Dad's Army get backing

INTERNET, London

Chairman of selectors David Graveney has defended England's recall of veterans John Crawley, Dominic Cork and Alec Stewart for the first Test against Sri Lanka.

Newspapers described England's line-up as "Dad's Army" when it was announced last weekend. with 30-year-olds Crawley and Cork back.

And commentators were disappointed that 20-year-old batsman Ian Bell should have had a chance. Stewart 39 returns after incumbent wicketkeeper James Foster broke his arm.

But Graveney told BBC Radio Five Live: "The suggestion that being 30 you're qualified for Dad's Army is a little extreme.

'The media have built up a number of young players, lan Bell in particular, and as a result of that, if they get their predictions wrong then it's out fault.

Bell was called into England's touring squad in New Zealand in April, but has not enjoyed a good start to the domestic season with Warwickshire.

"Bell was an option and it wasn't until half an hour before the team was announced that we made a decision," Graveney admitted.

On the eve of the Test, captain Nasser Hussain stressed players must "earn the right" to play for their country if England are to end a run of four series without victory.

"We're not such a great, superior England side that we can start throwing people in and giving them Test matches and saying it's a great time to play because it's not," he

"There are no easy Test matches, we haven't won a series for four series and Sri Lanka are a top outfit and we have to pick our best side, which I firmly believe we have done

"Everyone keeps presuming we're this great side that goes around beating everyone all the time, but we're England "As we saw in New Zealand, we

have to pick our best side to play at our best all the time to win Test

Hussain said England had picked players on form for the first Test of the season.

"We've picked the leading runscorer in county cricket (Crawley) and the leading wicket-taker (Cork). "You earn the right to come into this dressing room and play for England, it's as simple as that.

West couldn't care less

INTERNET, London

Nigeria's defender Taribo West today insisted his team are not frightened of England and David Beckham, the Evening Standard

West admitted the Super Eagles preparations were well behind those of 'Group of Death' opponents Sweden, Argentina and England.

West, who is in Dublin as Nigeria play a friendly against Republic of Ireland tonight, said: "We are not the best team in Africa, Cameroon are. They are the leaders of African football, the team we must all emu-

"If we are to succeed in Japan next month we must be like Cameroon. We must believe that we can beat England, Sweden and Argentina. It will not be easy but I am not afraid of any team or any opponent we will face in Japan. You ask me of Freddie Ljungberg and Beckham but I tell you that God did not make them with three legs and four arms

"They are human, the same as the rest of us and the same as me. It will not take a superhuman effort to play against them. I'm not afraid of

CROSSWORD

38 Stout and

sturdy

follower

40 Lambda

41 Boston

news-

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43 Strappy

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51 Tiriac of

tennis

vania port

53 Eat like - 10 Rams'

from SSW 11 DNA

52 Pennsyl-

54 Away

portraye

47 1983

ACROSS

5 Ukraine

capital

9 Cribbage

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keeper

12 Cairo's

13 Advan-

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14 Stupefy,

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Waltz"

singer

17 X rating?

18 Missing

19 Old hat

22 Trattoria

member

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15 Tennesee 48 Keller

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Morocco waits merrily

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Rabat

Sri Lanka have confirmed they will take part in a tri-nation cricket tournament to be held for the first time in Morocco in August along with Pakistan and South Africa, organisers have said.

ern city of Tangiers as venue, will set precedence in the Arab North African country where the sport is little known.

and have a total prize money of 250,000 USD with 120,000 USD for the winning team.

Chakib Nejjar, head of the Royal Cricket Federation (FRMC), voiced enthusiasm for the proposal. "Sri Lanka confirmed it would be taking

"I'm sure that the ICC (International Cricket Council) team, due to visit and inspect the Tangiers stadium in June, will find all facilities up to international standards," he

Morocco has also been proposed as a potential venue for Australia's series against Pakistan in September, due to security concerns following the suicide bombing in Karachi last week that killed 14

Morocco in 1991 and received a big boost after the construction in 1999 of a cricket stadium in Tangiers at a total cost of \$25 million.

cricket is a new sport in Morocco. but we already play a championship and an eight-team national cup, said cricket player Amine Mejjati

commission.

