Team Talks: Interviewing members of Team Scotland 1966-2014

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Hosts and Champions
Are Oral History interviews important?
Why should we interview?

What is the purpose for doing Oral History interviews?

Are they relevant in a sporting context?

Who benefits from the interview?

Image is of Charlie Flynn and Josh Taylor (©CGS)
Oral History Interviewees

Athletes and Officials

Image of Alan Wells and Mike McFarlane Men’s 200m Final Brisbane 1982 (©Press Assn.)
Sir Menzies Campbell. Kingston 1966

Interview was shorter than usual because Sir Menzies was recovering from an operation.

Sir Menzies highlighted how important the Games were due to lack of international competitions.

An interesting comment he made was that he believed he had been selected for the wrong games.

He believed he had a better chance in winning in 1962.

© Anon
Jim Alder
Kingston 1966 & Edinburgh 1970

I’d always wanted to do an interview with him since meeting him in 2014

Jim won the 1966 Marathon Gold and 6 Mile Bronze and 1970 Marathon Silver.

Original interview was about being involved in the Baton relays of 1970, 86 and 2014

Interview evolved into the stories of the 1966 and 70 games

Image from Scotsman and CGSA
Joan Watt 1970 and 1982-present

Village Physiotherapist for 1970 Commonwealth Games.

Scottish Team Physio 1982-94

1998-2010 Physio to Scottish Shooting team.

Since 2003 Honorary Medical Adviser for CGS.

Interview covered stories of all the games she has been involved in.

Joan has been a great supporter of the Archive and has donated many items to our collection.

© CGS
John Lawless
Christchurch 1974
Travelling the world
on a B.V.P.
2014
The Adventure Continued
This was an unplanned interview.

Anne was the Scottish 400m Champion and also competed in the 4x400m Relay.

Outcome of the interview was how a sports career can be cut short by work commitments illness and injury.

Anne was a volunteer at the 1986 Edinburgh CG.

Anne donated items including 1978 Scotland Blazer 1986 Memorabilia to the CGS Archive.
Charlie Kane
Edinburgh 1986
Auckland 1990
Charlie Kane
Glasgow 2014 & 15

Charlie was an unassuming guy. He was very modest about his success at the 1990 Auckland games. He spoke about why he made the decision to be unemployed so that he could train properly for the major championships. Career was before sports funding. The classic case of a successful amateur who struggled to make a professional career.

© Hosts and Champions
Alex Arthur
Kuala Lumpur
1998
This is a unique Scottish Sporting family.

Donald, his wife Shirley and Daughters Jen and Seonaid have all competed in the Commonwealth Games for Scotland.

Donald competed in the 2002 games but has since attended the Commonwealth and Olympic Games as Coach to the Scotland and Great Britain Shooting Teams.

The interview covered whole career as competitor and coach.
David McNamee & Alison Bell
Glasgow 2014
Conclusions

We have barely scratched the surface of the possibilities for Oral History Interviews.

We have access to people who have a story to tell.

It creates a unique Archive. And these interviews can be a primary source for Family, Historians and Academics.
Oral history interviews can ensure the past is not lost

There is a rich history of Scottish Sport but limited film footage.

Many sports associations in Scotland don’t have an archive/museums

This is an easy way to begin building an Archive.

There is huge interest in sporting memories

Heritage of Sport is evolving and the stories have to be recorded.