



107 years on: Shackleton's ship found - page 3

# UK sanctions Abramovich

■ Chelsea boss one of seven oligarchs targeted with asset freezes and travel bans

Chelsea FC owner Roman Abramovich has been sanctioned by the UK government as part of its response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

He is one of seven oligarchs to be hit with fresh sanctions, including asset freezes and travel bans. The list also includes

billionaires Igor Sechin and Oleg Deripaska, both seen as allies of Vladimir Putin. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said "there

can be no safe havens" for those who have supported the invasion.

Chelsea FC cannot sell any more tickets for games, its merchandise shop will be closed, and it will be unable to buy or sell players on the transfer market.

The government said it would issue a special licence that allows fixtures to be fulfilled, staff to be paid and existing ticket holders to attend matches.

## pressure

Ministers have come under pressure to sanction Mr Abramovich, who said he had made the "difficult decision" to sell Chelsea FC earlier this month.

The football club is among the assets frozen as part of the sanctions against Mr Abramovich and its sale has now been stalled.

But the BBC understands the government would consider allowing Mr Abramovich to apply for a special licence to sell the club, providing he can prove he would not benefit from the sale.

Mr Abramovich, 55, is alleged to have strong



FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE? Abramovich's closeness to Vladimir Putin is finally costing him dearly

ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin, which he has denied.

The government says Mr Abramovich, who has an estimated net worth of £9.4bn, is "one of the few oligarchs from the 1990s to maintain prominence under Putin".

Mr Abramovich has stakes in steel giant Evraz and Norilsk Nickel. He sold a 73% stake in Russian oil firm Sibneft to state-owned gas titan Gazprom for £9.87bn in 2005.

He is believed to own a number of properties in the UK, including a 15-bedroom mansion at Kensington Palace Gardens in west London, reportedly valued at more than £150m.

While the sanctions

against him throw Chelsea's future in doubt, ministers sought to reassure the club it would not be "unnecessarily harmed".

In a tweet, Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries said holding those who have "enabled the Putin regime to account" was the priority.

"I know this brings some uncertainty, but the government will work with the league and clubs to keep football being played while ensuring sanctions hit those intended," she wrote.

When asked if being unable to sell tickets and merchandise would hit Chelsea's finances, the culture secretary said: "Sanctions have consequences and that's

a fact." The club's shirt sponsor, telecommunications company Three, said it had put its £40m shirt deal under review.

Chelsea has enjoyed major success since Mr Abramovich bought the club in 2003 for £140m, winning major titles including the Champions League, the Premier League and the FA Cup.

Mr Abramovich has previously said that proceeds of the club's sale would be donated to victims of war.

On Wednesday, there were 20 credible interested parties looking at a potential Chelsea takeover, including British businessman Nick Candy.

## UK sends arms to embattled Ukraine

BRITAIN is sending more anti-tank weapons to help battered Ukraine fight off the growing onslaught from the Russian invasion.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said urgent supplies being rushed from the UK could also include missiles to target Russian jets.

He told MPs that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's people "are fighting for their very survival." He added: "His country is united against the aggression - and it is indeed his country's darkest hour."

Referring to Moscow despot Vladimir Putin, Mr Wallace said: "If he wants to further his case as a great leader, he's now contained in a cage of his own making."

Mr Wallace said the Government was

bound by the decision to supply defensive systems and not escalate the war.

But he pledged ministers would deliver more equipment to protect civilians from air attacks and military bombardment after agreeing to send 2,000 new light anti-tank weapons, smaller arms and ammunition in January. He added: "As the conflict intensifies, the Russians are changing their tactics and so the Ukrainians need to too. We can all see the horrific devastation inflicted on civilian areas by Russian artillery and air strikes - indiscriminate and murderous.

"It is vital therefore that Ukraine maintains its ability to fly and to suppress Russian air attack. As of today, cont. on page 2, col. 5

## News From Britain

# Charles in tears at Kyiv pair's plight

Prince Charles was moved to tears this week as he spoke to two Ukrainians at a shelter for refugees in London.

The heir to the throne met Kyiv residents Andriy Kopylash and his daughter Veronika during a visit to a church initiative, set up to help Afghan asylum seekers.

