

# **The Murder Game**

**BBC ONE**

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## **The Chief**

For over thirty years Bob Taylor worked in the fight against crime. From his early days as a uniformed Constable in Leeds to his role as Detective Chief Superintendent he has worked on many high profile cases. His career within the CID led to him working on over 150 murder and major crime investigations, including two of the biggest manhunts of the twentieth century. Bob was involved in the hunt for the 'Yorkshire Ripper' and led the hunt for Michael Sams, who murdered Leeds teenager Julie Dart and kidnapped Birmingham estate agent Stephanie Slater.

He has been commended many times and in 1994 was the first Superintendent to receive the Dennis Hoban Award - which is awarded annually by West Yorkshire Police for outstanding detective work. Bob is an innovative investigator, using state of the art techniques and always ready to break new ground in criminal investigations.

Before retiring in 2001 he trained and lectured detectives at the Detective Training School in Wakefield and regularly contributed to courses at other training establishments throughout the force.

Bob brings his detailed knowledge and experience to *The Murder Game*; and as Chief Investigator he will put the teams of investigators through their paces.

## The Investigators

**Name:** Melanie Sainz  
**Age:** 21  
**Location:** West London (She grew up in Majorca and Yorkshire)  
**Data:** Mel spent three years as a pole dancer before giving up to live with her boyfriend above the pub/restaurant that he owns. She lists her special skills as common sense and being very persuasive. She is determined to disprove the theory about blondes and show she can succeed by using her brain.

**Motivation:** “When I was selected it was like fate, this fantastic opportunity was presented to me and to appear on TV was something I had always wanted to do. I felt very lucky & privileged that I would be part of the show.”

**Name:** Mervin Merchant  
**Age:** 30  
**Location:** London  
**Data:** Mervin is a visual merchandiser for a leading department store. He has ambition to be a musician and has studied sound engineering. He believes his good eye for detail will help in the investigation. He also says that he is level-headed, straight talking and very good at delegating tasks.

**Motivation:** “The reason I applied was because it was an adventure and a challenge. It was unusual and some thing I didn’t think I would ever experience again in my life. You meet and interact with people from different backgrounds. It was a chance to get your hands dirty whilst investigating and also the money was quite a pull.”

**Name:** Andrew Weaver  
**Age:** 56  
**Location:** Bristol  
**Data:** Andrew is a dairy farmer and is married with two children, Nigel (23) and Emma (26). He lists his best attributes as humour, warmth, consideration and kindness. Andrew rises to any challenge and will give 100 per cent to the investigation.

**Motivation:** “I applied for the show because our dear Prime Minister said farming was on a downward turn and we have to diversify. I thought that because this was television it would get me out of the cold and wet winter and into a lovely warm environment and I couldn’t wait.”

**Name:** Christine Rose  
**Age:** 38  
**Location:** Warrington  
**Data:** Christine's world revolves around her family; her husband Malcolm and her eight children: Kate, Martin, Daniel, Luke, Cindy, Rosie, Jessica and Sammy. Her father was a Policeman and she wanted to join but was told she was not tall enough. She says that she is a great organiser and her nosiness about other people will help in the investigation; as will her calm and relaxed manner.

**Motivation:** "It sounded quite an intriguing programme really, not many clues were given what we were doing. It was the not knowing what would happen to us that appealed to me."

**Name:** Richard Sharrocks  
**Age:** 32  
**Location:** Northumberland  
**Data:** Richard is married to Julie. He is a commercial pilot but spent a few years in the Army as a Platoon Commander. He has a competitive streak and thinks he will make a good investigator because he is inquisitive, pragmatic and analytical.

**Motivation:** "I'd always considered a career in the police and in particular I'd always wanted to be a detective and I never took up that option. This was a good way of fulfilling that boyhood dream and also the chance of winning a big cash prize."

**Name:** Meryl Holt  
**Age:** 55  
**Location:** Gloucestershire  
**Data:** Meryl has been married to Rod for 35 years and they have two daughters.

**Name:** Samantha Matthews  
**Age:** 31  
**Location:** Telford  
**Data:** Samantha is a mother of two and works as a Communications Centre Officer for the local council. She enjoys the adrenaline rush of being in a competitive situation. She thinks she will make a good investigator because she is perceptive, an excellent listener and has good instincts.

**Motivation:** “I’ve always been interested in murder mystery, but it was my husband who saw the advert. I was quite surprised when I got the reply saying come for an interview. I was so pleased to be part of it.”

