



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.

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

IN CONVERSATION

with Paul Doke + Wayne Taylor

Adi 8's UK (and half each way)

+

Adidas Vintage 'r Us

and Kayla + Paul @sole_magazine

Solezine Exhibition June 2022

PO: I 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 for someone else or passed them on for what I paid for them". That generosity of spirit is amazing.

WT: Yeah, that happens a lot, there was a Barcelona that came out which were a Man United trainer, I'm a Liverpool fan, so I didn't want them. And a guy in Ireland called George Walker asked if I'd pick a pair up for him and I managed to get two pairs, signed by Wes Brown. And he was over the moon when I sent them to him. I just charged him what they cost, which is what the groups were meant to be about, and some still are to be honest, especially the little groups, for example *Adidas Addicted*, *Adidas Addicts*, *AGA (Adidas Only Addiction)* a well-known collector's group (especially for vintage). Some of the collectors in these groups have been doing this for a lot longer than we have, but we're quite proud of our members, there's a lot of great lads in there. And I would never have met them if it hadn't had been for joining Facebook groups.

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 with me?" 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 it had four and a half thousand members, so I said, we need to refine it to serious collectors only. So, I 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: There were people in the group who were just watching or inactive, there was no point them being in there. They were just joining the group without realising what they were joining.

PD: There were Eskimos with adidas sledges on there, and everything from everywhere. So, we just got the serious collectors and that's how the group was born.

WT: What we liked, was for people to show off what they had, and in turn learning about all the stuff that was posted. It was good. I saw so many things I'd never seen before, some of the stuff was just unbelievable.

PO: Yeah, that sort of stuff came out with people visiting the exhibition. They were talking about the knowledge of others in the group, and learning from them in that way, or aspiring to have collections like them, or moving up that chain. It was fascinating. What about how the group runs now, what's the ethos?

PD: We love adidas, we love the brand. We share our knowledge and show our collections. We're not bothered about profit, and it was just sickening us the way you had all these up sellers, making all sorts of ridiculous sums of money off trainers. So, our focus was to concentrate on the members of the group who were serious about the brand. Who like us,

PO: Thank you both for your time today. We've had a brilliant exhibition, and some great 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?

WT: I didn't realise I was collecting. But over a 20-year period I'd amassed about two hundred pairs, which was ridiculous... So, I saved them for Lucas, my son. They were all size seven, seven and a half, and he was in that size range for about a month, now he's a size ten. After that I didn't know what to do with them, so I joined some Facebook groups to sell a few. I didn't know anyone collecting trainers at the time and that's where I started to meet everybody, and I didn't realise it was such a big community that's when the serious buying and selling started.

PO: Yeah.

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

PO: So, before Paul comes in the second and third are...

WT: T-Master and Mexicana

PO: Cool.

PD: So, mine would be, West German Amsterdam (they are first pair of vintage I got, it's funny because Wayne invited me to admin onto the V R U and I think that was the second bonus ball. At the time I was frantically searching for boxed vintage, and I was going round the bend over it. The first pair of boxed vintage were my adidas French Rusty, I just love them trainees. And number three would probably be the 1969 unworn French Chamolis, they're the oldest pair I've got in the original box.

PO: Your number one pair, the Amsterdam, is the pair you'd like to be buried in, I think we've just covered a question from Matthew Garside. Next question from Philip Kenningale, what decade do you feel was the best for trainer design?

WT: Definitely 70s and 80s for sure.

PO: So, it's both, it crosses over.

PD: I think, I'd lean towards the seventies for suedes, and the 80s for runners.

WT: Yeah, probably right.

PO: Okay. Great. We have a few question in from *Wol Scott*. What's the personal story behind liking adidas? Wayne, you said you had multiple brands initially, but are you a solo adidas person now?

WT: Yeah, I got rid of everything else and had to focus, not enough room for all brands and adidas was the one.

PO: Is there anything significant behind that choice?

WT: Not really, just the three stripes, I think.

PO: It is a massive thing in the North, as well as that affiliation with the Terrace Casual movement in Menswear.

WT: The three stripes was definitely something that stood out across the board against all the others. Like, Nike, it never felt, for me, as good on foot or looked as good as a pair of adidas.

PO: And something like Nike was later as well, it's eighties, isn't it?

PD: It's just adidas for me but I do remember the Nike runners in the late eighties, I did have a few pairs of them, but you know, I've always just been predominantly adidas. Even, when I was playing football as a kid adidas always felt better for me personally. They felt better on me feet.

WT: When I used to see people with adidas on I'd be like, wow, I never did that over any other brand.

PO: We've got a question here about looking up to elders (in a fashion sense) at senior school. What 'pairs' did you look up to then? And actually, can you remember the person's name that was wearing them?

PD: Yeah...

WT: Yeah, for sure...

PD: I always remember one of me mates in school *Mick Harris*. Liverpool were playing in Switzerland and he actually went, **Trimm Trabb**. They were the pig skin sky blue colour and I was like, oh my God.

PO: I'm not a fan of the **Trimm Trabb**.

PD: I'm not a fan of them, but at the time, well, as a 15-year-old lad, I'd just never seen nothing like them.

PO: I remember a similar experience at school, one of my mates had come back from the States with a pair of **Huarache** and I was like, wow, what the hell are those?

WT: There were two people. There was an older friend of mine *John Clarke* whose family were fairly well off, and he had a pair of **Forest Hills**. They were stunning... and he was just running around the streets, kicking a football, made my eyes bleed (laughs).