Pastor Andriy, 55, was on a sabbatical in the UK when war broke out in Ukraine. Veronika, 23, took the last flight out of Kyiv to Italy, the day before the invasion.

They have family trapped in war-torn Ukraine.

Speaking about his chat with Charles, Andriy said: "He was very open and there were tears in his eyes. I was really impressed by him.

"It was very nice to meet Prince Charles. He was really open and was really informed about the situation. He said he had



**MOVED:** the Prince of Wales meets Kyiv residents Andriy Kopylash and his daughter Veronika in London

begun plans to do more to help.

"He said the situation was terrible and described it as crazy and madness."

Veronika, a translator, added: "Prince Charles was very open. He was wanting to hear what the

real situation was. He said they are praying and thinking about us."

Prince Charles was at a midweek shelter run by Holy Trinity Brompton at St Luke's Church in Earl's Court. Its Refugee Response programme was launched in

September last year following the arrival of hundreds of Afghan refugees to the area.

Charles met people involved in activities including a community café, children's face painting and a women's programme.

## Ukraine:

cont. from page 1

we will have delivered 3,615 NLAWs (anti-tank missiles) and will continue to deliver more. We will shortly be starting the delivery of small consignments of anti-tank Javelin missiles as well."

He added: "The Government has decided to explore the donation of Starstreak high-velocity manned portable anti-air missiles.

"We shall also be increasing the supplies of rations, medical equipment and other non-lethal military aid."

It follows evidence the Russian invasion is increasingly bogged down. One Western official said: "They are tightening their grip in some areas, but there's been minimal progress for the last 24 hours."

Mr Wallace said the estimated number of Ukrainian civilians killed or injured is more than 1,000. But he added: "The true figure is expected to be much higher and I'm afraid worse is likely to come.

"So the UK will increase its funding for Ukraine to £220million, which includes £120million of humanitarian aid."

Western allies needed to stand up to Putin's bullying, Mr Wallace said. He told MPs: "As long as we stand united, both as a House and as the international community, then the Kremlin's threats cannot hurt us.

"I know many of our constituents and our colleagues are fearful of what happens next. Putin and the Kremlin continue to threaten

countries who offer help to Ukraine. Their military campaign will, I'm afraid, get more brutal and more indiscriminate. But it is my firm belief that our strength to stand up to such bullying comes from our alliances.

"We should take strength from the peoples across Europe who are standing shoulder to shoulder to protect our values, our freedom, our tolerance, our democracy and our free press. That is our shield."

Fourteen nations have sent arms. They include Sweden and Finland – which both have a long history of neutrality – who sent anti-armor kit.

Germany has sent around 1,000 anti-tank weapons and 500 US-made Stinger missiles.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have also delivered Stingers and Javelin missiles.

British soldiers were also warned not to join the battle – after a Coldstream Guard, 19, fled his Windsor post to fight the Russians. He wrote to his parents before booking a one-way ticket to Poland with an intention to cross the border into Ukraine.

Friends claim he has since posted a picture of his boots, indicating he may have already joined defending forces. But defence chiefs are still trying to intercept him, and three others, amid fears Russia could claim Britain has entered the war if UK troops are caught.

Mr Wallace told the Commons the four soldiers will be prosecuted when they return for going absent without leave or deserting.

## Libel Law reform coming to rein-in oligarchs

**MINISTERS are to overhaul libel laws to stop Russian oligarchs using the courts to muzzle journalists exposing links with Putin's regime.**

Dominic Raab, the Justice Secretary and Deputy Prime Minister,

this week confirmed work was under way on the plan. He spoke following a cross-party move by Labour MP Liam Byrne and Conservative MP David Davis who are poised to table an amendment to the Economic Crime Bill.

It would give courts the power to strike out so-called Slapps – strategic lawsuits against public participation – which have been used to stifle critics.

Mr Raab said: "I've already made clear we're going to reform

our libel laws. I'm going to bring forward proposals to do so.

"What we've seen – and we've seen it in relation to journalists, academics, authors – the kleptocrats and those who are linked to Putin and deep pockets come to this country, use our jurisdiction to sue those who are shining light on corruption or the excesses of the Putin regime. That cannot be right."