**Name:** Ruairi McNally  
**Age:** 23  
**Location:**







**Name:** Frank Prior - Catherine's Dad  
**Age:** Frank Prior



Shortly after he retired, he took the chance to follow a lifetime's ambition: he moved across the tidal causeway to live in a cottage on the island. Here he can live in total seclusion with his music, his bird watching binoculars and his little boat. The Anna Magdalena.

**Evidence:** George was with Catherine the morning of the murder. She was due to play the piano at her sister's wedding and he was giving her last minute lessons.

## The Training

Before playing *The Murder Game* the ten investigators were sent on a course at the Police Training Centre in Wakefield. Having little or no knowledge of the legal system and investigative procedures they received intensive training in a physically draining and highly pressurised environment.

### **Training day 1:**

- Fitness assessment - to test stamina and agility. This included a test where they had to run between two points continuously until they couldn't go any further.
- Interview techniques - how to question suspects and witnesses.
- Brainstorming - looking at the qualities needed for the role of investigator.
- Surveillance - Visiting a CCTV Centre to understand how it can assist in the fight against crime.

They also had classes in 'ethics', 'legalities' and 'timelines'.

### **Training day 2:**

- Crime Scene Management - this is the basis that any investigation is founded on. If the crime scene isn't managed efficiently the case could fail.
- Identification Skills - looking at how perceptions differ. The investigators had to compile an ID of a woman from a previously set up scenario the day before.
- Exhibit Handling - looking after and presenting evidence to avoid cross contamination.
- Combat Training - defensive tactics against armed and unarmed assailants. Identification Skills

**Training day 4: (Final day)**

Final exercise -

all the qualities were put to the test in an exercise that required teamwork, efficiency and speed. A murder was staged and the team had to set up a crime scene, using the skills they have learned on the course.

## **The Rules**

Ten Investigators start the game in programme one. One by one they will be eliminated over the eight programmes. (One investigator is eliminated at the end of each programme).

In each programme one of the investigators will be nominated as the Lead Investigator. The Lead Investigator has specific responsibilities and powers. The Lead Investigator changes at each stage of the investigation. (i.e. at the beginning of each programme)

The investigators are guided through the investigation by a real Chief Detective, who will help them decide the best ways to proceed with the case.

The investigators will be divided into teams and the Chief Detective will send the teams out on lines of enquiry.

Within each line of enquiry there are hidden tests that the teams will either pass or fail.

The Chief Detective decides which teams have passed or failed their lines of enquiry.

If a team fails, all members of that team are put to the vote as individuals.

All members of all teams vote apart from the Lead Investigator.

The person who receives the most votes will be the first to play the Killer's Game.

The second person to play the Killer's Game will be chosen by the Lead Investigator.

At the end of each programme the two chosen investigators go out to play the Killer's Game. One investigator will survive but the other will be "killed off" by the killer.

## Interactive

The Murder Game Interactive lets you get inside the minds of the team solving the mystery and lets you play the part of detective simply by pressing the red button on your digital remote control!

### **What is the interactive service?**

The Murder Game interactive television service is available to viewers, across the three digital platforms (digital satellite - SKY, digital cable - Telewest/ntl and digital terrestrial - Freeview), between 9.00pm and 2.30am. The service provides video footage, exclusive interviews with eliminated investigators, news reports from the crime scene and profiles on the investigators and suspects. There is also exclusive footage of Bob Taylor, The Chief Detective, and his reactions.

### **How can digital viewers access the service?**

Sky, Freeview and Telewest (and NTL only during TX we now have red key access on NTL too) viewers can access the area by pressing the RED button on their digital handset. They will see the menu bar at the bottom of the screen. This will contain the four main areas of the service: BLACKWATER TV, REACT, INVESTIGATORS and CASE FILE.

NTL viewers press the INTERACTIVE button. They have access to the same service but all content is in text rather than video. They will be able to send messages using their handset in the same way as satellite viewers.

### **What are the four main areas?**

#### **BLACKWATER TV (Red button)**

This area consists of the latest 'Killer Clue' and the exit interview ('The Life After') of the investigator who is killed that week. There will also be repeats of *The Murder Game* for those who want to refresh their memories. There will also be exclusive news reports from the village,

#### **REACT (Green button)**

Each week viewers can vote on who they think is the killer and who they believe will win *The Murder Game*. There is also an area to send and read messages about the show. The vote results will be updated each week and displayed in the Blackwater TV service.

(NB: Sky viewers will be charged 10 pence to vote and send messages.) DTT viewers will be able to send votes and messages via SMS

#### **INVESTIGATORS (Yellow button)**

The Chief Detective, who is leading the investigation, Bob Taylor, will give his reactions and opinions in exclusive footage which will be updated weekly. There are also profiles on the investigators and the Chief's rating on how he thinks they are coping.