor – is enough to make the Bentayga Speed the fastest SUV in the world. Yes, Lamborghini rounds up to an identical 190mph maximum for its second-placed Urus. But whether you're blitzing a German autobahn or bragging in a country club bar, that 0.62mph advantage matters. Or does it?

A bit like building a really comfortable roller-coaster, it's perhaps a question nobody asked. However, the Bentayga always had an uncommonly broad brief. Launched in 2016, Bentley's first SUV had to be as cosseting as a Continental GT, as capable as a Range Rover and as dynamic as a Porsche Cayenne. Say what you like about how it looks (and several recent rivals are arguably uglier), to ace all three targets is no mean feat. Few vehicles do so much, so well.

The Bentayga initially came with a 608hp W 12, joined by the excellent 435hp V8 diesel a year later. The latter has now been ditched for a more zeitgeisty 462hp petrol/electric hybrid, while the former is succeeded by the Speed. It shares the same 635hp 6.0-litre W12 as the latest Conti GT and new Flying Spur: good for 62mph in a mildly preposterous 3.9 seconds, plus that record-breaking 190mph. Expect fuel economy in the low teens if you start embarrassing Lambo drivers, though (the official figure is 19.2mpg).

A price hike of around £20,000 – to £182,200 before options – seems steep for an extra 27hp, but the flagship Bentayga also gets an inside-and-out makeover. At the front, smoked headlights and a darkened grille tone down the standard chintz, while side skirts, a rear spoiler and arch-filling 22-inch alloys add some go-faster attitude. Inside, you'll find acres of Alcantara and quilted leather, plus Speed badges and optional carbon fibre for the dashboard. How much weight this saves in a leviathan 2,491kg SUV isn't disclosed...

BENTLEY BENTAYGA SPEED

PRICE:	£182,200
0-62MPH:	3.9 SECS
TOP SPEED:	190MPH
CO2 G/KM:	335G/KM
MPG COMBINED:	19.2MPG

THE VERDICT

DESIGN	★★★☆☆
PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
PRACTICALITY	★★★★★
VALUE	★★☆☆☆

Until you're confronted by a London width-restrictor, you swiftly forget the Bentley's sheer size. Its steering is nuanced and direct, while firmer suspension sharpens turn-in without ruining the ride. On country roads, the 48v active anti-roll system eerily counters the forces of physics, offering iron-fisted body control – and meaning your fun isn't at the expense of your passengers' breakfast (or indeed your Alcantara). The optional carbon-ceramic brakes merit a mention, too; they're phenomenally powerful, as you'd hope for £12,000 (only slightly less than it would set you back for a new Ford Fiesta).

Still, the 12-cylinder engine remains the headline act. It's outrageously overqualified for the job, defined as much by low-down torque as high-speed stats. Driving all four wheels via an eight-speed auto 'box, it will cruise in effortless near-silence or teleport you into the next time-zone. The W12 previously sounded a tad sanitised versus the more musical V8, but a new Akrapovic exhaust adds some welcome aural drama. Its metronomic throb swells to a full-bodied rumble, enhanced by fruity rasps and pops when you select Sport mode.

Three years ago, Bentley had the super-luxury SUV sector to itself, but others have since joined the party. Even Ferrari has its Purosangue 4x4 in development, due in 2022. For now, though, the Bentayga offers the best blend of abilities: more driver-oriented than a Rolls-Royce Cullinan, less compromised than a Lamborghini Urus.

It would be remiss not to mention the Hybrid and V8 again, both of which offer 95 percent of the Bentayga experience for 70 percent of the price (£130,500 and 136,900 respectively). Then again, neither is the fastest SUV in the world. And to some people, that matters.

Tim Pitt works for motoringresearch.com

NOT CONVINCED? CHECK OUT THESE ALTERNATIVES...

