





"There's plenty of time for sleep, but I'm determined never to waste a moment with Georgie and Summer"

< page 30 And Toni chips in: "To be honest, we don't mind what they do with their lives as long as they have good values, they appreciate all they've got and they turn out to be good people and to respect others. That's all that's important."

Both children go to a local nursery a few mornings a week, giving Toni time to pursue her other passion: horse riding, and in particular, dressage.

"I've always enjoyed riding, but now I'm taking it quite seriously," she says. "I'm getting some expert teaching from Vicky Thompson, a former Olympic champion who is based at the Oldencraig Equestrian Centre in Lingfield. It only takes half-an-hour to get there and I love every moment of it."

What's the horse's name? "He's a stallion called Del Boy! If I ever get really good it might sound a bit funny when the announcer calls out his name, but never mind."

Toni is also a qualified karate black belt 1st Dan. "I've learned not to get into an argument with her," says John.

Their idea of perfect days out include a trip to the Woburn Safari Park, a local farm or the Gambado indoor play venue in Chelsea, while their social life is with their own parents, brothers and sisters or with family-orientated Chelsea players who live locally.

Beyond that, home is where their hearts grow fondest. "John is away so much we make the most of our time together," says Toni.

Even Christmas Day is dominated by Chelsea. "We'll have a very early lunch with all the family here and then I need to get off to training," says John. "Then I meet up with the other players at the team hotel taking it easy before the Boxing Day match against West Brom, which is a lunchtime kick-off.

"It's worked out quite well for us this year because the next game a couple of days later is at home to Fulham. At least there are no big trips this Christmas, but it's still hard to leave Toni and the children."

With that, it's time for John to get back to light training up the road at Chelsea's training facility in Cobham. He got home at 2.30 in the morning after an away game and the children woke him at 7am.

"I don't mind," he says. "There's plenty of time for sleep, but I'm determined never to waste a moment with Georgie and Summer."

HOBBIES

John - I'm a keen golfer and a member at Wisley. I play off eight.

The best "family" fun is when we all get in the golf buggy and go in search of sheep. The kids love them and we feed them!

I also enjoy collecting unusual or rare watches, especially a Rolex.

Toni - Riding Del Boy and competing in events in dressage. I get over to the Oldencraig Equestrian Centre in Lingfield as often as possible where Del Boy is stabled. My dad's a keen rider too, so he's often with me.

It's an amazing place, run by Vicki Thompson, who is an page 34 >



< page 32 Olympic dressage rider and trainer. She has represented Great Britain on a regular basis, riding at the European Championships and the Atlanta Olympic Games as well as being national champion 13 times.

The whole place is so well run and Vicki is such a wonderful person and a brilliant trainer. I'm there three times a week when the children are at nursery.

SHOPPING

John - I'm a reluctant shopper and really object to spending a lot of money on clothes. The other players make fun of me because of my taste and lack of clothes, but I'm happy in a pair of decent jeans and a shirt. Nothing fancy.

Toni - If we go on a family trip we often end up in Harrods and we make use of their personal shopping service. I enjoy days out with my mum and John's mum and I love my friend Carly Park's shop Club that's just opened in Esher. It's unique, chic and beautiful.

I also go to Bernard of Esher and my favourite designers include Stella McCartney, Marc Jacobs and Christian Louboutin.

STYLE & BEAUTY

John - I get my hair cut by Leo Bancroft in Oatlands Village, Weybridge. Leo also does Georgie and most of the 'boys' at Chelsea. Leo got us ready for the wedding day as well.

Toni - My favourite beauty salon is Jill Zander in Esher. Jill and her friendly staff always make me feel at ease and relaxed. I swear by the salt a-peel microderm abrasion followed by the mesotherapy vitamin facial and to finish, the revitalight red LED rejuvenation. I also recommend 'Accent' on my face and body.

DINING

John & Toni - We often go to the Panahar and the Good Earth, both in

Esher, and also Pizza Express. We used to go to the one in Cobham. Pity it closed down. If we go to London we head for Scalini or San Lorenzo.

ROLE MODELS

John - There are many sportsmen I've learned from and looked up to. I also talk to my older brother Paul a lot. He's a professional footballer with Leyton Orient.

Toni - My mum and dad, obviously, and I get a lot of inspiration from John too.

CHARITABLE INTERESTS

John & Toni support many charities, including CLIC Sargent (caring for young people and children with cancer), the Make a Wish Foundation and the Bobby Moore Fund for cancer research.

AMBITIONS

John - One day I would like to be a coach and then manager of Chelsea. I've been with them my entire career and would like to stay. I've kept notes on most of the training sessions, recording the good and the bad. Having managers like Jose Mourinho and now Phil Scolari is amazing. I've learned a hell of a lot from them. I'm planning on taking my FA coaching badges next year.

Toni - To bring the children up properly, as normally as possible and to give them good values. I've also toyed with the idea of opening a shop one day - a children's clothes shop that also has a play area and a little coffee shop, but we'll wait and see. ●

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