A 25-million dollar cricket facility has been constructed at Tangiers by the Cricketers Benefit Fund Series (CBFS), organisers of cricket internationals in Sharjah, United Arab

Sharjah, promoted by a cricketloving businessman from the UAE, Abdulrehman Bukhatir, has hosted more one-day internationals than any venue in the world since the first official match was played there in

Former Indian Test star Mohinder Amarnath, hired by the CBFS to teach cricket to youngsters in Morocco, said Tangiers "was a great place to hold international matches.'

"There is already a lot of interest in the game among the locals, who play tournaments regularly," he

during South Africa's 22-year isola-

tion from the international arena in

Lorgat was the only survivor from

the previous committee, which

featured Graeme Pollock, Mike

Procter, Peter Bacela, Morris Garda

after being appointed an

International Cricket Council (ICC)

Procter withdrew from the panel

The rest of the members were

removed in the wake of South Africa

losing five of six Test matches and

eight of 11 one-day internationals

panel and believe that in Omar we

have someone who fits perfectly the

profile that we would want for a

convenor of national selectors."

UCB chief executive Gerald Majola

Henry played three Tests as an

orthodox left-arm spinner. In 123

first class matches, he took 434

wickets at 24.97 with a best analysis

"I am proud to announce this

against the Australians.

said in the statement.

and convenor Rushdi Magiet.

the apartheid era

match referee

Cox cracks hundred

AFP, London

Australian Jamie Cox produced a captain's innings of 176 as Somerset made 390 for three against Leicestershire at Taunton on the opening day of the latest round of county championship matches Wednesday.

Cox was in superb form, hitting 29 fours in his 295-ball innings with Leicestershire's veteran ex England new ball duo of Devon Malcolm and Phil DeFreitas on the receiving end of the Tasmanian's strokeplay.

He eventually fell to Darren Maddy's medium-pace but with the rest of the top order all chipping in it was Somerset's day.

At Canterbury Denmark's Amjad Khan took career-best figure of six for 52 as Kent bowled out champions Yorkshire for 239. It was the first time the 21-year-old Copenhagen born quick had taken five wickets in an innings.

England all-rounder Carig White made 104 for Yorkshire before Kent closed on 61 without loss.

Another 'forgotten' England player giving the selectors a reminder on the eve of the first Test against Sri Lanka was Nick Knight

Warwickshire's left-handed opener made 151 not out in his side's 274 for nine against Hampshire at Edgbaston.

In the day's other top flight match Sussex captain Chris Adams was 159 not out at stumps, his team piling up 345 for seven against Lancashire at Old Trafford.

In the second division Gloucestershire's in-form New Zealand batsman Craig Spearman continued his good start to the season with an unbeaten 99 out of 165 for two against Nottinghamshire.

Spearman has so far faced 134 balls including one six and 15 fours. Earlier his Gloucestershire teammate James Averis took five for 51 as Nottinghamshire were skittled out for 197 at Bristol. Meanwhile Australian batsmar

Martin Love's 71 could not prevent Durham being bowled out for a meagre 162 at Cardiff, Glamorgan quick Darren Thomas doing the damage with seven for 33.

But the Welsh county also found batting difficult, closing on 117 for

Another Australian in the runs was all-rounder Andrew Bichel. His 65 was the top score in Worcestershire's 367 against Essex at New Road. The visitors finished the day nine without loss.

Elsewhere, Middlesex's South African-born left-hander Sven Koenia struck his second century of the season, making 101 against Northamptonshire.

At stumps Middlesex were 367 for five with Paul Weekes 92 not out

Serena sails

Serena Williams of the United States booked her place in the quarter-finals of the 1.244-million dollar Masters Series tournament and then revealed that sister Venus will be fit to play the French Open in

The 20-year-old Serena thrashed Denisa Chladkova of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-2 in just one hour to set up a last eight clash against either defending champion Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia or unseeded Russian Anastasia

said that sister Venus, who withdrew from this tournament Tuesday night with a mystery wrist injury just half an hour before her scheduled clash with Anna Kournikova, was not likely to miss the French Open.

to miss the French Open," said Serena who has temporarily also lost her practice partner.

