We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week: A Question Of Sport’s Phil Tufnell

The prized possession you value above all others….. A silver St Christopher medallion my mum Sylvia gave me when I was 14. I didn’t know at the time but she was very ill with leukaemia and it was to keep me safe. It’s been all over the world with me since. Mum died when I was 16.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend….. Never scoring a century for England. My best was 22 against India in 1993. I was a genuine No 11 batsman – not very good and a bit scared!

The temptation you wish you could resist….. I’ve been smoking since I was 16 and I’ve tried everything to give up. I wish the desire to smoke was never in my mind.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance….. Lawn by Peter Benchley. I read it aged 12 and it ruined holidays for the rest of my life.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day….. I’d hitch a ride on a golden eagle and soar over mountains.

The pet hate that makes your blood boil….. Traffic jams drive me mad – I’ve lost weeks of my life sitting on the M25.

The place you’d most like to buy a pie and a pint….. The Jade Mountain Hotel, St Lucia.

The figure from history for whom you’d most like to do for their best in life….. Rudyard Kipling. It’s a good man for doing abstract pictures. I find it very therapeutic because I totally lose myself.

The film you can watch time and time again….. Pulp Fiction. The story is nuts, the cast is amazing and the soundtrack is brilliant. The dance scene with John Travolta and Uma Thurman is a classic.

The person who has influenced you most….. I couldn’t choose between my mum and my dad Alan. They gave me so much support, which ultimately led me to play cricket for my country.

The unending quest that drives you on….. To stay happy. I’ve had two divorces and some sad times, so now I focus on the simpler things in life.

The poem that touches your soul….. If by Rudyard Kipling. It’s a good mantra for doing your best in life.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase….. That I was a hellraiser that I reckon a carthorse.

The song that means most to you….. Can’t Take My Eyes Off Of You, the version by Lauryn Hill. It was the first dance at our wedding in 2005. This sounds mushy, but Dawn’s the most kind and honest person you could meet.

The event that altered the course of your life….. Meeting my wife Dawn in 2001. She’s mellowed me out and made me happier.

The way you want to be remembered….. He was always a good laugh.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you….. Never winning The Ashes – the Aussies are the old enemy, so my career always feels a bit hollow. I’d also like to play a baddie in a movie.

The philosophy that underpins your life….. Keep smiling as long as you can.

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The order of service at your funeral….. They can bring me in to The Joker by the Steve Miller Band, then play the Test Match Special theme music and take me out to Party All The Time by The Black Eyed Peas.

The way you want to be remembered….. He was always a good laugh.

The Plug….. Buy tickets for The Phil Tufnell Sky Terrace Experience, the VIP seating & hospitality area he hosts at the Kia Oval, for England vs Pakistan from 11-13 August at thisgigaprom.co.uk.

As told to Rob Mc Gibbon

Tilda Swinson teams up with George Clooney in 50s-set comedy

Hail, Caesar! – in cinemas from Friday. Martin Shaw stars in Hobson’s Choice at Bath’s Theatre Royal until next Saturday.

And The Stranglers’ new tour kicks off in Perth on Thursday

The Definite Article

Next Week

- Tom Hollander and Rebecca Front tell all about Julian Fellowes’ adaptation of Victorian melodrama

Doctor Thorne – Monty Don on the elusive apricot rose

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