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When did you first encounter skateboarding?

Funnily enough, it was actually at the bus station. I remember when I was going on a camping trip with the Beavers, or something like that, when I was well young and I just remember getting in trouble 'cause I was like running around on the ledges and stuff and they were like: "Man, you need to get out of the way." And, yeah, I was just getting in everyone's way and it was just like...yeah, I was a bit of a nuisance really, that sort of...yeah, I guess that was probably the first time I ever even seen it. I remember then going past on the buses and seeing it all there and stuff and, yeah, it was really cool. A few of my friends, like at school and that when I was younger, but yeah, I hadn't delved into the world of skateboarding yet. But yeah, it was pretty cool, but then...I suppose...well, I start...my first skateboard I ever got was an American one – my mum bought it for me. Me and my brother, we both had skateboards but I wasn't really into it at the time and I didn't have black griptape so that really like bugged me, so I didn't want to use my board. And my next-door neighbour like, Lou and Dave [who...I don't know, they skated around in Bletchley and, yeah, they used to have everyone go to their house and all skate out the front and that and I used to be a bit embarrassed to like go out on my rubbish board. Yeah, that sucked. So yeah, I remember I got my first board for Christmas – I actually got it on Christmas Eve – and then me and Jack Penny, we ended up going to this...the youth

club in Bletchley and just riding in the rain into the mud and stuff like that and it was just fun and...yeah, that was fun. So yeah, that was when I got my first skateboard – that was when I was twelve or thirteen. God yeah, been doing it for a long time now; I'm thirty-one now.

So when did you first start skating up in Milton Keynes?

Oh, that took me a few years, 'cause I had to build up the...you know, I had to get the tricks going, I had to be able to ride proper, 'cause that's where all the good skaters were, so I couldn't really just roll up and just...yeah, again, just get in people's way and stuff. I remember getting in... – it was Justin actually – I remember I got in his way once and he was proper screwing at me and I was just like: "Oh no," like...yeah, I don't even...looking back, it's funny but, yeah, it was a nightmare.

So did you feel quite intimidated when you first got to the Buszy then, as a young skater?

Oh of course, of course, 'cause everyone's so good down there, you know, like when you see all the older guys, like Rob Haywood and they're all just like ripping it up and skating well fast and doing loads of cool tricks and then, if you're just there like... 'cause you don't know what lines people are going in also, so then you're just getting in everyone's way and then, yeah, you're just a bit of a nightmare – same like when you go to any skate park, like, if you don't know what's going on and don't pay attention then you just get in everyone's way and...but yeah, so I'd started off, you just go round your mate's house and just skate the kerbs outside his house first, and we'd make little ramps and stuff. And then we'd skate the train station 'cause there were the kerbs over there, so you can just sort of practise all your tricks on there. But yeah, it took me a few years to go to the bus station 'cause the ledges are too high, so you'd only go there when it was raining, so yeah...no, it was good.

So what other places in Milton Keynes did you used to skate then?

Well, when I first started skating it would be around in Bletchley really. We'd go down to the college because the college used to have like...where they've all changed now and it's all nice modern buildings, whatnot, it had like weird undercover steps and you could just go and skate there all the time. All the...Bletchley train station, 'cause that had an undercover bit as well. Yeah, it took me a long time to sort of reach out to Milton Keynes, you know. Yeah, it was scary and plus your mum wouldn't let you go out, you know.

Were your parents quite supportive of you skateboarding?

My dad used to hate it. My dad used to hate it because it was so much money. He was just like: "Man, I'm paying sixty pounds for a skateboard and then like two months later you want another one. It's like, no way." So that was pretty tough and I remember I asked for a skate tool for Christmas and my dad could not fathom why it cost like thirty-five pound for some tool whatever, like. But yeah, he got it for me, he was hyped. Yeah, so they weren't not supportive but yeah, I don't know, it was all right, I had a pretty chill...I was just always...I don't know, at least I weren't going robbing cars or stuff and... So yeah, it was all right; yeah, it was pretty chilled. Yeah, it was nice.

So can you talk about the Elder Gate Crew, can you tell us about that?

Yeah, so...yeah, that's a collective of our friends all over Milton Keynes and...

So yeah, the Elder Gate Crew is a bunch of skateboarders from in...well, in and around Milton Keynes and we'd all reside on Elder Gate where the bus station is and, yeah...I can't remember what it was...I swear we had a name before that but I can't remember what it was. I think it was FTK but then there was something else, like, that was already doing that so then we had to change our name to EGC and, yeah, we just sort of run with it. We were all kids but yeah, we're still messing with it now. My football team's called EGC, so yeah it's still going but...yeah, we were quite renowned I'd say. (Sorry, I keep twisting my chair and I'm just sort of not thinking about it.) But yeah, so a group of lads I suppose all around my age, thirty-ish, but then yeah, it's sort of branched out, so yeah, it was good, it was nice.

