

NI Group Limited
D. J. Mohan
Fourth Statement
Exhibit DJM4
16 July 2012

**IN THE MATTER OF THE LEVESON INQUIRY INTO THE CULTURE, PRACTICES AND
ETHICS OF THE PRESS**

EXHIBIT DJM4

This is the exhibit marked "DJM4" referred to in the fourth witness statement of Dominic James Mohan dated the 16th day of July 2012.

Man gives birth to baby

Lola Rogers

A MAN who was born as a woman has become Britain's first 'male mother' by giving birth despite his sex change operation.

The man, in his thirties, delivered the child last year after having hormone treatment to reactivate his womb, according to a charity advising him. The womb had not been removed during the original sex change procedure.

Joanna Darrell, of the

Beaumont Society which provides help to men who want to or have changed gender, said it had been approached by the man who had requested advice about the practicalities of having a baby after sex change surgery.

He wanted to know what surgery he could have before it would be impossible to carry a baby. He also asked about the possible health implications of retaining his womb.

"He got back in touch about six months ago to thank the

society for its help and to say he had had the baby," Darrell said.

The baby is likely to have been delivered by caesarean section although it is possible the man may have retained the ability to give birth naturally.

Darrell said she believed he was the first British man to have given birth. "As far as we know there is only him, one man in America and one in Spain who have done this," she told The Sunday Times.

The revelation comes four
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British couple's male mother

Continued from page 1
years after an American transsexual, Thomas Beatie, 38, of Arizona, sparked controversy by announcing he was pregnant.

The subsequent birth of a baby girl made headlines around the world.

Beatie, who had a partial sex change operation but retained all his female reproductive organs, went on to have another two children after hormone treatment to restart menstruation and restore fertility. All were reportedly delivered naturally.

Earlier this month the Create Fertility Centre in Toronto revealed that it was providing hormone treatment for a number of male sex change patients with intact wombs who are hoping to become mothers.

Clifford Librach, the clinic's medical director, would not confirm how many men are pregnant or when any babies

are due to be born, but he has defended his stance in the Canadian media.

"People have this misunderstanding about their [transsexuals'] situation," he said. "If they have organs from one or the other sex than the one they were born with, it's really no different from any of the other treatments we do."

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) refused to say whether it was aware of the British case or reveal how many other inquiries it has received, although a spokesman said it "may" have given advice on the procedure.

The spokesman added that any ethical issues concerning the welfare of a child born to a sex change man would be dealt with by the individual doctors concerned.

The HFEA does not keep any data on female to male transsexuals who have become mothers but a spokesman said

that it may start collecting statistics in the future.

Gynaecologists say they are receiving increasing numbers of inquiries as advances in hormone treatment, which have allowed pregnancy and childbirth in previously infertile post-menopausal women, can also be used to treat men who have changed sex from female.

Gedlis Grudzinskas, editor of Reproductive Biomedicine Online, said he believed many patients would go to India because ethical scruples would make most British doctors reluctant to help.

However, he added: "I'm sure it has already happened here more than once and people have kept quiet about it. There is no medical reason why you could not use oestrogen to make the womb receptive. You would obtain donor eggs to be fertilised by donor sperm."

The cancer risk associated with retaining a uterus and

ovaries that are exposed to high levels of the male hormone testosterone means that most women changing sex choose to have them removed.

Christopher Inglefield, a surgeon specialising in gender reassignment surgery, said he had seen two such cases in recent years who wanted to have babies.

"The obvious thing is to get them to store eggs before they have the surgery, so they can have babies later using a female surrogate," he said.

Others expressed dismay at the effect on a child of having a male mother.

"The fact that the medical profession is facilitating and encouraging this is a serious problem," said Trevor Stammers, director of medical ethics at St Mary's University College, London. "You are hardly going to end up with a baby that's going to have a happy, productive and optimal childhood."

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Date 13 February 2012
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SEX CHANGE FIRST FOR UK

After US dad gave birth three times...

BRIT MAN HAS BABY



Baby bump... American pioneer Thomas Besaie hugs first child Susan - while pregnant with No2

By DAN SALES
A PROUD dad was yesterday revealed to

be the first MAN in Britain to give birth.

He is only the fourth person in the world officially classed as male to

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have had a baby.

The man, in his 30s, was born female but underwent sex-swap surgery late in life. Despite the operations, he still had a womb and was able to get pregnant.

The unnamed man was said to be from the West Midlands and in a long-term relationship.

Last night an expert confirmed that the case - four years after American Thomas Beatie became the world's first-ever pregnant man - was "unique" here.

Joanna Carroll, speaking on behalf of transgender support group The Beaumont Society, said: "As far as we know there is only him."

Guidance

She told how the man gave birth to a boy last year after seeking guidance from the society about getting pregnant.

The organisation referred him to charity the Gender Identity Research and Education Society.

Despite going under the knife to become a man he had asked surgeons not to remove his womb - as is usually the case in such ops.

It meant his woman's reproductive system could be reactivated using treatment with female hormones.

Joanna said: "He got back in touch about six months ago to thank the society for its help. He said he had had the baby."

The boy is believed to have been delivered in a Caesarean op - although medics said that a natural birth could still have been possible.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority yesterday refused to disclose if it knew about the birth.

Eggs

But a spokesman conceded it may have given advice on the procedure.

Beatie, 38, from Arizona, made headlines around the world in 2009.

He gave birth to a healthy daughter - then went on to have two more kids, both boys.

Gedís Grudisinskis, editor of Reproductive Biomedicine Online, said: "There is no medical reason why you could not use oestrogen to make the womb receptive."

"You would obtain donor eggs to be fertilised by

donor sperm."

In 2010 Beatie's fellow American Scott Moore, from California, also gave birth.

He too had undergone transgender surgery.

And just six weeks ago a pregnant Israeli - 24-year-old Yuval Topper - was reported to have had a healthy baby boy.

DO you know the dad? Ring The Sun on 020 7782 4104 or email us at adclive@the-sun.co.uk d.sales@the-sun.co.uk

TO hear of something like this is extremely unusual - and it is really a very remarkable achievement.

This case would be very similar to the one in America involving Thomas Beatie.

I would think the baby would have been delivered by Caesarean section if the man had undergone gender reassignment surgery.

The pregnancy itself would have been fraught with problems.

There would have been a lot of hormones going around the body. The oestrogen to reactivate the man's womb



would have been at odds with what he was given as part of the sex change.

Naturally, to get pregnant you need the eggs to meet the sperm and grow into a baby.

If the womb is still there it is perfectly possible.

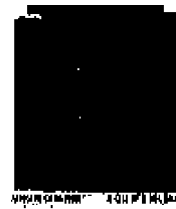
But the delivery of the baby is likely to have been very difficult.

HOW HE DID IT

- He was born a woman, underwent sex change, but retained womb
- Hormone treatment would have helped him fall pregnant
- Birth was probably by Caesarean...but could have been natural

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joanna Darrell <[REDACTED]>
Date: 13 February 2012 12:07
Subject: Re: Pregnant man
To: "Thomas, Vikki" <[REDACTED]@the-sun.co.uk>, Alex Gore
[REDACTED]@dailymail.co.uk>, Lois Rogers [REDACTED], Fiona
Macrae [REDACTED]@dailymail.co.uk>, Holly Bigsby
[REDACTED]@electricsky.com>, "Sales, Dan"
[REDACTED]@the-sun.co.uk>, Richard Alleyne
[REDACTED]@telegraph.co.uk>, Ella Buchan
[REDACTED]@dailystar.co.uk>, Donna Bowater
[REDACTED]@telegraph.co.uk>, "Jackson, Kate"
[REDACTED]@the-sun.co.uk>, "Georgette Culley, Talk to the Press"
[REDACTED]@talktothepress.com>, "Brown (Take A Break), Laura"
[REDACTED]@bauer.co.uk>, "Clarke, Katie" [REDACTED]@itv.com>,
Jocelyn Cook [REDACTED]
Cc: Janett Scott [REDACTED]

Hi all,

Apologies for the mass email, but with the number of enquiries coming in at present, it seems the most effective way to communicate with you all.

Thanks for your email and for your interest in this story, unfortunately there isn't anything I can add beyond my original statement below. in response to the original Sunday times query asking for a statement with respect to a story that they had found out after contacting the HFEA (?)

"We were contacted last year through our information line number asking for details on this issue. As an information line, we were unable to help with this query and so referred the matter onto GIRES. Some period of time later we received a thankyou for being there and the info we provided."

Beyond that, I can't add anything more, not just because i don't know, but also because we don't record calls or details out of respect for our callers privacy as I'm sure you'll understand !! What we do sometimes offer, in consultation with our information officer Janett Scott is offer to publish your details on the website news section if the person wishes to get in touch. Clearly this wouldn't be a guarantee they would however.

Sorry I can't help in any more detail.

Best wishes

Joanna

12/07/2012

News International Mail - PCC letter - trans media watch



PCC letter - trans media watch

On 14 February 2012 18:24, Charlotte Dewar [REDACTED] wrote:

Private & Confidential; Not for publication

Dear David,

The PCC has been contacted this afternoon by Helen Belcher of Trans Media Watch (see below). As you may recall, Ms Belcher testified recently at the Leveson Inquiry.

Ms Belcher says that Trans Media Watch has received contacts from several individuals who are concerned about contacts from The Sun, which apparently relate to efforts to identify the individual at the centre of claims that a British man who has undergone gender transition has given birth. Ms Belcher considers that these contacts – and the coverage generally – raise potential issues under Clause 3 (Privacy), Clause 4 (Harassment), Clause 6 (Children) and Clause 12 (Discrimination) of the Editors' Code of Practice.

As you will recognise, this is not a particularised complaint: Ms Belcher is not formally acting as a representative of any individual. In particular, she is not representing the individual at the centre of the story. However, this is clearly a sensitive issue, and it is not clear to me whether the individual at the centre of the story has consented to the release of the information. For that reason, I am drawing these concerns to your attention so that you will be aware of them in considering The Sun's reporting on this issue. I have also advised Ms Belcher that should any individuals wish to register formal complaints in this regard, we will handle them in the normal way.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this further.

Regards,

Charlotte

12/07/2012

News International Mail - PCC letter - trans media watch

APPENDIX 4

Charlotte Dewar
Head of Complaints & Pre-publication Services
Press Complaints Commission

12/07/2012

News International Mail - helen belcher - email Feb 14, 2012



helen belcher - email Feb 14, 2012

From: Helen Belcher
Sent: 14 February 2012 12:24
To: complaints
Subject: Harassment of Trans People
Importance: High

Dear Sirs,

You will be aware of the story that broke in The Sun and in several other national newspapers yesterday about the trans man who has or is about to give birth.

I am hearing several stories of journalists from The Sun repeatedly contacting trans groups and well-known trans people in order to try to uncover details of the individuals involved. This is hugely concerning.

In front of Lord Justice Leveson last Wednesday afternoon I quoted from both the Editors Code and the press release in 2005 that stated that gender reassignment was to be treated as a protected characteristic. Dominic Mohan said on Tuesday that The Sun deals with trans issues far better these days - something we at Trans Media Watch completely refute - the refutation supported by the actions of their journalists as reported today. The current actions of their journalists would indicate a complete lack of compliance with the code:

Section 3 states that "everyone is entitled to respect for his or her private and family life, home, health and correspondence." The issue here is one of private and family life as well as health.

Section 4 states that "journalists must not engage in intimidation, harassment or persistent pursuit". What I am hearing is that the journalists from The Sun are doing exactly that.

Section 6 protects children and states "editors must not use the fame, notoriety or position of a parent or guardian as sole justification for publishing details of a child's private life". This is exactly the basis for publishing details around the story - and therefore is a *prima facie* case of The Sun breaching the code.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=26ef850724&view=pt&search=inbox&th=1387bdc42a167105>

1/2

12/07/2012

News International Mail - helen belcher - email Feb 14, 2012

Section 12 states that "the press must avoid prejudicial or pejorative reference to an individual's race, colour, religion, gender, sexual orientation or to any physical or mental illness or disability" - something that was expanded in 2005 to make specific reference to "gender identity". The sole purpose of pursuing this story throughout the British press at the moment is to induce a state of shock around the specific instances of this case - which is solely down to someone's gender identity.

I would be extremely grateful if you would state in no uncertain terms to journalists and editors of all papers that pursuing this story in an attempt to uncover the identity of the family involved will be a severe breach of a number of points of the Editors Code. Given that the press seem to be keen to indicate to the Leveson Inquiry and the public at large that they have mended their ways over trans issues, I simply do not see that they have any reason to pursue this story any further.

Yours

Helen Belcher

Trans Media Watch

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MY LITTLE ANGEL - BY BRITAIN'S FIRST MALE MUM

EXCLUSIVE

By Jo Macfarlane and Andy Whelan

A MAN thought to be Britain's first 'male mother' has told of his wish to live his life as a normal father.

The man, who was born a woman, gave birth to a healthy baby girl he calls his 'little angel' in March 2011 after ending the hormone treatment that had deactivated his womb.

He had been living as a man for five years and had legally changed his name and gender before deciding to attempt to conceive with his male partner, from whom he is now separated.

It is thought to be only the fourth case of its kind in the world, and comes four years after American transsexual Thomas Beatie, 38, sparked controversy by announcing his pregnancy.

The Mail on Sunday knows the identity of the man

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My mum told me I'd be a good mummy. I said 'No, I'll be a good dad'

In his own emotional words, the first British man to give birth to a baby tells his extraordinary story

-- From Page One

but at his request is not going to reveal the details and will refer to him as 'Bob', which is not his real name.

Pictures of the little girl, seen by this newspaper, reveal a happy and beautiful baby with sparkling eyes and a beaming smile. A reporter spoke to Bob yesterday at his comfortable mid-terrace home in a residential area of a town in the North of England where he opened the door with his daughter cradled in his arms.

With short dark hair and a faint moustache, and wearing jeans, a blue polo shirt and sports trainers, Bob confirmed he had given birth to the little girl last year.

He said: 'It's not something I want to become famous for. I don't want everyone to know that I'm transgender.'

Asked if he would speak to The Mail on Sunday about his experiences, he said: 'I would certainly want to help people in an anonymous capacity but I wouldn't want to become famous for that, I wouldn't want to be known like Thomas Beatie. And I have to think of my daughter and I don't think it would be good for her.'

The university graduate, 27, was in a gay relationship with another man. They parted recently and he is raising his child as a single parent.

He requested anonymity because

his history as a woman is not known to many of his friends, and he is reluctant to be labelled a transsexual parent because he identifies with being male.

His little girl, now 11 months old, is his biological daughter and was conceived using his own eggs. She is said to call him 'Dada' and Bob told The Mail on Sunday that he refers to his former partner as her 'other Daddy'.

The details of his case emerged in a fascinating and poignant blog written by Bob which charts the early days of his pregnancy and later announces the birth. In his first post, dated July 16, 2010, he writes of his excitement after

'I read the pregnancy test and gave a cry of delight'

taking a pregnancy test. Bob wrote: 'I put it to one side while I checked my messages and then glanced over to see what it said, prepared to be disappointed. Not today.'

'It said pregnant. As clear as anything, it said pregnant. I read it and re-read it, gave a cry of delight and rushed into the bedroom to tell my partner. I'm so thrilled, so excited, so apprehensive.'

'I'm not the first man to have a baby and I won't be the last, but we're not fully accepted and understood yet, there's still a long way to go.'

'But if there's one thing I've learned on my journey from being a girl to being a man, it's patience.'

A picture of his positive pregnancy test is also proudly displayed online.

It is not clear how much surgery – if any – Bob had during the treatment to change his gender. But he refers to having taken male hormones in order to make the transition, which set in motion irreversible changes, including deepening the voice and increasing the amount and distribution of body hair.

The pregnancy forced him to cancel an appointment with a doctor for chest surgery, and in his blog he worries how he will cope when his breasts enlarge and begin producing milk. He also worries about the risk of miscarriage.

But he describes seeing his pregnancy from a uniquely male perspective. Bob writes: 'Just try and get through one day at a time and enjoy every minute of my pregnancy. I'm sure women enjoy this as much as I do, maybe even more, I don't know. I see this as not only a wonderful experience but a really good experiment in a way, seeing from the inside what pregnancy is like. Actually finding out all about it by living it.'

'It's been four days since I got my positive. Feels like weeks.'

'Oh, and my sense of smell is getting stronger. I can smell all sorts of things now, it's quite impressive.'

Later, he writes that he hid the preg-

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nancy successfully by wearing 'suitable clothing' to disguise his bump.

Writing in a forum for transsexual parents, linked to the blog, he explains that his parents took the news of his pregnancy 'well'. He said: 'They seem to be OK but I'm worried they may try and "convert" me back to the way I was because of the perceived "mental health" of the baby when it's born. My mum's already told me that I'd be a good mummy and I said no, I'd be a good daddy. She's got used to that. I'd hate to fall out with them over their own grandchild.'

However, it is clear that he also faced considerable opposition within his own family from an unnamed aunt. In a post dated July 20, 2010, he writes: 'I've never heard anyone inject so much misery and disappointment into the word Hello.'

'She wanted to know if I was going to stop being silly and become a woman again, she wanted to know if I was going to get rid of the silly new name I'd adopted. She wondered how on earth I'd cope when I was going against society in this manner, men don't have babies!

'I think it's a combination of her WASP upbringing coupled with her conservatism and her Christianity that's making her reject the whole notion. You know what I really wanted to say to her but decided against it ...

'My aunt asked if I would become a woman again'

I really, really wanted to say, "If you think that men don't give birth then answer me this, where did Eve come from?"

Bob's daughter was born on March 15, 2011, and is 'a little angel', according to his final post in May last year. He adds: 'I went through the pregnancy pretty damn well if I do say so myself.'

It is not clear whether his partner supplied the sperm, or how the child was conceived. His online account has now been de-activated.

He used to socialise regularly in gay bars in his home town but had not been seen so frequently since his daughter's birth, according to a local barman.

News of the birth emerged only last weekend when a charity supporting transvestite and transgender people,

the Beaumont Society, revealed a man had phoned a confidential hotline requesting information on the practicalities of having a baby following sex change surgery.

