

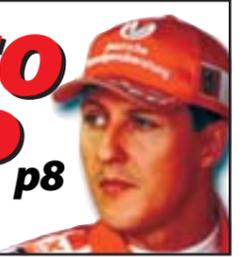
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 • Over 220 May listings



**GP** p8

Knife-point robbery victims followed home after supermarket trip

# GANG STALKS FOOD SHOPPERS



**Anyone seen my longboat?**

To find out what this Viking was doing in Antibes harbour on Saturday, turn to page 3

A GANG who robbed a Swedish couple at knifepoint last month after following them home from the supermarket may pick its victims by studying their rings as they push shopping trolleys.

By Sarah Clark

Police believe the gang may be responsible for a string of similar attacks where shoppers have been followed from the supermarket and forced to hand over their jewellery.

The Swedes, from Opio, were on their way home from the Champion supermarket in Châteauneuf when they were held up by several men, all wearing balaclavas. One of them was armed with a knife.

The gang stripped the woman of her jewellery, cutting one ring off her finger with pliers when it proved too tight to be pulled off easily.

Three similar attacks have taken place in the last month.

Two days after the Opio attack, another shopper was held up at gunpoint in Châteauneuf after visiting the Intermarché in Pré-du-Lac. The woman, from Roquefort-les-Pins, was forced to hand over her jewellery.

The next day, a couple from the Var were attacked after being followed from Carrefour in Antibes almost to their home in Montauroux.

A week later, a Mougins woman was held up and stripped of her jewellery as she returned to her parking space at the same supermarket in Antibes.

Police investigating the robberies

say they cannot be certain the attacks were carried out by the same gang.

But, in each case, it was the victim's jewellery that was the target and, each time, the hold-up was carried out by three or four men, all wearing balaclavas.

Police believe they may 'research' victims by studying their watches, bracelets and rings as they push their supermarket trolleys.

After the fourth attack, a police surveillance operation was mounted at 'strategic locations' in a bid to catch the attackers red-handed.

Nothing happened until April 24 when a villager raised the alarm after spotting three men putting on balaclavas in a car in Opio.

The car then sped away. Police blocked the D204 between Valbonne and Roquefort-les-Pins in a bid to catch the three, but they escaped.

● Police have seized a vast store of stolen goods, valued at hundreds of thousands of euros, and thirty people are under arrest after a raid on premises in Nice.

The haul included firearms, stolen cars, mobile phones, perfumes, videos, olive oil and golf clubs – plus two sets of keys that could give access to two further caches.

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# US Catholic church's child abuse scandal

**THE Catholic Church of the USA is coming to terms with a child sex abuse scandal that has rocked it to the foundations, writes Chris Brown.**

Last month, The Reverend Paul Shanley, 71, was arrested in San Diego, accused of raping a boy in his care over seven years. The boy, who has not been named, was only six when the first attack took place, say prosecutors.

And he is not the only one. The Associated Press (AP) has published a survey showing 176 priests in the USA have been moved from their posts since the scandal came to light in January. The number could be much higher since many diocese have been reluctant to admit how many clergy they had suspended.

As insidious as the abuse itself has been the way that the hierarchy of the Church has covered up the actions of its priests. Cardinal Bernard Law, head of the Catholic Church in Boston – where Rev Shanley worked – has come under pressure to resign after acknowledging he reassigned Shanley to a different post once allegations of abuse had come to light.

The man reported the attacks to authorities following massive publicity about molester priests in the Archdiocese of Boston. But, according to Middlesex County District Attorney Martha Coakley, records show that Cardinal Law and the archdiocese's previous leader allowed Shanley to work in Boston and California churches despite knowing he had admitted molesting children.

In a similar case Cardinal Edward Egan, the former bishop of Bridgeport, Connecticut, didn't tell police about a

sexual relationship between a 15-year-old girl and a priest that amounted to statutory rape under state law.

Egan, now head of the Archdiocese of New York, let Joseph Michael DeShan leave the priesthood without reporting him to the police. After the young woman told DeShan she was pregnant, she was fired as a receptionist at the rectory of the Bridgeport cathedral.

The scandal has become so bad that the Pope ordered American cardinals to the Vatican last month. He told them there was no place in the Roman Catholic Church for priests who sexually abused children.

However, victims' families were angry that a clearer policy was not announced. Whilst Pope John Paul II called paedophilia the most evil abuse possible, he stopped short of a 'one strike and you're out' rule. He asked that the power of prayer to turn people away from sin be acknowledged.

Whether it is enough to put the faith back into America's Catholics is unclear. Over 50 per cent of Americans polled by AP believe that abuse is widespread in the Church, with nearly 40 per cent saying they had no trust in the Church.

The scandals are not confined to the US borders though. The Catholic Church is now facing probes in Hong Kong where it has confirmed that three of its priests have been accused of sexually abusing children.

The public acknowledgement follows claims in a local newspaper that the Church failed to pass on the information to the police and dealt with the matter internally.



## Expected May day violence fails to materialise

The media enjoyed a 'slow news day' as the world's International Labour Day parades were generally peaceful this year, despite expectations of violence as workers and anti-globalisation protestors held their traditional rallies.

Pictured above is a rally organised by leftist unions in a working class area of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Photo: AFP/Mauricio Lima

### Mugabe learns lessons from America

THE cause of a heated argument between Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and UN Security Council ambassadors has been revealed.

Whilst in the Congolese capital Kinshasa on a peace-making visit, journalists waiting outside Mugabe's office heard a diplomatic encounter degenerate into a shouting match.

US Ambassador Richard Williamson had repeated Washington's belief that the recent Zimbabwean elections had been far from free and fair, sources reveal. Mugabe snapped "Well I don't think George Bush won the US election! But I accepted the victory after the Supreme Court ruling."

### World criminal court is born 50 years on

THE first world criminal court has become a reality half a century after it was proposed in the ruins of World War II. The International Criminal Court was brought to life in a ceremony at the United Nations. Its aim is to bring war criminals and dictators to justice.

"Impunity has been dealt a decisive blow," said UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

President George W Bush's administration, though, has withdrawn the US from the treaty that created the court, citing worries that individuals from countries opposed to the US could use it to bring Americans to trial. The move is expected to severely limit the new court's effectiveness.

## UK DIARY

by Chris Brown

● AN ARISTOCRAT with a personal fortune of £1.3bn is blocking a housing development in west London that could mean the extinction of Britain's working class.

The eighth Earl Cadogan has gone to the High Court to block a £2m development of a disused pub off King's Road in Chelsea because, he says, his grandfather wanted the land used by the working class.

When the land was sold to the borough of Chelsea in 1929, the Cadogan family made a legally binding agreement that the land should always be used for the benefit of the poor.

But developers Danu, who bought the site in 2000, argue that the term "working class" is no longer meaningful in British society, thus nullifying the agreement. Danu wants to build luxury homes on the land of the former Rat and Parrot pub.

If it wins its case, Danu could be said to have caused the extinction of Britain's working class, finishing the job Margaret Thatcher started.

● THE Queen has dismissed any suggestion she might abdicate by vowing to continue serving "the people of this great nation of ours".

In delivering a personally-written speech to mark her 50th anniversary on the throne, the Queen spoke of enduring British values of "moderation, tolerance and service".

It is only the fifth time during her reign that she has made such an address to MPs and peers gathered inside Westminster Hall, where her mother lay in state earlier this month.

● A MAN clad in deep-sea diving outfit took six days to complete last month's London Marathon. Lloyd Scott tottered along the fine dividing line between determination and insanity as he walked the full 26-mile course wearing lead-soled boots, and raising thousands of pounds for the charity Cancer and Leukaemia in Children.

● A WATCH which froze in time as its owner plunged from the Titanic into the icy Atlantic waters was sold at auction for just under £20,000.

The hands of the gold-plated Waltham watch, rescued

from the body of John Gill, 24, have remained permanently at 3.21.

The watch was one of 316 objects sold at an auction organised by the British Titanic Society Convention to mark the disaster's 90th anniversary.

● A DORSET portrait painter made a glamorous contribution to the fox hunting debate by taking her clothes off and riding a horse through the streets of London. Camilla Jackson, 23, cheered her pro-hunting friends – and her father who is chairman of the Masters of Foxhounds group – after a couple of double vodkas outside the Smith Square headquarters of the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in Westminster.

● PUNK rock band The Sex Pistols have called off a gig planned for the Queen's Jubilee weekend, their promoter has said.

The group caused outrage in June 1977 by performing on a boat in the Thames during the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations. The band also released the single God Save The Queen at the time, which was banned from BBC radio and TV.

The promoter, who is managing director of London music promotions company Solo, said the decision to cancel the Jubilee concert came because "they simply didn't want to play that weekend".

● THE self-proclaimed final surviving descendant of Count Dracula is seeking a noble English heir to carry on the line made famous by his blood-sucking ancestor.

Ottomar Rodolphe Vlad Dracula Prince Ketzulesco told BBC radio that potential heirs need not be worried by the family's reputation, nor did they have to have an aversion to garlic.

● SIR Paul McCartney has been made an honorary New York Police Department detective.

He was awarded the honour on his return to the city's Madison Square Gardens venue for a concert.

Accepting his award he quipped: "Whoever is smoking that stuff I can smell, I am going to bust you."

**Goodbye to ...** Thor Heyerdahl, the Norwegian explorer who sailed the raft Kon-Tiki on a 6,000 kilometre journey from Peru to Polynesia in 1947, died at his home on the Italian Riviera aged 87. General Alexander Lebed, killed in a helicopter crash in Siberia. He rose to prominence in 1996, coming third in the presidential elections. Ruth Handler, 85, creator of the Barbie doll. Television tough guy Robert Urich, the actor best known for his starring roles in sleuth series "Vega\$" and "Spenser: For Hire", has died of cancer, aged 55. Barbara Castle, 91, who was a high profile member of the Labour Party governments of the 1960s and 70s. She was a trailblazer for women in politics, introduced the breathalyser to British motorists, and gave Tony Blair a bloody nose at recent Party conferences over the issue of pensions. Air Vice-Marshal David McKinley, 88, who made the RAF's first circumnavigation of the globe. Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes, 30, was a singer and the creative force behind American R&B group TLC, the biggest-selling female band in history. Only the Supremes have had more US No 1 hits. Rob Walker, former Formula 1 driver and teammate of Stirling Moss, 84. Frederick Stare, 91, the US nutritionist who opposed food fads, advocated sugar in coffee and said Americans had the world's best diet. Germaine Haye, 113, France's oldest woman.

## The Riviera Gazette™

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# Yachties swap megayachts for home-made rafts in fifth Antibes race



HOLY SMOKE... the race gets under way

# YABBA-DABBA-CREW!

## Flintstones power to victory



CHAMPIONS... winning Flintstones crew, from superyacht 'Calixe', before the race

**THERE were hi-jinks on the high seas last weekend when 22 teams battled around Port Vauban in the 5th Antibes Raft Race, reports Alison Craddock.**

Hundreds of onlookers cheered and pelted competitors with water bombs and flour as the race got under way. Even the coastguards joined in, squirting everyone with a giant fire hose.

Despite brilliant sunshine at the start, no one escaped a soaking as spectators and rafters alike were drenched with rain by the finish. But there was no stopping the

winners, who powered through on their Flintstones raft.

Not all were so seaworthy; last minute entrants from Amadeus in Sophia Antipolis only finished by swimming their raft ashore. Likewise, the crew of 'Spilt Sauce' didn't make it to any of the checkpoints and turned to **PIRACY**, stealing another raft when their own fell apart.

Bribery didn't help the Cannibale team; "We asked the judges to dinner but for some reason they declined!"

Proceeds from the race and the party afterwards – more than €13,500 – go to charity.



NORSE-PLAY... our page 1 Viking, with team from yacht 'No Escape', in drier times



CANNIBAL CAPERS... did this raft cost an arm and a leg?



BOB MARLEY AND THE SAILORS... ready for the 'high' seas



RULING THE WAVES... this patriotic crew was cheery as it went under



LETTING IT ALL HANG OUT... the crew of 'Spilt Sauce', who finished on another raft they hijacked in a fierce sea battle

# MAYOR'S 6AM SORTIE TO WIN THE BATTLE OF THE WALL

## Bulldozer moves in as protestors sleep

VILLAGERS in La Colle sur Loup are fuming after fighting off their mayor's bid to demolish an historic wall only to find the bulldozer back – at 6am the next day.

And this time, despite the cover of darkness and the element of surprise, the mayor was taking no chances with the spirited locals.

The village was sealed off and up to 18 policemen on duty to ensure early-morning tempers did not flare and protestors stop the job a second time.

But the opposition had no hope. Before word could get round and the slumbering village rouse to the wall's defence the deed was done.

The 100-year-old wall, the Fronton

du Jeu de Paume, which had survived two world wars and had the shrapnel marks to prove it, was down.

La Colle residents had only learnt of its proposed demolition, which the mayor said was preferable to the €40,000 cost of restoration, days before in the French press.

The mayor said the wall had become dangerous and corroded. He claimed its demolition had been unanimously approved by the local council – a fact disputed by some opposition members.

Furious at the lack of consultation and the threat to the wall, villagers decided to unite. Leaflets were circulated and a petition collected 400 signatures.

One older resident, Henri Bertaina, even threatened to chain himself to the wall.

Emotions ran high as the fronton, whose name – Game of the Palm – reflects the hand-ball game pelote provençale for which it was once used, was one of the last links to the old life to many residents.

The wall had also played its part in history shielding the German battery from the invading American forces in the Second World War. It ended its days less gloriously as a back drop to a car park off the high street.

Dozens of Collois woke early to gather at 7am on April 2 when the wall was due to come down.

The bulldozer was already in place but they placed a banner on the wall proclaiming "Touche pas à mon Fronton" – Hands off My Fronton.

Police watched as demonstrators

light-heartedly took over the car park entrance to stop the demolition.

Even heckling from the mayor's mother-in-law could not rout them.

The bulldozer eventually left after a few hours, to protestors' applause. But they remained worried, and rightly so – by 7am the next day it was gone.

Mayor Christian Berkesse he will build a new wall on a new site if pelote provençale is relaunched.

This seems unlikely as the last tournament of the game was played in La Colle in the Fifties. The Jeu de Paume became a car park in 1966.

Benches will replace the wall but whether residents will sit on them remains another issue.

## Election Special

## National Results

ROUND 1	
Jacques Chirac	19.88%
Jean-Marie Le Pen	16.86%
Lionel Jospin	16.18%
Left wing candidates	37.64%
Right wing candidates	31.82%
Far Right candidates	19.2%
Others	11.36%
ROUND 2	
Jacques Chirac	82.06%
Jean Marie Le Pen	17.94%

## The President's Pledges

## CRIME

- Creation by decree of a ministry of internal security.
- Council of internal security over which Chirac will preside.
- New police task forces.