Azhar listed for award

Cricket

REUTERS, New Delhi

Disgraced Indian skipper Mohammad Azharuddin, serving a life-ban over match-fixing, has been nominated for an Indian cricketer of the century award launched by the Wisden Cricketers Almanac.

He faces competition from former opener Sunil Gavaskar and batsman Sachin Tendulkar among 16 cricketers.

Leg-spinner Anil Kumble is the other current player besides Tendulkar to be shortlisted for the

Azharuddin was banned by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in 2000 after it conducted an internal inquiry into a report on corruption in cricket by India's federal Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

He has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

Batting legend Gavaskar was the first to cross the 10,000-run mark in Tests and his world record of 34 Test centuries still stands. Former all-rounder Kapil Dev,

who captained India to triumph in the 1983 World Cup before going on to claim the world record for most

The nominees were chosen by a 35-member panel which includes many former Test players and is headed by former West Indies

skipper Clive Lloyd. The winner will be announced at a function in London on July 23.



The others chosen are Bishan Singh Bedi, Bhagwat landrasekhar, Vijay Hazare, Vijay Merchant, Tiger Pataudi, Dilip Vengsarkar, Gundappa Viswanath as well as the late I ala Amarnath Dinkar Balwant Deodhar, Vinoo Mankad and CK Nayudu.

Kumble's jaw fixed

REUTERS, Bangalore

India leg-spinner Anil Kumble underwent surgery on Thursday to mend the jaw he fractured in last week's fourth Test against West

"The operation went well and he is recovering," Sanjiv Nair, one of the two doctors who carried out the operation, told the news agency.

Nair said the 45-minute procedure included fixing a plate to support the broken jaw, adding that Kumble would be staying in hospital overnight as a precaution.

"He just wants to recuperate that's all." Nair said. "Maybe in five or six days he should be back in the

Kumble's wife Chetana told the news agency that the spinner was doing "very well", though he was still in some pain.

"It is quite routine. Nothing extraordinary," she said.

Kumble, 31, India's most successful current bowler with 319 Test wickets, was hit by a rising ball from fast bowler Mervyn Dillon on Saturday when batting on the second day of the Test in Antigua.

Kumble is expected to regain full fitness for India's tour of England

Unmatched umpiring

Cricket

REUTERS, Melbourne

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) claimed that their umpires made the right decision 19 times out of every 20 appeals during the 2001-02 Australian summer.

Australia drew 0-0 in a three-Test series with New Zealand before sweeping South Africa 3-0 and winning a triangular limited

Former players and officials, including former West Indies fast bowler Michael Holding, have been critical in recent years of decisions seen to favour the home side in Tests played in Australia.

"From the 363 appeals made to Australian umpires during the two Test series and the (one-day) series. 345 decisions were correct, the ACB said. "The umpires were at their best

during the (one-day) series, when 96 per cent of the 225 appeals resulted in correct decisions."

ACB Umpiring Manager Geoff Allardice said the first trial of the

umpires did a good job. "However, given that this technology was instituted for the first time this year, it is difficult to com-

new umpiring technology was

successful and the data from the

2001-02 season showed the

pare the performance with years gone by," he said. A video review process enabled officials to log every ball so umpires

could review footage of each deci-"If we want our umpires to improve, an effective way to do that is to sit down and review each

decision and use footage to iron out deficiencies." Allardice said. He likened the approach to that taken by Australia cricket team coach John Buchanan, whose computer-driven analysis techniques have helped make Australia

the number one-ranked team in Test cricket. Daryl Harper is the only Australian member of the eightman elite panel of international match umpires appointed by the International Cricket Council in

March. Two umpires from the panel will stand in all Test matches and there home umpire for one-day internationals

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has introduced specialist third umpires to the international panel for the first time in its latest move to improve umpiring standards.

The two on-field umpires can refer difficult decisions involving catches, stumpings, run-outs and boundaries to the third official, who adjudicates with the benefit of television replays.