LAMBORGHINI URUS

		THE VERDICT:	
PRICE:	£159,925	DESIGN	★★☆☆☆
0-62MPH:	3.6 SECS	PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
TOP SPEED:	190MPH	PRACTICALITY	★★★★☆
CO2 G/KM:	290G/KM	VALUE	★★★☆☆
MPG COMBINED:	23.0MPG		

MERCEDES-AMG GLS 63

		THE VERDICT:	
PRICE:	£106,935	DESIGN	★★★☆☆
0-62MPH:	4.6 SECS	PERFORMANCE	★★★★☆
TOP SPEED:	155MPH	PRACTICALITY	★★★★★
CO2 G/KM:	320G/KM	VALUE	★★★★☆
MPG COMBINED:	20.2MPG		

PORSCHE CAYENNE TURBO

		THE VERDICT:	
PRICE:	£101,155	DESIGN	★★★☆☆
0-62MPH:	3.9SECS	PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
TOP SPEED:	177MPH	PRACTICALITY	★★★★★
CO2 G/KM:	258G/KM	VALUE	★★★★☆
MPG COMBINED:	20.8MPG		

OFFICE POLITICS

The four types of business philosopher

What would happen if one of history's great thinkers swapped places with your boss?

Jules Goddard

IT TAKES all sorts to make a world. And nowhere is this more true than in the office, where we sit side by side with and report to people who we would cross the road to avoid at lunchtime.

Unfortunately, modern management techniques, as well as the focus on economics and psychology, have created a crisis of disengagement and unhappiness at work. Something is missing from contemporary management thinking — and that something might just be a bit of philosophical inspiration.

Philosophy is an overlooked tool, but it is useful for helping us to understand and process the world — and the people — around us.

On that note, what would your office look like if it were under the influence of four of history's greatest philosophers?

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

Is your boss a bit of a firebrand who delights in turbulence? Then they are probably a Nietzschean.

Nietzschean managers loath conformity, and look for passion and strongly felt values. For Nietzsche, good leaders would be those who take the trouble to understand what their employees care about, and encourage them to have and hold a point of view, but would be unafraid to disagree with it — even at the cost of a parting of the ways.

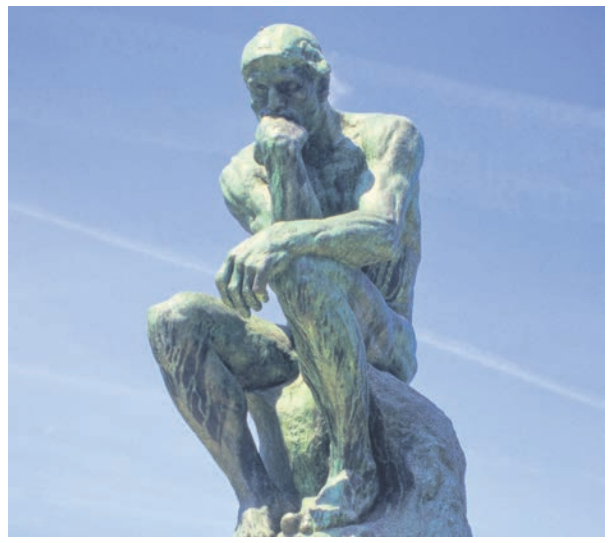
Nietzsche would tell us that we need to nourish disruptive individuals so that the organisation can rise to the challenge of stormy times. "Don't just think outside the box", he would say. "Destroy your box — before someone else does."

BUDDHA

You might think that the Buddha manager spends most of their time on a meditation cushion sitting quietly. There is some truth in that, but to assume passivity would miss the point.

Buddhist teachings have already made their way into the corporate world through mindfulness programmes, but the Buddha manager knows that mindfulness needs to go beyond feeling calm. It must also engender the emotional balance that we require to make the most of stormy times.

They also understand that people need a place of safety from which to operate and explore what lies beyond.



Is your boss a bit of a firebrand? Then they probably take after Nietzsche

ARISTOTLE

If your manager is profoundly suspicious of the idea that goodness is the outward expression of inner virtue, and that authenticity is the most reliable standard of excellence, then odds are that they are an Aristotelian.

The Aristotelian boss insists that there is nothing natural about goodness, and that moral virtues are acquired by practice. "We become just by doing just acts, kind by doing kind acts, brave by doing brave acts."

As a leader, the Aristotelian takes responsibility for inspiring those around themselves to model the behaviour of heroic individuals, believing that we act our way into the person we become.