## ECONOMY

- Tax cuts – Five per cent cut in income tax, and by one third by 2007. Other cuts, including corporate taxes, to total 30 billion euros over five years.
- Reduced social charges for young people and low-wage earners.
- General re-working of the retirement system.
- Creation of 460,000 jobs by cutting social charges. Wants to tackle unemployment among the under-25s.

## CONSTITUTION

- Commission of "wise men" to examine the penal status of the president of the republic.

# CHIRAC PLEDGES TO FIGHT CRIME, CUT TAX AND EASE 35 HOUR WEEK

AS JACQUES Chirac settles in for his second term as President, a range of policies against crime, including a special law and order council, a reorganisation of the police force and a high profile crackdown against criminal gangs are expected.

A one-third cut in income tax by 2007 and an easing of the rules on the 35-hour week are also in the pipeline.

His victory on May 5 brought to an end a campaign that rocked France and sent shock waves throughout Europe. More than a million people demonstrated nationwide against the Front National leader during the country's May Day celebrations – the biggest protests seen in many cities since the end of the second world war.

But despite the out-pouring of Anti-Nazi sentiment during the campaign, it has not disguised the real issues behind the success of Le Pen, and the failure of France's political establishment.

Most voters in the first round either stayed at home or voted for the many

Special report by Chris Brown

fringe candidates who were, in effect, not Chirac or Prime Minister Jospin.

But round two saw France make a decisive vote against far right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen.

With turnout 8 per cent higher than in the first round, Jacques Chirac notched up 82.06% of the vote, giving him the biggest landslide victory in French electoral history. Le Pen failed to increase the share of the far right parties' vote from the first round.

While Chirac may have beaten Le Pen convincingly, the picture for the forthcoming parliamentary elections – on 9 and 16 June – is not so clear cut.

The only way that Chirac can really claim a significant mandate is for his right wing allies to do well in these elections. But will Le Pen's Front National build on its leader's relative success, and will France's left wing claw itself back from the brink? Lionel Jospin's failure to reach the second

round was due to a severe splintering of the socialist vote. If the socialists are to regain their position in June's elections they need to decide what kind of party they want to be.

Where Tony Blair was able to ditch Clause 4 of the Labour Party manifesto and move New Labour to the centre ground of British politics, French socialism has been unable to ditch its ideological baggage.

Which is why, during Jospin's government – a coalition containing communists and ecologists – the feeling of betrayal amongst its core support has been so devastating. This is the government, after all, which has steered through France's biggest ever privatisation programme.

But the prospect of a socialist-dominated parliament and a conservative president could be just what the FN is hoping for. Their rise has been based on a frustration with the status quo – a feeling that politicians are remote and have no answers to the questions being put to them. The fact is that Le

## The President's Role

- For the first time this year, the president is elected for five years – not seven – and in the same year as parliamentary elections.
- His main role is to "safeguard the constitution". He is the figurehead of the French state.
- Chief of the Armed Forces.
- Nominates the prime minister from the majority party in the National Assembly.
- When president and prime minister are of different parties, the president covers foreign and defence policies. The prime minister takes charge of economic and social policy.

Pen successfully tapped into a very real fear of crime and many people's sense of exclusion from their own country – which they say is caused by the rising immigrant population.

As one Paris voter said: "The left has failed the people. The right has failed the nation." It could still be Le Pen's day.

## Who voted for Le Pen?

JEAN-MARIE Le Pen, 74, secured his second round run off against Jacques Chirac due to the split of the left-wing vote, a general dissatisfaction with mainstream politics, apathy and a real fear of crime.

This was his fourth presidential election campaign and his best result. The former paratrooper sees himself as a David against Goliath – standing up to immigrants and criminals who are seen by his supporters as one and the same. During the campaign he suggested sending a train-load of refugees to the UK to see if Tony Blair was less racist than him.

But while his views on race and immigrants are too strong for the majority of voters – he once said that Nazi concentration camps were a "detail of history" – some of his ideas are too close in tone to everyday French thinking to be dismissed. His belief that France should stand up for itself outside the EU and against the USA are supported by many.

## Le Pen's policies

- Immediate expulsion of illegal immigrants, restrict the right to seek asylum, re-instate border control
- Abolish income tax
- Each French person should be given a job, via small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in preference to foreigners
- Erection of protectionist trade barriers
- Withdrawal from the European Union
- Leaving the euro and restoring the French franc
- Modifying Article 1 of the French constitution to create a "national preference" clause, giving French citizens first call on jobs, housing and social services
- Refusing to bow to the United States in world affairs

## Who voted for Le Pen?

What scared most commentators and politicians in France was the breadth of Le Pen's appeal. Whilst the elderly and unemployed made up nearly half of his electors, he gained votes from all age groups and employment sectors:

## LE PEN VOTERS BY AGE

18-24 (years old)	10%
25-34	15%
35-44	20%
45-64	34%
65+	21%

## LE PEN VOTERS BY SEX

Female	43%
Male	57%

## PROFESSIONS OF LE PEN VOTERS

Pensioners	21%
Unemployed	25%
Farmers	2%
Professionals/business owners	7%
Middle management	13%
White collar employees	18%
Blue collar employees	19%

## Le Pen gains 28.66% of the local vote

ALTHOUGH he was soundly beaten on the national level, Jean-Marie Le Pen picked up an extra 22,219 votes locally in round two.

That gave him 28.66% of the Alpes-Maritimes vote, 10% higher than the national average.

In town after town on April 21 local voters had turned against the moderate policies of Jacques Chirac and Lionel Jospin to put Le Pen first.

The Front National leader went into round two with 25.98% of the Alpes-Maritimes vote, his second highest share

of the vote of any department in France. Only in towns like Mougins, Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat and Valbonne, where council housing is rare and foreign immigrants are more likely to be wealthy Northern Europeans than poor North Africans, did voters put Chirac top in round one.

In all, 108 local towns came out for Jean-Marie Le Pen. Nice, Cannes, Antibes and Grasse all put him first. So did Menton, Cap d'Ail, Beausoleil and even Beaulieu-sur-Mer.

Shocked local residents were quick to denounce the vote – and quick to assure

that round two would be very different.

But in the end local support actually increased. Only the Var and the Vaucluse gave him a higher share than the Alpes-Maritimes on May 5, confirming widespread support for the far right is not just a one-off aberration but a long-term reality on the Côte d'Azur.

The evidence suggests that Le Pen's support in the region will stay firm for the parliamentary elections. There is now a very real possibility the Alpes-Maritimes will send a Front National candidate to sit in the National Assembly in June.

## How the Riviera voted, town by town ...

Commune	Electorate	ROUND 1				ROUND 2		
		Le Pen	Chirac	Jospin	Turnout	Chirac	Le Pen	Turnout
Antibes	46,712	8,129	8,002	3,817	72%	25,427	9,560	78%
Beaulieu-sur-Mer	2,650	578	544	167	74%	1,411	684	82%
Beausoleil	8,301	1,391	1,101	585	60%	3,872	1,644	69%
Biot	4,977	780	824	417	78%	3,131	892	84%
Cagnes-sur-Mer	28,987	5,741	4,755	2,384	73%	14,943	6,357	79%
Cannes	45,404	8,780	8,510	3,698	72%	23,839	10,336	78%
Cap-d'Ail	3,072	555	482	298	72%	1,700	628	80%
Châteauneuf	1,811	312	301	132	77%	1,071	395	85%
Eze-sur-Mer	1,868	348	298	133	73%	1,018	389	78%
Grasse	25,303	4,224	3,559	2,186	72%	13,888	4,979	79%
La Colle-sur-Loup	5,334	854	834	453	71%	3,060	994	80%
La Gaude	4,547	791	635	383	77%	2,600	969	82%
La Turbie	2,240	394	395	122	71%	1,254	472	81%
Le Bar-sur-Loup	1,812	259	261	158	74%	1,087	321	81%
Le Cannet	26,428	4,751	4,473	2,263	72%	14,309	5,466	78%
Le Rouret	2,351	352	357	171	77%	1,443	452	84%
Mandelieu-la-Napoule	13,923	2,757	2,514	1,072	73%	7,607	3,344	82%
Menton	19,711	3,683	3,244	1,619	70%	9,871	4,396	76%
Mougins	11,303	1,895	1,961	734	71%	6,230	2,191	78%
Nice	223,401	36,887	29,854	18,733	63%	105,412	43,306	70%
Opio	1,338	209	195	86	74%	785	261	82%
Peymeinade	5,469	913	807	465	70%	2,923	1,087	77%
Roquebrune-Cap-Martin	8,656	1,425	1,487	611	67%	4,419	1,690	74%
Roquefort-les-Pins	4,067	620	686	299	72%	2,365	767	80%
Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat	1,717	310	338	93	67%	849	379	76%
Saint-Jeannet	2,636	406	332	307	78%	1,677	459	85%
Saint-Laurent-du-Var	18,661	3,747	2,741	1,590	74%	9,881	4,447	81%
Saint-Paul	2,363	331	409	152	67%	1,316	404	77%
Tourrettes-sur-Loup	2,704	319	437	230	74%	1,737	387	82%
Valbonne	6,196	772	830	707	76%	3,942	925	83%
Vallauris-Golfe-Juan	16,089	2,661	2,243	1,223	63%	7,950	3,409	74%
Vence	10,825	1,658	1,955	1,030	78%	6,758	1,973	85%
Villefranche-sur-Mer	4,631	809	920	307	72%	2,465	1,014	79%
Villeneuve-Loubet	8,844	1,528	1,575	719	74%	5,056	1,760	80%
Alpes-Maritimes TOTAL	690,219	121,290	102,531	56,851	69%	356,652	143,509	76%

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## Happy birthday, Adapt in France!

ADAPT in France, the Sophia-based association which helps expatriates adjust to life on the Riviera, celebrated its first anniversary last month.

Members, volunteers and workshop leaders toasted the non-profit making association's success – it now has 63 members from 17 countries.

Founder Sylvie Kermin-Coiffier explained that her aim was to help foreign newcomers settle down easily.

The association runs workshops covering such topics as accommodation, banking, education, health, jobs and setting up business.

The next series takes place from June 3 to 27. For more information contact Sylvie on 04 93 65 33 79 or visit [www.adaptinfrance.org](http://www.adaptinfrance.org)

## Robocop to help Nice theft victims

THEFT victims can now file a police report in English via a new multi-language machine at a Nice police station.

The machine can also process forms in Spanish, Italian or German.

A printed affidavit is produced which then needs to be authorised by a police officer at the station at 1 Avenue Marechal Foch.

The machine has cut by two-thirds the time it takes police to process such reports. More machines are planned for Cagnes-sur-Mer and Antibes.

## Jewish monument in Vence graffiti'd

LOUTS daubed anti-Jewish graffiti on a monument in Vence's Place Marc-Chagall last month.

The monument commemorates the 43 Vençois Jews who were sent to their deaths in Nazi camps in 1943.

Hate messages were also written on the entryphone of a Jewish resident in Nice's Riquier district.

The graffiti appeared after a pro-Jewish demonstration was held in Nice on April 7, followed by an Arab demonstration a week later.

The abuses come as a wave of anti-Jewish attacks sweeps France. Nearly 360 incidents were reported nationally during the first two weeks of April.

Observers say the level of anti-semitic attacks in France is in direct proportion to the level of Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East.

## House prices up 8%

THE price of new properties on the Côte d'Azur rose eight per cent in the first quarter of 2002.

Demand is 19 per cent up on the same time last year, according to research by property developer Socoprim-Groupe Adéquation.

# Uninsured charity ketch raised

**MIDNIGHT Merlin, the 120 year old classic yacht that sank in Cap d'Ail harbour two months ago, has been raised.**

But owner Henry Hector now faces an €80,000 salvage bill and the end of his dream to use the boat to help terminally ill children.

The Midnight Merlin was not insured when it sank shortly after being sailed from a shipyard on the Ile Ste-Marguerite off Cannes. She had spent the last seven months there out of water whilst being restored.

It is possible that the boat dried out whilst in dry dock, causing the planking in her hull to contract and allowing water in once she was back at sea.

She has now been towed to Italy where a survey will be carried out to establish the cause of the sinking and to assess whether there is any liability on the part of the shipyard.

Mr Hector, a Buckinghamshire, UK based ex-powerboat racing champion and yachting enthusiast, told *The Riviera Gazette* he was devastated at the news of the boat's sinking. He was on holiday in Majorca when a delivery captain moved the boat from the shipyard, and the first

**Owner faces €80,000 salvage bill for classic yacht**



**KETCH UP...**...now afloat again but looking worse for wear, the Midnight Merlin spent two months underwater in Cap d'Ail harbour

he knew of the disaster was when he got a phone call the next morning from the Cap d'Ail harbourmaster to say the boat had sunk.

Hector planned to use the boat to organise day cruises for children suffering from cancer and leukaemia.

He found the 28 meter ketch lan-

guishing in Beaulieu-sur-Mer last year.

Built in 1882 in Olze, Norway she was originally called 'Nordenskold', a Viking name meaning 'Shield of the North'. Mr Hector plans to re-name her 'The Robert Woodward' in honour of the founder of the Stardust children's charity with which Mr Hector is also

closely involved. Despite the massive salvage bill, Mr Hector is determined to continue with his charity plan.

He hopes Midnight Merlin's historical significance will allow him to win EU funding for restoration and, if not, that local charitable donors will come forward to help.

# SOPHIA GRANT AXED

## Funding moves to 'project by project' basis

**THE Sophia Antipolis Foundation, the organisation which sets the cultural agenda in the science park, has lost its annual grant.**

Three employees have been let go, a fourth will be reduced to part time and the Foundation will now have to apply for funding on a less stable 'project by project' basis.

The Foundation, headed by Sophia Antipolis founder Senator Pierre Lafitte, is responsible for ensuring the long-term cultural development of the park, and thus for making it an attractive proposition for firms thinking of establishing themselves in the area.

At the heart of its work is the maintenance of the core values of the Sophia Antipolis concept, promoting the cross-pollination of ideas between students, research centres and indus-

By Alison Craddock

try to create an international melting pot of ideas.

As such, it has played a large part in building Sophia Antipolis into a leading, internationally recognised, business location.

Now funds are so tight that money for even essential travel is unavailable and the many clubs, conferences, concerts and courses organised by the Foundation are now available only in French.

The grant loss comes on top of two bad years for the park.

Hit by the dotcom crash, the slower than expected take-up of third generation mobile phones and the fallout from September 11, companies based on the park have been making serious

cutbacks. Close to 1,000 jobs went in the period June 2000 to June 2001.

Since then, there have been further substantial job losses and several companies have completely closed their Sophia offices. New figures due out in June are expected to show an even steeper decline.