Specifically on the proposals, he added: "They could deal with anything from allocation of costs, so you don't find all those on relatively modest salaries against the might of an oligarchy with very deep pockets. And basically find themselves bankrupted."



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## BoJo: we MUST wean the West off Russian gas

Boris Johnson has promised that Britain will play a leading role in luring the West off Russian gas.

The Prime Minister said sanctions are working but the only way to put "real lasting pressure" on Vladimir Putin is by turning to alternative energy supplies.

He said there are huge reserves around the world that mean "we do not have to be beholden to Putin in the way we are".

He added that the UK wants to bring together nations to find other gas sources.

During a half an hour question and answer session in the Downing Street study, used by Margaret Thatcher as her main office, he gave an update on the war in Ukraine and how Britain was responding.

He said sanctions were having a bigger impact than hoped for and that the UK continues to supply weapons to Ukraine.

Mr Johnson indicated that he was disappointed that Pakistan, India and China abstained in a vote condemning Russia at the United Nations last week.

But he said the "opinion of the world is clear" on the invasion after 141 of the assembly's 193 members passed the motion in a rare emergency session called by the UN Security Council.

The PM was also quizzed about the allegations of lockdown rule-breaking that are still hanging over Downing Street as the Metropolitan Police investigation continues.

Mr Johnson said the allegations had been difficult to handle because they came out in "endless dribs and drabs" and there were lots of things he was "completely unaware" of.

# 107 years on: Shackleton's ship is found 10,000ft down

THE wreckage of Sir Ernest Shackleton's doomed ship *Endurance* has been found frozen in time – 107 years after it sank.

Thanks to the preservative powers of the icy Antarctic waters, the boat is still in almost perfect condition in its final resting place nearly 10,000ft below the waves.

And the man who directed the exploration to find and film the boat says it is "by far the finest wooden shipwreck" he has seen.

### 'brilliant state'

Maritime archaeologist Mensun Bound said: "We are overwhelmed by our good fortune in having located and captured images of *Endurance*."

"It is upright, well proud of the seabed, intact and in a brilliant state of preservation."

You can even see 'Endurance' arched across the stern, directly below the taffrail – the handrail around the rear deck.

He added: "This is a milestone in polar history."

Anglo-Irish explorer Shackleton set out in *Endurance* from Plymouth in August 1914, on a quest to make the first land crossing of Antarctica. But although all 28 crew survived, their

mission was sunk when, after months trapped in the ice, the three-masted schooner went under in November 1915.

The ship's captain and navigator Frank Worsley tried to plot its position, using only the sun, the stars and a sextant. And his calculations proved incredibly accurate.

The *Endurance* was found in the Weddell Sea near Antarctica, just four miles from where Worsley said it would be.

*Endurance* – a protected Historic Site and Monument – was discovered 9,869ft down on the seabed by the *Endurance22* expedition – a team of scientists and historians on icebreaker *S.A. Agulhas II*.

They set off from Cape Town, South Africa, in February, a month after the 100th anniversary of Sir Ernest's death. The *Endurance* was found on Saturday – exactly 100 years to the day that the explorer was buried in South Georgia.

TV historian Dan Snow was part of the expedition, funded by the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust. The team used non-intrusive underwater search robots to find the ship and have vowed nothing will be touched or disturbed.

Expedition leader



**ENDURANCE:** the historical ship's wheel and taffrail are clearly visible in this remarkable image from 10,000 feet under the Weddell Sea

Dr John Shears said it was "the world's most challenging shipwreck search". But the amazing find is almost eclipsed by the ship's remarkable condition.

The underwater footage shows even some of the paintwork is still gleaming – and that is down to the absence of tiny sea creatures.

Dr Adrian Glover, a biologist at the Natural History Museum, said: "The preservation of *Endurance* is quite remarkable, but not totally unexpected. Tiny shipworms – small bivalve molluscs – that normally eat wood in well oxygenated oceans are



absent from Antarctica. So the findings are important, not just from a historical perspective but also in terms of understanding the ecology and evolution of life in Antarctica.

