

# John v Thom Round 6 ... Hairdressing

IF the boys thought the challenges could not get any more embarrassing, they were wrong! Round 6 in the battle of the Free Press reporters sees John Edwards and Thom Kennedy heading for the salon to try hairdressing – with real models. You can read all about the previous rounds at [www.bridlingtontoday.co.uk](http://www.bridlingtontoday.co.uk)

## Hair-raising experience



Thom with his model Heidi Connelly.



Above: John with his model Stevie-May Willis. Right: Judging time. Course tutor Tracey Ellerington has to choose a winner as John and Thom show off their final styles.

**CHALLENGE 6:** Hairdressing  
**VENUE:** East Riding College  
**MENTOR:** Course tutor Tracey Ellerington  
**THE RESULT:** A 36-35 win on points for Thom  
**JOHN V THOM SCORE:** 4-2 to John

AS SOON as John and Thom knew what their sixth challenge was to be, it was clear that things were about to get hairy.

The boys were challenged to lay down their swords and bows, and pick up their dryers and straighteners, as they attempted a hairdressing challenge at East Riding College.

The lads thought they were in for an easy ride, but when they heard their challenge - a long hair blow dry layered below the shoulders - things didn't sound so rosy.

After watching mentor Tracey Ellerington, a tutor at the college, talk them through the procedure, the boys tried their hand at blow-drying and styling on two models from the college's course.

Tracey said of their attempts: "Thom's actual skills were a little better, he seemed to pick up the sectioning easier, while John's looked a little bit awkward."

"If it was City and Guilds standard, both would have failed as you need to

do it in 45 minutes, but overall they did very well.

"They can have a place on the course any time. I am very impressed, especially considering they are men. Both were communicating well with the clients, although Thom did keep stopping and starting.

"They are difficult people to do as they both have very thick hair - it is harder than you would think.

After being rated in five categories, including communication and interaction, artistic ability, and speed, Thom came out narrowly on top, winning 36-35.

So Thom took the plaudits, winning by a hair's breadth on merit of his artistry over John's speed. But both were left with satisfied customers.

Heidi Connelly, who modelled for Thom, said: "Thom did well for a first attempt.

"I was a bit nervous, but he picked it up quite quickly, and away he went. I'm actually going to leave it like it is. I would have done it the same myself, but quicker."

John's model, Stevie-May Willis, said: "John was alright, he seemed confident, but also a little bit awkward. My hair looks okay."

### FACTfile

The average human head has about 100,000 hair follicles. Hair grows at around 1.5cm per month.

In the 17th century, Manchu invaders told Chinese people, who traditionally did not cut their hair, to shave their heads. The Chinese resisted and tens of thousands of people were killed due to their hairstyle.

**The mullet's origins are shrouded in mystery. One theory is it dates back to 19th Century fishermen, who wore their hair long in the back to keep warm — which is why the style was named after a fish.**

East Riding College is always on the lookout for models, male and female, young and old, and customers can enjoy reduced rates as the students gain experience while working towards their exams. To make an appointment call 458844.



## Thom is a cut above Edwards Scissorhands

WHAT do I know about hairdressing?

I haven't seen a hairdryer in 12 years, I only ever use scissors to divide sausages, and I don't even know what straighteners are.

John maybe thought I would have an advantage because I shave my own head, but in honesty, I was trying for a short back and sides when I inflicted this upon myself, and came away looking like I had lost an argument with a lawn mower.

I was never about to tell that to Heidi, modelling for me, who looked nervous as I set to work, and more so when I forgot to turn my hairdryer on and wondered why her hair was still wet.

After such early mishaps, I was a little worried she would come out of her ordeal looking much more Chris Waddle than Katie Holmes, but she stayed positive throughout.

And her relaxed air settled me into my stride, and I was soon steaming, sizzling and straightening my way to success.

Heidi kept on giving me nervous nods of encouragement, and after initially fearing for her hair, I think she soon realised that any damage I was about to do could easily be ironed out by a professional.

In the end, I think she was quite satisfied with her new do, although I may have mistaken satisfaction for relief.

John finished in a quicker time than I did, but my artistry won through.

"More haste, less speed," he said snippily as I made short work of the straightening.

Perhaps he should have heeded his own advice. Instead, he was facing a second consecutive defeat, and just wanted to curl up and dye.

Many thanks to Heidi for being such a willing volunteer, and for explaining to me how to use a hairdryer after seeing my look of confusion. Maybe I did beat John, but from now on, I'd best leave it to the professionals.

BEING beaten by a semi-bald man in a hairdressing competition is pretty hard to take. It's a bit like losing to England in a penalty shoot-out.

I was sure that actually having hair (and at 27 it's still pretty much in tact and showing no signs of going grey, thank you very much) would give me an advantage but it wasn't to be.

We were not really sure what this challenge was going to entail or how hard it would be, but I think it's safe to say we were both pretty nervous about what lay ahead. I've got much more of an idea about headlines than hairlines. Fortunately, the scissors were kept safely out of our reach, so our models were reasonably safe. Anything which went disastrously wrong could easily be rectified by an expert.

But I knew there were still potential dangers ahead. Our bedroom carpet has recently been burnt by a pair of red-hot hair straighteners so I figured you could cause quite a bit of pain to someone's hair.

Tracey the tutor made it look so easy during the demonstration, but when it came to the real thing, it was hard.

In fact, despite the calm hand needed in archery, the hand and eye coordination needed in model boat racing and the bravery and energy needed for fencing, this was by far the hardest challenge we've had to take on. I grew in confidence as I went along, but dividing hair into manageable sections to work on was something I never quite mastered.

But I managed to get the hairdresser's patter going and in the end I quite enjoyed it. And I couldn't have lost by a smaller margin. It was a really tight decision and I think most people might have struggled to pick a winner.

Many, many thanks to my brave model Stevie-May for being so patient and giving me a helping hand, even though she didn't realise when she volunteered for the task that I was just a reporter from the Free Press whose morning routine is to simply shove some gel on my hair, mess it around a bit, and say 'that'll do'.

And having seen how styling long flowing locks is a work of art, I promise to never ever complain again about how long it takes for women to get ready for a night out.



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