European Projects Manager at the Foundation, Helen Mignot, told *The Riviera Gazette* "As we are now only to be funded project by project, we are left without the finance to cover our administrative and employee costs.

"This will certainly affect the work of the foundation and is putting further strain on our already under-resourced organisation."

Long-term Riviera resident Simon Thornton's experience is becoming a common one. An Ex-Lucent Technologies contractor, Thornton

lost his job during Lucent's financial difficulties last year.

"The park is becoming less international, which is a shame as that was one of its strengths", he told *The Riviera Gazette*.

"There are fears that Sophia is headed for a similar downturn as was experienced in '94/'95 when 5,000 jobs were lost, causing a severe drop in local property values" said Simon. He has now sold his house in Valbonne and is moving his family to Belgium.

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## Dead hotel baby: mother released

THE 21-year-old Irish woman accused of killing her newborn baby in a hotel in Théoule-sur-Mer last February has been released from custody on condition she stays in France.

A psychiatrist's report concludes that Dierdre Wacasse, who claims she was unaware she was pregnant, was of unsound mind at the time of the baby's death.

A second psychiatrist's report has been ordered and, if this comes to the same conclusion, she will not be held responsible for her actions. All charges will be dropped and she will be allowed to return home.

Her boyfriend Philip Brennan, 30, was let out of prison in Grasse the day before Wacasse's own release and has been allowed to return home.

## Tourists return after post Sept 11 'blip'

THE number of tourists visiting the Riviera is now higher than ever, following a sharp drop in visitor numbers after September 11.

New figures for March hotel and apartment bookings show that three- and four-star hotel occupancy rates were up 10% on 2001 at 62%, with Italians and Spaniards spending 80% more nights in Riviera hotels during March 2002 than the same time last year. Apartment rentals fare even better, up 18% on 2001. The number of visitors from Scandinavia, the Netherlands and Germany are all up 50%. British and Swiss visitor numbers are up 30%.

But business traveller numbers are down and the French are also visiting less. Year on year, 8% fewer French visited the Riviera in March 2002.

## Pool drownings now biggest child killer

"DON'T take your eyes off your children for an instant", advises the Consumer Safety Commission as it reports that swimming pools are the top cause of domestic accidental deaths of small children in France.

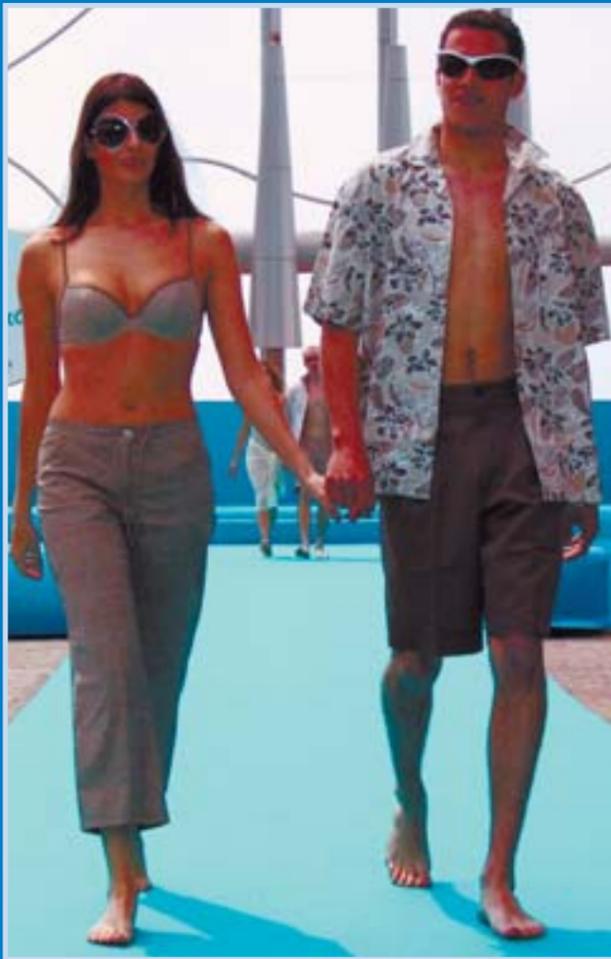
Only one in three pools has any kind of barrier or fence round it, and only 22% of those are really effective, says the CSC.

Emergency services were called out to 156 pool accidents in 2001, half involving children under five. In 53 cases the victim died. 23 were children.

30.5% of accidents happen on Sundays and 39% occur despite the pool having a security barrier in place. 57% of accidents involving under-14s occurred even though the children were under adult supervision at the time.

## Local News

# Beach grunge gets a Laura Ashley look



"AN UPMARKET grunge look, with light fabrics, bright colours and plenty of floral prints will be this summer's beach style on the Côte. The combination of looking good but feeling comfortable will be what matters. This year wire bikini tops and tight trousers are a definite no-go" reports The Riviera Gazette's fashion editor, Annabel Clifton-Smith. A preview of what the fashion-savvy will be wearing on the beaches this summer was paraded at Juan-les-Pins last month when models sashayed down a catwalk on the sea front at Les Pinèdes. All designs are stocked in local boutiques. Photos: TRG/Mike Clark

## Shed load led to gridlock chaos

MOTORISTS faced delays of up to five hours on May 2 after an early-morning lorry crash on the A8.

Both carriageways were closed for four hours after the lorry jack-knifed and shed its 30-tonne load of wooden beams at La Brague, near Antibes.

Morning rush-hour traffic backed up 15 kilometres in each direction as the chaos spread to affect all East-West roads between Cannes and Nice.

Motorway authority Escota had to close the on-ramp at Antibes, and motorists travelling towards Nice had to leave the motorway and find another route.

An estimated 10,000 extra vehicles on the roads of Antibes swiftly led to massive traffic jams in the town, which quickly spread out to gridlock the RN7 and the RN98 coast road as far as Nice.

Crash investigators suspect the lorry driver, on his way to Italy from Carcassonne, fell asleep at the wheel.

## Coast trains may go underground

A PLAN to bury the coastal railway line between Antibes and Nice has won support from Nice-Côte d'Azur metropolitan council.

The idea came from the public debate on the proposed addition of a third railway track between Cannes and Nice.

The goal of the new track is to increase the number of trains serving the coastal region, prompting drivers to opt for the train instead of the car and thus reduce congestion.

Those living near the line strongly oppose it. But burying the tracks will reduce noise pollution for residents and free up beachfront building land – though it will be expensive.

Funding will now be sought from Paris to cover the extra cost of putting the line underground.

## Easy come, easy Go

EASYJET may buy rival airline Go, the company has confirmed. The purchase would make the low-cost airline, founded by Monaco resident Stelios Haji-Ioannou in 1995, a major player on the European stage.

The announcement that the company was in talks to buy Go came only a week after Haji-Ioannou revealed that he is to leave the board of the firm in 2003 to concentrate on his other Easy ventures.

## New air routes to UK and Eire for Nice

THREE new air services have been launched, connecting Nice with Dublin, Birmingham and Edinburgh.

Aer Lingus is offering three direct flight a week to Dublin and will add a fourth flight in June. Return flights start at €170.

British Airways launched a twice-weekly Nice-Birmingham service this week. Prices start at €150 return.

Globespan launches its twice-weekly Nice-Edinburgh service on May 24. One way tickets start at €46.

## London to Provence by train – in 6 hours

A NEW Eurostar service will run between London and Avignon this summer, connecting the two cities in just six hours 15 minutes.

To coincide with the peak tourist season there will be one departure daily in each direction on eight Saturdays from July 20. Tickets cost between €141 and €595.

# RESTAURANT TERRACES MUST GO

SHOP and restaurant owners in the port of St Laurent du Var have two months to knock down a third of their properties – even if the extensions have planning permission.

The prefecture's order, backed by fines of €230 a day and the threat of a state demolition squad if they fail to comply, means more than 100 jobs may go. Owners say it could jeopardise the whole port's livelihood. Businesses have been adding extensions since the port was built in 1976.

The port owners' association is trying to negotiate a deal between the Marie and

Prefecture but is unlikely to find a solution before the June 25 deadline.

Association President and owner of 'Le Ship,' Ellen Dardoise, said: "We have been offered some compromises, but we will accept all or nothing – we have too much to lose if we back down."

Some businesses, such as family-owned Le Santana restaurant, which opened in 1977 and is the port's oldest eatery, got permission prior to building.

They have now been informed that the permission is invalid as the 50 square meters they built on

does not exist on ownership plans and encompasses state-owned coastal territory.

Manager Philippe Pampini said: "When we received permission to extend we enlarged our kitchen to cater for a 150 seat restaurant."

"Two years ago the Prefecture made us remove our 40-seat terrace. Now we are being forced to reduce our interior capacity from 110 seats to 20."

"It is outrageous that this can happen even though we received all the necessary permission."

"The businesses here bring so much value to the port."



LAND GRAB... this shopfront is on the original building line, but the businesses either side have extended forwards onto land they don't own. These extensions must now go.

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## HEALTH

### RATE EXAMPLE

Family: Man aged 43, woman 37, 2 children aged 8 and 12  
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## INSURANCE

## TOO MANY 'NO-HOPERS' CHASING YACHTIE JOBS

LOCAL yacht crew agencies say they have plenty of summer work but too many "unsuitable" job-seekers, writes Alison Craddock.

Helen McMahon, of Antibes' Freedom Yachting crew agency, said: "I have more jobs than suitable candidates because newcomers often don't meet the exacting standards."

"Many don't realise they must be well presented and professional and not simply here for a summer job."

Ruth Leather, of nearby Star Crew, agrees. "Arriving without a clue and expecting to walk onto a boat is naive."

The dream of working on the yachts of the rich and famous draws young people from all over.

Several, like New Zealander

Melissa, come after a ski season in the Alps. "I wasn't prepared for how much competition there is. Now I'm doing a Silver Service course to improve my chances," she said.

But agencies say they have not been flooded with jobseekers as they were last year after yacht jobs were mentioned in a Lonely Planet guide book.

Stephen Bellinger, of International Crew Recruitment, said: "Having so many inexperienced people touting for work had the result of lowering wages for the dedicated career crew competing for the same positions."

Many were unsuccessful and Lonely Planet now warns: "Working on a yacht sure looks glamorous but the reality is far from cushy."

# No corruption here claims Nice council

**ANGRY Nice-Côte d'Azur councillors hit out last week after a government report described the Riviera as a haven for money laundering — and accused politicians and the judiciary of collusion by turning a blind eye to the problem.**

"The great closeness" or even "collusion" between "financial, political and judicial authorities where the personnel are never replaced" is a major obstacle to clearing up financial frauds in the region, concludes the report from the National Assembly's anti-laundering information committee.

Judges deemed too zealous are moved from "politically sensitive" financial cases and replaced by others who use every judicial means at their disposal to delay the process. Sometimes, says the report, dossiers go missing. "By strange coincidence" the criminals "slip through the judicial net" in this "infested" region, it adds.

Cash purchases of expensive villas are a common way for criminals to launder their money, says the report, and Russians have now replaced Italians as the main source of dirty money. They have invested a total of \$40bn in France, mostly in Paris and the south east.

But Nice councillors are furious at the report's slur on their reputation. The report was not properly researched, the councillors claim.

"The list of interviewees was estab-

lished with an obvious partiality, and notably excluded councillors and public agents", they maintain.

Councillors also claim that someone high up in the local judiciary has, wrongly, backed the idea that elected officials are dealing with criminals in a less-than-disinterested way.

The official is not named, but Nice's public prosecutor, Eric de Montgolfier, is well known nationally for his 'Mr Clean' reputation.

He is widely believed to have been posted to the region with a brief to clean up organised crime and money laundering on the Riviera.

He told the enquiry "the key word in Nice is 'arrangement' and the criminal world rubs shoulders with honest people".

Nice councillors agreed unanimously to demand that the new National Assembly, to be elected on 16 June, launch a further enquiry — with a guarantee that it would involve dispassionate and impartial analysis.

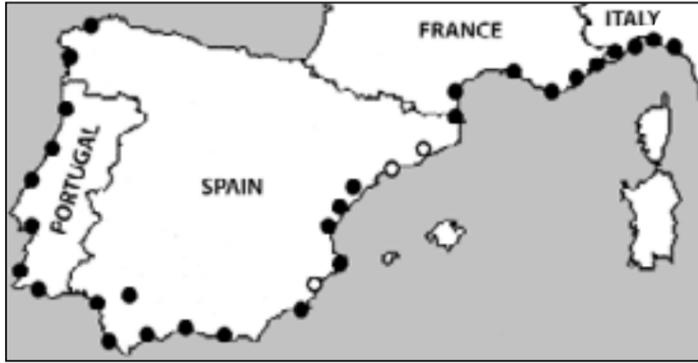
● There is twice as much cash on the Côte d'Azur as there should be, says a new report from the Banque de France.

Four percent of France's notes and coins are in the Alpes-Maritimes, but the region accounts for only 1% to 2% of the national economy.

A local preference for dealing in cash and the many tourists are likely reasons, says the central bank.

# Rival ants make truce to form record 6,000km colony

## THE PEST OF FRIENDS...



**SUPER COLONY...** Riviera nests are part of a chain stretching from Portugal to Italy



**ANT IT SWEET...** Rival Argentinian ants no longer fight each other. Scientists say it may be a clever new survival strategy.

**THE local Argentine ant population is part of the world's largest non-aggressive society, scientists have found.**

Billions of the normally aggressive ants from millions of nests along 6,000km of the Mediterranean coastline have found that living peaceably side by side is the key to economic prosperity — and territorial domination.

In Argentina, ants from different nests fight to the death. But lab tests show Argentine ants from as far apart as Italy and Portugal welcome each other into their nests peaceably.

Scientists took groups of ants from 33 colonies, including three colonies in the South of France, and arranged fights between ants from different nests. They found ants from 30 of the colonies were com-

pletely non-aggressive towards each other, but all instantly attacked and fought to the death ants from the other three colonies — part of a Catalonian splinter group.

At first, researchers thought the reason for their unusually passive behaviour was that they had a shared genetic inheritance, dating from the arrival of the first Argentine ants in Europe around 1920. But tests have now proved otherwise.

They now think the ants, finding plentiful food and no natural enemies in their new environment, found defending territory and fighting unrelated ants was no longer necessary. Over time, the genes used to tell a nest mate from a foreigner became less essential for survival and were bred out.

This left the members of the new

non-aggressive 'supercolony' able to build up large numbers of worker ants, undistracted by territorial wars, and thus gain a selective advantage over neighbouring ants.

Argentine ants are easily identified. Look out for:

- Wingless worker ants, two to three millimetres long and light to dark honey-brown in colour.
- Trails of ants of five or more ants wide. Most other ants march in single file.
- Ants travelling up buildings and trees or across washing lines. Again this is rare in other ants.

