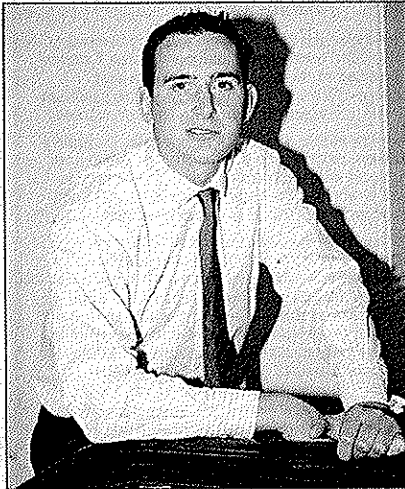


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Crème

CHRIS McANDREW



Hobbies are important: David Morel

Take an interest — any interest

This is a new regular feature in which we put your dilemmas to a career expert. This week, our expert is David Morel, the managing director of Tiger Recruitment, in London

Should I put hobbies on my CV? I seem to be getting conflicting advice. And if I do, what kind of hobbies look good?

Tough one. The most important point, I think, is for a candidate to show that they have a big interest out of work. I think this is good for them and is usually reflected in their happi-

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ness at work. Interests are considered by employers and exciting hobbies are a good talking point.

If a candidate enjoys mountaineering and puts this as an interest and mentions she has climbed some of the world's highest peaks, I challenge any prospective employer not to pick up on this in an interview.

If I am interviewing a candidate, then I love to see an interest in something different. For example, I have a passion for horse racing, so if some-

one lists this as a pastime, as they have done in the past, then I will immediately pick up on this.

Interests should also be given when they are relevant. I recently filled a position for a wine magazine, so to have a number of candidates with an interest in this area who had completed a wine qualification was almost a requirement.

On the odd occasion, I am aware that employers might look at certain interests from different perspectives. For example, if a candidate lists "travelling", then this might raise alarm bells — is this candidate going to stay

for two years or is he or she going to jump on a plane in six months' time?

The other interest I think best to avoid listing is "socialising/socialising with friends". We all socialise and I think this sometimes gives the wrong impression. It almost suggests a lack of interests if this is the best that a candidate can come up with.

Each week, we will be putting a different reader's query to an expert on our recruitment panel. Questions will be answered in this column, but we won't be using names.
e-mail: creme@thetimes.co.uk

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