



WRIGHT... ready

Bladdest man on the planet

By PHIL LANNING

FIGHTING fit Peter Wright says his gallbladder agony wrecked his year as world champion.

The Scottish star failed to win a tournament since taking his second world title at the Alexandra Palace in early January.

Wright, 52, admitted that constant pain hampered his hopes of more glory.

Now he has had the gallbladder removed and said: "I've been in a lot of pain. I said I was feeling fine at the World Matchplay in July, but deep down I wasn't."

"The pain was irritating and when you're taking painkillers, you're not going to be 100 per cent."

"The doc said I should have had it out ten years ago, so I'm glad it's done."

"I'm not sure whether I'm going to get demolished or if I'm going to hit the ground running."

Wright plays in the German Open tonight against either Raymond van Barneveld or Ian White.

Bren Run is still on

TOMORROW'S Great North Run will go ahead as planned in England.

About £25million is expected to be raised for charity as 60,000 runners tackle the half marathon from Newcastle city centre to South Shields.

The event, which began in 1981, was won by British runner Marc Scott in 2021. Kenyan Hellen Obiri was the fastest woman.

Race founder Brendan Foster said: "We are confident we can continue in a way that will remain respectful of the Queen and the Royal Family."

"We would encourage runners to communicate their respect for the Queen in any way they feel appropriate."

Legal Notices

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Gemma Kiernan is applying for Planning Permission for (1) demolition of 2 No. disused chimney stacks, (2) first floor extension over single ground floor lounge, (3) change of roof profile from flat roof to pitched roof over existing porch/lounge, (4) velux roof light to front of existing roof (5) obscure window to side of existing dwelling. Internal alterations and all associated site works all at 85 Templeogue Wood, Templeogue, Dublin 6W. This 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 of 9am - 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€2000) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.

US OPEN DOUBLES JOY

Joe's 2 good

TEAM WORK MAKES DREAM WORK

JOE SALISBURY showed just why he is the world's No1 doubles player with more glory in New York.

The Wimbledon ace and Rajeev Ram became the first pair since Australians Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde in 1996 to defend the US Open men's doubles title.

The Anglo-American duo beat Neal Skupski and Wesley Koolhof 7-6 7-5 in under two hours on the cavernous Arthur Ashe Stadium.

And this result means Salisbury, 30, will retain his position at the summit of the ATP rankings even though Liverpool battler Skupski was primed to take over.

Salisbury, who splits a prize pot of \$700,000 with Ram, has overcome painful back issues this summer to secure a fifth Major doubles crown.

He said: "This is pretty crazy. I can't believe we're standing here again."

"It is so, so special to

From **ROB MAUL**

play in this incredible stadium. And to have that piece of history, to win this twice in a row, is amazing.

"I'm sure we will have more battles in the future."

"This is a really special place. I always say my favourite slam is Wimbledon - I'm a bit biased and I love playing at home - but this comes a very close second."

Ram, 38, said: "I came here the first year this stadium opened and played a kids day aged 14."

"I watched Pete Sampras win this tournament. I watched Andy Roddick win here as well as Serena and Venus Williams, too."

"So to be a small part of that as an American... I don't know what to say."

"It has been an amazing four years with Joe. I hope we can keep

going." As a mark of respect following the death of the Queen on Thursday, Salisbury had a black armband on his left sleeve while Skupski wore a black ribbon on his chest.

There was little to choose between the two teams in a tight 58-minute first set played in front of a decent midday crowd, who were allowed to come down from the upper tier and sit in the lower seats.

The decisive moments came in the tie-break as Salisbury and Ram came from 4-1 down to take the early advantage.

They won six points in a row to shock Skupski and Koolhof, whose late father Jurrie was a PSV striker and played for the Dutch national football team.

At the business end of the second set, Koolhof was told to

"keep talking" by his box because it was felt he and Skupski were too quiet and not communicating enough.

But that advice fell on deaf ears as Salisbury, who received a time violation in the ninth game of the second set, smashed home the winning point after a sloppy Skupski forehand.

All four players on court will now head to Glasgow for the Davis Cup group matches as Britain, the United States and Holland are involved in team tennis combat.

Skupski, 32, said: "We came up against a great team. They played unbelievable tennis."

"This is the best crowd I have played in front of. It was incredible."

