

# Tim Brown

Brand manager,  
Ryalux



Tim Brown, enjoying his favourite 'tipple', a cup of tea

■ **Did you get into trouble at school?** Occasionally: the teachers weren't really keen on wit and repartee from pupils and since a bit of corporal punishment was considered a pleasant pastime...

■ **What was your first part-time job?** John Collier ("the window to watch") a clothes shop.

■ **What did you spend your first pay cheque on?** First suit from John Collier.

■ **What was your first full-time job?** Export sales at Dorma, the bedding company.

■ **What was the best piece of advice you have been given?** There's always someone worse off than you.

■ **What was your worst business mistake?** Working in the fashion industry.

■ **What was your greatest business achievement?** Clinching a huge contract with a Russian government department long before glasnost – when a pair of jeans or pack of women's tights would buy you a meal.

■ **What car do you drive today and what does it say about you?** In my heart – a Ferrari. In my head a Land Rover. In real life – an estate car. It says I'm a practical sort of guy.

■ **If you could have invented any product what would it have been?** Penicillin.

■ **What do you most like about the flooring industry?** It's kept me in employment for a number of years.

■ **What do you least like about the industry?** A lack of investment and innovation has allowed flooring to become a functional commodity rather than a fashion accessory.

■ **Name one change you would make to the industry.** Sponsor selected graduates through university to bring young blood in to the industry.

■ **Which company in the flooring industry, other than your own, do you admire?** Brintons – despite the residential woven market having almost disappeared, they continue to heavily promote their brand.

■ **Where should we have a flooring show?** Somewhere with good access that offers modern facilities for exhibitors and to which the trade willingly comes. I can't think of anywhere appropriate. Why should we have one? Now that's a good question.

■ **Which single possession would you rescue if your house caught fire?** My wife.

■ **Do you have any pets?** My wife. (oh, a dog and cat as well).

■ **Do you have any hobbies?** Mainly sports to keep fit.

■ **How do you relax?** With difficulty.

■ **What is your favourite tipple?** A nice cuppa tea. A bit sad, but there we are...

■ **How many times a year do you take a holiday and what is your favourite destination?** If you include weekends away – several. Don't have any favourite places because we like to find new

ones all the time. The world is such a huge, diverse place.

■ **What is your idea of heaven?** The freedom to choose what do do each day.

■ **What is your idea of hell?** Having to work in a job you hate.

■ **Which one record and book would you take to a desert island?** Faurés Requiem and Lord of the Rings compendium.

■ **Who would you like to be stuck in a lift with?** Mahatma Gandhi.

■ **If you could be anyone (living or dead, fictional or real) who would it be?** Gandalf.

■ **Choose five words that describe yourself.** Northener, easy going, vegetarian, unpretentious, loyal.

■ **Do you have any regrets?** The only real regret is that I spent a lot of time away on business when my family was young so I missed part of their growing up.

■ **Do you have any unfulfilled ambitions?** Yes, lots. Striving to achieve them is what makes life interesting.

■ **What was your most embarrassing moment?** Missing the plane at C de G airport after I'd let my passport and wallet go through in my suitcase but sneaked through immigration. I couldn't get out of the boarding area because I'd no passport, I'd no credit cards (they were in the suitcase as well) and the next plane was the following day!

■ **If you had to choose another career what would it be?** I would have joined the RAF or army. **CFJ**

● This feature was written before the news - received as this issue went to press - that Tim Brown has left Ryalux.

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