Joanna Darrell, a regional co-ordinator for the charity, said the man had

called again 'around six months ago' to say a baby had been born but that the organisation had no further information. There was mystery over the identity of the man and doubt over whether the birth had even happened. Official bodies such as the Department of Health and the fertility regulator, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, had no knowledge of the case.

Other transgender charities also cast doubt on the Beaumont Society's claims because of the lack of any information within the transsexual community about the birth, and some even claimed the charity was seeking publicity.

The criticism, which saw the charity accused of selling the story and leaking confidential information, has led Joanna Darrell, a transves-

titate who lives with her wife and grown-up sons in Bristol, to resign.

It is not clear whether the man identified by The Mail on Sunday is, in fact, the same individual who allegedly contacted the Beaumont Society. When asked whether he had been in touch with the charity, Bob said: 'I can't remember doing it. Unless the doctor did it on my behalf or something.'

But the timeline of contact with the organisation, and the subsequent birth, does closely correspond with the man's case. There are also no known other cases of a transsexual man giving birth in this country.

The implications of a man giving birth after legally changing his gender is complicated in terms of producing a birth certificate for the child and experts disagree on the

correct way to proceed. It is not known what decision was made in Bob's case.

According to the law, the mother is the woman - rather than person - who carried the child during pregnancy. One family lawyer said it was likely a registrar would consider Bob to be the child's mother despite officially being recognised as male. The registrar could use a birth cer-



trifurcate" which referred to 'parents' rather than the traditional 'mother' and 'father' category, such as those used in gay and lesbian cases.

But an academic expert in transgender affairs concluded that after legally changing sex, Bob would be listed as the child's father because of 'a legal view about the best interests of children and the preservation of an existing gendered parental

relationship'. American man Thomas Beatie announced his pregnancy in March 2008 and has since given several high-profile interviews. He has now reportedly given birth to three children. He had been taking male hormones and had also undergone chest reconstruction surgery. But, as he was married to a woman, he became pregnant using donor sperm after stopping the hormone therapy.

Spanish transsexual Ruben Noo Coronado Jimenez was reportedly pregnant with twins in June 2009 before having a miscarriage. He was said to be planning further fertility treatment. In Israel, Yuval Tipper, 24, also a transsexual man, gave birth in November 2011.

In the British case, Bob describes his background briefly on the blog,

and his decision to have children despite having had a sex change. His account could be that of any couple looking to start a family - minus the reference to male hormones.

He writes: 'In the words of Julie Andrews, let's start at the very beginning. Well, in the beginning I was brought into this world a girl and it wasn't until I was much older I realised that I was far happier as a boy.'

'So I went through a long process of changing my clothes, then my name, then my hormones and then my legal gender.'

'After that long hard road my partner and I had a big discussion about life, children and so forth. So, we stopped smoking, I stopped taking my hormones and started taking folic acid instead and four months later I was taking a Clear Blue pregnancy test first thing in the morning.'

Latest figures show the number having sex change operations on the NHS every year has trebled in the ten years between 1999 and 2009. More than 1,000 people have had surgery, at a cost to the taxpayer of

'I realised that I was far happier as a boy'

£10 million. Men wishing to become women make up 30 per cent of the cases. In addition to surgery to correct their genitals and adapt their chest, transsexuals can also get psychotherapy and hormone replacement therapy on the NHS.

However, charity the Gender Identity Research and Education Society (GIRES) estimated last year that 12,500 people in the UK may have now presented for some kind of treatment - not necessarily on the NHS.

Many people seek hormone treatment over the internet, and others travel abroad for surgery to destinations such as Thailand.

GIRES says the numbers seeking a gender change may be increasing by as much as 11 per cent a year.

Sex changes on the NHS became a right in July 1999 after the Appeal Court recognised that those who believed they were born into the wrong body had a legitimate illness. It was opposed by critics who said they had a psychological condition.

In 1999, the year sex changes became free, 49 people had the operation on the NHS in England. In 2009 that had increased to 137, according to The NHS Information Centre.



EXPECTING: American man Thomas Beatie when he was 22 weeks pregnant

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MALE MOTHER:
American Mr Baatle
pictured in July 2008
with daughter Susan

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By Tariq Tahir - 20th February, 2012

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20

Five-year-old boy trapped in wrong gender living life as a girl

A little boy has become one of the youngest children to be diagnosed by the NHS as being trapped in the wrong gender.

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'Mummy, I'm a girl':

Zach Avery has Gender Identity Disorder (Picture: Caters)

Zach Avery has insisted on wearing girls' clothes since the age of three.

He is now five and was assessed as having Gender Identity Disorder (GID) after worried parents Theresa 32, and Darren, 41, sought medical help.

Mrs Avery explained her son was a 'normal' little boy who liked Thomas the Tank Engine but became obsessed with Dora the Explorer, a television programme aimed at young girls.

She said: 'He just turned round to me one day when he was three and said, "Mummy I'm a girl". I assumed he was just going through a phase and left it at that.

'But then it got serious and he would be upset if anyone referred to him as a boy. He used to cry and try to cut his willy off out of frustration.'

<http://www.metro.co.uk/news/890910-five-year-old-boy-trapped-in-wrong-gender-livi...> 15/07/2012

Initially, Zach's parents believed he was autistic but, after several months, a child psychologist diagnosed him with GID when he was four.

Zach now attends his local primary school where the toilets have been turned gender neutral to support him.



Gender Identity Disorder aged four (Picture: Caters)

Zach was diagnosed with

Mrs Avery said her son wears a girl's trouser uniform and black boots with pink trim. 'We explained to the other kids at the school that Zachy's body was that of a boy but in his brain he was a girl. We said Zach was just happier being a girl than a boy. But the other kids haven't batted an eyelid.'

Mrs Avery said she will continue to support Zach, but the mother-of-four admitted: 'I would love to have my son back, but I want him to be happy.'

Mermaids, a charity which supports transgender children and their parents, said Zach's case was not the first for a child of his age. 'It should be remembered, though, that not all young gender variant children diagnosed with GID are likely to be transsexual, as some will grow out of their gender variance at or around puberty,' it said.

But social commentator Anne Atkins said: 'Between the ages of about five and eight, I wanted to be a boy more than anything else in the world. Acute though my longing was, it was relatively shortlived.'

'I am more grateful than I can say that there was no one around at the time to diagnose me with GID.'

Zach was referred to the Tavistock and Patman Foundation Trust, a specialist GID clinic. Only seven children under the age of five were diagnosed last year out of 165 under-18s it has dealt with in the year 2011-12 so far, said a spokesperson.

<http://www.metro.co.uk/news/890910-five-year-old-boy-trapped-in-wrong-gender-livi...> 15/07/2012

The boy aged five who wants to be a girl

By Victoria Ward

WHEN three-year-old Zach Avery told his mother that he thought he was a girl, she assumed it was only a phase.

But as her son became increasingly upset at being referred to as a boy, and expressed a desire to wear girls' clothes, she decided to seek the guidance of experts.

After months of consultations, doctors diagnosed Zachary with gender identity disorder, making him one of the youngest children in Britain to have the belief that they were born the wrong sex acknowledged by medics.

One year on, five-year-old Zach is almost unrecognisable. With his long hair tied back in pigtails, pink glasses and a collection of dolls, his parents have acknowledged that Zachy, as he is now known, is happier than he ever was.

His primary school has supported the family, informing other pupils that Zach felt he was a girl trapped in a boy's body and even converting some favourites to gender-neutral unisex.

His mother, Theresa, 32, made the difficult decision to speak out to raise awareness of gender dysphoria, which is classed as a psychiatric condition.

She admitted: "I would love to have my son back, but I want him to be happy. If this is the route he wants to take, if this is what makes him happy, then so be it. I

would rather him have my full support.

"People need to be aware of this condition because it's very common but even many family support workers have never heard of cases in children."

She said Zach had been a "normal" little boy who loved Thomas the Tank Engine. But towards the end of 2010, he became obsessed with the children's television character Dora the Explorer and started dressing in girls' clothes.

Mrs Avery said: "He just turned round to me one day when he was three and said: 'Mummy, I'm a girl'. I assumed he was just going through a phase and just left it at that. But then it got serious and he would become upset if anyone referred to him as a boy."

She said Zach, who has three siblings, used to cry and tried to cut off his penis out of frustration. Mrs Avery and her husband, Darren, 41, an artist, took their son to an NHS specialist at Tavistock and Pateman Foundation Trust in London and after several months of consultations and observations, a child psychologist diagnosed gender identity disorder.

They said the local primary school in Purfleet, Essex, had been "really supportive" and that pupils had been told that Zach, who wears a girl's trouser uniform, was simply happier being female.

"He likes playing with his sister's old toys but he still loves *Doctor Who* too and playing with his brother. And we still put

some neutral clothes in his wardrobe if he ever decides he wants to wear them.

"We leave it up to him to decide what he wants to do, if he changes his mind and wants to be a boy again then he does, but if he doesn't, he doesn't."

Earlier this year a couple from Cambridgeshire attracted widespread attention when they announced that they had raised their child as "gender neutral" for five years so the infant's "real personality" could shine through.

Beck Lutton, 46, and her partner, Kieran Cooper, 44, from Sawston, decided not to disclose baby Sasha's gender to the world so he would not be influenced by society's prejudices and preconceptions.

The Tavistock and Pateman Foundation Trust, the national body for gender identity disorder, said the number of children diagnosed with the condition had steadily risen from 57 in 2009-10 to 165 so far this academic year, which it said may reflect greater awareness. Only seven children under the age of five were diagnosed last year.

A spokesman said the group's aim was "to support the young person in their general development as well as develop a trusting collaborative therapeutic relationship in which it is possible to openly explore their feelings about their gender. We remain in contact with young people often for many years".

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Zach, right, with his parents and brother Alex and, above, how he looked with short hair

Effects Gender identity disorder

Gender identity disorder is the formal diagnosis for those who experience significant gender dysphoria, whereby a person feels trapped in the body of the wrong sex.

Children may feel uncomfortable with their gender, causing them to suffer anxiety or depression or believe they will grow up to be the

opposite sex. The exact cause is not known but one theory is that it is caused by chromosomal abnormalities.

Men are five times more likely to be diagnosed with the condition than women.

It is estimated that 1 in 4,000 people in Britain are receiving medical help for gender dysphoria.

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The Daily Telegraph

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The boy of five living as a girl

...helped by his parents, counsellors from the NHS and a school that gave him a 'gender-neutral' loo

By Paul Harris
and Andrew Levy

THE wardrobe contains a purple tutu, a silky mauve blouse and a floral patterned skirt. The shoes are mostly pastel shades, and a pair of black boots is neatly trimmed in pretty pink.

There's a dolly on the pillow beneath a Peppa Pig poster and heart-motif wallpaper.

It could be any little girl's bedroom. Yet the five-year-old who sleeps there is a boy. And for more than a year now Zach Avery, his long fair hair done up in bunches, has been insisting on living as a member of the opposite sex.

The extraordinary conclusion that he is a girl trapped inside a boy's body is being backed by medical experts and supported by his school, which has made a lavatory block 'gender neutral' to accommodate his needs.

Zachery Jack Avery is one of the youngest known children to be backed by the NHS after being diagnosed with Gender Identity Disorder.

Until shortly before his fourth birthday in December 2010, Zachy, as his mother Theresa calls him, was 'a normal little boy'. He loved to play with his Thomas the Tank Engine train set alongside his brother Alex.

Suddenly, however, he became obsessed with the children's TV cartoon character Dora the Explorer, and started to dress in girls' clothes. Mrs Avery, who has two other children, said: 'He just turned round to me one

day and said, "Mummy, I'm a girl." I assumed he was just going through a phase and left it at that. But then it got serious and he would become upset if anyone referred to him as a boy. He used to cry and try to cut off his willy out of frustration.'

Mrs Avery, 32, and husband Darren, 41, became increasingly worried by their son's behaviour and took him to a doctor, then to a child psychologist.

At the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust in London, which specialises in the disorder, he was diagnosed as having GID.

Mrs Avery said: 'They told us that although he had a male body, his brain was telling him he was a girl.'

At home in Purfleet, Essex, a first-floor flat in a block on a 1980s estate, Mr and Mrs Avery continued to allow Zach to dress in girls' clothes and play with his sister's dolls.

Meanwhile at Zach's school, Purfleet Primary, they have applied themselves to what Mrs Avery calls 'the bathroom issue' and are hoping Zach can use the staff toilets when he gets older.

And the other pupils? 'We explained to the other kids that Zach's body was that of a boy but in his brain he was a girl. We said Zach was just happier being a girl than a boy. They haven't batted an eyelid. They've accepted Zach as Zach and there's been no problems at the school with bullying. The school has been brilliant and really, really supportive.'

Purfleet Primary, which has 350 pupils up to age 11, was given the lowest 'inadequate' rating in December after an Ofsted inspection.

'If it makes him happy, so be it'

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Teachers allow Zach to wear a girl's trouser uniform and black boots with pink trim, which his mother says is female but still neutral.

She admits she misses her little boy, but adds: 'He just wants to be like a little girl. He's very happy with his long hair, pink-and-red bedroom and a wardrobe full of girls' clothes.'

'He likes playing with his sister's old toys but he still loves Doctor Who and playing with his brother. And we still put some neutral clothes in his wardrobe if he ever decides he wants to wear them. We leave it up to him to decide what he

wants to do - if he changes his mind and wants to be a boy again then he does, but if he doesn't, he doesn't.'

She added: 'I would love to have my son back, but I want him to be happy. If this is the route he wants to take - if this is what makes him happy - then so be it. I would rather him have my full support. People need to be aware of this condition because it's very common but even many family-support workers have never heard of cases in children. There are people out there but they don't want to talk about it.'

On his Facebook page, Darren Avery describes himself as an artist and 'dad of four starting my own business drawing pictures from photos'. Sketches he has uploaded include a reclining nude woman wearing a necklace with a large,

heart-shaped pendant, based on Kate Winslet in Titanic. Others include a blonde girl striking a provocative pose in a figure-hugging top, and a faceless female wearing only a Mickey Mouse T-shirt.

Yesterday he and Mrs Avery were negotiating with a tabloid newspa-

'Our aim is to support'

per to sell Zach's story for a five-figure sum.

Figures from the Tavistock and Fatman clinic - the national body for GID - revealed that 165 children have been diagnosed with the condition this year.

A spokesman said they were unable to comment on individual cases, but only seven children under five were diagnosed last year - making Zach one of the youngest.

'Tavistock Clinic had 87 referrals in 2009/2010; 139 in 2010/2011 and 166 thus far this year.'

'The trend in referrals has been up over the years - this may reflect

greater awareness.

'We see children and young people up to the age of 18, from across the UK, who are experiencing difficulties in the development of their gender identity.'

'This includes children who are unhappy with their biological sex. Some may be boys who prefer activities and roles associated with the opposite sex, some may also identify as the opposite sex and vice versa for girls. In general when

younger children are referred it is in relation to cross-gender preferences in play, playmates and activities. It is more unusual for children of this age to express cross-gender identification - that is the wish or belief that they belong to the opposite sex.'

'The diagnosis of GID is made by the key workers working with the young person. We will also assess their general well-being. We remain in contact with young people often for many years.'

'Our aim is not to predict or direct the outcome, but rather to support the young person in their general development as well as develop a trusting collaborative therapeutic relationship in which it is possible to openly explore their feelings about their gender.'

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WHEN A CHILD GROWS TO HATE HIMSELF

PSYCHIATRISTS say boys are more likely than girls to be affected by Gender Identity Disorder.

The child is often disgusted with his genitals and believes he will eventually grow up to become the opposite sex.

Professional support can help the family decide on the best way to manage it, whether to inform others and how teachers should respond - for example if the child wants to attend school in clothing of the opposite sex

and if he or she wants to use a different name.

The cause is unknown but several theories exist such as genetic abnormalities and hormone imbalances during the child's development in the womb and early months, including exposure to 'gender bender' chemicals, and problems in child rearing.

Treatment might include drugs to alter 'male' and 'female' hormones and surgery - but this would not be considered for a young child.



Happy family: Zach with his parents and brother Alex



As he was: Short-haired Zach

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THE BOY OF FIVE LIVING AS A GIRL

LOUIE SMITH
 LOUIE.SMITH@MIRROR.CO.UK

WEARING a pink cardie, hair in cute bunches and clasping a couple of dolls, this is five-year-old Zach – a boy who is being raised as a girl.

Theresa Avery and her husband Darren made the decision to bring up their youngest son this way after doctors diagnosed Zach as a girl trapped in a boy's body.

He is one of the youngest in people in Britain to be diagnosed with Gender Identity Disorder.

Zach was three when he started refusing to live like a boy. He swapped Thomas the Tank Engine for Dora the Explorer and wanted to wear pink dresses and ribbons.

He attends primary school as a girl and gets angry if anyone suggests he is male.

Mum Theresa, 32, said: "He just turned round to me one day when he was three and said, 'Mummy, I'm a girl'.

"I assumed he was just going through a phase and left it at that. But then it got serious and he would become upset if anyone referred to him as a boy.

"Experts told us that although he had a male body, his brain was telling him he was a girl. He just wants to be like a little girl and he's very happy with his long blonde hair, pink and red bedroom, and a wardrobe full of girl's clothes.

"We leave it up to him. If he changes his mind and wants to be a boy again then he does. But if he doesn't, he doesn't. I would love to have my son back but I want him to be happy. If this is the route he wants to take, and it makes him happy, so be it."

Zach lives with his six-year-old brother and two sisters, nine and 11 in Essex. Shortly before his fourth birthday he suddenly announced to his housewife mum and dad Darren, 41, that he was a girl.

He became obsessed with the girly kids'

TV character Dora the Explorer and started dressing in feminine clothing. He would get upset if anyone addressed him as a boy and even tried to mutilate his genitalia.

His concerned parents took Zach to their GP and he was referred to expert child psychologists. NHS specialists at Tavistock and Patman Foundation Trust in London diagnosed him with GID.

Theresa says that following the diagnosis, Zach's

school – Purfleet Primary in Essex – has been "really supportive" about her son's wish to live like a girl.

He attends classes in a girl's trouser

uniform and wears black boots with pink trim. The school has now made their toilets gender-neutral and, fortunately, the other pupils have taken things in their stride.

