

2019_esch_PFVP_03

Interviewer

Interviewer 2

Interviewee

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Okay if you could just say your names for the recording please?

Um Kenneth Wilson, er, I will tell you 2012, they called me back twice

Nice

That was it.

So what did you do at the 2012 Olympics?

I was- I was going up and down clearing the- I was litter-picking

Litter-picking. So what was that like to experience the atmosphere of the 2012 Olympics?

It was alright

He really liked it

Was it busy?

Very busy

Very busy [laughs]

[Laughs]

So what would your day to day have been?

Well, she said, come in and get your um bib and that, and also you **XXXX** what you wanted, and half an hour free time [laughs]

[Laughs]

Everyone was happy

Yeah

Yes and I was- I done two- I done five, I actually walked down one end, and walked up the other end

Over the bridges I think

Over the bridges, that's really cool

And also, my bit was spotless

Spotless. You're good at your job

My bit was spotless

Was it hard to keep up with all the rubbish, 'cause there's a lot of people there?

It was, it was. If I seen someone drop something I pick it up.

Before it's hit the ground

'Cause when I cleaned it, it was spotless. So when I come back after my lunch, 'cause they gave you time to have a bite to eat, it was spotless then but

But when you finished [laughs]

Yeah [laughs]

It was- it was- what used to happen was, they loaded up the bins, I know I was a litter-picker, that was my job but the things is why do people go along the street, suppose you're going along stadium, and drop rubbish, when there's a bin there?

A bin right there

Why don't you go and put it there?

It's a really nice space as well, to think people would litter that isn't nice

Remember Ken, they had very hot weather and he ended up with

My ears were burning

Burnt ears at the back [laughs]

Yeah

Sunburn [laughs]

From the sun. And I had a cap, and I put my cap

Going the other way

Going the other way

To stop your...?

I was like that, then er I **XXXX** now, so I could get other bits and pieces **XXXX**

And then your face got burnt

Nose got

Burnt

Red. But that was then, but since then, that stadium's got worse I think

Really, why?

Well they're- as you go along, they've got loads of bins, they don't put it in

That's the people innit, they do that

Yeah

Did you get to see any of the Olympics?

Um well I heard it.

You heard it? Yeah I bet

I wasn't in the stadium, they were rehearsing

Oh really

Um the group was rehearsing before they-

Was that the ceremony, rehearsing, like the performers?

Performers. I missed the um performance but I see the rehearsal

What was that like to see the rehearsal?

It was okay. I could hear it. Where I was- when I was there, 'cause I done 6 to 3 I think

6 til 3 yeah

I done 6 til 3, I could still hear it when I was out of the stadium, out out out. From then when I was finished, I could still hear it

All around Stratford [laughs]

Yeah yeah, I was getting emotional, I gotta get out there

That's good

It was good, it was

How long did that last all that Olympics, quite a while wasn't it?

Yeah it would be a few months, I guess. Anna might know more than me about that. How long did it last year?

I think there's three weeks of the Olympics

Sorry

No, it's- no no I've crept up. Three weeks to the Olympics, and three to the Paralympics, I think there were two weeks in between, something like that

It felt longer than that

Well I think they was a bit of a build up

It was sad when it ended because he really really enjoyed it

Yeah I love the Olympics and the Paralympics

Yeah

But it's about three and a half weeks for both I think.

Yeah

Yeah

Each

So continually two months?

Each one yeah yeah I think so

What's there now? I know West Ham are there now. It's not as good as- I mean I know West Ham's there and everything, not as good as Paralympics

Yeah, it's really good

I can't get XXXX

What was that young lady's name, who was your um?

Um I don't know her name

Where did she come from?

She come-

Was she Canadian?

Yeah

Yeah

What was that?

She was um

His boss if you like, well manager

Oh okay

One of my bosses [laughs]

Did you ever see anyone famous there, any athletes?

Yeah I see a lot of famous faces

Really, do you remember who?

