

<b>Interviewee(s): Greyhound racing group (G).</b>	<b>Interviewer(s): Unknown interviewer (INT).</b>
<b>Date of Interview: Unknown</b>	<b>Ref: EL2-18-1-1-T</b>
REGION	<i>East Lothian</i>
TOWN	<i>Wallyford</i>

0h 00m 00s

INT: Your fathers had dogs, in the industry? What work did you do with them?

G: Uh... Ask me- did you ask me that?

INT: Yeah. How old are you, to start with?

G: Yeah, I'm sixteen.

INT: Sixteen. What about the dogs you keep at home? Can you tell me about the one that your father owns?

G: Well, he goes- takes it walks every day and when it's running, ye've got to run it doon, ken, to get fit for the night and, eh... We just keep it tae a strict diet, the same diet every day. So, we gie it the same food every day, it doesnae get a choice.

INT: What sort of food do you give it?

G: Well, in the morning, ye just gie it a cereal, ken, cornflakes or something. And then at- ye just gie it two meals. That's at breakfast time, when ye gie it a cereal and at about suppertime ye gie it chunks o meat, big, of something like mutton or something. Something like that. If it runs, ye gie it big bits o steak and that.

INT: How often does your dad's dog run?

G: Well, it's... Aboot... Twice. Twice every fortnight.

INT: Is that Wallyford and Powderhall?

G: It- well, it runs everywhere else, as well. Armadale and [Carntyne?] and places like that, but it's better here.

INT: Are you planning to keep dogs of your own once you-?

G: Aye, when I'm older. When I'm going to my...

INT: Does it cost a lot to keep a dog?

G: Aye, and it depends where ye get the dog frae. Ken, if ye bring it across frae Ireland, that's a- it has tae get brought across on the ship and it's usually brilliant dogs frae Ireland and they cost aboot four hundred and fifty a piece, for a dug across frae Ireland. If ye just get yin, ye ken, oot a kennel or that, well, it'd just cost you aboot a hundred and fifty, it's still a good dug.

0h 02m 10s

INT: What's the average number of years a dog, a good dog, runs?

G: Well... It's... It starts running when it's fourteen month, that's when it starts running good, and it runs 'til it's aboot four years old and efter that, it's done.

INT: And what about you? Are you still at school or are you working?

G: Aw...

INT: Or not working?

G: I'm trying tae get a job but... I've wrote away tae all the places and I can't get a job.

INT: What sort of job would you like?

G: Precision engineer.

INT: Do you need to do a training for that?

G: Aw well, I'm going tae this training course on the twentieth of May. Ken, I'm going up tae Leith tae dae a training course, so I might get a job frae that.

INT: And you come to every dog race down here?

G: Aye. I go tae Powderhall on a Saturday and, eh... Where was it? Thornton on a Wednesday.

INT: Ye never fancied going down the pits like your dad?

G: I would dae anything, as long as I got a job.

INT: Mmhm. What else do you do in all this time that you're not working? You've got the dogs; you look after the dogs – what else do you do?

G: Go to the Fa'side, couple o games o pool and that. It's a pub up the road, just go there and just play cairds and that, pass the time away.

INT: Is there anything that you fancy doing that you can't do in Wallyford because it's not...?

G: Ken, there's- they should open the community centre all the time, I think, cause there's nothing for the young folk tae dae. Gets boring.

INT: What do you do in the community centre that's different from the pub and the dogs?

G: Well, I... On a Monday night, there's discos and ye ken, and there's lassies going and that. And the same on a Thursday night. But oan the other nights there's nothing. That's it: just a Monday night and a Thursday night.

**0h 04m 05s**

INT: Does your dad tell you stories of what it used to be like in the old days?

G: Aye, oh, he tells me... He tells me about the birds and aw that *[laughter]*.

INT: He still works at-? *[inaudible]*

G: Aye, he's an oversman at Bilston Glen.

INT: Mm.

*[pause in recording]*

INT: *[inaudible]*

G: Eh?

INT: What's your name?

G: Paul Duncan. Paul Duncan.

INT: And how old are you, Paul?

G: Fifteen, the morn.

INT: And what's the name of the dog that your father keeps?

G: Magic, at Wallyford.

INT: And do you help about looking after it?

G: Aye, I walk it every day.

INT: How far do you have to walk it?

G: Eh... One and a half miles.

INT: Are you interested in the dogs, yourself?

G: Aye.

INT: Do you come here every race meeting?

G: Every night. Every Monday and Friday.

INT: Monday and Friday?

G: Aye.

INT: What about- do you want a dog yourself one day?

G: Aye.

INT: Do you think it's worth it?

G: Aye.

INT: What else are you interested in in your spare time?

G: Nothing.

INT: Nothing at all?

G: Just dugs. Just dogs.

G: What about the discos and that?

G: Aye, and I go to discos an aw.

INT: Why do you go to the discos? Are you a good dancer or do you just fancy the birds?

G: Fancy the birds.

ALL: *[laughter]*

INT: Can I ask you what you'd like to do when you leave school?

G: Don't know.

INT: Have many of your friends left school?

G: Aye.

INT: And what are they doing?

G: On the dole.

0h 06m 00s

INT: No- you've no idea at all what you want to do?

G: No.

INT: What does your father do?

G: Works in the pit.

INT: Do you not fancy doing that?

G: No.

INT: Why not?

G: He told me not to.

INT: Why did he tell you not to?

G: Cause he's got- well, cause he's been working in the pit all his life and he got a bad back through it. That's why I walk the dugs... I was going to say, we just got a- that dug frae Ireland. That's where we got Magic, frae Ireland.

