

Thesis
4305

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Women's Football in Scotland: An Interpretive Analysis

VOLUME TWO

APPENDICES

JL Macbeth

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APPENDIX ONE

MATRIX OF WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CLUBS IN THE SWFL SEASON 2001/2002

PREMIER DIVISION (12)	Albion Rovers LFC Ayr United LFC Clyde LFC Cove Rangers LFC Dundee FC Ladies FC Kilmarnock Giuliano's LFC Glasgow City LFC Hibernian LFC Lossiemouth LFC Raith Rovers LFC Shettleston LFC
FIRST DIVISION (12)	Arthurlie LFC Dons LFC Dundee United LFC East Kilbride LFC Forfar Farmington LFC Hamilton Accies LFC Hamilton Athletic LFC Hutchison Vale LFC Inver Ross LFC St Johnstone LFC Whitehill Welfare LFC GC Wellpark LFC
SECOND DIVISION (9)	Bailleston Juniors LFC Civil Service Strollers Falkirk LFC GFC Ayr United Hawkcraig United LFC Inverurie United LFC Larkhall Thistle LFC St James LFC Tynecastle Hearts LFC
THIRD DIVISION (8)	Arbroath LFC Borders LFC Bo'Ness LFC Dundee City LFC FMC Harriers Kemnay LFC Kirkland LFC Third Lanark LFC

APPENDIX TWO

SURVEY (INCLUDING COVER LETTER)

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL
IN SCOTLAND

A SURVEY



**UNIVERSITY OF
STIRLING**

DEPARTMENT OF
SPORTS STUDIES

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Dear Player

We are presently conducting a survey on Women's Football in Scotland. The study is part of a PhD sponsored by the Department of Sports Studies at the University of Stirling and endorsed by SWF Ltd.

The purpose of this survey is to construct a demographic profile and explore the experiences of women football players in Scotland that will be used to inform wider research on women's football in Scotland.

The success of the survey and wider research depends on the number of responses from women football players in all divisions of the SWFL. Your contribution is both greatly appreciated and vital. All questionnaires will be treated as confidential and anonymous.

Please return your completed questionnaire to your club secretary. Thank you for your assistance with this important survey.

Yours faithfully

Jessica Macbeth

Professor Grant Jarvie

Maureen McGonigle

PLAYER SURVEY

CLUB

CODE (to be filled by researcher)

This questionnaire should take about 10 minutes to complete. Your name and address are not required. The majority of questions only require you to tick a box, and some require answers of a few sentences. Your answers are only required for statistical purposes and will be treated as **confidential and anonymous**. If you cannot answer any questions it is better to leave them blank. Thank you for your help.

SECTION 1: PERSONAL AND FAMILY DETAILS

The purpose of this section is to enable an understanding of your family set-up and your place within it

1) What age are you? _____ years

2) From the list below please tick the status which best describes you.

- Single
 - Living with partner
 - Married
 - Divorced
 - Other (please specify)
-

3) In which country were you born? Please tick.

- Scotland
 - England
 - Wales
 - N.Ireland
 - Republic of Ireland
 - Other (please specify)
-

4) Please state the number you have of the following.

- Elder brothers
- Younger brothers
- Elder sisters
- Younger sisters
- Children

5) What is/was the occupation of your father / male guardian?

6) What is/was the occupation of your mother / female guardian?

7) Which of the following social class categories do you consider yourself to be? Please tick.

- Working class
- Working – Middle class
- Middle class
- Middle – Upper class
- Upper class

8) Which of the following social class categories do you consider the majority of women football players in Scotland to be? Please tick.

- Working class
- Working – Middle class
- Middle class
- Middle – Upper class
- Upper class

SECTION 2: EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION DETAILS

The purpose of this section is to provide an educational and socio-economic profile

9) In the table below could you please list the name and location of all schools /colleges /universities you have attended and the qualifications you achieved.

Name	Town/city	Qualifications (e.g. 8 Standard Grades)

10a) Which of the following best describes your occupational status? Please tick.

- Employed
- Unemployed
- Student
- Home-maker

10b) If employed, what is your current occupation(s)?

10c) If employed, what is the nature of your work? Please tick.

Part-time	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time	<input type="checkbox"/>
Job-share	<input type="checkbox"/>

10d) If employed, what is your annual salary? Please tick.

Up to £5,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
£5,001-£10,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
£10,001-£15,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
£15,001-£20,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
£20,001-£25,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
More than £25,001	<input type="checkbox"/>

10e) If unemployed, what was your most recent occupation? If you have never been employed please state "none".

10f) If a student, please tick which best describe your status.

	Full-time	Part-time	Mature Student
Secondary / High School			
Further Education College			
University – Undergraduate			
University – Postgraduate			

SECTION 3: SPORTING BIOGRAPHY

This section looks into your sports participation experiences

11) What sports were/are offered to you by your school? Please tick the relevant boxes relating to the nature of sports provision and whether or not you participated.

Nature of provision and participation

	PE lessons	Participated?	Extra-curricula activity	Participated?
Athletics				
Badminton				
Basketball				
Cross-country				
Dance				
Football				

Hockey				
Netball				
Rugby				
Tennis				
Others (Please specify)				

12) Please list any sports not offered to you at school that you participated / participate in during your school years.

13) Of the above sports, which have you continued to play since leaving school? If you still attend school please go to Question 14.

14) Please tick which of the following sports or physical activities you participate in regularly (once or more often / week) at the relevant level of participation (i.e. 'Recreationally' essentially for fun and fitness OR 'competitively' within organised league structures / competitive events). If you participate at both a recreational and competitive level in a particular sport or activity please tick both.

	Level of regular (1/+ times / week) participation	
	Recreational	Competitive
Badminton		
Basketball		
Dancing		
Football		
Hockey		
Netball		
Rugby		
Running		
Squash		
Tennis		
Other (Please specify)		

15a) Would you consider football to be your main competitive sport? Please tick.

Yes No

15b) If no, then please specify what you consider your main competitive sport to be.

16) In the table below please list the football clubs you have been a registered member of and approximate dates of membership (include any representation of your national side).

Name of club	Dates of membership (e.g. 1996-2000)

SECTION 4: INTRODUCTION TO AND EXPERIENCE OF FOOTBALL

This section explores how you were first introduced to and have experienced football

17a) Describe how you were first introduced to football: the nature of involvement (e.g. spectating, informal play in garden / streets); who got you involved; and at approximately what age?

17b) Describe how you were first introduced to playing football regularly (e.g. training / coaching sessions / friendly matches); at what age; who were the team; and who encouraged you to play?

17c) Describe how you were first introduced to playing football competitively (e.g. for a SWF affiliated club); at what age; who were the team; and who encouraged you to play?

18) Which of the following statements best describes your interest in watching men's football on TV? Please tick.

- I don't have much interest in watching men's televised football matches
- I only really watch matches involving the club(s) I support
- I mainly watch the high-profile fixtures
- I watch nearly all televised men's football matches

19) Do you attend men's football matches? If no, please go to Question 23.

Yes No

20) Which team do you usually go and watch?

21) Can you estimate how many times per season you attend men's football matches? Please tick.

- 1 – 6 times
- 7 – 12 times
- 13 – 20 times
- More than 20 times

22) Who do you usually attend men's matches with? Please tick all of those that apply.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Father / male guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other male relations | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mother / female guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other female relations | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Brother (s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Male friends | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sister (s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Members of your football club | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Husband / partner | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other women football players | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify) | | Other female friends | <input type="checkbox"/> |

23) Can you estimate how many times per season you attend women's football matches (not including those of your own team)? Please tick.

- Never
- 1 – 6 times
- 7 – 12 times
- 13 – 20 times
- More than 20 times

24) Who do you usually attend women's matches with? Please tick all of those that apply.

Father / male guardian
 Mother / female guardian
 Brother (s)
 Sister (s)
 Husband / partner
 Other (please specify)

Other male relations
 Other female relations
 Male friends
 Members of your football club
 Other women football players
 Other female friends

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

25) Do you subscribe to either of the following women's football magazines? Please tick.

	Yes	No
Miss-Kick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
She kicks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 5: PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

This section investigates your experiences of other people's perspectives on women's football

26) How have the following people generally influenced your involvement in playing football? Please tick the appropriate nature of influence for those people that apply to you (those that are not applicable, please leave blank).

	Nature of influence		
	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Father / male guardian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mother / female guardian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brother (s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sister (s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical Education teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Husband / partner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Male friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other male relatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other female relatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

27) What was the general attitude of your high school (the school as a whole) towards girls' football?

28) What was the general attitude of the PE Department of your high school to girls' football?

29a) Has anyone ever tried to discourage you from playing football? If no, go to Question 30.

Yes No

29b) Who has discouraged you, and can you explain why you think they did so?

30) To what extent do you think that the **general Scottish public** would agree with the following statements about women's football? Please tick.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Football is a man's game and women shouldn't play it					
Women's football will never be taken seriously					
Women's football should be treated as a sport in its own right and not compared with men's					
Women should be encouraged to play football					
Women's football should be taken more seriously					
Women's football should become professional throughout Scotland					

31) To what extent do you think that the **general Scottish media** would agree with the following statements about women's football? Please tick.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
No one is interested in reading about or watching women's football					
Women's football is not good enough to receive media coverage					
Women's football is not popular enough to justify media coverage					
Women's football deserves a limited amount of media coverage					
Women's football should be taken more seriously and deserves significantly higher media coverage than it receives					

SECTION 6A: BEING A MEMBER OF A FOOTBALL CLUB

The purpose of this section is to assess the meanings you attach to playing football and being a member of a club in a wider social sense.

32) How many hours of training do you usually attend each week? _____ hours

33) How do you usually travel to training sessions? Please tick only one.

- Walk alone
 - Walk with other club members
 - Public transport alone
 - Public transport with other club members
 - By car alone
 - By car with other club members
 - Other (please specify)
-

34) Outside of training and matches, how many hours / week do you usually spend with someone else from your club? Please tick.

- None
- 1-3 hours
- 4-6 hours
- 6-10 hours
- More than 10 hours

35) Which of the following do you usually do after matches? Please tick only one.

- I go home
 - I do something with other friends
 - I socialise for a few hours with club members
 - I socialise with other club members for the rest of the night
 - Other (please specify)
-

36) Which of the following statements best describes your view about being a member of a football club? Please tick only one.

- I am only interested in playing football
- Football is most important to me but I sometimes enjoy socialising with club members
- I value playing football and the social aspects of being a club member equally
- I enjoy the football but it's the social aspects of being a club member that are most important to me
- I am only interested in the social aspects of being a club member

37) Which of the following statements best describes your relationship with other club members? Please tick only one.

- I regard other club members only as fellow football players
- I regard 1 or 2 club members as friends, but most of my friends are not involved in the football club
- I regard several club members as friends and have a good relationship with most other members
- I regard most club members as friends and think this is an important part of being a club member
- I regard all club members as friends and think this is a very important part of being a club member

38) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please tick.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Our club members all get on well					
Many of our club members are really good friends					
I am friends with women who play for other clubs					
I know a lot of players outside of my own club					
I really enjoy being involved in women's football					
I only really know players in my own club					
There is a good atmosphere within our club					

SECTION 6B

This section is optional due to the potentially personal nature, we therefore offer you the option of not answering, although all answers will be treated as confidential and anonymous. If you choose not to answer, please go to Section 7.

39) Do you think there is a high proportion of homosexual and bisexual women who play football in Scotland? Please tick.

Yes No

40) Can you offer any reasons to your above answer?

SECTION 7: FOOTBALL ASPIRATIONS AND INVOLVEMENT

Finally, this section explores the football aspirations you have had throughout your playing 'career' and your wider involvement in football.

41) What was your earliest football related ambition you can remember?

42) What is your current football related ambition?

43) To which of the following extents are you involved in playing matches for your team? Please tick.

I am in the first eleven	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am usually a substitute and often get brought on	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am usually a substitute and sometimes get brought on	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am sometimes named as a substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>
I don't feature in the squad for matches	<input type="checkbox"/>

44) Do you hold any of the following SFA coaching awards? If so please tick.

	Level	1	2	3	4
Children (Under 12s)					
Youth (12-18 yrs)					
Adult (18 yrs plus)					
Goalkeeping					

Other (please specify) _____

45) In the table below, please list any club/committee positions (e.g. secretary, treasurer etc.) you have held, at which club, and the duration you held the position. If you have not held any club/committee positions please go to Question 46.

