

DR DAVID BULL (Z80-87)

DOCTOR

Was born in 1969 and after leaving the College he qualified from St Mary's Hospital Medical School as a medical doctor, specialising in Accident and Emergency.

BROADCASTER

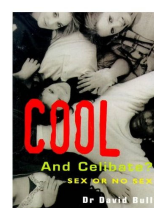
He made the transition into broadcasting by joining the BBC, becoming the first person to broadcast to Children about their health issues on *Newsround* and won a Royal Television Society Award for Best Children's Factual Programme for his expose of Bullying in schools. He presented a number of high-profile TV shows including *Watchdog*, *Watchdog Healthcheck*, *Most Haunted Live*, and *Tomorrow's World*. He currently appears as a panellist on *The Wright Stuff* on Five, is a regular contributor to Five Live and continues to host many other shows



He has also written two health books :-

Cool and Celibate?: Sex and No Sex

What Every Girl Should Know



In 2009 David made his US TV debut working on the hugely acclaimed "Rachael Ray show" which he continues to do. He is also a host for Web MD in New York and is currently developing and working on a number of shows in Los Angeles.

ENTREPRENEUR

In November 2000, he co founded the creative communication agency *Incredibull Ideas* and is Chairman. IncrediBull now employs 35 staff and has clients including Hewlett-Packard, Cystic Fibrosis Trust, BT, Openreach, Sony, Justerini and Brookes and the Department of Health. www.incredibullideas.com

POLITICS

In December 2006, he was selected as the Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Brighton Pavilion. However, in June 2009 he stood down in order to head up a Conservative policy review on sexual health with Anne Milton, the then shadow health minister. He explained:

"I am delighted to have been asked to head up this vitally important matter for the future health of our nation. I have long been concerned about the spiralling rates of sexual diseases in the UK, particularly amongst young people. It is essential that we find policy solutions to tackle this growing problem before it is too late. This is a very important task which will require detailed work and will have far reaching implications. It will command a considerable amount of my time and coupled with my already busy workload which will mean that I will no longer be able to make the commitments that is required if we are to win back Brighton Pavilion. I could not have asked for more help and support from my local association, and am determined to continue to help them secure a Conservative MP at the next election."

The Telegraph Magazine on 19 April 2008 contained the following article on David :-

Dr David Bull, 38, is the candidate for Brighton Pavilion. The son of middle-class parents in Sussex, he qualified as a doctor at St Mary's Hospital, London, in 1993, but made his name as a boyish, blond presenter on the BBC's Watchdog and Newsround. In his spare time he ran a mobile disco specialising in 'cheesy 1980s music'. Viewers probably were not all that shocked to discover that he was gay - but Tory? 'When I first came out as a

Conservative I did face a lot of derision, booing and sniping,' he says. 'But attitudes have changed in the past couple of years. People say, "Good on you, we can't wait to get rid of this bunch."'

Bull was the first television journalist to investigate hospital hygiene, for an undercover Watchdog report, and it was his horror at what he found that drew him into politics. 'When I was training as a hospital doctor, you'd get your arm bitten off if anything was dirty, because the basic premise of any medical intervention is keeping things clean,' he says. 'Ten years later, I saw bags of clinical waste lying open, needles unsheathed, faeces in the toilets - and an overwhelming sense that no one was responsible. I was in hospital myself recently after I collapsed while out running. My sodium levels had dropped dramatically - they never found out what caused it, but my self-diagnosis is water intoxication. I was discharged far too soon. They said, "You're not well enough, but we're sending you home because if you stay here you're going to be really ill." Honestly, I wouldn't put my pets in some hospitals.'

Soon after finishing his Watchdog report, Bull found himself at a cross-party gathering of politicians. 'I told them they should all be ashamed of the disgusting state of the NHS,' he says. 'And it was a Tory MP, Charles Hendry, who came up to me and said, "Right, well why don't you do something about it?" So I did.'

Before we meet, I sit in the studio audience for The Wright Stuff, Channel 5's morning discussion show on which Bull has been a regular guest for six years. He is in jovial form, rolling his eyes at the politically correct views of his fellow panellist, the columnist Yasmin Alibhai-Brown. ('She's nuts,' he tells me later.) In fact, his slightly ditzy onscreen persona is misleading. Afterwards, as we wander around the shopping mall where the studios are based, he speaks with the passion of a Victorian reformer about the public health crisis facing Britain. He worries endlessly about his young gay friends. 'I had a colleague ring me in tears the other day, because this 17-year-old had tested positive for HIV after his first-ever sexual encounter,' he says. 'They think it's a disease only older men catch. It's not. They think it's curable. It's not.'

He does not necessarily blame the Government for this, but he does blame it for relaxing licensing laws and nurturing a culture of drunkenness. 'Alcohol consumption is running out of control - go to Brighton town centre on a Friday night, and the kids are so shitfaced that it's like Beirut.'

Bull is a forceful and charismatic candidate. He would make a terrific MP. But Brighton Pavilion has a notional Labour majority of 6,500 after the recent boundary changes. 'Shame - a high-profile candidate in a hopeless seat,' wrote one poster to the influential Tory blog conservativehome.com. That is too harsh, but this will be a tougher seat to win than Hammersmith, with a similar Labour majority, because west London Tory supporters are rolling in money and Brighton Tories are not. The candidate is doing his best to radiate confidence, but he looks tired beneath the tan. It is hard to shift the suspicion that CCHQ is neglecting him. If he loses, will he stand again? He produces a pained smile. 'Ask me again in two years' time.'