"These officials will not perform on-field duties but will be dedicated to the increasingly specialist role of the third, or so-called TV umpire. the ICC said in a statement on Thursday. The third umpires are Steve

Davis (Australia), Jeremy Lloyds (England), Tony Hill (New Zealand), Shahid Wadvalla (South Africa) and Ian Robinson (Zimbabwe). The international panel provides

officials for all one-day internationals and provides cover for the ICC's elite panel of eight full-time Test

Worried Indian media

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, London

The Indian media has called the national team's participation in the 2003 Cricket World Cup into gues-

The Today newspaper believes there is a doubt over whether India will play in South Africa because of the government's hard-line views about playing matches against Pakistan.

India and Pakistan are in the same first round group and due to meet at Centurion next March.

But the two arch-rivals have had no cricketing contact since June 2000 because of political differ-

Those differences have intensi-

Indian army camp at Jammu, which ments like the World Cup and the resulted in 34 deaths, which has been blamed on Kashmiri separat-Although the Pakistan govern-

fied since Tuesday's attack on an participation in prestigious tourna-

was quoted as saying: "When they are playing with blood, how can we play cricket with them?' Today says her current stance

ment has denied any involvement,

Indian Sports Minister Uma Bharti

could have far-reaching consequences

and Pakistan may never play cricket again - anywhere, any time and in any tournament," the newspaper commented "Bharti's latest statement could

not only throw the International

Cricket Council's ambitious 10-year

Test calendar in jeopardy, but also

dangled a question mark over India's

"If Uma Bharti has her way. India

blow to World Cup organisers South Africa has a large number of people of Indian descent, with many youngsters taking up the

The loss of the 1983 winners from

the competition would be a massive

Champions Trophy in Sr

September."

game at junior representative levels. India's withdrawal would also deprive crowds of seeing some of the world's greatest players, including batsmen Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly and spin bowlers

Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh. The newspaper says the attack occurred only hours after Bharti cricketing links with Pakistan, prompting her change of attitude.



AFP, Hamburg

return to the fray since hip surgery, scored a 7-5, 6-2 win over whom he dismissed 6-4, 6-3.

The second-seeded Brazilian is using the tournament primarily as an

extensive workout for Roland Garros, which starts in ten days The samba showman, champion

Hamburg debutant Canas. "I think I can improve. When I get to my real level maybe I will be just as I was before. I think every match I

Clad in bright orange Kuerten made an efficient if unspectacular start, breaking for 3-1 and although Canas broke back in the ninth game he double-faulted to concede the opening set in 52min.

Canas crucially missed two break chances at 2-2 and, having held, Kuerten cranked up his game to race through the final three games as Canas conceded by driving wide. Hewitt, dubbed 'Racket Rambo'

by the German press and chasing his 15th career title, broke in the seventh game against Novak but



LLEYTON HEWITT

had to stave off five break points against him serving for the set before rounding things off with an

approached Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee with a view to discussing a resumption of

Gustavo, Lleyton on course



French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten and top seed Llevton Hewitt powered into the quarter-finals of the Hamburg Masters Series on Thursday with straight sets wins

Argentina's 15th seed Guillermo Canas while Hewitt was too strong for Czech 14th seed Jiri Novak, Swiss 11th seed Roger Federer

and will now play Kuerten.

here in 2000, took a while to warm up in the opening set but romped through the second to win in 1hr 25min and make it six wins in six outings - all on clay - against

go out there it's one more step for me," said Kuerten

In the second set the 21-year-old

world number one's short fuse came to the fore as he argued vociferously over a disputed Novak drive which

appeared to have landed millimetres out but which was given good by umpire Norm Chryst.

Novak took his unconverted break point count to ten in the eighth game as Hewitt, a semi-finalist here last year, regained his composure, moving to 5-3 against a rival he had beaten in both of their previous two meetings before sealing victory on the Novak serve after 1hr 40min.

The battling Adelaider has bounced back from a bout of chicken pox to lift titles at San Jose and Indian Wells this season but came here seeking a morale boost win following early defeats at Monte Carlo and again in the Rome

Masters last week. Hewitt will next face either Russian sixth seed Marat Safin or Argentina's Juan Ignacio Chela.