Club/committee position	Club	Duration

- 46) In the table below, please list any wider football organisational/administrative positions (e.g. league secretary etc.) that you have held outside of the club committee, and the duration you held the position. If you have not held any wider football organisational/administrative positions please go to Question 47.

Position	Duration

- 47) Please describe any other ways in which you are involved in the organisation, administration, coaching, refereeing etc. of football at any level (men's/women's/boys/girls).

- 48) Are there any other comments you would like to make about your experiences of being involved in football and the meaning of football in your life? If so, please use this space to highlight or expand on any issue mentioned earlier, or to raise any other issues regarding women's football in Scotland.

Thank you very much for your time - your help is greatly appreciated.

PLEASE RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRE TO YOUR CLUB SECRETARY

APPENDIX THREE

SUMMARY OF SWF LTD DATABASE OF REGISTERED PLAYERS (AGES)

Date of Birth	Age on date of survey 9/2/02	Frequency
1955	46	1
1956	45	2
1957	44	2
1958	43	1
1959	42	5
1960	41	4
1961	40	5
1962	39	7
1963	38	7
1964	37	10
1965	36	7
1966	35	7
1967	34	15
1968	33	12
1969	32	16
1970	31	9
1971	30	16
1972	29	20
1973	28	25
1974	27	30
1975	26	28
1976	25	34
1977	24	33
1978	23	40
1979	22	41
1980	21	61
1981	20	61
1982	19	80
1983	18	63
1984	17	82
1985	16	46
1986	15	13
1987	14	2
1988	13	0
1989	12	1
Total		786

APPENDIX FOUR

SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS - QUANTITATIVE DATA

SECTION 1: PERSONAL AND FAMILY DETAILS

1) *Age*

Age in years

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	15	1	.7	.7	.7
	17	1	.7	.7	1.4
	18	11	7.6	7.6	9.0
	19	19	13.2	13.2	22.2
	20	12	8.3	8.3	30.6
	21	17	11.8	11.8	42.4
	22	5	3.5	3.5	45.8
	23	12	8.3	8.3	54.2
	24	8	5.6	5.6	59.7
	25	3	2.1	2.1	61.8
	26	8	5.6	5.6	67.4
	27	12	8.3	8.3	75.7
	28	7	4.9	4.9	80.6
	29	4	2.8	2.8	83.3
	30	4	2.8	2.8	86.1
	31	1	.7	.7	86.8
	32	5	3.5	3.5	90.3
	33	3	2.1	2.1	92.4
	34	1	.7	.7	93.1
	37	1	.7	.7	93.7
	38	1	.7	.7	94.4
	39	2	1.4	1.4	95.8
	40	4	2.8	2.8	98.6
	42	1	.7	.7	99.3
	45	1	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	144	100.0	100.0	

2) *Marital Status*

Status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Single	105	72.9	72.9	72.9
	Living with partner	27	18.8	18.8	91.7
	Married	8	5.6	5.6	97.2
	Divorced	1	.7	.7	97.9
	Other	3	2.1	2.1	100.0
	Total	144	100.0	100.0	

3) *Country of Birth*

Country of birth

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Scotland	129	89.6	89.6	89.6
	England	7	4.9	4.9	94.4
	Wales	1	.7	.7	95.1
	Other	7	4.9	4.9	100.0
	Total	144	100.0	100.0	

4) Number of Siblings

Total number of siblings

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	None	5	3.5	3.5	3.5
	One	69	47.9	47.9	51.4
	Two	42	29.2	29.2	80.6
	Three	17	11.8	11.8	92.4
	Four	5	3.5	3.5	95.8
	Five	2	1.4	1.4	97.2
	Six	3	2.1	2.1	99.3
	Seven	1	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	144	100.0	100.0	

Number of elder brothers

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	None	83	57.6	57.6	57.6
	One	47	32.6	32.6	90.3
	Two	8	5.6	5.6	95.8
	Three	5	3.5	3.5	99.3
	Four	1	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	144	100.0	100.0	

Number of younger brothers

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	None	95	66.0	66.0	66.0
	One	44	30.6	30.6	96.5
	Two	5	3.5	3.5	100.0
	Total	144	100.0	100.0	

Number of elder sisters

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	None	85	59.0	59.0	59.0
	One	48	33.3	33.3	92.4
	Two	5	3.5	3.5	95.8
	Three	5	3.5	3.5	99.3
	Four	1	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	144	100.0	100.0	

Number of younger sisters

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	None	103	71.5	71.5	71.5
	One	32	22.2	22.2	93.8
	Two	7	4.9	4.9	98.6
	Three	2	1.4	1.4	100.0
	Total	144	100.0	100.0	

Number of children

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	None	135	93.8	93.8	93.8
	One	5	3.5	3.5	97.2
	Two	4	2.8	2.8	100.0
	Total	144	100.0	100.0	

5) **Occupation of Father / Male Guardian** - Literal responses categorised into social class indicators

Occupation of Male Guardian (Social class indicator)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	AB	22	15.3	16.5	16.5
	C1	27	18.8	20.3	36.8
	C2	37	25.7	27.8	64.7
	DE	47	32.6	35.3	100.0
	Total	133	92.4	100.0	
Missing	99	11	7.6		
Total		144	100.0		

AB- Higher and intermediate managerial, administrative and professional; C1 – Supervisory, clerical and junior managerial, administrative and professional; C2 – Skilled manual workers; DE – Semi-skilled or unskilled manual workers: apprentices in skilled trades; casual or lowest grade workers; state pensioners or widowers; those entirely dependent on the state long term through sickness, unemployment, old age or other reasons.

6) **Occupation of Mother / Female Guardian** - Literal responses categorised into social class indicators

Occupation of Female Guardian (Social class indicator)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	AB	22	15.3	16.8	16.8
	C1	36	25.0	27.5	44.3
	DE	71	49.3	54.2	98.5
	Other	2	1.4	1.5	100.0
	Total	131	91.0	100.0	
Missing	99	13	9.0		
Total		144	100.0		

AB – Higher and intermediate managerial, administrative and professional; C1 – Supervisory, clerical and junior managerial, administrative and professional; C2 – Skilled manual workers; DE – Semi-skilled or unskilled manual workers: apprentices in skilled trades; casual or lowest grade workers; state pensioners or widowers; those entirely dependent on the state long term through sickness, unemployment, old age or other reasons.

7) **View of Social Class Category**

Social class category

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Working class	53	36.8	37.1	37.1
	Working - Middle Class	53	36.8	37.1	74.1
	Middle class	31	21.5	21.7	95.8
	Middle - Upper class	4	2.8	2.8	98.6
	Upper class	2	1.4	1.4	100.0
	Total	143	99.3	100.0	
Missing	99	1	.7		
Total		144	100.0		

8) **View of Social Class Category of the Majority of Women Footballers in Scotland**

Social class of women footballers

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Working class	59	41.0	42.4	42.4
	Working - Middle Class	61	42.4	43.9	86.3
	Middle class	18	12.5	12.9	99.3
	Upper class	1	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	139	96.5	100.0	
Missing	99	5	3.5		
Total		144	100.0		

SECTION 2: EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION DETAILS

9) Former Regional Council Area of Secondary School and Qualifications

Former Regional Council

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Grampian	36	25.0	26.3	26.3
	Tayside	18	12.5	13.1	39.4
	Strathclyde	37	25.7	27.0	66.4
	Central	17	11.8	12.4	78.8
	Western Isles	1	.7	.7	79.5
	Lothian	10	6.9	7.3	86.8
	Fife	13	9.0	9.5	96.3
	Highland	1	.7	.7	97.0
	England	4	2.8	2.9	100.0
	Total	137	95.1	100.0	
Missing	99	7	4.9	4.9	
	Total	144	100.0		

10a) Occupational Status

Occupational status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Employed	102	70.8	72.9	72.9
	Unemployed	2	1.4	1.4	74.3
	Home-maker	2	1.4	1.4	75.7
	Student	34	23.6	24.3	100.0
	Total	140	97.2	100.0	
Missing	99	4	2.8		
Total		144	100.0		

10b) Occupation of Employed - Literal responses categorised into social class indicators

Occupational status (Social class indicator)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	AB	26	18.1	18.6	18.6
	C1	46	31.9	32.9	51.4
	C2	2	1.4	1.4	52.9
	DE	37	25.7	26.4	79.3
	Other	29	20.1	20.7	100.0
	Total	140	97.2	100.0	
Missing	99	4	2.8		
Total		144	100.0		

AB – Higher and intermediate managerial, administrative and professional; C1 – Supervisory, clerical and junior managerial, administrative and professional; C2 – Skilled manual workers; DE – Semi-skilled or unskilled manual workers: apprentices in skilled trades; casual or lowest grade workers; state pensioners or widowers; those entirely dependent on the state long term through sickness, unemployment, old age or other reasons.

10c) Nature of Work

Nature of work

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not Eligible	34*	23.6	23.8	23.8
	Part-time	15	10.4	10.5	34.3
	Full-time	94	65.3	65.7	100.0
	Total	143	99.3	100.0	
Missing	99	1	.7		
Total		144	100.0		

* 4 students specified that they also work part-time, therefore those included as 'not eligible' include 30 students who do not work, 2 players who are unemployed and 2 who are homemakers.

10d) Annual Salary

Annual salary

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not Eligible	34*	23.6	24.6	24.6
	Up to £5000	6	4.2	4.3	29.0
	£5000 - £10000	18	12.5	13.0	42.0
	£10000 - £15000	32	22.2	23.2	65.2
	£15000 - £20000	27	18.8	19.6	84.8
	£20000 - £25000	11	7.6	8.0	92.8
	More than £25000	10	6.9	7.2	100.0
	Total	138	95.8	100.0	
Missing	99	6	4.2		
Total		144	100.0		

* see above note

10e) Most Recent Occupation if not Employed - Applies to only 4 respondents (2 homemakers and 2 unemployed)

10f) Student Status if in Education

Student status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not Eligible	107	74.3	74.8	74.8
	High/FT	2	1.4	1.4	76.2
	FE/FT	13	9.0	9.1	85.3
	FE/PT	1	.7	.7	86.0
	UG/FT	18	12.5	12.6	98.6
	PG/FT	1	.7	.7	99.3
	PG/PT/Mature	1	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	143	99.3	100.0	
Missing	99	1	.7		
Total		144	100.0		

SECTION 3: SPORTING BIOGRAPHY

11) Sports Provided and Participated in at School

School sports provision and participation

	Prov in PE		PPT in PE		Prov in EC		PPT in EC		Prov in school		PPT in school	
	Freq.	Valid%	Freq.	Valid%	Freq.	Valid%	Freq.	Valid%	Freq.	Valid%	Freq.	Valid%
A	131	92.3	116	81.7	23	16.2	18	12.7	132	93.0	118	83.1
Bad	124	87.3	116	81.7	40	28.2	28	19.7	132	93.0	121	85.2
Bsk	121	85.2	105	75.0	27	19.1	19	13.5	123	86.6	106	74.6
XC	93	66.0	78	54.9	23	16.2	17	12.0	100	70.4	82	57.7
Dan	79	55.6	67	47.2	9	6.3	5	3.5	85	59.9	71	50.0
FB	79	56.0	76	53.5	56	39.4	51	35.9	94	66.2	90	63.4
Hoc	128	90.1	117	82.4	42	29.6	35	24.6	129	90.8	118	83.1
Net	95	67.4	83	58.5	26	18.3	19	13.4	99	69.7	84	59.2
Rug	32	22.5	26	18.3	13	9.2	7	6.9	39	27.5	29	20.4
Ten	52	36.6	44	31.0	14	9.9	11	7.7	57	40.1	48	33.8
Vol	21	14.6	21	14.6	12	8.3	11	7.4	23	16.0	23	16.0
Sw	23	16.0	23	16.0	6	4.2	6	4.2	24	16.7	24	16.7
Gym	6	4.2	4	2.8	0	0	0	0.0	6	4.2	4	2.8

Prov = Provided; PE = Physical Education; PPT = Participation; EC = Extra-Curricular; A = Athletics; Bad = Badminton; Bsk = Basketball; XC = Cross-country; Dan = Dance; FB = Football; Hoc = Hockey; Net = Netball; Rug = Rugby; Ten = Tennis; Vol = Volleyball; Sw = Swimming; Gym = Gymnastics

