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Travis walks free; cleared on all counts

■ Jury instructed to 'ignore' outcome of Roache trial



RELIEVED: Dave Lee Travis said he wanted to try to regain his reputation

Former BBC DJ Dave Lee Travis said he had been through "a year and a half of hell", after he was cleared of 12 counts of indecent assault on Thursday.

The jury at Southwark Crown Court failed to reach a decision on a further indecent assault count and one of sexual assault.

Mr Travis, 68, of Mentmore, Buckinghamshire, denied all charges against him during the four-week trial.

The alleged incidents dated from 1976 to 2008 and involved 11 women.

Speaking outside court after the not guilty verdicts were read out, Mr Travis said: "I am not

over the moon about any of this today. I do not feel like there is a victory in any way, shape or form.

"On the contrary, I think you already know that I have been through a year and a half of hell on this."

Appearing emotional, he said he had not only endured a crown court trial but also a trial by media - and had had to sell his home to pay legal fees.

"I did lose my reputation as well, which I may try to get

back later," said Mr Travis, adding that all he wanted to do was go home to be with his wife Marianne, who stood by his side on the court steps.

Mr Travis was released on bail until a further hearing, to be held at the crown court on 24 February, to decide if there should be a retrial on the two outstanding charges.

The counts the jury could not decide on were an alleged indecent assault on a woman

working on a pantomime in the early 1990s and an alleged sexual assault on a journalist who interviewed Mr Travis at his home in 2008.

'Nonsensical'

The jurors had

deliberated for about 20 hours before delivering the verdicts, with Mr Travis staring straight ahead as they did so.

He had maintained his innocence during the trial, telling the eight women and four men on the jury that the claims

against him were "nonsensical" and that he was "cuddly" rather than "predatory".

The former Top of the Pops presenter told the court: "I'm a normal, decent human being. I play jokes on people. I

cont. on page 4, col. 1

New killer storm batters Britain



GETTING SLOSHED? The south-west coastline was hammered by giant waves this week as yet another Atlantic storm barrelled into Britain. The Cove House Inn (above) in Chiswell, Dorset, was badly hit. (Storm coverage: pages 2-4)

Latest storm batters Britain, brings widespread flooding

- Army called in as thousands are left without power
- Worcester, Berkshire and Surrey see record flooding
- Met Office issues rare red warning

Flood-hit Britain suffered a fresh battering Wednesday from storms and high winds that caused power outages to nearly 150,000 homes, the cancellation of football matches and the death of one man.

Gusts approaching 100 miles per hour tore at parts of England and Wales, and the River Thames was predicted to rise to its highest level in more than 60 years in places, threatening towns and villages to the west of London.

sandbags

One man died after being electrocuted while attempting to move a fallen tree that had brought down power lines in Wiltshire, southwest England, and 147,000 homes, mostly in Wales, were left without power after high winds brought down power cables, the authorities said.

More than 1,100 properties along the Thames have been flooded since January 29, authorities said.

Soldiers were drafted in

to rescue residents and lay sandbags in deluged villages where primary schools have been transformed into makeshift emergency centres.

The Met Office national weather service issued a red warning — the highest threat level — for “exceptionally strong winds” in western parts of Wales and northwest England.

Coastal areas in western England could also be flooded after being pounded by high waves.

danger to life

Fourteen severe flood warnings — indicating a danger to life — were in place in Berkshire and Surrey to the west of London, while two remain in Somerset in southwest England, the first area to be badly hit.

Forecasters said (2.75 inches) of rain would fall by Friday in southwest England.

Emergency efforts were picking up following criticism of a sluggish response, and the military said 2,000 soldiers were

available to help, with hundreds pressed into action already.

In Wraybury, the Thameside village that has been submerged since the weekend, 83-year-old Jennie Francis’s house has flooded and her hallway was filled with water.

She has been forced to take refuge at her son’s home, but she said the arrival of the army had made a huge difference to the village’s morale.

‘almost unparalleled’

“The soldiers have been absolutely marvellous, it’s wonderful to have them here. People were cross before, but now they are relieved to have some help,” she told reporters.

“The soldiers have been going around knocking on people’s doors asking for help. They’re lovely.”

Major General Patrick Sanders, who is co-ordinating the armed forces response, called the conditions an “almost unparalleled natural crisis”.

The embattled Environment Agency — the government body



BROWN AND UNPLEASANT LAND: Worcester’s center was inundated, including the city’s famous cricket ground (above)

responsible for flood defences that has faced the brunt of criticism — fought to defend its reputation.

One of its officials, David Murphy, addressed Wraybury’s residents alongside volunteer flood warden Su Burrows — who

berated Britain’s defence minister on live television on Tuesday.

Although Murphy faced a few angry questions he got a round of applause, and Burrows told the crowd: “These guys are our friends.”

The Environment Agency’s chief executive,

Paul Leinster, said: “We continue to have teams out on the ground 24/7 working to protect lives, homes, businesses, communities and farmland.”

Prime Minister David Cameron chaired the government’s COBRA **cont./**



THE PROFESSIONALS: 2,000 troops have been made available in Surrey and Berkshire to aid with sandbagging and evacuation of stranded residents



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floods: Even Windsor Castle has a new moat!

cont. from page 2

emergency committee and then told parliament he stood by his pledge that "money is no object in this relief effort".

"I want communities who are suffering and people who see water lapping at their doors to know that when it comes to the military, when it comes to sandbags, when it comes to restoring broken flood defences, all of those things, money is no object," he said.

Cameron warned that a further 800 to 1,000 homes were at risk of flooding as the Thames rose.

fears of looting

He also said grants of up to £5,000 would be available to businesses and homeowners affected by flooding to allow them to better protect their properties in future.

But that was little consolation to towns like Staines, just a few miles from London's Heathrow Airport.

Hundreds of residents were evacuated from the riverside town, with more than 100 properties flooded. A little further upriver around 1,000 homes in the Thameside village of Datchet were left without electricity during the night after power cuts which initially affected 1,700 properties.

And a primary school in Wraysbury, Berkshire, was reportedly turned into a '24/7 control centre' for residents affected by flooding, the BBC said.

It reported that army personnel had been on the streets during the night to help police, and that the army and police had set up checkpoints to monitor who comes and goes in the area following fears of looting at the homes of flood victims.

TWO of the Queen's favourite servants have been forced by rising floodwaters to evacuate their grace-and-favour homes and move into Windsor Castle.

Paul Whybrew, her most trusted footman and Sergeant-at-Arms, and head housekeeper Rachel Gordon live beside the swollen River Thames in Windsor Home Park, Berkshire.

The Queen, 87, returned to London on Wednesday after an eight-week break at Sandringham to find floods had reached the two turreted properties. Estate workers have been putting down sandbag defences.

A royal insider said: "Paul has been with Her Majesty at Sandringham and came back to see this terrible situation. He is horrified but at least has somewhere to go. Rachel was advised to leave her home at the weekend."

Whybrew, known as "Big Paul" because he is 6ft 4in, featured with the Queen in her James Bond spoof video made for the 2012 London Olympics.

She regards him as her personal assistant. The



SERENITY: A Thames swan finds its domain enlarged as floodwaters reached the town of Windsor this week

56-year-old bachelor is so close to her they even watch television together.

Long-serving Rachel, 40, recently took over the job at Windsor Castle. The castle itself is high and safe from floods.

