We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it's cricket umpire Dickie Bird

**The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child...** Whatever you do in life, make sure you enjoy it.

**The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity...** I’ve collected ties since I was a boy. I’ve got hundreds, all over the house, of all colours and sizes. The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... A pair of gold cuff links I got when Yorkshire won the county championship in 1959. They were stolen in a burglary in the 1970s.

**The poem that touches your soul...** Invictus by William Ernest Henley, the 19th-century poet. It’s so inspiring.

**The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you...** To stay healthy. I’ve had a stroke and my short-term memory is shocking. I get to Asda and forget what I’m buying!

**The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it...** I think I’d go to India to watch anyone it would be Garfield Sobers in full flight. I’d go to India to visit the Taj Mahal, which is wonderful in the moonlight, but would be back to Scarborough in time for dinner at the Tuscany Italian restaurant for ravioli with a glass of red. I’d stop the night at the Crown Spa Hotel, the best in town.

**The happiest moment you will cherish...** Having a private lunch with the Queen. Within two years, I was a Test umpire and stayed for 25 years.

**Thecrime you would commit knowing you could get away with it...** I think I’d go to India to watch anyone. I’ve been there two years, I was a Test umpire and stayed for 25 years.

**The event that altered the course of your life and character...** In September 1969 I had a drink with the former Middlesex fast bowler John Warn and he suggested I become an umpire. Within two years, I was a Test umpire and stayed for 25 years.

**The song that means most to you...** I always get a lump in my throat when I hear Barbra Streisand’s “The Way We Were”. With its beautiful sentiment of looking back fondly on the past, it makes me think of my parents.

**The happiest moment you will cherish forever...** Having a private lunch with the Queen. It was just me, Prince Edward and two others, but they all left at the end, so it was just me and the Queen in the lounge chatting. I shall remember it as long as the Lord gives me breath.

**The unqualified regret you wish you could amend...** I should never have stopped playing cricket for Yorkshire. I left in 1960 because I couldn’t get a regular place. I was 24 and went to play for Leicestershire, but I wish I had stayed and fought for my place.

**The unending quest that drives you on...** To stay healthy. I’ve had a stroke and my short-term memory is shocking. I get to Asda and forget what I’m buying!

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