

# Boris takes the Brexit Baton

● Johnson defeated Hunt by 92,153 votes to 46,656 votes cast by members of the Conservative party. He will officially replace outgoing Prime Minister Theresa May on Wednesday

London, United Kingdom

British business leaders yesterday urged incoming prime minister Boris Johnson to avoid taking the country out of the European Union without a Brexit deal.

Johnson has said he will seek a new divorce agreement with Brussels but will leave without one if that is the only way to keep to the latest October 31 exit deadline.

"The new prime minister must not underestimate the benefits of a good deal," said Carolyn Fairbairn, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, Britain's biggest employers' organisation which represents some 190,000 businesses.

"It will unlock new investment and confidence in factories and boardrooms across the country. Business will back you across Europe to help get there."

The British Chambers of Commerce, which also represents thousands of firms, urged Johnson to spell out how he would avoid a chaotic no-deal Brexit.

"The message to Boris John-



Leadership contender Jeremy Hunt (L) shakes hands to congratulate new Conservative Party leader and incoming prime minister Boris Johnson (R) as the results of the leadership contest are announced at an event in central London

**Ongoing Brexit uncertainty is depressing business activity, but the financial and related professional services industry remains very clear that a no-deal Brexit is still the worst of all outcomes. We hope the new prime minister can find an economically viable way through the ongoing political impasse in parliament and with the EU 27**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE MILES CELIC  
THECITYUK

son from business communities around the UK couldn't be simpler: the time for campaigning is over -- and we need you to get down to business," said BCC Director General Adam Marshall.

"Companies need to know, in concrete terms, what your government will do to avoid a messy, disorderly Brexit on October 31, which would bring pain to communities across the UK and disruption to our trade around the world."

Johnson was elected leader of the governing Conservative Party on Tuesday and will take over as prime minister on Wednesday.

He replaces Theresa May, who quit after trying and failing to get her deal with Brussels through the British parliament, forcing her to delay Brexit twice.

## He will be great!: Trump

Congratulations to Boris Johnson on becoming the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. He will be great! He's a different kind of a guy, but they say I'm a different kind of a guy too. We get along well. I think we'll have a very good relationship



## Congrats to Boris

Congratulations to Boris Johnson for being nominated as prime minister," the incoming head of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen said in Paris. "I am looking forward to having a good working relationship with him."



## Ready to rework

"We look forward to working constructively with PM Boris Johnson when he takes office, to facilitate the ratification of the Withdrawal Agreement and achieve an orderly Brexit," said EU negotiator Michel Barnier. "We are ready also to rework the agreed declaration on a new partnership in line with EUCO guidelines."



## The bankers' friend

"Boris Johnson has won the support of fewer than 100,000 unrepresentative Conservative Party members by promising tax cuts for the richest, presenting himself as the bankers' friend, and pushing for a damaging No Deal Brexit," said Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the main opposition Labour Party. "But he hasn't won the support of our country," he said on Twitter.



## It's 'do or die'

I wish Boris Johnson well as prime minister with his 'do or die' pledge to deliver Brexit on October 31," said Britain's Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage. "It is 'do or die' not just for Brexit but for the future of the Conservative party too. Does he have the courage to deliver for the country?"



## Carrie: Britain's new 'first girlfriend'

London, United Kingdom

Boris Johnson will enter Downing Street as British prime minister for the first time today amid speculation over whether his far younger girlfriend, Carrie Symonds, will accompany him.

Twice-married Johnson, 55 -- declared the Conservative Party's new leader on Tuesday and now set to be confirmed as premier by Queen Elizabeth II -- is dating the party's 31-year-old former director of communications.

Symonds is an avid environmental campaigner and previously worked on his re-election campaign as London mayor in 2012.

The two have been a public, but largely discreet, couple since the serial philanderer split last year from his wife of 26 years.

In the run-up to Johnson's takeover, British newspapers have been rife with rumours over Symonds' future role as the nation's "first girlfriend" and whether she will also live at his 10 Downing Street headquarters. He refused to discuss the matter on several occasions during the campaign.

The couple are believed to have been living together in south London after Johnson and now estranged wife Marina Wheeler, 55, confirmed their separation last Sep-



Carrie Symonds  
(Courtesy of the Sun)

tember. Symonds was thrown into the spotlight in June when neighbours there called the police after they overheard her screaming at him during a late-night row.

Symonds yelled "get off me" and "get out" amid the sound of things being smashed, according to a recording made by one neighbour and given to The Guardian.

The couple have reportedly not been living at the residence since the incident.

### Attempted smear

Symonds is the daughter of Matthew Symonds, a co-founder of *The Independent* newspaper, and Josephine McAfee, a former lawyer there with whom he had an extra-marital affair.

She grew up in southwest London, attending the exclusive Godolphin and Latymer private school before studying theatre studies and history of art at Warwick University in central England.

Symonds began working for the Conservatives in 2010 as a marketing director for MP Zac Goldsmith, and first came into contact with Johnson by working on his mayoral campaign.

She went on to hold various press jobs at party headquarters, including director of communications, but left that role last year.

*The Daily Mail* reported earlier this month that she had quit after being accused of unau-

thorised expenses and leaking stories to the media that were damaging to outgoing prime minister Theresa May.

### 'Introduced gradually'

The new prime minister's aides are said to be divided on how to handle the relationship -- and whether Johnson should pose for photos with Symonds when he first enters Downing Street.

Johnson had four children with now-estranged wife Wheeler -- his eldest daughter is just five years younger than Symonds -- as well as a daughter resulting from a 2009 fling.

During a court battle relating to that birth, it was alleged he had had another child out of wedlock, but it remains unclear and Johnson has refused to comment.

He and Symonds are reportedly set to wed next year once he has divorced, with some advisers reportedly advocating she keep a low profile until then.

"We are struggling with this," *The Daily Mail* quoted one source as saying.

"Some say it would be inappropriate for her to be on the steps holding his arm. She should be introduced gradually."

Johnson will be the first unmarried prime minister since Edward Heath in 1970.

If the pair were to marry, he would become the first British prime minister to wed while in office for 250 years.

## Pound wobbles

### Key figures around 1415 GMT

Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2456 from \$1.2476 at 2100 GMT
Pound/euro:	▼ at 89.62 pence from 89.85 pence
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1157 from \$1.1209
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 108.13 yen from 107.87 yen
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.7pc at 7,565.06 points
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▲ 1.7pc at 12,501.01
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 1.1pc at 5,625.49
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 1.0pc at 21,620.88 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▲ 0.3pc at 28,466.48 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.5pc at 2,899.94 (close)
New York - Dow:	▲ 0.2pc at 27,227.10
Brent North Sea crude:	■ at \$63.22 per barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	■ at \$56.25

London, United Kingdom

The pound bounced briefly higher yesterday before falling back again after arch-Brexiteer Boris Johnson was announced as Britain's next prime minister. Markets had widely expected the results and the pound got a brief boost once they were announced before slipping lower again to \$1.24 in afternoon London trade. Meanwhile, the pound's slump against other major currencies helped boost the London stock market and the gains held into the afternoon.

### Asian stocks climb

Elsewhere, Asian stock mar-

kets had risen earlier in the day, tracking overnight gains on Wall Street.

As trading got underway in the US on Tuesday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average headed gently higher on a batch of mostly solid earnings reports and a budget agreement between congressional leaders and the White House.

Traders are now focusing on an upcoming Federal Reserve policy meeting at which the US central bank is expected to cut interest rates, with the main question being the size of the cut.

On oil markets, prices were essentially unchanged while traders kept tabs on the rumbling Iran crisis.