

BM Political Highlights

Week Beginning 17/06/19

Top 3 Political Stories This Week

- The parliamentary leg of the Conservative Party leadership race is drawing to a close, with another candidate set to be [eliminated this evening](#)
- Pres Trump to meet with Pres Xi at the upcoming G20 Summit for an [‘extended meeting’](#)
- Pres Macron hit [40% approval rating](#) for the first time since the Gilets Jaunes protests began last November

BlondeMoney View

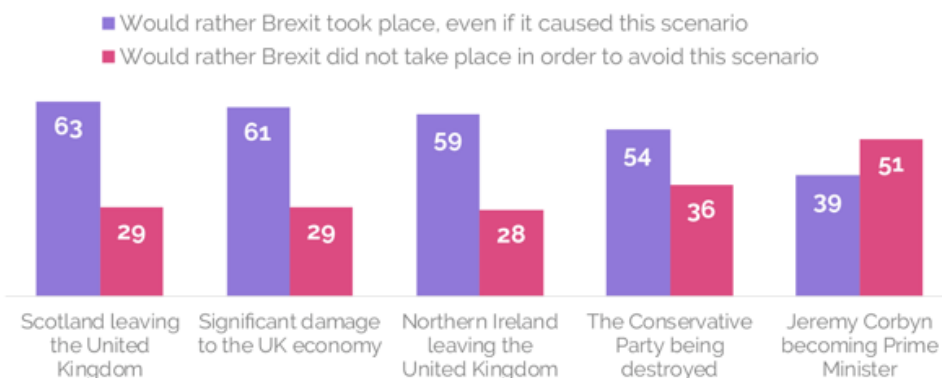
- The race for a place on the Conservative Party members’ ballot enters its final stretch. By 6pm on Thursday we will know the next Prime Minister will be one of two men. Right now, five candidates are still in with a chance. Both Rory Stewart and Sajid Javid remain [on thin ice](#), having only just met the threshold to remain in the contest thus far. Whilst both put on decent showings at last night’s debate, this is only likely to benefit them in the longer-term, as they are unlikely to have sufficient support to go all the way this time round. Stewart now claims he is [in talks with Gove](#) about ‘combining forces’ to stop Boris. Gove is gaining the momentum to move into the coveted second spot. Throughout the evening, it was clear that all candidates (with perhaps the exception of Rory Stewart) were well-aware of who they must impress: the Conservative Party membership. That means the eventual leader must undoubtedly deliver Brexit by October 31st, deal or no deal.
- Despite the 2020 election being over 500 days away, this was the week that the race for the White House truly kicked into action. Pres Trump held a rally in the key battleground state of Florida to officially launch his re-election campaign. With upwards of 20,000 in attendance, the President’s speech covered a range of issues including [immigration and the economy](#). Not all Floridians were quite so welcoming though, with the Orlando Sentinel newspaper already announcing its 2020 endorsement: [anyone but Trump](#). For the Democrats, crucial televised debates are set to take place later this month. In response to [criticism from his colleagues](#), Joe Biden defended his desire to reach across the aisle to Republicans in Congress if he were to become President. Elsewhere, there could be light at the end of the tunnel with regards to the transpacific trade war. President Trump is set to meet his [Chinese counterpart](#) at the upcoming G20 summit for an ‘extended meeting’.
- The race to become the next EU Commission Pres continued this week, with [former Romanian PM Ciolos](#) set to lead Macron’s [rebranded](#) liberal-progressive group in the European Parliament. Meanwhile in Italy, both the far-right League and the 5star movement are [finding it difficult to build influence on the continent](#). Not aligned with any of Europe’s traditional political powerhouses, they look set for a struggle if they are to find their way into any future coalition. Elsewhere, Pres Macron appears to have somewhat recovered after a challenging 9 months, with his approval rating [hitting the 40% mark](#) for the first time since the Gilets Jaunes protests began last November. Finally, the EU will have a decision to make if Iran’s uranium enrichment programme continues at current pace. Having previously remained supportive of the nuclear deal, it is unclear how the EU will react if Iran [breach their enriched uranium limit](#), as they are expected to within 10 days.

