

BUSINESS EYE

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Better to be united than divided

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This week I've escaped to St Andrews in Scotland to pen these words having twice been surrounded over the weekend by the Trumpian entourage at Chequers and in Aberdeen.

The weekend was otherwise dominated by the world of sport with France beating Croatia to win the World Cup and Novak Djokovic winning the Men's Singles at Wimbledon.

It was one of those occasions when the big news seemed to be more about the losers on a mission, with Serena Williams losing out to

Angelique Kerber and England of course losing out 2-0 to Belgium for third place in the football.

As I type, Mr Trump is no longer following me but has flown to Helsinki instead to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Unusually for such a summit there is apparently no agenda, but we do know that Mr Trump has positioned the European Union as a "foe" on trade and that he advised Theresa May to sue them on Brexit.

The day prior to his meeting with Mrs May, The Donald attacked her handling of Brexit, suggested it would kill any chance of a trade deal with the USA, and made his view that Boris would make a good Prime Minister known to the world.

Meanwhile, the Conservative Party is imploding over Brexit policy with daily ministerial resignations and the prospect that the crucial vote on trade and customs policy

might fall which would collapse negotiations.

While the Prime Minister has ruled out a second referendum and "leave" voters would prefer to avoid it, it is surely the only way now to move ahead as a united country.

With Trump suggesting that his meeting with NATO and a visit to the UK would be less easy than time spent with Vladimir Putin, and Theresa May bunkered down with dissatisfaction on all sides of the Brexit debate, we can observe the stress and cost of division.

Contrast this with the return of Gareth Southgate's defeated but united England team, and the singing in the rain of the victorious French team.

In Paris there were riots and looting of shops along the Champs Elysees as those with extreme political views took to the street under the cover of the national World Cup victory celebrations.



Donald Trump was following Alex over the weekend

We live in a world today where politics is ugly and aggressive.
Trump.
Riots.

Brexit.
Putin.
Terrorism.

Yet we all long to live more in hope and to be part of a unit-

ed team on a mission worth getting up for in the mornings. This is the space now open to any business to occupy in the minds of its team.