IMMANUEL KANT

If you work for someone who's a bit embarrassed about being in charge, it is likely that they are a Kantian.

The Kantian boss hates the idea that anyone should surrender — or "outsource" — their personal agency to someone else. Instead, they will strive to transform the hierarchy, and create a team in which everyone routinely and naturally treats one another as they themselves would wish to be treated.

But the Kantian manager's greatest source of sorrow (and astonishment) is how many of his colleagues would prefer to take their lead from him — despite his pleas to the contrary.

Jules Goddard is a fellow of the Centre for Management Development at London Business School, and co-author of What Philosophy Can Teach You About Being a Better Leader, published by Kogan Page.

CHESS + POKER =

Choker
Free

This new mobile game aims to reignite people's love of chess by adding a modern spin to the classic board game. Instead of starting with a full board, players are dealt a hand of cards which become five chess pieces. This streamlined version of chess leads to fast-paced, challenging games against opponents.

COFFEE BREAK

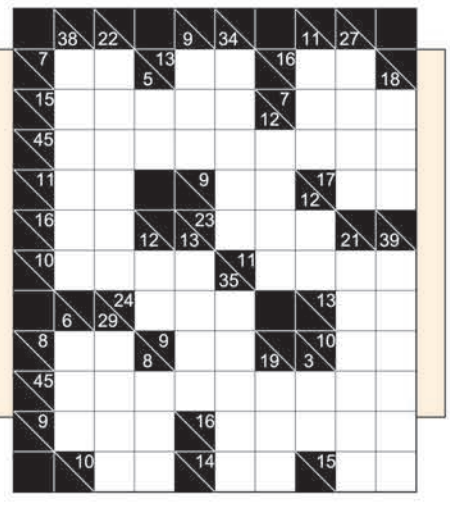
SUDOKU

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

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

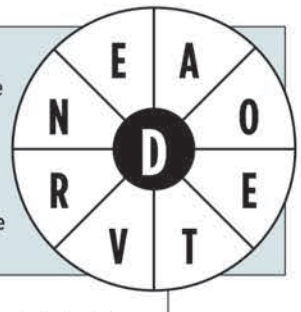
KAKURO

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

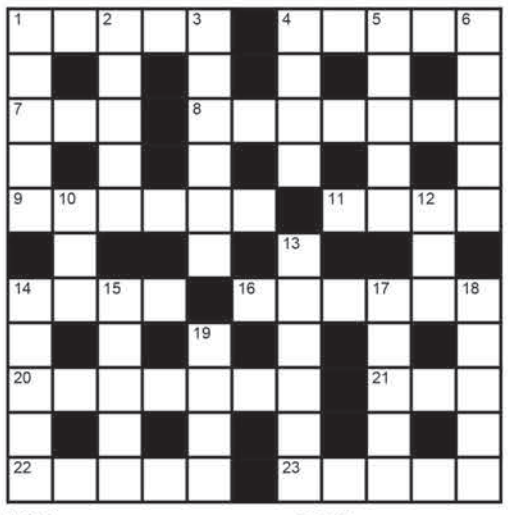


WORDWHEEL

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



QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Cold that causes shivering (5)
4 Man with fair skin and hair (5)
7 Beer (3)
8 Explosive powder, usually in strings (7)
9 Harry ___, J K Rowling character (6)
11 Part of the eye (4)
14 Clean with soap and water (4)
16 Wealthy and privileged person (coll) (3,3)
20 Small filled squares of pasta (7)
21 Note of debt (inits) (3)
22 With the extremity facing the observer (3,2)
23 Larceny (5)

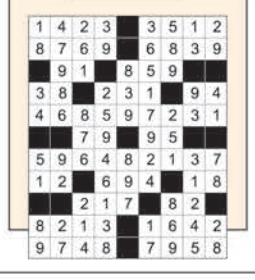
DOWN

1 Painful spasm (5)
2 Generally incompetent (5)
3 Sycophant (6)
4 Place in a tomb (4)
5 Flexible twig of a willow (5)
6 Eats sparingly, to reduce weight (5)
10 Reproductive cells (3)
12 ___ Levin, author of *The Stepford Wives* (3)
13 Long noosed rope (6)
14 Inferior to another in quality (5)
15 Rescued (5)
17 Act of lawbreaking (5)
18 Jeer at (5)
19 Urban area (4)

LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

KAKURO



SUDOKU

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

WORDWHEEL

The nine-letter word was **PORCUPINE**

INTERVIEW

IF RORY MCILROY CRITICISES WE WILL LISTEN

European Tour deputy CEO Guy Kinnings on flak from their top player, growing the Ryder Cup and why a single, global tour is up for discussion. By **Frank Dalleres**

IT HAS been an eventful first year in the job for Guy Kinnings, golf's poacher-turned-gamekeeper. The former agent to Colin Montgomerie and head of the sport at industry behemoth IMG joined the European Tour 14 months ago with a wide-ranging brief that includes maximising prize asset the Ryder Cup, overseeing all commercial activity and acting as right-hand man to blue-sky thinking chief executive Keith Pelley.

Within a fortnight Kinnings was being enveloped in the hubbub of Europe's landmark triumph over the USA at Le Golf National in Paris and since then has helped assemble an all-star Ryder Cup committee that includes former Premier League boss Richard Scudamore, brought in new sponsors such as Callaway and shaped the European Tour's revamped brand identity.

"I have absolutely loved the year," deputy chief executive Kinnings, 56, tells *City A.M.*

It has not all been a bed of roses for the tour, however – and thanks in no small part to the continent's leading player. Rory McIlroy's public flirtation with relinquishing his European Tour membership in order to focus even more on the PGA Tour caused embarrassment and, while Pelley did eventually succeed in bringing the Northern Irishman back on side, it was not long before McIlroy (pictured below) was criticising the circuit again, railing against its "too easy" courses.

Results over the last few days mean the tour has been spared the awkward prospect of its most conspicuous critic scooping its biggest prize, the Race To Dubai, later this week. Kinnings, very much a glass-half-full man, insists he would nonetheless have been "delighted" to see McIlroy win and is unapologetic at the efforts the tour makes to keep him happy.

"Rory has been the most fantastic supporter of us. When you think of the things he's done as a player, his support for the Irish Open, he is a superstar, and when he plays he adds something to an event," he says. "The other thing about Rory is that he is very, very honest. If he sees things he thinks can be improved, he will say – and we will listen. So we are not concerned at all. Obviously we're going to listen to whoever has got useful input and Rory has very useful input."

> Rory is very, very honest. If he sees things that he thinks can be improved, then he will say

A GLOBAL TOUR?

A tussle for McIlroy's affections would not be necessary if the European Tour and PGA Tour merged to form one global tour – a possibility, albeit still remote, that Pelley has entertained and that Kinnings, too, concedes makes sense.

"Anyone would say that in an ideal world, with a blank sheet of paper, you would sit down and go 'it would be good to have a global tour'. Absolutely, we will always be open to and happy to talk about how that can be considered," he says. "Equally, that's not an immediately easy thing to deliver. We simply have to make sure that we, with all the other major governing bodies, produce a product that's as appealing as it can possibly be to our fans."

Players, too, must be kept happy – especially the sport's biggest names, who tend to plan their schedules around the more lucrative PGA Tour.

"We're very lucky: a lot of the leading players like to play globally, like to have new experiences, they have their own brands which need to be seen internationally," he says. "Being able to play at events that have a distinct style and history of their own is good for those players and certainly good for us – and we'll keep doing all we can to attract them."

This year's brand relaunch was a reminder of what the European Tour believes makes it an appealing prospect for players and sponsors, namely its worldwide reach – it has events in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Australia – and a greater willingness to experiment with new formats, including mixed tournaments and showcasing of disabled players.

"We know how the world order works, we know how strong the PGA Tour and the Majors are, but the European Tour is able to find a pretty unique position. The rebrand and [its slogan] 'driving golf further' is at the heart of what's being done at the tour and is built around three pillars: we're innovative, we're inclusive and we're global," he says.