# Monaco condemns 'tax haven' report

**THE Monaco government has responded swiftly to an OECD report that accuses it of refusing to cooperate with international efforts to reduce tax evasion.**

The report includes Monaco in a list of the world's seven most uncooperative tax havens, alongside Andorra, Liberia, Liechtenstein, the Marshall Islands, Nauru and Vanuatu.

"The Principality is unable to understand the reasons why it is subject to a treatment different

from that applied to neighbouring countries", an official statement complained — whilst confirming that the "Monaco authorities emphasise again their intent to pursue the dialogue maintained for more than three years with OECD on these issues".

The OECD published its first list of havens in 2000, naming and shaming countries which keep residents' financial affairs secret from international tax investigators.

Since then, Monaco has taken

steps to open up its records, including measures to stop money laundering, the funding of terrorist groups and insider dealing.

The Principality's statement points out that the OECD does not currently have a concrete definition of what a tax haven actually is.

And it is only by April 2003, the statement says, that "OECD members themselves will need to have made a decision as to the terms and conditions of exchange of tax information."

## Sharon Stone and DiCaprio in Cannes

**THE traditional array of top film stars will be at the Cannes Film Festival this month.**

Woody Allen makes his first trip to the festival to support his latest film *Hollywood Ending*, chosen as the opening night film.

Matt Damon and Bryan Adams will perform live on stage at the screening of Dreamworks' new animated movie *Spirit*, for which Adams wrote the score.

The judging panel is chaired this year by British director David Lynch. Also coming are Sharon Stone, director Martin Scorsese, Cameron Diaz, Leonardo di Caprio, Jack Nicholson, Antonio Banderas, Adam Sandler, Ralph Fiennes, Rosanna and Patricia Arquette, Sandra Bullock and Jeremy Irons.

## Streuth! Antibes gets Aussie pub

**TWO new watering holes are to open in Antibes, including the Riviera's first ever Australian theme pub.**

The Australian Bar, which features a giant stuffed crocodile guzzling a can of Fosters, will open at the end of the month on the corner of Rue November 11 and Avenue de la Liberation.

The pub's lower ground floor will be a nightclub, catering for around 70.

And next month, a new wine bar — one of a chain opening along the coast — will also welcome drinkers. The Colonial will serve lunches featuring modern international cuisine.

Its manager Simon Beaumont was previously a bartender at the next door Hopstore in Vieil Antibes.



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Flash cash, beautiful people and speed – the 60th Monaco Grand Prix on May 26 will have it all. But did you know it started as a humble bicycle race? Jason Keable looks at what makes Monaco's Grand Prix so special...

# The Ultimate Rush

## GRAND PRIX TICKET GIVEAWAY!

YOU CAN WIN a pair of Grand Prix tickets with The Riviera Gazette! To enter, tell us who won the 2001 Monaco Grand Prix – the first correct answer drawn from the editor's hat on May 20th wins two tickets for the Rocher section on race day. To enter, write to:  
**Schumacher Competition,**  
*The Riviera Gazette,*  
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 or email [Schumi@TheRivieraGazette.com](mailto:Schumi@TheRivieraGazette.com). Remember to include your name, address and phone number.



**Abridged Competition Rules** Winner will be the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random at 1pm on May 20th. Prize will be delivered by mail, or by courier at winner's option and expense. The editor's decision is final; no correspondence will be entered into. Winner's name will be published in the June issue of TRG. Winner consents to name and photo appearing in publicity material. No cash alternative available. Total prize value is €100.



FRONT RUNNER... Michael Schumacher leads the pack around the famous hairpin bend by the Monte Carlo Grand Hotel in 2001

THIS month the ultimate event in the automobile world, the Monaco Grand Prix, will thrill millions worldwide with its unique blend of glamour and speed.

It will be the sixtieth run of the race which is unrivalled for sheer thrills and high-octane viewing. Part of its appeal is that it is the only event in the Formula One calendar with a street circuit so spectators can live the race, complete with burning rubber and deafening engines, just metres from the track.

In fact it is the closest a crowd can get to such a race anywhere in the world. This proximity and the winning combination of money, social cachet and the fastest cars in the world mean 34,000 spectators will pay between €40 and €400 each for tickets, all of which sold out more than a month ago.

There are also the many, often companies entertaining clients, who hire or use their own private balconies from the apartments that line the circuit.

The latter option has become so popular that rules have been set restricting the number of spectators on balconies to avoid a potential disaster from too much weight as people crowd on to glimpse the cars haring round at speeds of up to 180mph.

And unusually for a sporting event, many hope it will rain as a slippery track adds a touch of the unexpected.

Surprisingly, considering the average rainfall for the region, the sporting season here does usually begin with a shower or six and, true to form, the Monte-Carlo Tennis Masters again was hit by rain last month.

A downpour can make things much more exciting. The narrow street circuit means overtaking is extremely difficult – the tunnel offers the only realistic opportunity – so your qualifying position is crucial.

If the track is dry and you start in pole position then only a bad mistake or technical failure in the 78 laps will deny you the win. But wet weather

## There is no where to to the drive

means more errors and an incident-packed two hours.

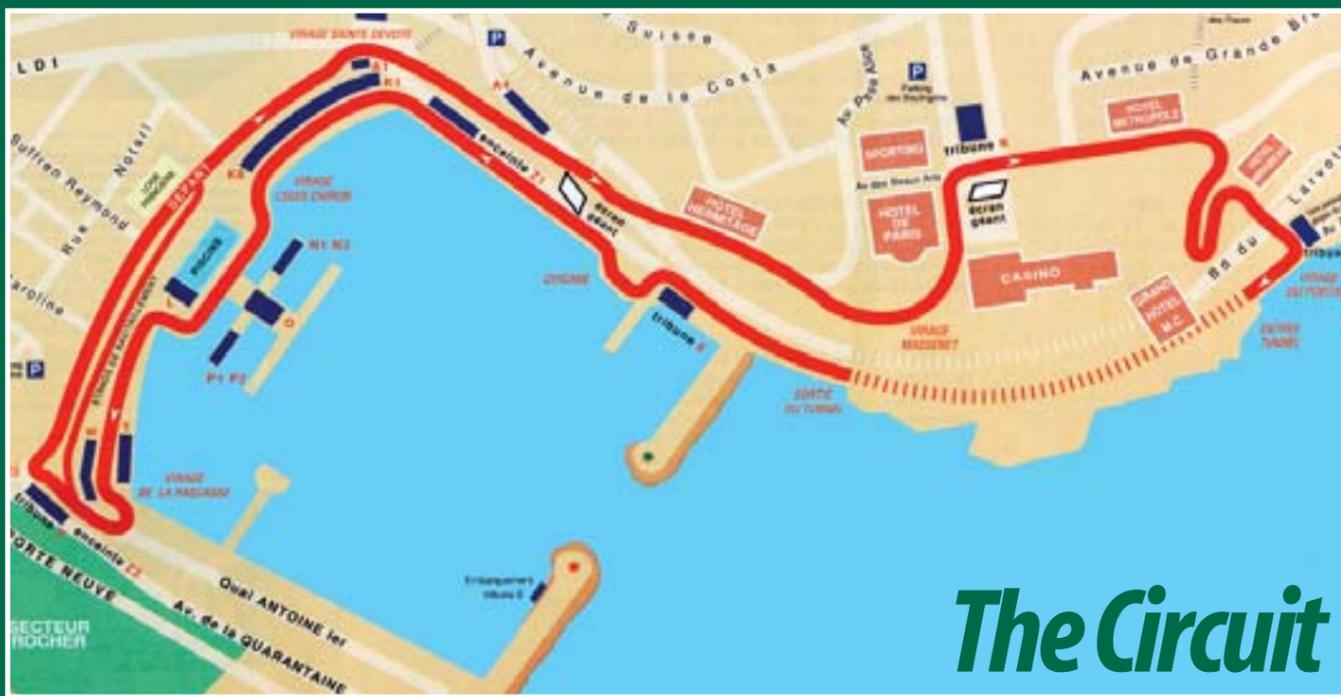
Few of those watching, though, will know that the glamorous event of today has its roots in a humble bicycle race.

On August 26, 1890, under the reign of SAS le Prince Albert 1ere, 21 bicycle enthusiasts created 'le Sport Velocipedique Monegasque.'

Four years later the first automobile race took place, run from Paris to Rouen. The motor car made its official entry into the SVM on August 28, 1907 and two years later, the president of the SAVM (Automobile and Vélocipedique), Alexandre Noghes, hit on the idea of launching the first car



# ate



rally of Monte-Carlo. It was held in mid-Winter, a time that would really test the cars' fledgling brakes in tough conditions.

Thus the first 'Rallye Automobile de Monte-Carlo' was run in January 1911. A few years later in 1925 it became clear that automobiles were all the rage and the SAVM dropped its cyclists and the Automobile Club de Monaco was formed. The club still bears the name today.

But there was a small snag. It was refused entry to the International

people gradually but surely erect the 32km of safety rails, 700 tons of grandstands and put out the 5,330 tyres that make up the protection walls.

There is also the work that goes into preparing and painting the roads and putting up 15,000 square metres of wire fencing.

On the day 220 firemen line the track as well as 60 doctors, 40 nurses and 120 other first-aid workers. There is also a separate medical team for spectators made up of 10 doctors, 20 nurses and 175 other first-aid workers.

## other track in the world the crowd is so close ers. Monaco is THE race.

Automobile club because no car race actually took place on its territory.

So Anthony Noghes – son of earlier mentioned Alexandre – and a racing driver, Louis Chiron, designed the course through the streets of Monaco.

On April 14, 1929, Prince Louis 2nd presided over the first Monaco Grand Prix. The configuration of the original circuit has barely changed since.

The ACM now has 4,100 members from all over the world. The Fiat 500 club and the Ferrari club have their official seat within its luxurious premises, as do many others.

The preparation for the race is huge as the streets are turned into an arena for the big day. Within six weeks 300

There are no changes to the 3.367km track this year apart from extra steel grilling around the harbour on the first left hand turn after the tunnel.

However there are plans to extend the Quai Albert 1er over the next four years to make more space for the teams' pit areas as well as a new grandstand offering a view from the harbour side.

With the narrow and twisting street track mixed with the heady atmosphere of the beautiful and the powerful, the rich and the refined, the sweat and screech of burning rubber, the Monaco Grand Prix is the highlight of the motor sports year. It is quite simply THE race.

# No tickets? Try the Historic – it's great fun and cheaper

**IF YOU haven't got or can't afford Formula 1 tickets, try the 3rd Monaco Historic Grand Prix on May 18 and 19.**

This return to the golden age of racing is one of the big events of the season and a great race day at a fraction of the price of the Formula One event. Another big plus is that you won't face huge crowds. The race, which takes

place every two years, has seven classes ranging from pre-1934 two-seater Grand Prix cars to pre-1979 three-litre Formula One machines.

It is run round the same circuit as the main Grand Prix. And when the cars are not roaring round spectators can view them in the paddock at this much more relaxed event.

For pure nostalgia and thrills and

spills excitement this is unbeatable – and it tends to be more action-packed too, since the older cars can be pushed to their limits on the circuit.

Tickets cost €15 for anywhere on the course on Saturday, and €30 on Sunday. More information from the ACM on 00 377 93 15 26 00.

A novel way to get a glimpse of top Formula One drivers in action comes on May 21st when they battle it out with HSH Prince Albert's celebrity team in a charity football match at the Stade Garavan in Menton. Kick off is at 7pm.

Another event to note for your diary is the Monte-Carlo rally for classic cars which will run from Prague to the principality from September 17 to 23.

It is part of celebrations for Prince Rainier's 25 year jubilee. This romantic race, featuring many beautiful and priceless cars, was first run in 1974.

But, if you prefer a quieter race then look out for the 'Rendez-Vous Monte-Carle Electrique' early next year, when a host of electric cars will thrash it out.

Electric cars are so encouraged in Monaco that the state will pick up a third of the cost for any resident buying one new.

Check future issues of *The Gazette* for the date and time.



CLASSIC CARS ... See racers like these, pictured at the start of the 1950 Monaco Grand Prix

Coffee Time

# STARS

with TV's John Garland



May 2002

## AQUARIUS

20 January–18 February

Your deepest source of inspiration will be your own home and family. Focus your mind on renewing whatever can add to your well-being and creative flair. Shake off your need for total independence and give others the joy of being an important part of your world. All this will strengthen your hand when it comes to dealing with certain complex obstacles. After the 26th, follow fresh winds of opportunity and let events guide you.

## PISCES

19 February–20 March

Set your healing harmonies to work, because more than once you'll have to tackle other people's unhelpful moods. Even so, you will be able to rely on the support of those who have your interests at heart. The planets also suggest that you put family and domestic priorities first. Mention Venus, and most people visualise a goddess of good fortune. If you're single, this delightful planet will boost romance after the 20th.

## ARIES

21 March–20 April

Champion your best qualities. Once you realise that you have firm support, you'll find the confidence to triumph over minor and major hassles. Work will be confusing, but you'll still outsmart the opposition. Just keep a flexible outlook rather than force anything. Work problems out as you go along and you won't be left with a lot of loose ends. After the 20th, there will be plenty to look forward to.

## TAURUS

21 April–20 May

Your goals will be blocked only if you lose your temper, especially between the 3rd and 5th. Be sure to be patient and reinforce your determination to control any feelings of disappointment. Try to ride-out any financial hurdles, and obviously curb any extravagant temptations. Property, business or any home-based projects are progressively started. After the 22nd you should be well on the way towards some special treats and surprises.

## GEMINI

21 May–20 June

The weave of fate creates intensely changeable personal and social patterns. Your advantages lie in sorting out hands-on tasks, exploring new ideas and broadening your career horizon. If you're single, romantic quests will be both intriguing and exciting. You'll be on the move in more ways than one, and the responses you receive will open you up to some tantalising possibilities. However, your real happiness comes from keeping things simple and well organised.

## CANCER

21 June–20 July

Make difficulties an excuse for getting on with better things. Remember that if you feel refreshed, you'll look marvellous! Try a meditation class, or a lively keep-fit course. Go all out for whatever makes you a more complete individual. In turn, your personal happiness will overflow. All these things will help to offset what could otherwise prove to be a highly challenging month. If you're unattached, then switch on your charisma after the 20th!

## LEO

21 July–21 August

Turn on your powerful Leo spotlight and make an impact. Any change of scene will be a happy one, and there's every chance that a new involvement will work wonders for your ego! Although you will have to work extra hard, expect to be rewarded. Also, promote creative ideas, outdoor activities and everything linked with domestic changes. This month will definitely set the groundwork for an important career decision. Meanwhile, handle any emotional upsets with extreme care.

