ACT 5

BRING YOURSELF TO WORK

If the work you’re doing is what you chose to do because you love it then it may well be your bliss. If not, then it’s your dragon.

(Campbell, 2001)

Tim Bulmer (2007) Lowry retrospective or just another day in paradise?
Everyman has finally married. It’s a lot later than his parents did (and the decision had nothing to do with their constant reminders), but he likes to think it’s all the better for the wait, and will hopefully last a lot longer. “Who was it who said that men shouldn’t even consider tying the knot until at least 32?” They have a young family (scandalously started out of wedlock) and, as they have both battled to maintain a footing on their respective career ladders, are helped out by a full-time nanny and a punishing schedule of structured activities for the kids. It seems there just hasn’t been enough time to kick a ball around in the park anymore, so something has had to give.

Grateful for the loyalty the corporation has shown him, but finding the living patterns and needs of family life increasingly incompatible with corporate life, Everyman has, after a long discussion with the family, recently taken the decision to start his own business venture, working from an office at home. He’ll miss the bonhomie but won’t miss the rituals of travel, meet and travel. They come to collect the company SUV tomorrow.

A City solicitor has bought the place next door and turned it into one-bedroom flats. “Shame the builders plowed up the front garden to make parking spaces.” The local area doesn’t have much real community feeling now and, tired of worries about schooling, car parking, crime, and congestion taxation, they have decided to sell up, follow a dream – one that appears to their friends to have come from nowhere – and move to the country. “They all think we’re mad moving to a village that doesn’t even have any shops,” he muses quietly to himself, as he tucks in his baby son’s blankets and turns up the Mozart adagios on the iPod. “But how much stuff do we really need?”

“Entertainment technology, where would we be without it?” he whispers, looking into the digital baby monitor. Admittedly, gadgets have made it a lot easier to connect with colleagues when they can’t be