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Fan's favourite: Levett celebrates the Ryder Cup win

### France's Thomas Levett is one of golf's biggest characters.

Behind his piercing blue eyes lie a competitive spirit which has made 2004 his best ever year on the golf course.

He played his part in Europe's historic Ryder Cup victory, won this year's Scottish Open and then found time to answer **YOUR** questions.

#### Joanne Herd, 16, Leigh-On-Sea

**Having come so close to winning the Open at Muirfield and having a chance this year, would you rather win an Open or be part of a winning Ryder Cup team?**

Both, I couldn't choose between them. It is hard to imagine anything better than the feeling I had after we won in Detroit, but I guess winning a major might be...

Ask me again when I win one!

#### Frank, 28, Tunbridge wells

**Do you ever stop smiling?**

No, never, why should I? I don't know how to cry!

#### Scott Radden, 30, Collier Row

**What did Ernie Els say to you when you picked him up into the air after he holed the putt to win the 2002 British Open?**



Honestly I don't really remember. I think he just congratulated me on playing well.

It was such a great moment for him though I don't really think he knew what to say.

#### Nathan Carrington, 25, Clapham

**What is the best shot you've ever hit in a pro event?**

There are two that stand out, and they are both shots that I have hit this year.

#### Thomas Levett facts

**Born:** 5 Sep 1968  
**Nationality:** France  
**Lives:** Bracknell, England  
**Highlights:** 2004 Ryder Cup winner, 2004 Scottish Open champion, 2002 Open runner-up

#### Did you know?

Thomas's father was a first class hockey and tennis player, his mother played for France at volleyball and his grandfather was a professional cyclist.

#### INTERNET LINKS >>

- :: [Thomas Levett website \(French only\)](#)
- :: [HSBC World Match Play](#)

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The first and probably the most memorable was at the Par 3 13th hole at the Ryder Cup during the singles on Sunday.

Fred Funk hit his tee-shot to maybe 18 inches and the crowd was going nuts because he had a great chance to square the match.

I felt under huge pressure but managed to hit my shot closer than his - so we walked straight to the next hole!

The other shot would be my second shot into the 18th green at Loch Lomond earlier this year, also on the Sunday.

I hit it maybe 3 feet away to finish with a birdie, shoot 63 and win the tournament so that was pretty good!

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### **Claire, 36, Kingston**

#### **Why isn't golf more popular in France?**

We are a few years behind golf in other countries at the moment. There are plenty of good courses, but not enough French people play and these courses rely on tourists to keep them going.

However, more French juniors are starting to learn and hopefully people will want to play after our Ryder Cup win. Things are looking good for the future.

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### **Matthew Gillespie, 21, Liverpool**

#### **How well was the Ryder Cup victory received in France?**



Very well of course. The Ryder Cup is seen as a big event but golf is not the most popular sport in France because we do not have many pro's playing on the Tour.

In the UK you have a lot more players on the tour so more people are interested. Hopefully more French people will want to play though as a result of our win.

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### **Matt Pickard, 32, Edinburgh**

#### **What was the main turning point for you at the Ryder Cup this year?**

Paul Casey and David Howell winning the last two holes of their fourball match on Saturday morning to win their match.

America had looked like winning all four matches at one stage but only ended up winning the morning by one point.

It was a massive blow to them not to win that session by a bigger margin. They could have easily been back in the match had they won that session by 3 points.

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### **Adam Martin, 22, Billericay, Essex**

**Who do you think was in the worst state from celebrating after the Ryder Cup?**

It was a tie between Lee Westwood and Darren Clarke - maybe Darren was slightly worse!

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**Zahid, 25, Leeds**

**Why do the Europeans always play well in Ryder Cups but fair less well in majors?**



I think because we are very strong as a team and the spirit amongst the players is good.

If a player loses a match in the Ryder Cup he will not feel bad because the rest of us will try to make him feel better, so he has a better chance of

winning the next game.

When you play majors, you are on your own and it is more difficult to pick yourself up after a bad day.

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**Steve Palfrey, 36, Sydney**

**After such a positive year, what are your goals for 2005?**

To have a better year in 2005. I haven't won a major yet so that is still my main aim. Basically I would like to see the achievements of this year as a minimum for next year.

Everybody needs a little bit of luck though and hopefully I will get some.

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**CHAT ::**



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