

When I was younger it seemed that if you had a nick name and came from Newcastle you were bound to be a star in some form or another; like Sting, Shearer, Ant, oh and Dec and to me Gully! Gully, was the owner of the best kebab shop in the 'Toon'. Another name from that time that always made the biggest headlines by crying, sticking his tongue out and having a mean right foot was Gazzal.

When I got told about a man with the same skill in radio as our Newcastle hero had in football, I just had to meet him. Strangely he even has the same surname and uses the same nick name of Mr Gascoigne! So I put on the old black and white shirt and headed off to CFM and the drive time show to meet Mr Andrew Gascoigne or "Gazza".

Let's get past the name question first, when did you start using 'Gazza' as your name on air and does it get you into places like night clubs and restaurants quicker?

It usually gets me thrown out of places quicker! I started using 'Gazza' rather than my full name Andrew Gascoigne at Metro FM in 2000.

(See I told you there are strange resemblances between the two. Our presenter has also played at Newcastle, on a premier league radio station!) You had a great

career at Radio 1, which is like playing on a world cup team - tell us about that time in your life?

I presented Mid Mornings on Radio 1 in Dubai for 3 years, which was an incredible experience! Rather than doing cash driven OBs from the local butchers, I got to present live from MTV Asia Aid in Bangkok, the Dubai World Cup, the Bahrain FI Grand Prix and Dubai Rugby 7s. I also had the opportunity to interview some of the biggest Global DJ's when they were in town every weekend and hosted on stage at 'Desert Rock Live' a massive Rock Festival in the middle of the desert.

So when did you start and what are your career highlights so far? (I ask this one as most footballers start as apprentices with a club, in their teens.)

Worked in Radio from leaving school at 16 first at Radio Top shop / Fashion FM 1994- 95, Minster FM, Sun FM, TFM, Century, Metro, Radio 1 Dubai, Alpha Radio (As PC) and currently presenting Drive time at CFM. My first training was at Centre FM an RSL which ran every Christmas at the Metro centre, I was involved with this throughout the 5 years it ran 1993 - 1998.

(Another similarity, he started at 16 years old. Could this be a football/radio spooky mystery? Let's see if he has the same comedy style too) What's the best joke you ever

told on air [we?]

I once got half way through telling a joke on air and then realized the punch line was 'F**k O*fi! How do you get out of that? Badly....so I don't do gags anymore!

(If I remember our footballer had an inkling toward the music business - here goes) Ever thought you could use your karaoke skills to make your very own record?

I sang a cover of the Boyzone hit 'Words' to Miley Graham when he was launching his solo career, and suggested I should release it on the same day as his new single and we could lock into some kind of Blur vs Oasis battle for No.1. He said he liked it and wished me luck, but I couldn't get a record deal and as it turned out he couldn't get a No.1 either.

(Well I am convinced, what about you? Wait let's do something that our football hero might not be so good at, see if he can answer a couple of hard media related questions, rather than be chased by the media.)
What do you think makes a good radio presenter?

Engage - be real, be honest, have fun, be different, communicate. I'll listen to anything that keeps my attention regardless of what the subject is, or which station it's on. But I usually listen to BBC Newcastle at home and Radio 1 / Metro / CFM in the car. (He's good! Let's try another.)

You're on the island of the Lost - you can time travel back to any time or place, which presenter in radio would you go to see and why?

(Our footballer's predicated response may be "Is the island off the Tyne? Does it have a sausage roll-shop?")

(Radio Gazza's answer)
I'd go and see Tommy Boyd on Talk Radio UK in 1995 and would be a fly on the wall in one of the production meetings for the show. Tommy was creating some of the most captivating radio I've ever heard during that summer.

(Now that's a thought out choice and a good one! Well I think I got it all wrong. I think I put two and two together and got my fingers broken! He is defiantly nothing like our footballer, but a presenter with a great deal of skill who just happens to share a nick name - let's find out a little bit more about him) If you could do any job in radio at any station what would it be and why?

I'd be a programmer on any major market station. It's like being a jock, with 10 times the ammunition, doing radio 100 times better than you could ever do on your own.

Nice answer, what do you do before you get behind a mic, some presenters do coffee and lots of it. I even found out that one presenter likes to have a little sleep before his breakfast show in the mornings. (what time does he get to work?). So what

do you normally do?

I commute to work, so I prep on the train, then I do another quick check on the web, fb etc before the show.

Well I thought I might have been the first radio magazine interviewer to reveal a spooky/mysterious double life - Tales from the Side Lines, but instead I just wasted my time reading Paul's biography and looking for comparisons to yours. However, one thing I did find out is that you have taken the name Gazza as your own and given it a whole new meaning to me and many others, through your drive time and other radio shows.

You have guaranteed the name to be around for a number of seasons to come! So in return I'll give you the chance for a final penalty, with your very own, world famous hot seat, shameless plug, over to you Gazza!

Gazza Weekday Drive time 3pm - 7pm, Saturdays 2pm - 6pm
www.cfmradio.com

Well that was straight in the back of the net! If you think you can get one past me, or you're a striker (don't tell your boss, he might think you're after a pay rise or union action!) then do the right thing today and send your details direct to the editor
editor@theradiomagazine.co.uk and well speak soon. Coming soon - when can you put "FM", "Heart" and "Spin" into one long title?