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NOT GUILTY!

- Jurors unanimously clear Corrie star of rape and indecent assault
- 'No winners and we should be much kinder to ourselves,' said Roache

Coronation Street actor William Roache has been cleared of rape and indecent assault charges by a jury.

Mr Roache, 81, of Wilmslow, Cheshire, was found not guilty of two rapes and four indecent assaults after a trial at Preston Crown Court.

Five women had claimed he assaulted them when they were aged 16 or under between 1965 and 1971.

Outside court, he said: "In these situations there are no winners... we should be much kinder to ourselves."

He added: "If you'll excuse me, I need to get back to work."

'lacked credibility'

His family, who had accompanied him to court throughout the trial, cried with relief as the verdicts were read out.

William Roache showed no emotion as he was cleared of rape and indecent assault, but his family did.

Audible sighs of relief could be clearly heard from his sons, as six times the jury foreman

clearly said "not guilty". The sighs were followed by sobs. Tears of relief as their father was cleared. Moments later the 81-year-old actor was told by the judge he was free to leave the dock.

Mr Roache was previously cleared of a fifth indecent assault charge after the judge said there was a lack of evidence.

During the three-week trial, Mr Roache denied knowing any of his accusers and said he had never had a sexual interest in under-age girls.

The women, who cannot be named for legal reasons, had claimed he indecently assaulted them in the toilets and dressing rooms at Granada Studios in Manchester, as well as in his car.

One woman alleged he raped her twice at his homes in Haslingden, Lancashire, on separate occasions.

The prosecution had



ROACHE: said he was 'looking forward to getting back to work' on the long-running soap opera

accused Mr Roache of using his fame and popularity to exploit the girls and said that, if the actor was telling the truth, he was the victim of a "huge, distorted and perverse witch-hunt".

But Louise Blackwell QC, defending, said the women's evidence "lacked sense and credibility".

In court, the woman making the rape claims

changed her mind about how old she was at the time.

Another woman initially told police she was warned about Mr Roache by actor Johnny Briggs, who played Mike Baldwin, but when it was discovered he was not in the show at the time she said the warning had come from a different actor.

A fifth indecent assault

charge was dropped due to insufficient evidence after the woman, who accused him of abusing her in his car, told the court she had "no actual memory" of the episode.

The jury, of eight women and four men, heard Mr Roache had been "astounded" and "horrified" when he was first arrested at his home in Wilmslow, Cheshire, on 1 May last year.

Mr Roache is the longest-serving TV soap actor, having portrayed Ken Barlow since Coronation Street began in 1960.

Outside court, he thanked the Circle of Love "for their love and energy that has brought me to this place and this time".

The group, which Mr Roache has been a part

cont. on page 2, col. 1

'Plebgate' PC Keith Wallis jailed for a year

■ Disgraced policeman came to believe his lies, defendant's lawyer told the Old Bailey

A Metropolitan Police officer who lied about witnessing the "plebgate" row has been sentenced to 12 months in prison.

PC Keith Wallis, 53, admitted a charge of misconduct in public office last month at the Old Bailey.

Wallis, of West Drayton, sent a senior Tory official an email wrongly claiming he had seen a row involving MP Andrew Mitchell in Downing Street.

The incident involved another officer who refused to allow the then

chief whip to cycle through the main gate.

Deborah Glass, head of the Independent Police Complaints Commission, said Wallis's actions had helped turn "a largely inaudible altercation lasting less than a minute into a national scandal".

They had caused an "injustice" to Mr Mitchell and "brought shame upon the police service", she added.

And Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe said Wallis would be the subject of a misconduct process "as soon as

possible", adding that his actions had "fallen way below the standards that me, my fellow police officers and the public demand".

'Betrayal'

Mr Mitchell, MP for Sutton Coldfield, was forced to quit as the government's chief whip as a result of the fall-out of the Downing Street row. He has admitted swearing during the original incident but has always denied the allegation by the officer present, PC Toby Rowland, that he used the word "pleb".

After media reports of the incident in Downing Street, in September 2012, Wallis sent an email to John Randall, then Mitchell's deputy in the whips' office, claiming to be a member of the public who had witnessed the argument and heard Mr Mitchell use the word "pleb".

He said he had been sightseeing near Downing Street with his nephew, when he was, in fact, off duty at the time and thought to have been nowhere near Downing



Keith Wallis, the police officer who lied about witnessing the Plebgate row.

Street.

Passing sentence, Mr Justice Sweeney said Wallis had been guilty of "sustained, and in significant measure, devious misconduct which fell far below the standards expected of a police officer".

He added: "Indeed it was a betrayal of those standards, and was misconduct which, as well as having had an impact Mr Mitchell himself, has had a significant impact on public trust and confidence in the integrity of police officers."

'Out of hand'

Mr Justice Sweeney also said: "Passing sentence on you I am in no position to decide precisely what happened between the officers and Mr Mitchell in

Downing Street, nor do I need to do so.

"But it is absolutely clear what did not happen. You were not an independent member of the public. You were not present, neither was your nephew, and neither of you witnessed the incident."

Last month, the Old Bailey heard how Wallis, who is a member of the Metropolitan Police diplomatic protection group, had admitted his offence in a police interview and offered to resign.

Mr Mitchell welcomed the guilty plea and there were calls for the prime minister to bring him back into government.

Ahead of sentencing at the Old Bailey on Thursday, Wallis's lawyer, Patrick Gibbs QC,

appealed for his client not to be sent to prison.

He said Wallis, who had served for 30 years in the police, had suffered from both mental and physical illness and had been deeply affected by the death of his father, also a police officer.

He added that Wallis had been drunk when he sent the email and that events had got "completely out of hand" afterwards.

He had come to convince himself that he had actually witnessed the false incident he had reported, Mr Gibbs said.

He told the court: "While it is impossible to pinpoint the moment Mr Wallis came to believe that video in his head, he did genuinely come to believe it."

Roache:

cont. from page one

of for several years, practise spiritual healing and meditation.

He also thanked ITV Granada, his legal team and his friends and family for their support.

'Decent and kind'

Several of the soap's cast were called as character witnesses during his three-week

trial.

Anne Kirkbride, who plays Deirdre Barlow, described him as "lovely", Chris Gascoyne - who plays his son - said he was "decent and kind", while Helen Worth, who plays neighbour Gail McIntyre, said he was "caring".

Speaking after the verdicts, colleague Michael Le Vell, who was recently cleared of sex abuse charges, said: "I'm delighted."



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Wendi Deng's 'love note for Tony Blair' revealed

■ Wendi Deng, former wife of Rupert Murdoch, wrote about loving Tony Blair's "good body" and "piercing blue eyes"

Wendi Deng, the former wife of Rupert Murdoch, allegedly developed a passionate obsession with Tony Blair and wrote a note in which she raved about his "good body and really, really good legs [and] Butt".

And in reports certain to further embarrass the media titan, Miss Deng is said to have become infatuated with the former Prime Minister while she was still married to Murdoch.

In the note, Chinese-born Miss Deng wrote in broken English: "Oh, s***, oh, s***. Whatever why I'm so so missing Tony. Because he is so so charming and his clothes are so good.

