

JAMIE DONALDSON

# 'MARK ROE COVERED MY CAR IN MASHED BANANA FOR A JOKE'

The popular Welshman lifts the lid about life on the European Tour.

WORDS BY PETER MASTERS PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY YOUNG

**What would your supernatural power be?**

To be invisible. Just don't mention the bit about ladies' volleyball changing rooms.

**What is the closest you have come to death?**

Probably out at sea. Body boarding with my brother in America when I was 15 or so. We got into the currents and got swept out. There were people on the beach telling us to get back in, but we couldn't. I thought we were done for, I really did. Big waves and big fear. We did eventually make it, but I was so tired and it felt like we'd been out there for hours. I also fell off the school roof and landed on my head on concrete, but I'm not answering any more questions about that one.

**What is your worst trait?**

Not listening. Sometimes I'm just thinking about something else.

**What trait do you most dislike in others?**

Falseness. I don't mind Americans though, because they are so positive. I like people who are straight rather than telling you something you want to hear.

**What would you go as to a fancy dress party?**

I've been as Batman and my brother went as Captain America and we had a discussion about which super hero was harder. We ended up outside scrapping in the snow and Batman won.

**What's the hardest thing you've ever done?**

I did the coast to coast bike ride across England. It took three days and it was all off road. It was brutal.

**Do you have any pet hates?**

I don't like it when my laces get dirty. Lane

hoppers on motorways. I hate that. If you're not overtaking then stay on the left.

**What is the worst thing anyone has said to you?**

My old dear said to me when I was an amateur and I'd been playing a number of years and achieved nothing: "Don't you think you should pack it in now and go and find a proper job?"

**Who would you like to say sorry to and why?**

Mark Roe. We're both practical jokers and we had a bit of banter going the other day. I covered his wing mirrors and windscreen in soft Dairylea cheese. He got me back though by covering my car all over in mashed banana, which baked in the sun and I couldn't get it off.

**When did you last cry and why?**

I had a tear to my eye when we had our 12-week scan for the baby, which is due in March. I didn't sit there bawling, but there was a tear.

**Who in the world do you most admire and why?**

In golfing terms, Tiger Woods probably. Off the course, my brother Jacky. He's two years younger and we have a bit of a love/hate thing going on. I remember going to my uncle's house, he was an antique dealer, and we used to break things all the time when we were fighting.

**You're in contention playing the last in a Major and you hit a drive which heads straight at a spectator. Do you hope it hits them and bounces back or misses them and goes into the bushes?**

It's got to hit them, but on the soft part of the arm. I wouldn't want to see it hit them on the head. I'd shout fore quietly.

**SHORT & SWEET**

**When were you happiest?**  
I'm always happy.

**Is there anything that frightens you?**  
Having to get a real job.

**When were you last recognised away from the course?**  
Crimewatch.

**Dog or cat?**  
Cat. I love cats. I've grown up with them and dogs smell.

**Who would play you in the movie of your life?**  
Somebody who's a laugh and a bit stupid.

**Have you ever said 'I love you' and not meant it?**  
No.

**What does love feel like?**  
I'm not sure about these questions, 'it feels so special'. Unconditional.

**Cremated or buried?**  
Cremated.

**What is the worst trouble you got into at school?**

Skiving. My mum would drop me off and I'd walk towards school until she disappeared round the corner then I'd turn towards the golf course. The pro's wife used to pick me up and drive me up there.

**If you had a time machine would you go forwards or back?**

Forwards, to get the results of every major sporting event so that I could bet on them when I got back and be astronomically wealthy.

**When was the last time you lied?**

The worst one lasted a few years. I crashed my brother's hire car after he'd left it parked outside the house one night. It was a Nova GTi and I decided to take it out for a spin and ended up ploughing through a hedge and into a field. I'd denied it until about four years ago when I wrote him a cheque for the damage.