Another man booking his passage was Max Mirnyi, first-round conqueror of Pete Sampras, who ousted Argentina's Mariano Zabaleta, a finalist here in 1999. On Wednesday the 24-year-old

Zabaleta had ended the hopes of Australian Open champion Thomas Johansson of Sweden, a result which blew the Champions Race wide open. But this time he was found want-

balancing out six double faults with Zabaleta smashed his racket at

the end after failing to take advantage of his rival's inconsistency.

55 Acknowlcompo-24 Uses a edge 2/29? nent 16 Actress ray gun 56 Longings 27 Crone Balin 28 Open Solution time: 25 mins. a bit 31 Space walk acronym 32 Had dinner 33 Microbrewery product 34 Trawler 36 Work with

The tournament, with the north-

It will run from August 12 to 21

Cricket

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Hugh Page and Douglas Maku.

as Boland coach to take up his new

line with most people who have

played international cricket and I

look forward to serving the sport I love in this position," Henry was

the century partnership between

Atapattu and Jayawardene from

Jayawardene called for a runner.

But when he was on 57

He still went for his shots, but one

Meanwhile, Atapattu, who made

magnificent cover-drive off Caddick

for four was followed by the sight of

five ducks in his first six Test innings

but has since converted five of his

nine Test centuries into double

England, reduced to the occa-

sional optimistic lbw appeal,

brought on part-time medium-pacer

Mark Butcher in the hope of buying a

on the backfoot soon after

Javasuriva had won the toss.

Vaughan's throw to Stewart.

with the score on 38.

act six overs later.

By Eugene Sheffer

DOWN

1 Nightspot

2 Obsessed

seaman

4 "Monopoly"

3 Perches

assets

6 Muck-

racker

Tarbell

8 Adams

through

Cheney

watcher

ma'ams

9 "Wheel"

7 Early bird

5 Wouldn't

relinguish

name

Their frontline howlers had been

Indeed it was the batsmen them-

selves who played a major role in

the loss of Sri Lanka's first wicket

deep point but Jayasuriya, coming

back for the third, was beaten by

Atapattu cut Matthew Hoggard to

Left-hander Jayasuriya had

England's bowlers got in on the

Hoggard, who had been strug-

The wicketkeeper flashed out-

gling with his run-up and frequently

no-balled, produced a lifting delivery

side his off-stump and Flintoff, at

second slip, took a fine head-high

catch. Sangakkara had gone for 10

This match marks the start of Sri

against Kumar Sangakkara.

and Sri Lanka were 55 for two.

20 - loss for

words

Cline

23 Skewed

24 Buddhist

sect

25 "Hail.

26 "April

27 Use a

29 Ms.

30 Agt.

35 Bench

warmer

37 Word with

driver or

punch

40 Potentially

41 Cheshire

counte-

nance

42 Celebrity

43 Escalator

44 Put one

45 Related

46 Stamina

49 Exist

"Variety

over on

39 Disgust

will

Love'

singe

trailer

MacGraw

22 Singer

made 18 and looked to be on the

verge of top form in the eighth over.

hundreds. continued serenely.

Jayawardene doubled up in pain.

"I believe my cricket thinking is in

(UCB) announced.

position.

163 balls.

wicket.

Cricket was introduced in

"We have a lot to learn. since

Henry made head selector quoted as saying in a UCB state-

> "I think the panel itself is a fantastic mixture -- there is a lot of great knowledge and I believe we can all



OMAR HENRY

complement each other in taking South African cricket forward to where we all want it to be." Former off-spinner Symcox

played 20 Tests. Page, Lorgat and

Lanka's first full series in England where previously they have been restricted to one-off Tests. **SCOREBOARD** Scoreboard at tea on the first day of

the opening Test between England and Sri Lanka at Lord's on SRI LANKA: First innings Atapattu not out Jayasuriya run out Sangakkara c Flintoff b Hoggard 10

Total: (For 2wkts in 54 overs) 217

Jayawardene not out

Extras: (lb-5, w-1, nb-12)

Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-55 R Arnold, C Vaas, N Zoysa, B Fernando, R Perera 0 М R Bowler Caddick 14 52 0 16 1 76 Hoggard 35 0 Flintoff 12 2 32 0 17 Butcher 3 0 ENGLAND: Marcus Trescothick

Michael Vaughan, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe John Crawley, Alec Stewart, Andrew Flintoff, Dominic Cork, Andrew Caddick, Matthew Hoggard. Umpires: Daryl Harper (Australia)

and Sri Venkataraghavan (India).

