

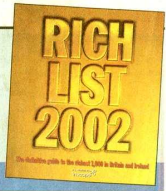
THE SUNDAY TIMES



Why we care QUEEN MOTHER MEMORIAL SUPPLEMENT, INSIDE BUSINESS



THE RICH LIST FREE 112-PAGE MAGAZINE THE ORIGINAL AND DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO THE WEALTHIEST 1,000 IN BRITAIN



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Former British Olympic skier inherits £3bn

A FORMER British Olympic skier who co-starred in the epic film Lawrence of Arabia has now become one of the richest people in Britain with a family fortune of £3 billion.

Sunday Times Rich List after inheriting a £2.96 billion stake in the Dutch brewer Heineken earlier this year.

Alastair McCall am I doing here," said de Carvalho. "Lawrence was an 18-month project; it set me back years in my studies."

Heineken, was kidnapped. After his release, he became more reclusive and his daughter and de Carvalho took on greater roles in the business.

The couple, who have five children, control about 50% of the business. Their wealth puts them in a select group: there are 21 billionaires in Britain, according to this year's Rich List, down from 26 in 2000.

Property has re-established itself as a key repository of wealth, with four of this year's super-rich owning vast swathes of London. But the

dominance of the south-east has waned slightly: for the first time, fewer than half the entries in the list come from the region.

Shop giant pays Blair's top fixer £100,000

Nicholas Rufford

LORD LEVY, one of Tony Blair's closest and most trusted political aides, has been paid £100,000 by an Australian property giant seeking planning permission to develop shopping malls across Britain.

Westfield's £100,000 payment to Levy — thought to be one of several — was for six months' consultancy work, ending in June this year.

Levy's retainer threatens to spark a new "cash for access" row in the Commons. Peter Allen, the head of Westfield's UK arm, confirmed he had access to senior government figures.

Levy, who has no obvious expertise in developing shopping malls, has not revealed the payment in the register of Lords' interests — though he does declare his ownership of Wincart, the company that received the money.

Norman Baker, the Liberal Democrat MP for Leves, called on Blair to sack Levy as his special envoy.

"It appears that Lord Levy has been trading on his status as the prime minister's friend," he said. "It is hard to believe that a former music promoter could command such a fee for that type of work for any other reason."

and Chris Rea, has come to prominence as Labour's chief fundraiser, pulling in donors such as Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One boss who donated £1m, and Lakshmi Mittal, the Asian steel billionaire.

The company opened offices in London four years ago. Through takeovers, it has built up assets worth about £500m and is now among Britain's biggest retail operators.

Last month, Westfield representatives met Lord Falconer, minister for housing, planning and regeneration, who toured the company's shopping centre in Swindon, which has been earmarked by the government for urban regeneration. Ministers have the ultimate say in deciding planning issues and can overrule local objections.

Westfield has a reputation for winning political friends by making donations and hosting dazzling parties in America and Australia, where it is well established. Last week, it made no secret of the fact that it was seeking political influence in Britain.

"We have spent a long time working with local authorities and central government in terms of building and developing relationships, which should bode well in getting planning permission," said Allen.

"In developing relationships with ministers within the DTI [Department of Trade and Industry] Continued on page 5

Respect: Thousands pay it as princes recall Queen Mother's unique sense of fun



Last respects: a queue three miles long built up yesterday as an estimated 50,000 people waited to file past the coffin of the Queen Mother at Westminster Hall in London

THE QUEEN Mother once impersonated the comedian Ali G by clicking her fingers and offering her "respect" to the Queen, Princes William and Harry have revealed.

The glimpse of the Queen Mother's youthful spirit and sense of mischief occurred as tens of thousands of people queued for as long as seven hours in spring sunshine to pay their respects by her coffin in Westminster Hall. At midday,

50,000 people were estimated to be waiting in a three-mile queue. In their tribute, the princes recalled fondly how their fun-loving great-grandmother used to make the family howl with laughter.

"She loved a good laugh, even if the joke was about her," said William. "Every single thing that went wrong or was funny for any reason, she laughed herself stupid about it."

Christopher Morgan the incident at the end of Christmas lunch at Sandringham a couple of years ago when the Queen Mother did her impersonation of Ali G, the spoof rap star from Staines played by Sacha Baron Cohen.

