









TONY BELLEW

Former champion boxer

Phobias: Like most normal people, I am scared of almost everything.

Biggest misconception you want to dispel in the jungle? People will portray me as something I am not because of the profession I have had. I am just a normal person.

Role in camp: I'd like to think I am domesticated so hopefully I can help out.

Best & worst attributes: I do get hangry...who doesn't!
But I am easy going and I get on with everyone.

As a late entry, former boxing champion Tony Bellew may have fought in some world class matches but he reckons facing up to his many phobias is going to prove far more difficult.

Tony insists, however, there is 'one hundred per cent' no chance of him ever telling Ant & Dec: "I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!" because he will refuse to give in.

Showing the same sporting competitive spirit in the famous trials as he did in his boxing matches, Tony promises: "You won't catch me saying those words. I don't think of myself as a celebrity and I will never back down or give in. I hope my sporting competitiveness will kick in. Imagine if it's your fault if people aren't eating?!

"This is going to be very hard and I am apprehensive. I had to think long and hard about doing it because it is so out of my comfort zone and it was my missus who talked me around to doing it.

"Ant & Dec are the best in the business and everyone knows that. They are unbelievable. I want to come in for the experience and leave a little bit of a trail for my kids who will be able to say: 'My dad did that'. And it is my children who motivate me. The biggest incentive is to make them proud. I am getting excited now and it is going to be surreal being with Ant & Dec. I've never met them before!"

Laughing, Tony knows, however, it is going to be easier said than done facing up to his phobias.

"If I am totally honest, the things I am going to encounter in there I am worrying about," he confides.

"You need a long list of paper to list everything I am scared of. I am a normal person so most things frighten me. People will portray me as something I am not because of the profession I have had.

"But I am hoping to overcome my fears. I'm sure I will learn a lot about myself."

Joining Frankie Dettori as a late entry, he says one of the first things he hopes to do is to inject some fun into proceedings. Says Tony: "It's a big job to jolly everyone up but I will arrive, talk to people and see who I get on with. I would like to think I will get on with everyone as I don't think there is a type of person I haven't encountered before from the background and place I am from! I'm pretty easy going."

Given he was a former WBC cruiserweight champion and had to stick to a strict diet, he reckons the jungle regime won't be a worry. "I don't see the food as a problem."

He also doesn't plan to get into arguments around the campfire. "The older you get the more you realise arguments are pointless," he adds. "I am sure there will be moments where everyone has had enough, but I am sure we will get there in the end.

"In this kind of game, you have to be open to people's judgements, listen and speak to people."

He thinks his boxing colleagues will be shocked when they find out, as will members of his family who he also didn't tell in the run-up. "Nobody knows I am doing it," explains the boxer. "The boxing fraternity is a strange world. Everyone has an opinion but those who know me know I am genuine. But family members will be shocked as this is something I would never normally do."

Winning, he insists, isn't something that has crossed his mind. "I'm a Scouser and I don't know how people will take to me," he explains. "But I'm willing to give it a go. Now it is approaching, it's starting to really sink in that I am actually going on the show!"



FRANKIE DETTORI MBE

Champion Jockey

Phobias: I am not sure as I don't walk across rooftop planks in the middle of the day nor do I have any snakes or rats in the house!

Biggest misconception you want to dispel in the jungle: None. I've lived in the public domain for as long as I can remember so I'd hope everyone knows me well.

Role in camp: To have fun with everyone, I am a happy-go-lucky person.

Aside from family, what will you miss most whilst in camp?: Travelling. I have spent my whole life at airports and I've got to like it!

Best & worst attributes: I am outgoing and I am a fighter.
Worst? I can't sit still and I am impatient.

Dream camper: Robbie Williams would be fun.

As champion jockey Frankie Dettori swaps the racecourse for the jungle, he predicts his sporting colleagues will definitely vote for him to take part in trials because they will love to see him 'eating embarrassing things' during I'm A Celebrity.

Readily admitting his wife and five children also can't wait to watch him taking part in the famous eating trials, Frankie says he signed up to take part in the programme because he wants to do something completely out of his comfort zone.

"It's definitely sinking in now that I am doing I'm A Celebrity", says the famous jockey.

"This is going to be tougher than a horse race, it is going to be a challenge, but I am looking forward to it all. I am going straight from riding to the jungle. But you don't get to do this every day so why not? There are a lot of things that are unique, it's the jungle, a different environment, you have to eat a lot of bo**ocks! It's also fun, demanding and I am going to meet a lot of new people. I am 100 percent committed and I am not going to moan about what I am missing as I'm looking forward to the challenge of it all."

And whilst Frankie admits some of the trials could be tough, he hopes the votes will come pouring in so he can take part in them. "I have seen some of the disgusting things but that's the kind of thing I want to do," he adds, laughing as he does.

"My family can't wait for me to take part. And believe it or not, they are looking forward to me eating bush tucker too. The jockeys will like seeing me do some embarrassing things as well."

Frankie – whose incredible sporting career spans more than 35 years with some amazing wins including riding seven winners at Ascot in 1996 - says the first thing he will do as a late entrant is to cheer everyone up. He also promises he will adopt the same sporting competitive spirit he does on the racecourse to bring back some stars to his fellow campmates. "I am going to bring some energy to the camp," he vows. "They will be starving and it will be a process of trying to fit in. They will all have been friends for a few days, but I am a person who adapts very quickly and hopefully it will be nice and fun. I will definitely try and win some stars. I don't want to let my campmates down."