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So what would be your claim to fame? Once you'd got your head round all the skateboarding and... What's your spot and what's your trick?

Oh, I don't know really. Oh, I don't know, that's a real tough one. What, like something that I've done that's like out there? Oh man. I don't know, I suppose people might say something different but my favourite thing I reckon I've ever done is...er...oh, I don't know. Oh man, this is quite hard. I don't want to be like bigging myself up, you know. *[Laughs]*

That looks pretty impressive that I can see there.

Oh yeah, that's switch pop shove it. Yeah, I've got no footage of that. I remember we went up there to try and get it and yeah I

was pretty...it wasn't the best roll-away, if I'm honest. But yeah, I was pretty hyped. Swampy took that. That was tight. Yeah, I don't think I'd do that again, man, them stairs are big. But yeah, I don't know, I had a photo in Sidewalk. I was pretty hyped at that but yeah, that wasn't in Milton Keynes so it's like...do you want to talk..?

It's still pretty good.

Yeah, I was pretty hyped, yeah. But I don't know, I've done a few bits. Like, Carter's filmed a few little parts for me and that and they've had a few...a couple of views, they're not like millions or anything like that...*[laughs]*. Yeah, I've done a few bits. I don't know, I've just been about, you know. I wouldn't say I was like a famous skateboarder or anything like that but, I don't know, I've just been about and...yeah.

I mean, what keeps you skateboarding?

It's a hobby, you know. I crave it sometimes, like, I don't know, I'm older now...at some points I used to like just take it for granted and not really go out that...like, I used to go out so much I used to be like: "I can't be arsed," you know. But now I crave it, like, you know, I've got a little boy now and I've got to work and stuff and I've got to be in bed, up early, so yeah, I've just got to get that fix or yay...yeah, that's good. Yeah, it's weird, I've never stopped. Like, a lot of my friends have sort of come and go and, you know...yeah, I've never stopped, always about it. Yeah, it's good.

So what's your favourite memory of skateboarding in Milton Keynes?

Oh, there's just so many. I'd say the best one is the people that I've met along the way, like, from different...I don't know, from different parts of life, you know. People you wouldn't have met otherwise, it's only because we're interested in skateboarding. You know, you'd get like some heavy metal dude coming through with a Mohawk and stuff and then, I don't know, there's me and, yeah, I'm into different stuff but then we still have that common ground but...yeah, I don't know, just the friends. I've done loads of stuff, met loads of people, gone and done loads of weird stuff like...yeah, I don't know, just venturing round, yeah, like just walking the streets. It's quite mad to think of it a bit like that but, yeah, just hanging about, doing loads of stuff. Yeah, it's good, it's fun but, yeah, I don't know. Yeah, there's loads of stuff that's happened.

So tell me about the Blind team coming through

Ah yeah, so when the bus station opened it was a 'hot spot', you know, everyone would come there, so people were coming from all over the world. And it was unannounced, it wasn't like a tour or anything like that, and then the bus just rolled up and, yeah, it was the Blind team and it was pretty epic. Like Ronnie Creager, Cory Sheppard, Jake Brown, James Craig, oh...and James Craig came up to me, like: "Yeah, hi, I'm James." And I was just like: "Man, I know who you are," you know. That was pretty nuts. And there was only a few people there and yeah, they were all just shredding. Ronnie Creager, he was doing loads of good stuff. On the old ledge he's done like, pop up manual, the whole ledge, then pop to nose blunt, first go. It was just like: "Wow."

And then they were asking about like different spots and someone had mentioned the ditch in Caldecotte and I knew where it was so, yeah, jumped on the bus with them, went down to Caldecotte. That was...yeah, it was a beautiful day. And yeah, it's a lovely place just to sit, you know. And yeah, Jake Brown, he come, sat on his board, ride down the bank, or the roll in, and then came out the other side, finger flip and landed back on his board and it was just like: "What!" And Ronnie Creager was just riding up and down on the edge by the water and I remember he just came down and just done like a 720 flip, well high, and just landed on it and he was just like: "What?" Just out of the...yeah, it was insane. But yeah, it was pretty sweet. I done quite well that day: got three boards, two sets of trucks and three sets of wheels for like thirty quid, or something like that. Yeah, and then that...that's one of them. It's like prop...yeah, don't know, all signed up and that. I don't really get stuff signed anymore. I feel like a bit old for that, you know: "Can I have your autograph please?" do you know what I mean? But yeah, when I was a kid, 2005 man, fourteen years I've had that. I did the setting it up and skating it but bottled it. Yeah, that was good, that was a good time.

