

## EDITOR'S LETTER

A funny old week in football. As Liverpool head ignominiously towards the Championship, their demise is completely overshadowed by the remarkable story of Wayne Rooney. England's most naturally gifted player in a generation, Rooney finds himself at odds with his manager to such a degree that it's inconceivable he will be at Manchester United at the end of the January transfer window.

Wherever he goes, he will still be the first name on the England manager's teamsheet – but chances are that the second will be this week's cover star, the likeable Joe Hart. Finally, it seems England may have unearthed a goalkeeper with the potential to be genuinely world-class.

Also this week, the world number one women's tennis player, Caroline Wozniacki, and world snooker champ Neil Robertson. Quality stuff.

SIMON CANEY

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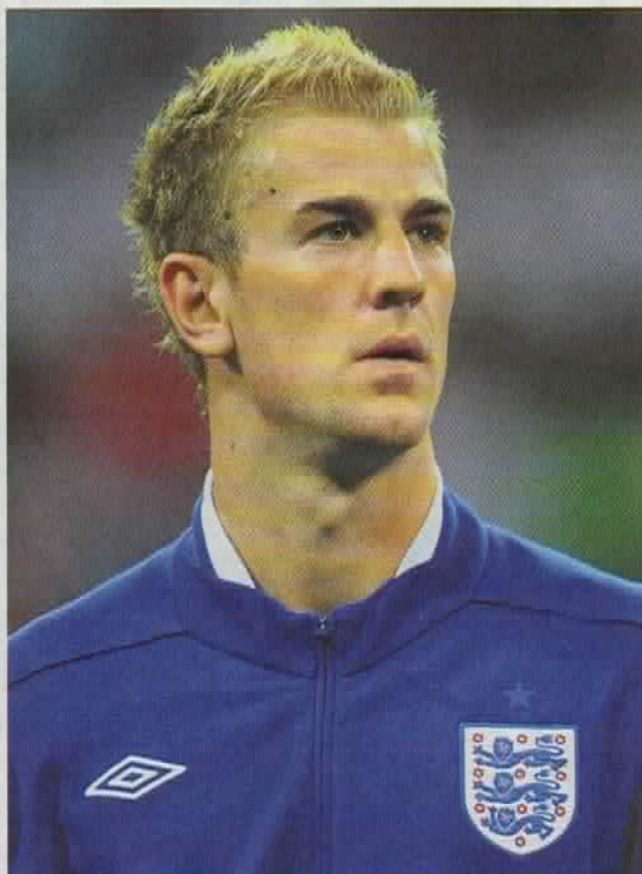
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## Profile

## Rochelle Gilmore

# Finally... the BRIDE

Before her recent Commonwealth gold, Rochelle Gilmore had come second so often she was known as The Bridesmaid. Well, no longer

## FAST FACTS

## ROCHELLE GILMORE

Age 28

Birthplace Sydney

## Occupation

Professional cyclist




"If u want it & believe u can do it – don't let crashes, injury or illness end your journey before you reach your destination. 10yrs = GOLD."

Rochelle Gilmore had barely stepped out of the saddle in Delhi before she tweeted that, such was her jubilation at finally landing a serious victory. The Aussie cyclist – now based in Italy – has been the best in the world for some time now, but the big prizes eluded her. She put that right in the 112km race last week, beating England's Lizzie Armitstead into silver; Olympic champion Nicole Cooke (representing Wales) came in fifth.

Indeed, as she swept past Armitstead and fellow Australian Chloe Hosking as they neared the line, it looked a breeze – and so it was. "Apart from the wild monkeys and stray dogs, there was nothing too challenging,"

she said afterwards. "We were told there would be no wild animals... but there were."

Gilmore started riding BMX bikes at three and also showed an aptitude for gymnastics, athletics, swimming and surf lifesaving, but she gave up everything in order to focus on BMX and surf lifesaving. Then, deciding that she wanted to represent Australia and with neither sport then an Olympic discipline, she switched to more conventional cycling – and was Australian under-15 national champion within three months.

She left school at 15 to compete as an elite cyclist and continued her education through correspondence courses, such was her determination to succeed. Last week, it all paid off. You little ripper! 

Rochelle drives the Honda CR-Z. See [www.honda-eu.com](http://www.honda-eu.com)





“

Apart from the wild monkeys and stray dogs, the Commonwealth Games wasn't too challenging

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