A spokesman for the Royal Household confirmed: "Areas in Home Park have flooded, including a number of private homes."



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WHITE STUFF: residents in Northumberland were warned to avoid all non-essential travel as heavy snowfall brought out the snow plows

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TRAVIS:

cont. from page one

cuddle people. And if there have been some sexual interactions in the past, it has been consensual."

Prosecutors had alleged that Mr Travis was an "opportunist" who had assaulted young women over decades, including during his time working at the BBC and for commercial radio stations.

'fully investigate'

Mr Travis was arrested under Operation Yetwtree, set up by Scotland Yard after abuse allegations were made against Jimmy Savile, and was tried under his real name, David Patrick Griffin.

Det Ch Supt Keith Niven of Scotland Yard said outside court that the force takes allegations of sexual abuse "very seriously".

He said: "We fully investigate every case and once sufficient evidence is obtained, investigators work with CPS lawyers and a decision on whether to charge is made.

"In the case of Mr Griffin, a prosecution was brought, he was tried and the jury have reached their decision."

Floods: Thames Barrier credited with preventing 'catastrophic' damage

■ Barrier has been closed 29 times in the past 10 weeks to protect London - a fifth of its total use since being built in 1983

DESPITE widespread flooding in much of the south west and the Thames Valley, over the past two weeks, London has been spared a calamitous inundation thanks to a busy Thames Barrier.

The stormiest and wettest period of weather for a century has seen the barrier, which protects London from tidal flooding, closed a record 29 times since December - compared to 35 times between 1990 and the end of 1999.

The 520-metre wide structure - the capital's main defence against flooding - was built in 1982 at Woolwich, East London.

The series of 66-foot (20-metre) high metal gates, which cross the entire river at Woolwich, can be closed to stop the tide from coming up.

By holding back the tide, the barrier creates more space in the river for excess water from upstream to flow down.

At low tide, the Thames barrier is then opened and the floodwaters flow to the sea.

It was used four times in the 1980s, 35 times in the 1990s and more than 100 times since 2000. Last month it was closed on 13 consecutive tides and it has now been shut a total of 29 times in the last 10 weeks.

This represents one fifth of all the barrier closures - approximately 150 - since it was inaugurated.

The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology found that 89,238 million cubic metres of rain fell in December and January - the equivalent of 283.7 Lake Windermere being emptied across the country in just 62 days, or around 40,000 Millennium Domes.

According to a map released in December by its operator, the Environment Agency, large parts of London would be flooded if the barrier did not exist and sea levels continue to



BUSY: The Thames Barrier has closed a record 29 times since December

rise.

The map shows the Houses of Parliament,

the O2 arena, Tower Bridge, and areas including Southwark, the Isle of Dogs, Whitechapel and West Ham as flooded.

British libraries see sudden surge in erotic book borrowing

The borrowing of erotic fiction from UK public libraries has leapt by 500% over the past 12 months, in what is being called the 'Fifty Shades' effect.

Last year's most popular erotic fiction title, Indigo Bloom's *Destined to Feel*, was borrowed almost 11,700 times.

The surge is attributed to EL James' bestselling novel, which took third place in the most borrowed titles list.

Yet none of the trilogy appears in the erotic fiction top 10 because the EL James books are classified as romance.

In 2011/12, the most borrowed erotic fiction title, *Divine Misdemeanours* by Laurell K Hamilton, was only borrowed 1,500 times - a fraction of the figure for *Destined to Feel*.

One suggestion for the increase is that automated library

checkouts might be helping borrowers avoid any embarrassment when taking such books out.

Another is that the popular success of authors such as EL James has boosted the appeal of this type of fiction, meaning there is more of the genre and it has found a more mainstream readership.

The new Public Lending Right (PLR) charts reveal the most borrowed books and authors in UK libraries during 2012/13.

For the seventh year running, US crime author James Patterson retains his crown as the most borrowed author in UK libraries.

Children's authors dominate the top 10, with six children's authors on the list including Jacqueline Wilson, Julia Donaldson and Mick Inkpen.

Lee Child's *The Affair* is the most borrowed title over the past 12 months, just ahead of *A Wanted Man*, also by Child.

Hilary Mantel becomes the first Booker winner to make the top 10 since PLR records began 20 years ago, with *Bring Up the Bodies* cited as the eighth most borrowed book.

However, US romance writer Danielle Steel dropped out of the top 10 most borrowed adult fiction authors list for the first time since comprehensive PLR records began in 1988/89.

Public Lending Right - funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) - was established in law in 1979.

All lending income goes directly to the author, with a maximum payment threshold of £6,600 for the top-lending authors.

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“Too many Mancs and Scousers....”

Proud Tyke does a bunk from jail because of the quality of the inmates...

THE spirit of the War of the Roses rages on centuries after it ended as a Yorkshire prisoner escaped from jail...because there were too many inmates from Lancashire.

Richard Milburn, 29, walked through the entrance gates of HMP Kirkham (pictured, above) where he was serving a three-and-a-half year sentence and made his way back home.

He escaped from the prison in Preston near Lancashire on November 30 last year saying he was unhappy to be surrounded by people from the area.

Milburn, who was jailed for burglary and driving offences, fled back across the Pennines and handed himself in at a police station at his hometown of Bradford, West Yorkshire two months later.

Speaking at Bradford Crown Court on Monday, prosecuting barrister Paul Nicholson said: “He was unhappy because it was not Yorkshire people there, it was Lancashire and Liverpool people.”

Milburn’s solicitor advocate Alistair Bateman said until his escape, the Yorkshireman had been a model prisoner.

Mr Bateman told the

court his client was victimised in prison and was asked by prisoners from the Manchester area to store a mobile phone for them.

Milburn, who admitted escaping from the Category D Prison, was jailed for three months with a sentence that will run consecutively to the one who was already serving.

Milburn has gone from the open prison to HMP Leeds, commonly known as Armley Prison - a Category B facility.

He is due to be freed in November.

Judge Colin Burn said: “The court has a public duty to pass a sentence of custody to prevent other people from simply walking out of the Category D conditions you were in.”

Local newspapers on both sides of the Pennines made hay with the story, alluding to an ongoing ‘War of the Roses’ between the two leading northern counties.

The War of the Roses were a series of battles between the houses of Lancaster and York who vied for the throne between 1455 and 1487.

It was eventually won by Lancastrian claimant Henry Tudor who defeated the last Yorkist king Richard III.

Prince Harry murder plot: Man jailed for three years after threatening to kill prince

■ Ashraf Islam made his threats just 24 hours after the murder of soldier Lee Rigby on the streets of Woolwich

A convicted criminal who threatened to kill Prince Harry has been jailed for three years.

Ashraf Islam said he believed he had a “moral right to judge” the royal because he disagreed with the work of the British Armed Forces, of which Prince Harry is a member.

He made his threat just 24 hours after the brutal slaying of soldier Lee Rigby in Woolwich. Woolwich.

A judge at London’s Isleworth Crown Court said Islam posed a risk to the public, but added that his plot against the fourth-in-line to the throne was “vague and unlikely to succeed”.

Islam, of no fixed address but who had been living in west London and is said to have been radicalised in jail after converting to Islam, was handed a three-year jail term.

‘advanced plans’

He had earlier admitted making threats to kill in May last year.

Islam handed himself in to police on May 25 last year - the day after Drummer Rigby’s death - and volunteered the information about the plot, defence counsel Roxanne Morrell told the court today.