12) Sports Participated in, out of School, During School Years

Sports participation out of school

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Swimming	5	3.5	15.2	15.2
	Karate	2	1.4	6.1	21.2
	Squash	5	3.5	15.2	36.4
	Tennis	1	.7	3.0	39.4
	Snooker/pool	1	.7	3.0	42.4
	Judo	1	.7	3.0	45.5
	Golf	3	2.1	9.1	54.5
	Cricket	2	1.4	6.1	60.6
	Volleyball	1	.7	3.0	63.6
	Gymnastics	2	1.4	6.1	69.7
	Badminton	1	.7	3.0	72.7
	Lacrosse	1	.7	3.0	75.8
	Skiing	1	.7	3.0	78.8
	More than 1 sport	7	4.9	21.2	100.0
	Total	33	22.9	100.0	
Missing	99	111	77.1		
Total		144	100.0		

13) Continued Sports Participation Post-School

Continuity in sports participation

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Hockey	4	2.8	5.4	5.4
	Badminton	19	13.2	25.7	31.1
	Swimming	7	4.9	9.5	40.5
	Volleyball	6	4.2	8.1	48.6
	Basketball	6	4.2	8.1	56.8
	Netball	4	2.8	5.4	62.2
	Golf	2	1.4	2.7	64.9
	Athletics	2	1.4	2.7	67.6
	Squash	1	.7	1.4	68.9
	Martial Arts	1	.7	1.4	70.3
	Tennis	3	2.1	4.1	74.3
	More than 1	19	13.2	25.7	100.0
	Total	74	51.4	100.0	
Missing	99	70	48.6		
Total		144	100.0		

14) Current Sports Participation

Current sports participation

	Recreationally		Competitively	
	Freq.	Valid%	Freq.	Valid%
Badminton	42	29.8	3	2.1
Basketball	13	9.2	4	2.8
Dancing	2	1.4	3	2.1
Football	67	47.5	141	100.0
Hockey	9	6.4	5	3.5
Netball	4	2.8	3	2.1
Rugby	2	1.4	2	1.4
Running	36	25.5	3	2.1

Squash	18	12.8	3	2.1
Tennis	11	7.8	5	3.5
Swimming	11	7.8	5	3.5
Fitness/Gym	11	7.8	1	0.7
Other	3	2.1	3	2.1

15a) Football Main Competitive Sport

Football main sport

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	140	97.2	98.6	98.6
	No	2	1.4	1.4	100.0
	Total	142	98.6	100.0	
Missing	99	2	1.4		
Total		144	100.0		

15b) Main Sport if not Football - Only two respondents specifying golf (n=1) and squash (n=1)

16) Number of Clubs and International Representation

Number of clubs

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	One	57	39.6	40.4	40.4
	Two	35	24.3	24.8	65.2
	Three	29	20.1	20.6	85.8
	Four	15	10.4	10.6	96.5
	Five	2	1.4	1.4	97.9
	Six	1	.7	.7	98.6
	Seven	2	1.4	1.4	100.0
Total		141	97.9	100.0	
Missing	99	3	2.1		
Total		144	100.0		

International representation

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	13	9.0	9.2	9.2
	No	129	89.6	90.8	100.0
	Total	142	98.6	100.0	
Missing	99	2	1.4		
Total		144	100.0		

SECTION 4: INTRODUCTION TO AND EXPERIENCE OF FOOTBALL

17a) Introduction to Football - Literal responses (see Appendix Five) quantified

Age of introduction

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	3	6	4.2	6.1	6.1
	4	5	3.5	5.1	11.1
	5	14	9.7	14.1	25.3
	6	13	9.0	13.1	38.4
	7	14	9.7	14.1	52.5
	8	21	14.6	21.2	73.7
	9	9	6.3	9.1	82.8
	10	6	4.2	6.1	88.9
	11	2	1.4	2.0	90.9
	12	1	.7	1.0	91.9
	13	3	2.1	3.0	94.9

	14	1	.7	1.0	96.0
	15	3	2.1	3.0	99.0
	25	1	.7	1.0	100.0
	Total	99	68.8	100.0	
Missing	99	45	31.3		
Total		144	100.0		

Nature of introduction

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Informal play	98	68.1	70.5	70.5
	Primary school	19	13.2	13.7	84.2
	Spectating	18	12.5	12.9	97.1
	Other	3	2.1	2.2	99.3
	5	1	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	139	96.5	100.0	
Missing	99	5	3.5		
Total		144	100.0		

Who encouraged introduction

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Father/Male Guardian	24	16.7	23.5	23.5
	Brother	28	19.4	27.5	51.0
	Sister	2	1.4	2.0	52.9
	Other male relations	1	.7	1.0	53.9
	Other female relations	1	.7	1.0	54.9
	Male friends	3	2.1	2.9	57.8
	Female friends	4	2.8	3.9	61.8
	Women player	1	.7	1.0	62.7
	Coach	2	1.4	2.0	64.7
	Teacher	1	.7	1.0	65.7
	Class mates	12	8.3	11.8	77.5
	Most/all family	5	3.5	4.9	82.4
	Friends	11	7.6	10.8	93.1
	Other	7	4.9	6.9	100.0
	Total	102	70.8	100.0	
Missing	99	42	29.2		
Total		144	100.0		

17b) Introduction to Regular Football - Literal responses (see Appendix Five) quantified
Age of regular

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	5	1	.7	.9	.9
	6	1	.7	.9	1.8
	7	3	2.1	2.7	4.4
	8	11	7.6	9.7	14.2
	9	2	1.4	1.8	15.9
	10	12	8.3	10.6	26.5
	11	8	5.6	7.1	33.6
	12	17	11.8	15.0	48.7
	13	6	4.2	5.3	54.0
	14	6	4.2	5.3	59.3
	15	8	5.6	7.1	66.4
	16	3	2.1	2.7	69.0
	17	5	3.5	4.4	73.5
	18	1	.7	.9	74.3
	19	3	2.1	2.7	77.0
	20	3	2.1	2.7	79.6

	21	3	2.1	2.7	82.3
	22	4	2.8	3.5	85.8
	23	2	1.4	1.8	87.6
	24	1	.7	.9	88.5
	25	2	1.4	1.8	90.3
	26	3	2.1	2.7	92.9
	27	4	2.8	3.5	96.5
	29	1	.7	.9	97.3
	30	1	.7	.9	98.2
	31	1	.7	.9	99.1
	34	1	.7	.9	100.0
	Total	113	78.5	100.0	
Missing	99	31	21.5		
Total		144	100.0		

Team of regular

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	School	39	27.1	28.9	28.9
	Current team	31	21.5	23.0	51.9
	Other team	65	45.1	48.1	100.0
	Total	135	93.8	100.0	
Missing	99	9	6.3		
Total		144	100.0		

Who encouraged regular

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Father/Male Guardian	9	6.3	9.5	9.5
	Mother/Female Guardian	1	.7	1.1	10.5
	Brother	5	3.5	5.3	15.8
	Sister	1	.7	1.1	16.8
	Husband/Partner	2	1.4	2.1	18.9
	Male friends	2	1.4	2.1	21.1
	Female friends	11	7.6	11.6	32.6
	Women player	6	4.2	6.3	38.9
	Coach	13	9.0	13.7	52.6
	Teacher	9	6.3	9.5	62.1
	Class mates	4	2.8	4.2	66.3
	Most/all family	9	6.3	9.5	75.8
	Friends	7	4.9	7.4	83.2
	Other	16	11.1	16.8	100.0
	Total	95	66.0	100.0	
Missing	99	49	34.0		
Total		144	100.0		

17c) Introduction to Competitive Football - Literal responses (see Appendix Five) quantified

Age of competitive

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	8	4	2.8	3.2	3.2
	10	3	2.1	2.4	5.6
	11	7	4.9	5.6	11.2
	12	12	8.3	9.6	20.8
	13	12	8.3	9.6	30.4
	14	9	6.3	7.2	37.6
	15	14	9.7	11.2	48.8
	16	7	4.9	5.6	54.4
	17	7	4.9	5.6	60.0
	18	7	4.9	5.6	65.6

	19	8	5.6	6.4	72.0
	20	4	2.8	3.2	75.2
	21	3	2.1	2.4	77.6
	22	5	3.5	4.0	81.6
	23	2	1.4	1.6	83.2
	24	4	2.8	3.2	86.4
	25	3	2.1	2.4	88.8
	26	4	2.8	3.2	92.0
	27	3	2.1	2.4	94.4
	28	1	.7	.8	95.2
	30	3	2.1	2.4	97.6
	31	1	.7	.8	98.4
	32	1	.7	.8	99.2
	34	1	.7	.8	100.0
	Total	125	86.8	100.0	
Missing	99	19	13.2		
Total		144	100.0		

Team of competitive

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Current	59	41.0	43.7	43.7
	Other	76	52.8	56.3	100.0
	Total	135	93.8	100.0	
Missing	99	9	6.3		
Total		144	100.0		

Who encouraged competitive

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Father/Male Guardian	9	6.3	8.8	8.8
	Mother/Female Guardian	1	.7	1.0	9.8
	Brother	1	.7	1.0	10.8
	Sister	2	1.4	2.0	12.7
	Husband/Partner	3	2.1	2.9	15.7
	Male friends	2	1.4	2.0	17.6
	Female friends	8	5.6	7.8	25.5
	Women player	15	10.4	14.7	40.2
	Coach	23	16.0	22.5	62.7
	Class mates	3	2.1	2.9	65.7
	Most/all family	12	8.3	11.8	77.5
	Friends	12	8.3	11.8	89.2
	Other	11	7.6	10.8	100.0
	Total	102	70.8	100.0	
Missing	99	42	29.2		
Total		144	100.0		

18) Interest in Watching Men's Football on TV

Interest in men's TV football

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	I dont have much interest in watching men's TV matches	5	3.5	3.6	3.6
	I only really watch matches involving the club(s) I support	20	13.9	14.4	18.0
	I mainly watch the high-profile games	51	35.4	36.7	54.7
	I watch nearly all televised men's football matches	63	43.8	45.3	100.0
	Total	139	96.5	100.0	
Missing	99	5	3.5		

Total		144	100.0	
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19) Attendance at Men's Football Matches

Attendance at men's football

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	112	77.8	77.8	77.8
	No	32	22.2	22.2	100.0
	Total	144	100.0	100.0	

20) Team Supported

Team supported

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not Eligible	32	22.2	22.7	22.7
	Aberdeen	25	17.4	17.7	40.4
	Celtic	24	16.7	17.0	57.4
	Rangers	24	16.7	17.0	74.5
	Hearts	3	2.1	2.1	76.6
	Hibernian	3	2.1	2.1	78.7
	Forfar Athletic	2	1.4	1.4	80.1
	Arbroath	1	.7	.7	80.9
	Grimsby Town	1	.7	.7	81.6
	Partick Thistle	3	2.1	2.1	83.7
	Kilmarnock	3	2.1	2.1	85.8
	St Johnstone	2	1.4	1.4	87.2
	Dunfermline	4	2.8	2.8	90.1
	Falkirk	5	3.5	3.5	93.6
	Dundee	1	.7	.7	94.3
	Dundee Utd	2	1.4	1.4	95.7
	Formartine United	1	.7	.7	96.5
	East Fife	1	.7	.7	97.2
	Raith Rovers	1	.7	.7	97.9
	Other	3	2.1	2.1	100.0
	Total	141	97.9	100.0	
Missing		99	3	2.1	
Total		144	100.0		

21) Matches Attended per Season

Number of matches attended

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Not eligible	34	23.6	23.6	23.6
	1-6	47	32.6	32.6	56.3
	7-12	24	16.7	16.7	72.9
	13-20	11	7.6	7.6	80.6
	More than 20	28	19.4	19.4	100.0
	Total	144	100.0	100.0	

22) Who attend Men's Matches with

Attendance at men's football matches

	Yes	No
Attends with:	Frequency	
Father / male guardian	35	77
Mother / female guardian	7	105
Brother (s)	19	93
Sister (s)	6	106
Husband / partner	23	89
Other male relations	6	106
Other female relations	7	105

Male friends	28	84
Members of football club	25	87
Other women football players	37	75
Other female friends	53	59
Others	4	106

23) Attendance at Women's Football Matches

Attendance at women's football

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Never	54	37.5	37.8	37.8
	1-6 times	77	53.5	53.8	91.6
	7-12 times	7	4.9	4.9	96.5
	13-20 times	1	.7	.7	97.2
	More than 20 times	4	2.8	2.8	100.0
	Total	143	99.3	100.0	
Missing	99	1	.7		
Total		144	100.0		

