

WORLD OF SPORT

Stokes steps away for his mental health

By PAUL HEWMAN

ENGLISH cricket was stunned last night as Ben Stokes pulled out of the Test series against India and took an 'indefinite break' from the game. Stokes, 30, will miss at least the first two Tests at Trent Bridge and Lord's to 'prioritise his mental wellbeing' and rest the left index finger that was badly broken in a game for Rajasthan Royals at the Indian Premier League. England admitted the finger, hurt in April when the all-rounder dropped a catch offered by Chris Gayle, has not fully healed since Stokes was rushed back to captain the one-day side against Pakistan earlier this month. And, as Stokes was replaced in England's 17-man squad by Craig Overton for a first Test that begins on Wednesday, team director Ashley Giles offered his full support to a talismanic figure who has suffered extreme highs and lows throughout his career. 'Ben has shown tremendous courage to open up about his feelings and wellbeing,' said Giles. 'Our primary focus has always been, and will continue to be, the mental health and welfare of all of our people. The demands on our athletes to prepare and play elite sport are relentless in a typical environment but the pandemic has greatly compounded this. Spending significant times away from family, with minimal freedoms, is extremely challenging. The cumulative effect of operating almost continuously in these environments over the last 16 months has had a major impact on everyone's wellbeing.'

IRELAND Women lost to The Netherlands at Malahide yesterday in the fourth and final T20 International of the series, which was claimed by the home side. The Dutch had never won in an international match against Ireland in 10 attempts. However, they won a rainy encounter by 7 wickets (DLS). The Netherlands' Babette de Leede put on a match-winning 85-run partnership for the third wicket with Miranda Veringmeier as the Dutch chased down a DLS-adjusted target of 118 from a maximum of 15 overs, making the target in 13.3 overs. The two sides will now prepare for the ICC T20 World Cup Europe Qualifier in August.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Martin Samuel

in Budapest



It is only when Christian Horner begins to recount the seconds immediately after the crash at Copse Corner that a little of the defiance leaves his voice.

His office in the Red Bull motor home is noise-proof, the roar of engines is muted, even so, it is a strain to hear. Horner admits there is a paternal relationship between Red Bull and Max Verstappen. He has been their boy since 17. In the aftermath of the collision with Lewis Hamilton, there was only silence.

'At first we didn't hear anything back,' he says. 'You see a shunt like that, you just want to hear a voice. Then we heard a long groan. And finally he spoke. It was a 51G crash — bearing in mind 10G would knock a person out. That was the biggest crash of his career. And he was lucky. He was lucky the way it went, lucky the car did not stick on the gravel and go over. Lucky it wasn't nose first. Lucky for the Halo, too. The crash broke his seat, it properly knocked the stuffing out of him. It was basically the force of a small aircraft accident.'

And then Horner's telephone began buzzing with messages. One was from a friend, a respected surgeon, detailing a long list of checks that had to be made urgently. One was a special chest scan that could pick up the warning signs of a rupture on the aortic valve.

'You have to be very careful with the damage you don't see,' Horner adds. 'We did a CT scan, a full MRI scan for bruising on the brain, displacement of internal organs.' Verstappen walked away from the scene but the airlift to

CRASH WAS THE FORCE OF A SMALL AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

CHRISTIAN HORNER ON WHY THEY HAD TO CHALLENGE HAMILTON



Back on top. Verstappen during practice yesterday

GETTY IMAGES

ishing allegation. 'This evidence supports an assertion that Hamilton knowingly did not avoid contact with Max's car.'

It basically implies he took him out. 'It was our duty to Max to try to demonstrate the facts,' Horner explains. 'Hopefully, it has given food for thought for the remainder of the championship because the reality is 13 Grand Prix where they start next to each other. Will it happen again? Quite probably. We're now getting to the business end of the championship. The stakes double every race. Max has nothing to lose. It's all about how you finish.'

'Anything can happen. You can see we're getting under their skin. It will be about who tightens up. Lewis has got the advantage of experience, but the disadvantage of age. Lewis is going for a record-breaking eighth title. Max has got a great car, it's the first time he's been in this position where every race is a cup final.'

