

Karl Branigan

National sales manager,
Ultra Floor (Instarmac Group)



Karl Branigan with his children, hoping that the tile adhesive in the pool is holding up

■ **Did you get into trouble at school?** I hit my music teacher on the back of the head with a snowball once from about 100yd and knocked her clean off her feet, I thought I'd got away with it only to be seen by another teacher who eventually had the pleasure of caning me for my troubles.

■ **What was your first part-time job?** I had a paper round at 11 years old but quickly traded this in. The milk round was the job that everyone wanted and I stuck with that up until I left school.

■ **What was your first full-time job?** (YTS) Youth Training Scheme at GKN/Hardy Spicer, making prop shafts for the Mini Metro.

■ **What did you spend your first pay cheque on?** Clothes, It was the 80's, I needed something to go with my Kevin Kegan perm.

■ **What was the best piece of advice you have been given?** From my Dad, 'if you don't ask son, you don't get'.

■ **What was your worst business mistake?** Giving up that paper round.

■ **What was your greatest business achievement?** Being given the opportunity to head the Ultra Floor brand.

■ **What car do you drive today and what does it say about you?** A Volkswagon 'Peoples Car' friendly, reliable and hard working, never lets you down.

■ **If you could have invented any product what would it have been?** The Internet 'what a ridiculous idea, that will never take off'.

■ **What do you most like about the flooring industry?** The people.

■ **What do you least like about the industry?** The people.

■ **Name one change you would make to the industry.** Honestly, I wouldn't make any.

■ **Which company in the flooring industry, other than your own, do you admire?** There are a few that I admire and for several different reasons, however, I'm going to sit on the fence for this one.

■ **Where should we have a flooring show?** The National Exhibition Centre, because of its central location.

■ **Which single possession would you rescue if your house caught fire?** Other than my family, of course, my mobile phone I'd be lost without it.

■ **Do you have any pets?** The Kids.

■ **Do you have any hobbies?** Childrens entertainer/ butler/ taxi driver etc!

■ **How do you relax?** In front of the television.

■ **What is your favourite tipple?** JD & Coke.

■ **What is your idea of hell?** Having to do that paper round again.

■ **What is your idea of heaven?** I've not really thought about it, but it would probably have to involve chocolate.

■ **How many times a year do you take a holiday and what is your favourite destination?** As and when we can afford to, and I'd have to say that Jamaica has been my favourite destination to date.

■ **Which one record and book would you take to a desert island?** Record - We gotta get outta this place The Animals;

Book *The Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann Wyss.

■ **Who would you like to be stuck in a lift with?** Carmen Electra.

■ **If you could be anyone (living or dead, fictional or real) who would it be?** Hugh Hefner 'all work and no play didn't make Hugh a dull boy'.

■ **Choose five words that describe yourself.** Humorous, Loyal, Caring, Determined, Committed.

■ **Any regrets?** Regrets, I've had a few...but then again to few to mention, no regrets, stupidly I'd do it all again.

■ **Any unfulfilled ambitions?** Take Ultra Floor and transform them into the biggest selling brand within the Instarmac Group.

■ **What was your most embarrassing moment?** Apparently I've had many, but fortunately I can't remember any! Thank goodness for Jack Daniels.

■ **If you had to choose another career what would it be?** A Premiership Footballer or a Rockstar. **CFJ**

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