

# My Swede spot for Larsson



By **ANNA GAULT**  
Features Writer

**EUROPE** singer Joey Tempest became hooked on Scottish football watching fellow Swede Henrik Larsson star for Celtic.

The rock frontman shares his real last name with the striker and kept an eye on how the Hoops hero, below, fared on the pitch.

The 54-year-old says: "I met him a long time ago. I followed him when he played for Celtic.

"I would keep up with the Scottish league because of him."

Joey – real name Rolf Larsson – now lives in London with Scots wife Lisa.

And he can't wait to catch up with the in-laws as The Final Countdown singer, above inset in 80s heyday, and the rest of the band join rock veterans Deep Purple at the SSE Hydro in Glasgow this month.

Joey says: "Some of my wife's family are from Scotland and fans up there just love the classic rock sound, the melodies, the loud guitars, so it's a pleasure to go there.

"We make sure to always play Scotland. We always enjoy it but it also keeps the in-laws happy."

Europe, above, recently released their 11th album, Walk The Earth, which Joey describes as a "miracle" after the group took a nine-year hiatus in 1992.

He says: "It's the sixth album since we started again so what makes it extra special is that the second period of the band is now longer than the first.

"We have known each other since we were teenagers but we are so proud of our last three albums.

It's a miracle that we have found a new stride and adventure in writing.

"We don't know how that happened but it does have something to do with being old friends and having things in common."

Founding members Joey and John Norum first got together as teenagers and Deep Purple was often

their house party soundtrack.

Joey says: "Deep Purple's live album Made In Japan is part of what started it all for us so it's special to be supporting them now.

"It's a dream – come true. We never would have thought while playing their albums at our parties that we would get invited on a tour by them."

The band hit the big time with The Final Countdown, which went to Nol in 25 countries in 1986.

They were rubbing shoulders with rock royalty and enjoying all the perks that come with fame.

But Joey insists they partied harder as teens than in a rock band. He says: "We started touring when we were 16 and I think our worst party days were probably before we had success."

"We partied quite a lot out in the woods in Sweden. "As soon as we started getting a bit more serious with The Final Countdown, a few of us in the band, like me, knew we had to rein it in and think about the future."

Joey also became famous for his huge 80s hair. He says: "It was also a flamboyant time and everything was pushed to the limit – image, videos and music. It was crazy."

It may be a long time since the wild 80s days but the singer is glad the band stuck together.

He adds: "It's important to know who your friends are and who you can trust. We have come through it, still together."

Europe play The SSE Hydro in Glasgow on November 22. [anna.gault@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:anna.gault@the-sun.co.uk)



**NEW MUSIC**  
By Jim Gellatly

**ANNIE BOOTH**

**WHERE:** Edinburgh.  
**FOR FANS OF:** KT Tunstall, Ben Howard, London Grammar.

**JIM SAYS:** Singer-songwriter Annie Booth is onto a winner with her debut album An Unforgiving Light. The 22-year-old creates a mesmerising blend of folk and alt rock.

She told me: "For a long time I mainly played acoustic music, moving from performing covers to tentatively playing original songs. My love of indie-folk and post-rock has had a large influence on my writing though. It led me to incorporate more intricate full-band arrangements and strive for greater depth in my lyrics. I've also tried to challenge myself vocally in this latest release."

Annie's also a key member of acclaimed Edinburgh outfit Mt. Doubt. She provided a feature vocal on the track Soak before being asked to become a permanent member of Leo Bargey's band.

Playing with Mt. Doubt has had an impact on her own music. She explained: "It's made me strive to improve my own musical abilities as Leo is a hardworking and innovative songwriter and performer. That sets a high standard along with the rest of the band."

An Unforgiving Light is released jointly through two of Scotland's hottest labels for developing acts – Scottish Fiction and the crowd-funded Last Night From Glasgow collective. Annie added: "Both labels have been wonderfully supportive and have helped me every step of the way."

Annie plays an in-store at Aesai Records in Edinburgh on November 17. She rounds off 2017 by appearing at Scottish Fiction Presents at The Hug and Pint in Glasgow on December 22 with Mt. Doubt. Foreignfox and Acrylic. Into next year she's back at The Hug and Pint on January 28 for a special Last Night From Glasgow showcase as part of Celtic Connections.

**More:** [www.facebook.com/annieboothmusic](http://www.facebook.com/annieboothmusic)

● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio, Sundays, 2-4pm.

**www.amazingradio.com**

**www.jimgellatly.com**

Watch a video clip of Annie Booth playing at [www.thescottishsun.co.uk](http://www.thescottishsun.co.uk)



**CHRISTMAS** has come early with the Xbox One X.

The latest beast in the gaming world will be released on Tuesday and it is an absolute cert that Santa will be inundated with requests come December time.

