

UK bans celebs from gambling adverts in new crackdown

Britain on Tuesday said it would ban celebrities including footballers, TV stars and social media influencers, from featuring in gambling adverts to protect young and vulnerable people. The Committee for Advertising Practice (CAP) said tough new restrictions would apply to high-profile celebrities from October 1

because of their large social media followings.

It comes as British online betting groups, which have boomed on pandemic lockdowns, are under increasing pressure to discourage gamblers at risk of addiction. Sports people, celebrities and influencers who are "likely to be of strong appeal to children or young per-

sons, especially by reflecting or being associated with youth culture" will be banned from gambling and lottery adverts, CAP said in a statement. CAP added that the ban included top-flight footballers and reality TV stars like those on dating show Love Island.

"The days of gambling ads featuring sports stars, video game imagery and

other content of strong appeal to under-18s are numbered," noted CAP director Shahriar Coupal. "By ending these practices, our new rules invite a new era for gambling ads, more particular to the adult audience they can target and more befitting of the age-restricted product they're promoting." A series of measures have been taken in recent

years to tackle gambling addiction in the UK, from banning the use of credit cards for bets to placing warning messages on TV adverts and limiting stakes on slot machines. The betting age for the national lottery has also been raised to 18 from 16. — AFP

Elvis to appear at Cannes Film Festival

The new Elvis Presley biopic by Australian director Baz Luhrmann will get its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in May, the organizers confirmed on Tuesday. Tom Hanks, who plays the rock'n'roll legend's manager, Colonel Tom Parker, will be among the stars attending the premiere, which comes ahead of the worldwide release of "Elvis" between June 22 and 24. Relative unknown Austin Butler has the lead role in the latest spectacle from Luhrmann.

The Australian writer-director is the only person to open the Cannes Film Festival twice—with "Moulin Rouge!" in 2001 and "Gatsby" in 2013. "Elvis" could not open the festival this year due to a new rule about opening night films being released worldwide on the same day. It joins Tom Cruise blockbuster "Top Gun: Maverick" in the line-up for this year's festival, which is being held on May 17-28. The full line-up is due to be unveiled later this month. Luhrmann's breakout moment was also at Cannes, when his debut feature "Strictly Ballroom" caused a sensation in the Un Certain Regard section of the festival in 1992. — AFP



Elvis Presley

Grammy for disgraced comic Louis CK triggers backlash

Louis CK and the Recording Academy faced a backlash Monday after the US comedian was awarded a Grammy, five years after sexual misconduct revelations temporarily derailed his high-flying career. CK—who admitted to misbehaving in front of multiple women following a newspaper expose in 2017 — won best comedy album on Sunday for a show addressing his scandal, but did not attend the ceremony in Las Vegas. Many on social media questioned or criticized the ease with which Academy voters apparently forgave or overlooked his past behavior.

"Amazing. Louis CK serially abused women but gets to keep his career and even get a Grammy," tweeted Atima Omara, a writer and political strategist. Describing herself as a "former fan" of CK, Twitter user @iron_eliza said she was "really, REALLY not okay with whoever decided to UN-cancel Louis CK." In November 2017, The New York Times



In this file photo US comedian Louis CK poses as he arrives to the 2016 Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, California. — AFP

published allegations against CK by five women, in separate incidents dating from the late 1990s to 2005. CK swiftly issued a statement confirming that "these stories are true," and his mainstream career went up in flames.

The scandal emerged just a month after revelations about Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein triggered the global #MeToo movement. In 2020, CK released comedy special "Sincerely Louis CK"—recorded the previous year in which he said he had "learned a lot."