I see Davie Thompson, er [taps table] XXXX Ben Foster, um, ah it was a lot of faces

Nice, that's exciting for you

Yeah it was

Cool, do you have any memorabilia, like anything with the Olympics on it?

Well I still got a bit of memorabilia, um, but I haven't got any- I got the um thing they gave you, silver XXXX still [laughs]

Oh really

Yeah um, so I use it for work

Oh that thing you put round your neck with the key on

Lanyard

Yeah I still got that

Cool

But anything else. Oh yeah, also, I took a photo of the mascot

Do you have that still?

I ain't got it on my phone, but I got it on my other

Oh cool. So do you miss the Olympics, do you think it was good thing?

Yeah I think it was a good thing but the thing is, when it finishes, you want it

Yeah you want it to carry on. Do you got the Olympic Park a lot now or do you...?

I do, I do occasionally because West Ham are over there.

We're season ticket holders

Oh so you go a lot then

Yeah but the thing is, it's so- the walk's XXXX some way

It's a long way from where you live?

'Cause where it was there, the Boleyn, we only live across the road

Oh nice

Before the A13, High Street South. But yeah it was just different, different atmosphere

How do you think it's changed since being at the Olympic Park?

Times move on but I don't think it's a proper football stadium, and I'm not the only one who thinks that, a lot of people think that and well I just think it's a shame

Mm

A lot of people stopped going, older folk that have been there years, I mean if my husband had been here, I'd have been most upset. And where Ken used to go here, to Boleyn on his

own and what have you, but moving over there, I also go because um they have advertise when they first went over there, and people were very XXXX to say it's not a proper football stadium. And they tell everyone there's so many entrances- truly there is people on the gate, but over the Boleyn, they had a police room full of policemen with all televisions and you could see every part of that ground. But over where they are, they didn't have police, they never had no- 'cause I asked the policeman, how comes there's no? Because they didn't have any walkie talkies because they're right near the mast or something,

Oh I didn't know that

But I think a lot of things today are down to money so it's gone, and you can't keep going backwards, you have to go forward. But whether you like going forward that's another story, it's not the same.

Yeah

It's very nice, you can walk and say oh what a lovely stadium but

It's also

It's not the same

I done the- because I done three or four marathons

Wow

Also a couple of times, they've had a run into the Olympic Stadium

Oh yeah

You do five miles and then you go in the inside and then you finish

So do you think that's as fun as the Olympics or do you think the Olympics were more fun?

Oh I think the Olympics was more fun but

[Laughs]

The thing is as you come through the stadium, go and go through XXXX where it finishes, you get atmosphere. But over there, um, the atmosphere's faded.

Mm interesting

Anyway it is what it is and there you are

Thank you

Because as I say, it's a lot different to what it was over there, but it is what it is so really you take it or leave it. I mean I have to say if you hadn't been to the Boleyn you would say that's a XXXX 'cause you've got no comparison have you? And people live there, I think it's a lovely park in some much as the youngsters, you know like the babies, you can go over there for the day in the summer and they've got the things that come out of the

Yeah the fountains

Yeah and you can see em running in the

There's always kids playing in that

You know there's plenty of that, and there's plenty of places round there you can have something to eat and you can just sit and relax and have a drink and what have you. But we don't do that but for people who live right next door, it's lovely for them you know.

Yeah

But as I say it is what it is

I think it's nice that they reuse the stadium for something else, it's not just sitting there empty which a lot of places do

That is the thing- what can I say? Even other football pundits say it's not a football ground, I don't know why, not only me, other people have said it as well. It could've been extended, or they could've made a new stadium at West Ham, you know like the side of railway, plenty of space. They couldn't extend it because of the bus garage, well guess what? Directly it had gone, the bus garage had gone anyway. You know if they were honest, I think people would feel different about it

Yeah

But it's not the stadium it's the people in charge.

Yeah

And er there you are

Thank you so much guys

Yeah thank you [laughs]

Really interesting thank you

Well it used to be, you know back in time [laughs]

Aww

I mean don't tell West Ham what we've said

No we won't [laughs]

[End]