Chart of the Week

Source: [YouGov](#)

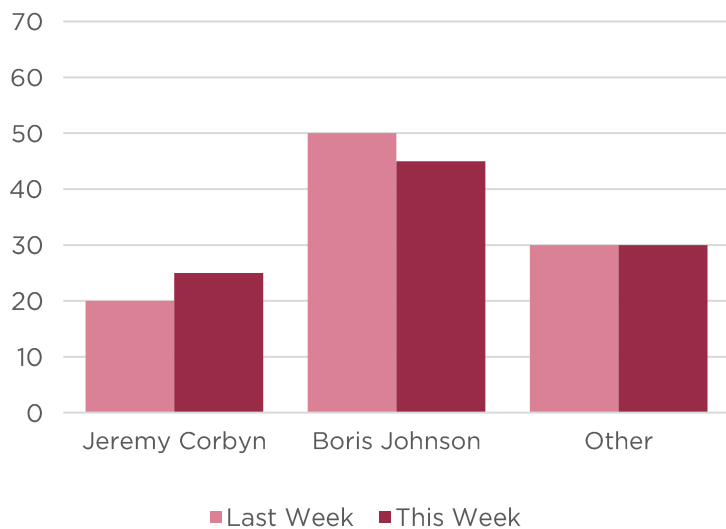
Conservative party members would sacrifice the integrity of the UK and the existence of their own party for Brexit, but would rather call it off than see Jeremy Corbyn become Prime Minister

For each of the following please say whether you would rather Brexit took place, even if it caused this scenario, or Brexit did not take place in order to avoid this scenario
% of 892 Conservative party members

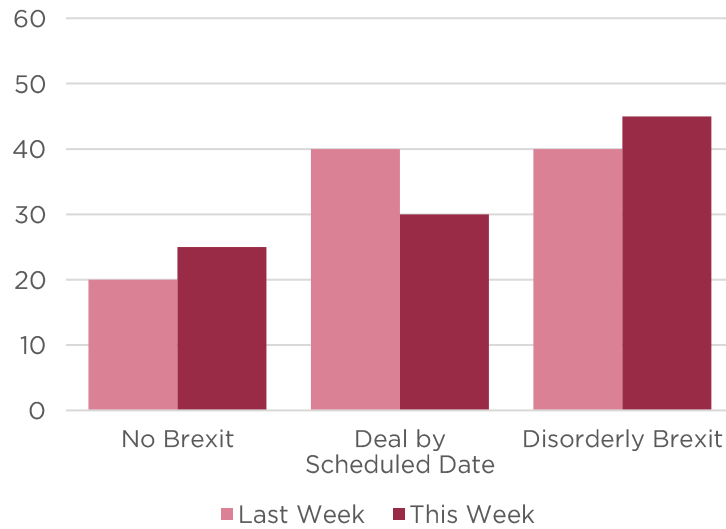


BlondeMoney Probabilities:

