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Owen, KJ and Owen, PB

**SOLE\_ZINE 07 COMMUNITY**

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### Article

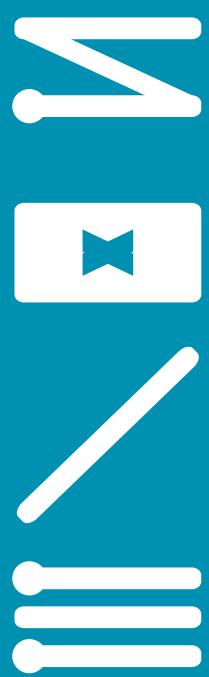
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Z I N E

**T R A I N E R S  
S N E A K E R S  
K I C K S + W E B S  
S T R I D E S + S O L E S  
C R E P S + B E A T E R S  
T R A B S + T R A I N E E S**

Whatever you call your footwear, there is a particular tribe who are obsessive about theirs.

volume 07 / community  
summer 2022



**Every collector has a different story, focus and approach, we ask what's yours in this Community issue?**

## IN CONVERSATION

**Adi 8's UK**  
(and half each way)

+  
**Adidas Vintage 'r' Us**

with Paul Droke + Wayne Taylor

**PO:** Thank you both for your time today. We've had a brilliant commentary about our theme of 'Community', but first, for our readers (*and the ones that never made the show*), tell us a bit about your backgrounds. How did you get into the trainer scene and what does trainer life look like to you both, as collectors today?

And then I just naturally started collecting after about a year or two, until one day, Wayne just in-boxed me to say, "I think we should start a group." I had started a group up, but it was just an undisciplined, collective mix of people from all over the world. There was no rhyme or reason to it at all; it was just like an accept everyone type deal.

**PO:** And there are a lot of groups like that out there, aren't there.  
**PD:** Yeah, but then Wayne said, "I'm gonna set up two groups, do you wanna run these two groups, do you wanna be in them?" I went, yeah, okay. He said, "I've already set them up, and we've got a few members". I went okay, cool, I remember looking at the member list and at the VRU (Vintage r us), and it had four and a half thousand members, so, I said, we need to refine it to serious collectors only. So, whittled the list down from four and a half thousand people to three hundred and fifty, in about three weeks. Hence why they call me the axe man.

**WT:** When I went to look at what I had in the loft, it was pretty much all blue boxes everywhere. There were a few Nike ones, Puma, and a couple of Reebok, but it was primarily adidas. That's when I started collecting properly. When I wanted to improve my collection.

**PO:** So that element of 'serious collecting' came around 10 years ago?

**WT:** Sort of. Size? [sports retailer] did a 10th anniversary release, I managed to get hold of a few pairs. But it was when I joined the Facebook groups that it really started. I just got hooked instantly and thought, I like these, I like those, I had plenty to sell, enabling me to buy what I wanted.

**PO:** That's really interesting, and Paul, what about yourself?

**PD:** I haven't really been collecting per se, as long as Wayne, I always used to wear the top of the range stuff when I was a kid. We were fortunate enough to go abroad on holidays, to places like Switzerland, Malta, South of France and Spain. So, we'd always pick up nice clothes and trainers that you couldn't get back here when we were kids. And then as you know, my life took a very drastic wrong turn, into a life of crime and addiction and all the issues that come with that lifestyle. But in 2011, when I got my act together and got clean, I realised that I must have

found that fascinating, that camaraderie and the number of lads that have been into the exhibition and said, "I queued outside Size? for two days, I didn't get my shoe size, but I got them on for what paid for them". That generosity of spirit is amazing.

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just been walking around for years asleep because I didn't notice or appreciate anything. After I got clean, it was as though someone had turned my vision on in HD. I began to really notice all these lads wearing Stone Island, CP adidas, and all the top clobber I remembered from way back when. It really captured my attention because I used to love all that gear in the eighties and the nineties, but it was something that I'd drifted apart from. So, when I got clean after walking around desolate and lost for so many years, I really started to take pride in my appearance. I got back into really being bothered about how I looked, and how I presented myself. But the interest around trainers grabbed me first. I'd just seen a few mates who have loads of pairs of training shoes, and I'd be asking them questions and they said they were on Facebook groups. So, I ended up finding and joining all these Facebook groups, which is how I met Wayne. I'd see him posting all these different trainees and I just peppered his inbox with questions to tap into his wisdom...

**WT:** There isn't really a market cos no one really sells and when they do, it gets snapped up really quickly. Vintage collectors have been at this for years and already got their collections amassed and they only tend to sell if they see another pair that they need to fund. So, they'll be upgrading their vintage collections. I had a top three pairs, wanted and I had to sell quite a lot of pairs to get them. Good boxed condition vintage is very hard to come by compared to the modern stuff, people don't let it go, they know what they've got, and they like to keep hold of it.

**WT:** If there's something limited/rare out there, it doesn't matter if it's trainers or whatever, people will see an opportunity to make money, and there's nothing you can do about that, and it doesn't bother me. The only thing that bothered me was when I wanted it myself and I could see I'd have to pay double or triple to get it. But that doesn't happen in our group.

**WT:** There isn't really a market

through the Community and the exhibition? Because there were a few things that popped up... So, I'll start with the first question from James Brown... Should adidas continue with reissues or look to create something new?

