

The Murder Game

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The Chief

For over thirty years Bob Taylor worked in the fight against crime. From his early days as a uniformed Constable in Leeds to his role as Detective Chief Superintendent he has worked on many high profile cases. His career within the CID led to him working on over 150 murder and major crime investigations, including two of the biggest manhunts of the twentieth century. Bob was involved in the hunt for the 'Yorkshire Ripper' and led the hunt for Michael Sams, who murdered Leeds teenager Julie Dart and kidnapped Birmingham estate agent Stephanie Slater.

He has been commended many times and in 1994 was the first Superintendent to receive the Dennis Hoban Award - which is awarded annually by West Yorkshire Police for outstanding detective work. Bob is an innovative investigator, using state of the art techniques and always ready to break new ground in criminal investigations.

Before retiring in 2001 he trained and lectured detectives at the Detective Training School in Wakefield and regularly contributed to courses at other training establishments throughout the force.

Bob brings his detailed knowledge and experience to *The Murder Game*; and as Chief Investigator he will put the teams of investigators through their paces.

The Investigators

Name: Melanie Sainz
Age: 21
Location: West London (She grew up in Majorca and Yorkshire)
Data: Mel spent three years as a pole dancer before giving up to live with her boyfriend above the pub/restaurant that he owns. She lists her special skills as common sense and being very persuasive. She is determined to disprove the theory about blondes and show she can succeed by using her brain.

Motivation: “When I was selected it was like fate, this fantastic opportunity was presented to me and to appear on TV was something I had always wanted to do. I felt very lucky & privileged that I would be part of the show.”

Name: Mervin Merchant
Age: 30
Location: London
Data: Mervin is a visual merchandiser for a leading department store. He has ambition to be a musician and has studied sound engineering. He believes his good eye for detail will help in the investigation. He also says that he is level-headed, straight talking and very good at delegating tasks.

Motivation: “The reason I applied was because it was an adventure and a challenge. It was unusual and some thing I didn’t think I would ever experience again in my life. You meet and interact with people from different backgrounds. It was a chance to get your hands dirty whilst investigating and also the money was quite a pull.”

Name: Andrew Weaver
Age: 56
Location: Bristol
Data: Andrew is a dairy farmer and is married with two children, Nigel (23) and Emma (26). He lists his best attributes as humour, warmth, consideration and kindness. Andrew rises to any challenge and will give 100 per cent to the investigation.

Motivation: “I applied for the show because our dear Prime Minister said farming was on a downward turn and we have to diversify. I thought that because this was television it would get me out of the cold and wet winter and into a lovely warm environment and I couldn’t wait.”

Name: Christine Rose
Age: 38
Location: Warrington
Data: Christine's world revolves around her family; her husband Malcolm and her eight children: Kate, Martin, Daniel, Luke, Cindy, Rosie, Jessica and Sammy. Her father was a Policeman and she wanted to join but was told she was not tall enough. She says that she is a great organiser and her nosiness about other people will help in the investigation; as will her calm and relaxed manner.

Motivation: "It sounded quite an intriguing programme really, not many clues were given what we were doing. It was the not knowing what would happen to us that appealed to me."

Name: Richard Sharrocks
Age: 32
Location: Northumberland
Data: Richard is married to Julie. He is a commercial pilot but spent a few years in the Army as a Platoon Commander. He has a competitive streak and thinks he will make a good investigator because he is inquisitive, pragmatic and analytical.

Motivation: "I'd always considered a career in the police and in particular I'd always wanted to be a detective and I never took up that option. This was a good way of fulfilling that boyhood dream and also the chance of winning a big cash prize."

Name: Meryl Holt
Age: 55
Location: Gloucestershire
Data: Meryl has been married to Rod for 35 years and they have two daughters. She lived in Pakistan as a young girl and before becoming a full time mother she worked as a legal secretary. Meryl is an avid reader of crime fiction and enjoys solving puzzles. She thinks she is a good judge of character and will bring a rallying spirit to the group.