24) Who attend Women's Matches with

Attendance at women's football matches

	Yes	No
Attends with:	Frequency	
Father / male guardian	9	82
Mother / female guardian	3	88
Brother (s)	1	90
Sister (s)	5	86
Husband / partner	11	80
Other male relations	2	89
Other female relations	4	87
Male friends	2	89
Members of football club	56	35
Other women football players	49	42
Other female friends	24	67
Others	2	89

25) Subscription to Women's Football Magazines

Subscribe to Miss-Kick

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	14	9.7	9.9	9.9
	No	128	88.9	90.1	100.0
	Total	142	98.6	100.0	
Missing	99	2	1.4		
Total		144	100.0		

Subscribe to She kicks

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	3	2.1	2.2	2.2
	No	135	93.8	97.8	100.0
	Total	138	95.8	100.0	
Missing	99	6	4.2		
Total		144	100.0		

SECTION 5: PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

26) *Influence of Socialising Agents / Agencies*

Nature of influence

	Positive	Neutral	Negative
	Valid %	Valid %	Valid %
Father/male guardian	70.4	23.7	5.9
Mother/female guardian	61.6	31.2	7.2
Brother(s)	64.9	28.9	6.2
Sister(s)	56.5	38.8	4.7
PE teacher	60.8	26.5	12.7
Husband/partner	78.7	14.8	6.6
Male friends	73.3	24.2	2.5
Female friends	75.5	23.3	1.5
Other male relatives	63.2	35.0	1.7
Other female relatives	57.0	40.4	2.6

27) *Attitude of High School towards Girls' Football* - Literal responses (see Appendix Five) quantified

Attitude of High school

	Valid %
Positive	25.7
Neutral	23.6
Negative	50.7
Total	100

28) *Attitude of PE Department towards Girls' Football* - Literal responses (see Appendix Five) quantified

Attitude of PE Department

	Valid %
Positive	31.9
Neutral	20.3
Negative	47.8
Total	100

29a) *Ever Discouraged from Playing Football*

Discouragement from playing football

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	31	21.5	21.7	21.7
	No	112	77.8	78.3	100.0
	Total	143	99.3	100.0	
Missing	99	1	.7		
Total		144	100.0		

29b) *Who Discouraged* - Literal responses (see Appendix Five) quantified

Who discouraged

	Frequency
Mother	12
Doctor	2
Father	1
Other relatives	2
Parents / family	3
School	5
Others	6
Total	31

30) View of General Scottish Public to Statements about Women's Football

General Scottish public views on women's football

	Perceived general Scottish public view				
	Strongly	Valid Percent (%)			Strongly
	agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	disagree
Football is a man's game	12.8	49.6	19.1	12.1	6.4
Women's football never taken seriously	15.9	55.1	13.8	13.0	2.2
Women's football is a sport in it's own right	13.3	26.7	43.0	14.1	3.0
Women should be encouraged to play football	16.5	19.7	37.8	22.8	3.1
Women's football should be taken more seriously	17.6	17.6	35.3	27.9	1.5
Women's football should become professional	16.5	7.2	27.3	35.3	13.7

31) View of General Scottish Media to Statements about Women's Football

Media views on women's football

	Perceived media view				
	Strongly	Valid Percent (%)			Strongly
	agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	disagree
No one is interested	10.9	44.2	18.8	23.9	2.2
Not good enough to receive coverage	13.2	49.3	17.6	15.4	4.4
Not popular enough to receive coverage	15.3	51.8	13.9	15.3	3.6
Deserves limited amount of media coverage	10.2	38.7	27.7	20.4	2.9
Should be taken more seriously and higher coverage	13.9	16.1	24.8	38.0	7.3

SECTION 6A: BEING A MEMBER OF A FOOTBALL CLUB

32) Hours of Training per Week

Hours of training attended each week

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Two	53	36.8	37.9	37.9
	Three	32	22.2	22.9	60.7
	Four	43	29.9	30.7	91.4
	Five	3	2.1	2.1	93.6
	Six	5	3.5	3.6	97.1
	Eight	1	.7	.7	97.9
	Ten	3	2.1	2.1	100.0
	Total	140	97.2	100.0	
Missing	99	4	2.8		
Total		144	100.0		

33) Travel to Training Sessions

Travel to training sessions

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Walk Alone	2	1.4	1.4	1.4
	Walk with other club members	2	1.4	1.4	2.8
	Public transport alone	6	4.2	4.2	6.9
	Public transport with others	5	3.5	3.5	10.4
	By car alone	43	29.9	29.9	40.3
	By car with other club members	83	57.6	57.6	97.9
	Other	3	2.1	2.1	100.0
	Total	144	100.0	100.0	

34) Hours per week usually spent with someone else from Club (outside of training and matches)

Time spent with members outside of training etc

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	None	36	25.0	25.5	25.5
	1-3 hours	37	25.7	26.2	51.8
	4-6 hours	28	19.4	19.9	71.6
	6-10 hours	11	7.6	7.8	79.4
	More than 10 hours	29	20.1	20.6	100.0
	Total	141	97.9	100.0	
Missing	99	3	2.1		
Total		144	100.0		

35) Post-Match Activities

Post match activities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Go home	29	20.1	20.4	20.4
	Something with other friends	6	4.2	4.2	24.6
	Socialise for a few hours with club members	89	61.8	62.7	87.3
	Socialise for rest of night with club members	16	11.1	11.3	98.6
	Other	2	1.4	1.4	100.0
	Total	142	98.6	100.0	
Missing	99	2	1.4		
Total		144	100.0		

36) View about being a Member of a Football Club

View about being a member of club

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	I am only interested in playing football	8	5.6	5.6	5.6
	Football is important but sometimes enjoy social	61	42.4	43.0	48.6
	Value playing and social equally	68	47.2	47.9	96.5
	Enjoy football but social is more important	5	3.5	3.5	100.0
	Total	142	98.6	100.0	
Missing	99	2	1.4		
Total		144	100.0		

37) Relationship with other Club Members

Relationship with other club members

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Other club members only as fellow football players	4	2.8	2.8	2.8
	1 or 2 friends but most outside club	22	15.3	15.5	18.3
	Several friends and good relationship with most	44	30.6	31.0	49.3
	Most are friends = important part of being a member	34	23.6	23.9	73.2
	All are friends = very important part of club member	38	26.4	26.8	100.0
	Total	142	98.6	100.0	
Missing	99	2	1.4		
Total		144	100.0		

38) View about Statements regarding Club Membership

View about club membership

	Strongly	Valid %			Strongly
	agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	disagree
Our club members all get on well	24.5	53.1	16.1	6.3	0
Many of our clubs members are really good friends	36.2	54.6	7.8	1.4	0
I am friends with women who play for other clubs	19.9	40.4	14.9	19.9	5
I know a lot of players outside of my own club	23	36	14.4	23	3.6
I really enjoy being involved in women's football	60.3	37.6	2.1	0	0
I only really know players in my own club	7.9	21.4	10.7	35	25
There is a good atmosphere within our club	33.8	50.7	11.3	2.8	1.4

SECTION 6B

39) High proportion of Homosexual and Bisexual Women who play Football in Scotland

High proportion of homo/bisexuals?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	101	70.1	91.8	91.8
	No	9	6.3	8.2	100.0
	Total	110	76.4	100.0	
Missing	99	34	23.6		
Total		144	100.0		

40) Reasons for Answer - Literal responses (see Appendix Five)

SECTION 7: FOOTBALL ASPIRATIONS AND INVOLVEMENT

41) Earliest Football-Related Ambition - Literal responses (see Appendix Five)

42) Current Football-Related Ambition - Literal responses (see Appendix Five)

43) Extent of Involvement in playing Matches

Extent to which involved in playing matches

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	In the first eleven	116	80.6	82.9	82.9
	Usually a sub and often brought on	12	8.3	8.6	91.4
	Usually a sub and sometimes brought on	5	3.5	3.6	95.0
	Sometimes a sub	6	4.2	4.3	99.3
	Don't feature in the squad	1	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	140	97.2	100.0	
Missing	99	4	2.8		
Total		144	100.0		

44) SFA Coaching Awards

Coaching awards

Level	Frequency		Total
	Yes	No	
Children 1	32	112	144
Children 2	17	127	144
Children 3	9	135	144
Children 4	5	139	144
Youth 1	19	125	144
Youth 2	11	133	144

Youth 3	9	135	144
Youth 4	3	141	144
Adult 1	8	136	144
Adult 2	4	140	144
Adult 3	3	141	144
Adult 4	3	141	144
Goalkeeping 1	8	136	144
Goalkeeping 2	3	141	144
Other	21	123	144

45) Club/Committee Positions held

Club/committee positions

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	45	31.3	31.3	31.3
	No	99	68.8	68.8	100.0
	Total	144	100.0	100.0	

46) Wider Football Organisational/Administrative Positions held

Wider football organisational/admin positions

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	7	4.9	4.9	4.9
	No	137	95.1	95.1	100.0
	Total	144	100.0	100.0	

47) Other Involvement in the Organisation, Administration, Coaching, Refereeing etc. of Football at any Level

Other involvement in football

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	39	27.1	27.1	27.1
	No	105	72.9	72.9	100.0
	Total	144	100.0	100.0	

48) Other Comments about Experiences of being Involved in Football and the Meaning of Football in Life - Literal responses (see Appendix Five)

APPENDIX FIVE

SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS – QUALITATIVE DATA

P = Premier Division

F = First Division

S = Second Division

T = Third Division

Survey Questions 17a – 17c

Introduction to Football at Various Levels

A = Initial introduction to football (Survey question 17a)

B = Introduction to regular football (Survey question 17b)

C = Introduction to competitive football (Survey question 17c)

ID		Response
P1	A	Playing with my brother aged 8
	B	At school – teacher encouraged me aged 9
	C	Played for school then got asked to sign for Cove. Dad encouraged me
P2	A	Primary school 9 years old
	B	Played in primary school team, trained and played once a week
	C	Played for Deeside girls until I was 16 then joined Middlefield Wasps. My Deeside coach introduced me to them
P3	A	Played in the garden and in the kitchen with my brother since I was 4-5
	B	Started to compete in a club when I was 8. Friends in my class played and I decided to come one day and I loved it since then
	C	We played in a club team. They started our team one year earlier than I started. We had training twice a week and I was training on my own everyday in the garden. Some of my team mates were classmates, but most of the team became new friends. My mum, dad, and brother have always encouraged me and watched me play all my games
P4	A	Streets and school. Father got me interested
	B	10 primary school. Dad encouraged
	C	Moved onto East End Ladies at age 12
P5	A	Used to play in park with friends
	B	Went to 'open session' with Cove Rangers LFC and Arsenal Ladies at 13 and was approached to play for Cove
	C	As above
P6	A	Started playing in the street with friends. I started myself but my dad then encouraged me. 10 years old
	B	Friendly matches – Champion Street (summer tournament) 10 years old. Dad encouraged me, also a neighbour as he was the manager. Sheddocksley Dons were the team
	C	East End Under 16s – 11 years old and my dad encouraged me
P7	A	In garden of aunts house from age 3, kicking a ball about
	B	School, age 8, school teacher
	C	University, age 18, Glasgow Uni. Friends and coach (before at age 16 Larbert Ladies)
P8	A	Informal play, just something I was interested in. 5 years old
	B	Training with boys team. People i.e. coach encouraged me to play. They had seen me playing while mucking about
	C	I wanted to play for women's team so I approached them. Cove Rangers were the team. I was about 19 years old
P9	A	I have always liked football from a young age and got involved through my primary school. Also through my older sister. I started playing at the age of 9
	B	I was interested through my team East End girls and I was about 9 or 10 when I went to my first coaching session
	C	I had moved up through the age groups, then played 1 st division football and now playing premier league
P10	A	At school and in garden, my father got me involved, started playing football at 5 years of