"It's a great day for Antarctic archaeology and science."

A documentary about the *Endurance22* expedition will air later this year on Disney+

## 'Marshall Plan' to revive Ukraine

**BORIS Johnson has promised the West will have a "Marshall Plan" to rebuild Ukraine after the devastation left by Russia.**

Following talks with Eastern European leaders on Monday, the Prime Minister raised the prospect of a multi-billion pound project.

He insisted Putin had "gravely miscalculated"

by invading, after he met his counterparts from Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Czech Republic at a mini-summit in Whitehall, London.

Mr Johnson said they agreed that when "a free, sovereign, independent Ukraine is protected and restored we will have a Marshall Plan to rebuild [it]".



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## News from Britain



## JK Rowling mocks Labour MP for failure to define what makes a woman

JK Rowling has mocked a Labour frontbencher for appearing unable to explain her party's definition of what a woman is.

Shadow women and equalities secretary Anneliese Dodds (above right) repeatedly failed to answer the question on Woman's Hour on BBC Radio 4 at the weekend.

Several listeners raised the issue in response to Labour Party plans to change the law so that trans people can self-identify their gender.

Ms Rowling, (above, left) an opponent of the proposal, wrote on Twitter afterwards: "Someone please send the Shadow Minister for Equalities a dictionary and a backbone."

The Harry Potter author and Labour Party supporter has been an outspoken campaigner for protecting women-only spaces such as refuges.

During a discussion to mark International Women's Day, Woman's Hour host Emma Barnett asked Ms Dodds to set out "Labour's definition of a woman". Ms Dodds replied: "I have to say there are different definitions legally around what a woman actually is.

"You look at the definition within the Equality Act and I think it just says someone who is adult and female but then it doesn't say how

you would define either of those things.

"You have got the biological definition, legal definition..."

Ms Barnett said: "With respect, I didn't ask for that. What's the Labour definition?"

Ms Dodds replied: "With respect Emma, I think it does depend what the context is, surely? I mean surely that is important here.

"There are people who have decided that they have to make that transition... Understandably because they live as a woman, they want to be defined as a woman; that's what the Gender Recognition Act has brought into place."

Ms Barnett interjected: "Context is all, but trans women are women from your perspective, is that right?"

"I am just trying to clarify because the Government has been very clear, it is not going ahead in England with the process of self-identification.

"That is why I am asking you."

Ms Dodds is not the first senior Labour figure to have been involved in awkward exchanges over the issue.

Last autumn, when quizzed on BBC One's Andrew Marr show, leader Sir Keir Starmer claimed it was "not right" to say that only a woman can have a cervix.

## John Bercow 'a serial bully and liar' who regularly intimidated staff

John Bercow was a serial bully and liar who intimidated staff, created a hostile workplace and abused his power, an investigation has found.

His behaviour when he was Commons Speaker was so bad he has now been banned from holding a parliamentary pass for life.

He would have been expelled if he was still an MP, the Independent Expert Panel said.

The group, which determines sanctions in cases where bullying complaints have been brought against MPs, upheld all 21 findings of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Kathryn Stone.

Bercow, who was Speaker from 2009 to 2019, had appealed against her conclusions after she investigated complaints by three of his staff.

But the IEP said: "The findings of the Parliamentary Commissioner, which we have upheld, show that the respondent has been a serial bully..."

"His evidence in the investigations, the findings of the commissioner, and his submissions to us, show also that the respondent has been a serial liar."



JOHN BERCOW: damning indictment of the former Speaker of the House

The allegations were made by Lord Lisvane, the former clerk of the Commons, and private secretaries Kate Emms and Angus Sinclair. The panel said it has "no doubt" that they were telling the truth. Mr Sinclair made notes about some of the incidents, including Bercow calling him "f\*\*\*ing stupid".

On one occasion there was "spittle coming out of the mouth and arms being waved about. The anger was uncontrolled, and the complainant said he was afraid that someone might be thumped," the report said.

On another occasion involving Mr Sinclair,

Mr Bercow showed an "amazing display of temper in my office, in which he ordered me to stay seated, so he was standing over me, and then threw the mobile phone right in front of me on my desk and it burst into hundreds of bits and I could feel them hitting me.