Motivation: "I am a big fan of puzzles and I saw the advert saying 'Do you fancy yourself as a detective?' and I thought 'Yes' so I applied."

Name: Samantha Matthews
Age: 31
Location: Telford
Data: Samantha is a mother of two and works as a Communications Centre Officer for the local council. She enjoys the adrenaline rush of being in a competitive situation. She thinks she will make a good investigator because she is perceptive, an excellent listener and has good instincts.

Motivation: “I’ve always been interested in murder mystery, but it was my husband who saw the advert. I was quite surprised when I got the reply saying come for an interview. I was so pleased to be part of it.”

Name: Ruairi McNally
Age: 23
Location: West London (originally from County Tyrone, Northern Ireland)
Data: Ruairi is a railway maintenance worker. He says his best attribute is his ability make people laugh. He is an impulsive traveller and spent a year in America after selling his Playstation, on a whim, to pay for the ticket. As an investigator he believes he will be acute, observant and won’t miss a thing.

Motivation: “I liked the challenge of the investigation. I also liked the idea of winning the money as well.”

Name: Nick Sykes
Age: 34
Location: Cheshire (originally from Huddersfield)
Data: Nick is a property developer who enjoys taking risks. In his spare time he enjoys off-road vehicle rallying, cycling and going to the theatre and cinema. He says he is instinctive and always able to see the ‘whole picture’. He believes he will be an efficient interviewer and a calming influence on the group.

Motivation “It was the chance to enter a world where the line separating drama and real life was very much a blur. I’ve always believed to achieve success you have to be brave enough to take a step forward from the crowd and take risks alone. In this case it was the ultimate risk - life or death.”

Name: Sarita Raval

Age: 28

Location: Catford

Data: Sarita is a Recruitment Consultant but she originally trained as an accountant. She is involved in local theatre and has an ambition to be a Stage Manager. Although at times easily distracted she believes her best attributes are that she is very patient and understanding. Sarita hopes she will gel the group together as she has good people skills which will encourage others to do well.

Motivation: “The murder mystery element sounded like a really cool thing to do and it would provide exposure to something I’d never done before.”

The Suspects

Name: Tina Wells – The Vicar’s Wife
Age: 38
Occupation: n/a
Data: Tina arrived in town nine months ago as wife of the new Vicar. She is fit and sporty and runs every day before breakfast. She is loud and inquisitive and not liked by most locals. Catherine was her one true friend in town. After the murder she befriends Vanessa who lives in the pub next to the church.

Evidence: Tina Wells claims to have found Catherine shortly after she was attacked in the church. She tried to comfort her and called the emergency services. Her hands were covered in Catherine’s blood.

Name: Vanessa March – The Babysitter
Age: 18
Occupation: Works in local pub.
Data: Vanessa is Catherine’s babysitter; she looks after Catherine’s daughter Anya.

Vanessa is a teenage dreamer: rude, stropky and often in a world of her own. She’s frequently in love and is currently going out with the Best Man Dean Garretty. She is mad about clothes and is good at dressmaking.

Evidence: Vanessa claims she arrived at the church after the ambulance. She says she went to find out what was going on. She met Tina outside the church.

Name: Trevor Dobie – The Builder
Age: 43
Occupation: Building Contractor.
Data: Trevor is a building contractor and his firm is currently doing work at the church where Catherine was attacked. He also has the contract to maintain the caravan site where Catherine lived. He lives in an annex at Creeksea Place, the Wilmington family home where he attempts to maintain the dilapidated house. He still gets his supplies from the timber firm the Wilmington family once owned.

Evidence: Trevor claims he arrived at the church after the attack when he went to check on his men who were working there. He comforted Tina and Vanessa.

Name: Frank Prior - Catherine's Dad
Age: 54
Occupation: Milkman.
Data: Frank brought up his two girls (Catherine & Goldie) alone, and is regarded as a local hero for that. He is bright, but uneducated, and lives in a small pre-war council house, where Goldie is staying in her old bedroom as she prepares for the wedding.

Frank has a criminal record for thieving and handling offences, and did time about 15 years ago for ABH during a burglary.

