

## Michael Holt

*LW: How (dis)satisfied are you with your career so far?*

MH: I'm not satisfied. I turned professional to win major tournaments. Until I achieve that goal I'll never be happy in respect of my career.

*LW: When was your best performance as a snooker player?*

MH: I've played well a few times in my career. One that sticks in my mind is a match in the UK championship against Tony Drago, in my 2nd year as a professional. Tony was a top 32 ranked player at the time and I beat him 10-1 and played really well all the way through. The frame Tony won he made a century. I just remember loving every minute.

*LW: How would you describe yourself as a player? (style, strengths, weaknesses)*

MH: Haha! Tough for me to say. I feel I'm strong in most areas when I'm on my game. My biggest problem is consistency. When I'm not on my game I'm awful!!!!

*LW: How does it feel to be a snooker player?*

MH: Great! There was a stage a few years ago where I took it for granted but not anymore. I'm truly blessed to do something I dreamed of as child and I intend to enjoy every minute until I stop.

*LW: Who supports you the most (as a snooker player and/or as a person)?*

MH: My fiancé, my family, my friends, my manager Dave who has been with me since before I was professional and most importantly my dad. My dad took me all over the country when I was a child and my biggest motivation is to win a major tournament for him.

*LW: Whose skills do you find most impressive?*

MH: Ronnie O'Sullivan obviously, he is the best I've seen. Amazing. Any champion impresses me though, I know how hard it is out there and have the upmost respect for anyone who lifts a trophy.

*LW: You have said: "The mental side of snooker is the key". Do you make use of any resources to improve this side?*

MH: My coach is Terry Griffiths at the moment, we work on everything including the mindset stuff.

*LW: What is your opinion about women playing on the main tour?*

MH: It's great! It doesn't matter what sex you are, if you're good enough lets play!!!

*LW: To you, is there a difference between losing to a female player than to a male? Or is there a difference winning against a woman?*

MH: None. My mixed doubles partner is Reanne Evans. We are world champions. :o) If I get beat it doesn't matter who it is.....I sulk! ;o)

*LW: Do you know if there is something your fans would really appreciate you doing for them?*

MH: Not sure? If there is let me know and I'll see what I can do. ;o)

*LW: As a snooker player, you don't have a normal job with regular income but you are more a self-employed business man. You can decide if, where, and when you work. How do you feel about taking all the business risks (high expenses, no income if things are going badly) without having influence over all decisions?*

MH: I look at it as a gamble but one worth it because I will always back myself. If anyone doesn't want to take that gamble then they have a choice to do something else. We haven't got the security of a steady nine to five job but I travel all around the world and if things go well can change my life in a matter of weeks. Plus you only live once. Life is short and as Charles Bukowski says..."Find something you love and let it kill you"!!

*LW: What would you do if you were not playing snooker?*

MH: Maybe a personal trainer? Or a chef? I love training and food.

*LW: What is your biggest wish for the near future?*

MH: In snooker to keep improving and win a major tournament. I'm working very hard so we shall see.... In life, for all the people I love to be happy.

*LW: There are different explanations where your nickname comes from. What is your version for the name "Hitman"?*

MH: I've heard. I know the real reason and it was given to me by an old compare called Alan Hughes. I spoke to him at one of my first snooker venues and he suggested "hitman". I loved it and it's been that ever since. It's got nothing to do with me punching snooker tables.

*LW: What are you most passionate about in life?*

MH: Health and fitness, food and laughing. Couldn't live without any of them.

*LW: Would you consider yourself a happy person?*

MH: I think so. I can laugh at most things. I think I've got happier and more content with age.

*LW: Do you think Jesus would tell you the truth about his secret about how he convinced all the people that he is real?*

MH: I'd make him drink loads of wine so he tells all. A drunk man never lies....apparently!

*LW: Have you ever cried because Nottingham Forest lost?*

MH: No. I have been gutted though. We are an unlucky football team. :(

*LW: Why is there no World Snooker Mr & Mrs Video with you and Mark Williams? (I have seen the photo with Mark and you -you wearing the pink wig...)*

MH: I'm not sure about that, you should ask them. I'm sure they've got it stored somewhere.

*LW: What kind of music do you listen to (aside from Stone Roses and The Spotlight Kid)? What are your favourite bands/singers? Is there any music you can not stand?*

MH: Loads of stuff. Big fan of The Brian Jonestown Massacre, been listening to David Bowie lately as he's someone I've never listened too. Slowly working my way through his back catalogue, we'll see if I become a fan.....

*Thank you for taking the time and for providing us an insight into your life. For the future I wish you all the best. And will your biggest wish become true.*