"It was the most violent, extraordinary display of temper."

Ms Emms said: "The impacts of the one and only genuinely horrible, undermining and consistently upsetting period of my career has spread into all areas of my life".

The IEP found bullying

and harassment rules were "breached repeatedly and extensively by the most senior member of the House of Commons. No person at work, however senior, indeed particularly such a senior figure, should behave in this way. This was an abuse of power."

Bercow, 59, married to former TV personality Sally, said: "The case against me would have been thrown out by any court in the land since it is based on the flimsiest of evidence, rooted in hearsay and baseless rumour...it is a travesty of justice and brings shame on the House of Commons."

## Classic British foods at risk of extinction

**CLASSIC British foods such as black pudding, ploughman's, pork pies and spotted dick could be lost because younger people haven't tried them.**

Other out-of-favor dishes at risk of extinction include saveloy and chips, bubble and squeak, and bread and butter pud.

Many of the 18 to 29-year-olds quizzed said they are turned off by the "stuffy and old-fashioned-sounding"

staples. They believe the recipes are "unhealthy" and "stodgy" – and consider they have more sophisticated tastes than their parents and grandparents.

The traditional foods most at risk are jellied eels – two-thirds have not sampled them – followed by kedgeree (untried by 54 per cent) and haggis (46 per cent).

A well-done steak (42 per cent), Welsh rarebit (40 per cent), baked Alaska (39 per cent) and

steak Diane (36 per cent) were next on the danger list.

The remainder of the top 20 dishes the younger generation turn their noses up at includes meaty classics like liver and onions, Lancashire hotpot, steak and kidney pudding, and gammon with a pineapple ring.

But bubble and squeak, bread and butter pudding, Arctic roll also made the list. So too did David Beckham's favourite – pie, mash

and liquor.

The fortifying plate of minced beef pie with spuds and parsley sauce originated in London's East End.

The survey by supermarket supplier Sushi Daily perhaps unsurprisingly found the under-30s would prefer to eat Asian cuisine to British.

The firm said: "Old, unhealthy dishes are being replaced with healthier options like sushi and sashimi."

Prince Andrew leaves Windsor Castle after visiting the Queen on Sunday as lawyers announced he has paid sex assault accuser Virginia Giuffre to settle a US court case.

It is the first time the Duke of York, 61, has been pictured in public since agreeing last month to pay Ms Giuffre, 38, a large sum, reported to be £12million.

The Treasury confirmed no public money was used for Andrew's financial settlement or legal fees.

Ms Giuffre said



**ON HIS WAY OUT:** Prince Andrew leaving Windsor

paedophile financier three times when she was Jeffrey Epstein ordered her 17. The Prince vehemently denied her claims.

## Boy, 12, enjoys £3.8m digital pay day

A SAVVY 12-year-old who jumped on an online trend for unique digital artworks has seen them trade for more than £3.8million in cryptocurrency.

Benyamin Ahmed learnt to code from dad Imran when he was five years old. The bitcoin started rolling in last year when

he came up with his own whale-themed collection of non-fungible tokens – one-of-a-kind digital artworks whose popularity has recently soared.

His first sale netted him £110,000 and his fortune rose to £750,000 in a matter of months.

His NFT collection has now traded – gone

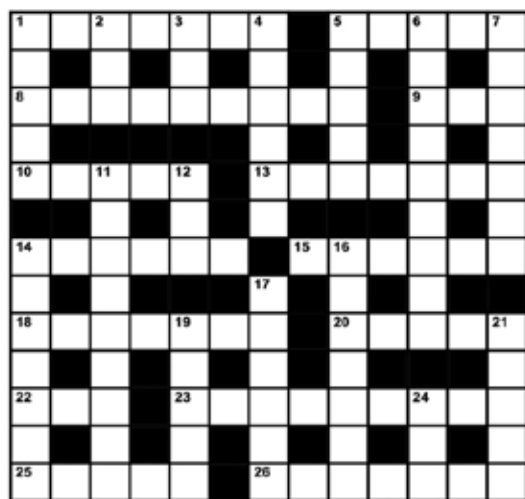
on to be sold time and again by others – for over £3.8million. He gets commission every time they are resold. Benyamin, from Pinner, Greater London, said: "Not everyone at my school fully gets it.

