

Is Ant set to be a dad for the first time at 48?



Bound for Dubai: Ant McPartlin with his wife yesterday

FOR decades Ant McPartlin has dreamed of becoming a father.

And now, with the star aged 48, it appears that his wife Anne-Marie Corbett may be expecting their first child.

The former personal assistant, 46, was seen glowing as she arrived at Heathrow airport yesterday on the way to a New Year break to Dubai, appearing to be several months pregnant.

Dressed in a loose black dress and yellow woollen cardigan, she smiled as she pushed her luggage towards the terminal.

Meanwhile, McPartlin was beaming as he wished fellow travellers a merry Christmas.

One onlooker said: 'He couldn't stop smiling, he looked like the happiest man in the world.'

It would be the final part of the love story for the pair, who got together after meeting while she worked for McPartlin and his former wife, Lisa Armstrong.

The ITV star credits Ms Corbett, who has two teenage daughters with her ex-husband, for getting him through his alcohol and prescription drug addictions.

There have been rumours swirling for some months that the couple might be expecting – particu-

larly after Ms Corbett decided against flying to Australia to be at her husband's side as while he hosted ITV's *I'm A Celebrity*.

Instead, he was there alone while his on-screen partner Declan Donnelly was joined by his wife Ali Astall and their two children, Isla, five, and Jack, one.

However, friends say McPartlin's ex Ms Armstrong will be 'very upset' if her former partner's happy news is confirmed – because she, too, was desperate to become a mother. In fact, it is believed

'He couldn't stop smiling'

that she and McPartlin tried for a baby for several years and she was devastated when their marriage ended in 2018, still childless.

For make-up artist Ms Armstrong, who shares a brown labrador named Hurley with her ex-husband, what has made it harder is that Ms Corbett worked for them as a PA before she began dating McPartlin.

A friend said: 'Anne-Marie was

Ready to fly: Anne-Marie Corbett in a loose black dress and yellow cardigan at Heathrow

Lisa's friend, and she was heavily involved in getting her the job working for the McPartlins.

'Lisa would send Anne-Marie's children birthday and Christmas presents, she even went on holiday with them, and then bang, it all changed.'

McPartlin was always open about his desire to be a father.

In 2013 he revealed the couple's struggles, saying: 'There's a rumour that I'm holding off having kids till Dec finds himself Mrs Right. I love that idea, but I'm afraid it's not true. Lisa and I would love to have kids. We're trying. It's tougher than you think when you get a bit older.'

McPartlin and Ms Armstrong – a

former singer in the now defunct pop band Deuce – married in 2006 at a lavish ceremony at Cliveden House in Berkshire.

They split in September 2018 after he checked into rehab for addiction issues.

A lengthy divorce battle followed, mostly over the TV star's £60million fortune.

Ms Corbett split from her husband Scott Corbett shortly before she began dating McPartlin.

The presenter and Ms Corbett married in 2021. Two years earlier he had described her as a 'lifesaver', saying: 'She's been my rock. She's a beautiful soul. We're very happy. I'm in the best place I've been in my life. It's great.'



Ex-wife: Ant and Lisa Armstrong

The 'healthy' zero-alcohol beers packed with sugar

FOR anyone who's been nursing a sore head over the past few days, the thought of low-alcohol beer may be a more enticing one than usual.

However, while sales of the drinks have been booming among increasingly health-conscious consumers, a survey by the Mail has discovered that they might still leave a sour taste in the mouth as far as their 'benefits' are concerned.

For while low-alcohol and zero-alcohol drinks typically contain less than half the

calories of their full-bodied versions, some contain up to ten times the sugar.

Our study found that, while a regular can of beer such as BrewDog IPA contains negligible amounts of sugar, alcohol-free versions from the same brewery can have 6g per 330ml can or bottle – the equivalent of a teaspoon and a half of sugar.

Old Speckled Hen Low Alcohol, meanwhile, contains 2g of sugar per 100ml,

compared with just 0.2g in its regular equivalent. Faye Thompson, a nutritional therapist, said: 'Reducing alcohol is great, but the pay-off in switching to non-alcoholic beer is the higher sugar content.'

'Sugar is the real culprit, not fat, when it comes to weight gain.'

Ms Thompson, of Lift Nutrition in Manchester, said drinkers should check the labels for sugar content. Adnams Ghost Ship 0.5 per cent, for example contains just 0.1g of sugar per 100ml, she said, while

Big Drop Paradiso has less than 0.5g. Brewers said the varying sugar contents were the result of the different processes used to produce low alcohol beer.

Johnny Clayton, of Big Drop, said: 'In a full strength beer, the alcohol is formed by the yeast eating the sugar extracted from the malted barley. This turns into alcohol via fermentation. With some low alcohol beers brands an excess of sugar does not get converted and remains after fermentation. We do it differently.'