

# The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week it's rugby legend Lawrence Dallaglio

**The prized possession you value above all others...**

A small wooden chest full of possessions that belonged to my late sister Francesca. She was 19 when she died in the Marchioness disaster in 1989. It's full of little treasures, like her diary, ballet shoes and jewellery.

**The biggest regret you wish you could amend...**

That I didn't play rugby for a foreign club. I had opportunities to play in New Zealand, France and Italy, but stayed with Wasps. Living abroad would have been a great experience.

**The temptation you wish you could resist...**

Double espressos; I have four or five a day.

**The book that holds an everlasting resonance...**

Danny, *The Champion Of The World* by Roald Dahl. I read it when I was about eight and it ignited my imagination.

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

Mean-ness – it makes me want to give even more.

Right: Paul Newman in *Cool Hand Luke*. Above right: a mountain bike and helmet. Far right: Lawrence's mother-in-law Sylvette David, by Pablo Picasso



**The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day...**

I'd spend it with the Queen. It would be fascinating to see what she's really like.

**The person who has influenced you most...**

My mother Eileen, who was always full of positive energy and gave me a lot of self-belief. She died of cancer in 2008, aged 70.

**The film you can watch time and time again...**

Cool Hand Luke with Paul Newman. I love Luke's stubbornness.

**The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase...**

That I'm some loud, stereotypical rugby player. I'm more interested in finding out about other people than talking about rugby.

**The unending quest that drives you on...**

To be successful and to share that success with as many people as possible, so I can make a positive contribution to society.

**The poem that touches your soul...**

I connect with the sentiments in Kipling's *If*. You won't go too far wrong if you can live that way.



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

Cycling. I got into it nine years ago and every two years I do the Dallaglio Cycle Slam event, to raise money for my foundation.

**The piece of wisdom you'd pass on to a child...**

Enjoy your childhood for as long as you can. It's more fun being a child.

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

My grandmother on my mother's side. She died from food poisoning two hours before I was born on 10 August 1972. She was from the East End of London and I'd love to hear about her life.

**The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again...**

An old fob watch my mother gave me, which was stolen in a burglary in 2004. It was one of the few things I had from her.

**The event that altered the course of your life and character...**

Going to Ampleforth College, the North Yorkshire boarding school, when I was 13. It's beautiful and very spiritual, and also where I first started playing rugby.



'My mother-in-law, who's 82, met Picasso in 1954 and became his muse, inspiring dozens of his pictures'

and I would end the day with champagne at home in Richmond.

**The happiest moment you will cherish forever...** Those simple family times around the table before my sister died.

**The saddest time that shook your world...** When my mother woke me to tell me the Marchioness had sunk. We knew Francesca had died even though her body wasn't found for a few days.

**The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you...** I'd like to trek to the North and South Poles.

**The philosophy that underpins your life...** We arrive with nothing and leave with nothing. It's what happens in between that counts.

**The order of service at your funeral...**

I would have a simple Catholic service at St Osmund's in Barnes, ending with everyone singing Jerusalem.

**The way you want to be remembered...**

As someone who lived life to the full and was all about sharing and giving.

**The Plug...**

Lawrence's foundation, Dallaglio RugbyWorks, uses rugby to help teenagers outside mainstream education find a positive pathway to achieve sustained education and employment. Visit [dallaglorugbyworks.com](http://dallaglorugbyworks.com). ■

As told to Rob McGibbon

**The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it...**

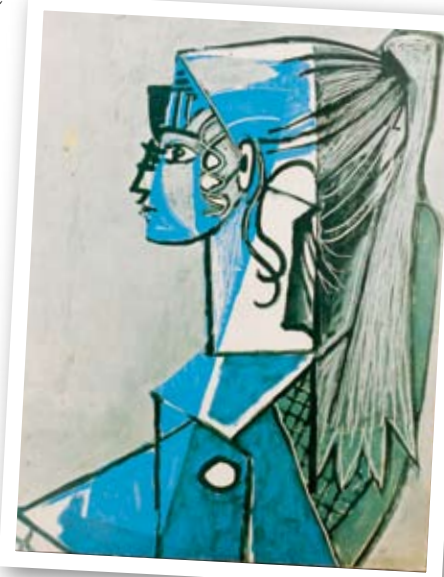
I'd steal a painting by Picasso of my mother-in-law, Lydia Corbett. She met him in 1954 when she was called Sylvette David, and was his muse for a few months, inspiring dozens of his pictures. She's 82 now but doesn't own one. It would be great to give her a painting.

**The song that means most to you...**

Jerusalem. To hear that sung at Twickenham when you're on the field makes you feel 10ft tall.

**The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions...**

After a full English at The Wolseley restaurant in London, I'd ski in St Moritz with my wife Alice and our kids Ella, 20, Josie, 18, and Enzo, 15. Lunch would be at Locanda La Felice hotel by Lake Como, where we got married in 2006. I'd have fresh pasta followed by suckling pig. We'd stroll around Milan, then I'd watch Chelsea beat Real Madrid in the Champions League final. Dinner would be at Riva in Barnes, London – I'd have copious amounts of starters, followed by a veal chop. Alice



## PS...

Daniel Craig stars in heist comedy *Logan Lucky* – in cinemas from Friday. A collectors' edition of Liza Minnelli's 1989 album *Results* is out the same day. And Imelda Staunton opens in *Follies* at London's National Theatre on Tuesday



## NEXT WEEK

- What really went on during Diana's last hours? Find out in the concluding part of our unmissable series
- Meet the finalists in our National Garden Competition
- Britain's best TV listings