# In conversation with Guy Mowbray

## BBC TV's lead football commentator tells us what he remembers about his cars.

Guy Mowbray is someone you'll see and hear on a regular basis. He's done World Cup finals, FA Cup finals, various internationals and thousands of Premier League, EFL and cup games for both Match of the Day, BBC 5 Live and several other broadcast organisations.

But he cut his broadcasting 'teeth' here in the North East. After a short spell working for BBC York (he was born and bred in York and still lives there), Guy then joined Sun City FM in Sunderland before moving on to Metro Radio in Newcastle.

A lot of you will remember him from what became an iconic programme….. Guy, Gilly and Gates on Metro. It was hugely popular and was one of the first radio shows to bring a football legend… in this case Eric Gates…into a studio to talk about not only his former club, Sunderland, but about football and sport in general.

While Guy was at Metro he began commentating on Sunderland games with Eric alongside him. He caught the attention of a lot of people, including the judges at the prestigious Sony and EMAP Radio Awards. Guy was a regular winner….no wonder he's now one of the top names in sport broadcasting.

So, let's find out what he can remember about the various cars which have passed through his life.

**What was one of the first cars you can remember?**

My parents had a Ford Cortina in a kind of duck egg blue, followed by a Chrysler Avenger that was red with a black roof. The main memory of those cars was the annual summer holiday trip to Filey. There was always a lingering smell of stale fag smoke - I thought all cars just smelt like that!

**What was the first car you bought?**

It was an Opel Kadett that was officially bronze but looked brown. I was 21 and it cost me £500. I can still remember the reg – KEH 754 V

And after that?

At Metro Radio I had a couple of Ford Escorts. One dark navy and the next a shiny metallic light blue - and it had a spoiler on it. I really liked them at the time but looking back they were pretty uninspiring.

Whenever I used work cars it didn't go well. The only time I borrowed one of the Metro pool cars I got into a bump whilst back in York visiting family. The person in front didn't set off at a roundabout when they should have done! Thankfully I've been over 20 years without any scrapes now.

Least favourite car?

Probably my wife's car now. A bright yellow Jeep Renegade! Our daughter refuses to go in it.

Tidy car or mobile skip?

My car has to be smart. I can't abide stuff left lying around inside.

Steady Eddy or Foot-down Fred?

I consider myself a quick but safe driver. Don't we all? I've currently got a clean licence but have been to more than a couple of Speed Awareness courses. I like a nice burst every now and again when it's quiet.

Any unfortunate incidents?

I wrote off the Nissan Primera that Sun City 103.4FM (remember that mouthful of a name?!) provided me with. It slipped and then flipped on a bend after a short sharp shower on the way home from a Sunderland v Wolves game. I finished upside down in a field, but crawled out through the back window with only a few scratches. Very lucky.

Favourite cars you've owned.

I would favour the ones that have been a little bit different. For example, the two BMW's I've owned were particularly dull. I loved my Chrysler Crossfire (pre-family!) and then the Jeep Grand Cherokee. I got rid of the latter a) for practicality - it was too big to park at football grounds, and b) because the whole 'diesel is evil' thing made me panic. I've regretted it ever since. It was a lovely big beast that saved my bad back.

Most unreliable car

A Volvo 440 that was not fit for purpose. It actually caused me to miss my scheduled first day as Metro FM Sports Editor! I'd been in the Yorkshire Dales on the Sunday with my then girlfriend and now wife and we broke down (again) and couldn't get home. I'm sure she still thinks it happened on purpose so I could get a night away in a hotel with her!

And lastly, your dream car.

In the past it would have been some sort of supercar, but those days are gone. I'd just love a nice big, powerful SUV. Range Rover, Land Rover, the Lamborghini Urus that Premier League players drive. Or a Jeep - maybe my old one back.

Thanks Guy. Safe driving