Judge Richard McGregor-Johnson said he would not go over details of Islam’s plot, but an earlier hearing was told how the Muslim convert planned to assassinate Prince Harry using a low-calibre pistol in a plot he named Operation Regal.

When Belfast-born Islam, formerly known as Mark Townley, confessed to police he had “advanced plans” to kill



PRINCE HARRY: serving member of the military

the Prince. He also described Drummer Rigby as a “soft target” and said he didn’t agree with the attack on the serviceman.

He eventually revealed he intended to kill Prince Harry because he “had blood on his hands”.

A document found on Islam’s computer said: “Aim for target. No civilians to be injured.

“Dress code is the the biker look. Use low-calibre pistol at close range. Not to be viewed as Islamist extremist.”

Judge McGregor-Johnson said during the brief hearing: “This was not a threat made in isolation.

‘moral guilt’

“The examination of your computer revealed you conducted research on his (Prince Harry’s) whereabouts and intentions.

“You had given the matter considerable thought.”

He added: “The reason behind that is that you thought he and other serving officers had some moral guilt, and you thought you had a moral



SECOND THOUGHTS: Islam handed himself in to police on May 25 last year

right to judge.

“I accept that there is nothing here that could be described as professional plans as to your expressed intentions.

“Your plan was vague and unlikely to succeed.”

But the judge said police would have intervened had Islam, who has previous convictions for dishonesty and for involvement in an attempted robbery, attempted to carry out his plan.

The judge said he considered a longer sentence, but said it would have been deemed “excessive”.

“I would have wished to consider an extended sentence,” he said. “But the authorities are clear, even if a court finds that the person does represent a danger to the public, that doesn’t justify a longer sentence.”

Ms Morrell, for Islam, said her client had a personality disorder.

Up to 15 Romanian squatters found living in disused public TOILET

- Council official discovered the men living in a toilet in north-west London
- The migrants had installed a bed and kitchen after tapping into the electricity supply
- The property has now been boarded up as it goes on sale for £300,000

A group of Romanian squatters have been discovered living in a disused public toilet for at least two weeks.

As many as 15 men were found in the small brick building by a

council official who went to examine the property before it goes up for auction.

The squatters had transformed the toilets in Edgware, north-west London, into a home by

installing a divan bed in the space where the urinals are - as well as a fridge, microwave and cooker.

They managed to tap into the public electricity supply and install plug



WHAT AN INCONVENIENCE: local residents had no idea the toilet was occupied

sockets, while they also carpeted over the floor tiles.

The group of men were discovered by an officer from Harrow Council who was visiting the former toilet, which is about to go on sale with a reserve price of £300,000.

When he arrived the squatters promptly left, but they returned a few days later and the building eventually had to be boarded up to keep them out for good.

A makeshift shelf running along the length of the urinals boasts a mouldy laptop and a DVD boxset of Rich Man Poor Man, as well an Orthodox Christian icon and a small sewing machine.

At one point we were getting reports that there were up to 15 people coming and going,' a council spokesman said.

'We didn't find any passports but found some

papers with names suggesting they were Romanian.

'The situation came to light because one of our officers went to make the property ready for marketing, not because we had received any complaints from residents.'

Local residents and businesses seemed largely unaware that the building had been converted into an impromptu home said.

Pharmacy assistant Nilam Morjaria said: 'It's shocking to think that they are so desperate that they want to live in the toilets. But I didn't know anyone was squatting in the building.'

'I haven't heard anything about them - nothing about them causing trouble or being a nuisance.'

'It shouldn't have been left empty and boarded up so long. It should either have been torn

down or sold sooner.'

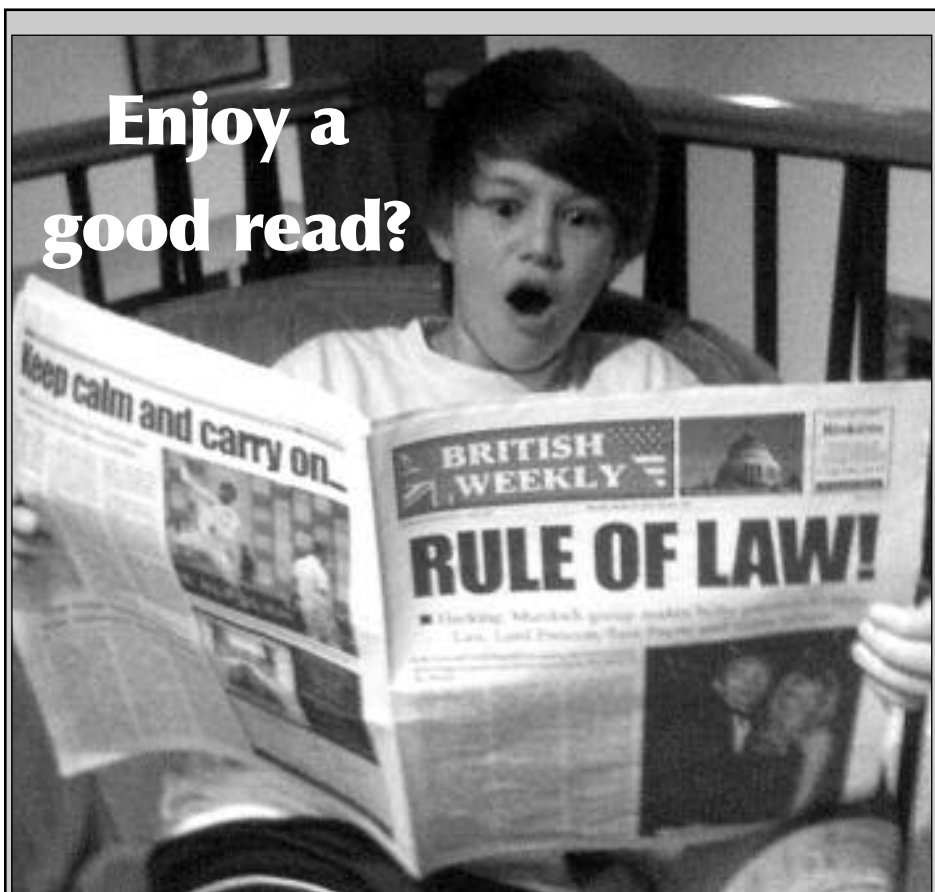
A local newsagent said she had seen people going in and out of the public toilet, but added: 'I didn't realise that they were actually living there.'

Council leader Susan Hall said: 'This was a public convenience, but it was not meant to be quite that convenient for the squatters who have evidently turned it into a one-bedroom flat.'

'What this shows is that the pressures of Eastern European migration are rippling out into suburbia.'

'People may be desperate to resort to these measures, but this is a building the council needs to sell to put money into services. As it is, the taxpayer is going to be left spending more than a penny to repair the damage done at this site.'

The building is set to be sold at auction later this month.



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Red rag to a bull? Argentina recently ordered a British cruise ship to stop flying the Red Ensign

More Argie-bargy in the South Atlantic...

Argentinean authorities demanded a British cruise liner take down the British flag after it docked in Buenos Aires, according to a news report this week.

The incident, which has been described by the Foreign Office as an act of "harassment and intimidation", was relayed to the broadcaster by the former head of the Royal Navy, Admiral Lord West, who was travelling as a passenger on board the Queen Victoria at the time.

According to West, the captain of the ship was informed he would face a heavy fine if he refused to take down the red ensign, the flag of Britain's merchant fleet, a move West called an "insult to the nation".