		age
	B	Started training with Cove Rangers at 12 years old
	C	Started playing for Cove Rangers U16s at age of 12. It was mostly my father that encouraged me to play
P11	A	Played with my brother and friends from about 8 years
	B	My best friend played for Granite City Ladies and I just went along. That was the start of a long career
	C	Granite City Ladies age 14
P12	A	Mum and dad interested in football, and played football with me in garden from very young (2/3). Played with boys in street throughout childhood
	B	Played with a team of boys aged 10-11 who were not in school team. Played friendlies against kids from other schools who were not in school team. I was encouraged to join by other team members (boys) some training sessions took place, taken by someone's dad
	C	I had previously enjoyed playing with the boys and a couple of years later saw article in paper on Aberdeen Ladies FC and they had a contact phone number listed if anyone was interested
P13	A	Occasional kick-about in primary school with the boys – 9/10 years old
	B	A girls team started in my home town at age 12. We had a coach but no nearby teams to play against. This fell apart after about a year leaving no girls football at all within about 100 miles
	C	When I started uni I joined the women's football club because I'd always wanted to play properly. I was 18 and it was down to myself that I went along
P14	A	Played in front garden from age 5 approx with brothers friends
	B	At aged 11 started playing for Rosehill Ladies against youth clubs. No one encouraged me to play in fact my mother hated it
	C	12 years old, Rosehill Ladies. No one, just loved the game
P15	A	In garden, uncle and dad, about 5
	B	12 years, dad
	C	12 Granite City Ladies through a friend
P16	A	I was about 7 when I played down at the football park just down the road from me
	B	I was watching my dad's team play when a referee saw me kick the ball about and gave me a phone number of a ladies team that was just starting
	C	When I signed for Clydebank ladies I was 19. My coach Maureen encouraged me to play
P17	A	Watching Grimsby in 1990, mum and dad made brother mascot, became interested through watching Grimsby regularly. Aged 8
	B	Started by playing with junior school, local coach asked me to attend training to a new team in 1993. Progressed onwards since. Clee Girls FC. Local coach Mick Charles (11-12 yrs old)
	C	Entered league in 1997 as Lincs Ladies. Played for 2 seasons. Was 15/16 yrs old. Encouraged through enjoyment
P18	A	I was 8 and participated in football festival at school. Continued to play in streets till I played in school team etc
	B	I was 13 and went along to training that was advertised in local paper
	C	At club level at U16s with Kilmarnock
P19	A	Played with cousins
	B	Invited to attend local team
	C	Via above
P20	A	Started playing at 6 years of age with my brothers and neighbours from street down the park
	B	6 yrs with Stewarton Ladies – was encouraged by Elsie Cook who was then the manager
	C	12 yrs with above club in the SWFA League
P21	A	Started playing in the streets with the boys at football and also at the park at the age of 6-7
	B	I saw an advertisement in the paper where Stewarton Thistle Ladies were training this was at the age of 22. My mum and dad got me started
	C	Started playing for them that session when I was 22
P22	A	Played in streets. Age 9

	B	Knew a friend who played for Stewarton Thistle
	C	Through playing for Stewarton Thistle: progression through to competitions
P23	A	Playing in garden, my father took me to training and matches at his football club that he coached. I was 9 years old
	B	I was told by a friend that a local football team trained at my local leisure centre, and I went along to train. I was 26 years old when I joined Albion Rovers
	C	My coach, 26 years, Albion Rovers, friends and family. My coach
P24	A	Playing football in the park with my brother and male cousins. Primary school football. I got involved playing football at 8 years old
	B	High school football team at 12. Then I started to play for Hamilton Accies at 14 years old
	C	When I was too old for my U16 team. We formed a senior team – Hamilton Athletic. Ian Steele – Football Development Officer SL Council
P25	A	I started playing football in my back garden when I was about 6 years old, then went to parks and played with friends
	B	Saw an advert on TV, called up and found a team in my local town (Airdrie U16). The manager encouraged me to play
	C	-
P26	A	Playing with family in garden (brother) and watching TV
	B	Age 12, attended football programme at Clyde Football Club
	C	At age 18 Steve Muckalt encouraged me to play for Albion Rovers
P27	A	I read an advertisement in the newspaper and watched football on TV
	B	I was 15 and played for East Kilbride girls and I trained 2 times a week
	C	The coach picked me so I got a game
P28	A	Play in streets and in primary school with friends approx age 7
	B	Cumbernauld Cosmos at age 11. Encouraged by myself to play, none of my friends played or had interest in sport
	C	Cumbernauld Cosmos age 11
P29	A	Playing with my older brother in the back garden when I was about 7 or 8
	B	Primary school had a girls team from which I was involved at age 8. More regularly I played in the boys primary school team from age 10-12. My brother, my dad and teachers were encouraging
	C	I wrote to the SWFA at age 12, looking for local clubs. Tried Cumbernauld Cosmos, enjoyed it and began playing organised competitive 7-a-side and 11-a-side matches. My dad was most encouraging here
P30	A	Informal play, encouraged secondary school to start team, university team, club football. Did not play organised till uni – 1st real opportunity to play
	B	17 – university. Motivation to play has always been from within
	C	Players at uni played for a league team – Maryhill Eagles and asked me to go along. 18 – 19 years old
P31	A	A friend of mine started to play so after ? I started to play in clubs, 8 years
	B	With the boys first game 8 years old
	C	8 years, Helsingin (Finland)
P32	A	Playing in the street from the age of 7 years and introduced to a team through advertising at school
	B	Joined Glenrothes Ladies at the age of 13. Encouraged to play through a friend
	C	Competitively as above
P33	A	Introduced by parents, taken to Ibrox and informal 'kick about' in streets. Approx. age 8
	B	Phoned SWFA for a local club. Age 19. Raith Rovers lfc (as called now). Mgr John Goodman
	C	As above
P34	A	Informal play in streets and my elder sister also played. I was introduced at age of 3 or 4
	B	Sports club at around 5 or 6
	C	School team in around primary 5, which meant I was about 8
F1	A	School. Friends
	B	15. Local sports centre
	C	15. Local sports centre
F2	A	Age 8 starting playing with friends at the park

	B	I got encouraged to play by the school and also my parents
	C	-
F3	A	Played all my life. Didn't have team in Perth until 1992 then started with St Johnstone LFC
	B	Some friends decided to start football team up in Perth
	C	Friends. 31. St Johnstone LFC
F4	A	My father got me involved through going to watch him play and also to watch matches
	B	Myself and another friend noticed an advert in the local paper for a girls club and went along
	C	At age 17 when I went along to training for Prestwick LFC. I played one friendly match then started playing regularly in the league
F5	A	Played at local park with brother and friends – 10 years old
	B	Played with brother at 5-a-side, then entered women's 5-a-side league, then on to 11-a-side. Approx 30
	C	5-a-side team I joined were affiliated to SWF, St Johnstone
F6	A	Play in garden. Maths teacher
	B	Through school team. 13 – maths teacher
	C	19 – through college
F7	A	Saw advertisement in paper, went along 2 trials and always enjoyed (at the age of 12ish)
	B	Coaching sessions, 12. The team Glasgow East GFC. Frankie Stewart (first coach)
	C	Same as above
F8	A	Playing in streets with the boys from age 5-6
	B	Age 11 Pinner Park in London, my friends play for them
	C	14 years Clydesbank Ladies. My friends and dad
F9	A	Played in streets when I was about 10
	B	-
	C	-
F10	A	Spectating with father at 9 years old onward
	B	Dad called SWFA to find team – Cumbernauld Cosmos LFC (13 years old) Dad encouraged me to play
	C	As above
F11	A	Tom boy – played with brother and friends. Played in primary school football team – reintroduced to football at uni in 1994
	B	At university playing in team and for Scottish Uni Team – Age 23. Peers and coaches encouraged me
	C	Through uni when a player played for a club and introduced us. Age 26
F12	A	Playing in yhe garden with my dad
	B	I started training with Cumbernauld Cosmos at 8. It was my mum who encouraged me
	C	As above
F13	A	Playing in the garden with my father and brother
	B	Through school at the age of 12 by my PE teacher
	C	A neighbour who played women's football took me along to St Mirren where I joined their under 16s
F14	A	Had a very good friend who played football, age approximately 8. My parents were very encouraging
	B	I've always been supported by my parents to play football
	C	I've played division 1 when I was 15 years old. I was at the Norwegian National Team tryouts when I was 16
F15	A	Playing on street. Started about 6 years old
	B	Father introduced me to football. Started team for me. Since age 12, playing regularly
	C	Through my team
F16	A	6 year old kid playing in streets. Only girl every night after school throughout childhood
	B	Primary school in Glasgow. It was separate playgrounds for boys and girls. Not allowed to kick a ball all through primary and secondary school
	C	Was really interested in joining a team but there was nothing out there. Wrote to SWFA and didn't get the chance until 16. Travelled to Cumbernauld every week because then there were no young Glasgow teams
F17	A	Playing in streets and primary school

	B	Primary school football team at 10-11 years old. Encouraged by school janitor who ran school team. School team was Kildrum Primary, also girls team
	C	Played for girls team, Cumbernauld Cosmos (one of only 2 teams in Scotland at that time). Aged 10
F18	A	In the garden with my brother aged 7
	B	10 when I played for school team. I was only girl in team. Encouraged by family and teachers
	C	Cumbernauld Cosmos in Division 2 aged 15. Encouraged by school mate
F19	A	At 6 with brothers and friends in street, back yard and parks
	B	Discussing with member at work age 26. My husband encouraged me
	C	At 26 decided to play competitively and through a friend from East Kilbride mentioned the ladies team and got in contact with them
F20	A	I was approached while playing on the street by a member of a Ladies Senior Club, when I was 13 years old
	B	I started training and playing with Cumbernauld Ladies FC when I was 13 years old
	C	As above. I was advised to join the Cosmos soon after playing for the Ladies Club in order for me to develop as a player with kids my own age
F21	A	Started playing at primary school at the age of 7, then moved on to the secondary school team where I was introduced to Hamilton Accies by Ian Steele, I've been playing since
	B	The team was Hamilton Accies U18s. I was asked to go along to a training session by Ian. I then went on to sign for the club, a few seasons later I was too old to play for the club so I moved up to the Ladies, I've been there since
	C	I was about 15 when I joined Hamilton and started playing competitively. I was introduced by Ian Steele and William Brown was my coach at the time who encouraged me to play for the team. I was also encouraged a lot by my family
F22	A	Family
	B	Family
	C	Family
F23	A	Always played football in the street when I was a child. Both boys / girls all played back in the sixties
	B	Was watching Dundee Utd FC v St Johnstone FC at Tannadice 1973. Ladies team came on at half-time for penalty shoot-out. First time I realised women's teams existed
	C	Wrote to the information centre, Dundee for details of the club Dundee Strikers LFC. Then wrote to the club asking to join. I was 17 years old. I always did things myself
F24	A	Started playing at 9 in the streets. Grandad got me involved
	B	Joined boys team after getting seen playing at school, was 12. The team was Charleston Boys
	C	Forfar Farmington. Got asked to sign after getting seen playing for the boys
F25	A	Played at school
	B	Started playing for Dundee Utd at the age of 11
	C	As above
F26	A	Played in the streets with friends from aged 10
	B	Went with a friend to a training session with Forfar Lochside, aged 12. The coaches encouraged me to play (and my parents)
	C	Lochside Girls, aged 12, coaches, team mates encouraged me
F27	A	In the garden aged 5 or 6
	B	Training with school team aged 7
	C	Aberdeen U16 aged 10
F28	A	Started playing football at the age of 8 with classmates at breaktimes
	B	Age 14, Eastend Ladies, our primary school headmaster knew a girl who played for them and gave us a name to contact
	C	Really the same info as above. Started playing for the U16 team and was supported by parents and teachers
F29	A	Playing in street with peer group at 5 years old
	B	Attended summer skills course and invited by coach to play for Coventry City LFC age 14
	C	As above
F30	A	Playing in garden with cousin at 15 years old

	B	Went to training with a friend
	C	-
F31	A	I started playing football with the boys at school, then heard about a local team advertising for players. I was at primary school age between 8-10 years when I first started playing
	B	-
	C	-
F32	A	I started playing football in the village park with the other kids when I moved to Scotland at the age of 7
	B	Played regularly at primary school for their boys team – 5-a-side and 7-a-side tournaments. Then in 1 st and 2 nd year at secondary school
	C	First started when I joined Fraserburgh Under 16s at the age of 15. My manager Jackie Buchan encouraged me to play
S1	A	Kicked ball about since I can remember. Played with local boys
	B	19 years saw Ladies team training in Nottingham and when I was watching they asked if I'd like to join in
	C	19 years as above
S2	A	-
	B	-
	C	-
S3	A	Spectating and informal play from really young. Friends at school from 5 on
	B	School team and local team training at about 12-13. Dad encouraged
	C	At 12-13 with Fraserburgh U16s
S4	A	Coach at primary school got me involved at the age of 7. Spectator at first then was invited along
	B	Age 7. Crudie Boys Club. The coach
	C	Age 13. Fraserburgh Girls. The coach of the team
S5	A	In the streets. My dad
	B	At Fyvie primary school. The head teacher and class teacher. 7 or 8
	C	13 or 14. I played for Kemnay Ladies U16s. My coach, managers, and parents
S6	A	Played for school team for a laugh with a friend, then got spotted by a coach
	B	Playing games with school (12 years)
	C	14 years
S7	A	Played with brothers when younger. Watched regularly on TV
	B	Played for school team and then got introduced to local girls team by school friend
	C	Local girls team led to playing SWF (Inverurie United)
S8	A	Primary school
	B	Primary school
	C	School team
S9	A	-
	B	-
	C	-
S10	A	-
	B	-
	C	-
S11	A	Play in garden / fields at very young age with dad. Played with boys at primary school then gave up in teens
	B	Started playing at age 21 in university team just established at Aberdeen (1991). Moved and played friendly 5-a-side (indoor and outdoor)
	C	Played in Belgian local league after having played with friends for a number of years
S12	A	In streets and garden with brothers and friends
	B	My dad. About 12 years. Whitehill
	C	Whitehill. 16 years. My dad
S13	A	During summer '97 got coaching in a summer camp
	B	Went to training session with women's team. 17. Also play U16 Livingston
	C	I was 17 and went along to a training session to play. Livingston were the team. All players
S14	A	Played in the street. My brother and friends, aged 5

