

# 20 Questions

Undressing the industry – getting to know the people behind the uniforms

Jason Mathias (centre) from Mathias & Sons

## Tell us a bit about the company

Mathias is a family business founded by my great grandfather George in 1952 and now run by my sister and me. Our longevity within the corporate clothing industry is due to our reputation for excellent service – something we're very proud of.

## How long have you been working in this industry?

Ever since my dad dragged me up the gang planks of the ships at Bristol port when I was in nappies. We used to supply predominantly merchant navy uniform back then.

## What does a typical day involve?

Checking my e-mails, checking some daily KPI's and figures, then a quick operational meeting looking at the products lines that weren't dispatched on time and why. Then I get involved with a wide variety of things from delivery of a roll out, bids for new work, operational initiatives, strategic thinking and regular meetings with key staff.

## What's your favourite aspect of the job?

Getting feedback from customers telling us we've done a great job! Seeing staff develop and tweaking systems and processes from the operational and IT side of the business to improve our service.

## Strangest request from a customer?

Following a successful redesign and roll out of new uniform for Ginsters, we were asked if we could supply a pasty uniform. I just love the name – Deep Phil!



## If you could do any job for a day, what would it be?

A reporter for the *Lonely Planet*.

## Favourite holiday destination?

Patagonia – unzipping the tent and peering out at the rugged landscapes of mountains, lakes and volcanoes... Fantastic, complete escapism!

## How do you unwind after a hard week?

Whacking a small piece of rubber around a squash court... followed by a bit of stand up comedy and a couple of beers with friends.

## What would you put in Room 101?

Barry Scott and his Cilit Bang!

## If you had a time machine would you travel into the past or the future?

The past. I would love to see my great granddad George in action. I've heard he had some interesting selling techniques. He used to pick up foreign crew from ships at Bristol port and drive them to our premises.

On the way he'd tell them they were in a Rolls Royce (he had a Rolls Royce sticker on the dashboard of his Morris Marina) and put the radio on and tell them that the music was free!

## Who would play you in a film of your life?

Austin Powers. Although the guys I play squash with will probably say Roadrunner!

## Cinema or DVD?

DVD with the fire roaring

## What's your hidden talent?

I managed to hit Shane Warne for six when he was a beer-swilling teenager playing local cricket in Bristol. He was sober at the time, I think!

## Favourite colour?

Red – sad Bristol City fan.

## Dream car?

Classic Speedster. I'm not a big car man, but I love old sports cars. The thought of driving around the English countryside with the roof down really appeals.

## Do you believe in aliens? No.

## What are you reading at the moment?

*Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, amazing book. I love travel and adventure books. *Touching The Void* is just the best book ever!

## If you were an animal, what would you be?

Stegosaurus – my nickname at university. Long story!

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