

DENISE VAN OUTEN IN CONVERSATION FOR HELLO!

McBUSTED ON LIVING LIFE IN THE FAST LANE AND BOWLING OVER FANS

If you've ever seen McBusted live - and given that their recent arena tour was named the most successful of 2014 after selling a whopping 900,000 tickets, there's a good chance you have - you'll know how much energy they have on stage. Luckily for HELLO!, the lads were just as enthusiastic on our afternoon of bowling.

On location for our exclusive photoshoot at London's Flam Yard Hotel's private bowling alley, the room is filled with singing as James Bourne takes to the piano and the boys gather round for an impromptu jam session, followed by greetings and hugs all round as they pause to cheerily welcome our celebrity interviewer Denise Van Outen.

The "supergroup" - formed of McFly members Tom Fletcher, 29, Danny Jones, 28, Dougie Poynter, 26, and Harry Judd, 28, and former Busted members Matt Willis and James, both 31 - clearly get on like a house on fire.

"The last tour we did was honestly the most fun I've ever had on tour," James tells Denise - who has plenty of connections to the band, having grown up near Dougie and James in Essex, attended the prestigious Sylvia Young Theatre School with Matt and Tom, and, like Harry, appeared on *Strictly Come Dancing* (he was due to return to the hit BBC1 show with McBusted last weekend to perform their debut single *Air Guitar* at Blackpool Tower). Harry walked away with the Glitterball trophy in 2011, the year before Denise came runner-up to gymnast Louis Smith.

LUCKY STRIKE

When it comes to knocking down pins, the boys are pretty competitive. "This is only the second time we've been bowling as McBusted," says Harry, who thinks he's "a bit of a weapon" when it comes to the game. "Danny and Matt are probably the best. The first time we went was for my wife Izzy's birthday and the boys brought their partners. Dougie, your girlfriend Ellie [Goulding] thrashed you, didn't she?" They all laugh as Dougie confirms that, yes, the pop star did wipe the floor with him.

To say the band have been busy would be an understatement. As well as announcing their first single as a six-piece, a debut album, a DVD and a 2015 tour, Danny has found time to get married - his wedding to Georgia Horsley this summer was covered exclusively by HELLO! - and Tom has

become a dad, with novelist wife (and *hellomagazine.com* blogger) Giovanna Fletcher giving birth to son Buzz seven months ago.

He's not the band's only dad - Matt is a father to Isabelle, five, and Ace, who turns three this week, with his *Big Brother* and *The Voice* presenter wife Emma Willis.

Sounds like life's a bit of a whirlwind for McBusted. Here, interviewing the band on behalf of HELLO!, Denise finds out more... Congratulations on your first single as McBusted...

Tom: "Air Guitar is the first song we wrote when we knew we were going to make a McBusted album. It felt like it was a defining song for us; it summed up who McBusted are."

Matt: "The first time anyone hears anything new it's always a nerve-racking time. But with this song I feel like, if I was a McBusted fan - which I am - I'd be happy with it."

You have been touring together for a while now. How did the idea of making an album come about?

Harry: "As soon as the tour started selling really well we were like, 'Okay, this is actually a thing and people are loving it.' It sold probably five times more tickets than we expected. We did Hyde Park and it was crazy. We were having so much fun so we thought, 'Let's just write and if we feel like we get some good stuff let's just do it.' Then we wrote *Air Guitar* and thought, 'Now we're cooking.'"

Matt and James, do you ever wish your old Busted bandmate Charlie Simpson was part of McBusted too?

M: "No, I don't mean it in a negative way. I just really like this how it is."

James: "And also, I don't think he would want to be part of it."

M: "I do speak to him every now and again and he's a good guy - I think very highly of Charlie. But this is a different band. This isn't Busted. This isn't McFly. And that's what's so great about it. We get to be a brand new band. Okay, it happens to have members of McFly and Busted in it, but it's a new band."

J: "It's like Brad Pitt is Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie is Angelina Jolie but Brangelina is a new couple of fish."

T: "We're the Brangelina of the British music industry."