What to watch FROM PAGE 13 English Premier Football League Arsenal vs Everton Taped Version at 3:30 pm Sportsline Tonight Sport News Live at 10:30 pm Football Asia

Taped Version at 11:00 pm

Steady Marvan, Mahela Inzaghi sees no weaknesses

championship.

of seven for 22.

AFP, Florence Italy striker Filippo Inzaghi believes

the 'Azzurri' have no weaknesses going into the 2002 World Cup The AC Milan forward, top scorer for Italy under coach Giovanni Trapattoni and under the previous regime of Dino Zoff, is convinced that the 'Azzurri' have what it takes to win

Coverciano base near Florence where Italy are preparing for the be with the right spirit and form in

Inzaghi earlier Wednesday won a battle with strike rivals Christian Vieri and Vincenzo Montella by being given the number nine jersey tradi-

title and himself the golden boot. Inzaghi is rooming with Vieri - the two have been firm friends since their days together at Atalanta - and he said, in time-honoured football fashion, that it was the coach who would decide who would start against Ecuador on June 3 in Sapporo.

sure players will still try to do it."

which is just behind the front two, in the hole.

conditions of the Far East.

through to the second round.

absentees.

a fourth world title, a feat that would equal Brazil's record.

"We are working very well together and I am convinced we will Janan. This week we are recovering from the energy we have spent in the

"This Italy team has no weak

points," Inzaghi told journalists at the

tionally worn by a team's star striker. But it is a deal that will probably suit all parties as Vieri wears the number 21 with which he scored five goals in France 98 while Montella is given the number 20 jersey worn by Paolo Rossi in the 1982 World Cup

when his six goals earned Italy the

AFP,Rome

ten days time.

Mvskina. After her quickfire win. Serena

"I don't think she (Venus) is going

CUP CORNER

clampdown on diving if he gets the chance to win a penalty for England, The Sun reported.

And he is even ready to run the risk of a yellow card if he can win the spot-kick to edge England through to the last 16. Scholes confessed: "If you get the slightest contact from a defender in the box then you go down.

"Diving has been going on for the last couple of years and has rightly

been punished. But if it means winning a penalty for your team then I'm

World Cup referees in Korea and Japan have already been ordered to get tough on the cheats and conmen by FIFA. FIFA are also considering setting up a video review panel to punish guilty players after the game, if the referee misses a dive

Yet Scholes said: "I can't see them giving out too many cards for diving.

"I think if you want to try to win a penalty you will go over and then leave

the decision to the officials and see how they interpret it. "I don't think that the players should be worried or afraid of the referee's reaction." Commenting on the domestic championship, Scholes admitted: "The manager tried to play me in a new position but it didn't work out.

"So now I am hoping to get my old place back in the England team,

He knows his all-action style will be hard to reproduce in the testing

He added: "The heat and humidity are going to prove difficult with my asthma problems, but I'll just have to get used to it. "A lot of people are saving that it will be a major feat if England even qualify from the first group and maybe they're right.

"It's a very tough group with Sweden, Argentina and Nigeria in there. It's going to be difficult but, if we come through it, we could go a long way."

"It is a very tough draw and our aim at the moment is simply to make it

'The injuries that we've suffered over the last few weeks haven't helped

us, but we have enough quality players in the squad to make up for the

over minor seeds. Kuerten, only two weeks into his

also moved on with a 7-5, 6-4 success over Romanian Adrian Voinea

ing as Mirnyi advanced 6-3, 2-6, 6-4, 11 aces.

puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe 50 Actress Carrere give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error

JDOQHODM XTZODPD "HQV LTZP нке Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY DOG IS A VERY

Q S K

RELTDHQJWM

ORDERS AT EVERYBODY. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals C The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the

44 45 46 **CRYPTOQUIP** LZLWD ODH

HARSH TASKMASTER. HE'S ALWAYS BARKING