But then I've seen loads of skate teams down the station, you know, like loads. Like, I've seen Tony Hawk down the station, like sat next to him, with his massive size fifteen feet or whatever. Yeah, that was crazy. Like, Kenny Hanson and Jeremy Wray just playing skate over the little bin. 'Cause there used to just be half-bins there and that's just what we used to skate on in the underpass...er, under the bus station. Like, that was nuts, yeah, well good. I remember we told some kids that Bam Margera was down the station and they all just ran down there. He wasn't down there but...yeah, that was pretty funny. Yeah, oh man, so many teams. Like Plan B team, that was epic. Surely you spoke about that, like...

00:10:18

Not much. Could you mention it?

Yeah, what's the Plan B team?

So, they done this thing called 'Battle of the Buszy', it was a big competition where people from, I'm going to say all over the country, came. Well, maybe some people came from overseas but I don't know. So it was the Plan B team which was a pretty epic team at the time. So they came over, they done the thing, I think it was with DC as well. Big competition, big names, and yeah it was epic. So, hundreds of people there, the photos are immense. And yeah, so where the T-block is, everyone's gathered round the end of the T-blocks and people were like, try tricks and then have to jump off 'cause there's just a group of people there. It was just nuts. Yeah but then it was just cool because all of their, you know, the top pros that everyone has known and followed forever are just sat there and you could just chill with them, chat with them. I remember I just started smoking weed with Colin McKay, just sat on the ledge and he's teaching me how to roll like a [\[quad-barrel shotgunzy? 00:11:10\]](#). I was there like: "What!" like, it was just nuts. Like.....but it happened and I'm just there like; "What the hell?" and yeah, just chatting with Danny Way and yeah, P-Rod's just sat behind me and we're just all chilling, it was just crazy, well good and, yeah, that was mental that day. There must be so much footage from that day as well 'cause that's a...I don't know, 'cause they got the Buszy shoe right, like the DC shoe? I don't know if that was for the opening of the bus station or if that was for the...

Can you talk about that 'cause no one's mentioned it ?

I don't really know much about it, I just...I don't know, because Rob was...well, as far as I'm aware, Rob was the DC team manager at the point of the bus station opening and whatnot and then there was a few people who were on DC who would come to Milton Keynes quite a lot. So I don't know how it ended up happening but yeah, there's a trainer called, 'The Buszy' – I don't actually own a pair; not my sort of style – but yeah man, it's happened; there's a shoe named after a skate spot. It's pretty cool. I don't think there's like a Southbank one or anything like that or...but yeah, it's pretty rad. I'd like to see it actually but, well, I'll see it at some point. But yeah, it's pretty cool that Rich actually got it though; it's pretty rad. But yeah, I don't know if it's linked with the opening or if it's to do with that Plan B, DC day but ah, that...yeah, top day that, top day.

Is there a favourite trick from the T-block jam on that day?

God, that day? Oh there was so many that day. That was when Sean done switch flip back tail bigspin out, off the T – that was pretty insane. But then P-Rod was just doing stupid stuff like, nollie heel nose grind. Ah, Jodie done switch heel flip back and that...switch heel back nose grind – that was pretty tight. Owen Hopkins, I think his name is, he done a hard flip back nose grind – that was pretty tight. Chewy was ripping it. I remember he was killing it. I can't remember exactly what tricks he'd done. Definitely back smith front 180 out. But yeah, he was just easy though so yeah, that was chill. But yeah, Sean was ripping it. Everyone...I don't think I even skated that day. I think I just chilled and just, you know, soaking in the atmosphere, seeing all the people that were around and that. Oh, it was rad; a really cool day. Just brought everyone together, like a reason to bring everyone together, so it was like really good.

I think that's something that's come out from all the interviews, about that sort of camaraderie in skateboarding. So...and you sort of mentioned it a bit in your interview but can you talk a bit more about how skating makes you feel and how you've kept doing it all these years?

It's just like a family, you know, it's like...skateboarding is like a family and all the people that I know through it we're all like...I don't know, not a struggle but, you know, we're all on the same vibe, we're all trying to do the same thing. Whether...no matter what level you're at, everyone's very supportive of one another and, yeah, it's just love, you know; everyone just loves hanging out and, yeah, I don't know...it's just...oh yeah, it's a wicked excuse to sort of get out and just see people. Sometimes I just roll out and just sit around and not really do much but you're just seeing what other people are doing. I like to watch it and yeah, just like to see who's around. I don't know, it's just...I can't imagine myself not skateboarding, you know; I have to, all the time. So it like...it upsets me if people are like, "Oh, I'm not really up for it at the moment," like some people don't come out for weeks, months, years and, yeah, you pester them trying to get them out but, yeah I don't know. It's love, I just love it; it's quality. I love the people...yeah, it's good fun.

