

# SPOTTED@PICOTIN



**Tim Lambert** is the founder of Centaurs which operates a Rugby club, the Pit, an events management business, speech and drama education in conjunction with Buds Theatre Company and is co-owner of Socatots Singapore, all at Turf City. Tim's passion for sports, children and charity are what has driven him over the past 8 years, after 20 successful years in investment banking.

On the personal side, Tim is a Singapore PR, single and the proud father of 4 sons. His eldest, Charlie, is in his first year reading Sport at Durham University and is a member of the Singapore National Rugby squad. Luke is at Radley College taking his A- Levels in the summer and will subsequently be off to Bristol University. Ben lives with his father in Singapore and they are eagerly awaiting Tristan, the youngest, to join them after his prep. school leaving exams this Summer.

#### **Tell us something interesting about yourself:**

I am a Freeman of the City of London as a member of the Skinners' Guild. Technically, this means that I can walk my sheep over London Bridge (as was) and water my horses in the city watering troughs. Don't you just love the historic connections of these time-honoured institutions? But much more importantly, the Guild carries out a great deal of charity work, supports and runs a number of schools and hospices in the south of England as well as providing a strong family network of like-minded business people.

#### **What's the most daring thing you have done?**

Given my inherent fear of heights, daring activities are limited to those that can be done on or below ground level. One which I recall with much pleasure and a great experience to boot, was diving with sharks and barracuda in the Maldives in the 80s. These were not expected in our location and surprised us all. Luckily, there was an abundance of other tasty [read fishy] morsels to keep them occupied!

#### **What are you passionate about and why?**

My business venture, the Centaurs Group (rugby club, Socatots and the Pit) is probably the best means of describing one of my main passions: the combination of sport and children. I love to be involved in some small way with a child's development of a vast array of life-skills through the teaching of many sports and activities, involving them in physically and mentally demanding challenges. These include encouraging team participation, watching kids overcome challenges and better preparing children for their future. Developing the Centaurs group takes all my time, but I love it! Giving children the opportunity to get more involved in sport and team-building activities, to learn new sports, to develop life-skills and to overcome apprehensions is a joy to be a part of. For me personally, through Centaurs, I have met so many great people from various walks of life and nations.

#### **What do your friends NOT know about you?**

Embarrassingly, I wear my heart on my sleeve; so there's not much my close friends don't know! However, few are probably aware that I was awarded a Full Career Commission with the Royal Marines when I was 18. In connection with this I attended a Potential Officers' Courses at Tywyn, North Wales (3 weeks of outward bound bliss on the government's tab) and at the Royal Marines base at Lymington in Devon. I decided to turn it down as I was after a University Cadetship. Two further attempts at a Commission were met with a fall at the final hurdle, the shortlist – lesson learnt! My message here – Don't be naive and try to play a well-established system.

#### **What do you like about Picotin? When do you visit?**

Being on my doorstep, sadly, for me, Picotin has become my 'local'. But there is no better place. The ambience, the dated character of the building, the brilliant staff, the food and the time-honoured courtesy of the hosts, Sebastien and Jacky, make this an extremely welcoming place to return to – too often I fear!

I have spent breakfasts, lunches and dinners at Picotin, but my preference is when the place is packed on a rugby international night, armchair rugby critics abound and the banter crosses all tables, chairs and patrons. As the nights wear on, the action on the TV becomes superfluous to the chat that takes over. There are few better places for an evening of catching up with friends.

#### **What is your favourite dish at Picotin and why?**

The pizzas are great! But, my favourite dish is the clams. Easy to eat and dipping that fabulous squid ink bread into the wine and garlic sauce.....yep, that's the one!

#### **If you had the chance to date Hollywood stars, who would they be, what would you want to say to them and what would you do?**

Kristin Scott Thomas – classy, refined, educated, intelligent, lovely – majestic – would be a top contender! I'd probably want to know about her formative years in Cornwall, her love of France, her earliest introductions to acting and what interests her outside of her acting career. However, in reality, I'd be unlikely to get past the first "Hi"!

Then in the younger bracket: Keira Knightly and Megan Fox, but I'd be too tongue-tied to talk – far too young for me anyway – I'd probably just smile instead!