"He has such good body and he has really really good legs Butt... And he is slim, tall and good skin. Pierce blue eyes which I love. Love his eyes. Also I love his power on the stage... and what else and what else and what else... [all sic]"

besotted

The contents of the sensational note are detailed in Vanity Fair magazine, which described it as "a steamy, lovelorn missive".

Mr Murdoch's discovery of his wife's crush on Mr Blair was said to be the "final straw" that prompted him to file for divorce after 14 years of marriage. The News Corp executive chairman felt "betrayed" as he considered Mr Blair to be a close ally.

According to Vanity Fair, a besotted Miss Deng invited Mr Blair to spend a weekend at the Murdoch family ranch in Carmel, California in October 2012 – omitting to tell him that her husband would not be there.

'flirtatious'

"Mr Blair was reluctant at first. They were all mutual friends; there was no reason Mr Murdoch wouldn't have welcomed Mr Blair into his home," a Murdoch staff member told the magazine.

"But one day Mr Blair arrived and Mrs Murdoch was sort of being very flirtatious. She was charming him.

"He asked staff, 'When is Mr Murdoch going to arrive? And when he was told, 'Tomorrow night', Mr Blair rolled his eyes and gave a panicked look."

Miss Deng, 45, had allegedly told her 82-year-old husband she

was spending a "girls' weekend" at the ranch in Carmel. That weekend, Mr Murdoch's 103-year-old mother, Dame Elisabeth, had been released from hospital and was expected to die within days, so family had gathered at her bedside.

Mr Blair has denied all allegations of an affair with Miss Deng. Friends of Miss Deng say the pair were never more than friends.

family friend

The Australian media mogul began to hear rumours about his wife in 2012 and is said to have interviewed staff members at his various homes to ask them what they had seen.

According to the magazine, he learned that Mr Blair had visited Miss Deng at the Carmel ranch on more than one occasion. He allegedly spent the weekend of April 27, 2013 with Miss Deng at the property.



SHAME: Murdoch allegedly began to hear rumours about his then-wife in 2012

Other sources are quoted as placing Mr Blair and Miss Deng at the Carlyle hotel in New York, on a private yacht and at Mr Murdoch's home in London.

Mr Blair declined to comment on the article but has said in the past that allegations of an affair are categorically untrue. He was for many years a family friend of the Murdochs and is godfather to their elder daughter, Grace.

Friends say he was aware Miss Deng had become "emotionally dependent" on him but felt unable to turn his back on her as she was going through a difficult time in her personal life.

Mr Murdoch and Miss Deng reached an "amicable" divorce settlement in November



BLAIR WITCH PROJECT? Murdoch's wife was allegedly especially fond of Tony Blair's rear end

last year. She shot to international attention three years ago when she defended her husband against an attacker brandishing a foam pie during a hearing at the House of Commons.

A joint statement from

Miss Deng and Mr Murdoch to Vanity Fair reads: "Given the complicated dynamics of our family, we made the decision early on in this process not to engage in public allegations or respond to negative claims."



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Christian Patrol hand out ciggies and booze in Muslim areas

- 'Britain First' stood outside East London Mosque to 'draw out' Muslims
- Group used 'bait' - men with cigarettes and lager - and confronted Asians
- 'This is our country. You want to live here you adhere by our laws', one said

FEARS of growing tensions between Muslims and far-right groups in the capital are growing amid allegations that a self-styled 'Christian Patrol' had visited a heavily Islamic borough of London handing out cigarettes and alcohol in an attempt to provoke a confrontation.

Scotland Yard is investigating the far-right group Britain First after members pulled up outside one of Britain's biggest mosques in a Gulf War Land Rover and began smoking and drinking.

The group, led by a former leading member of the British National Party (BNP) filmed themselves on Brick Lane in east London and told Asian men: 'This is our country. You want to live here, you adhere by our laws'.

'bait'

The group says it is a response to 'Muslim patrols' that walked the area and warned couples holding hands, uncovered women or



TROUBLE AHEAD: The Britain First Party is an offshoot of the British National Party

those drinking it was a 'Muslim area' and they faced 'hell fire'.

Three members of such a patrol were jailed at the Old Bailey last month for repeatedly trying to enforce Sharia law.

Britain First chairman Paul Golding, a former BNP councillor, said they were using members with cans of lager as 'bait' for Muslims outside the East London Mosque in Whitechapel.

'This is going to be a regular thing. We're

going to be out there every weekend to draw out these "Muslim Patrols",' he said after the footage emerged.

Golding is currently on bail for alleged harassment of hate preacher Anjem Choudary, who has been a vocal backer of Muslim Patrols.

'fightback'

The video also shows Golding and his 15 supporters entering the East End in Gulf War vehicles and then later

unfurling a banner outside the mosque that said 'resistance'.

It ends without any confrontation but uses an image of murdered soldier Lee Rigby, along with the message: 'The day Lee Rigby was murdered, thousands of patriots were born. The fightback has begun'.

The Met Police has confirmed they are aware of the film but have not made any arrests.

'Police at Tower Hamlets are aware of an



JAILED: Jordan Horner, left, and Ricardo MacFarlane, right, have been jailed along with another man for their role in the self-styled 'Muslim Patrol'

internet video showing recent activity on the Borough,' a spokesman said.

'tolerance and respect'

'The Metropolitan Police Service takes these incidents very seriously and any activities that may raise community tension will be monitored'.

The video has led to an outpouring of anger from east London community leaders.

The Bishop of Stepney, Rt Rev Adrian Newman, said: 'East London is proud of its generous attitude to diversity, based on tolerance and respect.'

'There is no place for vigilante patrols, Christian, Muslim or any other faith, on the streets of Tower Hamlets.'

A spokesman for the East London Mosque

called Britain First 'neo-Nazis'.

'Britain First's patrol does not represent Christians, just as al-Muhajiroun's patrols did not represent Muslims. Both are tiny, extreme groups, unwelcome in our community,' he said.

'We will not let those who espouse hatred damage our wonderful community relations.'

Jordan Horner, 19, Ricardo MacFarlane, 36, and a 23-year-old man who cannot be named for legal reasons were sentenced to 68 weeks, 12 months and 24 weeks in prison respectively for their Muslim Patrols.

The Old Bailey heard that in December 2012 Horner and the 23-year-old man drove alongside a couple and shouted: 'Let go of each other's hands. This is a Muslim area!'



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Pirate of the Manor!

- Depp snaps up £12m Somerset estate - just weeks after getting engaged to Amber Heard
- Actor is an ardent anglophile and seeks to give his children 'a traditional country upbringing'

JOHNNY DEPP looks likely to jettison his image of a wandering pirate in favor of that of the local lord of the manor, if reports from Somerset can be believed.

The Hollywood superstar and ardent Anglophile has reportedly splashed out £12m on a stunning country pile where he plans to set up home with girlfriend Amber Heard.

The property, described 'one of the prettiest manor houses in England' boasts 12 bedrooms, eight bathroom and 850 acres.

The stunning abode, which looks like it has been taken straight out of a Jane Austen novel, also features sprawling walled gardens and a shoot.



JUMPING SHIP: Depp's new home is described as one of the prettiest manor houses in England'

All the extra bedrooms could come in handy too, if the news that the couple are hoping to have a baby are to be believed.

local schools

'Johnny's desperate to become a dad again,' a source told Now magazine, before adding: 'Amber refuses to have a baby until they're married, which was part of the reason

behind the proposal.'