## VIRGO

22 August–22 September

Don't get trapped between two worlds, and whatever starts to zigzag, refuse to panic, particularly between the 8th and 11th. At home, you will need to budget carefully for decorating, repairs or any kind of reorganisation. Get rid of your Virgo insecurities by striking out in other directions. You never know when your next stroke of luck is coming. In fact, much will happen, provided you make the most of your free time.

## LIBRA

23 September–22 October

Look your best, do your best and you'll attract the right attention. That's not all. Be enterprising and a lot more of your aims will start to fit together. Although your charm always wins hands down, you still worry about what others think of you. This is a powerful month for personal, social and career experiences. There's a go-ahead feel to things, but watch out for those who make instant promises.

## SCORPIO

23 October–22 November

Mistakes, delays and crises always make the world more interesting. Which is why it's so important that you're a little more philosophical about May's downsides. Hindsight shows that you haven't been doing too badly. It's now time to cross another bridge. Waiting for the right advantage is another way of keeping control. You might have a long wait, although positive action, diplomacy, and faith in yourself will keep the wheels ongoing.

## SAGITTARIUS

23 November–20 December

There is never one single way of seeing things. Likewise, there is no one truth. What matters is that your own experiences are helping you to make sense of your wishes. Pressures build from all kinds of people and places. Bide your time and be adaptable, so that specific projects, financial issues and one-to-one relationships can be ironed out effectively. This is not to say that you can't succeed — just play it cool.

## CAPRICORN

21 December–19 January

Although you rarely mix business with pleasure, you are one of the few signs that can get away with it. The planets greet you with welcome news on the work front. However, allow any significant changes to take their course. Also, follow your instincts where financial matters are concerned. Whatever happens in the short-term, it won't affect your long-term prospects. If you're single, there's a twinkling of hope for your romantic adventures.

## Hagar the Horrible

by Chris Browne



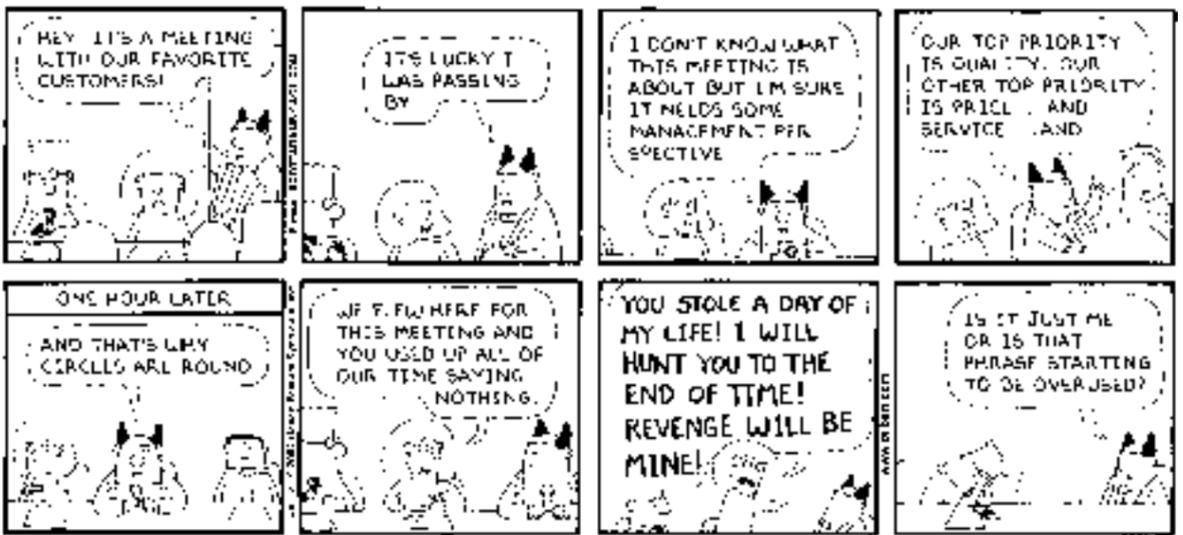
## Pooch Café

by Paul Gilligan



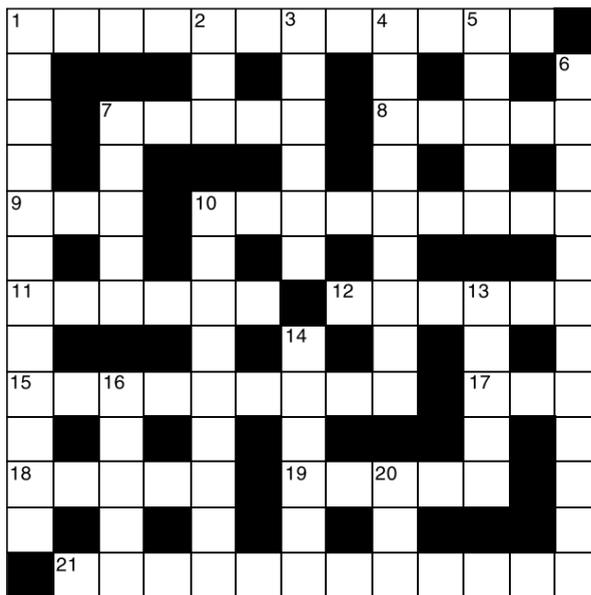
## Dilbert

by Scott Adams



## DOUBLE CROSSWORD

No 10,004



### CRYPTIC CLUES

#### ACROSS

1. It gives an impression of permanence (9,3)
7. Deck that is trouble to the Royal Navy (5)
8. Mistake most terrorists make (5)
9. By way of a Roman road (3)
10. How a mill-hand will tell a story? (4,1,4)
11. Book of the year (6)
12. It stiffens charts perhaps (6)
15. It's essential, if you wish to speak French (2,7)
17. An attempt in the past (3)
18. Expect some delay (5)
19. It's in our blood (5)
21. It's played for someone's benefit (7,5)

#### DOWN

1. When all is fair (2,4,3,3)
2. Sign nothing beneath the French (3)
3. Outlaw a musical group who are with it! (6)
4. Always late to end a fairy tale (4,5)
5. It's standard with a girl's name (5)
6. Tongues add lustre (6,6)
7. A win, not for the first time (5)
10. Real thugs may make a killing (9)
13. A kingdom not fancied by many (5)
14. A service the teetotaler takes comfort in! (3-3)
16. Stretch — of river (5)
20. I'm right above the margin (3)

### SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLE 10,003

**QUICK**  
**Across:** 4 Titular; 8 Openly; 9 Appease; 10 Napkin; 11 Theory; 12 Converse; 18 Dethrone; 20 Grouse; 21 Credit; 22 Perfume; 23 Virago; 24 Restore.  
**Down:** 1 Connect; 2 Serpent; 3 Sluice; 5 Impotent; 6 Uneven; 7 Assert; 13 Redeemer; 14 Cordial; 15 Festoon; 16 Grieve; 17 Outfit; 19 Hermit.

**CRYPTIC**  
**Across:** 4 Lash Out; 8 Elope; 9 Minimum; 10 Geyser; 11 Anelid; 12 Transept; 18 Abdicate; 20 Give up; 21 Snores; 22 Elastic; 23 Grocer; 24 Seepage.  
**Down:** 1 Weights; 2 Holy war; 3 Sewers; 5 Agitated; 6 Hailed; 7 Unused; 13 Elapsing; 14 Bar-rack; 15 Measure; 16 Gillie; 17 Sets Up; 19 Ignore.

The grids are the same, but the answers are different. Have fun!

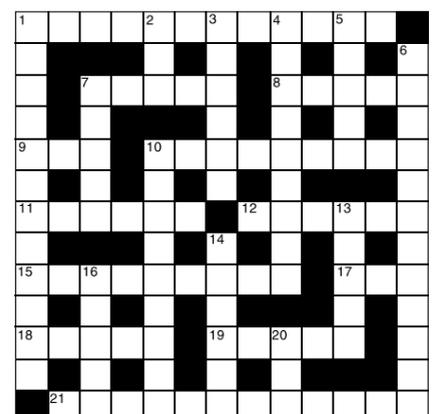
### QUICK CLUES

#### ACROSS

1. Infectious disease (7,5)
7. Afterwards (5)
8. Fence of bushes (5)
9. Tavern (3)
10. Led astray (9)
11. Song-bird (6)
12. Mark of disgrace (6)
15. Troubled (9)
17. Ovum (3)
18. Object (5)
19. Overturn (5)
21. A brother, for example (4,8)

#### DOWN

1. Deprive of simplicity (12)
2. Allow (3)
3. Castigate (6)
4. Tired out (9)
5. Finished (5)
6. Tongue no longer spoken (4,8)
7. Passenger-ship (5)
10. Envoy (9)
13. Large (5)
14. Last (6)
16. Din (5)
20. Ocean (3)



# RIVIERA PEOPLE



MEET THE AUTHOR... Eoin McNamee with pupils from the Lycée Albert 1er. He gave them a reading of his story 'The Lion Alone'

## Pupils quiz Irish writer

IRISH contemporary writer Eoin McNamee recently read his short story, *The Lion Alone*, to pupils from Monaco's Lycée Albert 1er. The 16 and 17 year-olds have studied it in class and enjoyed the chance to quiz the writer about his style and inspiration. Student Marine Tarditi said: "He shared with us the magic of his writing. Meeting this illustrious author was brilliant." The visit was held at the Princess Grace Irish Library. McNamee is the first to win a bursary from The Ireland Fund of Monaco which lets writers and academics work at the library.



CYBER CAFE PARTNERSHIP... Blue Water's Peter Bennett and artist Michael Sanders

## GET THE PICTURE AS YOU SURF THE NET

MORE than 100 people attended a champagne reception to mark the opening of a new cyber-café combined with a gallery in Antibes last week.

Crew@thegalerie is the brain-child of Blue Water Yachting's managing director Peter Bennett, who hit on the idea when he bought a painting of Valbonne which now takes pride of place at the new venture in the Galerie du Port.

"When I saw Michael Sanders' paintings I knew immediately that I wanted to exhibit his work and, as we were already planning the cyber-café, the combination seemed perfect," said Mr Bennett.

Artist Sanders, 42, moved to Valbonne from Norfolk 18 months ago for a "change of lifestyle." The works on show at the cyber-café are for sale.

## BEACHES, PEACHES AND ALIEN FEATURES

### Busy month for British Associations

THREE local branches of the British Association have had a busy month with a sponsored paddle, new chairman and behind-the-scenes look at acting.

Eight plucky members of the Var branch waded in with true Brit grit – complete with hankies on their heads – to test the waters in Les Issambres to raise funds. Up to 50 family and friends cheered them on.

The Cannes branch welcomed James Buchanan-Jardine as its new president. His mother, Lady Buchanan-Jardine, was branch president for 16 years. The 56-year-old recently retired from investment banking in London to plant a peach farm at the family home in Mouans Sartoux.

And in Nice, members enjoyed lunch at the Riviera Studios followed by a talk from actor Ben Benison, a former RADA teacher. He is a specialist acting movement director who has worked with the RSC. He was an advisor on the first *Alien* movie, where he taught the actor that played the alien how to move like a monster.



DILLIE... loved the Antibes audience

## Dillie dallies in Antibes

SINGER-SONGWRITER and comedienne Dillie Keane thrilled sell-out audiences at the Antibes Theatre last week with her trademark mix of vulnerability and strength.

From 'Pudding in the Ritz' to 'Go back to Surabaya, Johnny' and the tragi-comedic 'Back with You', Ms Keane held the audience spellbound in one of Red Pear Theatre's most memorable productions to date.

"Playing to small audiences can be quite difficult," Ms Keane told *The Riviera Gazette*, "but here in Antibes they were up for it, ready to enjoy themselves."



WADING IN... Var branch members lap up a sponsored paddle at Les Issambres, near Frejus



PEACHES AND DREAM... New Cannes Branch President James Buchanan-Jardine, who has retired from banking to plant a peach farm in Mouans Sartoux, with regional chairman Valerie Haxton



MOVING TALK... Nice branch members Hugh Mitford-Raymond, left, and Josephine Fellows with actor Ben Benison, who gave a talk on his work as a movement advisor for actors

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CMYK

Photos: TRG/Mike Clark, Charles Franch, Couples of photos may be ordered on 04 93 09 66 43.

# Pick of the month

The Riviera Gazette's guide to unmissable events in the month ahead



DEMILLE... up against 'The Wizard of Oz'

## Canned Cannes runs at last

CECIL B DeMille's film *Union Pacific*, due to be in competition at the first Film Festival in September 1939, finally gets a chance to compete at Cannes this year.

The outbreak of World War II meant the festival had to be cancelled and no awards were given out. This year, the organisers plan to put that right and are showing the original 1939 selection in competition for a special award. *Union Pacific* faces stiff opposition; 1939 was a bumper year. The selection also includes *The Wizard of Oz* and *Goodbye Mr Chips*.

# YES, YOU CAN CANNES

AN OPEN air cinema on the beach and free showings of ninety films are on offer to the public during this year's Cannes Film Festival, held from May 16 to 26.

The organisers have been criticised by locals for disrupting the town's daily life and offering nothing in return. The free showings are part of a bid to make them feel less excluded from this predominantly invitation only, trade event.

The innovative Salle des Sables looks set to offer an unbeatable cinematic experience. A giant cinema screen is to be set up in the water off Macé beach, next to the Palais des Festivals. It will show free movies to the general public over both weekends of the festival.

During the first weekend, May 17 to 20, it will show a series of Jacques Tati films each evening, to mark the 20th anniversary of his death.

The following weekend will have a tribute to Billy Wilder plus screenings of all the In Competition short films.

Tickets to see sixty films from the official selection and 30 films from other parts of the festival are being made available by Cannes Cinéphiles. The films will be shown at three



PRESS PACKED... sure, they're all in town, but it can be hard to get past the minders and photographers to get a glimpse of stars like George Clooney, above

venues in Cannes the day after they get their official presentations.

To get a ticket, visit the Cannes Cinéphiles information desk in the square in front of the Palais des Festivals. Day passes are given away free of charge on a first come, first served basis.

A handful of passes for official Film Festival screenings are also given out to the general public.

Two free concerts will also be open

to the general public. The Cannes PACA orchestra give a performance at Palm Beach on May 16, featuring the work of the world's top film score writers.

Ennio Moricone, one of the musicians whose work is featured in the concert, will be attending.

On the afternoon of May 19, a second concert will be held at the music kiosk by the Mairie, featuring music from the films of Jacques Tati.

# Not your average market

THE Cannes Film Festival attracts 30,000 industry professionals and a total of 200,000 visitors. It costs €6 million to put on – but brings €115 million into the local economy.

The famous part of the Cannes Film Festival, where the best international films made in the past year compete for the coveted Palme d'Or, is just one small part of the festival fortnight. Whilst the main festival provides the glitter and glamour, it is the Cannes Market that most visitors are here for.