"All of that will allow us to attract new brands and partners. From my perspective, that's where the change will be. We've had a very successful year in terms of renewing and adding new corporate partners. I think that will only grow across the tour and Ryder Cup as we continue to offer a product that has some differentiation from anything else in the game."

The tour reported revenue of £337.7m and profit after tax of £10.3m for the year ending December 2018, yet growth is still in order. Its finances are best viewed over a four-year cycle that incorporates both home and away Ryder Cups and, for the period 2015-18, the tour made a loss after tax of £7.9m. Kinnings says it is not there to make a profit, but to provide the best playing opportunities and prize money that it can.

"It could always be better. Our goal is constantly to improve and generate more revenue through traditional b2b sponsorship, but also growing on the consumer side," he says.

"In the middle of a political and macro-economic situation such as it is, I would say we are probably very satisified with how things have gone. We're almost slightly defying the odds. It's very difficult to get brands to commit long-term when there's any degree of uncertainty. They wouldn't be doing this unless they knew there was a return on investment."

> In an ideal world it would be good to have a global tour. We'll always be happy to talk about that

A central plank of that growth strategy is the Ryder Cup, and specifically getting more commercial mileage out of the only event that attracts non-golf fans to the sport and which some industry observers are convinced remains under-exploited. To that end the tour has assembled a committee that, alongside Kinnings and Pelley, includes Scudamore, Premiership Rugby boss Ian Ritchie and the founder of private equity firm Permira, Sir Damon Buffini.

Kinnings is adamant there will be no meddling with the format, rather the emphasis will be on "developing commercial programmes, improving the product itself, maybe adding things to the week".

"As part of that, you look at each venue – is there something you can make more of? The Junior Ryder Cup is a wonderful event and there's maybe more that can be done with that. There's been real interest around the celebrity events."

There is zero prospect of the bi-annual event being held every year, though. "Much as I can see the benefit of it in financial terms, you'd be messing around with what is a very successful product in a sporting sense and we won't be doing that," he says.

Kinnings' appointment met with universal acclaim, and senior figures in golf have been quick to earmark him as a possible successor to Pelley.

"I had the most fantastic time working in golf outside the tour, I'm now having an even better time working here within the tour," says Kinnings. "I'm here to help and support the tour in any way I can but above all to support Keith in his role as CEO. Hopefully we can work very well together. I am really happy to be here and in the role that I am."

SPORT

GLOBAL GAME European Tour deputy CEO Guy Kinnings on what the future holds PAGE 31

DOWN BUT NOT OUT Ireland head to Euro 2020 play-offs as Denmark hold on to qualify

The Republic of Ireland will have to go through the play-offs if they are to qualify for Euro 2020 after being held to a 1-1 draw by Denmark in Dublin last night. Mick McCarthy's side will join 15 others in the play-offs in March, with four teams qualifying for next summer's tournament, after failing to get the victory they needed at the Aviva Stadium. Denmark, who only needed a point to qualify, were conservative in their approach and took the lead when Martin Braithwaite touched Henrik Dalsgaard's cross past Darren Randolph with their first shot on target in the 73rd minute. Full-back Matt Doherty equalised with a back-post header eight minutes later, but Ireland could not find the winner.

SPORT DIGEST

SARRIES HIT THE BOTTOM AFTER TAKING SANCTION

Saracens will have to win 10 of their remaining 18 Premiership matches to be sure of avoiding relegation after the club accepted a 35-point deduction and a £5.36m fine. Saracens owner Nigel Wray said he had "made mistakes" in not fully declaring his "co-investment" arrangements with players over the past three seasons. The penalty saw the champions drop from third place to bottom of the Premiership on -22 points. England head coach Eddie Jones predicted Sarries players may skip next year's Six Nations in order to help the club avoid the drop.

RUSSIA FACING BAN OVER ANTI-DOPING ANOMALIES

Russia could be banned from major sporting events, including next summer's Olympic Games, over anomalies in drug testing results. The World Anti-Doping Agency meet on 9 December to discuss the results of its independent compliance review committee, which looked at suspect data from the country's anti-doping agency Rusada. If Wada finds Rusada non-compliant, and the Court of Arbitration for Sport agrees, Russia could be banned from the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and both hosting and competing in football's Euro 2020.

