



CUTS: RBS London HQ

RBS and Lloyds 'to shut 400 branches'

by **Karen Rockett**

TWO major high street banks are expected to close at least 400 more branches as they publish their 2015 financial results this week, it was reported last night.

The closures in the next three years, as more customers bank online, could see thousands of jobs lost.

Lloyds Banking Group and the Royal Bank of Scotland are predicted to announce plans for cutting their costs.

Analysts believe that this could result in more than 400 extra branches shutting in the coming years.

The entire bank sector has cut several thousand branches in recent years as Britons embrace internet and mobile banking.

RBS has 1,600 branches, down from 2,200 in 2010. It has seen branch transactions fall 43 per cent since 2010, while those by net and phone are up 400 per cent.

Replicated figures would see Lloyds cut back from 3,000 branches to just 1,800 – more than 200 closures on top of current plans.

Taxpayers still own about 73 per cent of RBS and 11 per cent of Lloyds after the 2008 bail-out. Both banks declined to comment.

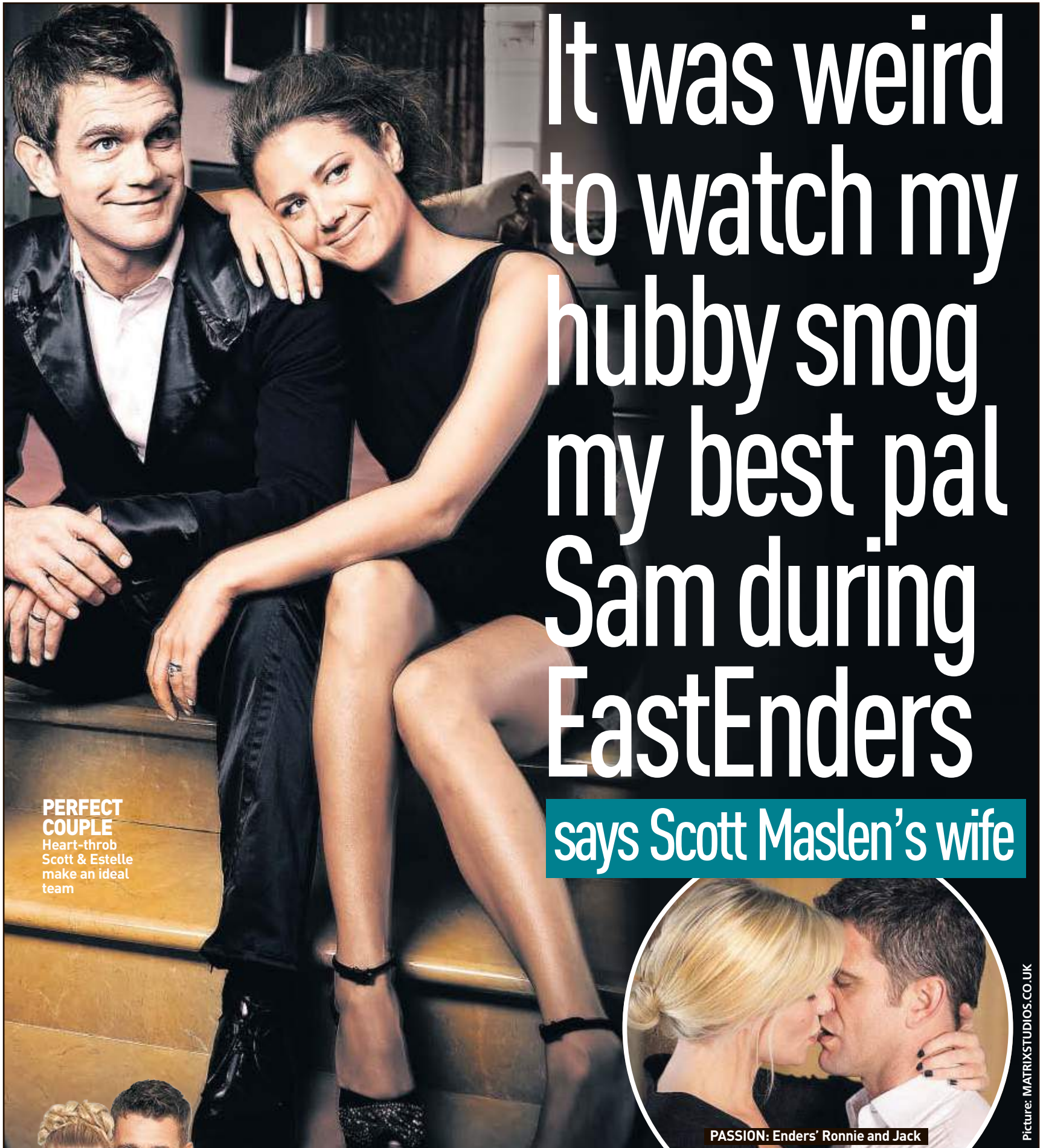
True Costa fun in sun

INCREASING numbers of fun-loving Brits are risking expensive medical bills when they go abroad.

