



Clock watch... ref

Ref bias in added on time

By LEN READ

FOOTIE refs favour the home team with added time, research suggests.

They feel pressure from the fans possibly without realising, a study found.

Dr Alperen Kocsoy, of Durham University, analysed 6,259 matches in the English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Turkish leagues.

Refs kept games shorter by a 44-second average with the home side leading by a goal on 90 minutes compared to the other way round.

English games were reduced by 55 seconds – the second-highest after Spain, with 62.

Dr Kocsoy said: "It is kind of pleasing the crowds, though it might be unconsciously."

He is calling for ball-in-play data to be used instead for timekeeping.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



Prince Harry

Attacks royals after losing security case

"Some of my family will never forgive me... I would love reconciliation"



Nigel Farage

On Reform triumph at local elections

"The most astonishing set of results in the history of our country... a Reform-quake"



The King

On his cancer experience

"Daunting... frightening... it brings into sharp focus the very best of humanity"



Ethel Catherham

Secrets of world's oldest woman, 115

"Never arguing with anyone, I listen and I do what I like"



David Attenborough

Launching a new documentary at 99

"As I approach the end of my life, I now understand the most important place on Earth is the sea"



Stacey Solomon

On why she has a TV in the bedroom

"My sex life is wonderful and I get to watch favourite films at the same time"

NO GO AREA

All public loos are being closed to cut costs in the tiny cathedral city of St Asaph, Denbighshire.

CHURCHILL SAID BRITAIN COULD REJ



By NADIA COHEN and MIKE RIDLEY

AS news broke that peace had been declared on May 8, 1945, the people of Britain spontaneously took to the streets for the biggest party the country had ever seen.

And on Thursday, we will mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, when Nazi Germany formally surrendered. In a radio broadcast, then PM Winston Churchill said: "We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing."

Thousands flocked to the streets of London, waving Union Flags and singing patriotic songs.

King George VI, accompanied by his daughters, Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to the delight of the cheering crowds.

Today, we share the recollections of three remarkable women who were part of that momentous day eight decades ago.



THE D-DAY HEROINE

AFTER proudly shaping history from a secret bunker in Portsmouth during the war, Marie Scott couldn't wait to join the excited VE Day throng in London.

She had been serving her country as a Royal Navy signaller, but was given special leave to travel to the capital for the extraordinary day of celebrations.

Marie, now 98, of New Malden, Surrey, fondly recalls the atmosphere. She said: "London was manic, everybody was absolutely overjoyed, kissing and embracing. "And if they saw you in a uniform – as I was – you were assailed by kisses and embraces for hours."

"Some of the kisses were repulsive, others not too bad."

"People had queued down the Mall and all the spots where they'd see the Royal Family or notables or celebrities. I remember, and I remember it well."

After the war ended, Marie went

on to work as a secretary, married Maurice, an accountant, and they had daughters Gill, 66, and Cari, 64.

She will be commemorating the fallen alongside other veterans at Westminster Abbey on Thursday.

Marie believes it is vital to keep memories of VE Day alive.

She said: "The veterans are becoming quite rare now."

"We're all dropping off the perch and, within a foreseeable future, there will be nobody left to talk about their participation in World War Two. We fought for a just cause."

"Millions died and all that sacrifice should be honoured and respected."

Marie, who was 18 on VE Day, added: "It really was the best night of my life. A lot of time has passed, but I remember it still so clearly."

"It was full of relief, joy and happiness."



SECRET SERVICE... signaller Marie was based in bunker at Portsmouth



RELIEF AND JOY... Marie Scott

THE NAVAL

JEAN GREEN and her pals partied well into the night as revellers rejoiced over the end of the conflict.

Now 102, she vividly recalls the moment she heard that peace had been declared while serving at the Royal Naval Air Station at Eastleigh, Hants, then known as HMS Raven.

Jean said: "The news went round so fast and there was such a hum of excitement."

"Lots of us were given the day off, so we all headed to London."

"The train station was packed, but the atmosphere was amazing. I don't remember whether we observed our usual 10pm curfew that night, but I very much doubt it."

"I remember the noise and how happy everyone was. It felt like freedom, it was a celebration like no other." But while

MEMORIES... Naval station HMS Raven



Jean, from Norwich, the celebrations for the war in Europe also meant to her military service.

Jean, who looks like a "conscrip" rather than a "regulating officer" with women I share with became best friends. three y together space ing t



MIXED EMOTIONS... Jean Green