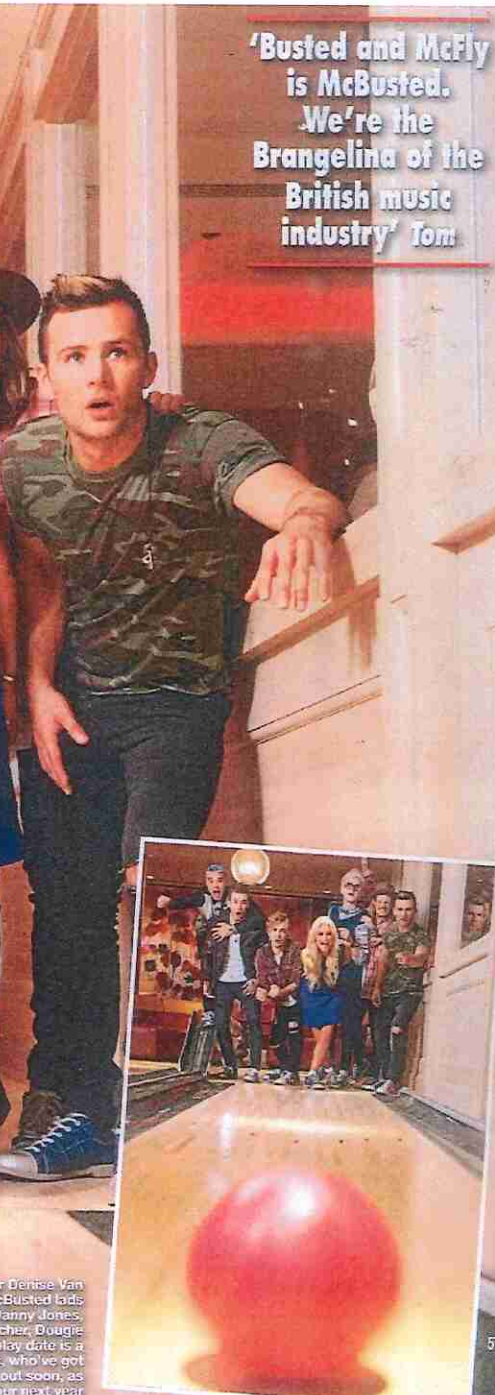
When you're on tour, who's the most annoying?

Everyone: "Harry."

What do you do that's so annoying?

H: "I find great amusement in annoying people."

M: "He's purposefully cringeful."



'Busted and McFly is McBusted. We're the Brangelina of the British music industry' Tom

HELLO! celebrity interviewer Denise Van Outen bowls over the McBusted lads (above from left Matt Willis, Danny Jones, James Bourne, Tom Fletcher, Dougie Poynter and Harry Judd). The play date is a welcome respite for the boys, who've got a new single, album and DVD out soon, as well as plans to tour next year



'We're not looking too far ahead - we're just living in the present' Matt

I'll give you an example. We were on Danny's stag do and we were getting an easyjet flight back from Ibiza and the plane was full of hen dos. The six of us walk down the aisle and Harry starts singing McFly's *It's All About You*. I've never felt so sick.

J: "Imagine us on Danny's stag do on a plane full of hen dos. It was like being on a school trip bus but on a plane at 30,000 feet, as adults."

H: "I like being in a situation where you're meant to be behaving. It's more fun to misbehave. I get kicks out of it."

Tom and Matt, you're both dads. Does that change things on tour?

T: "My son Buzz was born two and a half weeks before we went on tour. But the thought of it was worse than it was. I was only apart from him and Giovanna for four nights maximum."

M: "It was awesome. Okay, I got to see my family once a week - I'd go home or they'd come to me."

Matt, are your kids old enough to understand what you do?

I: "Isabelle loves it but Ace doesn't really get it yet."

J: "Isabelle came up to me once and said, 'You sing with Daddy, don't you?' I was like, 'That's right, how do you know that?' And she put her hand on the TV and went 'Because I've seen it.'"

M: "She understands we're famous and we sometimes have to stop for photos. But I feel like McBusted are only famous to a small section of society, whereas everyone knows my wife Emma. The kids understand that. They're cool with it."

Tom, Buzz went to your Air Guitar video shoot. Was he an honorary band member for the day?

B: "Buzz arrived at lunchtime, so he didn't get to play air guitar."

H: "Oh, their kids are just so cute and sweet."

