

# Ten questions with.. Gary Watkins

Each month we ask an industry professional the Tomorrow's FM ten questions. This month,



we chatted to Gary Watkins, Managing Director of Service Works Group Ltd.

## Q1 What was your first job?

Aged 14, selling paintings on the Bayswater Road! Cockney boy or entrepreneurial spirit? I'd like to think the latter!

## Q2 How did you get into the FM industry?

I started in data centre facilities management, before moving across to wider FM.

## Q3 Who, in any other industry, do you most admire?

The neuroscientist, Baroness Susan Greenfield. It must be fascinating working at the leading edge of medical research.

Did you see the recent BBC Horizon programme, 'Are you Good or Evil?' where scientists studied the mind of psychopaths and discovered that people with the MAOA gene (dubbed 'the warrior gene') are predisposed to violence? Medical research is so interesting.

## Q4 If money was no object, what car would you buy?

I don't have to think about this question. An Aston Martin!

## Q5 How would you improve the FM industry?

Everyone's saying the same thing. The facilities management industry would benefit from being higher up the boardroom agenda. It's heading in the right direction and it is issues such as sustainability that I believe will take it to the boardroom.

## Q6 What did you want to be when you were growing up?

A professional footballer of course! Don't most boys?

## Q7 What do you do to unwind?

Watch football – although as a Chelsea supporter, it's not always guaranteed that I can unwind!

## Q8 If you could host a dinner party with any three guests, dead or alive, with a fourth cooking and a fifth providing the music, who would they be and why?

My three guests would be Muhammad Ali, Mahatma Gandhi and Tommy Cooper, with Michel Roux Jr. cooking and Bob Marley providing the music. This would provide a well rounded mix of comedy, contemplation, entertainment, religion, and sport. Although I'm sure that if I'm being politically correct that I should include

my wife as one of the three guests!

## Q9 What do you think is the future of the Facilities Management industry?

On a positive note, it's interesting subjects such as sustainability. On a more negative note and in the short term, I think that FM will come under increasing cost pressure to manage more space with less resource. Generally speaking, I think that the FM industry is stepping up to the mark and standards of professionalism are increasing, which is very encouraging.

*Stephen Charles, Managing Director of Vivreau asks...*

## 10 If you could have been responsible for designing one great innovation over the past century, what would it have been?

Rather than innovation, I would prefer to make a medical discovery, something like the discovery of penicillin.



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*Check out next month's issue to see what Gary Watkins asked our next industry professional...*