



●Tessa (centre) with runners in West Ham Park

IT'S LOVE ON THE RUN!

COUPLES were among those who took part in a 5k run around West Ham Park on Valentine's Day.

The race, the penultimate in a four-event series, was organised by Olympic gold medallist Tessa Sanderson. It was billed as the Love Run as it was held on Valentine's Day.

It saw at least five couples running together with the winners being the pair with the lowest combined time.

The fastest couple were John O'Shea and Rachel Lund. For Highgate Harrier John it was also his third consecutive win in the 40-

plus category with a time of 18 minutes, 45 seconds.

Almost a minute quicker and with the best time of the series so far was Harun Abdi, an 18-year-old member of Newham & Essex Beagles who won the men's section.

Diana Kennedy of Woodford Green Ladies won her second consecutive women's 5k run. Rachel Brittle of Eton Manor Athletics Club sealed her second victory in the women's 35-plus category.

The fourth and final build-up run for the Newham Classic 10K will be held on February 28.

Crash landing: Plane had crack

By KAY ATWAL

SAFETY maintenance work had not been completed on a passenger jet whose nose landing gear collapsed as it arrived at London City Airport, according to a report by air accident investigators.

The British Airways flight from Amsterdam skidded to a halt on a runway at the airport on February 13 last year at 7.40pm when its landing gear fractured. All 71 people on board, including the crew, were safely evacuated as dense smoke filled the cockpit and cabin.

A report by the Air Accident Investigation Branch concluded that: "The nose landing gear had fractured due to the presence of a fatigue crack in the upper internal bore of the landing gear main fitting."

The nose gear collapsed backwards and penetrated the lower fuselage which "allowed smoke and fumes...to enter the cockpit and passenger cabin".

The investigation found that the crack had formed as a result of poor surface finish during manufacture and the incomplete maintenance by an American company, though its records showed that the safety improvements had been completed in June 2006.

The report made no specific recommendations as measures to improve safety and inspections had already been taken by the US maintenance firm.

Three passengers were treated for minor injuries and two were kept in hospital overnight. The terminal was closed for several hours and 11 flights were diverted to neighbouring airports. Normal operations were resumed the following day with some delays.

The incident was the second at the airport in little more than a week. On February 5 another jet had landed with a suspected damaged nose wheel.

British Airways has welcomed the report's findings. It was not responsible for the unfinished work found in the investigation by the AAIB.

Searching for sex attacker

THIS is an image of the man detectives want to question in relation to a sexual assault in Canning Town.

The victim, a 22-year-old woman, left The Plymouth Arms, also known as Pier One Club, in Stephenson Street at about 5.10am on October 10 last year.

She was approached by a man who she had previously noticed inside the venue. He asked if she wanted to wait in his car for her friends, who were still inside.

The victim agreed, and the suspect went to get his car, a blue Ford Focus, parked nearby.

He then drove the car to Stephenson Street and parked it outside the club.

The woman sat in the back of the vehicle. The suspect then pushed the driver's seat back, trapping the woman's legs. She was then assaulted.

Following the attack, the victim was able to free her-



●An e-fit of the suspect

By KAY ATWAL

self and got out of the car. The suspect then drove off at speed along Stephenson Street.

He is described as black, aged in his late 20s, 6ft 3ins, wearing a dark jacket, blue top and dark jeans. He spoke with a strong African accent. People were celebrating Ugandan Independence Day at the club.

Anyone with information is asked to call Newham CID on (020) 8217 9873.

Alternatively, to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

'DRINK AND DRUGS USED IN ATTACKS ON SCHOOLBOYS'

A FORMER social worker plied two schoolboys with drink and drugs to repeatedly rape them, a court heard.

Gordon Fraser, 48, showed the brothers porn films and paid them for sex at his home in Old Barrowfield, Plaistow, it is said.

He is said to have struck between 1996 and 2007, including an attack on one of the boys when he was aged just nine at B&Q in Beckton.

Fraser took both victims, now adults, under his wing with the agreement of their father, the court heard.

Prosecutor Janine Sheff told Snaresbrook Crown Court: "What this case really concerns is the catalogue of abuse that these two men suffered at the hands of Gordon Fraser."

"A man they trusted and who was trusted by their father. A father who, until this trial, had no idea what Gordon Fraser did to his sons."

The younger brother, now aged 20, spoke of his oppressive early years and both boys were lured by Fraser's offers of drink, drugs and cash, said Miss Sheff.

The "laid-back and lax" atmosphere of Fraser's flat appealed to the two youngsters, said Miss Sheff.

"But, as with many situations that appear too good to be true, it turned out there was a terrible price."

After one attack Fraser handed his victim a wad of banknotes, the court heard.

Fraser denies five counts of indecent assault on a male person, six counts of burglary, sexual activity with a child and rape, all between April 1996 and March 2007.

'AXE KILLING BID ON WIFE'

A SCHOOL handyman tried to murder his estranged wife with a hammer and an axe, a court heard.

Paul Phillips, 55, put the hatchet in a sports bag and attacked Ann Phillips, also 55, at their former home in Woodman Street, North Woolwich, it was said.

He punched Mrs Phillips before repeatedly raining down blows on her head with the hammer, a jury was told.

Phillips then wielded an axe, but the victim grabbed the weapon, slicing open her hand, Snaresbrook Crown Court heard.

After failing to kill the mother of three, Phillips was said to have calmly told her: "Go and get yourself cleaned up."

Phillips met his wife in the early 1970s and they had four children together but separated in January last year.

The husband, a caretaker at a private school in Hammersmith, returned to their home on March 23, telling her: "We have got to talk."

Mrs Phillips told him: "There's nothing to talk about." Then her husband pulled out the weapons.

Phillips, of no fixed address, denies attempted murder and an alternative count of wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm. The trial continues.

WHAT A GAY DAY!



A FLAG-RAISING ceremony for Newham's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender folk was held at East Ham Town Hall.

It was attended by Mayor Sir Robin Wales and his Executive Member for Equalities and

Social Inclusion, Cllr Neil Wilson. It marked Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History month.

Sir Robin said: "This is a clear statement of our ideals of tolerance and respect." The ceremony is pictured.

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