

Name: Ebony Carr
Address: Greenleys, Milton Keynes
Date of Birth: 1999
Place of Birth: Milton Keynes
Date of Interview: 1st February, 2018
Interviewed by: Moss Bancroft
Duration: 00:13:06

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So, it's the 1st February, 2018. This is Moss Bancroft and I'm interviewing Ebony Carr. Could you tell us where you were born, please?

I was born in Milton Keynes.

Fantastic. So, can you tell us a little bit about where you grew up in Milton Keynes?

(When and where she was born.)

Oh, I'm sorry, yes. I will just pause there for a moment. Could you please tell us..? I'll start again. I'm interviewing Ebony Carr on the 1st February, 2018 and it's Moss Bancroft interviewing. Could you tell us your year of birth, please?

My year of birth is 1999.

Okay, and could you tell us where you were born?

I was born in Milton Keynes.

Thank you. So could you tell us a little bit about where you grew up in Milton Keynes?

So, from a young age, I grew up in Stacey Bushes and then we moved over to Greenleys, so not too far. And I've been there ever since.

So, when did you first realise you had a talent for running?

I first realised I had a talent for running when I was in year three and I was in a football match and someone kicked the ball forward and I ran after it; and then kind of everyone in the crowd was like, “[Gasp], oh my god,” and then it was from there I realised that I had a talent.

Excellent. That’s quite young, isn’t it?

Yeah, very.

So, when you were growing up through, sort of, primary, secondary school, was there a lot of opportunity for you to develop those skills at school?

Oh, a hundred per cent. There was lots of opportunities for me to develop that, as I did a lot of sport so I learnt different types of skills which were to then help me in my athletics. And I was just generally fit as well so, you know, I could do long jump, long distance, you know, I didn’t just focus on sprinting when I was young but, as I grew up, you kind of focus more on one event.

Okay, so which school did you go to?

I went to Wyvern first, then I moved up to Bushfield and then I went up to Stantonbury Campus.

Okay, so while you were at Stantonbury did you take place in lots of events like sports days and things like that?

Yeah, I was kind of the star of sports day when I was in Stantonbury...[laughs].

Excellent. Where else do you like to train in Milton Keynes?

I currently train at Stantonbury track but I also do a lot of training in the gym and we also like to go up to Willen Lake during the winter to do hill sessions...[laughs].

Winter hill sessions can’t...sound quite intense. How is it, training in the winter?

Training in the winter is difficult because it’s freezing but you do have your benefits. I mean, you get up really early on a Sunday morning but it’s fresh, the air’s fresh, not many people do it, so you’ve got that extra advantage.

That’s fantastic. And you’ve said, in the emails you sent before, there’s a bit of a problem. What are the issues of not having an indoor track in Milton Keynes?

Not having an indoor track in Milton Keynes has proven to be very, very difficult, especially for obviously the athletes at Stantonbury. A lot of us suffer from regular injuries, cold, basic illnesses, because we haven't got the indoor facilities to use whereas, like, other clubs, when they do have it, they've got an advantage already because they're not out in the snow, sleet, rain, you know, they have that benefit of that.

Okay. Could you tell us a bit about some of the clubs? There's MMKAC. Could you tell us about that?

Yeah, that's Marshall Milton Keynes Athletics Club, so that's at Stantonbury Campus. To be fair, it is a really, really good track but, you know, it's quite small. There's not many athletes who train at the track so we don't have the funding to be able to kind of progress more and more and become a bigger and better club.

Okay so, across Milton Keynes, do you think there is a way we could solve the problem of not having an indoor track? Is there anyone you can apply to for funding, or..?

I think, across Milton Keynes...it's quite difficult but I think if, as a city, we focussed less on, say, football and more on the talents in different industries, such as athletics, there might become more funding from that. I find that, when I read newspapers and stuff, there'll be five pages about how MK Dons did and a small section on how athletes done and a lot of our athletes are very, very good. Me...like, I've been to different countries, compete for GB. A lot of other people in my club, they've been abroad to run, they'd medal at all big events. So I feel like if, as a city, we focussed more on athletics there could be more funding from that.

Fantastic, there's a great idea. You're so right. [Laughter] So, you say you've been to other countries and you've been representing Team GB to...on whichever level that is. How does it feel representing the country, and Milton Keynes as well, as an athlete?

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Representing Milton Keynes and Great Britain is an unbelievable achievement. I feel very honoured to. Even if it's just for the relay, I'm still going out there and just showing, you know, the talent that Great Britain and Milton Keynes has. And it is amazing when you get to see other talents as well, when you get to meet different people and communicate with different people, branch out, you know, it's just...it's a really, really good feeling.

Where have you been to, just out of interest?

So, in 2017 I went to Italy and Germany to compete and it was an amazing experience.

That's fantastic. Sounds like you got lots of opportunities there.

Yeah.

So, if your career took you away from Milton Keynes, where would you go and how would that feel?

It's difficult to say because different opportunities come, so you can't be sure where you can go but I think my heart always lies here, you know. If it wasn't for the people in Milton Keynes I would not be where I am today so, even if I did move away, I would still represent Milton Keynes.