Theresa explained: "They have changed the toilets for Key Stage 1 pupils into

unisex instead of male/female and they address him as a girl, which is what he wants.

"We explained to the other kids at the school that Zachy's body was that of a boy but that in his brain he was a girl.

"We said Zach was just happier being a girl than a boy. But the other kids haven't batted an eyelid. They've accepted him and there's

been no problems at the school with bullying. The school has been brilliant and really, really supportive."

The Tavistock Clinic – the national body for GID – revealed that 139 children were diagnosed with the condition last year. This figure includes only seven children under the age of five – making Zach one of the youngest ever to be diagnosed.

A spokesman said: "Tavistock Clinic had 97 referrals in 2009/2010, 139 in 2010/2011

and 165 referrals so far this year. The trend has been up over the years, which may reflect greater awareness."

He added: "The diagnosis of GID is made by the key workers working with the young person. We will also assess their general well-being.

"Our aim is not to predict or direct the outcome but rather to support the young person in their general development."

I would love to have my son back but I just want Zach to be happy



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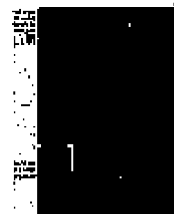
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A SUPPORT Little Zach Avery with mum Theresa, dad Darren and big brother Alex

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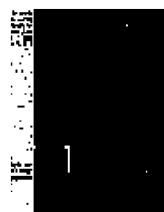
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ZACH'S TOUCHING STORY

BOY, 5, WHO LIVES AS A GIRL



By ANDREW PARKER
A FIVE-year-old boy is living as a girl after telling his parents he is trapped in the wrong body.
Zach Avery, shown above with mum Theresa and when he was younger, has blond pigtails and is treated as a girl at school.
Theresa, 32, said: "Other kids haven't noticed his gender. There's been no problems."
Full Story — Page 4 and 5

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One day, Zach turned to me and said: Mummy, I'm a girl

MOMENT BOY AGE 5 TOLD OF TURMOIL

By ANDREW PARKER

THE mother of a little boy living as a girl yesterday told of the touching moment he came to her and told of his torment.

Zach Avery was just three, but already felt he was trapped in the wrong body.

Speaking openly, mum-of-four Theresa said: "He just turned round to me one day and said: 'Mummy... I'm a girl!'"

Theresa assumed Zach, now five, was just "going through a phase".

But she then began to suspect there was a problem - later diagnosed as Gender Identity Disorder, where the brain tells a person they are a different sex to their body.

Theresa went on: "At first I just left it at that. But then it got serious and he would become upset if anyone referred to him as a boy.

"He used to cry and try to cut off his willy out of frustration."

Concerned Theresa and Darren took him to a specialist at Tavistock and Portman Foundation Trust in London. After numerous consultations and observations he was officially diagnosed with GID.

It makes Zach one of the youngest affected kids in the UK.

He has now been living happily as a girl for more than a year.

At home Zach wears pink dresses and ribbons in his long, blond hair and even has a purple tutu. And at school, Purfleet Primary in Essex, he is totally accepted by the other kids.

Support

The school has even made the toilet block "gender-neutral" to support him with all signs taken off the doors so there are no longer separate toilets for boys and girls.

During school time Zach wears a girl's trouser uniform and black boots with pink trim, which Theresa said expresses his femininity. She added: "We explained to the other kids at the school that Zach's body was that of a boy but in his brain he was a girl."

"We said Zach was just happier being a girl than a boy.

"The other kids haven't batted an eyelid, they've accepted Zach as Zach and there have been no problems with bullying. The school has been brilliant and really supportive.

"They have changed the toilets and they address him as a girl, which is what he wants.

"When he gets a bit older, there will be more difficulties surrounding the bathroom issue, but we'll cross that bridge when we come to it - it may be that Zach will use the staff toilets." Theresa, 32, and artist husband Darren, 41, said Zach used to be a "normal" little boy who loved Thomas the Tank Engine. But he then became obsessed with the kids' TV character Dora the Explorer and started dressing in girls' clothing.

Finally, at the end of 2010, Zach, who has a brother Alex, six, told his stunned parents he wanted to live as a girl. Theresa admits that although she misses "her little boy" the whole family is very supportive. She said: "He just wants to be

like a little girl and he's very happy with his long blond hair, pink and red bedroom and a wardrobe full of girls' clothes.

"He likes playing with his sister's toys but still loves Dr Who too and plays with his brother.

"And we still put some neutral clothes in his wardrobe if he ever decides he wants to wear them. We leave it up to him to decide what he wants to do - if he changes his mind and wants to be a boy again then he does, but if he doesn't, he doesn't."

Figures from the Tavistock and Portman Foundation Trust clinic - the national body for GID - show 100 children have been diagnosed in the past year.

The clinic was unable to comment on individual cases, but only seven children under the age of five were diagnosed last year - making Zach one of the youngest.

A spokesman said: "We see children and young people up to the age of 18, from across the UK, who are experiencing difficulties in the development of their gender identity.

"This includes children who are unhappy with their biological sex. Some may be boys who prefer activities and roles associated with the opposite sex, some may also identify as the opposite sex and vice versa for girls.

"In general when younger children are referred it is in relation to cross gender preferences in play.

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play mates and activities.

"It is more unusual for children of this age to express cross gender identification - that is the wish or belief that they belong to the opposite sex. The diagnosis of GID is made by the key workers working with the young person. We will also assess their general wellbeing. We remain in contact with young people often for many years."

The spokesman added: "Our aim is not to predict or direct the outcome, but rather to support the young person in their general development as well as develop a trusting collaborative therapeutic relationship in which it is possible to openly explore their feelings about their gender."

"People need to be aware of this condition because it's very common but even many family support workers have never heard of cases in children."

"There are people out there but they don't want to talk about it."

Theresa, of Purfleet, admitted: "I would love to have my son back, but I want him to be happy."

"If this is the route he wants to take - if this is what makes him happy - then so be it. I would rather him have my full support."

t.parker@the-sun.co.uk

my

By HEAVEN KING
of the Gender Trust

THE really positive thing here is that the family are supporting this young person.

They are allowing her to develop herself and not allowing her to be guided the way many parents guide children.

Unfortunately people have this fixation with deciding whether a person is a boy or a girl. This family has solemnly pledged what this little woman has said and have gone out and taken advice, and they are allowing this child to develop.

Now that's what we should do all the time. We shouldn't be so categorical in making our child go one way or another.

We have just got to love them, let them develop and go forward. The child would have developed this way. Now she isn't suppressed - and can turn to her family.

If you are a parent whose child has gender identity issues, you can get information and advice from the Charley Mermaids.

CALL 020 8123 4819

The Charley Mermaids Support Group
202, The Clarendon Road, London

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WOY'S WAR WITH Wafa

From **DAVID ANDERSON** in Trabzon
ROY HODGSON last night warned Rafa
Benitez to stop trying to poach Dirk Kuyt.
Hodgson (right) was in fighting mood
ahead of tonight's crunch clash here
with Trabzonspor because he is
annoyed by Benitez's campaign
to lure Holland World Cup
man Kuyt to Inter Milan.
"When he left the club
TURN TO PAGE 69



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HANDS OFF KUYT ORDER FOR RAFA

FROM BACK PAGE

Beritez signed an agreement that he would not poach players from Liverpool," said Hodgson. "I think that still applies. We have had no offers."

But Inter refuse to be slapped down by Hodgson's 'hands off' warning and sporting director Marco Branca has followed up a fax the club sent last Thursday by making direct contact with the Reds.

Inter are preparing a £13million offer and Kuyt's agent Rob Jansen said: "The two clubs continue to talk. Things are moving slowly."

"Dirk told Liverpool he no longer wants to be involved as this is something in regards to his career and life."

"That does not mean he wants to leave at all costs - but when a club like Inter

come along, it's normal to look at the situation."

Hodgson said: "This is obviously something going on behind the scenes with the agent talking to possibly the manager of Inter."

"At this very late stage in the transfer window it would be remarkably unusual for us to accept an offer for a player we don't want to leave for money we don't need. I need the player, not the money."

Liverpool and Barcelona are moving towards a £20m compromise fee for rebel

Javier Mascherano - although Hodgson claims he will pick him against West Brom at Anfield on Sunday if he is still on Merseyside.

"He isn't here because the negotiations are on-going between the two clubs," said Hodgson.

"If he played here it might prejudice the transfer and I don't wish to do anything like that."

"But going into the game on Sunday, I'm entitled to have the player available for selection if he is still a Liverpool player."

Hodgson also confirmed Liverpool are in talks with his old club Fulham over a £3m deal for left-back Paul Konchesky.

"We have had discussion with Fulham, but it's by no means certain they are prepared to sell," he said. "But I'd be lying if I said we haven't considered Paul."

I don't want Dirk Kuyt to leave and we don't need the money
- ROY HODGSON

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E-MAIL ME AT: betsguru@aol.com

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
William HILL



ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY JOHN SHAW

Woy needs to find winning language

THE crumb of comfort amid Liverpool's shocking decline is that Roy Hodgson will soon get plenty of practice pronouncing the "W" word.

With almost 20 per cent of the season gone, Liverpool are in the relegation zone. Most bookmakers are already betting on them going down and Paddy Power will soon pay out on it.

It's unfair, of course, to expect Hodgson to shoulder most of the blame for this season's Anfield shambles. He should cop all of it.

If Paul Konchesky is the answer, the question can only have been "how best can I wreck Liverpool?" And if Christian Poulsen is the answer, the question can only have been "Jim, Can You Fix It For Me?"

Under Rafa Benitez Liverpool won the Champions League, reached the final soon

afterwards and lifted the FA Cup. Ask any Liverpool fan if they would settle for that over the next five years and they would bite your hand off.

Under this regime, however, you sense only a regime going under.

The talk at Anfield now is no longer of doing a Manchester United, it's of doing a Leeds United. A once-great club reduced to

a laughing stock, and Leeds have struggled too.

Liverpool's past lay in trophies; their present lies in tatters; their future lies in the Johnstones Paint Trophy (northern section).

Under Woy, Liverpool aren't just negative, they're double negative, and that's a complete no-no.

He's turning them into the kind of club shown last on Match Of The Day, even when they're not playing Stoke.

The former Fulham chief has been cut from 8-1 to 5-1 by HILLS to be the next Premier League manager to leave his job.

He's 6-5 to have left Anfield before the end of the season and that's like finding money in the street, which is where Woy finds his players.

Next Liverpool manager (Power): 7-1 O'Neill, 4-1 Baigún, 6-1 Beachamp, 0-1 Klinsmann, 14-1 Mourinho, Betsey pp. MIDONK.



▲ A FAIR COP? Hodgson should take all the blame

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WOY WONDER AT

ROY HODGSON reckons ending West Brom's yo-yo reputation would be one of his greatest achievements in 36 years of management.

Hodgson (left) is on course to become the first Baggies' boss to secure survival two seasons running in the

Premier League. The 64-year-old has reached UEFA Cup finals and lifted league titles in his career.

"But if I can help West Brom to a third

STAYING UP

successive Premier League season it would rank very, very highly," he said. "I wouldn't want to class it as the best or the second-best but it's right up there. The aim of this club has always

been to be in the Premier League but in a way where the ends are related to the means." Albion would move 11 points clear of Rovers with a victory. Midfielder Youssouf Mulumbu said: "We need to bounce back from the game at Everton."



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ENGLAND STICK TO ROBERT REDKNAPP... HAGGIES BOSS IS THE MAN FOR THREE LIONS

OH, WHY OH, WHY OH WOY?

FA have done another 'Cloughie'.. snubbed Redknapp, the people's choice, for a 'Yes' man in a blazer

By **MARTIN LIPTON**
Chief Football Writer
m.lipton@daily-mirror.com



THE nation demanded one man. The only possible contender.

Mercurial. The players' choice. The fans' choice. Even the media choice.

But the Football Association have never been populist, even when it would have suited them.

That was why Brian Clough never got the call he wanted, twice overlooked by the FA power-brokers despite the will of the man on the street.

And as David Bernstein overlooked the clamour for Harry Redknapp and offered the keys of the nation to Roy Hodgson, the Wembley boss

was following, perhaps more closely than he could have envisaged, in the footsteps left by Sir Bert Millichip.

Going for Hodgson, the technocrat, the understated candidate whose profile fits with the desire for a man who has the badges, will wear the blazer and buckle down in Burton, may fly in the face of popular will.

Yet just as when Millichip's FA went for Ron Greenwood in 1977, and Bobby Robson five years later, when supporters were demanding Old Big Ead, so Bernstein has opted for the company man ahead of the people's choice.

When Bernstein and Hodgson sit down today, the negotiations

will be simple. This is the job the former Blackburn, Inter Milan, Liverpool and Fulham boss has always wanted.

The job for which he feels perfectly suited. The job which is about channelling those years of experience, all those hours on the training ground into the most noble cause of all for a proud Englishman.

But Redknapp ticked many of those boxes too. He had never hidden his desire to take the job, spoke with passion and conviction about what it would mean, appeared to be ideal for the task of picking up a group of players who lost their spark under Fabio Capello.

When he walked free from

Southwark Crown Court on

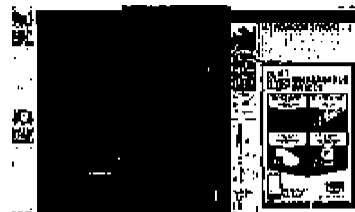
February 8, just hours before Capello flounced out of his Wembley office, it seemed a matter of time before the approach would come.

That seemed even more the case when Clut England chief Adrian Bevington, one of the other Three Wise Men - with Sir Trevor Brooking and general secretary Alex Horne - on Bernstein's recruitment panel, outlined the remit of the man they wanted.

"We are looking for someone who will have the respect of the players, that has a good track record, hopefully someone that will excite and

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inspire the fans," said Bevington. "Someone who can

be a real motivator to the younger players who can send out a message about how important it is to play for England."

Yet what followed, perhaps, should have been viewed in more context. Bevington added: "Someone we believe can play a really important role at St George's Park."

"Not who sets out the coaching philosophy for the organisation but someone who when we're there, can be the senior team manager, who on a very frequent basis can go into the under-17s dressing room and explain the importance of international football to them."

"And someone who can also work closely and have a good relationship with club managers and coaches, maybe invite some people into our international development set-up so we can have a number of managers and coaches and build a pathway there so we have a long-term plan."

If Hodgson, 65, was always the first choice, why didn't the FA act as soon as West Brom were safe?

He admitted a few months ago: "I would rather hope if I was ever going to be offered the England job, it would be with the backing of people like the media, who represent the fans and the people watching football, and of course the fans."

But despite those inner doubts and fears, Hodgson will take the job.

REACTION

WHAT FANS ARE THINKING

- If the English manager has to be English, then Roy Hodgson is the best available choice. Credit to the FA for going against popular opinion.
- Oh it can we please stop laughing at the possibility of Roy Hodgson as Eng manager. Almost chose Harry Redknapp, he's far more laughable.
- Roy Hodgson is a decent, dignified and intelligent man, I hope he turns down the England job.
- NOT roy hodgson for England. PLEASE!!! He just doesn't have the skills. Disgusting. Just cos he's outta contract. PAY for Harry. FA IDIOTS
- 20 years ago Roy Hodgson led Switzerland to the World Cup... SWITZERLAND!! You think he's not good enough for mighty England?

...AND LIVERPOOL FANS

- StoneLfc English and Kuyt's reaction to the news that Roy Hodgson might be the new England manager <http://pic.twitter.com/PKPOTEND> [SEE ABOVE]
- ...AND THE CELEBS
- StanColymore Harry Redknapp £15 million compensation + £4million annual. Roy Hodgson £0 compensation + sub £2 million annual wage.
- JohnBishop160 Are the FA mad - no offence to Roy Hodgson but how can you ignore Redknapp? Unbelievable!!!
- @BBCSport Unfair on Harry and Spurs if the FA so called Kingmakers were never going to approach him before Roy Hodgson. Poor.
- @Hateenjoy Roy Hodgson!

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ENGLAND'S NEW BOSS
INSIDE MANAGER'S MIND

We've had The Turnip, the mystic-following Hod, the sex-mad Swede, the Wally with the Broolly and the Italian Don. Now it's time to make way for a more cerebral leader. Woy is..

THE BRAIN

**BY JEREMY ARMSTRONG
and MARTIN FRICKE**
jeremy.armstrong@mirror.co.uk

ENGLAND appointed its cleverest ever manager yesterday – but few think Roy Hodgson is the smart choice to lead the team to glory.

Hodgson, 64, got the job ahead of clear favourite Harry Redknapp to take the team into Euro 2012, which kicks off in just 37 days.

His four-year deal will also see him in charge for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil and Euro 2016 – if he lasts that long.

The West Brom boss, who will earn around £2.5million-a-year with bonuses based on performance, is an intellectual who is fluent in Norwegian, Italian and Swedish and speaks good Finnish, German, Danish and French.

His love of literature, opera and rare watches make him very different to any manager England has had before – with former Swedish boss Sven-Goran Eriksson's sexual exploits overshadowing his own multi-lingualism.

In a recent interview, deep-thinking Hodgson spoke of his passion for reading but admitted he steers clear of the best-sellers' list.

He said: "I've read nearly all of those who have won the Nobel Prize.

"I like Philip Roth, John Updike and Richard Yates. I had a period where I read a lot of Czech literature, the likes of Milan Kundera and Ivan Klíma. I like German writers, too, such as Hermann

Hesse. I was given a book by Stefan Zweig, an Austrian, called *Beware of Pity* which is absolutely magnificent. I don't think the writing I like to read comes under the best-sellers' tag."

Kundera's works include *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting*, which could be handy in his new job.

Clever Roy is ridiculed at times due to his Jonathan Ross-style speech and he is in for merciless stick if he falls.

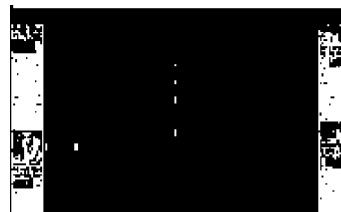
Predecessor Fabio Capello led the team to qualification for this summer's finals but flopped at the last World Cup.