	B	Through someone I sued to babysit for. Aged 15
	C	As above, aged 15 / 16
S15	A	Played for as long as I can remember, mucking around in garden with brother and friends
	B	Started playing competitive at secondary school, was encouraged by teachers and parents – age approx 14
	C	Started playing for Strollers through a friend, aged 20
S16	A	I've played football recreationally since I was about 5 years old because my older brother played a lot
	B	I didn't join a team until I was 17 years old
	C	I phoned up and enquired at my local sports centre. I was 17 and Livingston was the first SWF affiliated club I played for
S17	A	Went to games with dad and played with dad and boys at school right through school. From about age 4
	B	Age 11, Whitburn Girls U16s. Pals fae school
	C	Same as above
S18	A	From the age of 6 my brother took me out to play footie with him in the garden etc.
	B	My brother took me to Livingston to join the ladies team then I started to train and play with them at the age of 16 years
	C	Played for Livingston Ladies at 16 years. My brother encouraged me to play
S19	A	Informal play in park
	B	5-a-side football – 20 years old – work team
	C	Age 25 – I had always wanted to play for a team then I saw a local newspaper article about Hawkraig and phoned. My husband encouraged me to play
S20	A	Spectating at first. School
	B	Training
	C	SWFA Falkirk Football Club. Mum and dad encouraged me
S21	A	Played with guys at school from primary 1 up
	B	School team at age 12. Doni Wanderers. Tournaments
	C	By a pal. At about 16. Hawkraig
S22	A	Playing in street, pals, age 6+
	B	Falkirk Ladies, 27 years. Teaching and playing. Encouraged myself
	C	As above
S23	A	Father – playing and watching him every Saturday – Kelty Hearts – goalkeeper, 5 years old+
	B	Training – matches, 12+
	C	14 years old and all through primary and high school
S24	A	Through friends / school etc
	B	Meadow Athletic – just through friends who all wanted to play football
	C	When I met my partner, she played in a competitive league so I joined the same team
S25	A	Informed play during break time (after lunch) in primary school. 8 years old
	B	Joined a “little league” soccer team – trained 2 times weekly, games on Saturday. Formal structured league – 8 years old. Most girls on the team were my classmates or attended neighbouring schools. A classmate invited me to join in the first place
	C	See above. “Little league” continued until “High School” (in the US that's 15-18 years old) – then it was the high school teams – daily training
S26	A	I was 7 years old, informal play in the streets, park, garden
	B	At primary school, trained once a week, coaching sessions with pro's school team. Family /friends encouraged me
	C	With Walter Bothwick, then with Dunfermline U16s at 15. Family/friends and coaches
S27	A	Garden/streets with my brother aged about 8
	B	Big brother, joined Dunfermline U16s when I was about 10. Used to play friendlies
	C	First played with Glenrothes Ladies when I was about 15 or 16
S28	A	I used to have a kick about with lads at school. Age from 8-14
	B	My neighbour started up a local team. Age 22. Encouragement came from neighbour
	C	As above
S29	A	Informal play after school and at lunch times at school with all boys from 11+
	B	Every lunch time at high school with all boys. No girls team available to me. In Vermont, USA played informally weekly in recreation league then joined varsity

		university team
	C	From friends in Fife – set up team as a group and joined league in 1999
S30	A	Spectating at professional game at the age of 6 with my dad
	B	Summer 2000 I was on work placement with Sports Development and the Women and Girls Department asked me along to Falkirk
	C	Same as Q17b
S31	A	-
	B	-
	C	-
S32	A	I was 8 years old and saw advert in paper for training sessions
	B	Same as 17a
	C	Same as 17a
S33	A	Playing with my dad and brothers in garden aged 6
	B	Classes organised by FFC community coach John Blackley age 10
	C	Was asked to sign for new Falkirk girls team by founder Alison Mackie aged 11
S34	A	Kick abouts in the garden with my father from as young as I can remember – as soon as I learned to walk probably!
	B	Coaching sessions with primary school janitor as coach – age 10. Friendlies against other school 5-a-side teams. Was encouraged by friends/parents
	C	Development officer Alison Mackie founded Falkirk Ladies in 1990. Had already attended previous coaching sessions of hers and was asked to join
S35	A	Started playing in garden with brother then attended sports development classes age 10
	B	Age 11 Falkirk Girls, Alison Mackie encouraged me to play
	C	Same as 17b
S36	A	Playing in the streets and playground at primary school age from about 6
	B	Playing for school team age 8
	C	Playing for Falkirk age 12. Parents, teachers and friends, brother encouraged me to play
S37	A	Play with dad and brother, age 3?
	B	Friendly 5-a-sides at local sports centre with friends. Age 23
	C	Created Falkirk Club with friends in 1993. Age 23
T1	A	First interest in football was when taken to watch games with my brothers at about 8 years old
	B	Went to train with Arbroath Ladies after reading advertisement for players in paper when I was 21
	C	Arbroath Ladies FC. 21
T2	A	Started off watching Forfar Athletic regularly at the age of 10, starting playing in garden with brother
	B	At 14, me and a friend asked the manager of a boys team if he would start a girls team which he did and I have played ever since
	C	Started at 14 when Lochside Girls first began
T3	A	Spectating - attending matches and watching on TV. My dad. As long as I can remember
	B	I was 26, no one really introduced me – just fancied a change of sport
	C	As above
T4	A	First introduced at primary school, age 11. Started playing football with the boys due to lack of girls in school
	B	Played for high school team for short time, aged 16
	C	First played for Arbroath Ladies age 24
T5	A	Started playing football in village park/playground. Was probably about 7 or 8 years
	B	-
	C	Saw an advert in local paper and went along to training session. I was 22 years old – Arbroath Ladies
T6	A	Went along with friend. 14 years old. Spectating
	B	Training with Lochside Girls
	C	Same as above
T7	A	Went to games from my teens. Pals got me involved when I was 15
	B	Started training and playing with Lochside Girls when I was 15. Pals and parents encouraged me to play
	C	After going to training sessions, aged 15, playing U16s with Lochside Girls

T8	A	Began playing 5-a-side with workmates age 25
	B	Began playing regular 5-a-side with workmates (twice a week) and then with group of women I met through a workmate age 27
	C	Began playing for FMC Harriers age 28 through someone who works where I used to work
T9	A	Playing in street/at school with boys (about age 9). Playing in garden with friends and encouraged by my dad from age 7-8
	B	Replied to advert in local newspaper for new players by FMC Harriers in 1999. Initial interest my own, encouraged by boyfriend
	C	As above
T10	A	Watched football matches with dad and brother
	B	-
	C	-
T11	A	Very young, playing in the garden with my brother
	B	5-a-side, introduced by my wee sister, 21
	C	Age 24, progression from 5-a-side to 11-a-side
T12	A	Playing in garden with elder brother
	B	Brother seen advert in paper for players for women's team so went along to training – FMC Harriers when I was 22
	C	Playing for FMC Harriers from age 22
T13	A	Boyfriend –(fanatic about football!). Watching on TV age 27. Playing in streets as a kid
	B	Boss at work asked me along to make up numbers for a match
	C	See above
T14	A	I watched it on the TV from an early age, approx. 7 years old. My pals and I played football in the playground from about that age
	B	I saw a women's football match at my local council pitch and asked if they knew of any team that was looking for players. They told me to contact the SWFL, who in turn suggested I contact Third Lanark
	C	In 1999 the coach of 3rds told me to come to a training session; if I enjoyed it he would register me to play for them and I haven't looked back since
T15	A	Playing with friends in street and park
	B	Saw card in library for Third Lanark, 17. The team encouraged me to stay and play
	C	See above
T16	A	Played with brother in garden
	B	18 years old, went to training with Arthurlie with friends and joined team
	C	18 years old Arthurlie. Friends and parents encouraged me
T17	A	Playing with friends in the street 5-15 years
	B	Training with Third Lanark age 34. Encouraged to join by friends
	C	As 17b
T18	A	Play in streets and park (4-5 I suppose)
	B	Glasgow Uni while a staff member there
	C	SWF Club (as above)
T19	A	Streets, garden, spectating. I just enjoyed playing. About 8 years old
	B	Training, games. 24 years Dundee City
	C	-
T20	A	I started watching football at 9 years and started playing at the same age with neighbours and boys from school. My dad got me involved (watching)
	B	Someone told me of a phone number so I phoned it and joined a team about 11 years old. Team was Dundee United U13
	C	My sister saw an advert looking for players for Dundee City WFC so I went along and I've played for them since. I was 13 years old when I joined
T21	A	Informal with friends. Played a lot. My dad involved me from when I was a toddler
	B	I trained with a boy's team from 12 years old. There was very little teams who would allow you. I just keep pushing to find a team with my parents
	C	13 years. Advert in paper for new girls team. Dundee Royals. My team mates and family
T22	A	I was introduced by neighbours in my street. I played on the street and at the local park. I was about 7 years old
	B	I played for my primary school (Forthill) in two matches. I didn't play again until recently.

		Friends and family encouraged me
	C	I was first introduced to a SWF club last summer. It was Dundee City WFC. My family encouraged me
T23	A	Informal play from age 4 up
	B	Age 18 Ross & Cromarty Comets – introduced by a friend
	C	As above
T24	A	Played football from a young age with older brother (age 8)
	B	Kemnay Ladies 1990 (20). Played friendlies and then joined league. 2 of the girls dads got us involved playing competitively
	C	As above 1991 joined league
T25	A	Playing football with my brothers age 3 upwards
	B	Kemnay Ladies 1991 (17) always wanted to play in a team and heard about this local team starting up
	C	As above
T26	A	Football referee 1981-1991 (SFA Qualified 1980) Spectator 1974-present
	B	Training, friendlies 1990 in Kemnay when I was 29, Kemnay Boys Club got ladies who were interested together – Mr Bill Blackie
	C	Our ‘friendly’ team affiliated season 1993-1994 – Kemnay Ladies – run by Mr Bill Blackie / Mr Alan Dow
T27	A	Informal play in playground and garden. Elder brother and sister, and friends at primary school. 4 years old
	B	10. Drumblade Primary Team. My friends who went there
	C	For Kemnay Ladies AFC. 16. My sister who played for them
T28	A	Informal play in garden, streets etc from age 13
	B	Through friends played and trained for East Fife Ladies at age of 15-16, family and friends encouraged
	C	As above
T29	A	Was introduced at a very early age from my footballer father and family. Played in the streets with the boys
	B	I always played football then my school started a girls 5-a-side team so went on to play for Central Fife when I was 14. My friend wanted me to join as she played for them
	C	Played with Central Fife (14) until they defunked so went on to play for Glenrothes Ladies (15) (Raith Rovers) until I joined Kirkland (age 18)
T30	A	Informal through frineds in the street from age 8 upwards
	B	Noticed local advert then joined current team, all happened while I was 25
	C	As above (17b)
T31	A	Playing with friends in the park age 8
	B	School team at age of 10
	C	Encouraged by a friend to join local league team age 19
T32	A	Age 5, father was a coach, played regularly in the streets and park
	B	Played with boys and girls primary school. 12 years old – joined Central Fife Ladies. High school girls team
	C	Central Fife Ladies, 12 years old. Father and friends encouraged me
T33	A	Informal/recreational – 8 years old. High school team – extra-curricular – 14 years old
	B	High school – PE Teacher – girls school team – 14 years old
	C	Kirkland Ladies – 22 years old – friends who played for the club encouraged me to join
T34	A	Informal play in streets/park, played at university
	B	University
	C	Bo’ness Ladies once I left uni. Went along as friend from uni started a team
T35	A	First played football at primary school probably at the age of 6 or 7. Also played at home though
	B	I played for my primary school team. We played friendlies and cup matches
	C	Local women’s team I was about 19/20 introduced by friends
T36	A	Age 6 – playing football with my brother and his friends
	B	Age 8 – primary school for 3 years, played other primary schools
	C	Age 20, Bo’ness ladies, myself
T37	A	Primary school
	B	Primary

