

It's been a while since I wrote the last UK Gossip piece but the lead item on the BBC News today really put things into perspective for me.

John Sergeant resigns place on Strictly Come Dancing was the headline. Yes, with a nation sick of hearing about financial doom & gloom, this story is top of the viewer polls today.

John Sergeant is one of Britain's most respected broadcasters and authors. His award-winning career as a political journalist has been as lengthy as it has been successful and seen him interview heavyweight luminaries such as Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair and John Major. In recent years John has become as famous for his appearances on comedy shows such as *Have I Got News For You*, *QI*, and *Room 101*.

In case you haven't seen the 'Strictly' series, professional dancers take several weeks to train celebrity novices how to twinkle their toes. Judges in the studio then rate their performance and vote on who to keep in and who to eliminate.

But here's the rub - the viewers vote counts for half the final decision and the viewers and the judges disagree on what makes good entertainment.

John 'stumbling' Sergeant has won the nations hearts and despite the critical judges comments, has survived several weeks of slings and arrows to become something of a new cult figure.

Trained by the beautiful Siberian, Kristina Rihanoff, pictured above with John, he has, some say, been put in a position of having to step down since he was in danger of winning the competition.

And that say the judges would be a travesty!... "Sack the judges", "BBC gets it wrong again", "Disgraceful", were just some of the comments posted online.

Also in trouble with the voting public is the TV talent show *X-Factor*. Broadcasting watchdog Ofcom has been urged by 40,000 fans of *X Factor* reject Laura White to investigate telephone voting procedures on the show.

Organisers of a petition calling for White's reinstatement following her shock dismissal by the judges have made a formal complaint to the watchdog. White, 21, from Bolton, who had been one of the favourites to win this year's *X Factor*, was voted out in November after judges Simon Cowell and Louis Walsh failed to save her. But says *The Mirror*, Laura is already top of the internet charts and is now recording an album due for release in February.



Didn't he do well... Lewis Hamilton I mean -what a dramatic final lap. In a motor racing season with a unique similarity to the US Presidential contest, Lewis Hamilton, 23 and the first Black driver in the history of Grand Prix racing, won the World Driving Championship in November, the most coveted title in all of motorsports, at the Interlagos track in Sao Paulo, Brazil. This season was just the Brit's second in F1; last year, a series of "rookie mistakes" cost him the title.

But it's what's on his arm rather than what's in the trophy cabinet that's being talked about most.

Nicole Prescovia Elikolani Valiente Scherzinger (also known as Nicole Kea) is an American pop singer-songwriter dancer, model, and occasional actress best known as the lead vocalist for the Pussycat Dolls.

Nicole and Lewis first confirmed they were an item back in May this year bit when Lewis took Nicole to Germany for the 'Golden Steering Wheel' Awards in Berlin the tongues started to wag that a wedding announcement could be imminent.