Another source close to the transaction said Depp, who shot to fame in the US TV show 21 Jump Street, was 'determined to give his children a traditional country upbringing'.

The Pirates of the Caribbean actor, 50, who was previously in a long-term relationship with Vanessa Paradis, was first divorced 29 years ago and has since



CO-STARS: Depp met Amber Heard on the set of their movie 'The Rum Diaries'

Cameron to Scots: we want you to stay

David Cameron has urged Scotland to vote against independence in September's referendum, saying: "We want you to stay."

In a speech in London on Friday, the prime minister argued that the whole UK would be "deeply diminished" if Scotland opted to leave.

Mr Cameron will also warn supporters of the Union against "complacency".

But the Scottish National Party said he was "cowardly" for not making the speech in Scotland.

Mr Cameron invoked the spirit of the Great Britain Olympic team, which won 65 medals in 2012, when he spoke at the Olympic Park in east

London.

He will say: "For me, the best thing about the Olympics wasn't the winning. It was the red, the white, the blue.

"It was the summer that patriotism came out of the shadows and into the sun, everyone cheering as one for Team GB."

Mr Cameron went on: "This is a decision that is squarely and solely for those in Scotland to make. I passionately believe it is in their interests to stay in the UK.

"That way Scotland has the space to take decisions, while still having the security that comes with being part of something bigger."

Scotland is "part of a major global player",

Cameron added, noting that although only four million people can vote in the referendum, "all 63 million of us are profoundly affected".

But Scotland's Deputy First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, said: "This is a cowardly speech from a prime minister who uses the Olympic Park in London to give high-handed lectures against Scotland's independence but hasn't got the guts to come to Scotland or anywhere else to make his case in a head-to-head debate.

"David Cameron, as the Tory prime minister, is the very embodiment of the democratic case for a Yes vote for an independent Scotland - and he knows it."

become a father-of-two.

Earlier this month, Amber stepped out for dinner wearing a large single emerald or princess cut stone ring on her wedding finger.

'The proposal happened a while ago,' a source told Us Weekly.

'She just didn't wear the ring.'

Amber and Johnny first met when they starred together in 2011's The Rum Diary but didn't get together until

2012 after the breakdown of his 14-year relationship with

Vanessa.

Depp fell in love with England when it was his base during filming of the award-winning French film Chocolat fourteen years ago. He is now reportedly looking for local schools for his children to attend.

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'I was addicted to Valium'

■ Veteran DJ Tony Blackburn opens up about his marriage breakdown

HE'S had one of the most successful careers in broadcast radio, but Tony Blackburn has battled some serious demons too.

The 71-year-old has admitted that he found himself addicted to Valium following the breakdown of his first marriage to TV and film actress Tessa Wyatt.

The pair married one another in 1972 after a whirlwind romance and a year later they had a son, Simon.

But four years after saying "I do", their marriage collapsed after Tony's affair with a neighbour was exposed.

Following Tessa's decision to move out of the family home, Tony

began pouring his heart on during his Radio 1 breakfast show - which was listened to by 20million people.

He played songs about broken hearts and he regularly played a record by R and J Stone called *Thrown it All Away*, telling listeners: "This is the story of my life at the moment."



TRUE CONFESSIONS: Tony Blackburn and Piers Morgan on British TV's *Life Stories*

"I was depressed because it was the first failure (in my life)," Tony explained during his appearance on Piers Morgan's popular British TV show *Life Stories*.

'like a soap opera'

"I don't know anybody who goes through a divorce who's happy about it. I had to live it whilst I was doing my radio shows. To be honest, I was boring the nation stupid with my marriage breakup. Somebody should've told me to shut up. I wasn't getting any guidance."

He continued: "It was like a soap opera going on and it went on for just too long."

Tony was then prescribed Valium, which unfortunately he became addicted to.

"I was taking a little bit too much of it because I began to rather enjoy it," he admitted to Piers. "I found that Valium was addictive and I remember once I'd forgotten to take the Valium and I got the shakes."

"I rang my father and said, 'I'm shaking like mad, am I having a heart attack?' He said, 'Have you taken your Valium? I said, 'No, is it that important?' He said, 'Oh



SHORT LIVED: Blackburn with first wife Tessa in 1972

yes, you must take it.' I thought, 'I'm addicted to this stuff.' So immediately I came off it. It took me about three weeks to come off it and I did. That was it."

'no affairs'

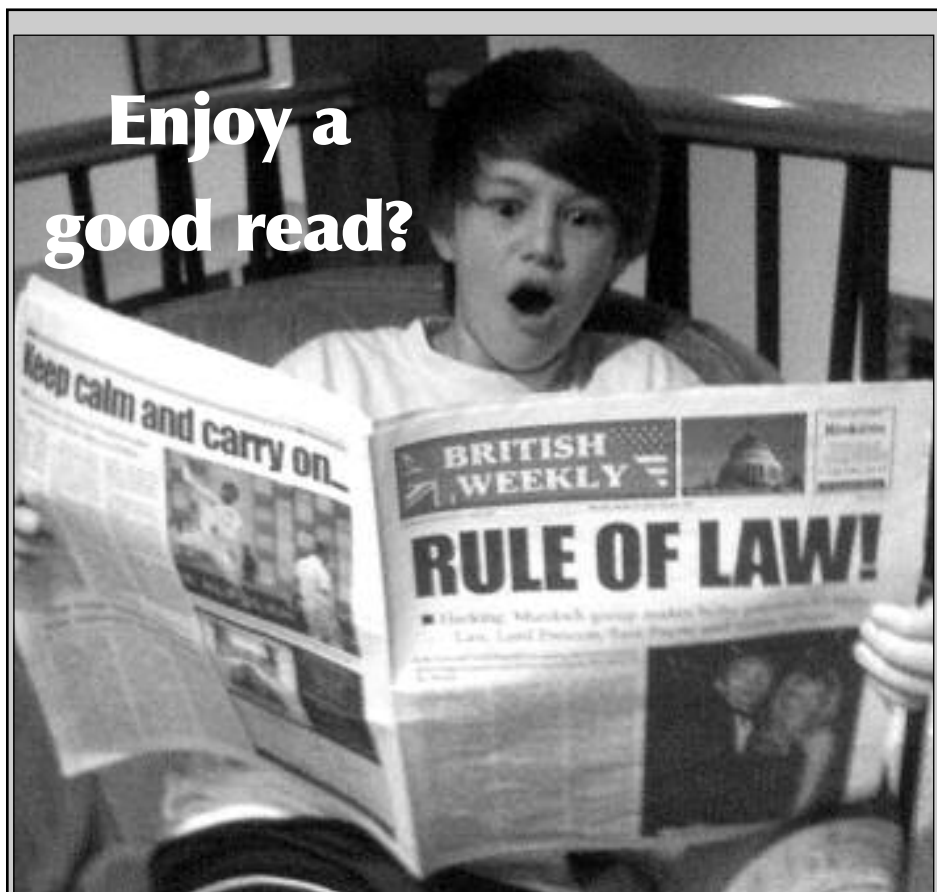
Speaking openly about the reasons why his marriage to Tessa didn't work out, Tony explained: "It was just one of those things. We obviously weren't made for one another. She was a lovely lady and still is but I had an affair and that was it. I fell for somebody

else."