Evidence: Frank claims the first he knew about his daughter, Catherine's death was when the investigators broke the news. He says he was at home getting ready for his other daughter, Goldie's wedding later that day.

Name: Goldie (Gillian) Prior – The Bride
Age: 28
Occupation: Doctor.
Data: Goldie is academically bright and a great beauty. She has always been a real golden girl, hence the family nickname, which she now claims to find embarrassing.

Goldie is not in medicine to care for anybody. Her aim? The status and financial gain afforded by working with the large drug companies. She's come home to marry the boyfriend she first met when she was only 15. Their relationship seems to have stood the test of time, even if people find it odd that she seems far more driven by testosterone than he does.

Evidence: Goldie, Catherine's younger sister, also claims to know nothing about the murder. She says she was at home with Catherine's daughter Anya, getting ready for her wedding all day.

Name: Jay Wilmington - The Groom
Age: 30
Occupation: Boatman (part time).
Data: Jay and Catherine have been close friend since school. He went to a minor public school where he didn't thrive – he dropped out of University. He lives on a houseboat moored at the quay where he's made a name for himself as 'the' person to talk to about anything navigational.

Evidence: Jay says he was at his family home, Creeksea Place at the time of the murder. He was preparing his speech and getting ready for his wedding. He appears laid

back and claims to want nothing more than his boats, his bride and a big family as soon as possible.

Name: Jennifer Wilmington - The Groom's Mother
Age: 50
Occupation: Antique shop owner.
Data: Jennifer married into the Wilmington family when it owned a profitable timber yard. Ten years ago her husband, Tony, fell ill and lost the business. Now she scratches a living dealing in antique furniture.

Jennifer had her only child, Jay, very young, and hated the experience so much she vowed not to repeat it. Her husband resented this. She never felt her husband really loved her, and her son seems to have inherited his phlegmatic and undemonstrative nature. Jennifer still hungers for romantic love and rumours of an affair with Trevor are rife.

Evidence: Jennifer also claims to have spent the morning of the murder at Creeksea Place, although she did pop out on several last minute errands.

Name: Dean Garretty – The Best Man
Age: 29
Occupation: Used Car Dealer.
Data: Dean is Jay's best man. They played rugby and cricket together as boys and maintained their friendship in spite of the class and income differences. He grew up on the same council estate as Catherine and Goldie Prior and they all went to school together.

A self made man, he's got his own used car business and he has bought his first house, a starter home on a C2 estate. His latest purchase is the fancy video camera he used to film Catherine.

Evidence: Dean admits to having filmed Catherine at the church shortly before she died. He was making a wedding video for the groom, Jay. At the time of the murder he says he was at his office alone working on the computer.

Name: George Hawick – The Music Teacher
AGE: 72
Occupation: Retired.
Data: George used to teach at the local school where Catherine's daughter Anya was a pupil. He taught Anya and that's how he met Catherine. In recent years he has also been teaching Catherine.

Shortly after he retired, he took the chance to follow a lifetime's ambition: he moved across the tidal causeway to live in a cottage on the island. Here he can live in total seclusion with his music, his bird watching binoculars and his little boat. The Anna Magdalena.

Evidence: George was with Catherine the morning of the murder. She was due to play the piano at her sister's wedding and he was giving her last minute lessons.

The Training

Before playing *The Murder Game* the ten investigators were sent on a course at the Police Training Centre in Wakefield. Having little or no knowledge of the legal system and investigative procedures they received intensive training in a physically draining and highly pressurised environment.

Training day 1:

- Fitness assessment - to test stamina and agility. This included a test where they had to run between two points continuously until they couldn't go any further.
- Interview techniques - how to question suspects and witnesses.
- Brainstorming - looking at the qualities needed for the role of investigator.
- Surveillance - Visiting a CCTV Centre to understand how it can assist in the fight against crime.

They also had classes in 'ethics', 'legalities' and 'timelines'.