At school you had to wear black shoes. Majority of us had adidas. Kick even though you weren't really supposed to wear them for school. One lad, *Gary Griffiths* had a pair of actual **All Black** and everyone was like oh my God, he can wear them for school. Everyone else was colouring their white stripes in with marker pen or some kids would put black tape over for school and take it off at the weekend.

PO: No way, amazing what kids used to do back then. Well, that brings the questions from the

PO: There's some vintage that I like and the idea of the concept of a reissue, but in reality, the quality would be sub-standard.

PO: What if they could do that quality?

PD: If they could reproduce that quality, we'd have probably give you a list of about 50 pairs.

PO: Next question, if you could choose only one - runners or flats?

PD: That's a difficult one.

PO: Well, it might change from day to day, week to week, I suppose.

WT: Yeah, I'd say I prefer runners now, but I liked flats back then.

PD: At the moment, I'm going through a little bit of a runner phase as well.

WT: They are good to be honest, if you can get a good pair of runners you're sorted.

PO: OK, so you may have been asked this one before, if your house was on fire and you've only got time to save one pair - which pair would it be? (from *James Brown*)



WT: One pair that's number one, it would be my **Columbia**.

PO: What's the significance, the story attached to that Wayne?

WT: I wanted them as a kid and just never got them. Mum never had enough money to buy them, or the opportunity never arose. They were on my list for years and when I joined the Facebook group, I actually saw a picture of them. I put a question out to ask who they were. I was asked why I wanted to know, and I said because they are my girl pair. The guy who owned them in the picture didn't have them anymore, he'd sold them on, but he put me in touch with the guy, he'd sold them to, and that guy sold them to me for the same price he'd paid. I had to



PO: At the rate that population is climbing, there'll always be demand for footwear. So, they're naturally taking advantage of that. So, for example, *City Series*, you know, they made a hell of a big deal about the *City Series* releases, and they were awful. It was just the exact same mold and tooling that was used on each one. Just different colors. And what we saw with the *SPZL* releases, was people just getting in on a money-making opportunity. So, you know, people were like jumping on them releases faster than a tramp on a bag of cold chips. You know what I mean? Just thinking "I'll make some quick money here on these."

PO: Would you like to see any shoes reissued that maybe haven't been before?



WT: I started buying other stuff. I had so much time to sit at the computer and we weren't going out spending any money. I started buying *Star Wars* stuff. So, lockdown for me wasn't trainers.

PD: Yeah. A lot of people used their time to discover the adidas community, alleviate boredom and direct their focus onto something to get them through lockdown. It was like the opposite for us during lockdown, it gave us a bit of a break from it.

WT: No-one was really selling. They were all buying more because they had extra money.

PO: Yeah. That was the message coming through - people were buying more of the modern stuff... Well, shall I just come to some of the questions that came

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 destitute 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...

loved the brand, weren't bothered about profit and so that's why we embedded that into our rules.

PO: That takes me to the conversation about resellers and retailers. Because looking at your collections that were in the show, we have the vintage element, but we had the more modern contemporary stuff from you Wayne, and it's about how these sub-groups and markets change. And if you see resellers or retailers attaching themselves to these groups in order to make profits?

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 '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 I 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, they very rarely come up for sale, people don't let it go, they know what they've got, and they like to keep hold of it.

through the Community and the Exhibition? Because there were a few things that popped up... So, I'll start with the first question few 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 ZX600 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*).

pick them up in Burnley, but I was 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.

WT: I had a pair of Nike division and never had them off my feet when I was younger, they were brilliant, indestructible. I'd love a pair of them now, but doubt I'd be able to find them in my size now. But as soon as you get the adidas bug that's it.

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 your stories in Solezine.

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

PD: Yeah, thanks Paul.



Z I N E

Instagram:
[@dakeyp](#)

Size:
7.5

First Pair:
Kick

Latest Pair:
Taiwanese Jogging (1979)

Holy Grail:
French Artic Marine

Instagram:
[@waynetaylor11](#)

Size:
7.5

First Pair:
Napoli

Latest Pair:
Denver (Vintage)

Holy Grail:
Columbia (Vintage)



"The friendships are more important than the trainers"



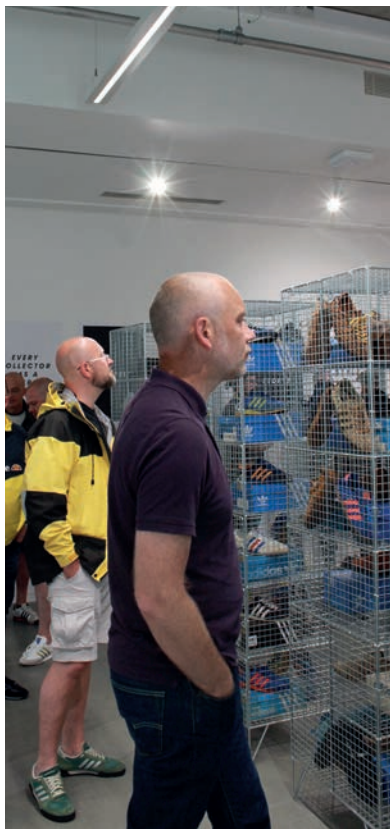
02 First pair?
TEX RUNNER

03 Favourite pair?
MANCHESTER ST

04 What does the trainer community mean to you?
A SENSE OF BELONGING



"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"



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