

21ST APRIL 2020 // TUESDAY // ISSUE TWO

# STANGROUND STANDARD

## MANCHESTER UNITED WANT THE TITLE, NOT JUST A CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SPOT



Harry Maguire Playing for United

[HTTPS://WWW.SKYSPORTS.COM/FOOTBALL/NEWS/11667/11975052/HARRY-MAGUIRE-EXCLUSIVE-MANCHESTER-UNITED-WANT-THE-TITLE-NOT-JUST-A-CHAMPIONS-LEAGUE-SPOT](https://www.skysports.com/football/news/11667/11975052/harry-maguire-exclusive-manchester-united-want-the-title-not-just-a-champions-league-spot)

**Harry Maguire insists Manchester United want to be challenging for Premier League titles, not just Champions League spots.**

Maguire, who joined United from Leicester for £80m last summer, was made captain of the club in January after the departure of Ashley Young, and has enjoyed an impressive first season at Old Trafford. With the Premier League halted due to the coronavirus crisis, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's Manchester United sit fifth in the table, three points off the top four but 37 points off leaders Liverpool, having finished 32 points off last season's champions Manchester City. But speaking exclusively to *Sky Sports*' Gary Neville and Geoff Shreeves for *The Football Show*, Maguire says the club's ambitions are bigger than a Champions League spot, and he can see the improvement, particularly in defence. "I think you can see from the start of the season we look a lot more like a team, we can probably see where we want to go, where we want to head. I knew when I first came to Manchester United that Ole said to me loads and loads it's a building process but we'll be where we want to be. I can see where we're heading and the style he wants to implement on the team.



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side are fifth in the Premier League, three points off the top four

**"We don't want to be challenging for this Champions League spot, we want to be challenging for titles" Harry Maguire**

"Don't get me wrong, there are plenty of aspects we need to improve to get to the top of where we want to be. We don't want to be challenging for this Champions League spot, we want to be challenging for titles. We know there's still a lot of improvement to get there, but we're on the right track and I'm sure eventually we will get there. Since a 2-0 defeat by Burnley in January, United have kept nine clean sheets out of 11 games, winning eight and drawing three. Maguire says the reason for the upturn in defensive form is increased competition with the emergence of younger players and returning injured players, and also their improvement at defending set-pieces. One thing we've shored up on is defending set plays. If you look at our record before the run of clean sheets, defending set plays we were up there with one of the worst in the league. If you can't defend set plays and you're not scoring at the other end through them you're not going to stand a chance of reaching where you want to go, it's such a big part of the game now. "We've gelled together, it's a new back four, Luke [Shaw] has been playing really, really well of late.

We've got Aaron [Wan-Bissaka], me and Vic (Victor Lindelof). Eric [Bailly] is coming back and is pushing for a place, which makes everyone up their games, because when he's come in he's done really well." "We've got a settled back four and we're just learning each other's games really well." Another improvement has been in central midfield, with January signing Bruno Fernandes slotting in superbly and winning the Player of the Month award in the Premier League for February. Maguire says the £68m midfielder's influence has been felt off the pitch as well as on it. "He's been brilliant since he's come in, off the field around the training ground, he's a leader and wants to win, everything he does he wants to win, you can tell he's been brought up with that attitude. He's just given us that little bit more life and creativity in the middle, something you (Neville) and United fans have said we've missed over the years.

### IN THIS ISSUE

**WATFORD SET TO AGREE WAGE DEFERRALS WITH PLAYERS – PAGE TWO**

**ON THIS DAY SPORTING EVENT - PAGE THREE**

**BORN ON THIS DAY-PAGE FIVE**

## FOOTBALL

## Coronavirus and sport: Watford set to agree wage deferrals with players

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/52348498>

Watford are set to become the third Premier League club to agree wage deferrals with their first team squad. Earlier this month, Southampton and West Ham confirmed their players would defer part of their salaries because of the coronavirus pandemic. Arsenal players are set to take a 12.5% pay cut while Chelsea's will reportedly agree to a 10% decrease in salary. In addition to the players, Watford's senior management and executives are also expected to agree to deferrals. Talks with the Watford squad have taken place amid a backdrop of discontent over the payment of last season's bonuses, with that issue not yet resolved to the players' satisfaction. However, the club are close to a wages deal, having told the players they are not intending to furlough staff. It comes after Premier League-wide talks aimed at a collective pay deal broke down without resolution. The Premier League proposed a 30% pay cut, but the Professional Footballers' Association said that would affect tax contributions to the NHS. Earlier this month, Premier League players launched the #PlayersTogether scheme to generate and distribute funds to the NHS.