He said: "After we'd gone round Cape Horn I was at dinner with the captain, and the captain said to me that when they were in Buenos Aires that the ship had basically been threatened with a very punitive fine - about US\$10,000 - and also told

there would be 'trouble' in inverted commas - not specified - if he didn't take down the red ensign which the ship flies."

The flag demand follows a series of similar minor diplomatic incidents between London and Buenos Aires, played out against the ongoing backdrop of Argentinean claims over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

We condemn any attempts by the Argentine authorities to unnecessarily interfere with the legitimate transit of UK-flagged vessels," said a Foreign Office spokesman. "This appears to be another example of unacceptable harassment and intimidation.

"We robustly defend UK interests against any attempts by the Government of Argentina to disrupt any lawful commercial activity. We are urgently discussing the matter with Carnival UK (Cunard's parent company) and will raise this with the Argentine authorities."



FLYING THE FLAG: The Queen Victoria leaving Liverpool last year

Veteran snowboarder grabs GB's first-ever Olympic medal on the snow

■ Bronze medalist credits 'Downton Abbey' with helping her relax

Britain secured its first-ever Olympic medal on the snow this week, when Bristol snowboarder Jenny Jones won bronze at Sochi.

The 33-year-old from Bristol, who got her first taste of the sport on a dry hill near her home and who then promptly moved to France to work as a chalet maid so she could spend all her time on the slopes, is a positive dinosaur compared to her competitors, most of whom are barely out of their teens.

But she was gushing like a schoolgirl following her podium place, telling reporters: "It feels amazing. I cannot believe it. Even when I was in the gold medal position I knew I was going to drop but I didn't know how far. I am just so happy that I stayed on the podium."

Jones's score of 87.25 for a superbly executed second run had, for a brief while, actually put her into the gold medal position, but with 10 more riders to follow she knew her fate was out of her hands.

tension

She admitted the tension was hard to bear as she stood at the foot of the hill at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park for 45 agonizing minutes, waiting to discover whether she would be going home an Olympic medallist or a nearly woman.

Within 15 minutes, Finnish rider Enni Rukajarvi had overtaken her in the standings and after 30 the competition had a new leader as American Jamie Anderson landed a fiendishly difficult run to score a massive 95.25



"I thought I did my best run and landed it as best as I could and thankfully it was enough," - **Jenny Jones**, winner of the bronze medal in the Slopestyle Snowboard

points. With just two riders remaining, Jones was in the bronze medal position and so racked with nerves that she could only manage occasional glances at the giant TV screen to watch the progress of her rivals down the obstacle course of rails, boxes and jumps. The rest of the time her head was in her hands.

But after the penultimate rider, Switzerland's Isabel Derungs, crashed out of her run and then the last to go, Austrian Anna Gasser, made a costly mistake on a rail, the realisation suddenly dawned on Jones that she was an Olympic bronze medallist.

There were no tears. She just started giggling uncontrollably, laughing at her good fortune and at her new place in British sporting history.

'so proud'

"It was so difficult waiting. I thought I did my best run and landed it as best as I could and thankfully it was enough. But that was a long, long waiting game. It feels just ridiculous right now. I'm

so amazed at the situation that I'm in. I feel so proud to get on the podium."

Ever since the first Winter Olympics in Chamonix in 1924, the closest Britain had previously come to a medal on snow was the fourth-place finish in the slalom by skier Gina Hathorn in Grenoble in 1968.

In Salt Lake City in 2002, it looked as if the long wait was over when Alain Baxter won a slalom bronze medal, but weeks later he had to hand it back after testing positive for a banned stimulant.

But these are changing times for the Winter Olympics, and for Britain's fortunes. The addition of ski and snowboard slopestyle to the Olympic programme has opened up medal opportunities for a new wave of British athletes brought up on dry slopes and in indoor ski domes, where it is perfectly possible to practise and perfect many of the necessary skills.

Jones, an aspiring gymnast in her early teens who once competed in the South West

Championships, was an early pioneer of the snowboard scene.

In addition to her stint as a chalet maid she also funded herself with a series of temporary jobs, once working as a quality control checker in a cardboard factory. Another time she worked in a doughnut shop.

She has been the dominant force in her sport for more than a decade, winning three X Games gold medals - two global and one European - and countless other titles.

Jones displayed the same level-headedness after the final when she and Anderson, the American gold medallist, were asked in a press conference how they had both prepared the night before the competition.

Anderson, a Californian, said: "Last night I was so nervous I couldn't eat. I put on some meditation music, burned some sage, got the candles going and tried to do a little bit of yoga and meditate."

And Jones's response? "Actually, I just watched Downton Abbey. No mantras for me."

Local News/Meet a Member

Fox's David Hill guest speaker at BABC bash

The British American Business Council will host a reception on Tuesday, March 4th from 6-8pm at the Peninsula Beverly Hills with guest speaker David Hill, Senior Vice President of 21st Century Fox.

Mr. Hill's current responsibilities include overseeing American Idol and The X Factor. At the conclusion of the Reception, he will give a speech entitled: "From BSKYB to American idol: What is the Future of Television?"

Hills began his career with the Fox's parent company News Corp as an executive at BskyB in Great Britain in 1988, when he helped launch Sky Television, Britain's first satellite TV station, and also introduced Eurosport, a pan-European sports channel that was a joint venture of Sky Television and the European Broadcast Union. When Sky Television merged with British Sky Broadcasting in 1990, he took charge of BSKYB Sports Channel and created Sky Sports in April 1991 and made it the fastest-growing subscription channel in television history.

Hill relocated to Great Britain from Australia, where he had been Vice President, Sports, with the Nine Network since 1977. Under his direction the station won an unprecedented number of awards for excellence in sports production. His career began as a 17-year-old copy boy at the Sydney Daily Telegraph.

The cost of this event is \$20 for members, \$35 for non-members and tickets may be booked online at babcla.org. The event features complimentary hors d'oeuvres and wine. Valet Parking is \$9. The Peninsula is located at 9882 South Santa Monica Boulevard in Beverly Hills.

Brits in LA/ Meet a Member: Tehmina Sunny

Meet Tehmina Sunny from London who moved to LA six years ago to pursue acting.

Was there a particular reason you chose LA?

I initially came to LA to study with a particular acting teacher. I read their book in England when I first started acting. After arriving in LA, I knew I was never going to leave.

What one thing do you miss from home?

My family and Monster Munch crisps

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

I find that the level of fitness and maintaining a healthy lifestyle is far more prominent here in LA compared to England.

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

One of the first places I was introduced to when I first came to LA was the Chateau Marmont. Still to this day it holds its charming appeal. I like spending time reading a book with a cup of coffee or sharing

fun times with friends. This place is my gem.

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

Planning is key. I would suggest having a trip prior to making any commitments to get a feel of the place. I would also suggest learning about how credit works and its importance to how it affects everyday life, from the renting of an apartment, the leasing of a car to even taking out a phone plan.

Tell us about your involvement in this year's Oscars? You starred in one of them last year, what was your experience like?

I am very excited to be this years 'Miss Toscar'. Filming the short over a weekend was fun and frantic, with so many enjoyable moments along the way. It did get a little technical at times but working with a great team who were skilled in all areas made the experience great. Oh yes, attending the 'Oscars' was a very fun evening!



