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# THE TIMES

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# Hunted Fox finally runs out of friends

## Times report on private donations marks end for Defence Secretary

Roland Watson, Deborah Haynes

Liam Fox bowed to the inevitable yesterday and quit as Defence Secretary even as new questions emerged about the role of his friend and self-styled adviser Adam Werritty.

Dr Fox spared David Cameron the political awkwardness of a sacking and told the Prime Minister in a surprise 2.30pm phone call that he was resigning.

He said that he had "mistakenly allowed the distinction between my personal interest and my government activities to become blurred".

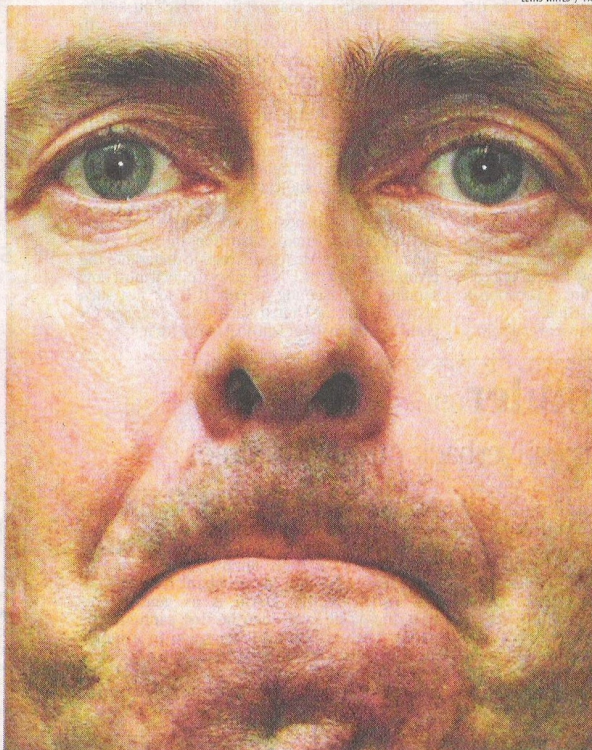
Downing Street had expected Dr

The Fox generation makes exit, stage right

Matthew Parris, page 23  
Plus: Leading article, page 2  
News special, pages 4-9

Fox to use a meeting with Sir Gus O'Donnell, the Cabinet Secretary, on Monday to fight for his political life. But within hours of *The Times* publishing full details of the corporate and foreign policy interests funding Mr Werritty as he shadowed the Defence Secretary around the world, Dr Fox decided that his position was untenable. The Prime Minister's spokeswoman had earlier said that the disclosures in *The Times* "do draw concerns".

Allies of Dr Fox, already braced for more damaging headlines, blamed the "deluge of non-stop detail" for the



Liam Fox said he let personal interests and his government role become blurred

LEWIS WHYTE / PA

demise of the Cabinet's leading Thatcherite.

Last night it emerged that Dr Fox had solicited a donation for a company financing Mr Werritty's activities even while he was Defence Secretary — the most damaging revelation yet.

John Moulton, a venture capitalist, demolished Dr Fox's insistence that he had not used his position as Defence Secretary to help Mr Werritty's travels, during which the pair crossed paths 18 times in 16 months.

Mr Moulton said: "Before the last election I had made several, on the record, donations to support Dr Fox following a request to do so from a Conservative Party fundraiser. After the election I was asked by Dr Fox to provide funds to a non-profit group called Pargav involved in security policy analysis and research and after obtaining written assurances as to its activities I provided personal funding to Pargav.

"Neither I, nor any of my associates, have sought or received a benefit of any form from Pargav. I have not received an account of Pargav's activities, nor have I been involved at all with Pargav, since funding. I will not be doing this again."

Philip Hammond was named as the new Defence Secretary in a limited but eye-catching reshuffle. Mr Hammond, until last night the Transport Secretary, has spent most of his time on the front bench as part of the Treasury team. He will be expected to keep an iron grip on the Ministry of Defence budget.