You mentioned like the Plan B team but what about other times when there were people that weren't in like teams, like they had the Game of Skate, did you enter that?

00:15:00

Yeah, I remember that one

I think that was actually the opening of the bus station; that was that day.

So yeah, the older Game of Skate, that was run by Andy King who does the Arkology – I don't know if you spoke to him – but yeah, he...I suppose he's got a major part to play in the history because, yeah, he had his online thing and he used to roll up with his van and sell stuff and yeah, he just done that I guess as a promotion sort of thing and then, through different distributors, I suppose he got prizes and stuff and yeah, he filmed it. I don't think it was like humungous but then Mark also tried to...well, I was going to say tried to replicate but no, he did replicate it and he done another Game of Skate recently which, yeah, that was pretty chill. And then he done the...on Go Skateboarding Day, which yeah, you know, everyone comes out on Go Skateboarding Day, and we done like a bit of a competition, so we went around Milton Keynes, going to different places and doing tricks, and if someone done a trick get a little prize and that, so yeah, it was nice. So people were just hungry for it, you know, and then everyone else just comes as, you know, a support, come and say hello. Yeah, I don't know, yeah they were...they were quite good though. There wasn't really loads of jams and stuff at the bus station but, yeah, there was a few bits. Yeah, it was all right; it was good.

In terms of Milton Keynes, other people have said to us it's like the architecture of Milton Keynes has developed this whole new way of skating that you perhaps wouldn't have got in another town, they might have had like, ramps or something. Can you talk about the style of skating in Milton Keynes?

Yeah, the style of skateboarding in Milton Keynes...and I mean, not everyone...like, everyone's very different like, I don't know, it's very blocky, if that's a...if that's the right way to put it but yeah, it could do with like a ramp or something really because I'm terrible at skating ramps. Like I'd love to be able to skate on vert because we don't have it. But then like you go to say like Bristol for example, like, their main spot for a ledge, the ledge is just rounded and you think, 'God, how do you do that?' So it's kind of bad, actually, at the same time. Although Milton Keynes is so perfect and it's brilliant and I love skating here, but it makes us rubbish when we go everywhere else because we're just like: "Man, how are we going to skate this?" and, yeah. It's really good though; it's just perfection. Yeah, it's quite good. Obviously BMXs mess it up but that's another story. But yeah, it's...well, it's definitely paved the way, I'd say. So, like, I think other towns, when they get like a marble block they're like: "Oh my God, it's the best thing ever." But we've got like so many, just at our disposal, you know. Like you could turn them down... but yeah, people, yeah, would love to have it. And I suppose that's why people travel here, to come and have a look at it, you know. And

because everything's quite close knit, you can just sort of flutter around the whole city and you can check it out. Like, I don't know, there's some spots outside of like the centre but, yeah, you can spend the whole day in the centre of Milton Keynes and you'd be pretty catered for. Yeah.

What's your favourite spot, in Milton Keynes, to skate?

Well, that's a toughie. You go through phases I suppose but I guess the most common would just be the bus station, you know, I would...over the years, I've definitely spent a lot of my time there and, yeah, it's fun. That's where everyone is. But then like – I was talking about this the other day with Mark – it's like you only go other places now to do something, do you know what I mean? So say, like, if Mark wanted to do a trick down a handrail, I ain't skating the handrail, you know, I'll go and support him or watch him but he wants to do that so he'll go and do that. It's harder to get people just to sess' different places, you know. But yeah, I'd say bus station, that's blatantly the best one. Yeah, I don't know, what other ones are good? The Beige, that was classic; the Beige was classic, but then it's slowly become worse, like, whereas they put in the blind bumps and then these stoppers, stones and yeah, so that sucked but yeah, I'd say the bus station. But then like I used to love skating the alleyway and now the alleyway's been gated up at each end so I don't really go there. Yeah, it's changed. There's not as many places that you can just go and cruise at anymore. I guess that's why people stay at the bus station a lot. Yeah, someone will hate me for saying that but, yeah, we do stay there a lot.

And what about like clashes with like security guards, authority, that sort of thing, over the years

Are you allowed to say that? *[Laughs]* I don't know, there's been loads of stuff. Sometimes there's been fights and stuff like that but then ...I've seen people shoving over like security guards because they've grabbed them and stuff like that. Yeah, I don't know, you just get all these heroes. Even, like, not that long ago, some dude ended up getting in a headlock, rung the police, roll them on the floor and then it's just like, well, like: "We're just skating," you know. But, I don't know, they want to show their authority. But then you don't know, you could roll up somewhere and there could be a security guard who's been bothered twenty times that day and we're the last straw, you know, and yeah...although it's harmless.