	C	21 year old – Bo’ness Ladies. Group of friends starting a team
T38	A	I started watching football about 8 years old. Started playing football at school when I was about 10
	B	I started playing regularly at 10 years old for Deanburn Primary school, my dad encouraged me to play
	C	I only started playing competitively at the age of 21, the team is Bo’ness LFC. I was involved in starting up the team
T39	A	Introduced at primary school at the age of 8 then continued through high school then started BULFC after high school
	B	I started playing regularly at 8 year old for Bo’ness Public School, my family encouraged me
	C	I started competitively at the age of 17/18 with BU Ladies
T40	A	School – primary
	B	At primary, I was 8, Deanburn Primary School. I encouraged myself
	C	18, BU Ladies, my current coach
T41	A	Primary school team. Secondary school. College football. Team (local)
	B	Primary school
	C	Old friend

Survey Questions 27 and 28

High School and PE Department Attitudes

ID		Attitude
P1	School	People were alright although there was some remarks
	PE Dept	They encouraged me a lot and wanted me to do well
P2	School	We didn’t have a girls football team and didn’t do football in PE because they thought most girls didn’t like it
	PE Dept	Felt the same way as the school
P3	School	People thought it was interesting and cool
	PE Dept	Interesting, fun that we were involved in a sport
P4	School	Very negative
	PE Dept	Positive
P5	School	Not too interested but took a slight interest in the girls who played
	PE Dept	Again, as above
P6	School	Not very good – girls were rubbish
	PE Dept	They never encouraged it, school nurse took the girls 5-a-side team
P7	School	It was ok to play
	PE Dept	It was ok to play
P8	School	At my time there was no football for girls
	PE Dept	It wasn’t on the agenda. Although I have heard they do have a team now
P9	School	They encouraged it but not enough girls were interested at that time
	PE Dept	The same as above
P10	School	Most people thought that women couldn’t play football
	PE Dept	They didn’t really give it that much attention
P11	School	Boys only game then
	PE Dept	Never played
P12	School	Girls were not discouraged from football. Girls were allowed to play for fun after school and at lunch, but competitive girls football and boys was not encouraged
	PE Dept	As above. Some members of PE staff took extra interest in pupils who did any sport competitively which was against school principles
P13	School	If there was enough demand we could play. They didn’t have a problem with it though, there was just a lack of demand
	PE Dept	Didn’t have an attitude as not many girls were very interested in PE never mind football
P14	School	Girls football wasn’t a sport available at school (must be poor attitude)
	PE Dept	Don’t know
P15	School	To me they were fine but as a rule didn’t think much of it

	PE Dept	As above
P16	School	No one really commented on it
	PE Dept	I didn't get any football at PE
P17	School	Male sport, not played during school hours, not part of the National Curriculum. Only played at breaks or out of school if organised by ourselves
	PE Dept	Head of department very sexist (male) shouldn't play. Female teachers attended our 5-a-side competitions, but knew nothing about the sport
P18	School	Football was a man's sport but I was encouraged by some individuals
	PE Dept	OK. There was a girls team
P19	School	Neutral – not encouraged
	PE Dept	Never had girls team
P20	School	Wasn't allowed to play in secondary school team
	PE Dept	PE teacher was not allowed to select me for the team as I was female
P21	School	It wasn't done very often and it wasn't encouraged either
	PE Dept	There wasn't an issue for girls football at this time it was mostly hockey and volleyball
P22	School	Didn't really push it much
	PE Dept	Obviously not part of curriculum but weren't against it
P23	School	Girls football wasn't as popular as it is now, there wasn't a great enough percentage of girls wanting to play the sport so I would say it was a negative attitude
	PE Dept	Girls wasn't allowed to play
P24	School	Very good, had a girls team, played matches, tournaments
	PE Dept	Good, positive
P25	School	It was very good, there was a girls team but it split
	PE Dept	They thought that it was good
P26	School	Wasn't particularly good apart from the odd teacher
	PE Dept	Only half of them were encouraging, others disapproved
P27	School	Not too bad, not very helpful
	PE Dept	Ok, not very encouraging
P28	School	Good, enabled me to take coaching sessions for girls
	PE Dept	Good, enabled me to take coaching sessions for girls
P29	School	Attitude was poor during first couple of years there but a teacher started a team and eventually we won the Headmaster over. Before, he wasn't exactly all for it – he said to a parents meeting that his idea of equal opportunities was that the boys were allowed to sew
	PE Dept	PE Dept much more enthusiastic. Principal teacher very supportive of the team and my Scotland aspirations in particular
P30	School	Half and half. Most were for it but nobody wanted to run a team
	PE Dept	More negative than positive. Not really interested. But few of the PE teachers were into football
P31	School	We didn't have football team at school – only private clubs
	PE Dept	***NB Finland –no sports in schools, only private clubs
P32	School	Negative and not promoted
	PE Dept	Their attitude was positive but it was not possible to play with the boys and it was not on the female curriculum
P33	School	That there was no such thing!
	PE Dept	Not prepared to introduce it to girls. Too much bother and assumed there was no interest
P34	School	The schools that I attended both supported females playing football
	PE Dept	They supported any participation in any sports
F1	School	Fascinated
	PE Dept	Enthusiastic
F2	School	The attitude was ok
	PE Dept	It was generally ok
F3	School	There wasn't any girls football
	PE Dept	None
F4	School	It was not allowed at school and they felt it was inappropriate for women to be

		playing
	PE Dept	They didn't approve at all
F5	School	Not a sport for women/girls
	PE Dept	Never openly discussed
F6	School	Not very good
	PE Dept	Not very good
F7	School	Didn't like it
	PE Dept	Didn't like it
F8	School	Excellent
	PE Dept	Good
F9	School	They weren't interested in it
	PE Dept	As above
F10	School	Was not allowed to play
	PE Dept	Negative
F11	School	Peer pressure – you were a tom boy and that was not cool. Boys wanted feminine girlfriends and females did also. I was embarrassed to play
	PE Dept	Poor – never allowed us to play. Was not encouraged and supported by teachers
F12	School	Generally ok
	PE Dept	We were not allowed to play
F13	School	Very positive as we had several girls teams
	PE Dept	Positive, my PE teacher ran the girls team
F14	School	Very good, went to sports school (Norway)
	PE Dept	-
F15	School	It was not really an aspect to be looked at
	PE Dept	It was for fun
F16	School	Not permitted was not allowed
	PE Dept	In the '80s it was only the boys who had football in PE and school team. Girls were not encouraged at all. It was very disappointing. But it's changed days now and that can only be good for young kids to feel equal at any kind of sport
F17	School	Were not interested
	PE Dept	As above with the exception of one male PE teacher (out of 4)
F18	School	Not on curriculum
	PE Dept	One PE teacher was keen
F19	School	Shocking! Advised to stick to sewing etc!!
	PE Dept	Shocking! As above!
F20	School	Unsure, didn't really discuss it
	PE Dept	As above
F21	School	The school had quite a positive attitude towards women's football
	PE Dept	Very positive, we were always getting involved in tournaments and games outside school
F22	School	No team
	PE Dept	No team
F23	School	When T was at school girls and football didn't mix
	PE Dept	It didn't exist
F24	School	They were quite happy for me to play and encouraged me
	PE Dept	Used to let me play all the time. No problem
F25	School	Positive attitude, encouraging me to play
	PE Dept	Very good
F26	School	We didn't get to play during school hours
	PE Dept	Female teachers were great, male weren't (1 male in particular)
F27	School	Half were for, half weren't
	PE Dept	For it
F28	School	No girls had played football at our Academy before my sister and I. However once they realised we were serious they were very supportive and showed interest and enthusiasm about it
	PE Dept	Supportive, interested, encouraging
F29	School	Positive – team suffered after I left
	PE Dept	Positive

F30	School	To be encouraged
	PE Dept	Gave a lot of support
F31	School	Most other girls thought I was a lesbian or very 'manly' and the boys did a bit of teasing but once they saw us play most of them changed their perspective on women's football
	PE Dept	They were all for it because as long as you were doing exercise they were happy
F32	School	They were encouraging although we struggled to find enough players and a willing coach
	PE Dept	They were very supportive of all sporting activities including girls' football
S1	School	Girls didn't get to play football they played hockey
	PE Dept	They did not accept the fact that some girls wanted to play
S2	School	-
	PE Dept	-
S3	School	Not really very high opinion but had a team
	PE Dept	Not too bad, but not very serious
S4	School	Didn't exist at my school until my final year. But now it's got a really good attitude
	PE Dept	Didn't agree with it. The year I left we got a new PE teacher and it's him that got it where it is today
S5	School	We had a women's team at school and the attitude was 100%
	PE Dept	Their attitude was 100%
S6	School	Positive towards me because they think I'm good
	PE Dept	They are a little bias towards the boys
S7	School	They never took much notice. Probably didn't know there was a team
	PE Dept	Neutral
S8	School	Good. Ran a school team
	PE Dept	Good. Ran football training
S9	School	-
	PE Dept	-
S10	School	Alright
	PE Dept	Good
S11	School	Didn't exist as far as they were concerned
	PE Dept	As above
S12	School	Not good
	PE Dept	Not good
S13	School	Good and encouraged us to join in and play. Created a girls team
	PE Dept	Always encouraged us to play
S14	School	Not many girls wanted to play. They were allowed though
	PE Dept	Positive
S15	School	Fairly strong attitude towards girls football, very encouraging
	PE Dept	Same, very encouraging
S16	School	They were not interested in girls football
	PE Dept	They were not interested either
S17	School	Positive, but never really encouraged
	PE Dept	Really good!
S18	School	It was neutral
	PE Dept	It was a bit negative
S19	School	Girls don't play football!!
	PE Dept	Girls don't really play football although a couple are ok at it
S20	School	Think it was a waste of time
	PE Dept	Thought it was brilliant
S21	School	Didn't have a team and wouldn't want one. Just a boys team
	PE Dept	Same as above
S22	School	Didn't get to play, for boys
	PE Dept	As above
S23	School	Great!
	PE Dept	Great!
S24	School	Only really took off when I was in my final year

	PE Dept	Very supportive, but some of the male teachers thought it was still 'a man's game'.
S25	School	Highly competitive – a player from South America was recruited to coach us – he was very intense
	PE Dept	Didn't take PE in high school – don't know – probably had a hand in what's described in No.27
S26	School	Not very good, not keen on having a girls team, most PE teachers were against it
	PE Dept	Against women's football
S27	School	Didn't really play football at the High School. Was always netball, hockey etc
	PE Dept	Can't remember
S28	School	They did not allow girls to play football
	PE Dept	As above
S29	School	Girls do not play football!
	PE Dept	Girls do not play football!
S30	School	They failed to acknowledge girls football
	PE Dept	There was no real interest outside PE classes
S31	School	Very negative
	PE Dept	Very negative
S32	School	Quite good
	PE Dept	Average
S33	School	Positive
	PE Dept	Positive
S34	School	Uninterested
	PE Dept	Head of dept was Scottish schoolboys manager/coach. No interest in girls football whatsoever
S35	School	Had no real interest in girls football. No team
	PE Dept	-
S36	School	Very positive
	PE Dept	Very positive we were very successful
S37	School	Girls don't play. No team
	PE Dept	As above
T1	School	Not much interest shown
	PE Dept	No interest
T2	School	Never ever got to play football cause not many girls were interested
	PE Dept	Sexist, never got to play
T3	School	Non existent
	PE Dept	Same as above
T4	School	Wasn't very positive when I was at school
	PE Dept	-
T5	School	-
	PE Dept	-
T6	School	Weren't allowed to play
	PE Dept	Same as above
T7	School	Didn't really get to play, not enough girls wanted to play at that time
	PE Dept	They let us play but never enough girls to participate
T8	School	Girls' football was not really considered
	PE Dept	As above
T9	School	Non-existent when I was at school, not encouraged at all
	PE Dept	Same as above
T10	School	Didn't teach it
	PE Dept	Thought it wasn't for girls
T11	School	Not encouraged and was never an option
	PE Dept	Not encouraged and was never an option
T12	School	Didn't play football at school. All girls school so not even a football coach present
	PE Dept	Not sure. Would have let us play if we demanded it but not enough demand
T13	School	Wasn't an option