In 1992 Tony went on to marry his wife Debbie Thomson, and the pair have a daughter named Victoria together.

Speaking of their relationship, the father-of-two said: "She's made a terrific difference to my life. We've been married for 21 years - the happiest years of my life. I absolutely adore her."

"There's been no affairs. I've never been unfaithful. I wouldn't because she's the best thing that ever happened to me."



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DJ Dave Lee Travis was “touchy-feely” at work but “in a nice sense”

DJ Dave Lee Travis was “touchy-feely” at work but “in a nice sense”, a former BBC colleague has told a court.

Philip Hughes, who worked as a technical operator at Radio 1, said Mr Travis was a fun and “larger-than-life” character with a good sense of humour.

Mr Hughes told Southwark Crown Court he could not recall the DJ engaging in any inappropriate conduct at

work.

Mr Travis, 68, from Buckinghamshire, denies 13 counts of indecent assault and one count of sexual assault.

Sugar lump fights

Mr Hughes told jurors that Dave Lee Travis, who is being tried under his real name, David Patrick Griffin, was “part of the furniture” at Radio 1.

He said Mr Travis was “the sort of person who

would give a bear hug in the corridor.

He is a very generous, caring and loving man. He has been a fantastic friend to me. He is just a really nice man”

Mr Hughes, who worked at the BBC between 1973 and 1980, said he often “instigated” pranks at the station with Mr Travis and DJ Noel Edmonds, involving sugar lump fights and balancing cups of water on top of the studio door.

Asked if any of the pranks would have involved sexual touching between men and women, Mr Hughes replied: “No.”

Mr Hughes said if his colleagues had been made aware of any sexual assault it would “probably have been talked about”.

A former Radio 1 producer, David Atkey, told the court Mr Travis liked other people to join him in the studio. “Sometimes his wife would come in, sometimes his mother,” he said.

“He was a very nice, warm, gentle man. He liked to hug people. He hugged me on numerous occasions.”

Hand-kissing

Mr Atkey, who worked for Radio 1 between 1968 and 1988, said he had not seen any inappropriate conduct by the station’s



WARM AND GENTLE MAN?: Dave Lee Travis

DJs during his time at the BBC but had heard “rumours” about Jimmy Savile.

He said if he had known Savile was behaving inappropriately he would have “reported him to our superiors”. The court has previously heard an allegation that Mr Travis touched the breasts of a Radio 4 announcer during a live broadcast.

Mr Atkey said it was “incredibly unlikely” that Mr Travis would have disrupted a Radio 4 broadcast. He said the consequences would have been “very severe, if not a sacking”.

“Kenny Everett was sacked for saying something inappropriate

on air,” he said. “I don’t think he (Mr Travis) would be exempt from being sacked.”

Another witness, Jon Kutner, a former BBC messenger, said Mr Travis would sometimes kiss the hand of women he was introduced to. But he said there was “never anything untoward”.

Simon Marlow, who was a presenter at Classic Gold with Mr Travis in the early 2000s, said he had known the DJ for about 20 years and found the allegations “ridiculous”.

“He is a very generous, caring and loving man,” he said.

“He has been a fantastic friend to me. He is just a really nice man.”

The trial continues.

No plans to quit Sherlock, says red-hot Ben

THERE WAS excellent news this week for those of us who enjoy nothing better than settling down with Benedict Cumberbatch on a Sunday night.

The red-hot actor (pictured, above right) has credited the BBC crime drama Sherlock – which just completed its third season on PBS’s Masterpiece Mystery on these shores – with launching his career internationally, and despite being deluged with film offers, Cumberbatch has no intention of leaving his role as the titular socially-awkward detective until he feels the loveable character has “developed”.

He told USA Today: “I’ll keep doing it as long as [Sherlock grows], as long as I feel he’s developing and there’s stuff we’re all



being challenged by and that it’s being loyal to the original stories as well.

“[The show has] done a lot. Won’t say it’s changed my life, because I had a huge break at the same time as this role first came to fruition.

“It was a sort of perfect storm of all mediums coming together at the same time – television, film and theatre, even some radio.”

Meanwhile, Sherlock producer Sue Vertue has hinted fans could be treated to longer series in future, although episodes will stay true to their original 90-minute format.

She told Collider.com: “You might not always have three episodes. The [unaired] pilot was 60

minutes. But... we shot it again and made the pilot 90 minutes. Since then, it’s always been 90 minutes.

Two more series of Sherlock – which also stars Martin Freeman as Watson – have currently been commissioned.

In last Sunday’s season finale Sherlock looked set to fly off into the sunset for a spell undercover in Eastern Europe after killing a slimy media mogul who was blackmailing Watson. But true to form in this compelling series, he was brought back at the last moment following the unlikely reappearance of his (presumed-dead) arch-enemy, Jim Moriarty.

Benefit for Chelsea Mick

CHELSEA MICK, who has been part of our ex-pat community for over 20 years, has unfortunately been diagnosed with cancer. We hope that you can join us in lending him a helping hand with his medical expenses and treatment.

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Meet A Member: Kerry Marlowe

Meet Kerry Marlowe from West Sussex, who moved to LA eight years ago to pursue acting and producing. She now owns her own Motion Picture Production Company with her husband Evan, called Sweet Home Films.

Was there a particular reason you chose LA?

After years of acting for the stage, I really wanted to do more TV and film and the UK was a very closed shop at the time. So after a couple of years of meetings and auditions in LA I realized I needed to move Stateside to get in on the movie action. Having studied film and acting I was able to bring my writing and producing skills into the mix and immediately these opened many more doors than I could have ever imagined. I booked a film within three weeks of being in LA.

What one thing do you miss from home?

My family mainly. I just had a beautiful little boy a couple of months ago and I miss not being able to see my Mum and Dad and siblings as we are such a close family. I also miss our local

Chinese restaurant. It is my first port of call every time I go back. I love a bit of crispy seaweed.

What do you find the biggest difference is living here versus the UK?

The main difference I really noticed was when I had my little boy. The cost of having a baby in the US is extortionate. You see obstetricians, parentologists, pediatricians, hospital staff etc and they all cost. Thankfully after paying for expensive healthcare I only had to foot a small portion of the \$30k bill.

Additionally everyone always seems to be far more optimistic about life here. Everyone really rallies for their dreams and to make things happen. I've been able to create my own film company, make movies, win awards and live the life I wanted. You don't need a million dollars to feel like you are a million dollars. You just have to enjoy the moments you have and appreciate



CRISPY SEAWEED LOVER: Kerry Marlowe

those that help you along the way. Like (Brits in LA founders) Craig and Eileen. Just doing the Toscars and being a part of this community has opened a lot of doors and I've made some close friends thanks to Brits in LA. Craig also appears in a number of our film projects (which can be found online at: www.sweethomefilms.com)

Do you have a hidden gem in LA that you want to share with us?

I do love Paradise cove. Not really a hidden gem but a gem none the less.

It is the place I go with my sister Deanna everytime she visits, our little beach haven. You can sit on the deckchairs in the sand and watch the sun go down over the ocean with a glass of something cold or fruity. It really is a nice way to spend the day at this restaurant on the beach. They also filmed one of the American Pie movies there.

What would you suggest to others who are thinking about making the move here?