WATFORD: Seen celebrating a goal



MOTOR SPORTS: Charles Leclerc pictured relaxing while away from racing before lock down.

## MOTOR SPORTS

## Charles Leclerc completes esports quadruple

He scored four pole positions in a row in his first season for Ferrari last year. And after only a couple of weeks of practice Charles Leclerc has now completed an unprecedented quadruple.

Well, we have no idea if it's unprecedented, given how many people have games consoles, but Leclerc's having quite the week when it comes to driving his Ferrari from the no doubt considerable comfort of his Monaco home. Yeah, he's into esports - and sim racing in particular - in a big way.

On Sunday the 22-year-old won his fourth major esports race in row - the Formula 1 Virtual China Grand Prix (it would have been the proper Chinese GP this weekend). Qualifying on pole position, he drove yet another flawless race, beating Red Bull's Alex Albon. In a field of 19 - including F1 drivers, racers from other series and notable other sportspeople - Leclerc was the class of the grid.

In case you were wondering, all the professional racing drivers finished ahead of the 'guests', which included golfer Ian Poulter, Real Madrid and former Chelsea goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois and Lazio striker Ciro Immobile. The star of the stars had to be Poulter, who finished last after crashing his Renault while being interviewed by the commentators with three laps to go. "I've never sweated so much. You've got me all flustered," he said as he hit the wall at the beginning of the start-finish straight.