This is where the film industry buys and sells movies and producers, directors, screen writers and studios seek funding for new projects.

450 sales companies pack the 8,000 square metre Riviera Business Centre, the Palais des Congrès and the hotels lining the Croisette. At the

International Village, 17 pavilions showcase the facilities, locations and films of countries from Turkey to South Africa and Canada to the Netherlands.

Competing for the Palme d'Or this year are 21 films from 15 countries. After failing to win any places in the competition last year, British film makers have three films this year; Mike Leigh's *All or Nothing*, Ken Loach's *Sweet Sixteen* and Michael Winterbottom's *24 Hour Party People*.

Three American films are also in competition. Michael Moore's anti-gun culture documentary *Bowling for Columbine*, Alexander Payne's *About Schmidt*, which Jack Nicholson is coming to Cannes to promote, and Paul Thomas Anderson's *Punch-Drunk Love*, starring Adam Sandler.

Roman Polanski's *The Pianist* has

also made it into the competition, along with four French films.

The judging panel, which includes actress Sharon Stone, is chaired by director David Lynch.

The official selection of the festival committee also includes an opening film, Woody Allen's *Hollywood Ending*, a short films competition, the Cinéfondation selection of international films by film school students plus a further selection of Out of Competition films.

This year's Retrospective focuses on the golden age of American comedy, featuring over thirty classic films from the 1930s and 1940s. Additionally, three Andy Warhol productions get showings on May 19th.

Also on the agenda are Directors' Fortnight and International Critic's Week.

# Anyone for Cricket?

TWO local cricket clubs are looking for new members.

Cricket enthusiasts of all ages are invited to play with the **Cabris Cricket Club** at their home ground in St Vallier, near Grasse. Games are held most weekends during the summer.

The club also organises practice sessions for children aged 8-14, held every Sunday morning from 10am to noon at Mougins school.

Graham Kelsey is the contact point for the Cabris Cricket Club, on 04 93 14 18 96.

The **Monaco Cricket Club** is also seeking players of all ages to join them at their picturesque grounds in Levens, off the route de Digne towards Isola.

Captain Nic Tomas insists that neither skill nor fitness are necessary and the club has a "heavy emphasis on a social Sunday atmosphere" with lunch provided at all games.

The next game will be held on 2nd June and anyone interested in joining in should call Nic on 04 93 95 00 07.

Other clubs in the region are Entrecasteaux, Provence and Montpellier, and nearly 40 cricket teams now play in France.



HOT OUTDOORS... Norwegian actress Tanya Hansen poses at the Noga Hilton before last year's Hot d'Or award ceremony

After 10 years, the organisers of the official festival may have got their way and run the Hot d'Or awards, a fringe event that celebrates X-rated movies and their stars, out of town. The event has always proved a draw for the media as well-known adult movie stars appear for photocalls (left) but neither the official festival nor the city of Cannes welcome this type of attention. Last year some 400 guests were hustled out of one big hotel during a press lunch for an X-rated video distributor after the city reportedly put pressure on the hotel to close down the event. Electricity, food and drinks were cut off in the middle of the reception as security guards moved everyone out onto the street. At the time of going to press, *The Gazette* couldn't ascertain whether or not Hot d'Or is running this year – but then perhaps we don't move in the right circles.

THE programmes for the **Nice Jazz Festival** and **Jazz à Juan** have been announced and ticket offices are now open.

This year's Nice Jazz Festival runs from July 20 to 27. On the bill are BB King, Ike Turner, Dave Stewart, Yannick Noah, Sister Sledge, Marianne Faithful and Angélique Kidjo. Day passes cost €30 for adults, €7 for children and a full festival pass is available for €152. Tickets can be purchased from Fnac, Carrefour, Nice tourist office and over the internet at [www.fnac.com](http://www.fnac.com). The full programme is available on the festival website at [www.nicejazzfest.com](http://www.nicejazzfest.com).

The 42nd Jazz à Juan festival runs from July 16 to 23. The event takes place in Juan-les-Pins's Pinèdes park, overlooking the sea. On the programme are Joe Cocker, Lucky Petersen, Keith Jarrett, Wynton Marsalis and Didier Lockwood.

GRASSE hosts its 31st international rose exhibition from May 8-12. **ExpoRose 2002** takes place in venues across the town and parades are held every day between 10am and noon, with acrobats, musicians, jugglers and clowns. The town will be bedecked with flowers.

Thousands of roses will be on display at the Villa-Musée Fragonard, renowned for its beautiful gardens, and roses from the region's top growers, amongst the best in the world, will be on sale at the Jardin des Plantes.

There are further rose exhibitions at Cours Honoré Cresp, at the Cathédrale Notre Dame du Puy and at the Chapelle de l'Oratoire. The Musée International de la Parfumerie will host an exhibition on the role of roses in perfume making.

AMATEUR photographers keen to improve their skills can join in a **three day photography workshop** in Antibes from May 21 to 23.

Hans Fleischner's Visual Discovery Tour will improve your technique, but more importantly aims to develop your eye for a good photo opportunity. The tour takes in nature, a stroll through Vieil Antibes, everyday scenes, local people and both the usual and the unusual.

The group is limited to eight people and the cost is €230 for the three days. Call Hilary King on 04 93 61 01 71 for information.

THE Grand Prix season kicks off in Monaco on May 18 with the **3rd Grand Prix de Monte-Carlo Historique**.

There's also the **Formula One Grand Prix** on May 26th – but tickets are sold out – and a **charity football match** featuring Formula 1 drivers against a celebrity team at Menton's Stade Garavan on May 21. For more details, including a chance to win a pair of Grand Prix tickets, see page 8.

A THREE day **Medieval Festival** is being held in St Martin Vesubie from May 18 to 20.

The event includes a medieval market, demonstrations of sword play and men at arms, bears, wolves and falconry. There'll also be banquets, processions, music, dance and a chance to have a go at sword fighting and archery. A 'period fireworks display' follows the Saturday night banquet.

THE highlight of the Sophia social calendar, the **8th Annual Sophia Games**, take place from June 1 to 21. Open to anyone working or studying in the park, last year 6,700 people participated in 27 events. To join in, visit [www.jeuxdesophia.com](http://www.jeuxdesophia.com) or call 04 92 95 64 01.

# What's on

Your guide to this month's events on the Riviera

Plenty happens on the Riviera, but how often have you only heard about something *after* the event? You need never miss out again with The Riviera Gazette's comprehensive diary listings...

## Listings

### Info for readers...

- ◆ before a day shows the event's final day.
- after a listing signifies the last day of an event.

### Info for contributors...

Please submit listings in writing at least ten days before publication. Please include dates, prices, times and a contact phone number. Listings can be sent by post or fax (04 93 09 66 53) or by email to [diary@theriviergazette.com](mailto:diary@theriviergazette.com). Listings appear free of charge, but inclusion is at the sole discretion of the listings editor.

## May 2002

### 8 Wednesday

**Public Holiday** 57th Anniversary of Liberation Day. Ceremonies will be held at war memorials across the country today to mark the liberation of France in 1945.

**ExpoRose 2002** The 31st Grasse international rose exhibition runs until May 12th. Exhibitions, parades, demonstrations and specialist rose sales take place around the town. Tel: 04 93 36 66 66 ◆ May 12

**Marché Coarazienne** 19th annual walk in Coaraze, 25km from Nice in the Paillon valley. All ages are welcome and there's a choice of 12, 23 or 29km walks. The walks depart from Place Alexandre below the village at 8.00 and 10.00. The €6 entry cost includes a post-walk buffet and refreshments in the town centre's Place du Château. Tel: 04 93 79 34 54

**Car Boot Sale** In Bar Sur Loup from 07:00 to 18:00. Tel: 04 93 42 72 21

**Salon Antiquaires** Important antiques fair in Fayence, open daily from 10:00 to 19:00. Tel: 04 94 76 11 11 ◆ May 12

### 9 Thursday

**Public Holiday** Ascension

**Riviera Amateur Dramatic Association** RADA performs a set of three one-act plays at Mougins School tonight, tomorrow and Saturday. On the programme are *The Reading Group* by Fay Weldon, *Albert* by Richard Harris and *Ask A Silly Question* by Richard Tydeman. Tickets are €10 and can be purchased at the English Book Centre in Valbonne or by calling Lena Walsh on 04 97 01 08 94 ◆ May 11

**7th Festival de Levens** Amateur theatre festival, mostly in French, but including performances and activities for kids, puppet making, music and dance. Tel: 04 93 79 71 00 ◆ May 12

**52nd Festival International de Bridge** Bridge tournament at the Palais des Congrès, Juan Les Pins. Open pairs today until May 12, mixed pairs tournament on May 13 and 14. Tel: 04 93 61 28 99 ◆ May 14

**Top 50 Disco Party** Re-live the French 80's disco scene at the 'Top 50' disco night at the flamboyant and fun Le Klub on rue Halevy, Nice tonight. Tel: 06 60 55 26 61, [www.leklub.online.fr](http://www.leklub.online.fr)

**Fête des Mais** Cagnes-sur-Mer celebrates the start of Spring with a mass at the Église Notre Dame de la Mer in Cros de Cagnes at 17:30, followed by a procession through the streets to the Chapelle St Pierre and a folk music concert in Place Bérenger. Tel: 04 93 07 13 48

**Fête de la Saint Pons** Mandelieu-La Napoule celebrates its patron saint's day with a long weekend celebrating the town's cultural heritage. The activities kick off today with a treasure hunt at 08:00 and a children's pétanque tournament at 14:00. Tomorrow sees a belote tournament beginning at 14:00. On Saturday afternoon there's an adult boules tournament and performances by the Mouans-Sartoux accordion club and the evening sees a procession of Chinese lanterns, followed by fireworks in Place du Souvenir Français and a ball in Place Jeanne d'Arc. On Sunday, there is an open air mass at 10:00, followed by a traditional Saint's Day procession through the town. Tel: 04 93 49 95 31 ◆ May 12

**Course Pedestre** Guided walk from Gourdon to Pont du Loup, departs Gourdon at 08:00. Tel: 04 92 60 39 29

**British Association of Monaco** Get together at Le Bistoquet below the Metropole Hotel. New members always welcome. Tel: +377 93 50 19 52

**Journée de l'Europe** Three day festival in Vallauris including an exhibition of new European book releases, some English, and a gastronomic evening with a Sicilian flavour. Tel: 04 93 63 73 31

**Les Jardins dans la Cité** Gardening festival with flowers on sale and display, and the growers on hand to talk about gardening. In the old town of Vence all day from 08:00 to 18:00. Tel: 04 93 58 06 38 ◆ May 12

**ExpoRose 2002** See May 8

**Salon Antiquaires** See May 8

### 10 Friday

**Salon d'Artisanat d'Art** Exhibition of works by artists based in Villeneuve-Loubet at the town's Salle Escoffier from 10:00 to 19:00 daily. Tel: 04 93 73 18 13 ◆ May 12

**Doigts de Fée sur les Cordes de Soie** Lute and Sitar recital by Liu Fang, at the Musée des Arts Asiatiques, in Nice at 19:00. Tickets cost €7.60. Tel: 04 92 29 37 00

**The Joe Zawinul Syndicate** Jazz concert at the Cedac in Cimiez, Nice, at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 53 89 66

**Football: International Under 21s Tournament** The Under 21 teams from England, Brazil, China, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Japan compete at various locations across the region this week. England play Poland in Cannes tonight and Portugal in Toulon on May 12. Ireland play South Africa in Fréjus on May 13. On May 14, its England v Brazil and China v Portugal in Fréjus. The final is in Toulon on May 17. Tel: 04 92 19 50 50

**Table Tennis: Championnat de France de Tennis de Table** French championship competition at the Halle des Sports Charles Ehrmann in Nice. Tel: 04 93 18 00 52 ◆ May 12

**7th Festival de Levens** See May 9

**Riviera Amateur Dramatic Association** See May 9

**Fête de la Saint Pons** See May 9

**ExpoRose 2002** See May 8

**Les Jardins dans la Cité** See May 9

**Salon Antiquaires** See May 8

**52nd Festival International de Bridge** See May 9

### 11 Saturday

**AMIAC Luncheon** The Alpes Maritime International Aperitif Club gets together for its monthly lunch and aperitifs at Le Chamfagou restaurant in Tanneron. €37 for non-members – anyone interested in joining this energetic social club is always welcome. Call Anne or Doug Attwood on 04 92 97 50 72 for further information.

**Courcours de Danse de Salon** Ballroom dancing competition at Espace Jean Bunoz, Avenue Jules Grec, Antibes at 20:30. The audience will have a chance to get up and join in the dancing between each section of the competition. Tel: 04 93 74 23 84

**Concours de Boules** Bowls competition in Place General de Gaulle, Breil Sur Roya at 14:00. Tel: 04 93 04 91 05

**Classical Music Concert** Violinist G Antonini and pianist C Alcocer play Schubert, Grieg and Ravel at Salle St Exupery, Menton at 17:30. Entry is €7. Tel: 04 93 35 85 47

**6th Printemps Musical** Spring Music Festival in Mouans-Sartoux, starting at 19:00 in the château grounds and the village squares. A wide range of live music will be on offer including reggae, rock, jazz, blues, techno and pop. Free entry. Tel: 04 92 92 43 79

**Philharmonic Orchestra of Nice** Perform Haydn's Messe de la Ste Cecile at the Nice Opera House at 20:00. Tel: 04 92 17 40 40

**Fête de la St Antonin** Traditional local festival held in Route de Serres, St Paul de Vence from 17:00. Tel: 04 93 32 86 95

**Handball: Match de Gala** National II league match at Gymnase Granelle Villeneuve Loubet at 20:30. Tel: 04 93 20 20 48

**Fête du Nautisme** A chance to try out various watersports free of charge at the Centre Nautique in La Napoule from 10:00 to 18:00. Tel: 04 92 49 95 31 ◆ May 12

**Fête du Nautisme** Water sports festival in Beaulieu-sur-Mer. Tel: 04 93 01 14 44 ◆ May 12

**Fête du Nautisme** A chance to try out a range of water sports free of charge from the beaches and harbours of Antibes and Juan les Pins, courtesy of local sailing clubs and professionals. Water skiing, sailing, diving, kayaking and paragliding are on offer. Tel: 04 92 90 53 00 ◆ May 12

**Mountain Biking** Peille hosts a round of the French national championships from 09:00. Tel: 04 93 91 71 71 ◆ May 12

**FFG Gymnastique** Women's gymnastic competition at Espace Loisirs, Vallauris. Tel: 04 93 64 10 00 ◆ May 12

**Final Fantasy – Tek House Music Party** The Diabolik'A club, Cannes hosts a live music night featuring Terence Fixmer, DJ Steve D. Aka, DJ Spectrum, Peter Pan and Maxx T. Tel: 04 93 68 23 23