Do it. Give it a chance. Some people stay the course and others find it a little overwhelming. I thought I would give it eight months and eight years later I am still here, married an amazing American man and have a gorgeous little boy. I

wrote, starred and produced two films, which are now out on VOD & DVD, Blood Rush and Horror House, which I didn't think I would ever get to do back in the UK.

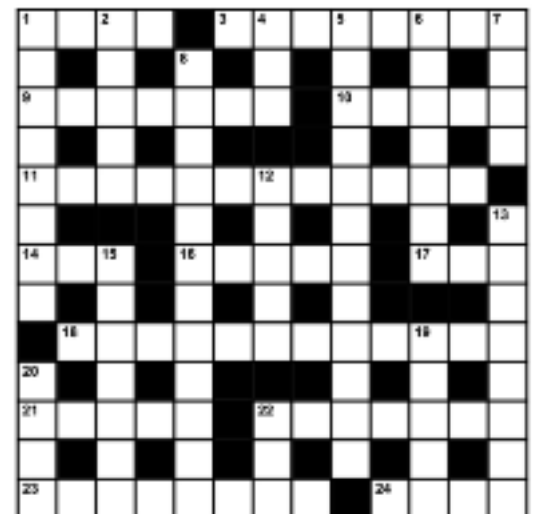
So come out, join Brits in LA, go to the breakfasts, check out the housing pages for people to live with and you will soon find it is a home away from home!



The British Weekly Crossword #102

Across

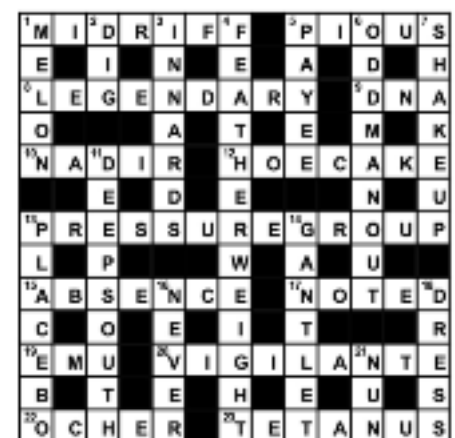
- 1 Encouragement (4)
- 3 The full course (8)
- 9 Aptitude (7)
- 10 Anne Frank's hideout (5)
- 11 Overpowering surprise (12)
- 14 Place for snaking (3)
- 16 Throat problems (5)
- 17 The ark's magic number (3)
- 18 Like some orange juices (12)
- 21 Rose feature (5)
- 22 Halloween wear (7)
- 23 They are monthly often (8)
- 24 Accordingly (4)



Down

- 1 Some farm workers (8)
- 2 Go around (5)
- 4 Frigid (3)
- 5 Ruler in some schools (12)
- 6 Gone (7)
- 7 Dracula's objective (4)
- 8 Import (12)
- 12 Bared (5)
- 13 Army members (8)
- 15 Science subject (7)
- 19 Firm fact (5)
- 20 One foot in front of the other (4)
- 22 In England, a baby's bed (3)

Solution to Puzzle #101



Compiled by Myles Mellor

su | do | ku
Puzzles by Pappacom

For solution, go to:
www.sudoku.com and click on solutions, pick British Weekly from publication list

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

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Stargazing with Annie Shaw

ARIES: Your financial situation could be getting a boost as early as this week ahead. Look for an opportunity to add to your circle of contacts - business or otherwise. Your boss Mars is in your Karmic sign of Libra so you will feel more emotional.

TAURUS: The sun in Aquarius will bring to a head a situation that has been unresolved for some time. Therefore it's best to not take on any responsibility that is not absolutely required.

GEMINI: You will be travelling (emotionally or otherwise) to a place where you can put things in order. Your unpredictable boss Mercury will linger until the end of February, so clearing up unfinished business is to be expected.

CANCER: Movement is good for you and this week it's all around you and in the family also.

Be kind and be honest with any person who asked for your opinion, there are many ways to say something so make sure you chose the compassionate path.

LEO: Make sure you use your time efficiently; complete what must be completed and spend your down time relaxing, not stressing. Don't be a nag this week if someone is not doing things your way.

VIRGO: Ask you're self if you are working on your particular plan for the next couple of months. If it is a problem now, planning ahead is the answer. It will be a bigger problem when Mercury your boss start a backward stroll at the weekend.

LIBRA: Your boss Venus is now moving gently through the earth sign of Capricorn and will bring some tantalizing offers your way. Take your time deciding as you have until month's end. You may have to make a quick change of plan, so be prepared.

SCORPIO: Your energy has been all over the place this past week or so the fact that you have a lot on your mind is making things worse. Schedule some meditation or quiet time now because things could get even busier as the month progresses.

SAGITTARIUS: Your boss Jupiter is sitting in a water sign and is kind of grumpy for a few weeks, so be good as he will be watching you and your level of commitment to the task at hand.

CAPRICORN: The will to go it alone is very strong this week so use this energy to assist you to get the job done as this is a great opportunity to complete a long-overdue project. Venus the female creative planet visiting you for a while helps.

AQUARIUS: This is an important time of general rejuvenation and you will get information coming at you from all directions. The clue is not to think too much and to go with your gut feeling. Deal with a difficult home-based situation wisely.

PISCES: You have too much energy to waste it on wishing and hoping...find the creative doorway you have been searching for and open it. As Jupiter is in your money house it's a rare opportunity to expand your money levels. Be more open with your feelings.



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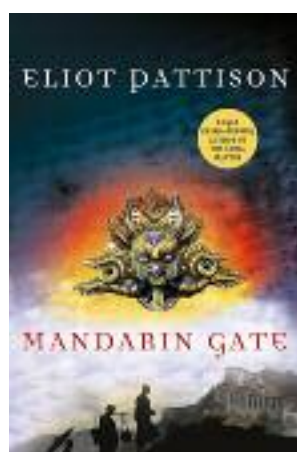
310 392 1681

Mandarin Gate: enter another world

■ Exclusive interview with author Eliot Pattison and a review of his latest Inspector Shan novel

Rating: ★★★

"Many of my readers and reviewers who encounter the series for the first time ask me why I would write novels set in such a remote and unknown place as Tibet," says *Mandarin Gate* author Eliot Pattison. "There is a great joy and harmony among Tibetans that has very little to do with what we in the West tend to link to happiness. They are technologically poor but spiritually rich, intellectually sophisticated but materially impoverished. Year after year they stand up to unthinkable acts of



repression. The adversity they face, and the heroes and saints it generates, merit much more attention on the world stage."

Mandarin Gate is the latest in Pattison's Inspector Shan series, which has sold over a million copies in twenty languages. Pattison portrays the oppression and dismantling of Tibet with some delicacy, but it's still a shock to the reader that it could still be

happening. The character of Shan is compelling and a sound investigator. There are seven previous books so it may be a little confusing to start with this volume. The basic plot is compelling, but there is much more description than needed. For a book set in Tibet, there's less spirituality than one might expect.

Former inspector Shan Tao Yun worked against a powerful figure high in the Chinese government. Yun has lost his title and his family is locked up in a work camp. Released unofficially without paperwork, Shan lives with a group of Buddhist monks in the remote mountains. He can't return to Beijing. Doing his job of inspecting irrigation and sewer ditches in a remote Tibetan township, he comes across bloody crime scene at an

old Buddhist temple undergoing restoration. There is a Tibetan nun and two men - one an outsider. The murders don't make sense. Is this a cover-up and why? Can Shan solve the crime, protect an American woman who saw the killer, and avoid being sent back to a camp?

