

## THINGS TO DO

NEXT WEEK'S  
BIG EVENTS

## SATURDAY

**CARNOUSTIE BEACH RUGBY TOURNAMENT**

A DAY of rugby tournaments on the beach, with more besides. Rugby five-a-sides, food stalls, beer tent, gin bar, vintage Volkswagen and MG cars, live music, Angus Farmers' Market, 10am-6pm, free entry.

## SUNDAY

**KIM EDGAR**

ACOUSTIC pop, jazz and original compositions on piano and guitar from the Scottish singer-songwriter who has performed at the Cambridge Folk Festival. Roseangle Café Arts, Dundee West Church, 2pm to 4.30pm, under 7s get in free.



## MONDAY

**DUNDEE SUMMER DANCING**

A GRAND shindig organised by the Royal Scottish Country Dance society at St Andrews' Church, at St Andrew's Parish Church, King Street. Be sure to strap on your finest gladrags and best dancing shoes. The ceilidh kicks off at 7.30pm.

## TUESDAY

**CALLUM BEATTIE**

THE We Are Stars singer from Edinburgh stops off in Dundee on a whistle-stop tour of the UK. He plays Clarks on Lindsay Street tonight from 8pm. He's got a mean set of pipes on him – and the tickets, at £8.80, are a steal for the return you'll get.

## WEDNESDAY

**ALAN ALDA**

THE American actor, author and science buff discusses his passion for communication with author and broadcaster Dr Adam Rutherford. The event will take place in the Dalhousie Building, University of Dundee. Free event from 6pm.

## THURSDAY

**JOE LONGTHORN**

WITH three decades of experience under his belt, the TV and recording star returns to the Gardyne Theatre at 7.30pm with his huge array of musical impressions, including Shirley Bassey, Tom Jones and Frank Sinatra. Tickets are £23.

## FRIDAY

**UP POMPEII**

THE latest stellar effort from Monifieth Amateur Dramatics. A hilarious romp through ancient Pompeii, based on the original characters from Frankie Howerd's BBC show. Monifieth Theatre, 72 High Street, 7.30pm. Tickets from £7.

## » GAMES &amp; APPS



## TEKKEN 7

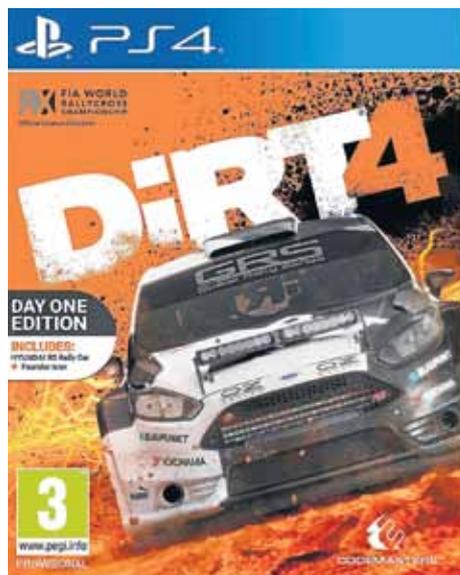
PC, XBOX ONE, PS4, FIGHTING, £44

THE knuckle war between eagle-haired Heihachi and his son Kazuya comes to an explosive end in this latest bout of Tekken's intricate fisticuffs. Aside from a few character facelifts, 10 new

contenders and a last gasp attack ability, little has changed since the original PlayStation version – not even a Tekken Bowl-style crazy minigame, just a labourious Story Mode to introduce beginners to the memory-busting list of moves, and an uninspired VR cinematic viewing option. Admittedly Tekken has always

boasted meaty violence – King, for example, has some truly wince-inducing wrestling combos. But against next-gen achievements like Horizon: Zero Dawn, this outing illustrates just how stale and in need of a shake-up the fighting genre really is.

» 6/10



## DIRT4

PC, XBOX ONE, PS4, RACING, £44.99

» DiRT 4 is either a forgiving powerslide festival or a serious simulation – it's up to you.

With two distinct game difficulty modes and a host of settings to tinker with, it's possible to create exactly the sort of racing challenge that appeals to you. It's also quite an achievement that the game feels just as thrilling, whether you've ramped up the realism or dialled down the demand for

disciplined driving. The main disappointment is in the randomised rally tracks, which lack the personality of real world locations, and many of the circuit courses feel bland and too short. Yet the variety of vehicles keeps Career Mode interesting, with championships for everything from classic 80s rally cars to 900bhp super karts and everything in between, plus the special events and races in multiplayer provide even more reasons to remain in the driving seat.

» 8/10

## GAME OF THE WEEK

RACING CHALLENGE ON  
RIGHT TRACK FOR THRILLS

## THE LONG JOURNEY HOME

PC, XBOX ONE, PS4, SPACE SIM, £30

YOUR crew of galactic explorers is flung light years off course while testing some fancy new warp technology in this deep space trek back to Earth. The Long Journey Home is a mashup of play styles, with 2D Lunar Lander-style planetside resource harvesting, top-down interplanetary piloting across the curves of spacetime and dialogue-based diplomacy or trade. The detail and difficulty level can be overwhelming at first. But the impressive soundtrack and deceptively simple yet gorgeous visuals combine for a calming and absorbing voyage.

» 8/10



## FIRST STRIKE FINAL HOUR

PC, RACING, £8.99

TAKE four minutes to decide whether to obliterate mankind and you're already losing in First Strike. This is mutually assured destruction, with you as a nuclear nation hovering your hands over the Big Red Button, ready to lay waste to cities, continents and ultimately the world. Expand into new territory for increased firepower and research superweapons. It's daft and a little fun, but it would have made compelling multiplayer but First Strike is disappointingly solo play only. Reviewed on Alienware 15 (i7, 16GB, GTX1070 alienware.co.uk/15).

» 7/10

## » TECH TALK

» COMPILED BY  
DEREK UCHMANAUGUST WS 150/WS 300  
£85/£115

THESE multi-room speakers give a first impression of average build quality, while the app which sets up and runs them is a bit clunky. Once up and running, however, they are hard not to love. Connected to your wifi system, the baby unit and its big brother can sync your own tunes, music services and radio stations through TuneIn. Sound quality is excellent, wifi connection is stable and battery life is good.

» 8/10



Upgrading the sound coming out of your home entertainment system used to be eye-wateringly expensive. But these days there are plenty of products out there, from multi-room speakers to sound bars, which give lots of bang – or rather boom – for your buck

POLK MAGNIFI MINI  
£349.99

THE Polk MagniFi Mini, as the name suggests, comes with a disconcertingly small – about school ruler length – sound bar unit (although the wireless sub woofer was a fair bit bigger). Set-up is a breeze, especially via HDMI Arc, and the clarity of sound was a vast improvement on the TV's own speakers.

Particularly impressive was the way the Voice Adjust setting boosted dialogue scenes. This curvy, compact kit won't be to everyone's taste, but the sound will be music to their ears.

» 7/10

LIBRATONE ZIPP MINI  
£179.99

ONE of the most distinctive home audio solutions on the market just now is the kooky Zipp mini. Standing about 8in high, it's like a wee round extra from the Wall-E movie with a cardigan zipped over its head. Sometimes style can come at the expense of substance, however. I found connecting the speaker to my

wifi a bit of a faff, and the button on top looks fancy but limits functionality. On the plus side (and it's a huge plus), sound was meaty for such a small unit.

» 6/10