"But my friends know about it and they congratulate me."

## The British Weekly Crossword by Myles Mellor. #534

### Across

- 1 Famous castle (7)
- 5 Confuse (5)
- 8 In the proper manner (9)
- 9 Sought a seat (3)
- 10 Sunnyvale-based Internet giant (5)
- 13 Forays (7)
- 14 Narrator (6)
- 15 Depth charge targets (1-5)
- 18 Do penance (7)
- 20 Coax (5)
- 22 Very cery long time (3)
- 23 Cover up the rough spots (5,4)
- 25 Entry-way (5)
- 26 Wane (3,4)



### Down

- 1 Screwball (5)
- 2 Here-there link (3)
- 3 Take action against (3)
- 4 Not wholesale (6)
- 5 Purchasing agent (5)
- 6 Safety device (4,5)
- 7 Beginning (7)
- 11 British coin discontinued in 1984 (9)
- 12 "We're number \_\_\_!" (3)
- 14 From that circumstance or source (7)
- 16 Soft, sheer fabric (7)
- 17 Replenish (6)
- 19 Inflamm (5)
- 21 Late (5)
- 24 Pledge (3)

### Solution to Puzzle #533



## Stargazing with Annie Shaw



**ARIES:** Now you are ready to plan whatever it is you are looking forward to. Just be sure you don't get involved in something you know is a big time-consumer. Life should be fun now.

**TAURUS:** Some relationships have not been all you might desire, especially since new year. If this is on your mind (even occasionally) then it's time to resolve it one way or another.

**GEMINI:** You are ready to tackle any tasks that have been on hold and it's best to start now. By next weekend you will be busy with new and more involved work.

**CANCER:** You have had an unpredictable time of late. This can have caused you to take life too seriously. Fear is all in the mind and life is looking better now, so do not buy into it.

**LEO:** You should be feeling more positive in the next few days. Just don't forget to relax. It's a great time to plan a long-awaited trip for later in the year.

**VIRGO:** Stress is no stranger in your life occasionally. It's likely more of a problem these past couple of months, however Spring is about here and time for a more upbeat outlook.

**LIBRA:** Now the Sun is heading to your opposite sign of Aries it's time to get ready with some plans that have been on hold. It is still a time of some uncertainties for many so get ready to move quickly when the time is right.

**SCORPIO:** It is a somewhat stressful time for you in several areas. The good news is that Spring is nearly here and with it comes a more upbeat feeling overall. Know that there are much better days in the near future.

**SAGITTARIUS:** You are ready to make some positive changes in several areas. The coming weeks will bring more than one opportunity for your desired changes to come to fruition.

**CAPRICORN:** All the planets you had surrounding you for some time have finally moved on. So what is next you may ask? No need to worry, life is getting ready to brighten up in general soon.

**AQUARIUS:** This should be a time of anticipating what changes you can make generally. First on your list is to get going on letting go of anything that has passed its best. This leaves space for better things overall.

**PISCES:** You are now in your new year and it is time to get ready for planning ahead, not a time for laying low. Whatever that means to you. Your energy picks up a lot by next weekend. Happy Birthday.

## The British Weekly Sudoku by Myles Mellor #534

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

### Solution to Sudoku #533

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





Local News



# Great Brits doing good for Ukraine

Things were finally starting to feel like they were getting back to normal... then all hell breaks loose in UKRAINE.

It's truly unfathomable. My heart aches for everyone directly affected by this senseless invasion. The last couple of years have been hard for everyone, but this really emphasizes just how lucky we actually are, and makes it that much more important to get as much enjoyment and satisfaction from your daily life as you possibly can, but to also help those in need whenever you are able. This week I want to share the stories of two Brits in LA members who are doing just that.

First up is the the story of my very dear friend and longtime Brits in LA

member, **Tony Preston**. Whilst he doesn't live in LA, pre-Covid he was a very regular visitor to our fair city.