So what would you say is your strongest connection to Milton Keynes, then?

Probably just being the athlete, you know. Growing up, kind of people knew me as, 'Oh, that's that fast girl. That's that fast girl.' They didn't actually know my name at first but now they do and I think, when you do have a talent and people recognise it, especially your age, you do get kind of known and I think it connects you to different types of things – different types of people in different types of sports.

So, you talked a little bit about this in your email but I'd like to hear it from you for the video. What's your ultimate dream for your career then?

I will be the first woman to break ten seconds...*[laughs]*...I can assure you that.

Wow, that's fantastic. Did you say you'd also like to compete in a particular..?

Yes, I will also be in the 2020 Olympics. *[Laughs]*

Fantastic. It's lovely to see you so confident. That's good.

Yes, I will be.

So you'd like to win some medals maybe. What medals have you won so far? I see that you...

So, obviously different competitions: there's, like, National South of England, it's...well, it's either/or, you know; it depends on the day. But say, for example, at European Juniors, in the relay, we actually won bronze medal so, out of the whole of Europe, GB's won bronze, which was amazing. Me, personally, at Nationals in the hundred metres, I've won bronze medal; I've won South of

England in the two hundred. So I normally do medal in the major events, which is good.

Wow, that's fantastic. So you've been in Milton Keynes your whole life so far. It's got to fifty years of Milton Keynes being around. Do you see...what do you see happening in the next, sort of, fifty years of Milton Keynes?

I definitely see Milton Keynes progressing. I think, you know, there's a lot of potential in this town and there's a lot of talent and I think, you know, if we keep using what we've got, we can definitely progress into a bigger and better city, definitely.

Fantastic. Has anyone else got more questions?

[Discussion about further questions]

So other than training for athletics, what else do you like to do in Milton Keynes? How do you socialise?

I kind of go clubbing – obviously, you know; teenager – but I also do a lot of things with friends like go out for meals and go cinema, bowling. Kind of, book trips away to, like, Thorpe Park, things like that. I...but I mostly do kind of train. So, I do socialise but I do do a lot of training so it's kind of...it evens out, though; I have a healthy balance of both, so I'm not kind of always training, I do have my time to see friends 'cause I think if I didn't the sport wouldn't be as exciting as it is...*[laughs]*.

Okay, so yeah, do you think there are any failings for people of your age in Milton Keynes, or anything that's missing for you, apart from the sports?

Personally, no. I think I'm...you know, I'm a very good teenager: I do what I need to do and I have a hobby. But I think, for some teenagers, you know, who go down the wrong path, I think they're kind of bored. There's not that much out there that teenagers can do, especially with the ones who don't work. See, a lot of stuff does cost money so I'm grateful enough, I do have a job, so I can...like, I can pay for things but I think, for the teenagers who don't have jobs, don't go to school, don't go to college, there's nothing out there to kind of entice them in to have a hobby or stay on the right track.

Interesting, is there...do you think there's anything we could do about that, as a city?

It's difficult because I think the youth of today is very, very different to what it was. Obviously I'm only nineteen so I don't know but, stories I've heard, there's a lack of something that the youth of

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today have that the older generation had. So it's just one of those things that maybe, if you did put something out there, someone may not take it because they're just in the mind-set of doing what they want to do.

Fair enough. Fantastic. Anyone else? This is really interesting...

I was going to ask you about the gold post boxes. Do you think we'll have a gold post box for you?

Yes, and I'll also be under Greg with the metal sculpture; I'll be there running in the starting blocks – a hundred per cent, I know I will.

That's lovely. Could we rewind there and could you just explain about the post box? I love the thing about the [unclear] thing but if you could just sort of tell us about the gold post box?

So, the gold post box was put in after Greg won the Olympics in 2012 and it was like a massive thing, you know. And there's also a sculpture of him near Woburn Sands, 'cause he...that's where he lives – well, grew up. And I will be underneath...*[laughs]*...I will definitely be underneath.

Along with Greg, who's obviously...who else is your, sort of, inspiration, your motivator?

[Brief discussion about the interview]

My motivation at the moment is definitely Dina Asher-Smith. I think she's very young, motivated, very talented young lady. She's still, what, in her early twenties and currently at uni where she has just recently graduated; and I think she's done so well to progress in the sport and keep up her education as well, so I think that's very inspiring and something that I can look forward to and, kind of, take what she's done and use it in myself, in a way, and do what...well, do what she's done, basically.

So you would like to go to university as well?

At the moment I'm kind of in between. I think university, for me, I'd have to look into it a bit more and find the right university for me, personally, because of athletics: you need to make sure you find the right coach, the right track, also a coach that can liaise with your current coach. So it is quite difficult but I think, in the future it's definitely something that I would take a look at and, you know, really think about going to, as long I find the right one.

So your career as an athlete has got to come first, is that right?

Yeah, my career as an athlete definitely has to come first. Because it's what I want to do, I need to put that before anything else and weigh up my options before I make any decisions.

Brilliant, that's really amazing. I love that.

Really good

I've never done an interview before.

Really?

No, never.

Well, congratulations.

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END OF INTERVIEW