CURRAN: I WANT TO NAIL DOWN ALL-ROUNDER SPOT

Sam Curran wants to nail down a place in England's Test side during the upcoming series against New Zealand. Curran, 21, is in line to play ahead of Chris Woakes at No8 in Wednesday's first Test at Bay Oval and he wants to stay there. "If I do get the chance it is about nailing down my spot in the side and stop being the one that is vulnerable," he said. "I was in all the Ashes squads so that was a confidence-booster that you're around the group. But as the series went on you're itching to get out on the field."

TSITSIPAS: HAIR APPARENT

Why the gangly Greek can succeed where other next-big-things have failed. By **Frank Dalleres**

IT'S A question that feels almost as old as the old guard themselves: is [insert name of young buck here] the man to break Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic's stranglehold on men's tennis?

Grigor Dimitrov, Milos Raonic, Nick Kyrgios and Alexander Zverev have all been touted as saviours, yet none has managed to succeed and the last 12 grand slam titles have been mopped up by the big three.

So there may be understandable cynicism at the heralding of another new talent in Stefanos Tsitsipas, especially one who looks like he would be more at home on a surf board than holding a racket.

But the strides made by the gangly Greek in the last 12 months and moreover the wider appeal of the 21-year-old mean the question bears repeating: is Tsitsipas, at last, the *real* next big thing?

What Tsitsipas did at inside the O2 Arena in London on Sunday night has lent the question greater weight and urgency.

In a swashbuckling defeat of world No5 Dominic Thiem, he claimed his biggest singles title by far and became the youngest man to win the ATP Finals since Lleyton Hewitt in 2001.

Over the previous week he also beat last year's champion Zverev, only narrowly lost to world No1 Nadal and swept past Federer in straight sets in the semi-finals.

It all capped a breakthrough season for the young man from Athens, which began with a first grand slam semi-final appearance at the Australian Open and included titles in Marseille and Estoril.

Improving results are only part of the package that makes Tsitsipas so refreshing and intriguing, however.

With his 6ft4ins frame, he slam dunks booming, flat forehands like few aside from Kyrgios can, while he has a one-handed backhand in the mould of Federer's elegant masterstroke.

More than that, he plays with a looseness, an evident freedom and enjoyment. In a men's tennis scene crying out for charisma and personality, Tsitsipas has it in spades.

It is easy to see why Greg Rusedski compared him to Bjorn Borg, while Boris Becker has called him "box office" and Tim Henman labelled him "a massive star of the future".

Brands have not overlooked the appeal of an avid vlogger with 162,000 subscribers to his YouTube channel, either. Adidas provide his kit and Wilson his rackets, while he also has a deal with Rolex.

The key to toppling Federer, Nadal and Djokovic will be consistency. It is what sets those three serial winners – and still the top three-ranked players in the world – apart and why so many pretenders have failed to dethrone them.

Dimitrov has not won a title since the ATP Finals two years ago; Raonic's drought is longer still; Kyrgios has struggled to harness his obvious gifts; and Zverev was in a similar position to Tsitsipas 12 months ago but has not yet kicked on.

Tsitsipas – a pupil of Patrick Mouratoglu, coach to Serena Williams – is convinced he can succeed where his predecessors haven't.

"I believe I'm really close to being a grand slam champion," he said following Sunday's triumph. "I know those are strong words to say but I do feel like I belong there."

Having talked the talk, next year the youngest man to beat all of the big three will be expected to walk the walk. The jury remains out on whether he is the saviour, but it will be fun watching him try.

MAKINGS OF A CHAMPION?

UPBRINGING Tsitsipas has tennis in his blood. His parents were both tennis teachers and met at a WTA tournament in Athens, where Yuliya was playing and Apostolos was a line judge. All of the 21-year-old's younger siblings are tennis players.

GUIDING HAND Apostolos studied tennis coaching at the University of Athens and coached his eldest son until Patrick Mouratoglu took over in 2015.

RISING STAR Tsitsipas reached the No1 world ranking as a junior in 2016 – the same year he won the Wimbledon boys' doubles title with Kenneth Raisma.