

Alastair Smyth

md, Just Wood Flooring

■ **Did you get into trouble at school?** Yes, accused of trying to burn my school gym down, and as a consequence got the slipper every day for a month, age five!! My Dad used to collect match boxes when away on business and I had taken a pack into school....oops.

■ **What was your first part-time job?** Milk boy. I got up at 6am and was dropped home at noon all for £1 and as much milk as I could drink.

■ **What did you spend your first pay cheque on?** Nesquick, to make the milk taste better; after all, I was only 10.

■ **What was your first full-time job?** Trainee manager at Burton's menswear.

■ **What was the best piece of advice you have been given?** A smile can speak a thousand words, oh, and look out for the yellow snow!!

■ **What was your worst business mistake?** Went to an auction in Havant and bought job lot of hose pipes really cheaply, thinking we were going to make a killing, a few days later the council declared a hose pipe ban!

■ **What was your greatest business achievement?** Starting a company from nothing and taking it to a million plus turnover.

■ **What car do you drive today and what does it say about you?** For work a Mercedes Vito sign written to within an inch of its life, says always strengthening the brand. For fun a Porsche 911 Carrera 4S, says I work hard, or we are expensive.

■ **If you could have invented any product what would it have been?** E-Bay.

■ **What do you most like about the flooring industry?** The lifestyle it affords me.

■ **What do you least like about the industry?** Price driven customers at the expense of quality, oh, and bad knees!

■ **Which company in the flooring industry, other than your own, do you admire?** Kährs, for its ongoing product innovation, quality of its range and the high level of customer service that it provides.

■ **Where should we have a flooring show?** Guildford: Good central base for all Southern contractors.

■ **Do you have any pets?** No, but I have two kids (nearly the same??!)

■ **Do you have any hobbies?** Golf is my one consuming passion.

■ **Which single possession would you rescue if your house caught fire?** Our photos.

■ **How do you have any hobbies?** Lots....Snowboarding, wakeboarding, moto-cycling, property developing to name a few.

■ **How do you relax?** I don't have time. Look at all my hobbies!!

■ **What is your favourite tippie?** Warninks advocaat!!

■ **How many times a year do you take a holiday and what is your favourite destination?** Four to five times a year to our apartment in the French Alps for skiing and anywhere hot for the sun with my family.

■ **What is your idea of heaven?** Clouds, pearly gates, Angels and harps, and gate keeper called Peter!

■ **What is your idea of hell?** Fire, flames and an angry looking bloke with horns!

■ **Which one record and book would you take to a desert island?** 101 ways to survive on a desert island and Robert Reilly and the Buffalo Club.

■ **Who would you like to be stuck in a lift with?** My wife, Ursula.

■ **If you could be anyone (living or dead, fictional or real) who would it be?** Richard Branson. He seems to be having a great time.

■ **Choose five words that describe yourself.** Loyal, generous, successful, tenacious and entertaining.

In the dock



Alastair Smyth in the fast lane, and then there's that Ferrari he is hoping for ...

■ **Do you have any regrets?** Not catching onto short selling quickly enough!!

■ **Do you have any unfulfilled ambitions?** To own a Ferrari F430. The short selling should help...

■ **What was your most embarrassing moment?** Owning a black TR7 is the only one I'll admit to. You couldn't publish the rest!! Something to do with Amsterdam, adult nappies and a very large lady!!! But let's not go there....

■ **If you had to choose another career what would it be?** Rock star! **CFJ**

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