Before that, Steve McClaren became known as the Wally with the Broolly as the side failed to make it to Euro 2008.

Eriksson seemed more preoccupied

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with scoring off the pitch during his reign, mystic Glenn Hoddie was shown the door after a bizarre rant about the disabled and reincarnation and Graham Taylor was labelled a turnip after a miserable defeat against Sweden in 1992.

Hodgson has a good track record but critics say his teams are dull and few star

names were coming out to support his appointment last night.

He readily accepts he has to win over the nation, saying: "The England managers job is the pinnacle of success for every English manager and it certainly brings with it a lot of scrutiny and criticism. I have to be prepared for that.

"I'm looking forward to the task ahead. Everyone knows it is not an easy one but I'm hoping that everyone, fans and supporters will get behind the team."

The FA denied they had gone for the "cut-price" option, with Hodgson's contract at West Brom expiring this summer while Redknapp's club Tottenham would have demanded around £10million in compensation.

Hodgson has managed 15 clubs in eight different countries, plus three national sides, and his previous experience of international and tournament football was said to be key.

He led Switzerland to the 1994 World Cup and FA chairman David Bernstein said: "We were unanimous in choosing

Roy, a manager of vast experience of international and European football. This is the first time the FA have appointed an England manager with any previous experience of international football.

"Finance was not a factor in the decision. We were driven purely by the desire to get the best person."

Hodgson yesterday dodged questions about Chelsea's John Terry - who faces allegations of racially abusing England team-mate Rio Ferdinand's younger brother Anton.

And the new boss declined to say who would be his captain but vowed to win over the England dressing room.

Defender Rio and Wayne Rooney both publicly backed Redknapp for the job.

Yesterday BBC presenter Gary Lineker was one of the few big names to offer Hodgson backing when he tweeted: "Good luck to Roy Hodgson. Let's give the fellas a chance."

Hodgson is married to wife Sheila, an Everton supporter who grew up in Liverpool. The couple have two sons, Christopher and Michael, and live in a penthouse flat on the River Thames in leafy Richmond, South West London.

He is less flash with cash than the superstars he manages - preferring to

collect his rare watches. His biggest extravagance was buying cars for Sheila and son Chris when he landed the manager's job at Blackburn.

Now, against the odds, he finds himself at the wheel of England's bid for glory.

Voice of the Mirror: Page 10

Out of this World: See Sport

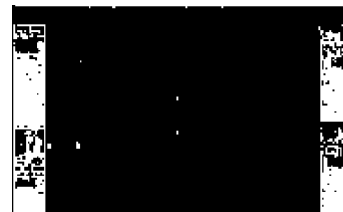


▲ HOT SEAT Hodgson, centre, with FA bosses yesterday

Finance was not a factor. We just wanted to get the best man for the job

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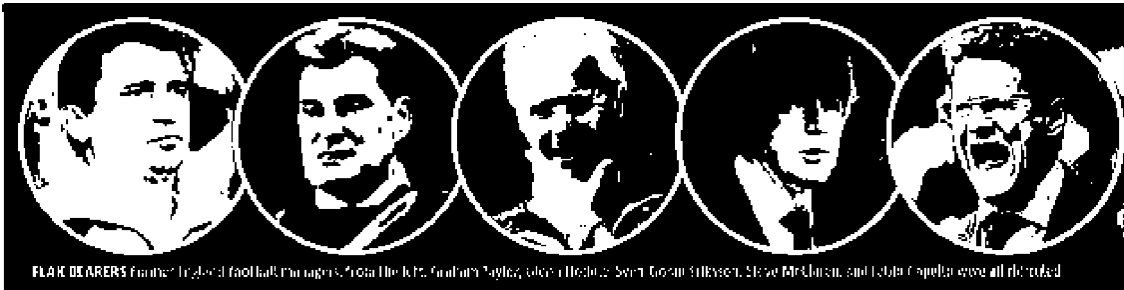
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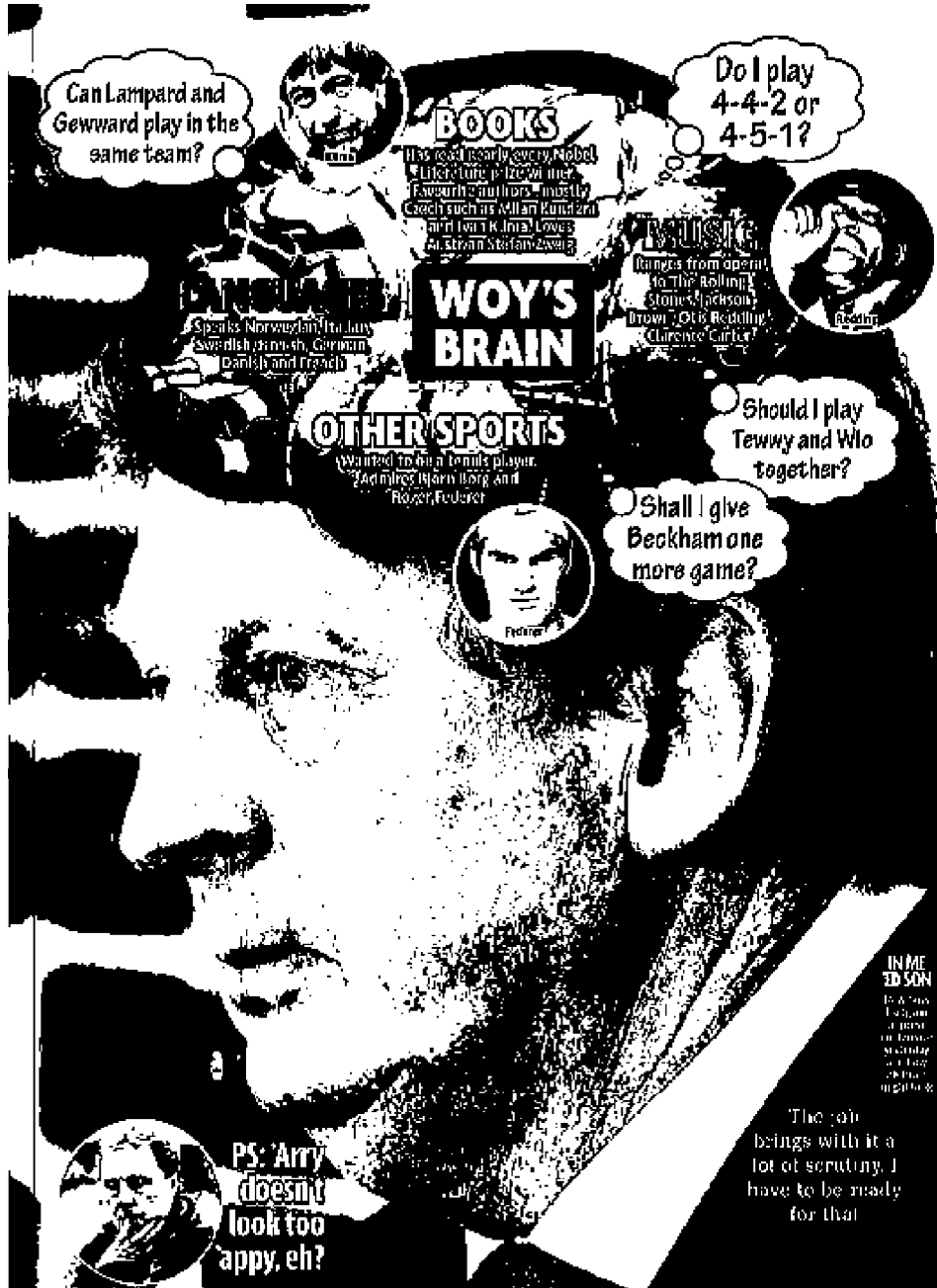
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The latest title-fights and gossip

Friday's football transfer rumours: Tevez to Real Madrid (part 74)?

Today's flim-flam got 'em off Nobby Burton. Two for a tenner? Yes please, four

Rob Smyth
guardian.co.uk, Friday 27 February 2009 16:09 GMT



Look at his first (and last) look at his first! Photograph: AP

They are probably the world's two biggest clubs, but **Manchester United** and **Real Madrid** are basically just two kids in a playground trying to get one up on each other. All they do is argue; over whose dad is harder, over who felt up Imelda Davis behind the bike sheds first, over who started the school craze for wearing odd trainers. If one says 'tomay-to', the other says 'WOULD YOU LIKE A KNUCKLE SANDWICH?'

And if one wants a player, so does the other. So it is that Madrid are pulling out most of the stops to sign **Carlos Tevez** from Kia Joorabchian FC, perhaps not realising that - like Gabriel Heinze, Ruud van Nistelrooy and David Beckham - Sir Alex Ferguson might not actually be that bothered about Tevez leaving.

In other news, **Everton** still want Sporting Lisbon midfielder **Joao Moutinho**, just like they did the other day. Moutinho would cost around £10m and increase Everton's pool of midfielders to 942.

Moutinho's nearish namesake **Jose Mourinho** might also be on Merseyside next season: he has been lined up to replace **Rafa Benitez** should Rafa finally decide to swan out of Anfield for the final time, whistling **Happy Go Lucky Me** by **George Formby** and languidly tossing Vs at the entire world.

In an unrelated development, Woy Hodgson is desperate to keep hold of Mr Joanna Taylor, aka **Danny Murphy**, whose contract expires at the end of the season. Woy has persuaded the Fulham board to open talks on a contract, probably just by asking them, because he's one of life's good guys, isn't he, and you'd struggle to say 'no' to him, wouldn't you? Unless he asked for that. And even then you'd say no with a heavy heart.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/football/2009/feb/27/transfer-rumours-gossip-tevez-footba...> 15/07/2012

Friday's football transfer rumours: Tevez to Real Madrid (part 74)? | Football | guardia... Page 2 of 2

Gareth Southgate and Sam Allardyce are currently locked in an epic sumo wrestle. To the victor, the spoils. To the loser, the right to pay Sheffield Wednesday £2m for their defender **Tommy Spurr**.

In an unfortunate or perhaps deliberate turn of phrase, the BBC site says that Dwight Yorke is going to "**spill the beans**" on his former love Jordan.

And with that, we're off.

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Denmark v England - as it happened

England overcame their initial carelessness to defeat Denmark 2-1 with goals from the Aston Villa duo Darren Bent and Ashley Young

Rob Bagchi
guardian.co.uk, Wednesday 9 February 2011 18:53 GMT

This page will update automatically every minute: [On](#) | [Off](#)



Denmark cheer celebrates (Photograph © Richard Healey/Getty Images)

6.37pm: Evening all: I'll be back in 15 minutes with a proper preamble but here's the **England starting XI:** Hart; Johnson, Dawson, Terry, A Cole; Walcott, Lampard, Wilshere, Milner; Rooney, Bent.

Eighteen months to go: For Fabio Capello and he's made nine changes from the side who were defeated by France back in November. England's record in Denmark is woeful, they haven't won there since 1978 when a Kevin Keegan brace and goals from Bob Latchford and Phil Neal gave them a 4-3 victory over a team including the brilliant Soren Lerby, Frank Arnesen and future Valley boy Allan Simonsen. They have drawn two of the subsequent three matches in Copenhagen but their last visit, a 4-1 thrashing in 2005 with a full team apart from Michael Owen who came off the bench, I remember as a pretty humiliating exercise for Sven-Goran Eriksson. I'm not an expert on this current Denmark side, my knowledge of the great 84, 86 and 92 teams outstrips it I'm afraid. But their record in Euro 2012 Group H looks patch to say the least, two victories, one over Cyprus and one thanks to a 91st minute winner from Thomas Khaleburg over Iceland suggests they are not as strong as they were five years ago.

And here's the Denmark team: Sorenson, L Jacobsen, Agger, M Jorgensen, S Poulsen, Rommedahl, K Jorgensen, C Poulsen, Eriksen, Krohn-Deluil, Bendtner

Bittersweet symphony: ITV have begun their coverage with The Verve blaring out as usual and we've got Big Sam and Gareth Southgate banking Adrian Chiles. It's all about Jack Wilshere according to them, the most eagerly awaited debut apparently since Wayne Rooney's, at least so says Southgate. I thought that was Joe Hart. Thad Brown emails in to say: "I'm an Arsenal fan, this is a very sad day. Since Don Fabio has gone public that he will build a squad around young Jack Wilshere I fully expect him to suffer

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/football/2011/feb/09/denmark-england-live/print>

15/07/2012

a horrific dip in form, act like a jockass, and eventually get caught with a some-look-hot woman of ill repute while ordering out for a pack of smokes at 100 quid. Great move Capello, maybe someone needs you back in Italy?" This is his final job, Thad, or so he says.

New faces, new players: So says Fabio Capello and he intends Jack Wilshere to sit in front of the back four. "Two Liverpool boys in that side ... the Danish side, obviously. Slight sting of irony in that, no?" writes Chris Cherry, a fact not gone unnoticed by Ian Copstake: "Does the high percentage of Liverpool players in the Denmark side warrant turning this into a Reds blog? If so I'd just like to praise Agger's forewarn smash into the vising of our spurned lover, Torres. Who says football is all about goals?" Another Reds blog? Imagine what would happen below the line ... except we don't have one here. Paul Seaba writes in a strange font: "Your photo caption asks why Capello looks so perturbed. Why not find out for sure? Have a Guardian writer 'shadow' him for a few days or so before a friendly, and report on the decisions and issues he faces in trying to gin up a winning side for England. Maybe hang around him during the match, for the tactical decisions. It could be good publicity for both him and you. (Or, we might learn that he really doesn't know crap about this stuff, like us.) What say?" He does know what he's doing, I think, but can't quite believe the players lack the intelligence of the players he used to deal with, Cassano exempted. I'm pleased to see he's got rid of his Gareth Barry comfort blanket, let's see how Wilshere copes and I'll get back to you.

Those teams in full at last:

Denmark: Sorensen, Christian Poulsen, Jorgensen, Agger, Simon Poulsen, Jacobsen, Kvist, Eriksson, Krohn-Delhi, Rommedahl, Bendtner.

Subs: Lindgaard, Wass, Kjaer, Silberbauer, Schone, Vingaard, Junker, Lovtzen, Enevoldsen, Pedersen.

England: Hart, Johnson, Dawson, Terry, Ashley Cole, Lampard, Wilshere, Walcott, Rooney, Milner, Bent.

Subs: Green, Walker, Cahill, Lescott, Baines, Downing, Parker, Barry, Young, Duffo, Carlton Cole, Stockdale.

On which, David Tennant writes: "Dunno if it's worth a mention, but "K Jorgensen" in the lineup is probably better known as W. Kvist. William Kvist, the FC Copenhagen captain whose full name is William Kvist Jorgensen, but never uses the Jorgensen. Similar thing back in 85 when a rather better Danish national team thrashed the USSR 4-2. Preben Elkjaer Larsen was listed in the lineup handed out as Preben Elkjaer, as he was known as back home. The USSR was just grateful that the mercurial striker Preben Larsen wasn't in the side. Cue two goals from Elkjaer in the first twenty minutes and red faces on the USSR bench." Thanks, David, great story.

The anthems done and dusted: And off to the ads. Luke Stevenson writes on the subject of ITV's hype and it is more than a shade over the top: "I hope ITV mention Jack Wilshere...so far they have forgotten about him and the inhuman amount of pressure the collective press are putting on him...I dont think theyve even noticed he's starting..."ahem." They haven't called him "Messiah" yet ... but give them time.

1 min: We're off, under the roof with England in their Finland kit. England build from the back with Terry to Dawson and over to Johnson. Wilshere gets a couple of touches, sitting in front of Terry. the ball goes back to Hart who plays it to Wilshere and out to 87-cap Cole and across field for an England throw off Simon Poulsen.

2 mins Eriksson plays a lovely through ball, splitting Terry and Dawson and Bendtner looked to have timed his run perfectly but he's given offside. Not sure. Then Johnson is caught in possession on the right, he plays it to Bendtner, double lollipops as Big Ron used to say and fires wide.

4 mins: England go straight up the other end with Bent one on one with the keeper, Kvist not seeing the through ball early enough but Sorensen's out and knocks the ball off Bent's toe to Rooney who spins and shoots at goal but three Danish defenders get back to block.

6 min: England corner after good link up play between Cole and Milner on the left and the cross is knocked behind. They play it short, Lampard to Walcott but his cross is blocked.

8 min: The auto refresh should be on now. Sorry

GOAL! Denmark 1-0 England (Agger) Brilliant cross from Eriksen, dreadful marking up by England and the cross fizzed in from the right and Agger dived in between Terry and Wilshere to score with a powerful header.

GOAL! Denmark 1-1 England (Bent) Another example of rotten defending following England's as Simon Poulsen let the ball bounce and Walcott to hold him off, twist and wrongfoot him then hit it across the six-yard box for Bent to tap in.

10 min: Shockingly bad defending from Johnson again, disorientated by playing on the right? He knocks a square ball blind to Eriksen who prods through to Bendtner to shoot. Don Howe would do his nut at both side's sloppiness at the back.

12 min: William Murray writes: "Not watching the match but for all the talk of injuries and withdrawals Capello has put out a very sound starting XI." It is strong apart from at the back where they've been all over the place, particularly vulnerable down the right and to crafty passes between the centre-halves. They look very fluent going forward, though. They've got EPL thriller disease.

15 mins: Denmark move breaks down by the right, Jacobsen almost getting behind the tracking back Frank Lampard but Bendtner's "!" in the one-two was overhit. "Watching the Danish language feed. Did you know 'Rommelaht' rhymes with 'Emmevdale'? Neither did I. Is his first name Seth?" writes David Marriott. Nay, nay, nay Mr Wilkes. Wither Toke Townley?

17 mins: Corner for Denmark, headed out to Emmevdale who hits it on the half volley and Rooney slicks out a leg to deflect the shot for another corner.

19 mins: Again England's defence is almost caught square but Cole is paying attention and cuts out Krohn-Delhi's pass to Jacobsen. "So all this talk of Wilshere and Lampard as holding midfielders and they are actually playing across a flat midfield 4 in a 4-4-2 formation? I'm starting to think Capello doesn't really know what he's talking about." You may be right, Luke Stevenson. But maybe what he tells them goes in one ear and out the other.