**ON THIS DAY –  
SPORTING EVENT**

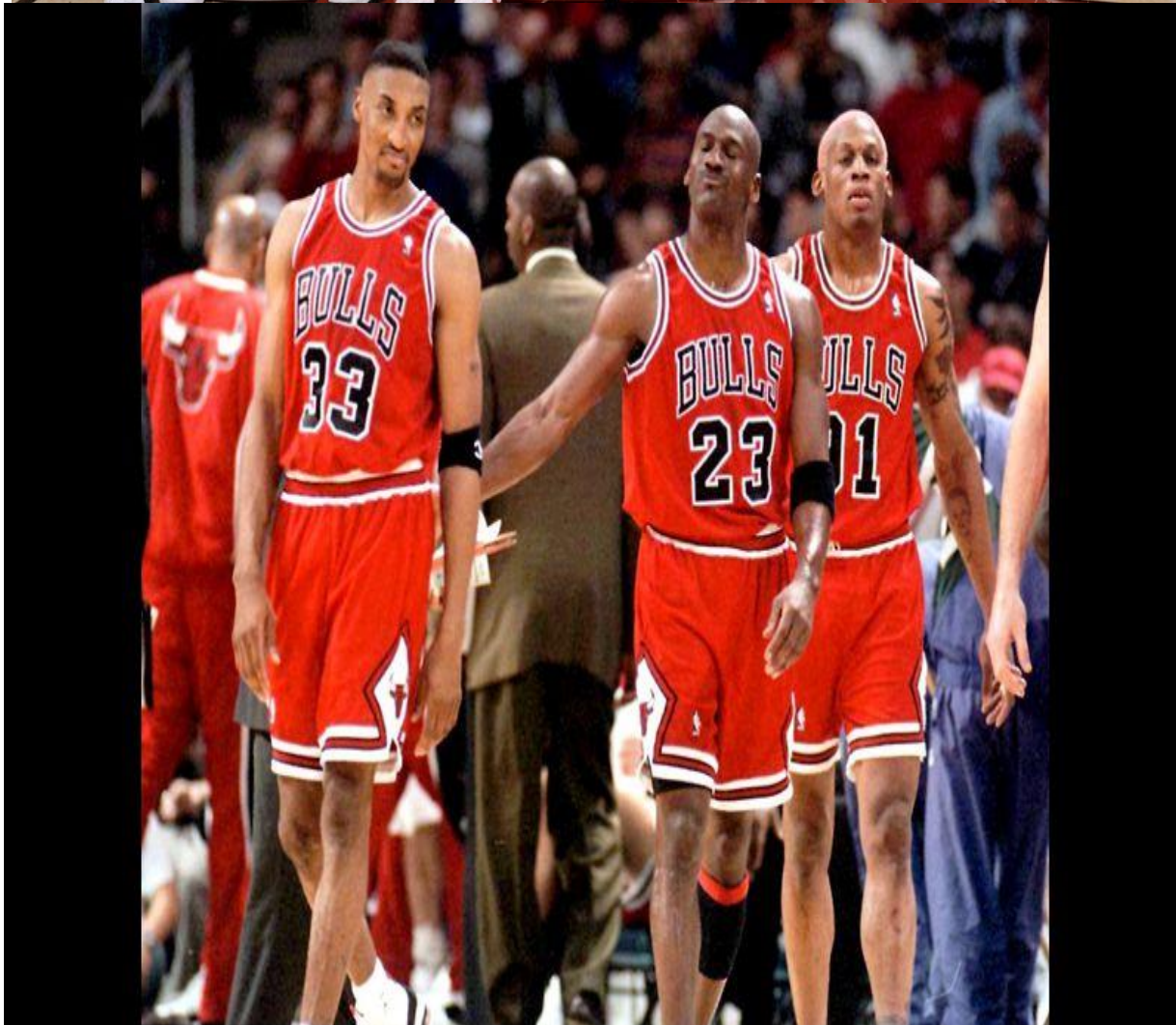
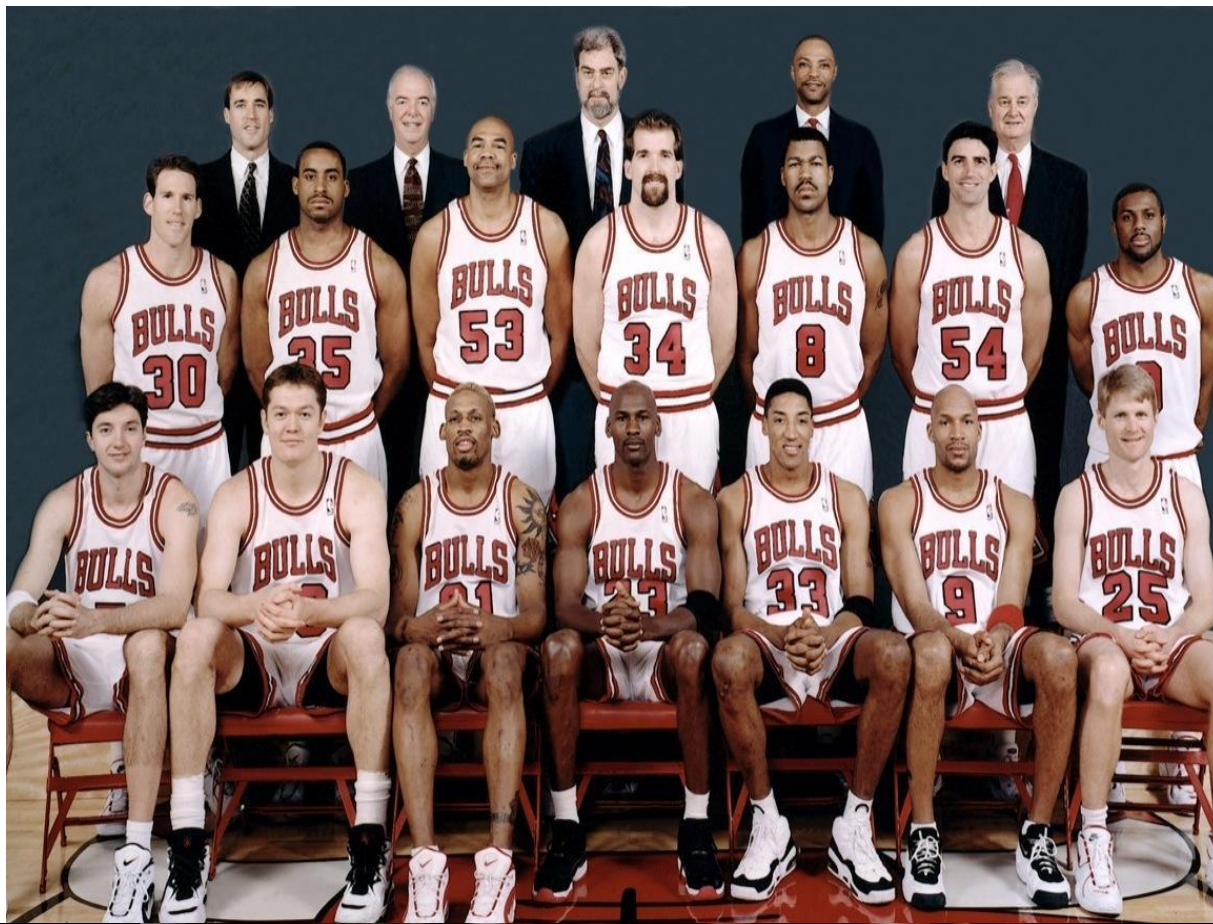
**Chicago Bull's Record  
Regular Season**

[HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/1995  
%E2%80%9396 CHICAGO BULLS SEA  
SON](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1995%E2%80%9396_Chicago_Bulls_season)

**The 1995–96 NBA season was the Bulls' 30th season in the National Basketball Association.**

During the offseason, the Bulls acquired rebound-specialist Dennis Rodman from the San Antonio Spurs,<sup>[2]</sup> and signed free agent Randy Brown. Midway through the season, the team signed John Salley, who was released by the expansion Toronto Raptors. Salley won championships with the Detroit Pistons along with Rodman in 1989 and 1990. The 1996 Bulls is regarded to be the greatest team in NBA history. This saw the Bulls set the record for most wins in an NBA regular season in which they won the championship, finishing with 72 wins and 10 losses. The regular season record was broken by the 2015–16 Golden State Warriors, who finished 73–9. The Warriors(2015-2016) have a connection to the (1995-1996) Bulls team, as Steve Kerr, the current Golden State coach, was a reserve point guard with the Bulls.

The Bulls' started 37–0 at home, part of a then-NBA-record 44-game winning streak that included games from the 1994–95 regular-season. Their 33 road wins were the most in NBA history until the 2015–16 Warriors won 34 road games. The season was the best 3-loss start in NBA history at 41–3 (.932), which included an 18-game winning streak for the team. The Bulls became the first NBA team to ever win 70 regular season games, finishing first overall in their division, conference, and the entire NBA.<sup>[3]</sup> They are also the only team in NBA history to win more than 70 games and an NBA title in the same season. Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen were both selected for the 1996 NBA All-Star Game, as Jordan led the league in scoring with 30.4 points per game, while Phil Jackson was named Coach of The Year, and was selected to coach the Eastern Conference in the All-Star Game.



**CHICARGO BULLS 1995/1996: Team photo. This squad is widely regarded as the best ever to play in the NBA. Below, Bulls players Scottie Pippen, Michael Jordan and Dennis Rodman head out to the court during the second half of a game against the Bucks.**

## GOLF

**Shane Lowry: Open champion excited by PGA return plan**<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/golf/52328940>

**Open champion Shane Lowry aims to "hit the ground running" after the PGA Tour announced a scheduled resumption on 11 June.** The tour has been suspended since 12 March because of Covid-19 but a return, behind closed doors, is planned at the Charles Schwab Challenge in Texas

"I'm very excited as it gives me a date to work towards - I miss golf, I miss just playing the game," said Lowry. "I've got goals to come out stronger and fitter than I've ever been."

The 33-year-old Irishman won his maiden major at Royal Portrush last year but the 2020 Open, scheduled for Royal St George's in July, has been cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Lowry is "very disappointed" that he will not get the chance to defend the title this year, but the other three majors have been pencilled in for late 2020. The world number 20 is eager to get back to competitive golf, even if there are no spectators to watch the action. He added: "Yes, it will be different but to be honest I wouldn't really care. I will just be happy to be back playing tournament golf - any sort of golf as I haven't touched a club in nearly four weeks now. "I've kind of struggled a little bit in the last few weeks with not having anything to work towards, but now I have a date in my head. If it goes ahead great and then we'll get back to playing golf. First and foremost, the health and safety of everyone will be at the top of their (PGA Tour) priorities.

As long as everyone can stay safe and healthy it will be great to get back to playing tournament golf. To be able to play in the Masters, whether in November or April, doesn't matter to me - to go to Augusta on any day is always a special day for me. I hope we get to a stage where the tournaments start having crowds, to get back to some sort of normality, but I'll just be happy to get back playing golf. I miss just simple things like hitting a bucket of balls."



RORY BURNS: Concerned over his England place as opening batsman.

## CRICKET

**BURNS ADMITS TO UNCERTAINTY OVER HIS TEST PLACE**

<https://sport.bt.com/news/roly-burns-admits-to-uncertainty-over-his-england-test-place-S11364441640493>

**Rory Burns had hoped to guarantee a return to England's Test side with early-season runs for Surrey but admits he now faces an uneasy wait to see where he stands.** A freak footballing injury on the eve of the New Year Test in Cape Town cost Burns his place, with six months of sharp progress ending in ankle ligament surgery and a lengthy lay-off. Just a few days before landing badly on his left ankle, Burns' knock of 84 in Centurion had taken his average over 44 in his last 15 innings – including a maiden Ashes century at Edgbaston and a first overseas hundred against New Zealand in Hamilton.