Justine Greening takes charge  
Continued on page 4

**David Attenborough**  
Camping at the North Pole at 85

Magazine



**Caitlin Moran**  
'I know what it's like to be poor'

Magazine



**Ricky Gervais**  
'Fashion? My favourite trousers are pyjamas'

Magazine



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# Skiing Focus Report



## Avant-garde comes to the Alps

Architecture with attitude is changing the landscape, finds **Felix Milns**

In the chocolate box setting of the Swiss and Austrian Alps something is afoot. A bold new aesthetic is revolutionising the mountain landscape, one that is inspirational and architecturally pioneering. Resorts such as St Anton, Kitzbühel, Zermatt and Laax are setting the benchmark for the next 20 years of alpine development.

Zermatt may be one of the oldest and prettiest villages in the Swiss Alps but the black-stilted timber chalets have been joined by some striking examples in steel and glass. Heinz Julen is a local artist and

architect who has been influential in driving forward this new style.

His new Backstage Hotel, in which every piece of furniture was handmade in his Zermatt studio, redefines the concept of a boutique hotel. The exterior is a timber-framed wall of glass, while, inside, fireplaces sit in suspended glass boxes and six "cube lofts" are designed around the concept of a glass box bathroom in the centre of the suite. A large double bed is suspended above it.

Julen also conceived the Snowboat cocktail bar, elsewhere in town, which is literally a cocktail bar in the shape of a boat built from steel and glass, and the Heimberg restaurant, reputed to be one of the finest in the Alps. The architect's imaginative mark is all over Zermatt these days and his bold imaginings have inspired other contemporary developments such as Chalet Les Anges and Chalet Maurice.

While Zermatt and the Matterhorn are potent international symbols of Switzerland, Laax is a resort that has been popular domestically for a long time but has only

recently gained international traction, thanks largely to a hugely ambitious development in the heart of the village. Rocksresort features cube-shaped apartment blocks clad in rough local stone.

Powder Bryne has been the largest UK operator in the resort over the past decade and Simon Meek, the sales and marketing director, thinks the redevelopment has opened up the resort to a new audience.

"The resort has always been a quiet favourite of our guests but it is certainly receiving a lot more deserved attention."

While many people's perception of Austria comes from *The Sound of Music*, the country has long been at the vanguard of contemporary architecture. Both Bregenz and Graz are true 21st-century cities, while Innsbruck, the de facto capital of the Tyrol, is graced by Zaha Hadid's futuristic Hungerbergbahn funicular, the perfect complement to the landmark Bergisel ski jump opened in 2002.

The modern aesthetic has also spread to the mountain resorts. The new Rosengarten hotel in Kirchberg, near Kitzbühel,

Crowning glory: the Top Mountain Star restaurant in the Oetz Valley Alps

is a example of city style in the mountains. Developed on the back of the successful two Michelin-starred Rosengarten restaurant, it specialises in short gastro ski breaks and is serenely minimal.

Obergurgl has the new Hotel Crystal, looking like a snowbound ocean liner. And in Hochgurgl, the circular glass Top Mountain Star restaurant perches on top of the 3,080m-high Wurmkogel, offering stunning 360-degree views across the Oetz Valley Alps.

One of the first Austrian resort hotels to embrace the new aesthetic was CUBE in the Zugspitz Arena, which favours an open-plan interior design. Its concept is unconventional architecture and urban design in the middle of the Alps.

A new five-star hotel opens in St Anton in December. The Hotel Tannenhof is a modern take on classic Tyrolean architecture, with plenty of glass and simple pine cladding.

While you can never take the Tyrolean out of the Tyrol, the Austrian and Swiss Alps are entering an exciting new phase.

“Resorts are setting the design benchmark for the next 20 years”

## Psych yourself up with the girls in pink and go for it

**Minty Clinch** seeks to unleash her inner diva on the slopes of Aspen

Excitement mounts as Team Diva — ladies only, naturally — ride the first car on the Silver Queen gondola. Our mission is to plunder Aspen Mountain while the celebs are still abed. Kelly and Nico, our alpha babe Diva leaders, have new pink jackets. We, their weekend acolytes, have new confidence, born of increased self-knowledge and stress management awareness.