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But yeah, I don't know, I used to love going in the city. I feel like I'm too old to go in there now though. I used to love skating John Lewis at the end – that was the best; well good in there. Or Waitrose five, like the amount of nights that I've spent there and

stayed there until like eleven, twelve o'clock, just skating the indoor five because there's no one around so you can just cruise through there. But yeah, it's hard work these days. And yeah, people like look at me like: "God, what's this guy doing? Man, you're like an old man trying to like come and skate in here." Oh yeah, I don't mess with that anymore but yeah it used to...sometimes it got a bit intense. Yeah, it was good though...*[laughs]*. It's just like kind of, I don't know, what makes it good is like, I don't know, not the thrill but you just sort of like...it makes you want to do the tricks too. So say like you've got three goes to do this trick, you'll try your hardest to try and get that before the security guard comes and like jumps in your way or puts his foot under your board and... Yeah, some of them are all right, and nightmares but, yeah. No, it's all right, it's not too bad.

It's a shame that it seems antisocial, isn't it?

Mm, for sure, but then, at the same time, you know, I'm a skateboarder, if someone was skateboarding outside my house I'd just be like: "Come on man, what are you doing?" But yeah, I know some people like take it to heart and think: "These guys are just trying to annoy me," and it's just like: "Come on man." Especially when people like are working in some building and they're like: "Oh yeah but you're not allowed to do it here," so it's like, it's not...I don't know, it's nothing to do with them and they're like trying to be a hero and...yeah. But it must be quite intimidating. I wouldn't be up for that. Imagine like working in one of these buildings, you've got ten skateboarders out there and you go: "Excuse me," you know, you wouldn't want to do it but yeah, I feel sorry for them. Yeah, it must be a hard job. *[Laughs]*

How do you feel about skateboarding becoming an Olympic sport?

I'm all for it really, I think it's a pretty good idea.

Skateboarding coming in the Olympics, I think it's a good...yeah, it's a good shout, I don't know, it's cool. There'll be, well potentially, more facilities and stuff. I mean, hopefully they don't have to wear like some Lycra or anything like that but, yeah man, it's tight. I mean, it's acceptance, isn't it? I used to get taken the mick out of when I was at school, badly, you know, like, I don't know – well, actually I say badly, well, it was just verbal, you know, people weren't beating me up 'cause I'd be on a skateboard, nothing like that but, yeah, I don't know. But now people like understand it and it's cool and it's a way of life, it's

not just...I don't know, it's not...I can't...I'd love to imagine what people sort of see it as, do you know what I mean? I'm in it so I know that it's good and I like it and it's like, yeah, I don't know. Not a lot of people have hobbies though; not a lot of people do. Like, growing up and seeing like some of what my friends, you know, I went to school with or...I don't know, you just think, 'What do you do?' Not to be moody but, yeah, they're like: "Oh, you're always out skateboarding and that." And you're like: "Yeah, you're just down the pub mate. What difference, like? I'm going to be...this is what I like. Yeah man..." It's good, it's good.

You just mentioned a little bit about when you were at school. Was it your clothes that were different?

Ah yeah, now for sure. Well, I remember when I got my first pair of Vans, that was...

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00:23:45

Yeah, skate fashion. So yeah, at school I remember getting my first pair of Vans, people were just like, "Oh my God, look at this. grebo this; grebo that," and they just couldn't understand it. But then the thing is, I don't know, I've always been into wearing Nikes and stuff like that my whole life, so I used to have Air Maxes when I was at school and stuff like that, but then people couldn't fathom it 'cause like I was a grebo, what they were calling me, but I'd be rocking my Air Maxes and stuff. And they used to say I liked grebo hip hop and stuff like that and it was just like, "What?" I just...oh, I don't know. Again, they just don't understand it, they don't know what it's about. Don't know, I can't imagine people who have like – I mean, I could be completely wrong – but I can't imagine kids taking the mick out of other kids who skate now, 'cause it would just be like, no way. Like, all these kids are wearing Vans and stuff and all Nike SB and Adidas...yeah, I don't know, it's a big thing now, isn't it? I remember when I got my first pair of Dunks, like 'cause this was before they were SB, I remember when I had to go to the shop to go and get them – well, obviously. I went to the shop the morning they came out to go and get them and everyone just ripped me for wearing them. Like: "Look at them, oh my God, space boot this..."

And I'm saying like: "What the hell?"

I remember saying that...Calape, big influence for me 'cause he used to go to my school and he used to be sponsored by Clown and it was he was super good and because it was so close knit as well, I remember he came up to me and he said my shoes were tight and I was like: "Yeah..." and it was all...yeah, that was wicked, that was good; yeah, that was well good. Oh, Calape, you must have spoken to Calape.

00:25:12

We've interviewed him, yeah.