## RUGBY UNION

**Agustin Pichot wants to expand Lions tour on a 'worldwide scale'**

<https://sport.bt.com/news/agustin-pichot-wants-to-expand-lions-tour-on-a-worldwide-scale-S11364441621415>

**If elected as World Rugby chairman, Pichot would push for the British and Irish Lions to tour North and South America. World Rugby chairman candidate Agustin Pichot would take the British and Irish Lions to a global stage if he is elected.** The Argentinian is in a head-to-head battle with current chairman Sir Bill Beaumont for the position going into the final week of campaigning and has promised changes. The Lions Tour New Zealand, Australia and South Africa on rotation every four years, but Pichot wants to see them visit North and South America. "People think I don't like tradition, but I speak to Lions players like Brian O'Driscoll and it's a great product," Pichot told the Daily Mail. "I love it. There is still support you."

room for the Lions. It is a traditional thing but we can still add a modern look to it. I would use the Lions on a more worldwide scale. I would like to see that brand travel even further. They would be very popular in North and South America but that's a conversation to have with the CEO of the Lions." Pichot hopes to end Beaumont's four-year reign in the sport's top job, but has not received any feedback from the majority of the Six Nations unions. "I would like to talk to each individual union," added Pichot. "I sent a personal note to every country and I haven't had any replies from some of the CEOs. "I only received one email asking me about the future of the game from the Six Nations unions — that was Wales — and I think that's poor. Every CEO should be responsible for learning what is best for the game, even if they don't



World Rugby chairman candidate Agustin Pichot would take the British and Irish Lions to a global stage if he is elected.

## BORN ON THIS DAY – TONY ROMO

### An Overview Of The Career Of Tony Romo [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony\\_Romo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Romo)

**Antonio Ramiro "Tony" Romo (born April 21, 1980) is an American football television analyst and retired quarterback who played his entire 14-year career with the Dallas Cowboys of the National Football League (NFL). He played college football for Eastern Illinois University, where he won the Walter Payton Award in 2002 and led the Panthers to an Ohio Valley Conference championship in 2001.**

Romo signed as an undrafted free agent with the Cowboys in 2003. Beginning his career as a holder, Romo became the Cowboys' starting quarterback during the 2006 season. Serving as the team's primary starter from 2006 to 2015, he guided the Cowboys to four postseason appearances and was named to the Pro Bowl four times. Romo retired after the 2016 season, following a preseason back injury that caused him to lose his starting position to Dak Prescott. Upon retiring, he was hired by CBS Sports to become the lead color analyst for their NFL telecasts, teaming with Jim Nantz in the broadcast booth.

Romo holds several Cowboys team records, including passing touchdowns, passing yards, most games with at least 300 passing yards, and games with three or more touchdown passes. He also held a higher passer rating in the fourth quarter than any other NFL quarterback from 2006 to 2013. However, Romo's reputation was affected by a lack of postseason success, having won only two of the six playoff games he appeared in and never advancing beyond the divisional round. His 97.1 passer rating is the fourth highest of all time and the highest among quarterbacks not to reach the Super Bowl, as well as the highest among retired players.

#### NFL records

##### Career

- [Most consecutive road games with at least one touchdown pass](#): 41 (2009 – 2016)
- Highest QB rating in fourth quarter
- Most games in a season with a passer rating of at least 135.0 (6)

##### Dallas Cowboys team records

##### Career

- Dallas Cowboys career leader in passing touchdowns and passing yards
- Games with at least 3 touchdown passes: 40; previously held by [Danny White](#) (20)
- Games with at least 300 yards passing: 46; previously held by [Troy Aikman](#) (13)
- Career passing yards: 33,626, previously held by Aikman (32,942)
- Touchdown passes: 245 (previously held by Aikman with 165)
- Most fourth quarter comebacks/game-winning drives: 28 (previously held by [Roger Staubach](#) with 23)
- Consecutive games with a TD pass: 38 (2012–2014); previously held by Romo (20, 2010–11)

