

# Questions of sport



**Mike Mellor, MD of Space Catering Equipment, lays bare his sporting soul**

## What is your favourite sport and why?

Rugby. I played at a reasonable level myself until I was 35. It's the ultimate team game with a role for every shape and size of person as well as being an incredible physical challenge.

## Which is your top team?

Now that I've stopped playing, I support Gloucester and go to

almost every home game, where there are some very amusing local characters who provide useful advice to the referee.

## Tell us about your sporting hero

As a patriot I suppose it should really be one of the great England players, but the player who I've most admired in recent years is

actually Welshman Martyn Williams. He is an open-side flanker, which is where I played, and is amazing. He seems to be at the heart of everything despite not being that big, which is very unusual these days.

## Your most memorable sporting moment?

A big gang of us went to Marseille for the Rugby World Cup quarter-finals and watched England beat

Australia in glorious sunshine and then watched the French beat New Zealand on a big screen in the Old Port along with about 100,000 locals who went absolutely bonkers. Both northern hemisphere sides were huge underdogs and it was great to see them both win. All the Australian fans had been incredibly cocky in the morning and they strangely disappeared after the game – priceless.

## What sporting moment made you cringe most?

Obviously you get some nasty injuries in rugby and there is always some concern when players don't get up. Danny Cipriani's ankle injury was pretty horrific and stands out as a very cringeworthy.

## Which sporting moment are you most looking forward to this year?

Next year is a Rugby World Cup year, so that should be pretty special. It's in New Zealand and I would love to get over there for some of it. Maybe this will be the year when England don't choke.

## What is your favourite pub to watch sport in?

The Beehive in Cheltenham. It's pretty basic, but great fun.

## Finally, any suggestions for new Olympic sports?

Rugby, of course. Actually the 2012 Olympics will include sevens for the first time so it will be on the menu, albeit in a reduced format.



Next week the focus will be on the London Marathon