

# CRP Spotlight

This issue we profile the shy and retiring (!) Bobby Lock - Community Rail Officer for the Island Line.



*Bobby Lock, Community Rail's only known elephant rider!*

## Where were you born and brought up?

I was born in Welwyn Garden City and brought up in a tiny village called Icomb in the Cotswolds, climbing trees and hay bales!

## What has been the best time of your life (to date)?

The best time of my life was when I was a sailing instructor for the Island Cruising Club in Devon. Carefree halcyon days.

## Tell us a bit about yourself, pre-railway?

My first job was an elephant rider in Chipperfields circus where I also learnt the trapeze. However, after becoming engaged to the elephant trainer, my life suddenly became scarily mapped out ahead and I left the spangled costumes and sawdust behind for the world of sailing and skiing. This saw me teaching small boat sailing, working as a deck hand and cook mate on a number of millionaire's yachts, as well as spending four seasons ski-ing in France before finally starting my own sailing school in Devon. I eventually moved to the Isle of Wight in 2000, where I retrained as a fitness instructor, which led to my first job as a healthy Lifestyles Co-ordinator at a Trust which helped to establish my community development skills.

## What does your current role as CRP entail?

As Rail Development Officer for both the Isle of Wight and

Lymington-Brockenhurst CRP, I divide my time between the two lines to increase passenger growth through working with tourism, local businesses, community groups and schools, which in turn promotes community goodwill and station pride, as well as car free tourism between the Island and mainland.

## Hobbies and interests?

I absolutely love skiing and sailing. The sailing does have to be on a very nice yacht, preferably in the Caribbean with a G&T in hand rather than blasting through the cold Solent hiked out on a trapeze. However, my wage doesn't run to the first two, so I have to make do with the latter, which isn't so bad when the club house hasn't run out of gin! I also still love teaching sailing (apart from to my 15 year old son Sam, who thinks he knows everything!) love reading and being totally gripped in a thriller, preferably to do with Egypt and/or tombs, treasure and baddies.

## If you weren't doing the job you do now, what career would you like?

Definitely an actor on the stage and screen, with George Clooney being a close friend, supporting my career with my number in his phone on speed dial and visa versa.

## What makes you angry?

Injustice, lying, liver, the smell of tar and endings.

## What makes you happy?

My family, hot sunshine, Christmas morning, the smell of wood smoke, freshly cut wood, my two year-old daughter Emily when she's just had a bath ready for bed, cooing wood pigeons and evening bird song, friends to dine, candles, a cold pillow turned over on a Saturday morning and not having to get up, nice surprises, watching sunsets in the cockpit of a sailing yacht with a cold beer, skiing on fresh snow and crying through laughter.

## What has been your greatest achievement so far?

Bringing up my two children, initially through adverse times, to be well rounded and polite individuals, with a great sense of honour, style and humour.

## Which famous living person do you most admire - and why?

David Tennant, for taking time out from a very successful Dr Who to pursue a season of Shakespeare. How cool is that!

## Do you play or watch any sport? If so, what's your favourite?

The rugby in our house is always eagerly anticipated. Watching sailing is dull so I do it. I horse ride, play tennis and ski when I have time (and the money!) and like to watch these sports too.

## Name one of the best films you have ever seen.

A Matter of Life and Death.

## Your favourite actor and actress.

Duh! George Clooney of course and Katherine Hepburn.