Everyone will be claiming they have been good all year so deserve the shiniest of shiny consoles.

There has plenty of hype in recent months, but this little beauty lives up to expectations.

Admittedly, I took it out of the box without having played the Xbox One S. My trusty Xbox One has done the trick up to now. I also have to say that we carried out our review with a spanking new 4K TV.

Microsoft insist you don't have to go to such lengths, but your games will never have looked better.

And I am always prepared to go the extra mile for you guys. The first thing that hits you is just how small it is. It is very heavy though. It has an internal power supply, so there's no need for the large power brick. The touch power build and chromo eject button have also gone –replaced with slick smooth push buttons.

And it is so much quieter which came as a bit of a shock.

It is mega easy to set up. There is a simple step-by-step guide to take you through the basics from setting up connections to loading your account and downloading games.

You get a 1TB hard drive. That may seem like a lot but full 4k patched titles come in at more than 90gig so that will soon fill up.

So, it is worth noting that you can add external hard drives if you need more space.

You also get a standard Xbox controller with the new fancy underside gripper surface.

The biggest selling point is the raw power under the hood. It is said to be 40 per cent more than any other console on the market

**Xbox One X**  
£449.99

thanks to six teraflops of processing power, 12 GDDR5 of memory, eight custom clocked CPU, HDR and Blu-ray tech. Yeah, but what does that mean to the standard gamer?

The answer? Games run faster, smoother and are better looking. Simple as that.

We tested Gears of War 4, Forza Motorsport 7, Assassin's Creed and Wolfenstein 2. Some have had the 4K patches, like Gears, which make them run at their very best.

Others were running as normal but they will all get the 4K treatment soon.

Gears ran with no lag or frame drop and the visuals popped with a real depth – from shadows on the grass to the shine of the trooper's armour. It was a real visionary treat.

The other games still looked great from the vast desert views of Assassins Creed to the room-to-room gunplay in Wolfenstein 2.

Microsoft have also launched a website where you can track what is available and what titles are planned from AAA down to indie games.

But it's not just games, you can also play 4K Ultra HD Blu rays as well.

So, the only question remaining is: Do I need an Xbox One X if I already have an Xbox One or One S?

That depends on your set-up and how you play.

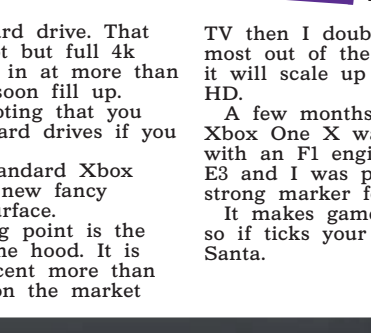
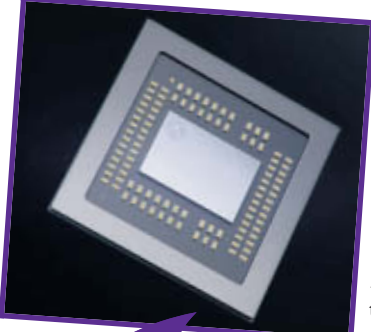
If you have an Xbox One and a 4K TV then the jump is well worth it. However, if you have a One S or

don't have a 4K TV then I doubt that you'll get the most out of the system even though it will scale up games on normal HD.

A few months ago I said the Xbox One X was like a Fiat 500 with an F1 engine when I was at E3 and I was pretty close. It's a strong marker for things to come.

It makes games look jaw-dropping so if ticks your boxes, get on to Santa.

★★★★  
**STUART CULLEN**



## WHAT GAME?

**SO, you have an Xbox One X, but what games will make your knees weak?**  
**We run the rule over five games that are out now or are on the horizon.**  
**You're welcome...**



**ASSASSIN'S CREED ORIGINS:** The Ubisoft hit series is back and is set in ancient Egypt. You will enjoy a huge playground as it tells the tale of how the brotherhood was founded.



**GEARS OF WAR 4:** This is the poster child for the X. The first game out the traps has had an upgrade patch. It now runs at true 4K and 60fps. The father-and-son tale and the epic Sera war is a must.



**SUPER LUCKY'S TALE:** Cute and fuzzy — this charming platformer follows Lucky, the fox, as he tries to save his sister from the evil Jinx. Great family hit. Kids of all ages will love it.



**STAR WARS BATTLEFRONT 2:** There has to be a Star Wars offering and it shines on the X. This EA multiplayer fest is sure to be high on many Christmas lists, especially on the back of a new movie.



**CALL OF DUTY WWII:** CoD goes back to its roots – future wars replaced with the epic battles of the past...although there is a zombie mode. This one is shaping up to be a classic.



## XBOX ONE X LAUNCH SPECIAL

# Time to buckle up and feel the Forza



**TS-XW Racer Sparco P310 Competition Mod**

Xbox One and PC £649.99

I'VE seen the light. It didn't matter whether it was Forza or Call Of Duty, I played my games on a controller.