21 mins: Neale Redington has a word of praise for Uncle Woy: "For all Woy's shortcomings, at least he called out Johnson as rubbish. When will others realise that he 'has no clothes'." I think, by and large, they do, at least in international/ CL football. England starting to get possession and Milner and Walcott have switched flanks, Milner beating Jorgensen on the right but overhitting his cross into Sorensen's hands.

23 mins: Plenty of empty seats and it sounds very quiet until the bloke with the drum starts up. Mark Power makes a neat analogy: "Frank Lampard, 8 Feb 2011: 'When I was younger I was desperate to get back into the fray in case people started to forget me. As you get older, you start concentrating on yourself more.' I'm reminded of a line from Tom Stoppard's *Travesties*, concerning 'a degree of self-absorption that would glaze over the eyes of Narcissus'. What is it with the Redknapp/Lampard clan? That whizzing sound ... that's the entire flicking universe revolving round them, isn't it?" It's certainly true of Alchi, Mark.

25 mins: He is very much a pundit's player in Frank. They never criticise him and Andy Townsend is eulogising him at this very moment. I do think he's very good for Chelsea and was for England in 2004-05 but I do feel, Gerard or no Gerard, that he hasn't done well for the national side consistently enough for the past four years. Denmark have Agger playing it to Jacobsen who bullies his way up the right, squares to Simon Poulsen who shoots high and wide.

28 mins: Another good Denmark move featuring Bendtner tripping it with his chest, knocking it to Eriksen who's looked very bright around the edge of the box, over to Krohn-Delhi who crosses across goal but too near to Hart and the goal line. Goal kick for England.

29 mins: Bad Glen Johnson banished for a bit as good Glen goes marauding up the right and belts in a fine centre that Bent can't quite reach, lunging forward with his head. Lampard getting more involved now.

31 mins: Jack Wilshere looked there for a moment as though he'd knacked his right knee in an awkward twist after a tackle but he's game to carry on, a little gingerly. A minute later he seems fine and moves forward to thread a Fabregas like pass through to Rooney but it's slightly overhit and Sorensen gathers.

33 mins: "Jack Wilshere looks like that werewolf chap from BBC Three's 'Being Human'," writes Bill Chilton. "Would be great if he actually was and changed 10 minutes into the second half and ate everyone. Now that would make the ITV coverage bearable." Now Denmark hold the ball up front, it's sticking to Bendtner and he moves away from Lampard to play a one-two with Eriksen who shoots, having left Dawson for dead, and smacks it against the bottom of Hart's left-hand post. Krohn-Delhi then whacks the rebound over.

36 mins: Mike Fennessy asks is it worth racing home for the last 20 minutes. It is an entertaining match, very low on defensive quality. And yes, Tom Burgess, Eriksen looks very good indeed. But England have been very lax at tracking him.

39 mins: Eriksen at it again, wriggling free and waiting behind Wilshere, attracting Terry out of position to close him down and he spins a pass out to Rommedahl who shoots across goal and Hart sticks out his leg to divert it out for a corner.

41 mins: "Of the Poulsen twins (!) I always thought Roy YNWA Hodgson had meant Simon rather than Christian as his intended target. The former certainly seems a decent player." Hear, hear, I'm Copestake. Terry brings the ball forward as if it was 2004, over the halfway and plays it to Lampard who taps it to Walcott and then runs into the box. Walcott shoots, heading wide, and Lampard backheels it into the net but he's offside.

43 mins: JD Spaulding tells us: "For what it's worth, one of the ads on the digital sideline hoardings is Morten Olsen (the Danish manager) shilling for hearing aids (Widex)." Interesting. There's been some positively dopey positional play from England's two central midfielders and the back four over Eriksen getting between them and causing havoc. They really don't respond well, think on their feet, or cope with someone drifting into the hole as Ozil did at times in South Africa. They look flummoxed by a very basic attacking strategy.

45 mins: Free kick Denmark wide on the right about 30 yards from goal after Milner's foul on Jacobsen. Eriksen plays a beautifully threatening curling ball into the box and its inches off Agger's nose as he stretched, ahead of his marker, to nod it in.

Half time: I'm off for a pic. Back in 10. "It's often said of friendships that 'X will learn something about Y tonight'. Well what? Has anything substantive ever been learned in a friendly? Top level sport is all about pressure - playing without pressure isn't top level sport," writes Gary Naylor. Substantive, no. But against Denmark in 1994, Venables learned that Darren Aderton and Graeme Le Saux had international pedigree. Andrew Morris is chortling at this. And why not? "Christian Eriksen was born in the historic whale hunting town of Middlefert which, if not amusing enough on its own, is translated literally as 'central passage'." Finban Saunders would be on the floor now. No more Emmerdale fun, thanks to Peter Mortenson, who should know: "Since -sen names are very common in Denmark (Larsen = Lars' son), it's quite common to skip it if you've got a middle name, like for instance Elkjaer. -dahl, though, does not rhyme with -dale even if they are etymologically the same words ("valley"). Great to watch the match on Danish television while reading comments here! May the best side win - if it happens to be the Danish one!"

Off goes the messiah, Wilshere: Ashley Young, Gareth Barry and Scott Parker on for Lampard, Wilshere and someone else. I'll get back to you on that, Milner I think.

46 mins: For Denmark Waas comes on for Simon Poulsen. Young came on for Rooney actually, sorry about that. England's captain is Ashley Cole.

46 mins: Denmark building up their right but Milner forces Wass backwards and gets him to go right back to Sorensen.

48 mins: Keepball from Denmark, stroking the ball around midfield, C Poulsen dropping deep to allow his centre-backs to step up. England win it back at last and Young goes up the left but is squeezed out.

49 mins: On Peter Mortensen's remarks, David Marriott writes: "Someone should tell the Danish commentator this. He must be a bumpkin from the Danish equivalent of Cop North." Young stands up a cross to the far post after being played in by Johnson and Bent from eight yards out heads it into the flying Sorensen's upper arm and Denmark clear. Should have scored.

52 mins: Parker wins the ball of Christian Poulsen and comes forward, over to Milner who crosses and Ashley Young heads it to the near post but Sorensen gets up to catch.

54 mins: Ian, I had to ditch the pie and went for pasta instead. The pie just wasn't floky enough for keyboard mishaps, which always amuse the next person in the seat. Milner hits a 60-yard crossfield pass from left-back to outside right and Walcott almost manages to get there. But if he can't, no one can, and so it proves.

55 mins: And Bent should really have scored again. Milner wins a bouncing ball by throwing his knee at it, gets past Poulsen and threads a pass to Bent on the left of the area, he fixes his shot first time but it's three feet high and rising. Not really, three feet wide.

58 mins: About two minutes before the last post, Eriksen left Johnson on his backside, poking the ball around him and skinning him. Fortunately for England, his cross was cut out. Gary Cahill on for Dawson. Silberbauer for Jacobsen for the Dynamo.

60 mins: Young, Parker and Barry have done well so far. Young drifting out to the left, checks and chips a pass out to Walcott on the right. His cross goes out for a corner from which Terry rises at the near post but balloons his header over. Oliver Billenness has been in touch: "I love Scott Parker. He's a proper player. A real box-to-box midfielder, better in the tangle than Gerrard, Lampard or Wilshere ever have been or will be, but with an ability to fire the ball into the net from 25/30 yards regularly. Plus, he looks like a proper England throwback, as if he could have played in '66, '86 or '96. Shame he hasn't played more for England, that this is only his fourth cap at 30 is a crime."

63 mins: Another England corner is knocked out by Denmark and when Young turns in the centre-circle to hit a long pass, England just drift offside. Here's the always thoughtful Petr Frenont: "As for Capello's expression, consider that Wilshere, the center of the team to come per the English media, is a water carrier at Arsenal for Fabregas (so recently beloved of that same media in its many forms), and Fabregas can only make the Spanish bench under normal circumstances. The bench where Wilshere might be if Nasri and Song are available with Fabregas. Maybe Capello, like any workman, is wondering about his tools. Wilshere is good enough to be natched against Eriksen and it's not clear what other young English midfielder would be up to it. Any suggestions?" No one as good as him, Petr. No one.

65 mins: Rommedahl shoots. He doesn't score. England are still looking vulnerable at the back with Krohn-Delhi again splitting England's defence with a fine pass. Eriksen gets there and backheels to Rommedahl and Hart saves well.

67 mins: Thomas Sorensen is down for a spell getting treatment after scampering across goal when Young shot wide from distance.

England substitution: Downing on for Walcott.

GOAL!! Denmark 1-2 England (Young) Downing on for Walcott. Johnson in Dr Jekyll mode brings the ball forward after Downing's tackle and storms forward. He plays a lovely weighted pass to Young who steers the ball powerfully into the net with his instep.

71 mins: Luke Stevenson addresses Oliver on the subject of Scott Parker: "Blame Chelsea for that, in their spending heyday they were lesser known as a potential

graveyard for English talent. See Joe Cole, Scott Parker and, to a lesser extent, Steve Sidwell."

73 mins: England getting forward well. Sorry for that Twitter intervention there. What happened?

75 mins: Parker is a very neat player. Does a shift unobtrusively at times as Mick McCarthy would say, but he has got the skill to go with the bite.

77 mins: "I'm enjoying that pic of Darren Bent rocking two wrist sweatbands: I never saw him work hard enough to break a sweat but hey, why not. He looks a bit like post-suicide attempt **Richie Tenenbaum**." Thanks for that David Weiss. Though I must admit I hated that film. Mind-buzzlingly pretentious I thought. Parker just came back into the box and got his foot in, really sprinting to get back in there.

79 mins: And now Parker's limping after that block. Christopher Sand-Iversen brushes up our Danials: "Dahl does sort of rhyme with dale if you pronounce dale in a Yorkshire, Lancashire or Welsh accent, ie with a long 'ae' sound. While central passage would be hilarious, Middelhart has never translated as such!!! 'Middle journey' is most likely given that Middelhart is about in the middle of the country, 'average speed' would also be possible. Sorry to poop your party there.' Two weeks' break in Average Speed, dear?

81 mins: Leighton Baines on for Ashley Cole. "That's it Rob – it's Chelsea's fault England are rubbish. Joe Cole, Scott Parker and Steve Sidwell are as good as Messi, Xavi and Iniesta – but Chelsea ruined them," writes Jeremy Solomon. I just print some of them, I don't have time to construct cogent arguments one way or the other. I leave that to you lot.

83 mins: On to pressing matters from David Ormerod: "Can anyone tell me where to get a decent meat pie in Orange County?" Well? Denmark corner, comes to naught. God knows who's England captain now. And does anyone really care?

84 mins: Over to Andrew Laws: "Who is Gary Naylor? I'm beginning to think you have conversations with Gary Naylor in empty tube carriages on the way home. Next he'll be suggesting you set up an underground boxing club together." He's either real or a construct of Rob Smyth and Scott Murray. I think it's the former, Denmark free kick five yards inside England's half, taken by Eriksen but he can't clear the line of England defenders on the edge of the box.

86 mins: "I don't want to take a retaliatory poop on Christopher Sand-Iversen's party but if "fart" is Danish for 'Speed' does that mean that the movie about a bus that would blow up if it slowed down with Kenni Reeves in it was titled 'Fart' in Denmark?" Smelled like it, Andrew Morris.

88 mins: Petering out as you can possibly tell, the match as well as me. Downing just ran 50 yards up the right cut inside and passed to Young whose shot hit the prostate body of Kjaer lying in the box like a 'fart' bump.

89 mins: "What's with the recent trend for English football crowds mangling Sloop John B? They don't even get the tune right. I blame Phil Brown." The orange one has a lot of charges to face. "When you typoed 'but he can't clear the line' I wonder how many of your readers continued reading the rest of the line in a dodgy German accent. Great, just me then." Ye hav ways – thanks Ian Copestake.

90 mins: Free kick in from Vingaard and Kjaer gets up to meet but Calull manages to steer it out for a corner.

90 mins + 1: Poulsen in the box is marshalled away by Parker who, nips the ball off him and runs away from him. Poulsen is mighty slow. Or maybe just tired because he's done so much running for Liverpool ...

Full time: England win 2-1 after an improved second half performance. Scott Parker and Ashley Young did enough to warrant places in the full-strength squad and although Eriksen sparkled in the first half, he didn't get the service in the second, thanks to Parker and Barry. Did we learn anything. No. Like Seinfeld, no lugs, no lessons. But it

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was entertaining enough and England will be relieved to have won and to have shown better positional awareness in the second half. Thanks for your emails. Good night.

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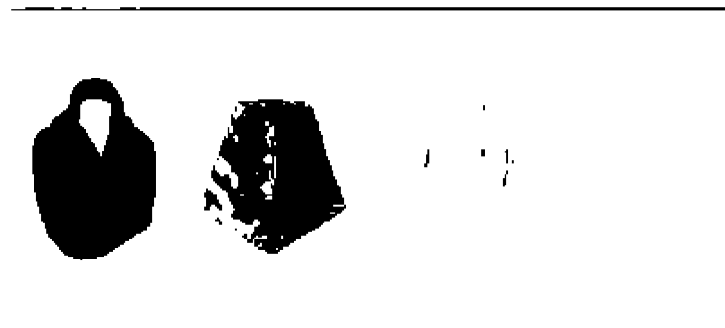
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Saturday clockwatch – as it happened!

Arsenal failed to make their chances pay while West Ham moved out of the relegation zone

Tommy Seymour
guardian.co.uk, Saturday 5 March 2010 11:40 GMT



St. Gaj: Imaad

Afternoon all: How are things? Probably not a good day to be near the bottom of the league today, is it? Given the concertina-esque nature of the lower half of the table - there are just six points between Everton in 11th and Wigan in 20th (the same gap as between Arsenal in second and Man City in third) - this afternoon's fixtures may have some bearing on who is going down.

Birmingham City will be waking up today in a familiar state to much of the country (and your correspondent). Heads will be bleary, clothing will be strewn liberally around the bedroom and eyes will be bloodshot. Can they find a bacon sandwich and a Berocca in time to ward off what we'll inevitably be calling a Carling hangover if they don't beat West Brom in their relegation dogfight? Is there anything more clichéd than suggesting a team will have a hangover after winning a big game? But then you don't come here for soaring insight do you?

You do?

Uh-oh.

12.34pm: The Birmingham v West Brom game tees off at 12.45, so this clockwatch will be taking a ponderous peer at their progress, before moving on to the rest of today's games:

[Arsenal v Sunderland](#)

[Bolton v Aston Villa](#)

[Fulham v Blackburn](#)

[Newcastle v Everton](#)

[West Ham v Stoke](#)

[Manchester City v Wigan](#)

It's not really a super Saturday, is it? More a survival Saturday with West Ham, Fulham, Blackburn, Aston Villa and Everton all in the bottom half of the table and all to some degree involved in a relegation semi.

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Talking of survival. It's cold out there. A day on the terraces is going to be an ordeal - though, probably not as much of one as reading this - anyone got any tips on keeping fingers warm? A friend of mine, a fan of a club who probably ought to remain nameless, would buy two pies a game, one for kick-off, one for half-time. Each of these pies, he claimed, was tasteless, but was so super-heated from the cafe microwave, that it would keep his hands warm for 45 minutes. In extreme circumstances, he wasn't above dipping his fingers in said pie - the nuclear option. Anyone else? Or is it all those hi-tech, inner-pocket, crackable hand heaters these days?

12.35pm: Ding, dlog, ding: Sky presenter Ben Shepherd sets off the dichonometer alarm as he makes an early mention of a Carling Cup hangover for Birmingham.

12.36pm: Ding, ding, ding: Sky's man interviewing Alex McLeish asks the Birmingham manager about a Carling Cup hangover. He responds by talking about food and fluid intake, which is a good way to get over any hangover.

12.36pm: Team news:

Hangover FC: Foster, Carr, Johnson, Davies, Ridgewell, Beausejour, Fahey, Bowyer, Bentley, Jerome, Martins.

Subs: Doyle, Murphy, Larsson, Phillips, Zigic, Parnaby, Mutch.

West Brom: Carson, Reid, Olsson, Melie, Shorey, Brunt, Mulumbu, Schanzer, Thomas, Morrison, Fortune.

Subs: Myhill, Tehoyt, Vela, Odomwingle, Tamas, Cox, Jam.

Referee: Mike Jones (Cheshire)

12.40pm: Team analysis, ripped straight from the wires and delivered here without pause for thought:

Birmingham boss Alex McLeish made five changes - three enforced - from the Carling Cup-winning side for the home Premier League clash with West Brom. Midfielders Barry Ferguson and Craig Gardner plus defender Martin Jirasek were ruled out through injury while Sebastian Larsson and Nikola Zigic were named amongst the substitutes. Curtis Davies was handed his debut at the back alongside Roger Johnson. David Bentley, Jean Beausejour, Cameron Jerome and Wembley goal hero Obafemi Martins also came into the first eleven.

West Brom made one enforced change from the side which drew at Stoke with midfielder Graham Dorrans (ankle) replaced by James Morrison.

12.41pm: "Pie warmers are de rigueur on fashionable Bold Street in Liverpool," writes Ian Copestake. "It matches the curlers and dressing gown look favoured there."

BREAKING NEWS ... BREAKING NEWS ... BREAKING NEWS: The International FA Board for staking their nubs into things have announced that the wearing of snoods in matches will be banned from 1 July.

Peep, peep: If the pictures in front of me are to be believed, this Midlands kiclabout has been launched.

12.50pm: West Brom attempt a couple of attacks up the left wing, with a cross eventually coming over for Chris Brunt to nod at the Dry-mouth United goal. Foster saves comfortably.

12.52pm: Johnson plays a dreadful ball across the back to Carr and West Brom's Thomas latches onto it, then goes darting into the box. He makes a bit of room but his shot doesn't trouble Memory-loss Argyle's goal.

12.53pm: "I believe eggs are good for a hangover. So perhaps this should be 'Scrambled Saturday' or failing that 'Hair of the Dog Saturday,'" emails the irrepressible Ian Copestake.

12.54pm: West Brom have brought a passing game to St Andrews. They're whipping the ball about the pitch with one- and two-touch passing. It's given Looming Sense Of Regret City something to think about and they've dropped back and are defending quite deeply.