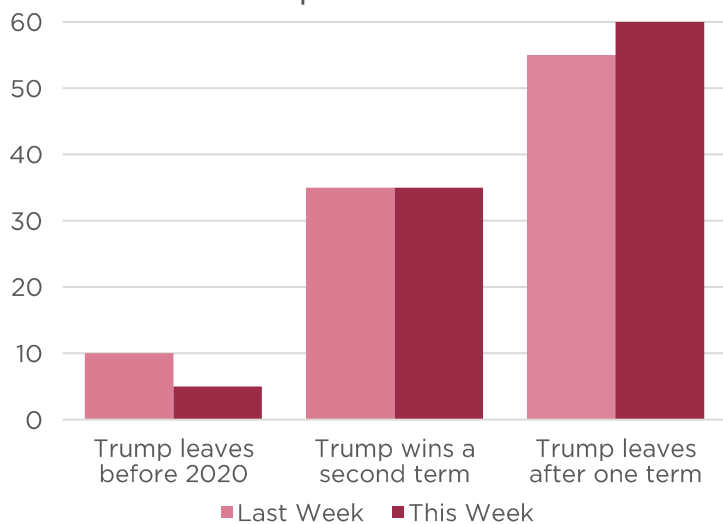
UK PM in Jan 2020



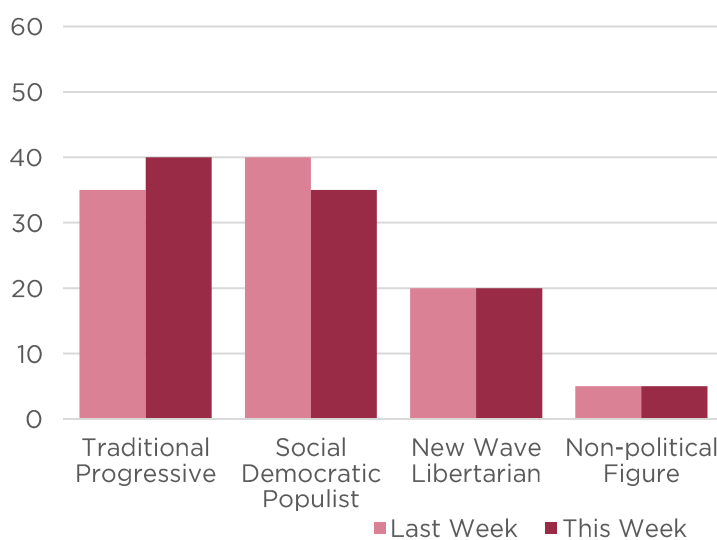
Brexit Outcome



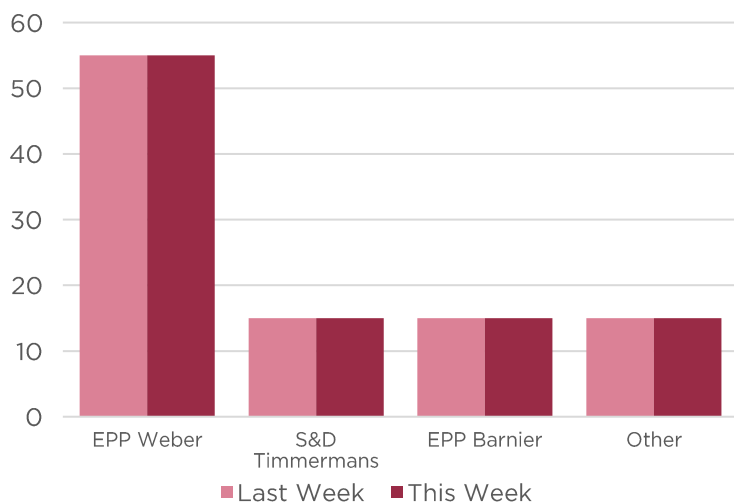
Trump Re-election



Democrat 2020 Nominee



Next EU Commission President



- UK PM Jan 2020: The public nature of the Conservative leadership race is unlikely to do the party any favours in the polls. This was exemplified by the TV debates which frustrated many due to a lack of detail by the candidates, particularly over how to pay for their tax-cutting plans.
- Brexit: A commitment by the leading Conservative candidates to leave on the 31st of October with or without a deal means the risk of a No Deal Brexit is increasing. This is particularly potent given that any PM will have limited time to push a deal through once the leadership race is over.
- Trump: Polling indicates that Pres Trump trails both Biden and Sanders by double-digits in the national ballot. Disaggregating the data doesn't help the President either, as he trails Joe Biden by two points in traditionally red Texas.
- Democrat Nominee: Joe Biden fought back this week, after having slipped somewhat in the polls. As his fundraising tally approached the \$20 million mark, Biden hit back at his Democratic rivals for refusing to work with Republicans in Congress.
- EU Commission Pres: The EPP's Weber remains the solid favourite in the race to be the next EU Commission President.