

# The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week: former F1 driver David Coulthard



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**The prized possession you value above all others...** My apartment in Monaco. It's a home full of happiness with my wife Karen and our son Dayton, who's six. I love coming back here after travelling.

**The biggest regret you wish you could amend...** Crashing into the pit wall when leading the 1995 Australian Grand Prix with Williams. It was embarrassing, and I lost my race win bonus and it impacted on my contract at my next team, McLaren.

**The temptation you wish you could resist...** I have a tendency to say naughty things. I'm known as a bit of an idiot in the racing world, but I can't help having fun.

**The book that holds an everlasting resonance...** Six Thinking Hats by Edward de Bono. It provides a blueprint on how to organise your thoughts.

**The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day...** I'd surprise my wife in the shower – moments like that are rare when you have a child!

**The pet hate that makes your hackles rise...**

How people become rude monsters when they're driving.

**Right:** Tom Cruise in Jerry Maguire. **Top right:** A 1957 Mercedes 300SL Gullwing. **Far right:** Corsewall lighthouse, south-west Scotland



**The film you can watch time and time again...** Jerry Maguire. I love Tom Cruise films and this nails the world of sports agents. It was based on an agency that once represented me, and it really was all about money.

**The person who has influenced you most...** My dad, Duncan, who's 69. He instilled a strong work ethic in me and the importance of treating everyone on the same level.

**The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint...** Churchill. I'd love to know if he had moments of self-doubt when he was inspiring the nation.

**The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child...** Be polite and respectful and you'll get almost anything you want.

**The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity...** I've been travelling constantly for 20 years, which hasn't left much time for interests. I have two guitars; I'd like to play them well!

**The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again...** A healthy right elbow. I spent so many years banging it against the side of the cockpit that the nerves are wrecked.



**The unending quest that drives you on...** To live life to the full. I follow the saying coined by the late Scottish rally driver Colin McRae, 'We're here for a good time, not a long time.'

**The poem that touches your soul...** Kipling's If is full of wisdom. It's about a father talking to his son and hoping that he can fulfil all his desires. I relate to it even more since I became a dad.

**The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase...** That I'm a playboy and a partyer. I lived that life for many years and I was in the press a lot with different girlfriends. But I've been with Karen for ten years, so that image is very much out of date.

**The event that altered the course of your life and character...** My plane crash in 2000 [the Learjet he was travelling in suffered engine failure and crash-landed in Lyon, killing both pilots]. To have been sitting that close to death shook me up, but it gave me a clearer sense of what really matters.

**The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it...** I'd like to own a 1950s Mercedes 300SL Gullwing. A fully restored one costs about £2 million, but I don't like the idea of condoning stealing!

**The song that means most to you...** The Living Years by Mike And The Mechanics. I love songs with stories and this one is about a man wishing he'd told his father things before he died.

**The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions...** The day would begin in the heart of the countryside of south-west Scotland, where I grew up. I'd have a fry-up then go for a walk with Dad and my mum, Joyce. Lunch would be in Paris with Karen and Dayton and my stepdaughter Shanna, 17, at the restaurant at L'Hôtel. I'd have crab with avocado salad. I'd arrange for a boat to be packed with great friends and interesting new people, and we'd sail around Corsica stopping at coves which I'd explore in a kayak. We'd drop

anchor in Sardinia for dinner, and I'd have seafood and salad again. I'd end the day with Karen and the kids in the Maldives. I'd go for a swim, then sit on the beach looking at the stars sipping good whisky with a dash of water. Don't tell my grandfather I put the water in!

**The happiest moment you will cherish forever...** Right now is all that matters. I have no desire to look back.

**The saddest time that shook your world...** My sister's death [Lynsay died at 35 from an overdose of pills in February 2013]. It was shocking and so sad to see what my parents went through.

**The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you...** To be the lead singer and guitarist in a rock group.

**The philosophy that underpins your life...** Work hard, play hard and look after the people who matter.

**The order of service at your funeral...** After seeing my sister's coffin lowered into a waterlogged grave in Scotland and literally floating, I want to be cremated and have my ashes scattered in Scotland and Monaco. I'll leave enough money for big parties in both places.

**The way you want to be remembered...** He was a team player who always did what was asked of him.

**The Plug...** David is part of the BBC's Formula 1 commentating team. The British Grand Prix is live on BBC1 tomorrow from 12.15pm. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon



PHOTOGRAPHS: SHUTTERSTOCK, REX, MICHAEL OCHS/GETTY

## PS...

*Love & Mercy, the biopic about Beach Boy Brian Wilson, is in cinemas from Friday. Volpone, directed by Trevor Nunn, is at The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, now. And T In The Park featuring Kasabian starts on Friday in Perthshire*



## NEXT WEEK

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