Pattison says his decision to write about Tibet came after many years of global travel. "I gave up counting the miles after I reached a million over 15 years ago, during which I gained many insights into geopolitics and clashes between cultures. During those years I had written several nonfiction books and wanted to shift gears by trying my hand at a mystery. At the same time I had developed a deep conviction that Tibet has a vitally important message that is too often

overlooked in the West."

"I have been a student of Asian history and Asian religions since I was in my teens," says Pattison. "My endless search for resources led me to scour back alley bookstores in Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, Bangkok and other Asian cities, where I gathered up little known, long out-of-print chronicles of Asia in earlier times. I have amassed a sizable library and still take delight in dusting off these rare volumes and rediscovering life as it once was in the lands now subsumed by modern China."

"The most remarkable, and satisfying, aspect of writing this series has been learning how the books have sparked new interest in Tibet for many of my readers around the world," says Pattison.



BY
Gabrielle Pantera

"More than a few have commented that they never understood the realities of modern Tibet until they read *Mandarin Gate* and my other Shan novels."

Mandarin Gate Inspector Shan (Book 7) author Eliot Pattison. Paperback, 320 pages Publisher: Minotaur Books (December 24, 2013), Language: English, ISBN-13: 978-1250036506 Paperback \$12.60.



Buy it like Beckham: soccer idol outlines Miami franchise plan

Get ready for another David Beckham invasion, America folks!

The former England star and Los Angeles Galaxy player has exercised his option to become an owner of a new Major League Soccer franchise in Miami, a long-rumored move that was officially announced at a press conference Wednesday in Miami.

The footie ace delivered his long-awaited announcement confirming it as the future home of a Major League Soccer expansion team that he will own - alongside partners not yet named — and run.

Speaking at a news conference overlooking a sunny Biscayne Bay, Beckham told the over-zealous crowd: "This is an exciting time for myself, for my family and friends."

As he told of his plan, the former England captain dangled also the prospect of superstars joining the new Florida franchise.

get there? I know this city is ready for football."

Beckham made a point of saying that "a lot of great people want to invest in this team and this club," a remark greeted with cheers.

Though he declined to name names, saying it would be "disrespectful," but is already pushing the team as a superstar brand by tempting Miami's NBA MVP LeBron James to become involved.

"We don't want public funding," he said. "We will fund the stadium ourselves."

Beckham added: "I'm going to work hard for this city and this team," said Beckham, 39, dressed in a crisp grey suit in the wilting Miami humidity. "Everything I do is personal, and I want to make this my team."

After his speech things got a little hectic and the 38-year-old had to cut his visit short for safety reasons as hundreds of well-wishers and fans turned up mobbing the star on arrival.

MLS, which will begin its 19th season in March, currently features 19 clubs with teams in New York city and Orlando set to join in 2015.

"Who wouldn't want to play in Miami, live in Miami?" Beckham said of the players who are apparently already clamoring to become part of the 22nd and newest franchise in MLS.

"I'm getting messages saying, 'When's it happening? When can we



VB keeps Harper v. warm arriving in NYC

And while David's working the warmer climates in Miami, Victoria Beckham was spotted braving the cold in the plummeting temperatures in New York...

Never one to fail in the fashion department, it looks like she's training little Harper Beckham to do the same. The former Spice Girl and the little cutie were snapped as they arrived in the Big Apple, both layered up, ready to battle the cold chill.

At just two-years-old, mini Beckham has yet to put a tiny style foot wrong when it comes to



fashion!

Victoria — who was much more concerned for Harper's warmth — wore a tweed coat from her own clothing collection along with a classic pair of black skinny jeans and of course, her stilettos.

Following in her mum's

stylish footsteps, Harper also wore a tweed coat with fur trim, which was paired with blue denim jeans and a super cute pair of brown boots.

And in true Posh Spice style, the 39-year-old wore her trademark sunnies, despite arriving in the dark!

Hurley laughs off Clinton sex report

Former model Elizabeth Hurley took to Twitter this week to deny reports that she had an affair with President Bill Clinton while he was still in office, calling it "ludicrously silly" and "totally untrue."

U.S. tabloid *The Globe* cites an audio recording it says features Hurley's ex-boyfriend, Tom Sizemore.

On the recording, published on the *Globe's* affiliated

website RadarOnline.com, Sizemore recounts a long story about visiting the White House in 1998 with Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks for a screening of their film "Saving Private Ryan."

Sizemore alleges Clinton took him aside in the Lincoln Bedroom, confirmed he was Hurley's ex-boyfriend, got Hurley's number from him, called her up, and soon after, and secretly brought her to

the White House.

Sizemore said Clinton and Hurley then had a long affair (Sounds like he [Sizemore] must be desperate for dosh... Just sayin')...

"I asked her (Hurley), what was it like there? ...I said was Hillary a problem?" Sizemore said in the recording. "And she said 'No, they sleep in different bedrooms.'"

The infamous blog says the recording was made in January 2014. The recording sounds



like it was made at a party or some setting with many people, whose voices are heard in the background, but whose names are not revealed.

Sizemore has a long history of drug abuse, dating back decades, and was convicted in

the assault and battery of "Hollywood Madam" Heidi Fleiss, for which he spent seven months in prison.

If you ask me, this story is utter BS... But Thanks Tom, for getting our Liz back in the mainstream headlines again!



Los Angeles a cultural wasteland? Not from where I'm standing...

'If music be the food of love, play on.'

That is the only quote from Shakespeare that I clearly remember from high school. I don't have a musical bone in my body and learnt from Stephen Fry, that I am 'tone dumb', not tone deaf, meaning I can hear how I am supposed to sound but just can't make it happen!

So it is very fortunate for me that I love listening to live music, as LA seems to be a mecca for touring bands and artists. As a Brit in LA, I think it is important to embrace American culture and music too - that is probably how I managed to enjoy living here for so long - I celebrated my 17 year anniversary just two weeks ago! I am sure you have all have met those Brits who arrive in LA and complain about everything from the weather, to the eggs, bread or bacon not tasting right.

Good theatre

One of the most common things I hear (and which annoys me immensely) is how there is not much cultural stimulation to be found

here. The people who make these kinds of comments don't last very long in Los Angeles - and often head back to the UK, reporting we are all too worried about keeping our cars and teeth clean or mingling with movie stars! This past month has been an exceptional one for me - I popped along to the Pantages Theater (in Hollywood) and caught the hilarious musical, Book of Mormon. It is here until May, so go along and see it if you can. I found discount tickets on goldstar.com. It is not for the faint of heart (it is written by the South Park guys!) so if you don't know the backstory, perhaps read the reviews first!

Good Music

I also snagged tickets to see The Watkins Family and Jon Brion, who both have monthly residencies at Largo at The Coronet (366 N. La Cienega, West Hollywood). The Watkins Family are Americana at its best, and often have surprise guests drop in. I first saw them perform about 15 years ago, when they were part of bluegrass band Nickel

Creek, so it made me feel like a 'proper LA native' seeing them again so many years later. Jon Brion is a musical genius - every time I have seen him, it is an entirely different show - but whatever happens, I promise you are in for a real treat. This past show he played along with Eric Clapton (via an old black & white music video), which sounds a bit odd but it was quite beautiful.

