

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week it's England cricketer Stuart Broad



'People think I'm not very happy. I'm not a natural smiler, so I'm often asked what's up, even though I'm fine'

The prized possession you value above all others... My Test cricket cap. Unlike football, you only get one in cricket and mine came for my debut against Sri Lanka in Colombo in December 2007. I wear it for every game and pour a bit of champagne on it each time we win.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Not remembering to take photographs. I've been to some amazing places, but I never think to take pictures.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Eating chocolate digestive biscuits during a match while waiting to go in to bat. I get an evil look from the fitness coach when he catches me.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... My dad's [England cricketer Chris Broad] autobiography. My parents split up when I was three, but I stayed with Dad at weekends and his book was always by my bedside.

Right: Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn in *Wedding Crashers*. Above right: The Red Bull F1 car. Far right: A cocktail at Sydney's Opera Bar



The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I'd fix it to make me the presenter of Top Gear!

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... When people are late and don't bother to apologise.

The person who has influenced you most... My mum, Carole. She took me to so much sport when I was young, but she was never pushy. She put an emphasis on having fun.

The film you can watch time and time again... *Wedding Crashers* with Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn. The humour's so relaxed and the bit when they're shooting quail is hilarious.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Play your best, but remember it's only a game.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... Watches. I like to read about them and buy myself a nice watch to celebrate milestones. I bought one after both Ashes wins in 2009 and 2013.



The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd steal the Red Bull Formula 1 racing car and take it for a spin around Nottingham, jumping every red light.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... The Ashes! We lost 5-0 in Australia in 2013/14 and it wasn't a good feeling. I hope we get them back this summer.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Brian Clough. I'm a Nottingham Forest fan and I'd love to go back to when he won two European Cups in 1979 and 80. To know how he did it would be amazing.

The unending quest that drives you on... To help find a cure for motor neuron disease. I lost my stepmum Miche to it in 2010 and my family set up The Broad Appeal to fund research.

The poem that touches your soul... I don't read poetry, but I love wise sayings. Mum once painted me a rainy forest with a rainbow over it and the words, 'If you want the rainbow, you'll have to put up with the rain.'

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I'm not very happy! I'm not a natural smiler, so people often ask, 'What's up mate?' even though I'm totally fine. I'm not a dour, grumpy Northerner.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Shooting up by a foot between the ages of 16 and 17, which turned me into a fast bowler. I went from 5ft 6in to 6ft 6in that year.

The song that means most to you... Somewhere Over The Rainbow. My girlfriend Bealey sang it at her nan's funeral earlier this year and it was so emotional.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I'd wake up in my own bed in Nottingham, then have a cup of tea and a sausage sandwich for breakfast. I'd spend all morning hanging out at Stapleford Park, a lovely country hotel near Leicester, with Bealey, my mum and my sister Gemma. I'd walk my cockapoos Jackson and Blue, then relax in the spa. Afterwards I'd have lunch

overlooking the sea in Monaco with mates – I'd have seafood with a glass of sauvignon blanc. Then we'd have pit lane passes to watch Jenson Button win the Grand Prix. Later the lads and I would taste shiraz red wines at Hardys' Tintara Winery in Adelaide, Australia. I'd have a cocktail with Bealey at the Opera Bar in Sydney, then go to Mum's for a roast beef dinner. After that I'd crash on the sofa at home watching a film, and end the day with a Glenmorangie whisky.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... Bowling five for 37 in the final Test against the Aussies in 2009, which helped us win The Ashes.

The saddest time that shook your world... Losing Miche. She'd always been the life and soul of every party. She was one of my best friends.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To ski. I can't because I won't be insured if I get injured, but I'll do it when I stop playing.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Keep it as simple as possible.

The order of service at your funeral... I like it when a crowd pays tribute to a sportsman by clapping for a minute, so maybe the mourners can clap me out!

The way you want to be remembered... He gave 100 per cent and did everything with passion.

The Plug... Stuart is an Investec Test cricket ambassador. Visit investec.co.uk/pb or @InvestecCricket. ■ As told to Rob McGibbon



PS...

Joanna Lumley teams up with Simon Pegg in sci-fi comedy *Absolutely Anything* – in cinemas Friday. *Mrs Henderson Presents...* comes to the stage at the Theatre Royal in Bath from Saturday. And *Spandau Ballet* play *Newmarket Racecourse* on Friday and Saturday



NEXT WEEK

- Larry Lamb takes us behind the scenes on the last-ever series of *New Tricks*
- Tom Kerridge's ultimate fish dishes
- PLUS Britain's most detailed TV listings