BLANKET COVERAGE? Brits in LA member, actress Tehmina Sunny

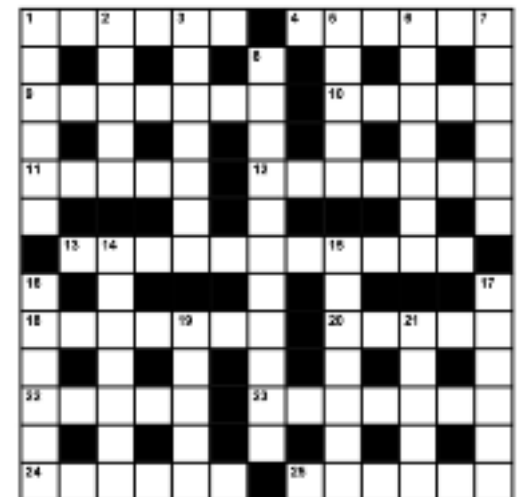
Tehmina on the internet...

<http://www.imdb.me/tehmينا>
<https://www.facebook.com/TehminaSunny>
<https://twitter.com/tehmيناsunny>
<http://instagram.com/tehmيناsunny>
<http://www.tehmيناsunny.com>

The British Weekly Crossword #103

Across

- 1 Choose (6)
- 4 Acos, e.g. (6)
- 9 Involved (7)
- 10 Vocal limit (5)
- 11 Kind of queen (5)
- 12 Expend (7)
- 13 Replaced (11)
- 18 Viewpoint (7)
- 20 Pulled from the deck (5)
- 22 Something in one's side? (5)
- 23 Greeting, not always applicable (7)
- 24 Retention (6)
- 25 Part of it (6)



Down

- 1 Ten-year period (6)
- 2 One is here, in this clue (5)
- 3 Some bills (7)
- 5 Electric plug connection (5)
- 6 Risky undertaking (7)
- 7 Mars bars, for example (6)
- 8 Undergoes (11)
- 14 Military garb (7)
- 15 Get ready for bed (7)
- 16 Spanking spot (6)
- 17 Chess piece (6)
- 19 Inside (5)
- 21 Stand up (5)

Solution to Puzzle #102



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

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

EASY

96

Stargazing with Annie Shaw



ARIES: Impulsive is often your middle name but you must beware of this tendency during the next three weeks. It is vital you keep things low key in all areas of life and do NOT respond to provocation.

TAURUS: You need to look long and hard this week ahead at where you are heading, perhaps you need a little help in this direction. The good news comes next week and Venus your boss will help you with this.

GEMINI: What you can achieve this week is up to how willing you are to make the right moves. Holding back for the right time is wasting time and you can be sure with your boss Mercury going backwards it will bite you in a painful place.

CANCER: This is a month of makeovers - either on you or your home (or if you can afford it, both). Either way get moving as it's the right time to let the winds of change move along with your help. You will get a boost of sorts later in the week.

LEO: As this month begins you could find yourself stretched beyond your limits, maybe in a couple of areas of life, one is work and the other money. It's going to get easier before month's end so keep calm.

VIRGO: Any task you take on will be difficult at first to deal with and as this will last until the end of this month make allowances for this. Your priority now is to stay calm and take as many breaks as possible.

LIBRA: Mars the war planet visiting you for a few weeks will bring up past unfinished business and people you have not seen for a while. Keep cool and (for a change) let others come to you.

SCORPIO: Saturn in your life now will bring rewards and it will have been well deserved in the end. You will likely be feeling more laid back and not wanting to deal with stress, even while you are working hard at whatever you should be.

SAGITTARIUS: Your boss Jupiter is resting in a watery place now and can bring up long-forgotten feelings. Rest assured if they are there it's best to deal with them in a timely manner or they will pop back up again.

CAPRICORN: Your current situation is getting more attention, either from you or others involved in your life. You are a private person and do not like others intruding, however in order to achieve a positive way of life let someone assist you in your current endeavors.

AQUARIUS: How you handle a situation in your personal life this coming week is crucial to your long-term outlook. If you are in doubt hold off but don't procrastinate forever. Either way have a Happy Birthday.

PISCES: Life is to be enjoyed, so go for it and know that what is for you will never pass you by. You should consider an extra special celebration for your upcoming birthday and if you have to plan it yourself, so be it.

Jolly Good

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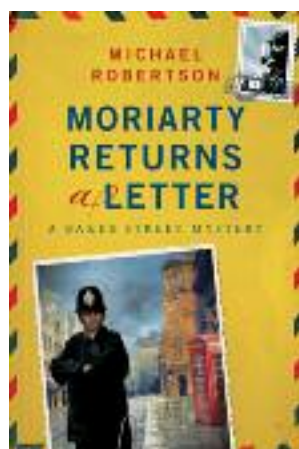
Moriarty returns a letter: Holmes again...

■ Exclusive interview with author Michael Robertson and a review of his fourth novel inspired by the adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Rating: ★★★

"For Moriarty Returns a Letter, I had to do historical research, because that book follows a series of characters and a feud that spans generations, from the 1890s, when the first Sherlock Holmes story featuring Moriarty was published, to London during WWII, and finally to present day," says author Michael Robertson.

Moriarty Returns a Letter is the fourth book in the Baker Street Letters



series. The other books are The Baker Street Translation, The Brothers of Baker Street, and The Baker Street Letters. The central conceit is that our hero, Reggie Heath, together with his brother Nigel, have leased Sherlock Holmes' famous address at 221b Baker Street and as a condition of their lease must answer letters sent to the fictional detective.

This latest outing opens

1893 when a brave Pinkerton operative from America, undercover in London, is captured by a local crime lord named Redgil and, in a desperate attempt to save his own life, pretends to be Moriarty, Sherlock Holmes' arch-enemy.

Fifty years later, the operative's son, Capt. James Moriarty of the U.S. Army is in England to find out what happened to his father. He finds Redgil, who now goes by Redfern, and intends to confront him. Fast forward to 1998, Reggie Heath is engaged to Laura Rankin, who is being stalked by a crazy woman obsessed with Heath. A letter to Sherlock Holmes, which Heath answers, will change their lives.

Robertson excels at witty dialogue and the love story between Heath and Laura Rankin

contains humor and the exploits of characters along briskly. Robertson doesn't try to make Heath into Holmes and Holmes fans will appreciate the clues from the original Sir Arthur Conan Doyle novels that Robertson incorporates. The situations seem realistic and the main characters likable.

The original Sherlock Holmes was featured in four novels and 56 short stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, starting in 1887. The character's popularity exploded with the publication of a series of short stories in The Strand Magazine in 1891.

"I very much wanted to get a copy of the December 1893 issue of The Strand Magazine, in which The Final Problem was first published and the fictional Moriarty was

introduced to the world," says Robertson. "But, I couldn't afford an actual copy. I contented myself with examining facsimiles online."

As part of his research for writing the series, Robertson spent a lot of time in London, especially at trials at the Old Bailey. "That's because my primary protagonist, Reggie Heath, is a barrister who acquires responsibility for the letters when he locates his new chambers in that building on Baker Street," says Robertson.

Robertson was inspired to write the series by an article he read in 1979. "I was taking a screenwriting class and trying to come up with a story idea. I happened to read a newspaper article about the Abbey National Building society, a bank in the 200 block of Baker



BY
Gabrielle Pantera

Street in London that was in the habit of receiving, and responding to, letters that people wrote, even then, to Sherlock Holmes."