In the morning, the two princes had been watching the comedian — who once delivered Channel 4's

Christmas Day alternative to the Queen's message — when she entered the room and asked them why they were laughing.

"She saw Ali G click his fingers and say 'Respect', and Harry and I showed her what to do. She loved it, and after three goes she had it. Later that day, we were all in the dining room, having Christmas lunch, when she tried it out."

Harry recalled: "It was at the end of the meal, and she stood up and said: 'Darling, lunch was marvellous — respect, and clicked her fingers.'"

According to the two princes the whole royal family, including the Queen, burst out laughing. Westminster Hall was due to reopen at 8am today and stay open until 6am tomorrow, reopening two hours later. Some 130,000 people are expected to file past the coffin.

A grenade bounces near me and I think: 'Not again'

THE first I saw of the grenade was a bouncing cylinder 2ft to my right. I had spotted two Israeli Jeeps racing towards me, but at the sight of the grenade, I thought: "This cannot be happening again."

Almost a year ago, I was wounded by shrapnel from a grenade and lost the sight in my left eye. This was my first assignment in a war zone since I returned to work in January.

"I never saw the grenade that hit me last year. I was attacked by the Sri Lankan army in the dead of night as

I tried to walk out of Tamil-controlled territory from which journalists had been banned.

Journalists are also banned from Ramallah, but I believed Israeli soldiers were disciplined enough to understand that we are not military targets. I was wrong. The Israelis seem determined to prevent reporting from Palestinian cities by some re-occupied.

As the Jeeps pulled up, they of the journalists with me outside the compound of Yasser Arafat, the Pal-

estinian leader, scattered. Soldiers stood up through openings in the roofs. They gave no warning before they lobbed grenades at us. By the time the second exploded I realised they were stun grenades and contained no shrapnel.

Now megaphones in the Israeli Jeeps came to life. "Get out! Get out!" shouted someone inside. The Jeeps advanced, a rifle barrel protruded from a passenger door and a soldier fired. Two rubber-coated bullets smashed into the CNN car's windshield, cracking the reinforced glass at the point where the crew had

taped "TV" in huge letters to warn the Israelis that journalists were inside.

The army claimed later that journalists had tried to force their way into Arafat's compound. I was there. A group of us were on a banal mission, awaiting the arrival of an American envoy, when we were fired on. One can only imagine what happens to Palestinian civilians without the protection of a foreign passport, away from the gaze of international cameras.

A bitter taste for vengeance, pages 12 and 13

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Italy's Signor Memory could hold key to Alzheimer's



GOOD memories run in Gianni Golfera's family. His grandfather knows some of the works of Ariosto and Petrarch, the Italian poets, by heart. His father, a pilot, flies without the help of charts and does complicated mathematical calculations in his head.

Golfera, 24, who started to speak at six months, realised

as a very young child that he could remember events that adults had forgotten.

Over the years he has learnt the contents of 261 books, including all the main philosophical treatises dating from ancient times to the Italian renaissance.

Last week Italian scientists announced that they are to

study the DNA of Golfera, his father and grandfather in an attempt to isolate genes for memory. They hope to discover why certain people suffer from memory loss and ultimately to develop a treatment for Alzheimer's disease.

Golfera said: "My personal hunch is that genetics accounts for about half of my

John Follain
Rome

memory skills. The other half is due to a memory system and lots of practice."

Golfera demonstrated his talent at a university lecture in Milan last week. He was given a 48-digit number,

studied it for less than three minutes and was then able to repeat it from memory. Challenged by students he was also able to identify a given digit's place in the sequence.

His memory technique involves thinking of a word or number as a picture. He links the pictures by making them

interact and stores the resulting image in one of 100 "rooms" in a house that he has created in his mind. This, he says, allows him to feel as if he has lived through whole chapters of a book.

Scientists believe that memory will improve with training, just as working out strengthens the physique.

"Brains are like muscles: the more you exercise them, the more they develop," said Antonio Malgaroli, a professor of physiology who will analyse the Golfera DNA.

"Golfera's family is pretty much unique because they all have a memory that is above average by far. So there could very well be a genetic link."