Oh man, he was an absolute...he was a general back then though. Well he still is, he's a really good skateboarder but he was like a high level and he was at my school and he was like a bit of a urban legend, shall we say? And Rob as well, like Rob, 'cause he's from Bletchley also...I'm from Bletchley

Rob Selley?

Yeah, Rob Selley, he's from Bletchley and it's quite funny 'cause his mum knows my mum and when I first got into skateboarding I knew who he was but not that my mum knew him; it was quite weird. And so I got my skateboard on the Christmas Eve, 'cause I was bugging my mum to give me it early 'cause I knew she had it for me, and the next day I remember Rob come round to drop a present and a card off for my mum from his mum and I was just there like: "Oh my God!". Yeah, it was pretty nuts. Yeah, Rob...yeah, I've known Rob a long time; he's tight, good guy. You must have interviewed him right? He won't, won't he?

We're trying but no.

Oh, he's such a wimp. Man, I'll tell you what, he's got stories for sure. Yeah, I highly rate that guy, he's a super good dude.

Do you have a story about Rob Selley you can tell us? A skateboarding story.

Not skating but, man I tell you, when I was younger I used to bug him so much, man. I used to bug him so much. I bet he regrets giving me his phone number, man. I used to... 'cause he always used to say he taught me how to like boards and shoes and stuff – which he did, definitely sorted me out; shout out to Rob for that – but yeah, I used to bug him hard, used to ring him all the time: "Oh, can you meet me, can you meet me, can you meet me?" Yeah, that was funny. But yeah, he's just a top guy, super humble guy; like him...

There's been a few Milton Keynes skateboarders that have been sponsored. So how does that process happen? So just talk me through, if you're at the bus station or wherever you might be, how would it happen?

To get sponsored, I guess...well, for the people...well, how I see it – I don't know 'cause I'm not sponsored – but you've just got to be ripping it up all the time. If people are talking about you then that's how you're going to be noticed and, well, I guess...well, Sean, for a perfect example, when the bus station

first opened he was killing it. So where all these people are coming in: “Who’s that guy from the bus station?” you know, and it’s him and...yeah, I guess that’s how it works, I don’t know. But then, for Rob, it must have been very different because there wasn’t so much social media and stuff like that at that time and you’d have to see the videos, so it must have been a lot harder back then. But yeah, I don’t know, but then he’s about, you know, he would have been going about here, there and everywhere and filming all over the place. That’s what it is, you’ve just got to be documenting stuff everywhere. And that’s how these guys are doing it now, it’s just through Instagram. I think there’s definitely two categories of skateboarder now: there’s like the sort of older style where they’re collecting up footage and then they’ll just put one project out and it’ll be like, boom, there it is; and then there’s the other guys who are coming through on Instagram and they just think, keep pushing it out just every day, just a clip and stuff like that. But I think less is more, personally, and I think that’s how Rob done it and that’s how Sean done it. Yeah, it’s tight, yeah them guys...them guys done all right but, yeah.

So do you follow Instagram now though, MK..?

Oh yeah, you’ve got to haven’t you? Well yeah, I like a bit of Instagram, me. Yeah, for sure. But yeah, that’s how you see it but everything’s just become so disposable now, you know. So, just one thing’ll be, I don’t know, ‘trending’ – that’s what it’s called, isn’t it? – trending, and then two days later it’s just gone, so, I don’t know, it’s weird; different times.

Do you think the early days of skateboarding, when there would be somebody with a camera for instance, and they would just take...they were all day trying to get that one shot — do you think they tried a bit harder in those days?

Oh no, yeah, I think, well...no, it’s still the same ‘cause like I said, there was different people who’d go and do different things. People were working hard to go and get them clips, you know, people would go back three, four days in a row, just to get that trick and, you know, persistence prevails, you know, so yeah, I wouldn’t say it was harder...well, back then it was probably harder ‘cause the tricks hadn’t been invented, you know, so they’re actually developing new moves to do. Whereas now, like, obviously the new tricks have been done but, yeah, just combos and stuff and...I don’t know, yeah, the levels are a lot higher and the tricks are a lot harder now but I wouldn’t say they were trying harder, you know. Yeah, it’s very different. Yeah ‘cause think, in ten years’ time, people are going to be insane. ‘Cause like, I don’t know, let’s just say James Bush, for example, if he got dropped in the nineties, he would just be like:

“What the hell is this?” you know. But yeah, just different times, you know. And it’ll change again and it will be a different sort of way and, I don’t know.

Do you think Milton Keynes will always have that reputation though? Do you think people will always want to come to Milton Keynes to skate?

