

Look at me now

From business suit to birthday suit



At work

Sam and Mark have to keep their clothes on even though all their guests are completely naked

Sam and Mark Taylor took the plunge to bare all. Now their naturist resort is booming...

Sam's story

Ever since we got together I'd admired Mark's free spirit. He'd travelled a lot and wasn't the type who was afraid of leading off for a new life at a moment's notice. My life seemed dull in comparison.

I was studying law at university and concentrating on my career. But they say opposites attract and after graduation, I went back home to be near Mark.

I took a job with JP Morgan, the global

investment bank. It was hard work but I gradually started to work my way up the career ladder. In the meantime, Mark worked at organising themed parties.

We'd been together two years when one evening he casually dropped into the conversation that he'd been to the local nudist beach. He carried on talking until I stopped him and said, 'Hang on a minute, what did you say?' He explained he often went on his days off. To be honest, I was a bit shocked.

Mark's not afraid to try new things. He loved the outdoor life, working abroad as a sailing, waterskiing and windsurfing instructor. I knew he had no hang-ups about his body. In fact, he often paraded about the house naked. But in public?

'What's it like?' I asked. 'Weren't you embarrassed? Didn't people stare?' He assured me no one was interested in looking at him. After that, I'd often come home to my very own naked chef.

Mark didn't pressure me to strip off, but I loved him and wanted to share something he felt passionate about.

But I didn't feel as confident about my body in the way he did. I'd piled on the pounds since we'd started living together. So it took several months of dieting before I had the courage to go with him to the nudist beach at Studland in Dorset.

On the day, I was a nervous wreck. I

kept my bikini bottoms on to start with and just went topless. We hid away in the dunes, which made me feel even more like I was doing something naughty.

But as I became more comfortable, I took my bikini bottoms off as well. As we walked down the beach, I was surprised at how nice it felt. I soon realised no one was staring and I actually began to enjoy the experience.

At play

At the end of the working day, Sam and Mark can strip off and go for a dip

Over the years, we kept going to the beach and I began to feel more comfortable with my body. I never told anyone, though - I didn't think they'd understand.

After we married in 2005, Mark decided he wanted to travel again, and we talked about setting up a business abroad.

I enjoyed my job and was earning a good salary. But my hours were 8am to 7pm - I was chained to a desk. I realised I was as keen as Mark to move abroad. We discussed our options and decided on Greece, as we both loved it. Mark went out to visit and came back full of ideas.

We talked about running a sailing school but the cost of the equipment and insurance was too high. We looked at

'I just went topless to start with'



Sam gave up a job in the city to go naked



'Other couples take up golf... we prefer naturism'

cooking holidays, painting holidays, walking holidays and kayaking holidays.

'It's all been done before,' I sighed.

'Well, what about running a naturist resort abroad?' said Mark.

We joined the British Naturists for support and advice. But at 27 and 35, we were much younger than most other naturists. It seemed we were unusual enough to build a successful business.

Once we found the right site – a stunning resort with 11 apartments and a swimming pool with bar on the island of Kefalonia – we sold our house to raise the money we needed.

Then we had to break the news to my boss, family and friends. I knew I'd raise a few eyebrows; try telling your parents you're giving up your career for a life stripping off in the sun! I can't say it was

easy giving up everything I'd worked so hard for. And I had to put up with some sniggering from friends and colleagues. But we also had a lot of support, everyone knew it was what we really wanted.

In April, we packed up and set off for Greece. There was a huge amount of renovation work to be done, but we're on schedule to open the Vassaliki Naturist Club this month.

We're looking forward to making our guests feel at home. When we're working, we'll have to be in uniform while they're naked, as a requirement of employment law. But at the end of the day, we'll strip off and go for a dip. We think guests will appreciate the fact we're naturists too.

Mark's story

I first went to a nudist beach with my parents when I was 10 years old. I enjoyed the sense of freedom but stopped going in my teens.

I was 22 and working in Greece as a watersports instructor before I went again. I loved not having to sit around in wet swimming shorts and had such a good time, I started going regularly.

When Sam and I got together, I used to go to the beach if I had a day off. I never considered it a secret, though admittedly it did take me two years to mention it. Then, when Sam started coming along with me, I began to go more often.

Sam and I talked about various business ventures but the naturist resort was the most original. I knew it would be more unconventional for her than me. But the way I see it, other couples take up golf. We're not that different.

We're expecting to break even this year but we're already booked up for the coming months, which is an excellent sign.

Dare to bare? Everybody's doing it...

Gail Porter cemented her celebrity status after allowing a 100ft naked image of her to be beamed on to the House of Commons at night. And Pamela Anderson (right) was more than happy to bare all for animal rights group PETA. Keith Chegwin, meanwhile, has the proud legacy of forever being associated with Britain's worst TV show following his notorious Channel Five programme *The Naked Jungle*. The 'game show for naturists' was broadcast in 2000 and was hosted by Keith covering his honour with the help of a couple of balloons.

