



THE (STILL) POTENTIALLY AWARD-WINNING...\*

ROUND 35 – CARICATURES. Read, watch and listen to previous rounds at [www.bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk](http://www.bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk)

# Watercolour challenge

\* The Yorkshire Press Awards, which John and Thom have been shortlisted for as best feature writers on a weekly newspaper, will take place in Leeds on November 22.



**ROUND 35: Caricatures**  
**MENTOR AND VENUE:** Richard Burton at his art gallery in Buckton.  
**RESULT:** It was a very tough call, but John got the nod.  
**JOHN v THOM SCORE:** 21-14 to John

THE most famous animated double acts are probably Tom and Jerry, Mickey and Minnie Mouse and Wallace and Gromit.

In an attempt to join that list, John and Thom, the Free Press's answer to Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble,

went along to try their hand at drawing caricatures.

They headed to Buckton to meet local councillor and landscape artist Richard Burton, who produces beautiful paintings of many local scenes, as well as drawing caricatures.

It was not the first art-based challenge the chaps have attempted. In the early days of John v Thom they tried painting a landscape with pretty good results so both were confident of achieving a decent result this time.

The session began with a quick brainstorming session, before a rough sketch to see how the ideas translated when put down on paper.

After advice from Richard and a bit of tinkering, it was time to start work on the masterpieces.

Firstly, the drawings were done with pencils, then the outlines were inked on, before a watercolour wash was applied to add the colour.

John portrayed Thom at his desk at work, getting flustered on the phone and browsing the Internet instead of work.

In revenge, Thom showed John drinking tea, at home early with his young son, having sneaked off from work to catch the last bus, and managed to get in a sly dig about his music tastes.

Because Richard had become quite involved in creating the pictures, he called on his wife Claire, son Harry, 12, and daughter Sally, 10, to be the judges. They were split, with two voting for John and one for Thom.

A close call, and even back in the office colleagues struggled to decide who they would have chosen.

Richard said: "You did fine. You picked out the characteristics of each other, although Thom is a much easier subject to capture. I found that when I tried doing quick sketches of you

both.

"You both used good colour to produce simple images, without too much clutter, which put a message over very nicely."

In the end, both had exceeded their expectations, and colleagues better watch out, you never know who they might try to capture next.

● **Richard is a professional artist who paints in all mediums, but especially enjoys using watercolours. He runs art classes at his gallery and can also take commissions for caricatures.**

For more details call 850296 or visit [www.richardburtonart.com](http://www.richardburtonart.com).

## FACTfile

The word caricature comes from the Italian 'caricare' – 'to load'.

**They first became popular in the aristocratic circles of France and Italy.**

Newspapers first started printed caricatures in the early 19th century.

**TV's Spitting Image used puppet caricatures to mock politicians.**



Can you tell who it is yet? John and Thom, with each other's portraits, and their mentor Richard Burton.



John and Thom try drawing each other.

## Quick on the draw Art-broken to lose

ROLF Harris and Tony Hart are knocking on a bit now, so if TV needs a new man to make art cool for kids, perhaps I'm the man.

I admit it, Thom had a tougher task than me in this challenge. It's easier to draw a baldy, scruffy man with glasses than it is to draw a man with Hollywood good looks and chiselled features.

Plus, he is simple to turn into a parody of himself. He is the stereotypical angry young man, so add some smoke coming out of his ears while he listens to someone nag him down the phone, and you are halfway there.

Throw in some unusually coloured accessories like a belt and shoes, sitting ill at ease with his slack tie and creased shirt, and have him sat at his desk looking at a football website instead of writing stories and voila ... you don't have to be Da Vinci to get a reasonable likeness.

I shouldn't be too ungracious because Thom did a very good job of capturing me.

The hair looks very good and he has been remarkably generous with my side-on profile. I think I owe him a pint for that.

This was a real fun challenge. And we did have a great deal of help from Richard.

The hardest bit was modelling and trying to maintain a grin for Thom to draw for about 15 minutes.

One last thing – despite what Thom has drawn, and despite what he thinks about my taste in music – I definitely haven't downloaded any Spice Girls music. And I never will. Honest.



I LOVED cartoons as a kid. Asterix was a firm favourite, but I wouldn't discriminate against the likes of Transformers (before Michael Bay ruined it for me earlier this year), as well as your funnies – the Busters and Beans of the world.

In fact, before hearing the call of journalism, aged seven, I had already decided to become a cartoonist.

And while I now glance around to make sure that nobody is watching, I always like to flip through to the cartoons when I'm reading the newspaper.

So this challenge was quite a pleasure, albeit I didn't come away with the win I was looking for.

John was always going to have an easier time at this competition – John's 'success' in the scarecrow challenge proved that you can just draw a grumpy face on a balloon and it will look like me.

Whereas I captured all of what Richard described as 'character lines', all the subtle nuances of John's face, all he had to do was stick some specs on an old picture of William Hague, and hey presto! It's Thom!

I think even though I made an excellent job of what was a trickier task, by John's own confession, the attention to detail he showed in his caricature was what won it for him.



We all knew that John had the memory of an elephant – you can ask him any telephone number on God's green earth and he will recite it for you instantly, while I umm and aah over how to contact the police in an emergency.

But has he really been paying that much attention to my trainers that he knows exactly what they look like even when I'm not wearing them?

Still, this was a fun competition, and one that I think we both came away from feeling like we had really achieved something.

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