"Hopefully Wes and I can be back next year."

●BRITAIN'S Davis Cup group fixtures will go ahead as planned next week.

Andy Murray is set to lead the squad out against the United States, Holland and Kazakhstan between September 14-16 at Glasgow's Emirates Arena.



DOUBLE VISION... Salisbury 'n Ram with cup



INSPIRING... Jabeur

JAB FLOORS MESSI

ONS JABEUR is becoming a bigger star than Lionel Messi in her homeland as she looks to make women's sporting history today.

She faces Poland's world No1 Iga Swiatek, 21, in the US Open singles final which starts at 9pm. Jabeur, 28, who lost the Wimbledon final to Kazakhstani Elena Rybakina, is trying to become the first African, Arab and Tunisian woman to lift one of the four Slams in the Open era. In a country of 12 million

From **ROB MAUL**

where football is a religion, her matches have been prime-time viewing ahead of Messi's Paris Saint-Germain European ties.

Jabeur said: "It was the Champions League this week and it was Juventus playing against PSG. In Tunisia it's all about soccer. But people were not watching the game, they were watching my game, which is impressive to me."

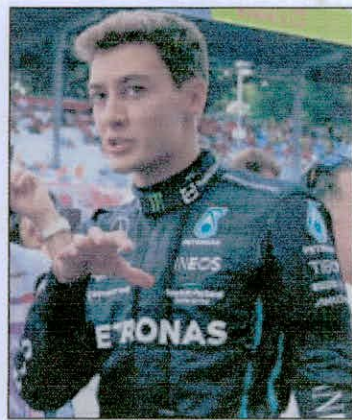
"Parents are making their kids play tennis right now. If I win a

Major, it will definitely give a powerful message in my country."

NICK KYRGIOS has been hit with \$32,800 in fines, including one of \$14,140 for his outrageous outburst in his US Open exit.

The Aussie, 27, smashed three rackets and swore repeatedly during his five-set quarter-final loss to Karen Khachanov.

Brits Andy Murray, Dan Evans, Cameron Norrie and Lloyd Glasspool were also docked from between \$3,000 to \$5,000 for unsportsmanlike conduct, verbal abuse and racket smashes.



RUSSELL... impressive in practice

George could be king at Monza

By **BEN HUNT**

GEORGE RUSSELL is up for hearing a remix of his national anthem tomorrow - with 'God Save The King' set to play if he can win the Italian Grand Prix.

The Mercedes man was third-quickest in the morning session and P4 in the afternoon practice at Monza.

British racer Russell, who was second last weekend at the Dutch GP, was in impressive form while his team-mate Lewis Hamilton faces an uphill task to end his wait for his first win of the season.

Russell said: "F1 looked strong but then Ferrari and Red Bull looked to have taken a step forward so we have a bit of work to do."

Hamilton is likely to start no higher than 18th place owing to a host of grid penalties for an unscheduled engine change.

But even with the new power unit in the back of the car, he was not as quick as Ferrari or Red Bull.

Hamilton said: "We made some set-up changes, nothing major but they went a lot quicker."

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz, who was quickest in second practice, also has the same punishment for the same rule breach.

And AlphaTauri's Yuki Tsunoda is facing a hefty knuckle-wrap for failing to slow for yellow flags and driving without a seatbelt at Zandvoort.

Championship leader Max Verstappen is also facing a penalty of five places but still looking favourite for the win.

The runaway Dutchman has a 109-point lead in the championship over Charles Leclerc and his team-mate Sergio Perez, who are tied in second place.

Meanwhile, Porsche have pulled the plug on their plans to join F1 with Red Bull.

The German car brand was seeking a 50 per cent stake in the Milton Keynes-based F1 team.

However, talks have now broken down with Red Bull boss Christian Horner saying the two companies had "quite different DNA".

Drinks brand Red Bull have invested millions on building their own engine department and plan to run their own power units from 2026.

And Horner says the deal did not stack up with Red Bull unwilling to see the business split 50-50.

He said: "With Red Bull becoming a powertrain manufacturer in 2026, it was always natural to hold discussions."

"Those discussions have now been concluded."

"And the consensus was that it was not right for Red Bull's involvement in F1."

"It's a tremendously exciting new chapter for Red Bull."

"Porsche is a great brand but the DNA is quite different."