

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week it's England cricketer James Anderson

The prized possession you value above all others... My OBE for services to cricket, which was given to me by Prince Charles in February. We had a chat and he said, 'Are you still going?' because I've been playing for so long.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Not going to university. I'd like to have studied architecture, but my life was dedicated to cricket.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Chocolate. I'm not fussy, anything will do. If we've had a long day in the field, I'll stop on the way home and grab a Double Decker or a Twix.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee. We read it at school when I was 12. It sparked my interest in reading.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I'd sit in on a selection meeting for the England team. It's all cloaked in secrecy, so it would be fascinating to hear what's said – especially about me!

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... Bad driving. I get frustrated by middle-lane hoppers, people on their phones, even people doing their hair.

The film you can watch time and time again... Dumb And Dumber. I know it's totally stupid but it makes me laugh. Ben Stokes and Alex Hales are the Dumb And Dumber of the England team – a bit daft and clumsy.

The person who has influenced you most... My dad Michael. He never let me win as a child – sports, board games, anything – and it gave me my competitive edge.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... M a d a m e

Clicquot, the woman behind the great champagne Veuve Clicquot. She was widowed, then turned her husband's wine business into a success. It's a fascinating story.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Life goes by quickly – try to appreciate things along the way.



'I was a very shy kid so I'd shut myself in my bedroom and listen to music. It was a lonely time but it turned out all right'

water skiing and fishing, and I'd have a few beers. We'd go to Queenstown in New Zealand for sundowner cocktails, then I'd spend the evening with mates in Manchester. We'd have a Japanese and a few pints. I'd end the day in my own bed at home in Cheshire – which doesn't happen often enough!

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... Making my England Test debut at Lord's against Zimbabwe in 2003 when I was 20.

The saddest time that shook your world... When my grandmother Doreen died from cancer in 2002. She'd helped me so much with my cricket by driving me places when Mum and Dad were working. It was so sad she never saw my career take off.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To play football at Turf Moor, my team Burnley's ground.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Strive for constant improvement. That goes for being a dad and a husband, not just cricket.

The order of service at your funeral... I'm religious, so it would be a church service and I'd like them to play Hope There's Someone by Antony And The Johnsons. I'd like Cookie to do the eulogy and then there'd be a party.

The way you want to be remembered... As a cricketer people would pay to watch. And a good bloke and friend.

The Plug... Investec is the title sponsor of Test match cricket in England. For more on Investec private banking, visit investec.co.uk/banking. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... Wine.

A few years ago I didn't think beyond a £5 supermarket bottle. Now I'm learning all about it and I plan to start a cellar soon.



The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... The freedom to have a lie-in! With kids – Lola, seven, and Ruby, five – it's impossible.

The unending quest that drives you on... To do my best as a cricketer. I'm 33 and I've just been named No 1 in the world Test bowler rankings, but I'm not sure I've reached my peak yet.

The poem that touches your soul... The Catch by Simon Armitage. My mum Catherine introduced me to poetry and it reminds me of summer evenings playing cricket as a kid.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I'm grumpy. My teammate Joe Root even gave me a Mr Grumpy T-shirt. It probably comes from me getting angry with poor fielding, but I'm just being competitive. I'm really quite laid-back.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Meeting my wife Daniella in 2004. I've always been quiet but she brought me out of my shell. We got married in 2006.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd murder a really nasty dictator.

The song that means most to you... Sometimes by James. I was a very shy kid so I'd shut myself in my bedroom and listen to music. This song reminds me of being 14-16 – it was a lonely time but things turned out all right.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I'd wake up in a villa in the Maldives with Daniella and the girls and have pancakes with coffee, then go scuba diving. After that I'd play golf at Augusta in the States with my dad, Stuart Broad and Cookie [Alastair Cook]. I'd join the family on the beach at Camps Bay in Cape Town. I'd have barbecued fish for lunch with a glass of local white wine. We'd spend the afternoon on a boat in Barbados



Right: Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels in Dumb And Dumber. Above right: wine. Far right: a boat in Barbados

PS...

Susan Sarandon and Rose Byrne play mother and daughter in *The Meddler* – in cinemas Friday. Tara Fitzgerald is Lady Macbeth at Shakespeare's Globe from today. And *The Stone Roses* are at Manchester's Etihad Stadium this weekend



NEXT WEEK

- British Wimbledon legends tell their fascinating stories
- Rachel Khoo dishes up a delicious al fresco feast
- Monty Don on elegant oriental poppies
- PLUS Britain's best TV guide