Moriarty Returns a Letter, Baker Street Mystery (Book 4) by Michael Robertson. Hardcover, 272 pages, Publisher: Minotaur Books (January 28, 2014), Language: English. ISBN-13: 978-1250016461 \$18.62

Thompson and Brosnan team up in The Love Punch!

Emma Thompson is an Academy Award-winning actress and Pierce Brosnan is a former James Bond and together they make a magical movie screen pairing, so it's a surprise that this pair have never worked together...until now, that is.

The two British stars are acting in their first movie, *The Love Punch*, to be released in the late spring. Joining Emma and Pierce for the movie, whose locations span London, Paris and the French Riviera, are veteran actors (and two of my favorites) Timothy Spall and Celia Imrie. 'The Love Punch' is a romantic romp that tells the story of ex-husband and wife Richard and Kate who long ago divorced, then meet up again where there still seems to be some vestige of unextinguished attraction.

The divorced couple then plot and scheme to recover retirement money that was stolen from them. Oo-er!

Brosnan plays Richard, a financial something-or-other facing bankruptcy a week before retirement.



DREAM TEAM: Spall, Imrie, Thompson and Brosnan

A corporation has come in and wiped out his company's pension fund. Its slimy boss has invested his takings in a blingy diamond for his trophy bride. The little peoples' futures are on the line, so Pierce and Emma cross the channel to confront the villain, pinch the rock and bicker their way back into each others' affections.

They're joined in the chase by rogue-ish ex-serviceman Jerry (Spall) and his gently nutty wife Penelope (Imrie), who says rude words and gets a bit randy.

The former Bond was especially intrigued with playing with that spy image in a suburban setting.

"It was wonderful to be able to play with that, to use that image that is so indelible in some respects and follows you around," the two-time Golden Globe nominee said.

Emma added: "You're dealing with Charisma, Inc., here, on my left, and you're playing with the clown in me. Because essentially I am a clown. That's what I am. And always have been."

The flick sees Pierce at his most suave, charming best, while Emma is as endearingly silly as her Golden Globe's speech... she is marvellous and mouthy!

The *Love Punch* is released in cinemas in the UK on April 18.



Dani Behr... back on the box at FOX Sports!

Nice to see British telly host Dani Behr back on the box.

The former *Word* presenter has landed a plum job in the US hosting on the Fox Soccer Channel with ex-footie star Warren Barton. Dani, who quit Britain for Los Angeles 12 years ago, took a break from TV to become a full-time mom.

Now offers a pouring in again from both sides of the globe and the Behr is definitely back in business!



Dani told the British Weekly: "Super excited to be back on TV, I have known Warren for over twenty years so it's great to be working with him."

"I love California, doubt I'll ever go back to the UK now... I love the sunshine!" We're delighted to see you back too Dani!

Oh No! Cowell's show gets 'X'd out...

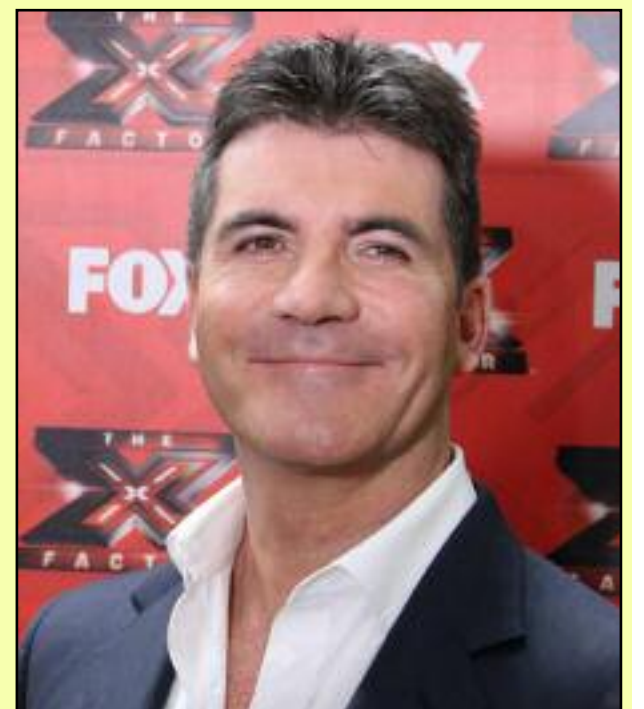
Oh no! The *X Factor* U.S is ending after three seasons. Poor Si!

Fox and the show's production companies announced last Friday that the U.S. edition of the talent competition won't be coming back this fall. Oo-er...

"X Factor" head judge and creator-executive producer Simon Cowell, (pictured) will instead return to the U.K. version of "X Factor" later this year.

"I've had a fantastic time over the last 12 years, both on 'The X Factor' and 'American Idol,'" Cowell said in a statement.

"And apart from being lucky enough to find some amazing talent on



the shows, I have always had an incredible welcome from the American public - most of the time!"

The acerbic judge initially predicted that "X Factor" would be a major hit before its 2011 debut, but the show never garnered stellar ratings, which continued to dip in last year's third season.

"X Factor" also failed to produce a winner as

successful as past "Idol" champions.

The show's hosts and judging panel was revamped each season with Paul Abdul, Antonio "L.A." Reid, Britney Spears, Demi Lovato and Kelly Rowland among those joining Cowell on the panel.

All together now, Awww...!





Toscars....can you feel the magic?

Hi Breeps!

Awards season has finally arrived! We've had the Golden Globes, the Grammys, the SGA Awards, and now the Spirit Awards are upon us...not to mention The Toscars, Brits in LA's salute to that other awards show with an eerily similar name.

Our event this year is presented by Jaguar, who are no strangers to having a bit of fun themselves this year. You may remember their wickedly wry effective commercial spot at the recent Super Bowl, starring our own Sir Ben Kingsley, Mark Strong and Tom

Hiddleston. I think one of the reasons the Toscars has grown over the years is due to the time, effort and talent the participants put in each year. It's a tight deadline, but I'm so proud of each team leader, **Sandro Monetti, Marc Cleary, Laura Harbron, Heath Deatherege, Matt Crabtree, John Mawson, Kerry Marlowe, Ewan Chung and Brian Rodda.**

And a big thanks to the Committee - **Nadia Wit, Marina Paganucci, Amy Chaffee, Ben Stanley and Oskar Rodriguez,** who are working tirelessly to bring this event

together. I also want to say thank you to our volunteers for the night - if you are interested in also volunteering please send me an email at craigremember@britsin.la. I also want to be clear that we aren't poking fun at anybody - we are merely tipping our hat to them in a tongue-in-cheek manner. Think of the old French and Saunders parodies, or the SNL skits and you'll be on the right track.

Big Ron is back

This year's event is being hosted by **Alex Newell** from GLEE fame and he's got some great tricks up his sleeve for this year. We had a few exciting additions to the teams; this year **Ron Jeremy** will be starring in his first ever PG-13 film "British Hustle". He said he's very proud and finally he's made a film he can show the family. **Tim Russ**, who you may remember playing Lieutenant Commander Tuvok in "Star Trek: Voyager" tried his hands behind the lens this year and directed the parody of gravity called "Cavity". We have some fantastic celebrity judges lined up for the night and it all benefits the charity UKares. (www.ukares.org). The very beautiful and talented actress **Tehmina Sunny**, who is our member of the week, also happens to be this year's Little Miss Toscars, and will be helping Alex hand out the awards and escorting our presenters and winners to the stage. So the event is Wednesday Feb 26th at the world famous Egyptian Theatre, Hollywood. Tickets are on sale now for \$100 and screening-only tickets are \$35 and available here: www.thetoscars.com.