Tony is the epitome of a diamond geezer. For as long as I have known him he has always stepped up to support and raise funds for those in need. Most recently he successfully helped a local group of homeless people who were pretty much being ignored by the local authorities. Tony's good deeds are usually the result of a personal connection that have either caught his eye or touched his heart. I think his compassion partially stems from the fact that he is the son of a refugee. His dad fled Hungary in 1956 under very similar circumstances to what is

happening in Ukraine right now. We were introduced many years ago by our very good friend, and renowned Brit in LA, Steve Sidelnyk - who is actually Ukrainian.

So it came as no surprise to me when earlier this week he told me that he and a few friends were in their local pub (The Three Mariners in Hythe, Kent, pictured, below) putting the world to rights and discussing the recent events in Ukraine. Within an hour they had secured a substantial donation, two vans, places on a ferry and a shipping company to cover paperwork. So now Tony's mission is to fill those vans with much needed supplies and drive them over to one of the Ukrainian refugee centers. They have already raised £9000 but are aiming for £12,000 - although they go over their target they will add more vans or schedule multiple trips.

So if you can spare a few quid (or dollars), and want to chip in I can guarantee that with Tony and Co in charge, your money will be well spent and definitely not squandered.

Visit this link to donate: [Justgiving.com/crowdfunding/3m2022](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/3m2022) or scan the QR code (pictured, below, right) with your smartphone which will take you

directly to their Just Giving page.

This page will update as things develop and they will be creating a live event page where they hope to allow people to follow their journey.

Next is a bit of cheer from my 23 year-old niece, Rose Norris who is exploring the West Coast for a few weeks before she starts a new job in May working with students with special needs. Regular readers may recall that it's her first time visiting the USA and upon arrival she immediately embraced

all that Los Angeles had to offer - she has been here for almost a month now, and is currently in San Francisco. I asked her to share her thoughts with us on these two very different Californian cities. Take it away, Rose:

"In all honesty, I am confused about my feelings towards both Los Angeles and San Francisco. As a

born and bred Londoner, SF definitely feels more familiar. Everyone walks, including me; I am averaging over 22k+ steps a day here whereas in LA it was about a quarter of that!

On one day I walked from where I am staying in the Castro through the whole of Golden Gate Park all the way to Ocean **cont. on page 9, col. 1**



## It's Time For Tea....

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**BW SPORT**

# US investors line up Chelsea bids

Nick Candy also in the frame as US sports titans eye prestige Premier League property

**CHELSEA look set for an American takeover with Roman Abramovich granted his wish for a bidding war among US investors.**

It is believed the majority of the interest in the Blues is coming from the owners of existing US sports franchises.

Robert 'Woody' Johnson, owner of the New York Jets NFL team, is among those preparing a bid, along with Vivek Ranadive, who owns the Sacramento Kings NBA team. Manhattan-based private equity firm RedBird Capital, who have a stake in

Liverpool, are also in the running.

A Swiss-American consortium headed by Hansjorg Wyss and LA Dodgers part-owner Todd Boehly have made a confirmed bid but it is unlikely to meet the asking price of £3billion-plus.

Turkish tycoon Muhsin Bayrak also claimed last week to have made a bid for Chelsea.

Mateo Kovacic says the World Club Cup and Champions League winners owe the Russian billionaire a huge thank you for turning them into a global power, having lifted a total of 21

trophies since his takeover in 2003.

"I am thankful for everything he gave to this club," said Croatia midfielder Kovacic.

"Chelsea is a huge, huge club thanks to him."

One player unlikely to be staying at Stamford Bridge is Denmark defender Andreas Christensen, who is edging closer to a move to Barcelona in the summer.

The 25-year-old Christensen has been offered a five-year deal by the Spanish side and he could complete the formalities of his free transfer later this week.



