



● A BEEFY update for Call of Duty: Modern Warfare this week added three new multiplayer maps, a new Ground War map, two new Gunfight maps and a new Battle

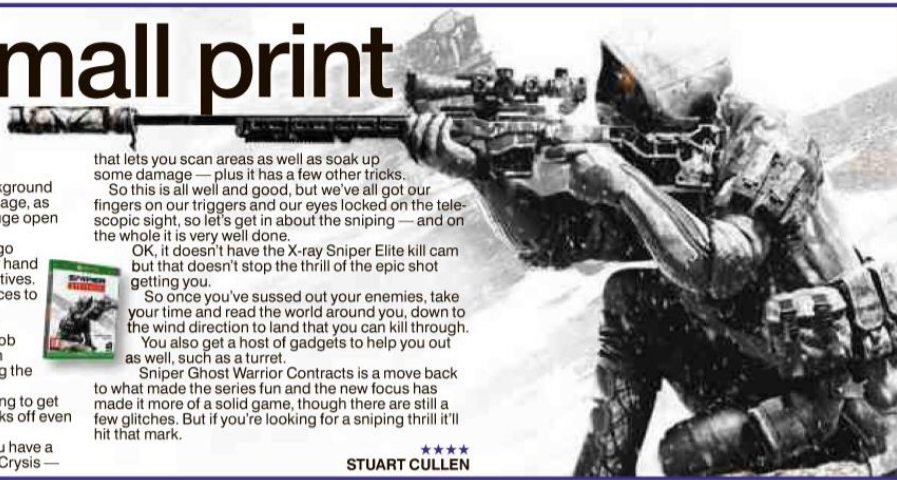
Pass system doing away with the traditional Season Pass mechanic for additional content. 1v1 and 3v3 variations in Gunfight mode are also on the way.



● CROWD-funded space sim Star Citizen has now hit \$250million say developer Cloud Imperium Games. The initial campaign secured over \$6million in 2012 and,

despite missing the 2014 release date, a private investment of \$46million last year means supporters are contributing an average of \$130,000 a day through pledges.

read small print



Sniper Ghost Warrior Contracts

Xbox One, PS4 and PC £34.99

hands dirty. The action plays out over a background tale of oil companies, corruption and espionage, as you find yourself travelling across the five huge open maps on show.

It's very much a case of 'Here's your toys, go and have fun' as the game doesn't hold your hand or tell you how to carry out any of your objectives. So that opens up a number of different choices to get the job done.

As if that wasn't enough of an extra added buzz, to add a bit more tension, getting the job done is only half the task as you have to then make your way to an upload point after doing the deed.

So you have to think about how you're going to get your backside out of the action after it all kicks off even before you get your hands dirty.

But you're well-equipped for the job as you have a high-tech suit — a bit like the nanosuit from Crysis —

that lets you scan areas as well as soak up some damage — plus it has a few other tricks.

So this is all well and good, but we've all got our fingers on our triggers and our eyes locked on the telescopic sight, so let's get in about the sniping — and on the whole it is very well done.

OK, it doesn't have the X-ray Sniper Elite kill cam but that doesn't stop the thrill of the epic shot getting you.

So once you've sussed out your enemies, take your time and read the world around you, down to the wind direction to land that you can kill through.

You also get a host of gadgets to help you out as well, such as a turret.

Sniper Ghost Warrior Contracts is a move back to what made the series fun and the new focus has made it more of a solid game, though there are still a few glitches. But if you're looking for a sniping thrill it'll hit that mark.

★★★★
STUART CULLEN



MADE TO ORDER



● THE Legend of Zelda's Link and Master Sword are now available in Super Mario Maker 2 — as a FREE update. Loads of new items — P Blocks and Dash Blocks as well as new enemies Spike and Pokey — have been added. But

it's the Zelda content that will have people heading back to this level-editing wonder.

Pick up the Master Sword and Mario will transform into Link, unlocking new abilities themed around the Hyrule hero. Bring it on...



TOP 5 GAMES THIS WEEK

- 1 FIFA 20
- 2 Call of Duty: Modern Warfare
- 3 Star Wars Jedi: Fallen Order
- 4 Sea of Thieves
- 5 Minecraft

● HUGE news for virtual racing as Codemasters has announced its acquisition of British studio Slightly Mad Studios. So Codemasters will add Project Cars as well as an "unannounced Hollywood blockbuster title" — very likely a Fast And Furious game — to its racing brands which includes Dirt, Grid and of course the official F1



licence. A deal worth \$30million in cash and stock sealed the deal, with Slightly Mad CEO Ian Bell remaining head of the studio within Codemasters. Codemasters CEO Frank Sagnier said "more streaming services and the next generation of games consoles due in 2020 made this the perfect time for expansion".



NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

KEIR GIBSON

WHERE: Fort William.
FOR FANS OF: Ed Sheeran, Coldplay, Shawn Mendes.

JIM SAYS: With comparisons to chart sensation Lewis Capaldi, Inverness-shire singer-songwriter Keir Gibson is set to be the next homegrown talent to break through.

The 18-year-old from Fort William has only released two singles so far but is being tipped for the top. It's glorious alternative pop packed full of emotion. It really started to blow up when he played Belladrum near Inverness in the summer, his second appearance at the festival.

He said: "It was incredible! My debut single Wide Eyes was out the day before, so it was an amazing couple of days. It was the first time being on stage and seeing a few hundred people turn up knowing my song. It was a big moment for me."

Music surrounded Keir growing up. He said: "My dad was into Scottish traditional music, with lots of people around the house jamming. I started playing guitar aged 11 and began writing songs when I was about 12 or 13. I won a school talent show, the first time I had feedback that I might actually be good at this."

He's a bit better than good. Wide Eyes and his brilliant follow-up Hollow are the fruits of an exciting collaboration with North London production duo Charlie Martin and Joe Housley (aka The Nocturns).

Keir said: "We hit it off straight away. They've been able to realise what the sounds are in my head and add to it. When you write on your own with just a guitar and piano it can be quite isolating and one-dimensional. Having them as collaborators has opened up my mind to what I can achieve."

He revealed that both singles are about the same relationship. He explained: "Eyes Wide is about the hurtful side of it and Hollow is the pick-me-up. Sonically, I think Hollow is a bit more immediate and bigger in sound. It's a hard song to sing as it's at the top of my voice but it packs a punch. Eyes Wide has a different kind of energy, more about the groove and movement of instruments. I love both songs and think they complement each other well."

Keir recently completed a UK and Ireland tour with Dublin folk-pop band Keywest, with the Liverpool O2 Academy date a standout.

He said: "Everything just clicked, and the 800-strong crowd were really responsive. The room was packed, and they gave their full attention. Playing support can sometimes be difficult but the Liverpool crowd were amazing."

He plays his first headliner with a sold-out hometown gig at Fort William Railway Club on December 21. He'll round off the year in style as part of Edinburgh's Hogmanay, on the Waverley Stage alongside 80s legend Marc Almond and Scots outfit The Ninth Wave. Next year sees appearances at the March Into Pitlochry and Live At Leeds festivals.

He added: "I've been lucky enough to go to Nashville to do a recording session, which was a brilliant experience. I'll be going to LA for more of the same in March."

More: keirgibsonmusic.com
● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio, Sundays 2-4pm.
www.amazingradio.com
www.jimgellatly.com

▶ Watch video of Keir at thescottishsun.co.uk