**7th Festival de Levens** See May 9

**Riviera Amateur Dramatic Association** See May 9

**Fête de la Saint Pons** See May 9

**ExpoRose 2002** See May 8

**Les Jardins dans la Cité** See May 9

**Table Tennis: Championnat de France de Tennis de Table** See May 10

**Salon Antiquaires** See May 8

**52nd Festival International de Bridge** See May 9

**Salon d'Artisanat d'Art** See May 10

### 12 Sunday

**Fête des Mères** Mother's Day

**Car Boot Sale** At the Ponteil car park, Antibes from 09:00 to 18:00 Tel: 04 92 90 53 00

**Fête Patronale de la St Pancrace** Gilette celebrates its patron saint's day. Tel: 04 93 08 57 19

**Concours de Pêche Intersociétaire** Fishing competition in the old port at Golfe Juan. Tel: 04 93 64 65 83

**Marché Brocance** Flea Market in Rue George Clemenceau, la Colle-sur-Loup from 09:00. Tel: 04 93 32 68 36

**Tourettissimo** Choral concert at the Eglise Paroissiale in Levens at 16:00. Tel: 04 93 79 71 10

**Coupe Repossi – Stableford** Golf tournament at the Monte-Carlo Golf Club. Tel: 04 92 41 50 70

**ABN Amro Cup** Golf tournament at Cannes Mougins Golf Club from 08:30. Tel: 04 93 75 79 13

**Fête de la Rose** Rose festival from 10:00 in Chemin San Peyre, Opio. Tel: 04 93 77 70 11

**Relais Raid** Track and field athletics competition at Esplanade Jean Gioan, Roquebrune Cap-Martin from 11:00-18:00. Tel: 04 92 10 91 26

**Fête de la Fleur Oranger** Orange flower festival with music, festivities and cooking demonstrations and competitions, including a free tasting of vin d'orange, in Vallauris old town. Tel: 04 93 63 82 58

**Fête de la St Isidor** Festival in Vence. Tel: 04 93 58 40 10

**Les Heures Musicales de la Cité** Classical guitar group Paradiso perform at the Théâtre de la Cité, Nice at 18:00. Entry costs €10 for adults, €5 for children Tel: 04 93 16 82 69

**Marché Gourmand** Specialist and traditional local food market at Place Marinoni, Beaulieu-sur-Mer from 07:00 to 16:00. Tel: 04 93 01 02 21

**Fête des Mais** May festival at the Arènes and the gardens of Cimiez, Nice today, May 19 and May 26. Tel: 04 97 13 21 21 ◆ May 26

**Rallye Story** Exhibition of rally cars from 1950 to the present at Espace Fontvieille, Monaco from 10:00 to 18:00. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16

**Mountain Biking** See May 11

**7th Festival de Levens** See May 9

**Fête de la Saint Pons** See May 9

**ExpoRose 2002** See May 8

**Les Jardins dans la Cité** See May 9

**Table Tennis: Championnat de France de Tennis de Table** See May 10

**Fête de Nautisme** La Napoule. See May 11

**Fête de Nautisme** Beaulieu-sur-Mer. See May 11

**Fête de Nautisme** Antibes/Juan-les-Pins. See May 11

**FFG Gymnastique** See May 11

**Salon Antiquaires** See May 8

**Football: International Under 21s Tournament** See May 10

**52nd Festival International de Bridge** See May 9

**Salon d'Artisanat d'Art** See May 10

### 13 Monday

**Laureus World Sports Awards** The world's top sportsmen and women are in Monaco today and tomorrow for the prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards ◆ May 14

**Football: International Under 21s Tournament** See May 10

**52nd Festival International de Bridge** See May 9

### 14 Tuesday

**Laureus World Sports Awards** See May 13

**Football: International Under 21s Tournament** See May 10

**52nd Festival International de Bridge** See May 9

### 15 Wednesday

**Valbonne International Film Festival** Features some VO (version original) films. Tel: 04 93 12 91 88

### 16 Thursday

**Cannes Film Festival** The world's premier film industry festival opens today and runs until May 26. See *Pick of the Month*, opposite, for details ◆ May 26

**Journée de la Préhistoire** The Musée d'Anthropologie Préhistorique, Monaco celebrates its 100th anniversary today with a programme of events including a guided visit to a fossilized grotto near Ventimiglia. Tel: +377 93 15 80 06

**Salon des Antiquaires** Antiques show at the Gymnasium, St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat. Tel: 04 93 76 51 00 ◆ May 20

### 17 Friday

**Classic Car Auction** Classic race and street cars go under the hammer at the Grimaldi Forum, Monaco. Tel: +1 480 421 6694

**Astronomy** Watch Venus pass in front of the sun, at the planetarium in Eze/La Trinité at 18:00. Tel: 04 93 85 85 58

**La Vie Parisienne** Offenbach's opera performed at the Salle des Variétés, Monaco at 20:30. Tel: +377 92 166 116

**Jazz Music** At the Salle Escoffier in Villeneuve Loubet at 21:00. Tel: 04 92 02 60 50

**Football: Cannes v Valance** French national championship match at Stade Pierre de Coubertin, Cannes at 20:00. Tel: 04 92 19 50 50

**Cannes Film Festival** See May 16

**Salon des Antiquaires** See May 16

**Football: International Under 21s Tournament** See May 10

### 18 Saturday

**3rd Grand Prix de Monte-Carlo Historique** All the thrills and spills of the Formula 1 Grand Prix, but none of the crowds and high prices. Today is test day for tomorrow's seven races featuring Grand Prix cars as old as pre-1934 and as recent as pre-1979. Tickets cost €15 today and €30 tomorrow, children under 15 go free. Tel: +377 93 15 26 00 ◆ May 19

**Toi et Moi** 4.3km run through Mouans-Sartoux, for couples only, starting at 18:00. Tel: 04 93 75 75 16

**5th American Freedom** Harley Davidson motorcycle owners' rally at the Théâtre de la Mer Jean Marais, Golfe Juan. Organised by the Cannes chapter of the Harley Owners Group. Games, concerts, western show and tattoo parade. Entry costs €10 for bikers for the three days, €7 per day for other visitors. Tel: 06 63 14 96 63 ◆ May 20

**Expo Cactus** Cactus exhibition at the Jardin Exotique, Monaco. Tel: +377 92 05 79 96 ◆ May 20

**Basketball: Antibes v Strasbourg** Pro A national championship match at Espace Jean Bunoz, Antibes at 20:00. Tel: 04 93 33 32 32

**Miss Beaulieu** Will be elected at La Rotonde, Beaulieu-sur-Mer tonight at 21:00. Free entry. Tel: 04 93 01 02 21

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## Riviera Diary

**Fête du Pain** Pizza, socca and other local specialties around Iloise town's communal oven, plus a boules competition and other festivities. Tel: 04 93 02 03 49

**Soirée Music Hall** Musicians cover everything from Jazz to Britney Spears and Celine Dion at the Salle du Jeu de Paume, La Colle Sur Loup at 20:30. Entry costs €10. Tel: 04 93 32 06 62

**The Darius Milhaud Quartet** Chamber music concert, featuring works by Mozart, Milhaud and Brahms at the Mamac Auditorium, Nice at 16:30 Tel: 04 92 17 40 40

**Cérémonie de l'Encens** The Kamijikai group from Tokyo demonstrate a traditional incense ceremony at the Musée des Arts Asiatiques, Nice at 15:00. Tel: 04 92 29 37 00

**Che Keba, Femme Afghane** Contemporary dance performance by C Casse, Cie Cas 5 at the Cadrans Solaires theatre, Vence at 21:00. Tel: 04 92 13 28 06

**Fête des Jeunes** Festival for teenagers in Villeneuve-Loubet, including a karaoke concert and Playstation 2 competition. Tel: 04 92 02 05 05

**Uri Cup** Mountain biking competition open to all comers, adults and children, in Sospel. Tel: 04 93 04 15 80 ♦ May 19

**Marché Artisanal** Arts, crafts and flea market at Port de Plaisance, Beaulieu-sur-Mer, 10:00 to 20:00. Tel: 04 93 01 02 21 ♦ May 20

**Fête Patronale de la Saint Pons** Escragnoles celebrates its saint's day with a weekend of boules tournaments, ball trap competitions, a dinner dance and a special mass on Sunday morning at 11:00. Tel: 04 93 09 29 09 ♦ May 20

**Exposition d'Art** Local artists exhibit at the Salle Vogade, Gattieres. Tel: 04 93 08 63 62 ♦ May 20

**Sailing: Championnat du IX District de Star** Olympic class sailing competition in the Baie des Anges, Nice. Tel: 04 93 89 39 78 ♦ May 20

**Fête Médiéval** Three day Medieval Festival in St Martin Vésubie. See *Pick of the Month* on p12 for details. Tel: 04 93 03 21 28 ♦ May 20

**Festival d'Art Plastique d'Enfants** Children's art festival in Tourrette-Levens. Tel: 04 93 91 00 16 ♦ May 20

**Expo Cactus** Three day cactus exhibition at the Jardin Exotique, Monaco. Tel: +377 92 05 79 96 ♦ May 20

**Kick Boxing** National junior championships at the Gymnase les Gascis, Villefranche-sur-Mer all day today and tomorrow. Entry free. Tel: 04 93 01 73 68 ♦ May 19

**Naturosud** Regional hunting and fishing exhibition at MIN Fleurs, Nice until May 20th. Tel: 04 92 07 83 30 ♦ May 20

**Cannes Film Festival** See May 16

**5th American Freedom** See May 18

**Salon des Antiquaires** See May 16

## 19 Sunday

**Supertramp** In concert at the Salle Nikaia, Nice at 20:00. Tickets can be bought online at [www.nikaia.fr](http://www.nikaia.fr) or call 04 92 29 31 12.

**Fête Ste Floride** Traditional festival celebrating Opio's patron saint, in the town's Place Fontneuve. Tel: 04 93 77 23 03

**Marché Brocante** Flea Market in Breil-sur-Roya from 08:00 to 18:00 Tel: 04 93 04 49 58

**Fête de Mai** Menton celebrates the arrival of Spring in the Parc du Pian, Garavan with clowns, pony rides, jazz music, magicians and hands-on arts and crafts. Tel: 04 92 41 76 76 ♦ May 20

**American Football: Iron Mask v Argonauts** at Stade Pierre de Coubertin, Cannes at 14:00. Tel: 04 92 19 50 50

**Walk** From Luceram to Peira Cava, departing at 09:00 with a choice of 10km, 20km or 30km walks. Tel: 04 93 79 46 50

**Coupe du Festival du Film** Golf tournament at Cannes Mougins Golf Club. Tel: 04 93 75 79 13

**La Route du Sel** Walk from Nice to Levens, along the old salt road, departs from Place Masséna, Nice at 08:00 Tel: 04 92 79 71 00

**5th Festival d'Arts Amateurs** Amateur art festival in Peille. Tel: 04 93 91 71 71

**Miss Vallées** The election of Miss Vallées at 15:00 is followed by a village ball at 22:00 in Rimplas. Tel: 04 93 02 80 93

**Fête de la Pentecote** Sallagriffon celebrates Pentecost with a traditional festival. Tel: 04 93 05 05 05

**Car Boot Sale** In St Jeannet. Tel: 04 93 24 73 83

**Cycling: Criterium des 4 Cantons** In Villars-sur-Var. Tel: 04 93 05 71 69

**Table Tennis Competition** at Salle Polyvalent, Roquebrune Cap-Martin Tel: 04 93 34 62 87 ♦ May 20

**Tournoi International de Taekwondo** International Taekwondo tournament at the Stade Louis II, Monaco. Tel: +377 92 05 40 00

**Foire au Village & Pèlerinage de Saint Maure** Village fair and Pentecostal pilgrimage in St Etienne de Tinée. Tel: 04 93 23 02 66

**Pèlerinage de Pentecote** Pentecostal pilgrimage in Valdeblore Tel: 04 93 23 25 90

**Marché Brocante** Flea Market in Place Cavassé, Vallauris. Tel: 04 93 64 01 60

**Journée Chevalets** Local artists exhibit their works in the streets of Villefranche-sur-Mer. Tel: 04 93 01 73 68

**Uri Cup** See May 18 ■

**Fête des Mais** See May 12

**Cannes Film Festival** See May 16

**Expo Cactus** See May 18

**3rd Grand Prix de Monte-Carlo Historique** See May 18 ■

**Fête Médiéval** See May 18

**Kick Boxing** See May 18 ■

**Marché Artisanal** See May 18

**Sailing: Championnat du IX District de Star** See May 18

**5th American Freedom** See May 18

**Exposition d'Art** See May 18

**Festival d'Art Plastique d'Enfants** See May 18

**Salon des Antiquaires** See May 16

**Naturosud** See May 18

**Fête Patronale de la Saint Pons** See May 18

## 20 Monday

**Public Holiday** Pentecost

**Course à pieds** Guided walk around the hills of Vallauris. Tel: 04 93 64 07 86

**Expo Cactus** See May 18 ■

**Cannes Film Festival** See May 16

**Salon des Antiquaires** See May 16 ■

**Fête Médiéval** See May 18 ■

**Sailing: Championnat du IX District de Star** See May 18 ■

**5th American Freedom** See May 18 ■

**Exposition d'Art** See May 18 ■

**Festival d'Art Plastique d'Enfants** See May 18 ■

**Naturosud** See May 18 ■

**Marché Artisanal** See May 18 ■

**Fête Patronale de la Saint Pons** See May 18 ■

**Fête de Mai** See May 19

**Table Tennis** See May 19 ■

## 21 Tuesday

**Shani Diluka** Piano recital at the Salle des Variétés, Monaco at 20:30. On the programme are works by Haydn, Rachmaninov, Chopin and Ravel. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16

**Show Jumping Competition** at the Equestrian Centre, Villeneuve Loubet. Tel: 04 93 20 99 64 ♦ May 22

**Charity Football Match: Formula 1 Drivers v Star Team for Children** HSH Prince Albert is expected to lead Monaco's Star Team against the Formula 1 drivers to raise money for charity at 19:00 at Stade Garavan, Menton. Tel: +377 93 50 08 58

**Cannes Film Festival** See May 16

## 22 Wednesday

**Fête de la Saint Pierre** Nice celebrates with all day parties today and tomorrow, with traditional Cuisine Niçoise, music and dancing in Vieux Nice ♦ May 23

**Chamber Music Concert** at the Salle des Variétés, Monaco at 16:00. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16

**Show Jumping** See May 21 ■

**Cannes Film Festival** See May 16

## 23 Thursday

**60th Monaco F1 Automobile Grand Prix** Practice sessions take place today, tomorrow and Saturday. The race itself is on Sunday. Tel: +377 93 15 26 00 ♦ May 26