The Troubadour has a booker with very eclectic taste - I just saw upcoming British pop star 'Laurel' (who is under the same management as Ellie Goulding and Rita Ora), then the US super group The Hard Working Americans. Tom Jones has performed at the Troubadour as have Charlotte Church and the Proclaimers. The added bonus is that the venue is located right next door to my favorite Italian restaurant, Dan Tana's (9071 Santa Monica Blvd. at Doheny).

Brits in LA member, Reg B curates a musical night every Tuesday at Hemingway's (6356 Hollywood Blvd - between Cahuenga and Vine) - entry is free, and the library-themed bar is an amusing contrast to the live rock bands that perform there. I popped in after hosting our weekly pub quiz at the Pikey Tuesday night and saw local LA band Total Navajo, who were excellent - I think they are back there next month too, so catch them if you can! I balanced out all my American indulgences with a quick visit to the Kings Head for a shandy and a Guinness and steak pie - perfect example of the gloriousness of being a Brit in LA! They have a decent gift shop too - I quite fancy an England scarf.

Our weekly Pub Quiz is building up quite a following - Team Irish Wristwatch won this



ROCK OF AGES: The Troubadour in West Hollywood remains a great venue

week's grand prize - and two of the team members, Caroline Feraday and Sandro Monetti are going to be hosting next week (which means I get to play for once!) Come join us every Tuesday - 7.30pm at the Pikey in Hollywood. Questions are not all British based so it pays to have an American on the team. Don't forget we have our annual short film competition The Toscars on February 26th. Visit our website TheToscars.com to get your tickets for the screening and awards ceremony which will be held at the historic Egyptian in Hollywood - it really will be a night to remember. Alex Newell from Glee is our Master of Ceremonies and we have some amazing judges lined up and even some

very well known actors starring in our Toscar-nominated parodies. All will be revealed over the next few days.....

Check our website Britsin.LA for details on

all our other events, including weekly Brits Breakfast sponsored by Next Stop LAX. See you soon!

Cheers!
Eileen



Hemingways features live music every Tuesday



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British Weekly SPORT

KP Out:

cont. from back page

controversy, with international cricketers past and present lined up on both sides to either support or criticize the decision.

Inevitably much dirty laundry has been aired on both sides, with claims that divisions in the England camp reached a head during a players' meeting after the Fourth Test at which Pietersen's blistering criticism of Flower essentially turned the player into an outcast.

The summit in Melbourne — without team management present — was the idea of Matt Prior, the England vice-captain who had been dropped after the Ashes were lost in Perth.

Prior, who regards the England team ethic as all-important, still wanted an opportunity for the players to discuss without fear of recrimination how they could improve dressing-room morale and the team environment.

The consensus within the squad was that England team director Andy Flower had been too much of a 'headmaster figure' during the tour and needed to relax his iron grip to get the best out of the team.

It was after the meeting following the Boxing Day Test defeat that Pietersen, rather than captain Alastair Cook, took it on himself to tell Flower where the players felt he was going wrong.

The ECB have refused to



ANTI-SOCIAL MEDIA: just three of the Tweets from the ongoing KP row

clarify the details of the fallout because of legal complications, including confidentially clauses in the Pietersen settlement.

But this version of events from inside the dressing room tallies with that of the Pietersen camp, who maintain that their man was the only player prepared to tell Flower some home truths.

It also brings some context to the explosive tweets on Wednesday by broadcaster Piers Morgan, KP's flag-waver-in-chief, who claimed Prior told his team-mates at the summit that Flower was 'behaving like a headmaster' and that they were playing in a 'schoolboy environment'.

According to Morgan, Prior added: 'F*** Flower, this is our team.'

Morgan further tweeted, after challenging Prior to take legal action if the accusations were incorrect: 'You stabbed Pietersen in the back, yet you agreed with him re Flower's dictator style. Makes you a flaming hypocrite.'

'For the record, @MattPrior13 (Prior) led the England team meeting after Melbourne Test. And slaughtered Flower.'

Prior responded: 'I don't do this PR, spinning media

rubbish, but I refuse to be attacked by a bloke that knows very little about what goes on in the England set-up apart from rumour, gossip and hearsay from certain individuals.

'I'm not the kind of person to divulge what is said in team meetings, but all I will say is that Flower, Cook and the rest of my team-mates know exactly what I said and the way it was meant.'

When Downton met Flower for his tour debrief this row helped to harden attitudes against Pietersen. The previously neutral Downton then held debriefs with senior players in Australia, the coaching staff and Cook before sacking Pietersen this week.

Even Pietersen's wife took to social media to attack her husband's critics. She described Dominic Cork, the former England player turned broadcaster, as a liar for suggesting her husband and Cook nearly came to blows in Sydney. Cork had told Sky Sports that there was an altercation between the pair at the SCG.

Former England bowler Darren Gough, who has a talk show on Talk Sport,

also weighed in, saying: "I've spoken to KP and to other players and he has never had a better relationship with the team than he has at this time... 'He says it's the best team environment he's ever been in. He gets on with everyone. I'm amazed at some of the rubbish that's been spoken about regarding the excuses to leave him out... And the people making that decision... Paul Downton, managing director, he's been out of the game for 15-20 years. Pathetic. James Whitaker, lovely man, he always looks smart, nice hair, nice suits. Chairman of selectors - one Test match for England."

But former England captain Michael Atherton took a different view, writing: "Kevin Pietersen was friendless. He had no allies among the management, hierarchy of the senior players..." while batting legend and outspoken BBC commentator Geoffrey Boycott praised the decision, saying: "I didn't know whether they would have the bottle to do it. Pietersen has to take some responsibility. Some of those shots in Australia were mind-boggling."

Laudrup considers legal action after Swans sacking

Michael Laudrup says he is considering taking legal action after being sacked as manager of Swansea City on Tuesday.

The Dane (pictured, right), who led the Swans to League Cup success last year, added he had not been allowed to return to the training ground to say goodbye to staff.



In a statement issued by the League Managers' Association (LMA), he claimed he is still waiting to hear the reasons why he was dismissed.

"I am, of course, taking legal advice," said Laudrup.

"The LMA have already written to the club asking for a proper explanation as to why I was summarily dismissed."

"Until we receive the response, I am unable to say any more about the termination, but I do want to take this early opportunity to thank the Swansea City fans for their continued support and say it has been an honour to manage this great football club."

Laudrup succeeded current Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers in south Wales in June 2012 and went on to lead the Swans to their first major trophy in 2013, when they won the League Cup.

That success gave them a place in this season's Europa League, a campaign that produced a memorable 3-0 victory at Spanish top-flight side Valencia in September.

They face Napoli in the last 32 of the competition this month.

But the club's recent form in the Premier League has been poor and rumours circulated about his future following his side's 2-0 defeat at West Ham on Saturday.

It was their sixth defeat

in eight Premier League games, leaving them only two points off the relegation places.

Despite the side's poor form Laudrup said he is confident he could have turned things around.

"Whilst league results have been disappointing of late, we are still 12th in the table and it is there for all to see the fine margins in the league this season in terms of points that separate 11 clubs," he said.

