

BROADCAST LEGEND JIM ON BOOZE PERILS

'I'm not quite as insane as I was'



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AND HIS CRAZY LIFE AT SKY & TALKSPORT

'I'm not quite as insane as I was'



White & yellow

JIM White has become Sky Sports' face of transfer deadline day when the clock ticks towards 11pm and the late deals get announced. As he rounds up the day's trading, he does so wearing his now famous yellow tie.

In the early days of transfer deadline day, Sky chose a yellow strap on the

bottom of the screen so yellow became the identifiable colour," says Jim.

"That has stuck. And that is why van drivers wind their windows down and ask

"how's the yellow tie?"

"The last time I interviewed

Fergie he asked, 'Where's the yellow tie?' I had one for him

in my pocket, he loved it."



SHOW TIME: Jim has a rest. Left, with Hayley McQueen during Sky's deadline day coverage

Jim White Voice of sport THE MIKE WARD INTERVIEW

mind you, that this proud, affable Glaswegian's passion for sport has diminished.

Although strictly neutral, club-wise

(despite regular accusations to the contrary from Celtic and Rangers fans alike), he freely admits he's lost his rag at times over his national side's misfortunes.

"I was on holiday in Minorca last summer," he recalls, "watching Scotland v England, the World Cup qualifier, on TV. It's 2-1 to Scotland. I'm leaping about – and then, unbelievably, in the dying moments, Harry Kane equalises.

"I smashed a glass. I threw it right across the room. Luckily, Katie was outside or she might have copped it."

"Pochettino at Tottenham, he's

got time for people. He's meticulous,

respectful. I love the guy.

"And Klopp at Liverpool, that's a

great marriage.

"But other stories emerge

all the time. Burnley, for

example. How on earth

can they do what

they've done? Amazing.

Sean Dyche is

fantastic. And your

boys at Brighton,

Mike. Wonderful.

What a fantastic

season."

So how does

Jim rate England's

World Cup chances?

"I need to be careful

here, don't I? I'm very

friendly with Steve Hol-

land, Gareth Southgate's

number two. I'd like him and

Gareth to do well. They work hard.

They're great students of the game.

"I think England'll do all right. Quarter-finals, maybe even the semis. But I don't see them being finalists."

As Jim prepares to head off to Waterloo Station, then onwards to Sky, I suggest this routine must get knackered at

times, given the energy he puts into everything. He admits that, yes, it can take its toll.

"I don't mind telling you, Mike, I hit a bit of a brick wall last year.

"As you say, it's all or nothing with me,

and I'd been going flat out. Then one

night, in the bath, I noticed my left

ankle and right wrist were swollen."

Turned out Jim had a kidney problem.

"I've been on a programme

of steroids ever since. Still work-

ing flat out, just maybe cutting

down the odd day.

"But that was a marker for

me, a warning shot.

"August, September, I

was taking something

like 16 pills in the morn-

ing. But now I'm down

to about two.

"So I'm not quite as

insane as I was!"

He adds: "Sometimes,

to relax, I've got to get

away. I go to Spain and

America quite a bit. I like

to get out of it and just not

listen to who beat who or

who's done what."

"I'm getting to realise there's

more to life,

to appreciate nice things

and nice people – never more so, with

poor Ray Wilkins passing away recently.

I hope Ray appreciated I was a good pal.

"I'm trying to get more of a grip on life, a sense of balance."

"Having said that, it all starts again

tomorrow – and you just do it."

Pictures: TIM MERRY