

The Santa Claus interview

For the first time in history, Santa Claus, aka Father Christmas, aka Saint Nicholas, aka Kris Kringle, has exposed himself to the media spotlight and given an exclusive interview to LTLF...

Santa, as a celebrity you are notorious for shunning publicity and refusing to give interviews. Why have you decided to give your first ever interview to a lowly fanzine publication?

I gave this interview because I am fed up of receiving letters from Forest fans requesting new players for Christmas. I am but a humble toy-maker and I can't possibly afford to pay transfer fees to bring Ronaldinho and Henry to the City Ground, so stop pestering me! That said, I've got some elves, if you are interested?

No thanks, we've got enough short-arses already. Are you a footballing man, Santa? Does your famous red coat mean you are a Forest fan?

I do follow football, but I'm not a Forest fan. In fact, I used to wear green, but Coca-Cola asked me to wear red for one of their adverts and that has kind of stuck. I was reluctant to do it, but it was the 1930s and the unions were gaining strength – the elves were demanding that I start actually paying them, can you believe it?!

You used to wear green? So does that mean you are a Plymouth fan?

No, I wore green because that's the colour of the Iceland national team. I always follow their games. They got to the second round in the last World Cup and were knocked out by Spain.

Err, that was Ireland...

Was it? Oh bollocks! The TV reception isn't very good up at the North Pole so I'm never quite sure who I'm watching. A few months ago I was convinced I watched England getting thrashed by Denmark, but I suppose that was probably Finland or someone...

No, that was actually England.

Oh deary me. Well to be honest, that doesn't surprise me too much. I mean, David Beckham still writes me letters in crayon every year and that Wayne Rooney is certainly on my 'Bad' list. I'd give him a lump of coal, but he'd probably lob it through my window. Bloody scousers...

Moving away from football, the role of religion in the festival of Christmas has recently been an issue of great controversy. Where do you stand on this matter?

I don't understand the question.

Well, do you believe in God?

Believe in him? I've met him! It was a few years ago, I popped into his son Simon's newsagents to buy some chocolates for the wife (a sort of apology – long story!) and he



BY MARY CHRISTMAS

was sat behind the counter. I asked him to autograph a picture – he signed it "Best wishes, Cloughie".

Err, I meant the other God...

Oh, him! He left about a century ago to start his experiment again on another world! Packed up and went, left a note saying "I've had it with the lot of you, Lucifer is welcome to your souls for all I care".

That explains a few things! I suppose the thing everyone really wants to know is, how do you manage to deliver all those presents in just one night? What's your secret?

It's quite simple really. I spend the rest of the year lacing the world's supply of eggnog and prunes with drugs to make everyone fall asleep for long periods of time. Christmas Eve is actually three months long, but as long I remember to set the clocks back in each house I visit it isn't much difficulty.

Genius!

Well I didn't get this job for nothing you know! People seem to have this impression of me just being a jolly fat man, but I do have brains you know! Perhaps if I shaved my beard off people would take me more seriously...

Santa, I can't help but notice that throughout this interview you haven't used any of your famous catchphrases, like 'Ho ho ho', 'Meerrryyyy Christmas' and 'Shut that door!'...

I don't think that last one is mine. But if you want me to use a catchphrase, it will be a £500 fee.

That doesn't seem to be very much in the

spirit of Christmas!

Well I've got to make money somehow. The animal rights people have been on to me about my mistreatment of the reindeer, so I'm having to fork out for decent food and nice stables. Plus every bratty kid wants a PSP this year. I don't even know what one of those is, but it sounds expensive. Things with three letters usually are.

Now you've taken the first step into the media spotlight, there are rumours of more appearances from you, maybe even some film roles. Any truth in these?

Well they want me to play Sir Richard Attenborough in a biopic about his career, but I'm not sure I'm right for the role. My agent says I can get a lot of money for public appearances though, so if you want me to come to your birthday party or something, I can come along and do a few jokes. I'll do anything really, weddings, funerals, bar mitzvahs...

I don't think Jewish people tend to go in for the whole Christmas thing.

Really? Some people, eh! Well at least that's a few houses I can cut off my list. All these weird religions get on my nerves. Take Jehovah's Witnesses, for instance. Just because *they* don't drink, it doesn't excuse them from leaving me a glass of brandy!

Indeed!

Some people can be so ungrateful.

Perhaps that's because they don't believe you exist?

Oh I was talking to the Tooth Fairy about this the other day. That was another reason I decided to give this interview. I mean, *LTLF* is a trusted vessel who would never print lies or make things up.