"I learned how to eat alone in a restaurant with people giving me the finger from across the room," he said. Last August, CK began his first major international tour since the revelations. Comedian and TV writer Jen Kirkman was among several on Sunday who compared the treatment of CK with the reaction to Will Smith slapping Chris Rock at the Oscars last month. Kirkman wrote on Twitter that male comedians had expressed alarm when Chris Rock was slapped, but were "SILENT 2nite on Louis CK winning a Grammy for an album where he jokes about his assaults" on women. — AFP



Madonna has got a tattoo in honor of her late mother

The 63-year-old singer was just five years old when her mom, Madonna Louise Fortin, passed away and she was keen to honor her parent with her latest piece of body art, the word 'Maman' - the French for 'mother' - etched onto her

right wrist. In a video she shared to Instagram of the process, Madonna said: "I'm doing this for my mother." Later in the clip - which was soundtracked by Sly and the Family Stone's 'Family Affair' - she said: "Because when you give birth, what do you do? You bleed. 'It's all connected'. And the 'Material Girl' hitmaker explained her choice of word to her 16-year-old son David when he called into tattoo parlor Lovers Killers to check on her progress. She explained: "I can't put my mother's name, because it's the same as mine. It would look like I put my own damn name on my arm!" The teenager agreed: "True, true." After the inking was completed, Madonna told the camera: "My mother bled for me, and so I'm bleeding for her. It's a family affair." And she captioned her post: "My turn to bleed

for my mother." The 'Ray of Light' singer also used her Instagram story to share several other photos of her new tattoo, as well as pictures of her other recent inking, a 'tree of life' geometric design which David appears to also have. Madonna had her first tattoo in 2020, a string of letters featuring the initials of all six of her children, Lourdes, 25, Rocco, 21, David, Mercy, also 16, and nine-year-old twins Stella and Estere. She also has a Hebrew word which loosely translates to "and he kissed" and a red X, with all of her tattoos located on the insides of her wrists.



Princess Diana wouldn't date Cruise as he was too short

Princess Diana wouldn't date Tom

Cruise because he was "too short". The late royal - who died in a car accident in 1997 aged 37 - took her two sons, Princes William and Harry, to the set of the Hollywood hunk's 1996 action blockbuster 'Mission: Impossible' and though they got to meet the actor, now 59, Diana had no romantic interest in him because she was unimpressed by his 5ft 7in stature. Former royal chef Darren McGrady - who worked at Buckingham Palace for 11 years - tweeted: "I remember Princess Diana taking the boys to the set of Mission Impossible and to meet Tom Cruise. 'Wills and Harry loved the pyrotechnics. But Princess Diana... 'That's another one off the list Darren. He's too short!' (sic)" Darren made his comments shortly after it was revealed Tom had treated royals including William and his wife, Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, to a private screening of his new movie 'Top Gun: Maverick'. The couple were joined by prince's cousins, Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, and aunt Sophie, Countess of Wessex, for an exclusive preview of the highly-anticipated sequel. Star Tom Cruise offered William the chance to be among the first in the world to see the film after learning he was a fan of the original 1986 movie and arranged the private screening at an IMAX cinema off London's Leicester Square. A source said: "It's a very unlikely movie premiere, but Tom made the offer after learning William is a fan. They happily accepted. Let's face it, guests don't get much more A-list!" "The rest of the cinema was shut to ensure privacy and William, Kate and a few other members of the royal family - plus a couple of very trusted friends - were the first to see it. "Tom welcomed them and said he hoped they'd enjoy watching it as much as he'd enjoyed making it, and left them to it." The movie was said to be a hit with the royal audience. The source added: "Apparently, it was met with royal approval - not least because William has been a military pilot himself so it's pretty close to his heart. "It's also a mega-bucks film with some of the most incredible stunts ever performed on camera so it lives up to the hype."