#### Season

- Games with at least 300 yards passing: 9 (2012); previously held by Romo (8 – 2009)
- Passing TDs: 36 (2007); previously held by [Danny White](#) (29)
- Passing yards: 4,903 (2012); first Cowboys' quarterback to throw for more than 4,000 yards in a season (2007, 2009, 2011, 2012)
- Completions: 405 (2012); previously held by Romo with (347–2009)
- Attempts: 611 (2012); previously held by Romo (550–2009)
- First quarterback in franchise history to average over 300 passing yards a game in a season (306.4 – 2012)

#### Game

- Romo twice threw five touchdown passes in a game (November 23, 2006, and October 6, 2013) a record he shares with Troy Aikman (September 12, 1999).
- On December 21, 2014, Romo completed a team record 90.0% of his passes (18 of 20) in a home game against the Indianapolis Colts.
- Most passing yards in a game, 506 yards against the Denver Broncos on October 6, 2013.



**TONY ROMO-** in action during his playing days for the Dallas Cowboys

## Premier League clubs including Liverpool and Man Utd amend season ticket plans

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/52356666>

**The Premier League football season should be nearing its end and fans are normally digging into their pockets to fund next year's season ticket.** Next season will after all be the one where your team plays free-flowing football and wins a quadruple. While that may end up being the case, it seems some fans will have to wait a little to secure their seat as Premier League clubs have started amending payment deadlines and renewal windows for 2020-21 season tickets. The Premier League will not resume until it is safe to do so because of the coronavirus pandemic and as a result the start date for next season's campaign is unclear. Here is the latest on how clubs are handling season tickets.

Liverpool, who are 25 points clear at the top of the table, have suspended the season ticket renewal process for next season "until there is clarity around the fixture schedule".

The club says season ticket prices will be frozen for the new campaign and that a new renewal period will be opened when the 2020-21 season start date is known. The club also said that if home fixtures in the 2019-20 campaign cannot be played in front of supporters, refunds will be issued to season ticket holders, or a pro-rata credit will be applied to their season ticket for the 2020-21 campaign.

Manchester United have frozen season-ticket prices and while fans can renew now, the 1 May deadline that was initially in place has been suspended. "This will be continuously reviewed and a new deadline will be put in place once there is confirmation of the start date of the 20-21 season," the club said. If this season's remaining fixtures at Old Trafford are played behind closed doors season-ticket holders will get a pro-rata rebate against season tickets for next year, or a pro-rata cash refund based on the number of games still to be played.



DJORKOVIC: Has concerns of vaccines

### TENNIS

## NOVAK DJOKOVIC ADMITS OPPOSITION TO VACCINES

<https://sport.bt.com/news/novak-djokovic-admits-opposition-to-vaccines-may-prevent-his-return-to-tennis-S11364441621531> **World No.1 Novak Djokovic's opposition to vaccines could stand in the way of his return to tennis once it resumes from the coronavirus pandemic.** A push is growing for all players to be vaccinated when tennis starts again, provided a vaccination is produced by then. Former world No.1 Amelie Mauresmo last month said tennis should not resume unless players can be vaccinated, although the scientific community has repeatedly said that may be a year away, if a vaccine is developed at all. "Personally I am opposed to vaccination and I wouldn't want to be forced by someone to take a vaccine in order to be able to travel," Djokovic said in a live Facebook chat with several fellow Serbian athletes on Sunday.

### LOCAL EVENTS - GREAT EASTERN RUN

## Peterborough's Perkins Great Eastern Run cancelled

<https://www.peterboroughtoday.co.uk/news/people/peterboroughs-perkins-great-eastern-run-cancelled-2543529>

**The launch of this year's race was due to take place in March, around the same time the country was being asked by the Government to socially isolate.** Since then the city council has been in discussion with Vivacity, which is taking over the management of the race, and the main sponsor, Perkins Engines, about whether a race would be viable this year. With the continued uncertainty about when the social distancing measures will be lifted, the city council has decided to cancel this year's race, usually held in October.

Councillor Steve Allen, cabinet member for housing, culture and recreation for Peterborough City Council said: "This has been a really tough decision to make

as we know it will be disappointing for lots of people and also the many charities that benefit from the event. That said, it is the right decision, given the fact we do not know what the next six months will bring and how long the country will be asked to socially distance to limit the spread of the Coronavirus. In addition, an event such as the Perkins Great Eastern Run takes many months of planning which would be well underway by now. Many of the suppliers we use are also temporarily closed. We hope that all of our amazing runners, running clubs, businesses and residents will understand this decision and get behind the 2021 event to help the event bounce back and make it one of the biggest and best we have seen for many years."



FUN RUN before the Great Eastern Run in 2019