'That night, Max said he felt beaten up but his mind was already on the next race in Hun-

gary.' And now it is here. Mercedes were fastest in practice yesterday, but Verstappen's initial lap set the early pace. That, too, was the sign Horner sought.

'The telling thing was how was he going to respond,' says Horner, 'because some drivers with a crash like that are a bit tentative when they get back in the car.'

'But his first practice lap at every point it was there. Straight to the top of the time sheet. That showed great mental strength and resilience.'

Mercedes were furious at Red Bull's charges, claiming they amounted to a personal attack on Hamilton's integrity. Horner denies this. He says he wants to move on. But that is not the same as backing down.

'It's perceived that Red Bull are moaning but I don't regret the comments we made on the day or after,' Horner insists.

'And we've seen our main rival benefit by winning the race and taking 25 points out of a lead we'd worked hard to build. We're entitled to be p***** off. Mercedes' reaction was unusual because they have taken it so personally. It was never personal.'

Scare: Verstappen's car lies abandoned at Silverstone

hospital was no stunt. It wasn't until late that night that Horner felt in a position to relax.

Except he wasn't relaxed. He hasn't been relaxed since the incident happened. On Thursday, Red Bull presented an appeal to stewards who blamed Hamilton for the crash but thought it only worthy of a 10-second penalty.

Horner said he expected the appeal to fail, but wished to lay down a marker for the rest of the season. Red Bull's submission detailed three times Hamilton has made contact with their cars, front left to rear right each time. It also contained a quite aston-

SPORT IN BRIEF AND WEEKEND FIXTURES

CRICKET

ROYAL LONDON ONE-DAY CUP, GROUP A — Radlett, Middlesex v Hampshire. Match abandoned without a ball bowled (1pt each).
Have, Sussex 209-7 (29 overs, T M Head 52), Kent 50-1 (5.4 overs). No result (1pt each).
GROUP B — Derby, Derbyshire v Glamorgan. Match abandoned without a ball bowled (1pt each).
Welbeck, Nottinghamshire 92-2 (21 overs). Somerset. No result (1pt each).
The Kia Oval: Northamptonshire 31-1 (5.3 overs) v Surrey. No result (1pt each).
WOMEN'S HUNDRED — Ageas Bowl: Southern Brave 141-2 (82 balls, Wyatt 69no, Dunkley 41, Taylor 22no); Birmingham Phoenix 140-4 (100 balls, A Jones 42no, E Jones 33, Mack 31, Verma 22). Southern Brave win by 8 wickets.

FOOTBALL

SSE AIRTRICITY LEAGUE — PREMIER DIVISION: Drogheda Utd 1, Waterford Utd 2, Shamrock Rovers 3. **FIRST DIVISION:** Athlone Town 1, Treaty Utd 4, Cabinteely 0, Bray Wdcs 3, Cork City 1, UCD 1, Shelbourne 2, Cobh Ramblers 2, Wexford 1, Galway Utd 3.

GAELIC GAMES

Connacht MFC semi-final: Sligo 2-18 Leitrim 2-9.
Munster MFC semi-finals: Limerick 3-11 Clare 0-12, Cork 1-15 Kerry 1-14.
Ulster U20FC final: Down 3-15 Monaghan 1-14 AET.

TODAY'S ACTION

(3.0 unless stated)

CARABAO CUP 1ST RND

Bournemouth v MK Dons
CINCH SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP
Dundee v St Mirren (8.0)
Hearts v Celtic
Live on Sky Sports Main Event
Rangers v Livingston (1.30)
Live on Sky Sports Main Event
Ross County v St Johnstone

CINCH SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

Arbroath v Inverness CT
Morton v Dunfermline
Partick v Queen of South
Rath v Hamilton

CINCH SCOTTISH LEAGUE ONE

Airdrieonians v Montrose
Clyde v Dunbarton

CINCH SCOTTISH LEAGUE TWO

Aldon v Edinburgh City

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE

— (2pm unless stated): Bohemians v Wexford Youths, Galway v Shelbourne, Cork City v Pearmount Utd, DLR Waves v Athlone Town (4pm).
GAELIC GAMES — All-Ireland U20FC semi-final: Offaly v Cork, 5.15pm. **Connacht MFC semi-final:** Galway v Roscommon, 7pm.
RUGBY UNION — **British & Irish Lions Tour:** South Africa v British & Irish Lions (5.0).