Training day 2:

- Crime Scene Management - this is the basis that any investigation is founded on. If the crime scene isn't managed efficiently the case could fail.
- Identification Skills - looking at how perceptions differ. The investigators had to compile an ID of a woman from a previously set up scenario the day before.
- Exhibit Handling - looking after and presenting evidence to avoid cross contamination.
- Combat Training - defensive tactics against armed and unarmed assailants.

Training day 3:

- Family Liaison - in a murder the Family Liaison Officers are the link between the relatives and the Police. They keep the bereaved family informed and deal with any questions they have. Tact and diplomacy are the key.
- Firearms - Looking at how firearms are used and the effects they have on the victims.

Training day 4: (Final day)

Final exercise -

all the qualities were put to the test in an exercise that required teamwork, efficiency and speed. A murder was staged and the team had to set up a crime scene, using the skills they have learned on the course.

The Rules

Ten Investigators start the game in programme one. One by one they will be eliminated over the eight programmes. (One investigator is eliminated at the end of each programme).

In each programme one of the investigators will be nominated as the Lead Investigator. The Lead Investigator has specific responsibilities and powers. The Lead Investigator changes at each stage of the investigation. (i.e. at the beginning of each programme)

The investigators are guided through the investigation by a real Chief Detective, who will help them decide the best ways to proceed with the case.

The investigators will be divided into teams and the Chief Detective will send the teams out on lines of enquiry.

Within each line of enquiry there are hidden tests that the teams will either pass or fail.

The Chief Detective decides which teams have passed or failed their lines of enquiry.

If a team fails, all members of that team are put to the vote as individuals.

All members of all teams vote apart from the Lead Investigator.

The person who receives the most votes will be the first to play the Killer's Game.

The second person to play the Killer's Game will be chosen by the Lead Investigator.

At the end of each programme the two chosen investigators go out to play the Killer's Game. One investigator will survive but the other will be "killed off" by the killer.

Interactive

The Murder Game Interactive lets you get inside the minds of the team solving the mystery and lets you play the part of detective simply by pressing the red button on your digital remote control!

What is the interactive service?

The Murder Game interactive television service is available to viewers, across the three digital platforms (digital satellite - SKY, digital cable - Telewest/ntl and digital terrestrial - Freeview), between 9.00pm and 2.30am. The service provides video footage, exclusive interviews with eliminated investigators, news reports from the crime scene and profiles on the investigators and suspects. There is also exclusive footage of Bob Taylor, The Chief Detective, and his reactions.

How can digital viewers access the service?

Sky, Freeview and Telewest (and NTL only during TX we now have red key access on NTL too) viewers can access the area by pressing the RED button on their digital handset. They will see the menu bar at the bottom of the screen. This will contain the four main areas of the service: BLACKWATER TV, REACT, INVESTIGATORS and CASE FILE.

NTL viewers press the INTERACTIVE button. They have access to the same service but all content is in text rather than video. They will be able to send messages using their handset in the same way as satellite viewers.

What are the four main areas?

BLACKWATER TV (Red button)

This area consists of the latest 'Killer Clue' and the exit interview ('The Life After') of the investigator who is killed that week. There will also be repeats of *The Murder Game* for those who want to refresh their memories. There will also be exclusive news reports from the village,

REACT (Green button)

Each week viewers can vote on who they think is the killer and who they believe will win *The Murder Game*. There is also an area to send and read messages about the show. The vote results will be updated each week and displayed in the Blackwater TV service.

(NB: Sky viewers will be charged 10 pence to vote and send messages.) DTT viewers will be able to send votes and messages via SMS

INVESTIGATORS (Yellow button)

The Chief Detective, who is leading the investigation, Bob Taylor, will give his reactions and opinions in exclusive footage which will be updated weekly. There are also profiles on the investigators and the Chief's rating on how he thinks they are coping.

CASE FILE (Blue button) This area has four elements:

- Evidence - clues from each show, updated as the case progresses.
- Murder Chart - highlighting the locations, relationships of suspects and evidence gathered.
- Case Profiles - detailed information on the victims and suspects.
- Timeline - a weekly update of everybody's movements.