**THE CONTENDERS:** (clockwise, from top left) Nick Candy, Vivek Ranadive, Robert "Woody" Johnson and Todd Boehly are all preparing bids for the West London club which Roman Abramovich is being forced to sell

## Ronaldo set to sit out Spurs clash?

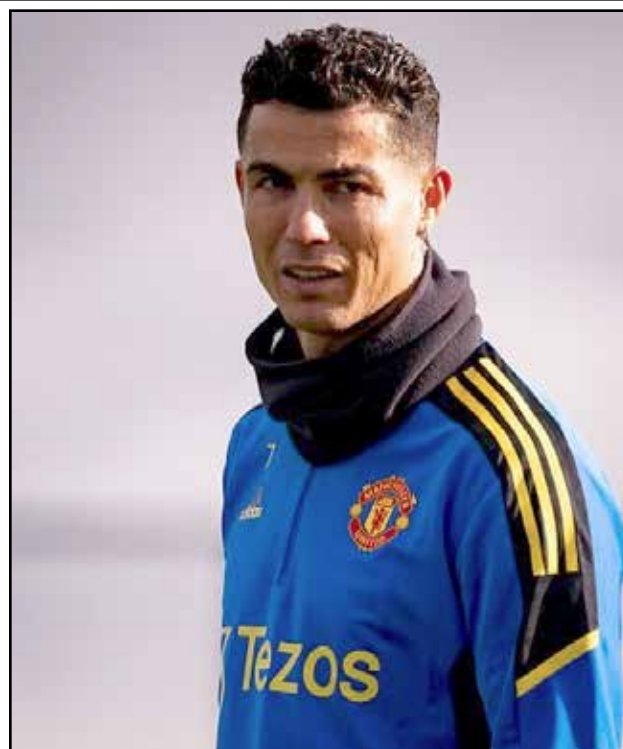
**CRISTIANO RONALDO** could miss Manchester United's top-four showdown with Tottenham on Saturday – to ensure he is fit for the Champions League clash with Atletico Madrid on Tuesday.

United host Tottenham at Old Trafford this weekend in a game they must win to get their top-four push back on track after last Sunday's humiliating 4-1 derby mauling at Manchester City.

Ronaldo (right) missed that defeat with a recurrence of a hip flexor problem and flew to Portugal for a mini-break to recuperate before returning on Tuesday.

Although Ronaldo was expected to rejoin full training after being assessed by United's medical team and physio treatment.

Ronaldo is desperate



to return to action for United against Spurs, but manager Ralf Rangnick is weighing up whether it is worth risking the 37-year-old forward from the start on Saturday.

United host Spanish champions Atletico Madrid on Tuesday in the decisive return leg of their Champions League last-16 tie, having drawn the first leg 1-1.

HOW THEY STAND						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Man City	28	22	3	3	68	18 69
Liverpool	27	19	6	2	71	20 63
Chelsea	27	16	8	3	56	19 56
Arsenal	25	15	3	7	41	29 48
Man Utd	28	13	8	7	45	38 47
West Ham	28	13	6	9	46	35 45
Tottenham	26	14	3	9	40	32 45
Wolves	28	13	4	11	28	23 43
Aston Villa	27	11	3	13	40	37 35
Southampton	28	8	11	9	35	43 35
Crystal Palace	28	7	12	9	39	38 33
Leicester	25	9	6	10	40	43 33
Brighton	27	7	12	8	26	32 33
Newcastle	27	7	10	10	32	47 31
Brentford	28	7	6	15	30	45 27
Leeds	28	5	8	15	29	64 23
Everton	25	6	4	15	28	41 22
Burnley	26	3	12	11	22	36 21
Watford	28	5	4	19	27	54 19
Norwich	28	4	5	19	16	61 17



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3/12 SAT: 6 NATIONS RUGBY 845AM ENGLAND V IRELAND	1PM AJAX B BENFICA
<b>English Premier League</b> 9.30AM MAN UTD V SPURS	3/16 WED: <b>Champions League</b> 1PM LILLE V CHELSEA
3/13 SUN <b>English Premier League</b> 9.30AM ARSENAL V LEICESTER	1PM JUVENTUS V VILLAREAL
3/14 MON <b>English Premier League</b> 1PM C. PALACE V MAN CITY	1.15PM ARSENAL V LIVERPOOL
3/15 TUE: <b>Champions League</b>	3/17 THURS: <b>English Premier League</b> 12.45PM EVERTON V NEWCASTLE
	<b>Europa League:</b> 1PM: ASK FOR GAMES

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