E lton John before the British leg of his tour ends on 16 June to the National Theatre in The Last Of The Haussmans. And Rock Of Ages to the big screen on Wednesday. Julie Walters returns

We ask a celebrity of a devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week: football commentator John Motson

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Always take a positive from a negative. Jimmy Hill taught me that. The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... Business. I've no idea how it works. I meet people who say they're a 'non executive director' and do very little for a salary. Sounds good to me!

The poem that touches your soul... William Wordsworth's Daffodils. One of my few regrets is I've never really been the type to stop and stare. I put too much effort into my job to ever stop.

The unending quest that drives you on... Never letting my work standards slip, and therefore giving the younger commentators a run for their money. The unqualified regret you wish you could amend... Much as I'd love my own quiz show, when I hosted a Mastermind special in 1978 I was told I had a great future – but nothing happened!

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I'd drive a black London taxi for the day. For years I thought I'd do that job if the commenting didn't work out.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could recover... My collection of football programmes. I've got every FA Cup Final programme since 1921 and all the England World Cup ones. They represent my 60-year passion for the game.

The day in 1971 when I got my first contract on Match Of The Day. To be hired by a show that was getting 10 million viewers was mind-blowing.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To be a quiz show host. I was the questioner on a Mastermind special for the 1978 FA Cup Final and a lady who worked for Magnus Magnusson said I had a great future doing it but nothing ever happened!

The unqualified regret you wish you could amend... Never being the type to stop and stare. I put too much effort into my job to ever stop.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... To commentate on a big match.

The person who has influenced you most... My wife Anne. She's kept my feet on the ground. We're a team and I couldn't cope without her.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To be a quiz show host. I was the questioner on a Mastermind special for the 1978 FA Cup Final and a lady who worked for Magnus Magnusson said I had a great future doing it but nothing ever happened!

The order of service at your funeral... My father was a Methodist minister so I suppose I'll have a small service in a Methodist church. But I'm only 66 and I hope I'm still fit enough to go on for many more years.

The saddest time that shook your world... The bombings in London on 7 July, 2005. For it to happen in the city I love really saddened me. The memory still makes my blood run cold.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... The day in 1971 when I got my first contract on Match Of The Day.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Never be late. My mother instilled punctuality in me. I'm a real nuisance if I'm ever early, standing in empty rooms.

The unqualified regret you wish you could amend... Never being the type to stop and stare. I put too much effort into my job to ever stop.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To be a quiz show host. I was the questioner on a Mastermind special for the 1978 FA Cup Final and a lady who worked for Magnus Magnusson said I had a great future doing it but nothing ever happened!

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