I don’t know. I feel like, at the moment, it’s a change; there’s like a shift. It’s like sort...I don’t know, at the moment I feel it’s very...it’s changed, it’s very streety now, like, it’s not necessarily about doing the hardest tricks, it’s more to do with – this is just my opinion; other people would say something completely different – but, I don’t know, I think people, rather than doing like the hardest tricks – try to do like flip in, flip out, flip over there – they want to do just like nice, simple things, on obscure objects, do you know what I mean? So like it’s more about going out and finding something new and untouched as opposed to skating that same thing, you know? Yeah, I don’t know, different.

00:30:40

So, in Milton Keynes, do you think there will be new spots that will be discovered or do you just..?

Oh yeah, well...

...start with, ‘In Milton Keynes...’

Yeah, spots will always be discovered in Milton Keynes, like, all the time. I don’t know, I go looking all the time, take me dog out and just have a little wander and see what I can find. But...and it’s also like a change in the times as well, in regards to tricks and what people would be trying at that time, because there might be a spot, I don’t know, not up the city but...well actually, behind Wetherspoon’s there’s like a building and it’s got this like really steep banks on the side of it and, like, years ago a few of us...[unclear 00:31:14]...and try and do a few tricks on it and, yeah, we got some clips on there, whatever. But then Josh Gregory just, you know, done something completely different and, yeah, I don’t know if that was, like, the...I don’t know, he was just completely out there, like, I couldn’t have even imagined trying that trick and he does, like...goes up on the bank like a almost quick ollie – it’s walley, nollie, 270 over this hip thing back into the steep wall and it’s just like: “Whoa,” and yeah, that was insane.

So yeah, it will always...I don’t know, it’s always going to develop all the time. People will just look at stuff differently and, I don’t know, say if someone can ollie higher, they’ll come and they’ll be like: “Oh, well, ollie over that and...” Yeah, I don’t know, it will always change and there will always be...I don’t

know, I think if something new was made in Milton Keynes then people would come. Or if...even down to something like, say if James went to a new rail that's never been skated but...well, an old rail that has never been skated and he'd done a basic trick on it, then people will go: "Where's that rail? We need to go to Milton Keynes, we need to go and do that." And then people will come and then the trend will start again, you know. 'Cause the Posthouse rail that had a...that's always been quite popular – it's a nine stair rail at the back of the Posthouse. And yeah, that goes through little phases where you have like someone come and then a month later somebody else will come, and it will be, like, someone else will come, and then it will die out again. And then someone else will come a few years later and do something else, you know. Yeah, it's always, I don't know, people are into different stuff and they can't get there at that time or whatever. I don't know, it's like me going to London or whatever, so there could be a spot there all the time but as...my trick selection is different to whoever's been there before. So yeah, it will always keep going. Yeah, it's like the brown bar, perfect example, that'll...there will always be tricks that have never been done and someone will always come and do a new one. Yeah, it's always going to carry on. I wonder what new stuff will be made. Yeah, I don't know; yeah, it's nice. Sorry, I went on a bit of a tangent then.

No, no that's fine. Somebody else mentioned that – I think it was Richard wasn't it? – about skateboarders' minds, that...

Skateboarders' eye, yeah, where you...

Yeah, skaters' eye...

So if you could explain your version of that, maybe some examples of things you've seen, maybe that you have skated or haven't skated. When you're walking your dog, for example. Is there anything you can think of?

What, like a spot hunter?

Yeah.

Ah yeah, so a skateboarders' eye. Yes definitely a...you've got to be well trained with this skater eye. There's only a few people who have got it. Yeah, the spot hunters and yeah, just go out and...Mark's a serious spot hunter. I actually think he's... – don't hold me to this – but I think he's got an Instagram, Milton Keynes skate spots. I don't know though; someone has. But yeah, just going out, just finding that new stuff, that new...yeah, I don't know, I love that...I love going out and just looking for new stuff and finding that thing and you're always looking at something and going: "Oh, someone could do that on that, or

you might be able to do that.” My girlfriend gets wound up because I’m always like going: “Spot check. Spot check. Hold on, let me get a photo of that,” and yeah, I don’t know, always...even down to floor: “This is a nice floor,” do you know what I mean? You’re just walking around and people are like, “What are you on about man?” and it’s like: “You could do some good tricks on this,” and yeah, it’s funny. Yeah, I don’t know, I can’t think of any other sort of sport – well, other than like BMXing and blading – that you’d even look at that, like, architectural...a different architectural eye, ‘cause someone would look at a building and go: “Ah, look at that lovely detailing in the windows,” and you would just be like: “Look at that ledge on the floor,” like...yeah, I don’t know; yeah, it’s different isn’t it? Hmm, that’s quite funny.

That’s fantastic, yeah, I feel we’ve covered a lot. Is there anything you think we’re missing from the EGC story, or..?

No, but what about the [Theorem? 00:34:54] skate shop?

Yeah, that was exactly what I was going to mention. Sorry mate, yeah. Theorem, could you explain that, ‘cause there was another skate shop with the Ince family very, very early on.