For this we give thanks to Connie, a sleek life coach from Delaware. She works for Birkman International, established in 1951 when psychometric testing was in its infancy. She does not ski — such is the demand for her services that she has no time — but on a Diva mission to persuade us that "dipping" into our psyches can improve seriously our performance on the slopes, she is persuasive.

Or is there a hint of Eurocepticism in the frosty air on this spectacular Rocky Mountain morning?

The Divas are an Aspen institution, a 16-strong team who give synchronised skiing demonstrations of awesome precision. Their marriage with Birkman, designed to attract high-achieving female tourists, is an add-on marketing tool and we are the guinea pigs.

There are four personality quadrants, according to the Birkman mantra. Our American hosts, enthusiastic, forceful and competitive, are firmly in the red corner while we, their British guests, watch them warily from the darkest reaches of the blue. Red equals "just do it", while blue is "hey, hang on a moment".

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My stress management monitor snarls into red alert. Even my pre-Birkman self-knowledge tells me that you need to be a

team player for this — and a far better skier than I will ever be.

Instead I follow Chris Klug, a male Aspenite with a cameo Diva role on the grounds that he was the first transplant survivor to win an Olympic medal. After a liver replacement in 2000 at the age of 28 he won bronze in the snowboarding giant slalom at the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

En route to breakfast he demonstrates triumph over adversity with majestic authority. By the time we reach Bonnies mountain restaurant, my self-esteem is in shreds, although I cover up courageously with a stack of the eaterie's signature buckwheat pancakes.

Heart-warmingly, our three days with Kelly and Nico underline the advantages of same-sex skiing. We encourage one another and we also eat with the greed of girls not needing to appear slim for guys at Cloud Nine, a boozy Austrian-owned lunch spot on Aspen Highlands.

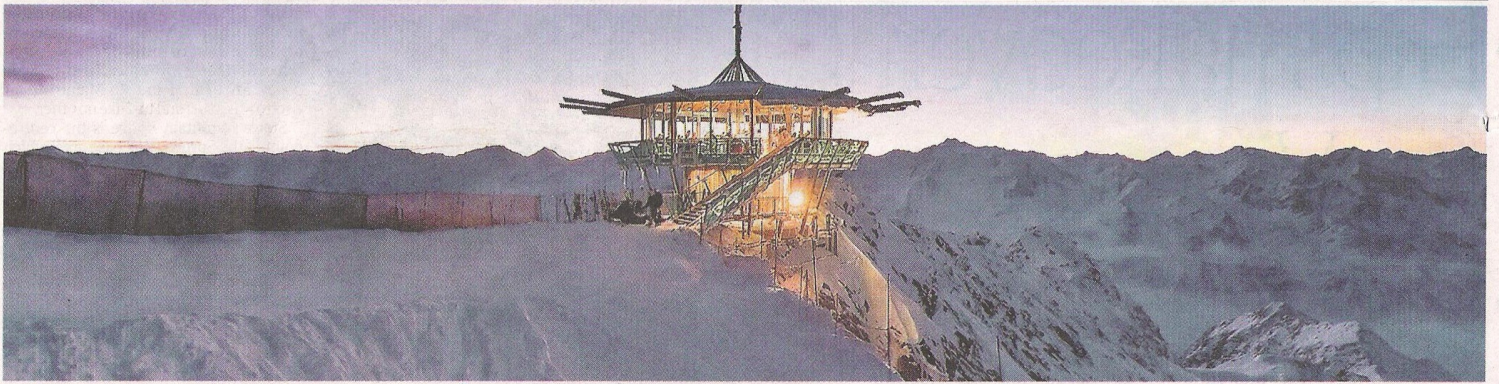
In the evening it is the turn of Rebecca, one of our number, to shine. Stifling a yawn, she hits the dance floor and is soon showing Jimmy Z, the owner of one of Aspen's best loved bar-restaurants, some new salsa moves. He looks to be having a great time. Us too.

Aspen Team Diva Ski & Coaching Week will be held from February 2 to 6.



Awesome twosome: Divas Nico and Kelly burn it up in effortless style

# Skiing Focus Report



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