"Although we have been unfortunate with injuries, I believe our league form would have improved and that we would have benefited from the forthcoming Europa League and FA Cup matches."

Defender Garry Monk has been placed in charge "for the foreseeable future", assisted by Swansea attacking legend Alan Curtis, who was already part of the coaching set-up at Liberty Stadium.

Laudrup said he is "deeply disappointed" to have been sacked by Swansea and the way he was told.

He claimed he had received "the briefest of letters which gave no reasons why such hasty and final action was deemed necessary".

The former Real Madrid and Barcelona midfielder said the Capital One Cup triumph was the "obvious highlight" of his time in charge.

Mourinho: Kinnear out of Toon

cont. from back page

season we are going to win the league. This season, I can't."

Mourinho also revealed the final words of inspiration to his team before they took to the field at Etihad Stadium came from masseur Billy McCulloch rather than the manager himself.

"He [Billy McCulloch] was screaming so much in his Scottish [accent] I didn't understand really," said Mourinho. "The players were clapping so I thought 'OK, that's good'. I'm serious."

It was City's first defeat since they were beaten 1-0 by Sunderland at the Stadium of Light in November, but Pellegrini played down the significance of the result.

"For Chelsea, it was a decisive game, not for us," he said. "If we won, we were six points ahead of them. Now we are two points behind Arsenal."

JOE KINNEAR has finally parted company with Newcastle United.

According to reports, Toon boss Mike Ashley lost patience with his director of football when the former Spurs defender failed to make any signings over the last two transfer windows and after he sold star asset Yohan Cabaye for at least £9m less than Ashley believed he was worth.

Shortly after his appointment he infamously got the name of his own defender Shane Ferguson muddled up with former midfielder Stephen Ireland and called him Shane Ireland. On another occasion he told a reporter on a train as he headed to watch a Newcastle match that he had to call off a drinking night with Bobby Moore to wine and dine the Supremes. And more recently he told Newcastle fans not to worry about selling Tim Krul because he had three world class goalkeepers lined up. And most recently Kinnear briefed local reporters that Newcastle were going to sign Mohamad Salah for £25 million AFTER a deal had been struck with

Chelsea for less than half that figure.

According to one leading newspaper report, Ashley installed Kinnear for one simple reason, to keep an eye on and unsettle manager Alan Pardew, who Ashley was not prepared to give a big payout to by sacking after the club finished 16th, 12 months after the club had come fifth, and carry out Ashley's plan to the letter by ending spending.

Newcastle were never going to fork out a penny last summer on permanent deals after Ashley was forced to spend £33 million midway through the season in the 2013 January transfer window to keep the club in the Premier league when he signed five French players.

On that front at least,

Kinnear delivered.

Newcastle went through a summer after they had fought relegation by spending just £2 million on the loan fee for Loic Remy from Queens Park Rangers.

Cabaye was finally sold to Paris Saint-Germain last week, but the fee, negotiated by Kinnear, was not the £25 million they were expecting.

That saw Kinnear summoned to St James' Park on Monday and informed his services

were no longer required.

For long-suffering United fans, the club looks to be in chaos.

Wednesday Results

Table containing FA Cup Fourth Round Replay (Preston vs Nottm For), Scottish Championship (Dunbarton vs Livingston), and other football results.

Monday Results

Table containing Barclays Premier League results including Manchester City vs Chelsea, Arsenal vs Man City, and other matches.

Tuesday results & tables

Table containing Sky Bet League One, FA Cup Fourth Round Replay, and other football results and league tables.

Weekend SkyBet Results & Tables

Large table containing Sky Bet League One, League Two, and League Three results and tables for the weekend.

Six Nations Rugby

Table containing Six Nations Rugby results for France vs England, Wales vs Italy, and Ireland vs Scotland.

Weekend Scotland

Table containing Scottish Communities League Cup, Scottish Premiership, Scottish Championship, and Scottish League One results.

Weekend Premiership

Table containing Premier League results for Cardiff, Norwich, Everton, Aston Villa, Fulham, Southampton, Hull, Spurs, Newcastle, Sunderland, Stoke, Manchester Utd, West Ham, Swansea, Arsenal, Crystal Palace, West Brom, and Liverpool.

Vidic to leave United

Manchester United captain Nemanja Vidic will leave at the end of this season. The 32-year-old Serbia defender, whose contract expires in the summer, made his United debut in 2006. He told United's website: "I'm not

considering staying in England as the only club I ever wanted to play for here is Manchester United. "I never could have imagined winning 15 trophies. However, I have decided I will move on at the end of this season. I want to challenge myself again."



Sad end for Pietersen's England career

ENGLISH cricket was in disarray this week as the fallout from England's disastrous tour of Australia intensified.

New England supremo Paul Downton has swung the axe in both directions, with team manager Andy Flower and record-setting batsman Kevin Pietersen banished from the England set-up following the Ashes whitewash and the dreadful showing in one-day internationals, from which Alistair Cook's men emerged with just one victory.

And while the departure of Flower was accepted by almost all sides, the ejection of Pietersen – who is seen as a hugely disruptive figure by the England management – has caused a firestorm of
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José: "We're not title contenders"

■ Blues manager remains low-key despite convincing win over City

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho still insists his side are not serious title contenders - despite inflicting a first Premier League home defeat of the season on Manchester City.

Branislav Ivanovic gave the Blues a 1-0 win on Monday night to put them two points behind leaders Arsenal and level with City, but Mourinho says both rivals have a better chance of finishing top.

"The title race is between two horses and a little horse that needs milk and needs to learn how to jump," he said. "Maybe next season we can race."

Victory at Etihad Stadium meant Chelsea

became the first team to do the double over Manchester City in the Premier League since Everton in 2010-11.

It was a deserved result for the visitors, who hit the woodwork three times in the match as they continually caught out Manuel Pellegrini's side on the counter-attack.

However, despite the impressive performance and result, Mourinho refuses to state publicly that his side are capable of beating Arsenal and City to the title this season.

"I don't agree we are title contenders," said the 51-year-old Portuguese.

"We are a team in evolution but this is the kind of performance that helps a

team grow up a little tactically and mentally. It was fantastic.

"We have beaten the best team, Manchester City, twice but they are the best team. I am not saying we are better than them but today we were the best team.

"We do better in these big games because we love it. We love the big games and when you love it maybe you feel an extra motivation."

He added it was not Chelsea's "objective" to win the league, adding: "Our objective is to build the team.

"I want to start the next pre-season and say this

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Sat Feb 8	Six Nations Rugby		
6.30am	Ireland v Wales PPV		
9am	Scotland v Italy PPV	8am	ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE Tottenham v Everton (ask for replay) Man Utd v Fulham
	ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE		Tue Feb. 11 ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
7am	Chelsea v Newcastle		11.45am West Ham v Norwich
7am	Norwich v Man City		Noon West Brom v Chelsea
7am	Aston Villa v West Ham		
	Liverpool v Arsenal (ask for replay)		Wed Feb. 12 ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
9.30am	Swansea v Cardiff		11.45am Arsenal v Manchester United
			11.45am Everton v Crystal Palace
Sun Feb 9	SIX NATIONS RUGBY		11.45am Man City v Sunderland
7am	France v Italy PPV		11.45am Newcastle v Tottenham
			Noon Fulham v Liverpool

Valentine's Day Fri 2/14.
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