So do you want kids, Harry?

H: "Hell yes. One day, yes. Look, you can't plan these things, but I'd love a family."

What about you, Danny?

D: "I've just got married, so I don't really know what's happening. We haven't even thought about it. If it happens great, but if not that's great as well."

How is married life treating you?

D: "It's treating me very well. In fact, it's no different. We had an amazing day and everything, from the stag do to the honeymoon in the Maldives - where we spent a fortune doing nothing - was amazing. You're in such a dream state of mind. I came home and went straight into recording the album, which was also amazing. We haven't finished opening our wedding gifts."

M: "Best wedding I've ever been to."

D: "It was so special. And we came back as Mr and Mrs Jones and I'm very proud of that."

Harry, as a former Strictly champion, what do you make of the series this year?

H: "I've been watching religiously and this is the highest standard I've ever seen - much higher than in my year. Frankie Bridge, Pixie Lott, Simon Webbe, Caroline Flack and Jake Wood: You've got five really good dancers. Would I win if I were in it now? It'd be hard. I'm a critic of people's footwork and technique and everything but it's nice to watch it and not have the nerves of going out live every Saturday night."

Matt and Dougie, I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! is back this week. You've both won the show; have you swapped jungle horror stories?

J: "They reigned in different eras."

D: "Matt [who was crowned King of the Jungle in 2006] gave me some advice before I went in."

M: "Yes, I gave you the advice that made you win."

D: "He said, 'Don't be a d*** - never say, 'I'm a celebrity. Get me out of here.'"

M: "So I singlehandedly made Dougie win. In fact, you could say that I won twice."

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things. I never like to blend them. I'm very happy. Do your other halves get on well together?

H: "Really well. They all meet up without us. It's a little Wags club. The McWags."

T: "I've actually heard my wife refer to them as that, in a very joking way of course."

Matt, you must be very proud of Emma...

T: "I'm constantly proud of her. The thing is, Emma's really good at what she does and what you see on TV is what she's like off TV. It's really not an act."

J: "I feel like I'm on *Big Brother* when I'm at their house. She talks to me and I think, 'Woah, I just came out of the *Big Brother* house.'"

M: "When Emma was younger, she got labelled as the cool MIV presenter when really she's so not

that. She's not that rock chick kind of girl. She's homely, she's a mother and it was a matter of time before she was given the right avenue to be herself on TV. When *Big Brother* happened, it was perfect."

What are your plans going forward as a band?

M: "We don't know. We're rolling with the punches."

H: "We're not looking too far ahead and we're just living in the present. Plus I get scared s***less when I think about what's happening in the future."

J: "Some of my most favourite memories in the past are moments when I wasn't thinking of the future. I want to look back on moments like that."

H: "We're creating moments we're going to look back on. For a time it felt like we were harping on about the good old days. Well now we're in

the good old days. The new, good old days. The good old days are now."

INTERVIEW: DENISE VAN OUTEN
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STYLING: VIKI ADAMS
HAIR & MAKE-UP: LOTTE BROOKSBANK USING MAC AND EVELINE
GROOMING: GAIL HILLS USING BOBBI BROWN

McBusted's single *Air Guitar* is out on 23 November and their debut album *McBusted* on 1 December. Tourplay and *McBusted Live* at the O2 will be available on Blu-ray and DVD from 24 November.

For an exclusive behind-the-scenes video from our interview and more HELLO! content, download our iPad app, available from Apple Newsstand.



McBusted were out in force last August to attend Danny and former Miss England Georgia Horsley's lavish wedding (left), exclusively covered by HELLO!. The boys were accompanied by their "McWags" (back row from left): Matt's TV presenter wife Emma Willis, novelist Giovanna Fletcher, violinist Izzy Judd, Dougie's pop star love Ellie Goulding and James's partner, singer Portia Conn. Harry tells Denise (top, taking a breather from the game) that their other halves get on well: "They meet without us. It's a little Wags club"



Ten pin alley: Tom, who tries not to let Harry, "a bit of a weapon", put him off his stroke (below left) and Harry (below) do their best not to end up in the gutter. The supergroup are currently riding high - their tour has been named 2014's most successful, with Harry saying: "It sold probably five times more tickets than we expected"