**Fête de la Saint Pierre** See May 22 ■

**Cannes Film Festival** See May 16

## 24 Friday

**Night of the Proms** Classical music meets pop at the Grimaldi Forum tonight at 20:00. Tickets, include dinner and cocktails, cost €750. Tel: +377 97 70 71 65

**Corou de Berra** Traditional provençal music concert at the Forum Nice Nord at 21:00. Tickets cost €12 and €9. Tel: 04 93 84 24 37

**XX Festival des Heures Musical de Biot** Piano concert with Brigitte Engerer and Boris Beresovski in the church at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 65 78 00

**Don Quixote** At the Nice Opera House tonight, May 26 and 29 and June 1. Tel: 04 93 13 98 53

**60th Monaco F1 Grand Prix** See May 23

**Cannes Film Festival** See May 16

## 25 Saturday

**Diving: Coupe du NUC** France's top free divers visit St Jean Cap Ferrat for national team pre-selection trials. Tel: 04 93 76 08 90 ♦ May 26

**Ibiza House Party** Film festival closing party night at the Diabolik'A nightclub, Cannes featuring DJs Nash, Tito, Spectrum and Oktav. Tel: 04 93 68 23 23

**6th Festival of Martial Arts** At Salle Leyrit, Nice. Tel: 04 92 14 48 00

**Marché des Potiers** Potters market in Place du Grand Jardin, Vence. Tel: 04 93 58 06 38 ♦ May 26

**Gestes D'Asie** Demonstration of traditional Chinese paper cutting by Antibes based artist Ho Lui, at the Musée des Arts Asiatiques, Nice Tel: 04 92 29 37 00

**Fête Nationale du Jeu** National Games Day. Workshops, demonstrations and games in Haut de Cagnes all day. Free entry.

**Fête de Mai** Celebrate Spring at Place du General de Gaulle in La Colle-sur-Loup from 18:00, with Provençal dancing, music and a DJ in the evening. Tel: 04 93 32 52 04

**Fête de Mai** Villefranche-sur-Mer celebrates Spring this evening in the old town. Tel: 04 93 01 73 68

**60th Monaco F1 Grand Prix** See May 23

**Cannes Film Festival** See May 16

## 26 Sunday

**17th Salon Matériel Photo** Second hand and collectable photography equipment aimed at both amateurs and professionals. At the Salle Léo Lagrange, Mouans-Sartoux from 9:00 to 18:00. Tel: 04 92 92 47 24

**Peintres dans la Rue** Local painters exhibit their work at the Jardin des Décades, Roquefort-les-Pins. Tel: 04 93 09 67 54

**Marché Artisanal** Craft market in Cabris from 09:00 to 18:00. Tel: 04 93 60 55 63

**Fête de la Saint-Trinité** Dinner and ball in Châteauneuf to celebrate the Festival of St Trinité. Tel: 04 92 60 36 03

**Kermesse Paroissiale** Church fete, car boot sale and festivities in La Colle-sur-Loup from 09:00 to 19:00. Tel: 04 93 41 50 70

**Fête de la St Lambert** Mass followed by folk dancing at the Chapelle St Lambert, Vence from 18:30 to 22:30. Tel: 04 93 58 75 26

**Marché des Potiers** See May 25 ■

**Don Quixote** See May 24

**Fête des Mais** See May 12 ■

**60th Monaco F1 Automobile Grand Prix** See May 23 ■

**Diving: Coupe du NUC** See May 25 ■

**Cannes Film Festival** See May 16 ■

## 27 Monday

**Syrinx** Orchestral performance at Vence cathedral at 20:00, with music by Rossini, Stravinsky and Schumann. Tickets cost €8, €12 or €15. Tel: 04 93 58 06 38

## 28 Tuesday

**British Association of Monaco** Mexican evening at Piedra del Sol, Monaco. New members always welcome. Tel: +377 93 50 19 52

## 29 Wednesday

**Don Quixote** See May 24

## 30 Thursday

**Fête-Dieu** Mass in Monaco Cathedral at 17:00 followed by a procession up to the Rocher. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16

**XX Festival des Heures Musical de Biot** Violin concert by Vadim Repin in the church at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 65 78 00

**Orchestre des Alpes de la Mer** Performs Vivaldi's The Four Seasons and Bach's Brandenburg Concerto at the CUM, Nice at 20:00. Tel: 04 93 98 95 95

**6th Rallye de Nice** The Jean Behra Historic Rally from St Martin-Vesubie to Nice. Tel: 04 92 14 48 00 ♦ Jun 2

## 31 Friday

**Course Pedestre Contre le Tabac et Concert** Anti-tobacco march on the Promenade des Anglais, Nice followed by a concert at the Théâtre de Verdure.

**Kit and the Widow** By popular demand, the comedy duo dubbed 'Les Enfants du Parody' make their fifth visit to the Antibe Theatre, Antibes courtesy of The Red Pear Theatre. Tickets cost €23. Certain to sell out, so book early on 04 93 61 01 71 ♦ Jun 1

**6th Rallye de Nice** See May 30

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### 4 About you, and payment

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### 2 Choose your options

Type of advert:  Personal  Trade  Directory  
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Tax is included in personal ad prices, but must be added for trade ads. If you'd like us to work out the price, fax your ad to us and we'll call you back.

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# Letters



Send letters to The Editor, The Riviera Gazette, 738 Route Notre Dame, Cidex 47, 06330 Roquefort les Pins, France, or by fax to 04 93 09 66 53 or by email to [letters@therivieragazette.com](mailto:letters@therivieragazette.com)

Letters should not be more than 250 words and must carry the writer's full name and address (even if not for publication) and a daytime telephone number to check any queries. Anonymous letters will not be considered and those giving a full name and address for publication will normally take priority. Letters may be edited or cut at the Editor's discretion.

### It's the little differences...

Madam,

I would like to inform your readers of an annoying piece of bureaucracy concerning insurance cover in this country.

I have recently discovered that, unlike English insurance, policies here are automatically renewed rather than being allowed to lapse if not paid.

In order to cancel a policy it is necessary to send a written request by registered post two months prior to the expiry date.

I now have to pay a bill for house insurance that I thought I had allowed to lapse, as I no longer require it, because I was unaware of this. Watch out!

Yours faithfully,  
KB

Vallauris

### Marketing consultant

Madam,

As a frequent visitor to the south of France I was delighted to pick up your newspaper last month.

I enjoyed all of it and found the What's on guide particularly useful. Might I hope for a guide to markets in the area for the summer months?

I wish you every success in your venture and enclose my subscription.

Yours faithfully,  
Mrs G E WALKER

Keinton Mandeville, Somerset, England

● Look for a guide to markets in the next issue - Ed.

## WORLD SPORTS ROUND-UP

**CRICKET** Pakistan's speed ace Shoaib Akhtar has broken the 100mph barrier, making him the fastest bowler of all time. The feat - likened to breaking the 4-minute mile - was achieved in the third one-day international against New Zealand in Lahore. The unfortunate batsman facing was Craig McMillan.

• The lucky 11 to win England test contracts for this summer are: Nasser Hussain (capt.), Marcus Trescothick (vice-capt.), Michael Vaughan, Mark Butcher, Graham Thorpe, Andrew Flintoff, James Foster, Ashley Giles, Andy Caddick, Darren Gough, Matthew Hoggard

**FA BARCLAYCARD PREMIERSHIP** Arsenal can win the title for the first time since 1998 in the lion's den of Old Trafford this month. With just two games to go, they are five points clear of Manchester United. Liverpool look set to finish third again - their chances disappearing with defeat at Spurs.

• Ipswich are favourites to join Leicester and Derby in the Nationwide League next season. They must win their last game at Liverpool and hope Sunderland lose at home to Derby.

**FA CUP** Arsenal beat Chelsea 2-0 at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium on Saturday 4 May, completing the first half of what seems now to be a certain "double" of FA Cup and Premiership.

**FOOTBALL** Michael Owen became the youngest captain of England since Bobby Moore when he led the team out against Paraguay last month at Anfield. England won - despite missing metatarsal-man David Beckham - 4-0 with Owen, 22, scoring after just 5 minutes.

• Scottish football has been plunged into crisis when ten members of the Premier League announced their resignation. The clubs who make up the League - minus Scotland's giants Rangers and Celtic - will leave after they have served two years notice. The announcement comes after talks on the league's own subscription-based television channel were blocked by the Old Firm clubs.

**GOLF** Britain and Ireland won their first ever Seve Trophy at Druids Glen. Colin Montgomerie's team avenged a one-point loss in the inaugural match in 2000 by beating Continental Europe 14.5-11.5.

**RUGBY** New Zealand has lost the right to play a role in hosting next year's World Cup. The International Rugby Board handed Australia sole hosting rights, after New Zealand rugby officials refused to accept advertising regulations laid down for the tournament by the IRB.

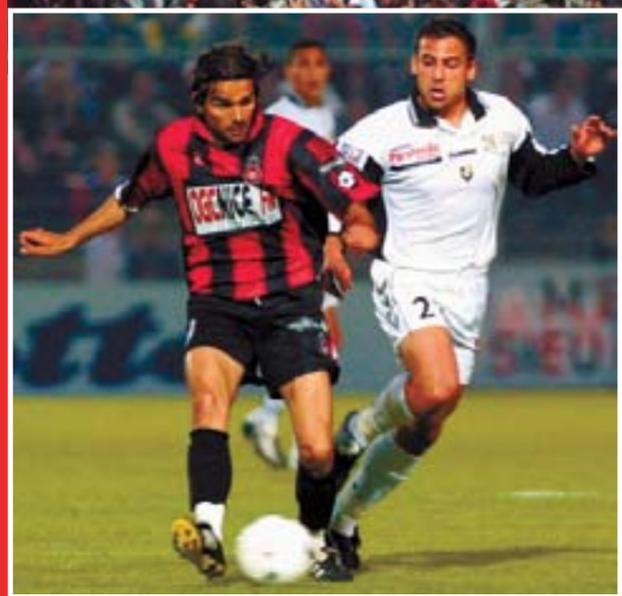
**SAILING** Illbruck has set a new monohull speed record on leg seven of the Volvo Ocean Race. The overall leader of the round-the-world epic took advantage of favourable weather conditions in the Atlantic Ocean to average 19.7 knots for a 24-hour period.

That speed over an aggregate distance of 473 miles eclipses Bernard Stamm's world record on the Open 60 Amor Lux and the crew will be presented with a commemorative trophy.

• The crew of the giant catamaran Orange have smashed the round-the-world sailing record. Bruno Peyron's team crossed the finish line off Ushant in France at 17:13 BST on 5 May after 64 days 8 hrs 37 mins at sea. They beat the previous record by seven days, starting the 30,000-mile trip near the Lizard Point off the Cornish coast.

# riviera sport

## YES! Jubilant fans spill onto pitch as Nice secure promotion to top division



GOAL SCORER... Nice's Pablo Rodrigues beats Istres' Brahim Thiam

HERE WE GO... there was no holding the fans back as the final whistle signalled a long-awaited return to Division 1 for Nice

**NICE 3, ISTRES 0 — Fans spilled onto the pitch to celebrate a victory which won Nice promotion into Division 1, writes Franck Coisson.**

"What a night! What a triumph!" said a jubilant Nice mayor, Jacques Peyret.

The team will now play in D1, France's top division, next season after 5 years languishing in D2.

Halfway through the season no-one could have foreseen a promotion for the 'red and blacks' as the team sat in its usual mid-table position.

But a late-season run of wins gave Nice its big chance on April 26. They had to win against Istres. But Le Mans, playing at home the same night, also had to lose.

15,000 fans packed Nice's Stade du Ray,

determined to will their team to victory. With the stadium decked out in red and black and smoke bombs flying, the crowd screamed their support. "Nissa, Nissa," went up the cry as the teams took to the pitch.

An early offensive from Evra and Scotto quickly put Nice in control.

But then came the disturbing news that Le Mans looked set for victory against Caen. However, it was not to be Le Mans' night.

The tables turned when Meslin, 'the chick,' scored his 14th goal of the season and Gagnier, the crowd's favourite, put Nice ahead 2-0 in the 65th minute and the stadium exploded to the cry of "Nice is in D1, Nice is in D1".

A third goal from "Pablito" Rodriguez then sealed promotion for Nice.

Adding to fans' joy is the news that the football league has now agreed that the Stade du Ray can be used for D1 matches next year.

But rumours of financial irregularities continue to dog the club.

An enquiry into the recent sale of the club, still to be completed, and an extraordinary meeting called on May 3 by the former owner, Francesco Sensi of AS Roma, has taken the shine off the team's success on the pitch.

The players are ready for D1 but fans are now asking if the owners can come through with the all-important financial back-up needed to keep them there?

## 'PERFECT GAME' IN MONTE-CARLO SETS UP FERRERO FOR FRENCH OPEN

**JUAN Carlos Ferrero is favourite for the French Open in Paris after winning the Monte-Carlo Masters, writes Chris Brown.**

"I played the perfect game," said Ferrero after beating fellow Spaniard Carlos Moya in straight sets.

But British fans will be backing world number five Tim Henman with renewed hope after he produced his best ever showing on clay.

By reaching the semi-final of

the Masters he became the first Briton to reach a clay-court semi-final since Buster Mottram over 20 years ago.

"I've got all the tools to do some damage on this surface," said Henman after losing to Moya in a tense semi-final.

"I feel I can take a lot of confidence from this. I can go away knowing I've given my all."

But it is Ferrero who looks set to dominate the clay-court season. While Moya was on top for the majority of the first set,

Ferrero showed his fighting qualities to hang in and force his compatriot to serve to save the set at 5-6. Moya's nerve failed him and he went one set down.

That was the turning point and a run of 12 straight points early on gave Ferrero a stranglehold on the second set.

He broke Moya in the first game of the third set but there was a glimmer of hope for Moya as he broke straight back. He then played his best

tennis of the match but Ferrero was not going to let things slip at this stage.

He broke Moya's serve, and spirit, at 4-4 and served out to win 7-5 6-3 6-4.

Moya was phlegmatic in defeat. Having beaten world number one Lleyton Hewitt, Alex Corretja, Marat Safin and Tim Henman - in a nail-biting two sets to one victory - he looked mentally drained towards the end. This was no surprise as the British number

one had taken him to the wire in the semi-final. It had looked as if Henman would pull off a famous win.

Having lost the first set 4-6, Henman turned the match on its head by coming from 1-3 down in the second to win 7-5 and then breaking Moya's serve in the decisive third.

Henman could not keep his form going though, and the world number 24 won four straight games to take the match 6-4 5-7 6-3.



NUMBER JUAN... Monaco winner