**Would you rather be clever and ugly or thick and attractive?**

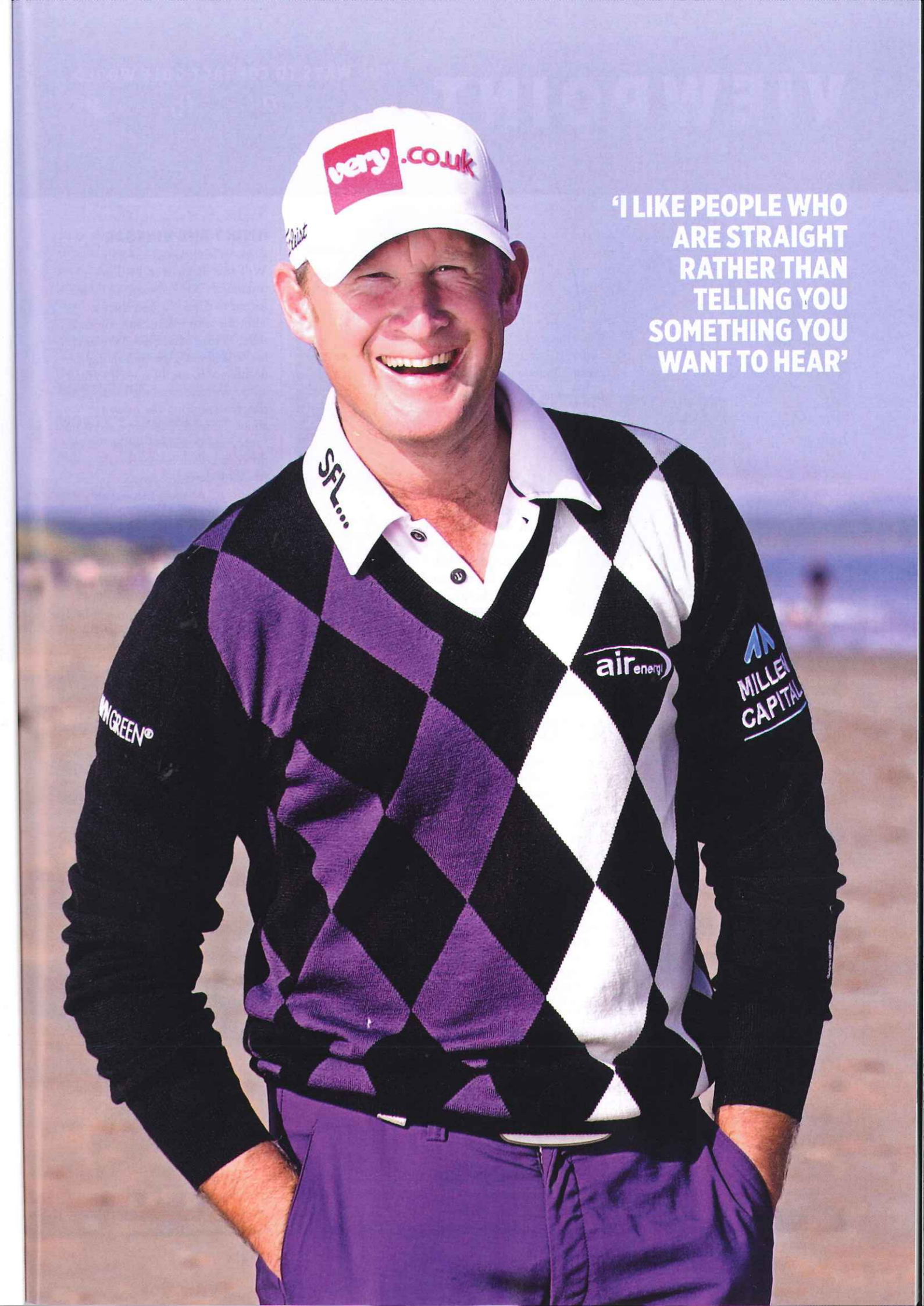
Clever and ugly. Put it this way, I don't suffer fools gladly.

**If you could edit your past what would you change?**

I'd have gone to school a bit more and applied myself more. I don't regret what I did, but I came out without a qualification of any sort. I wouldn't let my kids do the same thing.

**What do you most dislike about your appearance?**

Is that apart from small eyes, hooked nose and a funny chin? Skinny thighs. ■



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