INT: So, that's one of the big expensive dugs?

G: Aye.

INT: That's just the one dug you've got?

G: Aye.

INT: What about your dad? Are there any other things he does in his spare time or is it just dogs all the time?

G: [*inaudible*]

INT: Then we'll go on pause.

G: [*inaudible*]

INT: How much pocket money do you get each week?

G: Well, I might get money the night but I get... Ye get about two pound, and I get money from Anna.

INT: And is getting your money conditional that you look after the dog or do you just do that anyway?

G: I look efter the dug.

INT: What do you do with your money?

G: Spend it [*laughter*].

INT: On [*laughter*]? On? ...It's alright.

G: [*laughter*] Cigs. Fags.

INT: [*laughter*] What about the disco? Does that cost money?

G: Aye. Well, I've got a membership.

G: And I've got a membership, too.

G: I've got ten pound on me the night an aw, cause I sellt one pair o bondage troosers, that I used tae wear to the disco.

G: That's the membership I get for the disco.

INT: Do you bet your own dog?

G: No.

G: Sometimes.

G: [*inaudible*] -when ye ken it's trying.

G: I put forecasts on. Twenty pence forecasts.

**0h 08m 00s**

INT: That's the way to do it, is it?

G: Mmhm.

INT: Better than betting one dog? Sorry.

G: Sometimes it is. Though, last week oor dug won it six tae one and, eh... The boy that had- eh, this boy had, I think it was, ten pound, nine pound, on it and he won sixty pound. My dog had none on it.

INT: Andy, how much pocket money do you get?

G: Well, I get... I get sixty pence. Ken, that's thirty pence at night and thirty pence in the morning. That's every day and I just get money, ken, if I need it, to go oot.

G: That's no much.

G: And every Saiturday, I go tae the fitba and I get three pound every Saturday to go tae the fitba.

INT: So, you're interested in football as well as the dogs?

G: Aye.

G: He supports Hearts.

INT: What do you support?

G: Hearts. Go every week, home and away.

INT: Do you think you get enough money?

G: Oof, plenty. Near enough.

INT: When your dad- I mean, I suspect your dad might have said how hard done by he was in his youth...

G: Aye.

INT: Do you believe these stories?

G: Aye. He tellt me aboot, they used tae go to the pictures wi a jeely jar or something and get in wi a jelly jar and they used to go in wi a... Wi a half a crown and they used to get in and get a big pock o sweets and chews and aw that and they still had change left ower. And he says now, ye can only get a bar o toffee for it and that's it.

INT: Do you think you're better off today than your dad was?

G: By far. Aye, I think I am.

INT: Even if you're not working?

G: Nuh. I reckon... Cause he gets plenty pocket money. He gets mair then me anyway *[laughter]*.

**0h 10m 02s**

INT: He's been living longer *[laughter]*!

G: Well, he gets it, I want mair.

*[pause in recording]*

*[dogs whining and barking]*

*[inaudible]*

G: Number one won!

*[pause in recording]*

*[dogs barking]*

*[inaudible]*

INT: Would you mind telling me what- how your dog did in that race?

G: Eh, second last.

INT: Second last. And why do you wash its feet and things like that?

G: To clean its feet. Ye see, they get dirt in their quicks. They get dirt in between here.

INT: Yeah. So, was that quite a tough race for it or-?

G: No-

INT: No.

G: -it can do better.

*[pause in recording]*

INT: Can we ask you what's the difference between the kind of vetting goes on with the dogs and vetting at the horses?

G: Eh, that depends what-

INT: Is it tight?

G: Aye, it's very tight. It depends what dog track you go to.

**0h 12m 02s**

See, if ye go to a GRA track which is run by the GRA, it's more legitimate. Here, they're private owned dogs and the owners stop and start their dogs all the time. So, you don't know which dogs are stopped and which ones are going, which ones are triers and which aren't. So, it's very... It's very difficult – ye just bet on instinct here. There's a lot of jiggery pokery goes on.

INT: You still think it's worth coming, or you wouldn't be here?

G: Oh, yes. Yes, obviously.

INT: You don't do any jiggery pokery [*laughter*]?

G: No, no. That's deadly for the bookmaker to do that. Leave that tae the punters.

INT: It seems to be very small- well, a small starting price here, in comparison to most.

G: Well, that's because you- normally, there's two or three dogs not trying. So, therefore ye can't go the normal prices they would at Powderhall because if there're two or three not trying, then you have to go a shorter price. There're only three triers, or two triers, or one trier sometimes. So, that's why the... The starting price is always small on the favourite, cause the dog they come for is usually- at least you know that one's trying, you don't know if the others are.

INT: What about the punter here? I mean, he's really here to punt is he, or-?

G: Aye, yes. I would say there's no leisure punters here. It's the more hardcore punting.

INT: Do I dare ask you about the facilities here?

G: Well, they're- believe it or not, they're improving. Yes, I think he's trying hard. He's built a new bar and he's building a new kennels up this end and a new tearoom. So, I think he's trying and they're improving, putting new traps in. So, he has done a lot.

INT: You see the dogs, what, it seems to be actually quite a family interest. I mean, in terms of the young lads.

G: Well, it's the... Ye know, racing's the sport of kings? Well, this is for the poor man. Ye know, just like pigeon racing: anybody can own a dog. So, they just... That's for them.

INT: Though, we hear the cost of dogs is going up, if you get one from Ireland.

G: Yes, there's quite a duty on them to bring them in from Ireland, as well. I don't know what else, cause I don't own any.