We have some amazing judges lined up



WHAT A TALENTED BUNCH: ten short parodies are competing in the Toscars

for you so keep checking the Toscars Facebook Page and follow us on Twitter to find out more and keep updated with news as it unfolds. Thank you also to **Beltran Brito, Geek Eyewear, Pollution Studios and The Camera House** for their kind sponsorships. Look Forward to seeing you at the movies.

And finally...

Pub Quiz at The Pikey was hosted by the effervescent Sandro Monetti and the lovely Caroline Ferraday this past week. The winning team won £100 and won by catching balls on their heads. (Don't ask!) And don't forget Brits Breakfast every Tuesday at Cecconi's (corner of Robertson and Melrose)



RON JEREMY: the 'British Hustle' actor is proud to have finally made a movie he can show the family...

sponsored by Next stop LAX. \$15 incl. tax and tip, bottomless tea and coffee, free valet. - Great bang for your buck. **till next time... Craig**



CELEBRITY HOST: Alex Newell from Glee



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POLLUTION

British Weekly SPORT

United ready to splash the cash this summer

Manchester United aim to spend their way back to the top this summer following confirmation by executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward that the club will "move in the market in a way we haven't seen in recent years".

With David Moyes, the manager, seeking at least four new players at the end of what has so far been a disastrous first campaign in charge, United's owners, the Glazer family, are prepared to provide at least £100million for squad strengthening.

Woodward, who admitted that United's league position was "disappointing" in a statement accompanying the release of the club's second-quarter accounts on Wednesday, insisted that United would be able to withstand a failure to qualify for the Champions League next season due the club's historic global appeal.

However, with the Glazers' overall transfer outlay at United – £382.9 million – dwarfed by the £696 million drained from the club's funds to service its debt since the Americans' 2005 takeover, Woodward claims that this summer will see United flex their financial muscle in the



HAIR-RAISING NUMBERS: Avi and Joel Glazer (center and right) have siphoned off almost £700m from United's coffers since their 2005 takeover of the club

transfer market.

"It's fair to say we are focused on strengthening the squad," Woodward said during a conference call with investors. "We wouldn't necessarily be looking to churn a huge number of players because that can have a destabilising effect, but we aren't afraid of moving in the market in a way that perhaps we haven't seen in recent years.

"Historically we've had three sales and three purchases each year and it's possible we'll do more than that. We will continue to nurture and develop young, talented players and bring them into the first team when ready. But we will also invest in our squad as

needed in order to ensure we are competing at the highest level."

A failure to win the Champions League this season or finish in the top four would see United miss out on Europe's premier competition for the first time in 19 years, but Woodward is confident such an outcome would not damage the club's earning potential.

"We are not in the position that we want to be [in the Premier League] and are working hard to change that," Woodward said. "With 13 games left to go there is still a lot to play for.

"But I think it takes a long, long time to build up a huge fanbase, to have the equity value of

what we are as a business and a club projected out there. So people can understand from a commercial perspective why it makes sense to partner with us and I don't think that will go away for a long time.

"Some of our competitors haven't won the Premier League for a long time but still sell a huge number of shirts out there globally, some just down the road from us. That's not something I'm sitting here concerned about. What I am focused on is on that long-term strategy which is making sure that we're building a competitive squad that challenges for trophies and that's something we are doing."

Froch/Groves rematch confirmed for May 31

British super-middle-weight rivals Carl Froch and George Groves have agreed to a rematch, to take place at a football stadium on Saturday, 31 May.

Nottingham's Froch, 36, retained his WBA and IBF titles with a ninth-round stoppage of Groves last November.

But Londoner Groves, 25, complained the fight was ended too soon.

The bout is the biggest rematch in British boxing since Chris Eubank fought Nigel Benn for a second time at Old Trafford in 1993.

Froch-Groves II is expected to break the box-office record for a British fight, with Old Trafford in Manchester and Arsenal's Emirates Stadium being suggested as possible venues.

Promoter Eddie Hearn said he wanted upwards of 80,000 people to be at the fight, adding: "I believe this is the biggest fight in British boxing history. I want to see how big we can make it."

The record attendance for a post-World War II boxing show was for Ricky Hatton's fight against Luan Lazzano, which drew 55,000 fans at the City of Manchester Stadium in 2008.

There were bitter recriminations in the wake of the first fight between Froch and Groves at the Manchester Arena.

Groves led on points after flooring the champion in round one but referee Howard Foster stepped in to halt proceedings when Froch went on the attack in round nine.

With Froch angling for a rematch against American Andre Ward or a fight with Mexican Julio Cesar Chavez Jr in



FROCH: controversial win over Groves last November

Las Vegas, it looked like Groves might have to wait for his chance to avenge the loss.

He initially rejected a "seven-figure" offer from Froch's promoter Eddie Hearn for a rematch, claiming there were too many "stipulations".

But then, last month, the IBF ordered Froch to fight Groves again within 90 days or risk losing his belt.

Groves also petitioned the British Boxing Board of Control to restore his unbeaten status by declaring his defeat by Froch a no contest.

Froch continued: "It's been a difficult period for me following the first fight. I've had to listen to his endless whining and appeals when ultimately the referee did him perhaps the biggest favour possible and saved him from a devastating knockout, whilst denying me the right of a clinical finish and a great comeback victory.

"I was poor in the first fight. I didn't give him the respect as a fighter. I can't wait to get back in there and do a proper job."

However Groves said he was within his rights to appeal. He told Sky Sports: "All I want is a rematch."

Monday Results

Sky Bet Championship
DERBY (1).....1 QPR (W).....0
Attendance: 20 Att: 23,495

Tuesday Results

Barclays Premier League
CARDIFF (W).....0 ASTON VILLA (D) 0
Att: 27,397
MILL (D).....0 SOUTHAMPTON (W) 1
Attendance: 69 Att: 23,670

Sky Bet Championship
BOLTON (W).....0 BURNLEY (D).....1
Attendance: 68 Att: 16,428
BRIGHTON (W).....1 LEEDS (D).....0
Attendance: 54 Att: 27,700

Sky Bet League One
CARLISLE (1).....1 BARNFORD (W).....0
Attendance: 14 Att: 3,267
MIL ORIENT (1).....1 BRISTOL C (2).....3
Attendance: 44 Att: 3,928

Sky Bet League Two
BRISTOL RVS (1).....1 CHELTENHAM (D) 0
Attendance: 84 Att: 5,805

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for various football clubs including Charlton, Millwall, and others.

Weekend Premiership

Table of weekend Premiership results including Aston Villa (0), Chelsea (2), Crystal Palace (2), Liverpool (4), Norwich (0), Southampton (2), Swansea (0), Manchester Utd (0), Spurs (0), West Ham (0), Newcastle (0), West Brom (0), Arsenal (0), Manchester City (0), Stoke (2), Cardiff (0), Fulham (1), Everton (0).

SCOTLAND

Table of Scottish football results including William Hill Cup Fifth Round, Scottish League One, Scottish League Two, Scottish Championship, and Scottish Cup.

Moyes:

cont. from back page

commitment is first class. "You saw how good Nemanja Vidic was tonight, you saw how good Rio Ferdinand was when he came on as substitute for the second half.