But, after The Scottish Sun racer Christie Doran reviewed Project CARS2 and Gran Turismo Sport with her seat and wheel, I had to follow suit.

OMG. What a difference. Once you have tried it, you can never go back. There is no better way to play a racing game than with a wheel.

Thrustmaster have unleashed a beast with the TS-XW Racer Sparco P310 Competition Mod — try saying that three times quickly.

This is the latest premier offering from a firm that knows its stuff. It comes with a price tag to match the quality, but you won't begrudge a penny.

It is very easy to set up — you simply hook the wheel onto main base and then just plug the USB into the console and play. There is an external power supply which is shaped like a turbo charger. That is a fun twist although it weighs a tonne.

The wheel has some solid force feedback which you can dial in to your own taste.

We tested the wheel with Forza Motorsport 7, Project CARS, F1 2017 and Forza Horizon 3 and it handled them all really well. Forza is more of a pad arcade racer, but the wheel still added a thrill element. The wheel has a great build and finish. It oozes quality — which is a relief considering the cost.

From the brush red steel cover of the base to the chromo finish on the T3PA pedal everything feels great. And that applies to the Sparco P310 wheel as well.

It is the star of the show. It has a 31cm diameter with a suede finish and flat top and bottom. There are a few nice touches like the inside being moulded for your thumbs and a brushed steel finish. It has all the buttons you'll need to move around the Xbox. There is a thumb stick as well as well as paddle shifters at the back which are also adjustable.

The base is exchangeable in case you prefer the F1-style one or others in the Thrustmaster range. It is a great bundle.

Yes, it is pricey, but racers insist on them to get the most out of games. And they know what they are talking about.

★★★★  
**STUART CULLEN**

FORZA Motorsport 7 was built for the Xbox One X — there, I've said it.

It may be good on PC or Xbox One, but you will be blown away by what the Turn 10 team have done with the ELEVENTH instalment of the famous title.

It follows the same recipe as previous titles. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

The career mode sees you work your way through a host of championships and challenges.

One minute you're racing open top classics then you are throwing a four-door family hatchback around. There is a mind-blowing number of cars for you to try out — well over 700 — and each one handles in its own way so you need to dial them in as you go.

Also, the speed sensation in the game is truly epic — you get a real sense of cars tearing down the straights in certain rides.

There is a good mix of tracks — with classic fan favourites like Silverstone and Monza and new boys on the block like Dubai.

In all, there are 32 to test yourself on. Long-term fans may feel a bit let down because the cars and tracks feel more like a greatest hits album than a new production.

The controls are solid and feel like they have been tweaked since the last outing. They pack more weight

**Forza Motorsport 7**

Xbox One and PC £41.99 (Reviewed on Xbox One X)

and let you push the car to the edge more. That said, the game still sits firmly in the gap between fun and SIM. I think that is a good thing but it may turn off the purest of SIM racers.

There are a truck-load of assists that make the game easier to play no matter what your skill level is.

You can auto-brake to help your steering. Even a table spoon could play (see YouTube). You can also switch them off very easily and dial the game to your taste.

But, if you start winning outright, then the game eggs you to up the challenge.

The look is stunning. The game runs at 60 frames a second without dropping a beat. Cars are modelled to within a micro-inch.

They include the smallest of details. The tracks all look so accurate but the weather system steals the show.

You can get sideways rain in the dead of night or mist as the sun rises. It all adds another layer to the game experience. The soundtrack must be good, right?

Actually, it is pretty forgettable. I actually loaded Spotify on more than one occasion.

Where it does shine, though, is where the car blasts round bends and the turbos gasp for air.

The game has a mod system that is based on buying loot boxes with in-game credits.

That means a lot of the cars are locked away in career mode — although you can jump into any car at any time in free play.

But the loot box system is a fail for me. You have to get more to earn cash to buy boxes to get more mods — it is a cycle of doom.

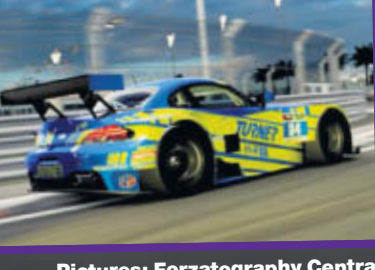
For all its small faults, it is an incredible racer packed with thrill-a-minute moments like hitting that perfect apex and taking the lead into the last corner.

It would be a concrete 5/5 if it weren't for the loot boxes.

Turn 10 have changed some features since the launch so hopefully they will sort it before it puts people off.

But, if you want to show off your shiny new Xbox One X, this will rev their engines.

★★★★  
**STUART CULLEN**



Pictures: Forzatography Central