

Twenty Questions

By **Shay Poppat** of the Chinese Fireworks Company

1. When you were a child, what did you dream of being when you grew up?

A Millionaire.

2. Can you remember any advice your school careers adviser gave you?

You will never be a millionaire.

3. How important was your education in getting you where you are now?

Not very important, but having dedication, determination, and striving to be successful all helped towards achieving my goal.

4. What was your first proper job?

Footprint Tools.

5. Did you have a Saturday or part time job - and what was it?

Working at the local chippy.

6. Do you think young people have a tougher or easier time in their chosen career these days?

Much easier, as every data required is to hand, and the young people have very little loyalty to there employers.

7. If you weren't where you are now, what would you be doing?

Selling postage stamps.

8. What now is your ultimate goal?

To have Wealth in Health, wealth in friends, and wealth in itself.

9. What has been your best business success?

Creating the largest single independent retail outlet in



Rocket man: A successful fireworks display entrepreneur

I've rockets big enough for Nasa

the UK for fireworks.

10. And you're most dismal business failure?

Still awaiting.

11. What has been the most rewarding personal experience of your life?

Having customers come back year after year, giving

myself excellent feed back of the service, quality and their pleasure from fireworks I have recommended and supplied. Also having a customer like the one who has just telephoned now to say that he would like to make a 12 hour round trip from Aberdeenshire to visit us tomorrow.

12. Are there any things you regret in your private life?

It wouldn't be private if I told you.

13. Do you have a role model?

My Father.

14. How do you get away from the stresses of working life?

Champs followed by Nonnah's, followed by Vodka Revolution, finishing off at Napoleons for breakfast.

15. Whose opinion do you most value?

My Father's.

16. What was the best piece of advice you ever received?

When I asked my father to pay me for working at the family business on Saturdays whilst at school. His reply was: "This is all for you in the future, nothing is mine and yours, it is all ours."

17. What would be the best piece of advice you could give?

Treat others as you would like them to treat you. Stand up with double zeal and march on towards your goal, hence laugh out your shortcomings and difficulties.

18. Retirement - when will it be and what will you do?

They all say that I only work five weeks a year and that I cannot wait for the 6th November. What will I do now? Any suggestions?

9. How do you think other people see you?

They say I have the biggest Rocket in Town.

20. And how do you see yourself?

I have Rockets large enough for Nasa.

Interview by Paul License