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12.57pm: Bleyer FC win their first corner after wiping their eyes and heading into West Brom turf. The corner is worked to Lee Bowyer, outside the area and unmarked, but his cross is too high for Roger Johnson and goes sailing into touch.

12.59pm: Fortune and Jerome Thomas combine on the left as the latter, again, wangles his way into Hangover FC's box. Steven Carr, though, comes powering in to clear.

1.00pm: A long ball into the West Brom box from Cameron Jerome is hastily bundled behind for a corner. A heavily bearded Scott Carson claims. You don't got many heavily bearded goalkeepers, do you? Would be great to see a full ZZ Top between the sticks.

1.01pm: "Concerning the cold hands/warm pies scenario," emails Ross Hendrie, "A colleague of mine who lives further out of London than is feasibly imaginable with a daily commute in mind has a similar technique when taking his dog for a walk in the morning: Cooking two potatoes in tin foil in the oven overnight, that come the morn are transferred swiftly into the pockets of his wax jacket providing eco friendly hand warmth for a couple of hours and a spot of lunch. Living the dream." That is a sensational hand-warming technique. Move please.

1.03pm: Another corner for Bloodshot Eyes Orlent, defended poorly by West Brom, who allow Lee Bowyer to nip in unmarked again. This time he shoots but his howitzer is deflected by Meite, ambling amiably towards him.

1.07pm: Olofemi Martins uses all of his many (many) years of experience to work his way out of a tight hole with a bit of shimmy-shammy in the footwork dept. Very neat footwork. Hangover FC then win a freekick on the left wing, which is pinged in well by Bentley but cleared by Meite. It falls to Fathey, who has a shot from a good 35 miles out, with fairly predictable results.

1.09pm: Fortune bursts into the box, but is offside, then Shorey attempts a bit of risky/brave footwork at the other end as a ball is launched box-wards by Hangover City.

1.11pm: Ding, ding, ding: Sky summariser Alan Smith sets off the hangover alarm once again.

1.13pm: Cameron Jerome intercepts a Schanner pass and, with the ball bobbling a bit, hoof it wide of Scott Carson's left-hand post from outside the area. Not a good connection, but a shot somewhere near the goal nonetheless.

1.14pm: Carson Young is giggling away in the stands about something, meanwhile the Birmingham crowd is trying to get their team going (and, possibly, keep themselves warm, what with pie and potato heat no doubt beginning to wane had an hour into the game). It's having an effect and Hangover Town are beginning to get on top.

1.15pm: Jerome has another shot from the edge of the box after bludgeoning a path up the West Brom left. A deflection makes the save an easy one for Carson.

1.16pm: "Players these days (I am over 40 so I can say this) are more likely to get a tattoo of a beard on their faces than grow one," writes the increasingly wine-fuelled fan Copstake of Scott Carson's facial furniture. Certainly teams managed by Roy Hodgson seem very keen to get busy with the tattoo gun, as Liverpool proved.

1.18pm: Thomas goes on a center across the pitch, before offloading so that a cross can be launched into the Hangover FC box. Schanner is on the end of it and, rather summing up his game in the last five minutes, he makes something of a hash of things. Hangover take the ball, run up the other end, then sort of peter out a bit.

1.21pm: Brunt feeds Jerome Thomas who goes tearing up the pitch, bawling Davies as he goes. With Brunt screaming for the return pass, Thomas attempts to go it alone but then passes to late. Hangover FC clear, giving Brunt ample opportunity to make his views clear on exactly what he thought of Thomas's play. There's a little bit of shoving too, which is always spicy.

1.22pm: Bentley links inside from the right wing but can't find Bowyer. A minute later, a long ball is played into Beausejour's feet. He clips the ball into the box and Jerome goes down on his knees to head the ball just wide of the post. Probably the best opportunity he's had in a fairly chance-free half.

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1.28pm: "I know a farmer who, presumably understanding the value of a spud, prefers to sell them rather than use them as hand warmers. However, he uses a similar principle as the spud-based hand-warming technique mentioned earlier, but with stones," writes Ben Hollander. "Many's the time he's had to explain why he's jiggling the stones in his pocket to keep warm."

1.28pm: If we're being honest here, this game's a bit low on quality.

1.32pm: Bentley makes an effort to inject some excitement into things, by pointlessly beating two men before passing the ball to the wing. The cross that comes is weak. Ridgwell then attempts a cross of his own which is also on the poor side. It's a curious sort of hangover that just leads to bad crossing. Mine generally lead to self-loathing, a sticky stomach and brain-clearing headaches. And with that, the referee puts the half out of its misery.

1.34pm: A half-time poser from Steve Richards: "Watching the League Cup final last week, I remembered that it was four years since Arsenal were again in the final, but lost to Chelsea. On that day Frank Lampard lifted the trophy for Chelsea. It is also 28 years since Bob Paisley lifted the trophy in his final season as manager. On both occasions, neither of the people to lift the cup was the captain as John Terry was in hospital and Graeme Souness was making a magnanimous gesture to a soon retiring and magnificent manager. In the 2001 FA Cup (final), Liverpool captain Sami Hyypia was robbed of the honour of lifting the trophy despite finishing the game (Robbie Fowler as team captain and substitute, and the suited Jamie Redknapp as club captain did the honours). Have any other victorious team captains been robbed of the honour?"

1.43pm: "I'm a bit miffed by McLeish dropping Zigie to the bench after I drafted him into my fantasy side to capitalise on Birmingham playing twice this week," writes Kristian Brock. "Zigie is their highest scoring striker (in fantasy points). He dropped Larsson too, his highest scoring (fit) midfielder. Who do those arrogant managers think they are? It's like they think they know better than The System. He'll never win anything." McLeish mentioned in his pre-match presser, oddly, that ruining Kristian Brock's fantasy side was high on the agenda. "He'll never win anything now," he said with a leer.

1.47pm: Substitute Peter Odemwingie was given a stiff talking to by Woy Hodgson on the touchline just before half-time, and he's now on for Mare Antoine Tortona, who's looked a bit ineffectual. Second half is about to kick off.



GOAL! Birmingham 0-1 West Brom (Mulumbu, 46): Odemwingie makes an instant impact, creating the chance for Mulumbu, who goes darting into the box and lifts the ball over Foster. DING DING DING, the hangover-ometer goes off in the Sky box



GOAL! Birmingham 1-1 West Brom (Beaussejour, 48): Birmingham go straight up the other end, passing only for a Resolve on the way, and prove they are over their hangover. The ball is sent whizzing across the face of goal and the Chilean jabs out a foot to lash the ball into the net. Woy indulges in a spot of light face-rubbing. It's not the full sandpaper to the bounce we saw when he was Liverpool's boss, but it's getting there.

1.55pm: Bowyer gets himself a yellow card for a firm challenge. He tells the referee to eff off on receiving it. Which is nice. Much more excitingly Schuster and Ridgwell indulge in a bit of wrestling on the outside of the box. They collide, grapple, fall into the box and then Ridgwell wedges Schuster's head into the ground and refuses to let him get up. Both get a yellow card.

1.57pm: Move on that road ban. Fifa believe they are dangerous and have forbidden them from 1 July. Presumably they only become dangerous in July, or you'd imagine they'd ban them from now. Are they worried about the dangers of Carlos Tevez and other snoodanistas overtaking on their holidays?

1.58pm: Bentley flings over a corner and Carson has to punch it clear lest it drop under the bar. This game has finally come alive. Although Carr does his best to kill it again, by taking several hours to take a throw-in.



GOAL! Birmingham 1-2 West Brom (Morrison 57) Bang! What a finish. Morrison takes three touches to dismantle the Birmingham defence, the last of which is to juggle the ball onto his foot, just outside the area, and send it screaming into the back of the net.

2.03pm: What's going on? Birmingham race down the other end and Bentley blasts a shot at goal. It comes whizzing back out and Bowyer and Martins queue up to try and nudge it in. Both fail but this game has gone from desperately tedious to mental.

2.04pm: Cameron Jerome tries to find Martins in the box but West Brom clear up the left. Odenwingle is marginally offside as he hopes to latch onto a through ball into the box. He's made such a difference to the blunt West Brom attack since his arrival.

2.05pm: "In my fantasy league, my closest rivals have Zigic as captain and Foster in goal respectively (fools), so I'm hoping for a Birmingham defeat," writes Malt Wilde, from fantasy land. "Odenwingle is my cheap striker too, so things are looking good as it stands. Fantasy football is just about the pinnacle of civilisation as far as I'm concerned, I can't remember what Saturdays were like without it."

2.07pm: Birmingham ping the ball into the box from a variety of different angles. West Brom ping it back out from an equally diverse range of angles. Hangover FC are in the ascendancy here for a while but there are few people in the box for their crosses to find.

2.10pm: West Brom's Jerome Thomas is coming off and Gonzalo Jara is coming on, suggesting Woy is now hoping to hold on to this lead. For Birmingham Kevin Phillips comes on for Beausejour, suggesting Alex McLeish is hoping to raise the average age of those on the pitch by a thousand years.

2.11pm: A double miss from West Brom! Brunl fires in a spectacular surface screamer from outside the box, which pings off the post and into the path of Odenwingle (who might have been offside, looking at it again). The assistant referee didn't flag though, but rather than tap the ball into the net, Odenwingle blasted it a good 10 yards over the crossbar.

2.13pm: "Since the Guardian's football community seems united in loathing snoods because they make the wearer seem a great effeminate wuss, shouldn't their preferred method of staying warm in the stands involve growing a pair and thus stop whingeing you big girl's blouse, you?" emails Randal Boyd from Canada, where they know about such things as cold and, indeed, rotting up.

2.14pm: Birmingham have a half-hearted penalty shout as Ridgewell goes down in the West Brom box after a challenge from Jara. It was probably more a case of Ridgewell falling over than anything, which might be why he didn't make too much of a fuss over it.



GOAL! Birmingham 1-3 West Brom (Scharner, 71) Birmingham switch off at a corner and Morrison floats the ball into the far post. The cross finds Scharner on the byline and, from a very tight angle, he nods it back across the face of the goal. Unsure of whether the header is going in or not, Ben Foster makes sure, by lapping at the ball and knocking it in himself.

2.19pm: Scharner chips the ball over the Birmingham defence for Odenwingle to run onto. Good idea, but it's slightly over-hit, and Foster claims. "I keep my hands warm in winter by living in the Caribbean," writes a chirpy Ben Bonford, smugness oozing from every letter of his email.

2.21pm: James Morrison comes off after scoring one and selling another up. Gabriel Tarusis is his replacement. Odenwingle then tries to fashion another chance, forcing

Rooster to come hurtling from his goal-line to deal with him. The ball, though, gets knocked back to Schuster who attempts to lob the ball over the now hastily retreating keeper and into the goal. Rooster just wins the race back though.

2.23pm: David Murphy comes on for Liam Ridgwell, his appearance on the pitch being greeted with an overwhelming round of indifference from fans of Haringey FC.

2.25pm: Schuster puts over a good cross to near(ish) the penalty spot. Odemwingie makes rather a hash of the header (though, attracting his effort more towards the corner flag than the goal).

2.27pm: Schuster, who suddenly seems to be involved in everything, heads over a Haringey FC corner. But the ball falls to Boyce, who shoots from outside the area. Carson stops growing the hair for precisely long enough to catch the ball, the hood is up!ed and then resumes beard-growing duties.

2.31pm: Mulumbu is not picked up in the area, and he brings Thomas's freakish flow, before doing that half-interesting in scoring but also half-interesting in running the clock down (and sort of runs goalwards, but not really). Keith Treby gets a yellow (o exactly coincide with the moment the stadium PA announcer gives him the man of the match award entirely unflatteringly).

2.33pm: Ding, ding, ding! The Carling Cup haringey-on-eter goes off in the Sky commentary box again. There will be four minutes of stoppage time for Birmingham to serve two goals. Well, that's not what the stoppage time is actually for, but it's what Birmingham would be well-advised to use it for.

2.35pm: The West Bron fans sing 'Ole' as their team pass the ball about the pitch in a needily time-consuming manner.

2.36pm: "With snoods being banned as they pose a risk of an on-pitch gawking, will we eventually see the outlawing of that ever-looming menace, the collar?" entials Andrew Fitchet, well favoured by you. "Or will the big wusses just stich a snood into their shirt and claim it's a high neckline?"

Peep, peep! It's a proper ear-bleeding haringey for Haringey FC. The final whistle is blown on a 1-3 defeat against their local rivals. That means West Bron go 16th for now, with Birmingham 17th.

2.40pm: "I've just noticed that one of the advertisements on the side of the pitch says 'Official England Supplier Nivea For Men'. What do they supply? Because I don't think it's working," writes Martin Stannard. "By the way, I may be mis-reading it, because I'm drinking Chinese red wine and that leads to lots of mistakes." Chinese red wine? In honour of Carson Young? Or because there's no white spirit or similarly throat stripping juice?

Team news

Fullham v Blackburn Rovers

Fullham: Schwarzer, Boldt, Hughes, Frangoulis, Salekic, Dorf, Eulusa, Murphy, Dempsey, Johnson, Dembele.
 Subs: Stockdale, Kelly, Gudjohnsen, Kakuta, Zamora, Greening, Davies.

Blackburn: Robinson, Salgado, Huxley, Sanja, Givet, Hallett, Jermaine Jones, Nyomá, Olsson, Roberts, Diouf.

Subs: Bann, Ewarton, Kalfin, Pedersen, Andrew, Sasha Cruz, Kochina.
 The players' friends: Mark Clattenburg (Tynes & Weir)

Bolton v Aston Villa

Bolton: Jaakolahti, Stenliss, Whooler, Cahill, Robinson, Emondov, Holden, Mwanza, Petrov, Kevin Davies, Stirrife.

Subs: Bogdan, Taylor, Mark Davies, Kisanic, Morera, Alonso, Lee.

Aston Villa: Friedel, Walker, Clark, Bales, Jake Young, Iken-Coker, Delpy, Albrighton, Ashley Young, Downing, Bent.

Subs: Marandji, Pires, Aguilator, Bradley, Healey, Petrov, Herd.

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Referee: Kevin Friend (Leicestershire)

Arsenal v Sunderland

Arsenal: Szczecny, Sagna, Djouanou, Koscielny, Clichy, Denilson, Wilshere, Nasri, Diaby, Arslanov, Bendtner.

Subs: Almunia, Royley, Ramsey, Squillaci, Eboue, Gibbs, Chomaki.

Sunderland: Mignolet, Ferdinand, Mensah, Bramble, Bardsley, Henderson, Munari, Malbranque, Richardson, Sessegnon, Cyan.

Subs: Gordon, Riveros, Welbeck, Colbeck, Elmahmady, Knott, Noble.

Referee: Anthony Taylor (Cheshire)

Newcastle v Everton

Newcastle: Harper, Steven Taylor, Williamson, Coloccini, Jose Enrique, Simpson, Tioté, Nolan, Gutierrez, Best, Lovenkrands.

Subs: Krst, Guthrie, Perch, Amezobi, Ferguson, Richardson, Kugi.

Everton: Howard, Hibbert, Jagielka, Disting, Barnes, Osman, Neville, Rodwell, Arteta, Beckford, Saha.

Subs: Muelu, Heitinga, Bilyaletdinov, Coleman, Anichebe, Duffy, Baxter.

Referee: Howard Webb (S Yorkshire)

West Ham v Stoke

West Ham: Green, Tomkins, Upton, da Costa, Bridge, Noble, Parker, Hitzlsperger, Piquionne, Cole, Ba.

Subs: Boffin, Gabbidon, Spector, Hines, O'Neil, Obinna, Jacobsen.

Stoke: Begovic, Wilson, Huth, Shawcross, Fugli, Penant, Dalap, Whitehead, Whelan, Walters, Carew.

Subs: Sorensen, Collins, Jones, Fuller, Diao, Etherington, Wilkinson.

Referee: Andre Marriner (W Midlands)

2.52pm: Handshake dept: Just what sort of palm-pressing shenanigans will Mark Hughes be involved in this week? Up against his former club Blackburn Rovers, and a manager most would struggle to pick out of a line-up, is there the very real danger that he might simply not recognise Steve Kenn and thus inadvertently kick off another handshake-gate? Let's hope so.

2.58pm: What does Bendtner's inclusion in the Arsenal team mean? That he's in the firing line to face Barcelona and that this is his chance to prove his form? Or that Chamich is being rested for the game? Meanwhile, at West Ham, Avram Grant's playing three up front - which could make things quite exciting/funny depending on your viewpoint.

Aston Villa manager Gerard Houllier appears to have swapped his weakened team for his weekend one, with no-one yet any the wiser as to why, precisely, he was resting players against Man City.

We're off: Cold hands Saturday is underway. Sunderland nearly kick things off with a goal but, thanks to Clichy, they don't.

3.04pm: Newcastle's Tioté and Neville have had a coming together, and the Everton captain has come off worse. He's wheezing around the pitch trying to catch his breath. Stephen Ireland, tipped to make his debut today, is not even on the bench incidentally.

3.06pm: Half a penalty shout at Upton Park. The ball was fed in by Scott Parker, but Ba was blocked as he tried to shoot. He had a bit of a whinge about the challenge but referee Andre Marriner told him to get over himself. Which he did.

3.09pm: Fans are trickling in late to watch that West Ham match, according to reports from the ever-intrepid Jacob Steinberg. Some sort of public transport issue involving fares, women trapped in doors, shambles and lots of capital letters if his Twitter feed is anything to go by.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/football/2011/mar/05/saturday-clockwatch-premier-league...> 15/07/2012

3.09pm: Rank of prompt goals, get ready to have your day made! The fastest goal in England was scored by Clayton Donaldson (Crewe) v Burton Albion after 1 minute and 57 seconds.

3.13pm: A good save from Mignolet at Arsenal prevents Bendtner from opening the scoring at The Emirates.



GOAL! Bolton 0-1 Aston Villa (Bent, 15) The visitors go ahead at the Reebok. Walker skipped between two Bolton players, whipped the ball across the box and Darren Bent tapped the ball in for his 14th of the season. He always scores against Bolton, doesn't he?