00:35:00

Yeah, ‘cause that was in the bus station right?

Yeah, so could you explain Theorem ‘cause no one’s actually mentioned that. Thank you.

Yeah, so Theorem, [Mac Hollett 00:35:07] he was the one who started that. Actually, it started off Arcadia, that was in the city, yeah, that was opposite where the Levi shop is now – I think it’s Levi’s – but yeah, there’s a...that’s where Arcadia used to be. Rob used to work in there, Ben Palmer, [Mac Hollett?] and, yeah, some other guy. Yeah but then that all packed in. It was quite an expensive shop, it was like a designer skate shop, so they had like, I don’t know...I don’t know, it was quite expensive and when you’re a kid you can’t really afford it and that’s when my dad started kicking off about that tool and that. But yeah, so [Mac?] ended up starting a skate shop called Theorem. So yeah, it started off as a barrow outside HMV up the city. It was a really cool thing that, you know, people would go and meet there and that would be like the meeting spot, everyone chat, hang out, grab a coffee, you know, just chill. And then – I’m only assuming but it must have been due to like rent or something like that – he couldn’t stay up there any longer so he ended up going down to the bus station. I don’t know if it was actually before the bus station or if it was just a clever move before the bus station opened, so it would be like, “Well, if I move down there, that’s where the skaters are.” But yeah, so he opened a

shop in there, where the Ince shop used to be. I don't actually know what that was called; that was way before my time, that. Yeah, I...I worked in the **Theorem** briefly, that was pretty cool. Yeah, just always being down the station and used to be...like, if no one was about I used to be able to just lock the shop up and go and skate, so that was chill. Yeah, and you'd always...you'd never miss anyone. So like, in that sense, when some team come down, it would be like...[unclear 00:36:41]...saying what's up. Yeah, that was pretty good and yeah, that was lovely. And [Mac's?] a top guy. Yeah, I'd like to see him again actually. Yeah, he messaged me when I had me boy, actually. Yeah, top guy. And yeah, definitely a big part, a staple in the Milton Keynes scene. I remember he was sick at skating too, I remember nollie 5-0s off the T-block. I remember he tried to nollie the stairs, about that far before the stairs, just landed on the top]...[laughs]. That was proper funny. But yeah, top guy.

So have you kept all your boards?

No way; too many...[laughs]. Yeah, I couldn't even tell you how many boards I've had.

Could you tell us then what did you do with all your old boards if you didn't keep them?

All my old boards? Yeah, I definitely didn't keep them. You just, I don't know, if I was...if I had a bit of money you just...if you was feeling good you can just give boards away, you know, so if I had a fresh enough board and say someone...yeah, I'd just give them away. Yeah, I don't...I haven't kept any. The only boards I've kept are like pieces that I think are like artistically nice and I want to keep them to have. You know, like the 'Long Live Southbank' board, the Palace one, like that's super cool. Yeah, I spent a lot of time in London skating, growing up, so yeah, I've got a passion for that for sure. I wish there was a bus station board. I was trying to get Mark to do one for Tranquil like, yeah, I think that would be super cool. And like Rob's board, I'd love, love, love to have that 01908 board, Rob Selley's one; like that, yeah, that's serious, I'd love to have that. I've never even seen it in real life, just seen pictures, but yeah, I'd love to have that. Is there one of those in the collection, like, in...well, going to be in the thing? No boards?

I don't know, maybe.

We're not sure about that part, that's...we're not working on that part of the project, we're just doing the filmmaking.

Hopefully, yeah.

Oh, fingers crossed. 'Cause I was a bit gutted actually 'cause I missed out on the...was it at the Gallery when everyone met up to go and bring all the bits in. I saw a few pictures from that. Yeah, well jealous; couldn't get up there. Sucked. But yeah, like, I don't know, sort of, my contribution's quite...I don't know, I suppose it's different, different times and stuff like that, 'cause I bet like, I don't know, Lindsay and that, they must have some crazy stuff. It's like, I don't even really know them guys, I don't know them, but like I know who they are and, without being like weird, I'm sure they know who I am, but we don't...I don't know, it's just different generations isn't it?

Well, I think that's the thing that's come out of this project, is that there have been so many different generations. Like the guy that we were just talking to before you...

I've never even seen him in my life.

...well, he's like fifty-six now, so he...but he was one of the very early Bletchley skaters before Milton Keynes was even built really.

Yeah, so you'd have been all right chatting to him, especially from Bletchley as well, you know what I mean?

Yeah, yeah.

So is there anything, do you think, missing or shall we give the transcribers a break?

Yeah, I think that's about it, isn't it, yeah, I think we've answered...yeah. I think we've done it all, yeah.

00:40:19

END OF INTERVIEW