

Five Minute Interview



Robert May, managing director of ramsac, takes the hot seat this week as *MicroScope* fires questions at him

What is the best/worst advice you have received and from whom?

The worst advice in many ways must have been from a work colleague who at the back end of the 1980s convinced me that I should be putting all my money into pyramid selling water filters. That said, I believe everything happens for a reason and often think some of the lessons and harsh realities that flop taught me, gave me the skills and confidence to launch ramsac.

What is the thing most people do not know about you?

While I love ramsac and often find it odd to consider ever doing anything else, in an ideal world I would like to work on a bird reserve or be a game keeper.

What temptation can't you resist?

Champagne. In fact, I once did the Champagne diet — not the one where the punch line is I lost three weeks! Essentially, it has the least calories of any alcoholic drink (one-third that of a glass of white wine)

thus I console myself that there is merit to my weakness.

Where is the one place you'd like to visit before you die?

I really keep meaning to visit the Galapagos Islands and I must do it while they still allow tourists — there just appears to be so many amazing creatures and an abundance of beauty and mystery.

Which bit of technology would you want with you if you were stranded on a desert island?

A teleporter would be good, but failing that it would probably have to be a solar-powered iPod — I can't imagine not having music.

Who helped you get to where you are today?

A chap called John Neave once said to me that I was the most technically competent yet user-friendly consultant he'd ever worked with, but he hated my employer at the time. He told me that if I were ever to start my own business he would

insist that his group of companies used it for all things IT. Obviously, I did start the business and for many years (until the group sold out) he was true to his word — without that confidence boost I may not have made the leap of faith.

What is the best book you've ever read?

Three Men in a Boat by Jerome K. Jerome — despite its age it's classic humour makes me laugh out loud.

Describe yourself in one sentence

I'm a determined, hardworking, slightly stubborn, humorous, workaholic.

Why are you good at your job?

I have passion for my job, for all things technical, for the success of ramsac and the entire ramsac team.

What's the best industry jolly you've ever been on?

I think the early years of ComDef were fantastic events and the cruise ships got better as the years went on. ■