Smiling, he reckons cooking in the jungle won't be a problem either. "I can cook but it looks like you've only got a pot in the middle and a fire," he explains. "You haven't got a kitchen and so I don't think we will be making carbonara pasta there! It will be boiling a bit of rice and I don't think that takes a chef degree!"

Whilst he won't be doing any preparation ahead of his time in the camp, he reveals he is going to try to slow down a bit beforehand. "I am very impatient, I get bored very quickly and I can't sit still for love nor money," he says. "And so, I am going to try to slow down in the lead up. I lead such a crazy life!"

The Italian jockey also thinks he could get emotional during his stint in the camp. "I am a crier, I'm Italian," he admits. "I am an emotional person and I think one of the hardest things for me will be missing travelling. I have spent 30 years away from my family and so I am used to that but I do love travelling. It will be difficult."

Frankie, who is preparing to move to America shortly, insists he does not, however, think he will be crowned 'King of the Jungle'.

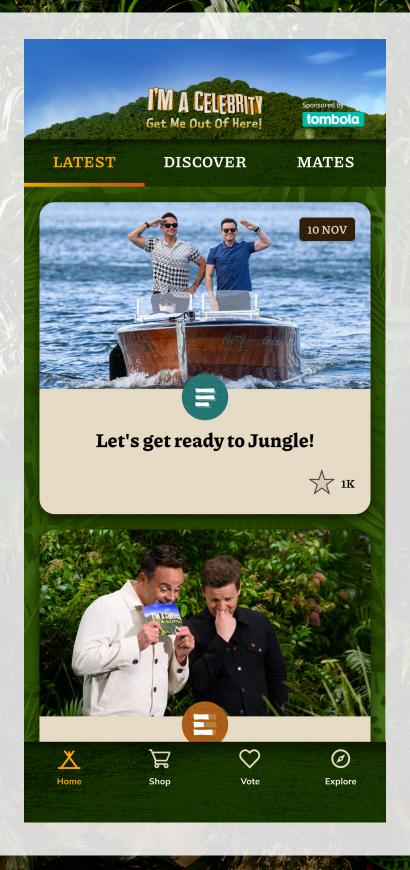
"The last thing I am thinking about is winning," he adds. "Of course, if I come out victorious, then that will be great but it's not the end result. For me, challenging yourself and meeting new people whilst doing this means I am already a winner."

STAY CLOSE TO ALL THE JUNGLE ACTION BY FOLLOWING I'M A CELEBRITY... ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND BY DOWNLOADING THE OFFICIAL APP

As always the fun from camp doesn't stop, and throughout the day fans will be treated to non-stop social media coverage across the show's TikTok, Facebook page, Instagram account, Snapchat channel and on X (Twitter).

Our app returns for another year, promising to be filled with galleries, quizzes and polls as well as all the latest news and gossip from camp. It's also your chance to get involved and decide the fate of our campmates each night on the show.

Download the official app for free from iTunes or Google Play stores - the ultimate companion to I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!





tombola

tombola, Britain's biggest bingo site, is returning to sponsor I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! for the seventh consecutive year, when the series returns in November 2023.

The much loved #tombolabugs are back again this year, infiltrating the camp and watching the campmates from the sidelines. Over the course of tombola's seven-year partnership with I'm A Celeb... this cast of humorous bug characters have become a much-loved feature of the show's sponsorship idents – even following the campmates during their brief stint in the Welsh castle during the 2020 and 2021 series. Each bug character has had similar characteristics and personality traits to the celebs in the camp over the years, and their jokes bring smiles to viewers' faces as the programme enters and returns from the ad breaks on ITV1, STV and ITVX.

As the show unfolds, viewers can follow the bugs' eye view of the camp, get news, competitions and camp updates on both the tombola and I'm A Celebrity social media accounts, plus the I'm A Celeb... and tombola apps and microsites. Follow the hashtag #tombolabugs to join the conversation.

This year, new and existing tombola players can meet the bugs again in a free to play game linked to the show. Bug Match can be played for free every day during I'm A Celebrity... only on tombola. There will be over 500,000 winners during the show. Simply reveal 9 symbols and match 3 to win a prize up to £1,000 totally for free! No deposit is required, players must be registered and verified to play.

Notes to editors:

tombola is Britain's biggest bingo site, with more players than any other bingo site in the UK. Founded as an independent brand in 2008, the multi award-winning company also launched tombola arcade in 2016. In 2022, tombola became part of the global betting and gaming brand, Flutter Entertainment.

Developing and producing all its original bingo and arcade games in-house, tombola employs over 850 people in the UK and Europe. As well as the UK, the company is the leading online bingo company in Spain and Italy, and also operates in Denmark, Sweden and The Netherlands. Tombola has its HQ in Sunderland and offices in Milan, Madrid, Malta and Gibraltar.

Over £7 million is won on tombola bingo games every week, with 18,000 winners every single day across the tombola bingo community, and there's a Jackpot winner every 19 minutes in their bingo games.

Player safety is at the heart of tombola's values. They hold a Level 3 Safer Gambling Standard – the most prestigious accreditation from GamCare – and run industry-leading Safeplay initiatives, including a dedicated care team, and unique safer gambling tools.

tombola is proud to have one of the UK's most engaged bingo communities, with active Chat Rooms on every online game, featuring 24/7 Chat Moderators, and several real-life players featuring in recent tombola TV adverts. The company has proudly been the headline sponsor of I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! since 2017, with ads featuring their popular animated bugs.

Players must be 18+ begambleaware.org

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I'M A CELEBRITY... GET ME OUT OF HERE! STARTS MONDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT 9PM ON ITV1 AND ITVX

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