New research by the Post Office shows over a quarter of over-55s now enjoy high adrenaline activities.

Mountain biking, scuba diving, snowboarding, water sports and canoeing are the most popular, but only three in 10 polled checked rules and safety advice.

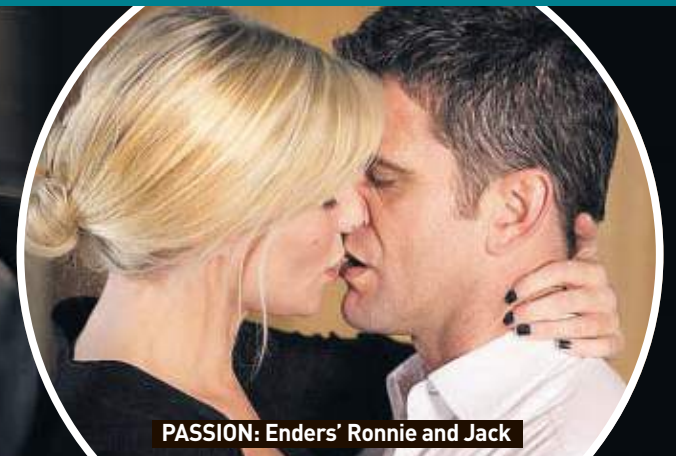
Just a quarter asked organisers if they had insurance and half were unsure if they were covered. One in 14 who went abroad in the last five years had problems and a third had emergencies at an average cost of over £500. The Post Office's Rob Clarkson said: "They are more adventurous than expected."



PERFECT COUPLE
Heart-throb Scott & Estelle make an ideal team

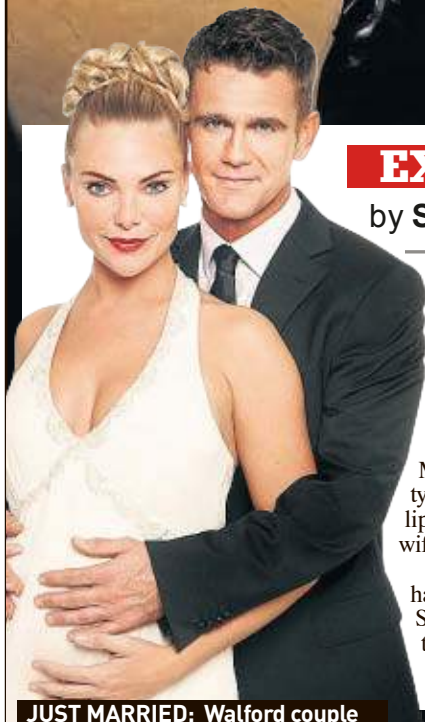
It was weird to watch my hubby snog my best pal Sam during EastEnders

says Scott Maslen's wife



PASSION: Enders' Ronnie and Jack

Picture: MATRIXSTUDIOS.CO.UK



JUST MARRIED: Walford couple

EXCLUSIVE

by **Sharon Feinstein**

KISSING hot women is part of sexy star Scott Maslen's job so being his wife can be hard.

Fortunately Estelle Maslen is not the jealous type but watching him lock lips with his EastEnders' wife Ronnie was strange.

She said: "When Scott had to snog my best friend, Sam Womack – Ronnie in the show – it was so weird because they're like

brother and sister." For musician Estelle, 37, it was even more awkward than seeing him kiss a man in the US series *The Royal*, which also starred Liz Hurley.

She said: "Our 15-year-old Zak was freaked out, I found it hilarious. Liz asked if I was freaked out and I said no. Scott said 'I'm just going to go for it'."

Estelle admits she was longing for Scott, 44, twice British Soap Awards' sexiest male, to return to Albert Square as Jack Branning on Christmas Eve, after a two year break.

She said: "I call Scott Mr Cling-On and Pipe and Slippers as he's so attached to me and his home life. When he stopped working I went back to lecturing and supported the family he was

the house husband under my feet all day, coming down to my studio and hanging about."

But Estelle said Scott is the opposite of his womanising role. "No way is he a wide boy like Jack. He's genuinely a very good husband, very responsible and takes it very seriously.

"When he puts the clothes on he becomes Jack, and plays an alter ego. Maybe he gets the rogue and womaniser out of his system so he doesn't need to really behave like that. I've never seen that in Scott."

Estelle said he is the perfect, loyal, faithful husband who spoils her with thoughtful gestures.

"He calls up my favourite clothes shop, sneakily finds out what things I like and has it

delivered to my door all nicely wrapped up. I think he's got them on speed dial now. He doesn't understand the washing machine but does everything else, cooks every other night."

The couple, who met at Primrose Hill, North London, during a solar eclipse at 11.11am on August 11 have been married for 17 years.

With women throwing themselves at Scott, Estelle could be forgiven for being a bit jealous.

But she said: "I'm just not a jealous person. There are all these women tweeting, following him and running up to him and I just take the picture for them. I'm more likely to be jealous of his fame than other women."

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