3.18pm: Sometimes, having a lack of information makes things sound a lot more exciting than they are. This is all I have: Red card, Lee Peltier, Huddersfield, 14, Violent Conduct. No idea what he did to get sent off that early, but it sounds good, doesn't it? Anyone want to hazard a guess?

3.19pm: A glorious save by Steve Harper keeps the score at Newcastle v Everton at 0-0.

3.20pm: More goalkeeper news: burgeoning comedian Wojciech Szczęsny does his stand-up career a good deal of harm by putting in a competent save to deny Sunderland the lead.

3.21pm: Another red card for what sounds like quite an exciting incident: Joe Welch, Histon, 19, Goal & Abusive Language. Tasty.



GOAL! West Ham 1-0 Stoke (Ba, 21) A howler! Stoke keeper Begovic comes flying out of the box to clear the ball, mis-kicks spectacularly, and Ba capitalises to put the Londoners ahead.



GOAL! Newcastle 1-0 Everton (Leon Best 23) You know what we said about things being more exciting when you don't have any information? Well, that's what we're going to have to stick with as, due to a technical error on the site, I missed the Newcastle goal. Let's say it was a bicycle kick from the half-way line and move on.

3.29pm: "Did Lee Peltier get sent off for throwing an almighty coaching strap on the halfway line when they didn't bring him his nyom-nyoms?" asks Neil Goodwin. Possibly. Or possibly he just wanted to be able to watch Leon Best's Newcastle goal and got himself sent from the pitch. I hear it was some goal. An overhead kick from the halfway line, apparently.



GOAL! West Ham 2-0 Stoke City (Da Costa, 29) Stoke switch off at a set piece and Da Costa rises, swan-like, and nods the ball home.

3.32pm: Matt Bridle shatters some illusions: "The Newcastle goal was a tap in from Best after 0 saves from a Nolan shot..."



GOAL! Newcastle 1-1 Everton (Osman 31) Leon Osman gets Everton back into the game. Everton haven't won in eight attempts at St James' Park, perhaps this is the day they can change that.

3.36pm: The various oohs and aahs in the Soccer Saturday studio suggest there has been more action ... and it's been at West Ham, where Stoke have blown a chance. Incidentally, it sounds as though Stoke are playing their usual brand of free-flowing, attacking and beautiful football. Always such a watchable side.



GOAL! Newcastle 1-2 Everton (Jagiella, 37) Baines whips in a free kick and Leighton Baines arrives to slide foot into the net. And **GOAL! Fulham 1-0 Blackburn Rovers (Duff, 37)** The winger scores against his and his manager's old club.

3.40pm: Just listen to the weariness, the yearning and the resignedness in this email from Summer Hill: "Watching the Arsenal v Sunderland game - it has all the makings of an uninspired 0-0 draw or Sunderland snatching a 0-1 win - I've seen this game several times over the last few years." Bendtner, though, has just gone close. He drilled the ball at the top corner but Mignolet, the Sunderland stopper, leapt impressively to save.

3.44pm: "Re. that Everton goal," hollers Rory Cleason. "That Baines is some player getting on the end of his own free-kick." He really is, Rory, it's a goal that will live long in the memory. Oh, in actual fact, it was Baines taking the free-kick and Phil Jagiella slotting it home. Apologies.



GOAL! Fulham 1-1 Blackburn (Hanley, 45): Blackburn had gone a bit flat against Fulham. The home side failed to clear the ball and Hanley lashed the ball at the goal. But a massive deflection took it in the opposite direction and into the inside of the net. Meanwhile **GOAL! Bolton 1-1 Aston Villa (Cahill, 45)** The defender gets a free header from a corner and nods it home.

3.53pm: Right, the Premier League half-time scores look like this:

[Arsenal 0-0 Sunderland](#)

[Bolton 1-1 Aston Villa](#)

[Fulham 1-1 Blackburn](#)

[Newcastle 1-2 Everton](#)

[West Ham 2-0 Stoke](#)

[See all the half-times in the country here.](#)

3.55pm: Right, I'm off for a Kit Kat and something a bit more prosaic. Anyone else got a half-time ritual? Back in a bit.

4.01pm: A mildly interesting* stat, courtesy of Opta: that's the first time Damien Duff has scored in two consecutive games since December 2004.

* This stat is not really mildly interesting at all, is it?

4.05pm: The latest of our international snood correspondents is Graeme Shotton: "Reading the updates from my hotel room in Bali, shivering as the A/C is stuck on max setting. Any footballer wishing to donate a redundant snood please send by courier ASAP." Without wishing to be rude, Graeme, could you not just step outside. It must be 80 degrees in Bali.

4.08pm: Blackburn's Chris Semba keeps everyone on their toes at Craven Cottage, he spoons a clearance onto his own barnd, with Paul Robinson beaten, the ball bounces off the crossbar and behind for a corner.

4.09pm: James Tomkins hits the post as West Ham continue to outplay the elegant footballers of Stoke.

4.12pm: Newcastle have come out of the block well in the second half, they're pegging Everton back. Incidentally, Alan Pardew says he has started scouting players and still seems to be suggesting he will have some of the £35m Andy Carroll fee. One of the people he has his eye on, reports suggest, is John Arne Riise. That's John Arne Riise.

4.14pm: Arsenal are struggling to find a way through a hard-pushing Sunderland side. Arshavin is, by all accounts, a pretty but useless bauble glittering ineffectively on the Emirates pitch. Likely to be rubbed soon.

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4.15pm: "Unfortunately for Greme in Bali today is the religious holiday Nyepi, meaning everyone has to spend 24 hours indoors," writes Paul Collins. "Hence the stepping outside option isn't on the cards." Is opening the window allowed?

4.16pm: Another fine chance for Aston Villa. In fact, Downing has just missed the goal from two yards out. Ashley Young then had a second chance a minute later - he smashed the ball goalwards but Jaaskelainen saved. Elsewhere, Arteta attempts to put Everton 3-1 up but Steve Harper has made a fine save.



4.17pm: **GOAL! Fulham 2-1 Blackburn (Duff, 59)** 20 yards out, and with his left foot, Duff pings the ball past Paul Robinson and beats the keeper at his nearpost. Poor keeping.

4.18pm: Re. The Bali conundrum "What about just wangling the a/c with a very large spanner, that should solve the need for a snood. But possibly create the need for a very large umbrella," chuckles Robin Hazlehurst.

4.20pm: Shola Ameobi has two efforts against Everton. The first was turned around the post for a corner, the second was hit low and straight at the keeper. Phil Neville decides he's had enough and limps off to be replaced by Johnny Heitinga.

4.21pm: "Seeing as Stoke are bizarrely proud of being a team of giants and cloggers, what is the general consensus of opinion regarding Tony Pulis amongst journeoes such as yourself?" asks Phil Walwynwright, mistaking me for a journalist. "As a fellow Welshman I'm inclined to like the guy, but have no idea of how much/little regard his coaching/management skills are held in." He's a 53-year-old man who wears a baseball cap in public. Let's leave it there.

HONK, HONK, HONK The snood alarm has sounded. Chamakh has come trotting from the bench and out onto the Emirates pitch. And what's that around his neck? It's one in the eye for Fifa: it's a proud and now endangered snood. In your face Blatter. **IN YOUR FACE!**



4.25pm: **GOAL! Bolton 1-2 Aston Villa (Albrighton 64)** Downing crosses for Marc Albrighton and, six yards out, he bounces the ball in front of the keeper and into the top of the net. At Craven Cottage, **GOAL! Fulham 2-2 Blackburn (Hoilett, 65)** David Hoilett has volleyed into the corner to equalise.

*
PEN

4.30pm: **PENALTY SAVE!** Bolton 1-2 Aston Villa Ashley Young was fouled in the box and the referee gave a just penalty. The winger steps up to take the shot himself, against the advice of much of the rest of his team, and Jaaskelainen saves!

4.31pm: Mignolet makes another great save to keep Arsenal from scoring. Must be getting a bit dicey at The Emirates now.

4.33pm: Chamakh, perhaps hampered by that snood, hammers a header into the bar.

4.33pm: Two conflicting views on those Riise to Newcastle rumours: "Rafa Benitez had many (many) flaws but it was impressive how quickly he showed Riise the door when it was obvious his legs had gone. That was two years ago. Two years ago Mr Pardew," writes Niall Mullen. But Stephen Armstrong has this to say on the matter: "What's with the sarcastic repetition? Riise to Newcastle sounds a pretty good bit of business for Newcastle - if they can get him for, say, £4m or less. At the very least you're guaranteed two or three 30-yard screamers a season. Ace!"



4.34pm: **GOAL! Bolton 2-2 Aston Villa (Cahill, 75)** Holding swings over a corner, and Gary Cahill doubles his tally for the day. Ashley Young must be kicking himself for missing that penalty.

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4.36pm: Victor Anichebe has just been booked for having a bit of a ding dong with Kevin Nolan. And this in the week after Anichebe was awarded a six figure out-of-court settlement since Nolan's two footed tackle put him on the sidelines in 2009.

4.39pm: Newcastle's Leon Best gets the ball into the back of the net against Everton but the goal is disallowed after the striker was adjudged to have pushed a defender.



4.44pm: **GOAL! West Ham 3-0 Stoke City (Hitzlsperger, 83)** Der Hammer has struck for the Hammers. A trademark, rifled shot from the German.

4.45pm: At Arsenal v Sunderland Welbeck forces a save from Szczesny and then Titus Bramble blazes over from the resulting corner.



4.46pm: **GOAL! Bolton 3-2 Aston Villa (Klasnic, 86)** Sturmidge crosses, Wheeler heads down, then Klasnic drives the ball home, low and hard, into the bottom corner. Ashley Young must want to eat his own head after missing that penalty.



4.46pm: Penalty at Fulham, Given against Marley ... can Fulham seal this?



4.47pm: **GOAL! Fulham 3-2 Blackburn (Zamora, 89 PEN)** The striker, off the bench, marks his return with a goal from the spot.

4.49pm: "If Arsenal fail to win then they should be awarded all the unused swords soon to be left hanging on dressing room pegs, as nothing would be more fitting for such a bunch of chokers," angrier Ian Copestake. Well, they've just missed another chance.

4.50pm: Arsenal are pressing, flinging the ball into the box, but Ferdinand and Mensah have been defending like demons. Are Arsenal going to blow their chance?

4.51pm: "Thank God God rested all those players against City in midweek," sighs Niall Mullen. "I guess that's why he gets paid the big bucks."

4.51pm: Bendtner nods the ball at the Sunderland goal and Mignolet, who has had a fantastic game against Arsenal, saves yet again.

4.53pm: It's all over at The Emirates! Arsenal 0-0 Sunderland and Arsene Wenger has a filthy look on his face. He stomps off down the tunnel, perhaps furious at the assistant referee who adjudged Arshavin was offside when he got the ball in the net.

4.54pm: It's finished at Upton Park, West Ham 3-0 Stoke City.

4.55pm: Bolton 3-2 Aston Villa is now a result, Houllier's decision to rest half his squad in the FA Cup comes back to bite him.

4.55pm: Fulham earn their win against Blackburn thanks to that late penalty. Fulham 3-2 Blackburn Rovers.

4.56pm: "Now I'm not an Arsenal fan, but there were two big mistakes by the refereeing there," writes Kevin Smith. "Arshavin wasn't offside, though it was very close, but he was also clearly pushed from behind while in the box. Should have been a penalty, probably a red card as well for denying a goalscoring opportunity and last man back."

4.57pm: It's all over at St James' Park and it's Newcastle 1-2 Everton.

4.59pm: Full time Premier League results:

Arsenal 0-0 Sunderland

Bolton 3-2 Aston Villa

Fulham 3-2 Blackburn

Newcastle 1-2 Everton

[West Ham 2-0 Stoke](#)

[Birmingham City 1-3 West Brom](#)

[See all the results in the country here.](#)

5.04pm: So Arsenal finish the day three points behind Manchester United, with both having played 28 games. Pargia will be sleeping a shade easier tonight and has much to thank his old mate, the Sunderland manager Steve Bruce, for.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the table, West Ham have lifted themselves out of the relegation zone finally, but Birmingham City now find themselves in it after their defeat earlier today. And do Aston Villa have cause for concern? They may be in 19th but they're only three points ahead of their Midlands neighbours with 33 points. Stoke, remaining on 34 points, can't consider themselves safe either, despite being in 12th. Could be a thrilling relegation run-in.

Thanks all your emails/abuse. I'm off.

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West Bromwich Albion Premier League 2011-12 team guide

Under Roy Hodgson the standard of play won't be glittering, but it will be effective enough to guarantee mid-table safety

The Guardian, Monday 8 August 2011



Roy Hodgson should ensure West Brom are not relegated in a relegation battle. Photograph: Richard Snyder/Sportsphoto/Sportsphoto Ltd./Allstar

The club

We are Albion

The yo-yo team that no longer yos or yos.

Bonus culture or EU bailout? Jeremy Peace's stubborn plan of financial common sense – not spending beyond Albion's means upon achieving promotion – has been criticised in relegation seasons, but now looks to be bearing fruit the best part of a decade down the line. Albion are on a sound fiscal footing, and the situation on the pitch is healthier than it's been since the glory days of the late 1970s.

They'd bite your hand off if you offered them ...

A return to the easy-on-the-eye style of the first Ron Atkinson era would be appreciated. That team won no trophies, just plaudits. Baggies fans aren't greedy.

Reality check

With the wise old owl Roy Hodgson at the helm the standard of play won't be glittering, but it will be effective enough to guarantee mid-table safety. Anything on top of that will be a welcome bonus.

What the fans sing

The carefree idiosyncrasy (we mean this in a good way, of course) of the "being being" chant has its counterpoint in the club anthem, the psalm *The Lord's My Shepherd*. "...I'll not want", the congregation sings, which, given West Brom's record over the past 30 years, makes it one of the most disingenuous hymns in the prayer book.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/football/2011/aug/08/west-bromwich-albion-team-guide/p...> 15/07/2012

What the fans should sing

A reworking of Phil Spector wall of sound Da Da Ron Ron to reflect their Johnny-Ronnie-John-Ron-Ronnie-Ron-Johny-Nobby-Ron-Ron run of managers between 1975 and 1988.

One to follow on Twitter

Peter Odemwingie is [@OdemwingieP](#)

"Got some roasted corn by the road. Missing naija. I am still that plantain boy. love it!"

The players**This is England**

The Baggies are very light indeed on English stars, with only Nicky Shorey the recipient of an England cap, though it was given to him by Steve McClaren so doesn't really count.

Overseas aid

Peter Odemwingie was arguably the striking sensation of the Premier League last season, scoring 15 goals for a team not given to troubling the scoreboard too often. Juventus and Newcastle are said to have made inquiries, but the Russian-born Nigerian must prefer navy stripes to black ones, stating he's happy at the Hawthorns.

Heart and soul or captain cavernous?

Chris Brunt blows hot and cold out on the wing - he was superb during West Brom's strong opening to the season, not so great when the wheels started coming off - but that hasn't stop the likes of Everton, Liverpool and Rangers sniffing around.

Teenage kids

The Albion academy has developed few stars in recent years, but there is tentative hope for defender James Hurst, striker Saïdo Benhenni and midfielder George Thorne, all of whom were picked for England's Under-20 World Cup squad.

Mad, bad and dangerous to know

Young full-back Joe Mattock was given a suspended sentence last year for windmilling like an irate cartoon character in a Leicester nightclub, an attack caught on CCTV. Some fans noticed that it was the quickest they've ever seen him move.

The manager**Paid the cost to be the boss**

Has any manager ever had a more Jekyll and Hyde season than the one Roy Hodgson endured last time round? An egregious disgrace at Liverpool, a zany success at West Brom. Relegation fodder when Hodgson took over, by the end of the season the Baggies were strutting it around like the famous Halmstad or Neuchâtel Xamax sides of old.

Clogger or tiki-taka?

Put it this way: even Liverpool fans, stupefied by a decade of watching teams briefed by Ged Houlter and Rafa Benitez, thought Hodgson's tactics were beyond the pale. But you'll struggle to find a Fulham fan who'll complain.

On his to-do list

Hodgson will hope to add midfield flair - hence his pursuit of old boy Zoltan Gera - but his priority will be to sort out the back line first. Of the new arrivals neither Billy Jones from Preston nor Gareth McAuley from Ipswich are star turns, but both are trustworthy workers, capable of following orders as part of a well-drilled unit.

The advice Sepp Blatter might give your club

"Mr Woy's speech impediment pains my ears. Yes, I can't stand English accent all patronising hoity-tolty. The way they go on anyone would think they invented the game."

Rule change

Acht Typical English! excess. Too many names, one of which means England. Clubs can't steal from national teams. Two-name limit from now on.

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DIARY@STANDARD.CO.UK
Newspaper diary of the year

Come on, Woy, help Zweig score a plaque

ROY Hodgson was reading Stefan Zweig's *Chess Story* when he received the call to be England manager. But while Hodgson has his reward, Zweig has not. Though revered as one of the great 20th-century writers by novelist Kazuo Ishiguro and historian Antony Beevor, as well as Hodgson, English Heritage is refusing to give him a blue plaque.

The Viennese-born writer fled Austria in 1934 to escape Nazism. He settled in Hallam Street in Marylebone to work on seminal writings including his *Mary Stuart* biography, and became a British citizen. Then, during the Second World War, he and his wife fled to Brazil, where they committed suicide. Pushkin Press recently published a new translation of his tragic novel, *Beware the Pky*, and the British Library has just staged a conference on him.

But English Heritage won't be moved, saying his reputation "has never been as high in Britain as elsewhere", adding that "20th-century authors are already very well represented".



Book club: England manager Roy Hodgson is a fan of Stefan Zweig

Professor Rüdiger Görner, head of languages at Queen Mary, University of London, is "stunned".

"Zweig is one of the key voices of European writing in the 20th century," he says. "He came to this country at several junctures of his life. For London, it is absolutely essential that we remember [him]."

In contrast, the Brazilians are shaming London with a new Zweig museum outside Rio. Perhaps Hodgson could get on board the campaign?

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It's not Mandy, it's not even Tony - it's Woy wot won it

By Charles Moore

12:00AM GMT 26 Jan 2001

'DO you hate Edward Heath?', a friend of mine once asked Enoch Powell. There was a pause. "Well, I don't find that I want to punch him on the nose. That is what I want to do to Roy Jenkins."