TOMORROW

CARABAO CUP 1ST RND
Sheff Wed v Huddersfield (1.0)
CINCH SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP
Aberdeen v Dundee Utd
Motherwell v Hibernian (4.30)
Live on Sky Sports Football
FRIENDLIES: Arsenal v Chelsea, Coventry v Wolves (1.0), Derby v Notts County (1.0), Harrogate In v Doncaster (2.0).

CRICKET

CRICKET — **Royal London One-Day Cup - Group A:** Essex v Kent (Chelmsford, 11am), Hampshire v Lancashire (Ageas Bowl, 11am), Sussex v Gloucestershire (Hove, 11.00am), Worcestershire v Middlesex (New Road, 11am).
Group B: Northants v Derbyshire (Northampton, 11am), Notts v Leics (Welbeck, 11am), Somerset v Yorkshire (Taunton, 11am).

To advertise in this section contact Conor Coakley
Ph: 01 256 0885 E: legal@dmgmedia.ie

CLASSIFIED

Legal & Planning, DMG Media,
Two Haddington Buildings, Dublin 4

PLANNING APPLICATIONS
SOUTH DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL. We, Ferga Kane and Paul O'Neill, intend to apply for permission at 28 Crannagh Road, Rathlamham, Dublin 14. The development will consist of: a) The widening of the existing vehicular access from Crannagh Road, and associated site works inclusive of footpath dishing revisions as required. b) The demolition of the existing boiler house, two storey terrace extension and single storey extension to the rear and side of the property. c) The provision of a new entrance door and canopy along with associated fenestration revisions to the front of the property. d) The provision of a new one and two storey extension, with set back at first floor level to the front, and side of the property. Along with all roof lights and associated site works. e) The provision of a new canopy along with associated fenestration revisions to the rear & sides of the property. f) The provision of a new single storey amenity and storage shed to the rear of the property, along with roof light and associated site works. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL. I, Paul Gaffney, intend to apply for Retention Permission for development at 91 Glasnevin Avenue, Dublin 11, D11 N5K2. The development consists of: raising of side boundary wall in increments between private residential property and commercial fuel station by ~ca. 800mm above original wall height measured from inside of boundary to provide privacy from neighbouring commercial business. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Dublin City Council during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL. I, Robert Kiersey, intend to apply for Full Planning Permission for development at 3 Burnell Park Green, Dublin 15, D15 Y73P. The development will consist of: demolition of existing glazed porch and roof over, erection of enclosed porch to front of property and single storey extension to side and rear of property, maintaining side access with roof lights overhead. Alteration to interior layout on ground floor and all ancillary site works. The Planning Application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

RECRUITMENT
The Westport Plaza & Castle Court Hotel Resort based in Westport, Co Mayo are looking for a
Chef de Partie
Working in our Hotel Group kitchen, taking direction from the head chef to assist in the monitoring of food quality and hygiene standards. Responsible for maintaining high levels of quality service, presentation and cleanliness.
Salary starting from €35,000 per annum for a 42.5 hour week.
Please forward CV to hr@westporthotelgroup.ie

The Dog House Blue's Tea Room Restaurant
Howth Dart Station, Howth Road, Co Dublin wishes to recruit a
Sous Chef
minimum 2 years' experience, to create, cook and present a range of international cuisine.
Annual salary €30,000; 39 hours per week.
Apply with CV to thedoghousehowth@gmail.com

Hicken Lighting 17 Lower Bridge Street Dublin 8 wish to recruit a
Digital Marketing Specialist
to conceptualise, devise, develop and implement a digital marketing strategy utilising E-Business, and social media across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and emerging platforms.
Annual salary €30,000; 39 hours per week.
Apply by email to hickenrecruitment@gmail.com