"They are a great, very experienced group of players. They have won things and got the medals and when you have won, you want to win more. I still think they are hungry."

The former Everton boss added: "I thought we did a lot of good things. We had a good shape, were nice and compact. "Arsenal is a hard place to come and they have been having a great season. If you had told me at the start of the season we would take four points off Arsenal I wouldn't have been too disappointed."



ADEBAYOR: hot streak for Spurs

Sherwood: we need Liverpool to slip up

Sherwood: Spurs need Liverpool to falter in Champions League race Tottenham manager Tim Sherwood says his team are relying on fourth-placed Liverpool to drop points in the battle for Champions League qualification.

On Sunday, Tottenham earned a narrow home win against Everton - another team with ambitions of Champions League qualification - to move above their opponents to fifth, and they followed that with an impressive 4-0 demolition of Newcastle on Wednesday night at St. James's.

They are eight points clear of seventh-placed Manchester United, who followed up the weekend's 2-2 draw with Fulham with a goalless stalemate with Arsenal in midweek. The two sides meet in a potentially decisive game at Anfield on 30 March. "There's always someone who could drop a couple of points but our big rivals Liverpool are flying. We need them to trip up," said Sherwood, 45.

And Sherwood insisted United were not yet out of the hunt, saying: "Everyone is waiting for Man United to come up on the rails. I can't see that not happening - they will put a run together and be right up there. "Our target is fourth place and it always has been. If we can get higher than that then great but it is the target we are looking for."

Wednesday Results

Table of Wednesday football results including Arsenal (W), Everton (P), Fulham (1), Man City (P), Newcastle (W), and Spurs (1).

Weekend SkyBet Results

Table of Sky Bet Championship and League One results including Barnsley (1), Ipswich (0), Blackpool (0), Nottm For (1), Bolton (2), Bournemouth (1), Brighton (0), Doncaster (0), Burnley (2), Millwall (1), Charlton (W), Birmingham (1), Huddersfield (0), Wigan (0), Reading (W), Sheff Wed (1), Yeovil (1), Leeds (W).

Table of Sky Bet League Two results including AFC Wimbledon (0), Rochdale (0), Bristol Rvs (1), Oxford Utd (1), Dag & Red (0), Hartlepool (W), Exeter (W), Portsmouth (1), Mansfield (1), Southend (0), Wrexham (W), Burton Alb (1), Northampton (0), Plymouth (2), Scunthorpe (1), Chesterfield (1), Sheff Utd (2), Shrewsbury (W), Stevenage (P), Wolves (P), Tranmere (1), Preston (1), Walsall (W), Mh Dons (2).

Rugby Results

Table of Rugby Union results including IRB Six Nations (Ireland, Wales, Scotland, England, France, Italy), Aviva Premiership (Bath, Exeter, Saracens, London Irish, Worcester), and other regional matches.

Sherwood, who skipped Blackburn to the Premier League title in 1994-95, admits there is "always a risk" that his key players may want to leave White Hart Lane if they are not playing Champions League football next term.

Rodgers backs his 'chihuahuas' in epic title run-in

■ Reds boss cautiously optimistic after great week leaves Anfield side just four points off top spot

Brendan Rodgers says his Liverpool side "may be the chihuahua that run in between the legs of the horses" as the Premier League title race intensifies.

The Northern Irishman made his quip in response to recent comments made by Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho.

The Blues boss has tried to play down his side's own chances by describing them as a "little horse."

A 3-2 win at Fulham on Wednesday put Liverpool within four points of Mourinho's table-topping side.

Reds skipper Steven Gerrard, whose injury-time penalty secured victory at

Craven Cottage, is upbeat about his team's chances but say they "need to keep pushing".

He added: "If we're still in the mix when the Champions League restarts, then who knows what might happen?"

Liverpool have not won the title since 1989-90, but Chelsea still have to visit Anfield, as do third-placed Manchester City.

City and Arsenal are also in Champions League action next week, at home to Barcelona and Bayern Munich respectively, while Chelsea visit Galatasaray the week after.

In contrast, Liverpool have not got a midweek league game scheduled

for the rest of the season.

"They have all got big Champions League games while we've only got to think about one game a week," said Gerrard.

Liverpool had to overcome a scare before seeing off bottom club Fulham.

Kolo Toure's own goal gave the Cottagers a surprise lead before Daniel Sturridge levelled following Gerrard's delightful pass.

Kieran Richardson took advantage of poor defending by Martin Skrtel to restore Fulham's advantage, but Philippe Coutinho equalised from 20 yards before Gerrard's penalty.

The spot-kick was awarded by referee Phil



ONE OF THE BIG DOGS: Steven Gerrard celebrates after scoring a game-winning penalty at Craven Cottage on Wednesday night

HOW THEY STAND						
	P	W	D	L	F	A
Chelsea	26	17	6	3	43	21
Arsenal	26	17	5	4	48	26
Man City	25	17	3	5	69	27
Liverpool	26	18	5	5	68	32
Spurs	26	15	5	6	38	32
Everton	25	12	8	4	37	26
Man Utd	26	12	6	8	41	31
Southampton	26	10	9	7	37	29
Newcastle	26	11	4	11	32	38
Swansea	26	7	7	12	33	36
West Ham	26	7	7	12	28	33
Aston Villa	26	7	7	12	27	36
Hull	26	7	6	13	25	31
Stoke	26	6	9	11	27	41
Crystal Palace	25	6	2	15	18	34
Norwich	26	6	7	13	19	39
West Brom	26	4	12	10	30	38
Sunderland	25	6	6	13	25	38
Cardiff	26	5	7	14	19	44
Fulham	26	6	2	18	26	58

Dowd after Sascha Riether's clumsy stoppage-time challenge on Sturridge.

Asked about Liverpool's title chances, Rodgers feels their rivals need to slip up.

"It's still the other teams to lose," he said. "They've more points than us. We'll just go into each game trying to improve on every facet of our game."

"The players are doing

magnificently at the moment and we're certainly showing great signs of improvement. We're trying to be the best we can be. There're no limits to our ambition of trying to be the best."

Moyes still eyeing top four finish

Manchester United boss David Moyes insists he still has his sights on the top four - despite falling 11 points behind the Champions League qualifying spots after a goalless draw at Arsenal.



MOYES: still hopeful

Fourth-placed Liverpool extended their lead over United as they won 3-2 at Fulham and Moyes's side played out a drab stalemate at Emirates Stadium.

David Moyes extended his record to 49 Premier League matches without victory in away games at Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester United.

"If there is one club who have been great at

winning games in the second half of the season, and putting pressure on the teams above, it is Manchester United," the Scot said.

"We will continue to do that and try to make it work. We can only do our job the best we can. We want to make it better and we can't bother about other teams. All we can do is

try to win our next game."

United's draw in north London extended their winless run to three games, with Sunday's draw against bottom club Fulham preceded by a 2-1 loss at Stoke, one of five defeats in 2014.

Moyes was satisfied with taking a point at Arsenal but admitted Robin van Persie could have won the game with two opportunities that were saved by Wojciech Szczesny.

And he insisted last season's champions still have the hunger and desire for new successes, adding: "Their attitude in training and

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Tue 2/18 1145am	CHAMPIONS LEAGUE Bayer leverkusen v PSG	7am	Arsenal vs Sunderland
1145am	Man City v Barcelona	9.30	C. Palace vs Man. Utd
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