Few, surely, can be absolutely immune to this temptation. Anyone of a conservative cast of mind will find his fingers itching at Woy's airy dismissals of his treasured beliefs about crime or nationhood ("sovereignty being an almost total delusion in the modern world"). People of the Left, well practised at clenching their fists, will take aim for that beaky bridge between the horn-rimmed spectacles whenever they think of the beloved Labour movement that he did so much to wreck: they hate him as much as they hate Peter Mandelson. And the atavistic mob instinct that lurks in most of us will stir at the prospect of disturbing one of Woy's agreeable evenings with those repellently open-minded and civilised grandees, those Haut-Bages Liberals who so despise us.

Mr Mandelson's fall coincides with the 20th anniversary of the event that led, indirectly, to his rise. In January 1981, at David Owen's house in Limehouse, Owen and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, as he later became, joined Shirley Williams and Bill Rodgers, and made a famous "Declaration". They formed the nucleus of the Social Democratic Party which did indeed "break the mould" of British politics, if not exactly in the way its founders intended. This is a moment to put carping thoughts aside, and celebrate Woy, the oldest (80) and grandest of the Gang of Four.

Roy Jenkins has a weakness, derived, I think, from an Oxford education, for listing qualities by number ("X was the fourth most well-read Prime Minister", "This is the seventh most beautiful bedroom in Britain", etc). I shall argue that he is the second most successful British politician of modern times. The first is Margaret Thatcher. Jenkins might not like this choice, but he himself is fond of quoting Melbourne's dictum that being Prime Minister "is a damn fine thing to have been, even if it only lasts for two months". She lasted for a damn fine 11 1/2 years.

How much survives of the other peacetime prime ministers since the war? What were John Major and Harold Wilson and Anthony Eden for? Won't Tony Blair's manic grin end up as ruined as Ozymandias's "wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command"? Among the great might-

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/4258947/Its-not-Mandy-its-not-even-Tony-its-...> 15/07/2012

have-been-prime ministers, most fall into one of two traps. On the one hand are the too greedily ambitious, the Denis Healeys who don't stand up to the enemy at the moment they should, and the Michael Heseltines, who are too impatient of the system that they seek to dominate. On the other are the prophets - the Bevans, Benns and Powells - who may be more original than their more conventional rivals, but cannot be called successful.

Roy Jenkins has avoided both traps. Of course he was ambitious. He quotes Jean Monnet's distinction between people who want to "be someone" and to "do something", and he is honest enough to say that he very much enjoyed being someone. Far from saying, "Let the cup pass from me", he is much more likely to say, "I say, would you mind passing that cup back? I haven't quite finished yet." He likes holding great offices and sitting in great offices and wearing the robes of the Chancellor of Oxford and being called "President" because he was head of the European Commission. But that's not all that he likes.

Of course, he held strong beliefs - in what he considered to be a more "civilised" society, in Europe, in social democracy - but he rarely wore his conscience on his sleeve, and he was seldom so stiff-necked that he would not work with Cabinet colleagues with whom he disagreed, in governments of which it was impossible to be proud. He had no inclination to eat locusts and wild honey so long as foie gras and Chateau Yquem could respectably be consumed.

Roy Jenkins is one of those characters, best portrayed by Trollope, who is thoroughly worldly and yet has integrity. Power and glamour and party (and parties) all matter to him, but they matter only in a context that is, though he would avoid the phrase, morally serious. Despite his accent and demeanour (only his pronunciation of the word "situation" discloses the Welsh background), Jenkins has deep roots in the Labour movement. His opponents say that he severed them for snobbish reasons, but it is more likely that he did so because of a principled preference for the liberal over the tribal.

As Home Secretary in the 1960s, Jenkins got rid of corporal punishment in prisons, set in train the abolition of censorship of plays and the introduction of the Race Relations Act, and gave a fair wind to the Private Member's Bills that legalised abortion and decriminalised homosexuality. As Chancellor of the Exchequer, he restored sound finance in a party that sought to politicise economics. He resigned as deputy leader of the Labour Party because of his support for entry into the Common Market (to be precise, because of his opposition to a referendum on the subject). As President of the European Commission, he tried to advance the cause of monetary union. Returning from Brussels, he set up the SDP. In doing so, this famously snooty fellow bravely fought one by-election unsuccessfully and then won a

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second. Jenkins changed British politics irreversibly. Blairism is his reward (or his punishment).

And in persona, though clearly self-regarding and de haut en bas, he is also amused, self-critical, unbitter and detached. He is one of the few retired senior politicians who do not seem warped or broken by the career they have chosen. Perhaps this is because Jenkins knows that he has striven for what he believed in most of the time, and achieved a good deal of it. We are a "liberal" society in the sense in which he meant it. We are in the European Union. We have a Labour government in which the power of the labour movement has been weakened beyond Roy's wildest hopes. It's thanks to him more than any other single person. True, the whole thing is pretty ghastly, and far from the "civilised" polity he wanted. But that is not because of any personal failing: it is simply because he is, by and large, in the wrong.

Someone of Roy Jenkins's wide historical perspective would surely regard being in the wrong as a rather petty criticism of any great career, so who are we to disagree?

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My fantasy coalition cabinet

Gladstone for transport to stop the long walks Thatcher for her leftwing schools policy – and Lord Lord as leader of the Lords



Sholto Byrnes
@sholto@guardian.co.uk, Wednesday 23 May 2012 14:13 BST

We now know who will be prime minister, and who will fill the key posts in the government. The endless toing and froing has of course been terribly exciting – the numerous ex-cabinet ministers telling us on TV that they don't know what's happening, but giving us their opinion anyway, were never less than informative. But if you were to have nodded off at any point – perish the thought! – who might we have dreamed up as a fantasy coalition cabinet, from politicians alive or dead? Let us imagine ...

Given the grim economic outlook, the first task clearly would be to cheer everyone up by turning the Department of Culture, Media and Sport back into the Ministry of Fun. And who better to run it than the Victorian prime minister Lord Palmerston, whose dedication to sport, and indeed to fun, was such that he expired while over-strenuously coaching a young chambermaid on her billiards technique.

More seriously, it would be a soft-shoe Hush Poppys shuffle back to No 11 for Ken Clarke, the man everyone would really like to be chancellor but who has to pretend he thinks George Osborne would do a much better job. For the Home Office there could be only one: the great pioneer of the permissive society as Labour home secretary in the 60s, Roy Jenkins (although Woy would, over an "agweeable lunch" and a decent claret, insist the term "civilised society" was preferable).

At education, a surprise choice: Margaret Thatcher. What? Well, you can hardly leave her out. And at her old ministry (she held the post under Heath) she had an impeccably leftwing record – more comprehensives were created under her than under any other education secretary.

Health should go to the late Labour MP Leo Abbe, uniquely qualified for the post if only because of his seminal work Fellatio, Masochism, Politics and Love. For similarly absurd reasons, the former deputy speaker Sir Michael Lord, who has just retired from the Commons, must go to the upper House so that we can enjoy news presenters saying: "The leader of the Lords, Lord Lord..."

The minister for London – not just for Hampstead, as she would sometimes put it – Peggy Jay, would also be given the right to attend cabinet, as would the minister for asteroids, Lambert Opik (although in his case, attendance privileges would not include the right to speak).

Austen Chamberlain could make up for once having been the only 20th-century Tory leader never to be prime minister by becoming Welsh secretary, an appropriate position given that the office was also occupied by the man who later equalled his record.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/may/12/fantasy-cabinet-election/print> 15/07/2012

William Hague. That feisty defender of the underprivileged and the needy, Barbara Castle, moves to work and pensions, while her former colleague Shirley Williams was going to take transport, but unfortunately she was late. That role goes instead to W.E. Gladstone, who would not have needed to take quite so many long walks (or indeed, late night perambulations in the seedy areas of the capital) if only the local bus services had been better. International development was pencilled in for John Stonehouse, although as he seems to have disappeared he is being replaced by Winston Churchill, in recognition of his well-documented affection for the populations of developing countries.

But wait, a statement from the communications director live in Downing Street: "Today the prime minister, Mr David Lloyd George, has invited Mr Tony Blair to join his cabinet to take up a position of influence – or was it idleness? – under the crown once held by Mr Denis Healey. Why has he appointed the young war criminal? No doubt there are sensible answers to such questions. There have been precedents. Attlee in 1948, Wilson in 1966. My friends in the sketch-writing trade are sure to supply them tomorrow morning in what used to be known as the broadsheet press..."

For a moment I imagined my old IoS colleague Alan Watkins was the Alastair Campbell de nos jours. I must have been dreaming.

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Inside politics

Why Woy feels let down by his boy

It's not Tony Blair's 'second-rate mind' that disappoints Lord Jenkins so much as his failure to give a lead on Europe



Andrew Rawnsley
The Observer, Sunday 25 June 2000 00.45 BST

The relationship was beautiful while it lasted. There was the fresh, young prime minister with that knockout parliamentary majority, bursting with vigour but lacking experience. There was the older man, his dwindling interest in British politics rekindled by the excitement of finding this youthful soul-mate, eager to tutor the nubile virgin in the ways of power. They seemed made for each other.

Tony Blair and Roy Jenkins romanced over lunches at Chequers, intimate dinners at Number 10, and cosy tête-à-têtes in the Prime Minister's study. Tony found Labour politicians of Roy's vintage rather avuncularly patronising. Roy was witty, wise and had a flatteringly high estimation of Tony. The older man believed that the younger man would fulfil his unrequited passions. The two had good-natured arguments about which of them invented the phrase 'radical centry'. But the desire to heal the breach between Labour and the Liberal Democrats to construct a progressive coalition which would dominate the twenty-first century seemed to be mutual. So, too, did an enthusiasm to place Britain at the heart of Europe.

Time passed. Tony continued to whisper soft words, but Roy became frustrated that they never reached consummation. He presented Tony with a most handsome, hand-crafted report recommending a new voting system for Westminster. Tony, who was never less than polite, said it looked nice. Then he stuck it at the back of his sock drawer.

As for Europe, Roy kept nagging and writing to Tony telling him to be more positive. Tony pleaded he would like to be, but Gordon wouldn't let him. Gordon Brown! Always the problem, Gordon was cool towards Europe, and cold about proportional representation. Then, he went on a rampage against élitism and trashed Roy's beloved Oxford University. Roy told Tony he would never get an honorary degree after that. He was Thatchered. So there. He shared some of his pain with the Spectator, telling the magazine's agony aunt, Boris Johnson that Tony is a 'second rate mind'. So it all ends in tears.

Not quite. What I would next expect is the Prime Minister to swiftly kiss and make-up with Lord Jenkins, who says he still regards Tony as a 'very agreeable companion'. Tony will be sending an invitation to dinner even now, if it has not plopped on Roy's doormat already. That was certainly what happened last time Roy had a little outburst of disappointment with the younger man.

We can also have a pretty good guess at what Mr Blair will say to his old friend, because it is what he has been saying for more than three years now to everyone who grows impatient with his failure to give a stronger lead on Europe or make a decision about changing the voting system.

Give me time is the nub of his reassurances. When the stars have moved into a favourable constellation and the moon is pulling the tide in the right direction, then he will announce himself in unequivocal colours for the single currency. As he said last

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2000/jun/25/labour.labour1997to99/print>

15/07/2012

weeks 'If I recommend to the British people that we join the euro, I will make the case for it as strongly and powerfully as you could possibly hear.' Dazzled by the sheer force of Mr Blair's persuasive abilities, the current two to one majority against the single currency will be converted into an endorsement of the euro. Just like that.

I am sure the Prime Minister believes this. So why does such a previously ardent admirer as Lord Jenkins now doubt him? Mr Blair will have to jump several fences which he has previously shied from, and one which he has not had to bother about before. The Cabinet has so far been excluded from all the big economic decisions. The Bank of England was given its independence and the suck-it-and-see policy towards the euro adopted, without a debate, never mind a vote, around the top table. John Prescott tells us that it will be different when it comes to the single currency. His assertion that the Cabinet will decide is not just meant as a rebuke to Gordon Brown's claim that the Treasury is the sole judge of the famous five tests, but also as a warning to the Prime Minister.

Still, if Brown and Blair were agreed, I'd expect them to overcome any Cabinet opposition to entering the single currency. But will they agree? The dispute between them boils down to economics versus politics.

For Blair, joining the euro is the golden swiftpcard that finally opens the door to the throne room of Europe. Despite the tactical victory over the withholding tax, strategically the prime minister is not fulfilling his self-perceived destiny to be a leader in Europe. He is trying to resist the Franco-German push for a fast-track €11e. We can't, protests the prime minister, have a Europe of 'two speeds'. But as his friend - or should this also be former friend? - Gerhard Schröder correctly says, there are already two speeds on the euroball: those who are in the single currency, and those who are not. The prime minister cannot look forward to the day when he is still on the hard shoulder while the Greeks have joined the acceleration lane.

The idea of joining the single currency to satisfy the prime minister's political urges is privately regarded with contempt by the Chancellor. Gordon Brown is deadly serious about meeting the economic tests of which he proclaims the Treasury to be 'the guardian'. That's not to say that calculations about power don't also consume Brown and all the time. His quest to become prime minister isn't hurt by his current hero status among the Europhobic press. What could utterly destroy his ambitions for the succession is a referendum on the euro which is lost. It would be a potentially mortal blow, and certainly a savage one, to his credibility as well that of the prime minister.

That brings us to the highest hurdle that Tony Blair will have to get over, which is himself. The prime minister is not going to persuade the country to make the leap until he has the courage to make one himself. As fond, as Roy Jenkins would say, Blair did not hold a referendum just after the election because even when he was immensely popular he did not think he would win it. It wasn't worth gambling the second term on the single currency. This Prime Minister is capable of taking great gambles for large rewards, as he demonstrated most notably in Northern Ireland and Kosovo. But crab-like caution has been his more abiding characteristic. The only previous time that comes to mind when he made a vault of faith in the face of public and media hostility was the Millennium Dome. That is not an auspicious precedent.

Is Tony Blair likely to feel more or less courageous after the next election when he will have a swifter majority and face a more potent Tory Party?

He will still insist that he was right not to call a referendum on the euro immediately after the last election. What he has been heard to express privately is a slight of semi-regret about is that he missed the moment to fulfil the other half of The Project by forming a coalition with the Liberal Democrats. I am sure that when he tells Lord Jenkins this, it is not just to string the older man along. The Prime Minister is genuinely still interested in changing the voting system for Westminster, a sincerity which deepens the closer we get to an election, after which he might need Charles Kennedy and the Lib Dems. The hurdles to be crossed are almost identical to those in the case of the euro: a referendum with an unpredictable outcome; the right-wing press; John Prescott and Gordon Brown; and the Prime Minister's own divided mind.

At least, unlike the euro, there is a Third Way. The Prime Minister is talking warmly, in private, about the Alternative Vote. It would have worked at the last election to smash the Conservatives even more thoroughly. AV is not proportional; it actually tends to exaggerate the swing. For all these reasons, my Lord Jenkins rejected it when he composed his fine report on electoral reform.

I fear Roy may be let down once again by Tony.

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Date 03 May 2012

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TV STAR ON ENGLAND BOSS

WOSSY: ROY ROW IS RUDDY RIDICULOUS



EXCLUSIVE by CHRIS POLLARD

TELLY'S Jonathan Ross laughed off the Roy Hodgson speech impediment row last night, saying: "It's not a big deal."

Wossy, 51 — who has trouble pronouncing his Rs like new England boss Roy — said yesterday's Sun front page headline "Bwing On The Euwos" should be taken in the fun spirit intended.

He added: "I can see it's a joke, everyone can see it's a joke."

Full Story — Page Seven

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Date 03 May 2012

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WOSSY WADES IN TO ROY ROW

Who cares?

Life's too

short to be upset



Photo: ... Page One and Let's Roy



EXCLUSIVE by CHRIS POLLARD

TELLY'S Jonathan Ross hit out yesterday in the row over Roy Hodgson's speech impediment and said: "Life's too short."

Wossy added: "The world is bankrupt and we're worrying about The Sun doing what they do... who really cares? Is anyone REALLY upset? No."

The TV presenter, who also has trouble saying his Rs, hit out as media commentators and the FA suffered a some of humour failure over our "Bwing On The Euros" Page One.

Intelligent

Wossy, 51, said: "I don't think there's anything wrong with it, and I'm sure Roy is big enough to take care of himself."

"It hasn't ever bothered me. I'm used to it. And I'm sure it doesn't bother Roy."

"Also, he is an incredibly well-read, intelligent man. He will take it as a joke. I can see it's a joke, everyone can see it's a joke. Everyone knows The Sun has a

cheeky sense of humour." Jonathan - whose Twitter handle "Wossy" is a funny reference to his own speech - added: "Good luck to Roy, it remains to be seen if he will be a great manager. I'm sure he will."

"But one thing's for sure, the way he speaks won't have anything to do with it. I can't see how it will bother him, frankly." Wossy later called our headline a "Way of the Wovors front page",

adding: "Really not a big deal. I wish we weren't part of such a judgmental culture."

But not everyone saw the funny side of our Page One about new England boss Roy, 55.

The FA contacted us to protest. Chairman David Bernstein said: "We are delighted at the media response to Roy's appointment but

are disappointed with the headline in The Sun, which we consider to be in poor taste and disrespectful."

There were more than 100 complaints to the Press Complaints Commission.

And a charity which supports children suffering with speech, language and communication difficulties also said it was "disappointed".

Elsewhere, the headline divided opinion. Reader Greg Hemphill said: "It that's the way The Sun greets the new England manager you begin to understand why Eng-

land have zero chance of winning a goddamn thing."

But Ricky Ayres tweeted: "All tongue in cheek. Typical Sun really". Damien Shaw said the headline: "Really made me chuckle, can't believe people got offended by it!"

Elton Rhee described it as "comedy gold". And Arsenal fan Aaron Loves said: "The FA need to lighten up!"

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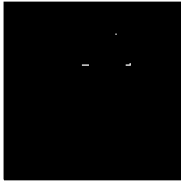


Supporter . . . Jonathan

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