Wahlberg drank glasses of Olive Oil to gain weight for 'Father Stu' Role

Mark Wahlberg drank glasses of olive oil to gain weight for his new movie. The 50-year-old actor had to pile on 30lbs in six weeks to play real life boxer-turned-priest Father Stuart Long in 'Father Stu' and he admitted the process wasn't "fun" and he doesn't imagine anyone would envy the eating regime he had to follow for the project. He told 'Entertainment Tonight': "I had six weeks to put on about 30 pounds. I started with 7,000 calories for the first two weeks and then 11,000 calories for the

final four weeks. "None of it was fun, except for the first meal was amazing, because I hadn't eaten anything up until that point. But after that, when you're already full and you have to eat again, and at my age it's just not a healthy thing to do, to try to put on that kind of weight in that amount of time." "I wasn't eating anything that you would think, 'Oh my God, I get to sit on the couch and eat ice cream and pizzas.' "... I tried to do it in a healthy way. It was a dozen eggs and a dozen pieces of bacon, two baked potatoes, a Porterhouse steak, two bowls of white rice, and a glass of olive oil. "The first two weeks were high proteins. The second two weeks were a lot of carbs. The last two weeks starches, and then sodium, just to kind of get as bloated as possible. So not a lot of fun." Mark is known for his strict workout regime and he admitted he had to continue hitting the gym throughout in order to work up an appetite. He said: "I had to get up the appetite, so I would go in there and try to lift as heavy as possible just to get hun-



gry. "And then I'd have the weight gainer shakes as well and all that stuff. But none of it was fun. There's nothing worse than when you're full from the last meal and you have to eat again."

Cox announces new line of candles and hand cream

Courtney Cox has announced her own line of candles and hand cream. The 57-year-old actress - who launched home cleaning brand Homecom back in January 2022 - took to Instagram to Instagram on Monday to reveal that the latest collection will feature cosmetics and candles. She wrote in the caption: "I'm so excited to finally have my candles and hand cream out in the world. I wanted the candle's fragrance load to fill a room and the vessel shape and color to go with any style. The prototype was actually hand thrown in my backyard. I wanted to make a hand cream that was super hydrating without being greasy and with a beautiful scent. We finally made it! I'm so happy with both... I hope you are too. Go pre-order now." (sic) The candles and hand cream come in four different scents: Steeped Rose, Neroli Leaf, Cipres Mint, and Cece, which is Courtney's signature scent. The former 'Friends' star previously revealed that the homeware line was inspired by spending so much time at home and felt the need to prioritize domestic upkeep as much as personal. She said: "You find yourself at home so much now that I was like, 'Why not make your home as important as you would yourself, your body, your face?' So we decided to create a room spray, which is coming out later, a counter spray, dish soap, hand soap and hand lotion."



H.E.R. used to feel pressured to get rid of her natural curls

H.E.R. used to feel the need to get rid of her natural curls. The 24-year-old singer - whose real name is Gabriella Wilson - admitted that she would often "flat-iron" her naturally wavy locks after feeling the pressure to "conform". She explained: "It's funny, because my mom didn't really know how to do my hair because it was so big and curly. My mom's Filipino and she has straight hair, so she would take me to hair salons and they would hook it up. I always flat ironed it, put heat on it, [tried to] figure it out, as

opposed to trying to wear my natural curls. I don't think I realized it as a kid, but it was definitely something where I felt like, 'Oh, I need to conform.'" However, the 'Back of My Mind' hitmaker added that nowadays she is learning to embrace her natural beauty, and that her "real" self is just a stripped-back version of her persona as H.E.R. She told Allure: "H.E.R. is the real me, but it's still a persona. So me being stripped [back] and not wearing makeup or big glasses is my disguise in a way. It's kind of like me hiding in plain

sight. I just tuck my hair away and people don't recognize me. I'm not even going to blame the music industry for making me present myself in a certain way. I present the way I want to and I never thought the industry was forcing me to do that kind of thing. Being on camera, you want to look your best. I've definitely unpacked a lot of things that I thought made me myself and then realized I don't need. I don't have to get my nails done every two weeks. It doesn't make me more or less of a woman if I don't get my eyebrows done. Once I realized that, I was much less reliant on those things." The Grammy Award winner also explained that she feels the "most beautiful" when she is "happy" and has done her make-up herself. She added: "I feel the most beautiful when I'm happy, when I'm having a good time, and when I'm chilling. When my hair is natural and I have a little bit of make-up on - or when I do it myself, actually. Anything that I do myself and put some effort into, that's when I feel beautiful."

— Bang Showbiz