**WT:** No, not my vintage ones anyway. They do sometimes do a good job. Like with the reissue of the Z/600 the grey and yellow runner, from 2006 was really nice. If they can keep doing that standard of reissue then yeah fine, but I'm not even going to say what I don't want reissued cos they'll probably reissue it. (laughs).

**WT:** I had a pair of Nike division and never had them off my feet like a kid at Christmas and that was it, I was hooked, the vintage addiction took hold. I actually had a hit list of three, took a few years but got there eventually. But as soon as you get the adidas bug that's it.

**WT:** Community to an end. Can I just say a big thank you again for being so involved with the exhibition, being so open and generous with your time and collections, and again for taking time out to share you stories in SoleZone.

**WT:** No problem. Really enjoyed it. Thank you.

**PD:** Yeah, thanks Paul.



Instagram:  
[@doketyp](https://www.instagram.com/doketyp)  
Size:  
**7.5**  
First Pair:  
**Kick**  
Latest Pair:  
**Taiwanese Jogging (1979)**  
Holy Grail:  
**French Arctic Marine**

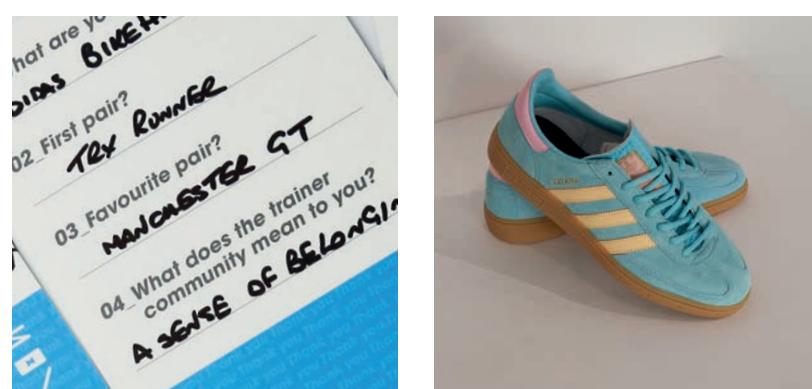
Instagram:  
[@waynetaylor11](https://www.instagram.com/waynetaylor11)  
Size:  
**7.5**  
First Pair:  
**Napoli**  
Latest Pair:  
**Holy Grail: Columbia (vintage)**

## Die Weltmarke mit den 3 Streifen The brand with the three stripes

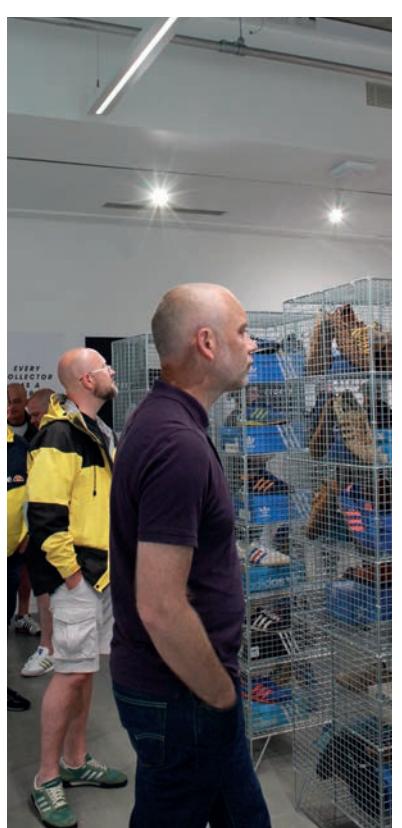
## La marque aux trois bandes



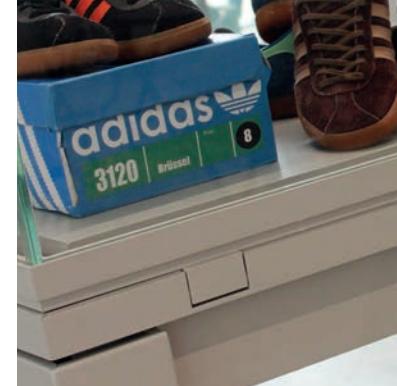
**"The friendships are more important than the trainers"**



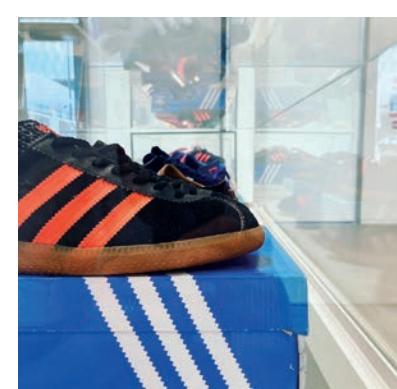
**"The trainers are obviously a big part of it, but more than that, friendships have been forged and reinforced"**



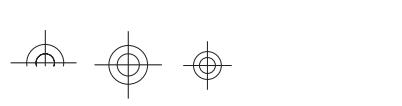
**"it's broadened my knowledge and fuelled my passion for our beloved brand"**



**"It's the camaraderie, respect and integrity shown to each other. Friendships are forged and some of the gestures I've seen from our community is astonishing"**



**"This game is more than just trainers it's about true friendships and I am humbled and blessed to be part of it"**



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C M Y K