	PE Dept	Wasn't an option
T14	School	We didn't know such a thing existed
	PE Dept	Don't do it, you may give yourself an injury which might affect you in adult life!
T15	School	Not important, never told of any girls football teams or coaching
	PE Dept	Never considered
T16	School	They didn't play
	PE Dept	That football was not a girls sport
T17	School	Girls don't play football
	PE Dept	As 27
T18	School	Not allowed to play
	PE Dept	As above
T19	School	-
	PE Dept	They did not agree didn't think they had enough players for a team
T20	School	Most people respect the fact that I play football but when they view it as a whole, a lot of the boys laugh and make stupid comments
	PE Dept	One of the female teachers seems to have no interest but the rest of them have quite a positive attitude to girls football
T21	School	There was no opportunities for playing football as it was not allowed
	PE Dept	Ok
T22	School	Women's football was never taken seriously
	PE Dept	They always said it was too much work to have a girls team
T23	School	There was no local women's football when I was there
	PE Dept	As above (27)
T24	School	Very positive now. Not really much interest when I was at school
	PE Dept	See above
T25	School	Not really interested when I was at school much better attitude nowadays
	PE Dept	As above
T26	School	Not recognised
	PE Dept	Not recognised
T27	School	Didn't show much interest, unless we won
	PE Dept	They didn't show any interest as it was organised by other members of staff
T28	School	Not good just started to kick in as I was leaving school
	PE Dept	As above
T29	School	Not as important as the boys football team but we did get a 5-a-side team
	PE Dept	The PE teachers were very busy with other activities so not much time for the girls football
T30	School	It wasn't very popular and only really meant for the boys
	PE Dept	Can't remember but it really wasn't mentioned
T31	School	Good
	PE Dept	Very good
T32	School	Some teachers encouraged it, others were neutral
	PE Dept	Quite good, they enjoyed seeing female football doing well and were happy to have it as an extra curricular activity
T33	School	Negative – responsibility left to only one teacher. When he left to take another job, the team folded
	PE Dept	Negative
T34	School	Negative
	PE Dept	Negative – was never part of the curriculum
T35	School	Very good
	PE Dept	Also very good
T36	School	No-one seem to really care about it
	PE Dept	Same as above
T37	School	Encouraging but not actively supportive
	PE Dept	Supportive
T38	School	It was a positive attitude and they were very encouraging
	PE Dept	Same as above
T39	School	Very positive

	PE Dept	Very positive
T40	School	Team was started, but not run very well
	PE Dept	Ok
T41	School	Good
	PE Dept	Good

Survey Question 29b

Discouragement

- P4 Family – too much commitment for no money
- P5 Parents – mainly because of injury
- P14 Mother – thought the sport was too rough especially when I got injured. Would rather I played with dolls
- P15 Headmaster in primary school
- P21 Doctor – when I damaged the tendon in my knee and had some cartilage removed
- P25 Mother – I recently went to hospital with head injuries and she wasn't happy about it. She wants me to quit, I don't want to.
- P26 Primary school teachers – I think this happened because I was a girl
- P31 Doctor – when I was 9 years old and I ? first time my knee. I went to see a doctor and he said that it's too rough game for the girl (FINLAND)
- P33 Female relative – one time due to too many injuries and days off work as a result
- F13 Mother – as she doesn't think it's very nice to see a lady with bruises on her legs
- F16 Father – who thought football was a man's game and not for girls. But through determination managed to prove a few folk wrong and played for my national team
- F17 People who don't know me that well, in-laws, mum (when I kept getting injured). Didn't approve of women playing football
- F18 Aunts – worried I may get hurt
- F19 Mother, family, friends. Had open-heart surgery at 16, dislocated shoulder many times, finally had operation to set it. After coming through they realised I can still be competitive and gave up
- F23 Mum – after my first match in 1973 my mum told me I wouldn't be going back. No idea as to why really
- F28 Parents of other pupils at my primary school. They felt that girls should play netball and boys should play football
- F30 Mum, dad, grandma – man's sport
- S11 Sister – mild discouragement who perceives it as very male dominated sport
- S13 Mum
- S22 Mother – worried about injuries
- S24 Mainly males – probably because they feel threatened and they want football to be kept a male dominated sport
- S29 My school and society – has given inherent message that boys play football, girls don't
- S33 Female friends – don't know why
- S34 Mother – concerned contact nature of sport would result in injury
- S35 At first my mum, as she didn't think that girls should play football
- S37 Most men I've met. Biased attitude
- T14 PE teacher – thought it was rather butch for a girl to play football
- T18 Teacher – football not for girls
- T21 Men – as they think it's a man's game (threatened)
- T27 Mum – as she thought that I would get injured again
- T31 Mother – because of the danger of getting hurt

Survey Question 40

Reasons regarding Sexuality

- P4 Yes – closeness of players. There are in many sports
- P5 Yes – Spending a lot of time with other females. Football has always been male orientated and basically there's a lot of females like that
- P6 Yes – I'd say about 80% of the women's game are bisexual. And young players coming into the game are going the same way because it seems right with everyone else doing it

- P8 Yes – No
- P12 Yes – No, but I think that there are less homosexual and bisexual women playing than say 10 years ago. Perhaps more heterosexual women are playing now and as the game grows in terms of numbers playing more and more girls are given the opportunity to play, and the balance of numbers from each of these groups changes
- P13 No – at certain clubs there are but in general I would think the majority are not
- P14 Yes – In most team sports there are homosexuals and bisexuals, I don't think this is so much as a sexual thing but a friendship thing
- P15 Yes – Too many older players are introducing young kids with their influence. They use these kids admiration to their advantage
- P22 Yes – maybe too many problems with other members of sex accepting women in football
- P23 No – I do believe there is a percentage of gay women playing football, but not a high percentage
- P25 No – people think that some women who play football are homosexual and bisexual, I don't think that is the case at all
- P27 Yes – I think some women only play football because they are homosexual and think that it is acceptable
- P30 Yes – seems to be apparent / dominant throughout most female sports. Perhaps more testosterone makes better sportswomen and therefore more likely to be gay / bisexual if talented at certain sports – football / hockey / tennis / basketball / athletics especially throwing events / golf
- P31 Yes – I have thinking that so many years but I don't really know why most football players are homo/bisexual. Same thing in other countries (FINLAND)
- P32 Yes – it is well known that in nearly all teams a large number are openly homosexual
- P33 Yes – 1) by nature are 'tomboys' = want to play football, the malest of male sports; 2) it's a team game so is more appealing
- P34 Yes – no, I have no idea why that is. It confuses me to why that happens
- F1 Yes – male hormones
- F4 Yes – it's a similar situation in many women's sports such as rugby, hockey etc. I suggest 2 reasons: 1) many women who are gay are attracted to sporting activities but also; 2) many people who realise they are gay get involved in sport as they know they will meet like-minded people
- F5 Yes – most sports have homosexual / bisexual men / women
- F6 Yes – people can be easily influenced
- F7 Yes – because you spend a lot more time socialising with girls more. And it seems no pressure is added to your decisions in life
- F8 Yes – it's a good way to socialise and meet people. You can relax and be yourself
- F10 Yes – no
- F12 Yes – I've heard about it and I don't think it's right
- F13 Yes – a lot of younger players are influenced by older players
- F14 No – I really don't know since I haven't been playing football in Scotland for a long time (Norway)
- F16 ? – yes but not as many as when I first started playing, it came as a bit of a shock to me and my team mates. I didn't notice it until training with national side where half of the squad were bisexual it was a bit off putting to myself but it is not so bad now, I think it is fading out. There are so many girls playing for under 10, 11, 12 teams and everyone is moving on, the sport is getting really popular and hopefully that side of women's football will disappear and we will get the media coverage and the publicity and the respect that Scottish Women's Football should have, and that can only be great to promote the women's game
- F18 Yes – the same sex environment is one answer although I would say the number of 'straight' people playing has grown from when I started out 15 years ago
- F19 Yes – I've come across them
- F20 I believe environments and other people's influences contribute
- F23 Yes – because there are girls at the club who openly express their homosexuality. I can only presume they are attracted to male type, physical sports. A meeting point for them perhaps
- F24 Yes – no everyone is an individual and can be any sexuality they please. Homosexual women tend to be more interested
- F27 Yes – no
- F28 Yes – I'm not very sure, but I think that the companionship and closeness of team situations can encourage relationships to be formed

- F30 Yes – everyone is their own person
- F31 Yes – I only answered yes to this question as I don't think I would have met as many homosexual etc women in my life if I never played football but I don't think women footballers should be branded with a sexuality just because of the sport they play as I feel that this happens too often. People are born with a sexuality and that is that, it shouldn't matter anyway because we're all there to enjoy ourselves and the sport. A lot of people out-with football should realise this and think before they speak
- F32 Not really – no, because that would be stereotyping
- S1 Yes – I have played a long time and know many people who are homosexual and bisexual through football
- S3 Yes – because I have seen and heard a lot about these types of relationships within my club and others
- S4 Yes – I know a lot of the players of other clubs that are
- S6 Yes – I know a few and my mate knows a lot of them
- S7 Yes – No idea
- S10 Yes – Don't want to give a reason
- S11 Yes – in reality it's probably no greater than the general population but maybe women feel more relaxed about expressing homo/bisexuality in what is traditionally a more accepting environment
- S14 Yes – not sure why
- S17 Yes – no not really
- S19 Yes – a high proportion (50%) of my team members are gay. I am also aware of other teams containing homosexual players
- S20 Yes – there is a lot of nice women
- S21 Yes – because a lot of them are tomboys
- S24 Yes – 1. Because it is accepted more. 2. People join for that purpose. 3. Friendships become / turn into relationships. 4. Women offer more in every aspect than males
- S25 Yes – human sexuality is still not well understood (i.e. what affects it, why people are the way they are). I do think that it takes a strong person to be true to herself when doing so is contrary to societal norms. In this country, playing football and being bi/homosexual both apply – hence one factor in the higher proportion
- S26 Yes – about 40/50% of our club members are
- S27 Yes – Cause half my team are and other teams are the same
- S28 Yes – the team I play for and other teams in the past have a large amount of homosexual women
- S29 Yes – statistically 10% of general population is homosexual and there is a higher percentage within SWFL hence my yes answer. However I can only hazard a guess as to why there is a high percentage of gay women with football – perhaps it is due to stereotypes, it seems more acceptable for gay women to play sports than straight women. Gay women and females who play football are more on the edge of society rather than stereotypically mainstream – perhaps a factor
- S34 Yes – I think sport as a whole attracts a large number of lesbian/bisexual women – not just football i.e. hockey and rugby may have similar levels. Possibly the opportunity to mix/socialise in an all-female environment is part of the reason many get involved
- T2 Yes – rumours
- T3 No – not really sure – to be honest
- T6 Yes – know a lot
- T7 Yes – no
- T11 Yes – because it's a masculine sport
- T12 Yes – the majority of girls do not like football – it is seen as a more of a masculine game and gay women tend to be more masculine in attitude than straight women
- T16 Yes – no
- T17 Yes – in any mixed sport you usually find women are a minority. I think gay women find an 'all women' environment more relaxing to be in. Football is also seen as a mans game and there is a myth that all women players are gay. This attitude stops some 'straight' women playing football for fear of being labelled a lesbian. NB: women aren't homosexual. This is a term used for men only. Women are gay, lesbian or bisexual. See – its all about being labelled.
- T18 Not interested in these questions

- T21 I think sport in general has an attraction for strong willed, determined individuals. I find a lot of gay women prefer their own company as they have more in common with other gay women
- T24 Yes – from common knowledge of other players
- T25 There are some but not sure if high proportion applies. Common knowledge
- T26 Don't know
- T27 Yes - ?
- T29 Yes – some of my team mates are bisexual and I know of other players in other teams like that
- T30 Yes – I can only think it's because of the closeness you obtain through the friendship of the team
- T31 Yes – experience of knowing homosexual and bisexual players from various teams within the SWFL
- T32 Yes – reasons, no, but it doesn't matter because I think these women would choose to be homosexual and/or bisexual even if they weren't playing football. The image of women footballers is very stereotypical and portrays women footballers to be masculine and homosexual, this is an unreasonable view and is mostly encouraged by men who are sexist and know nothing about women's football. May be if they watched some women's football they would appreciate that it is a very technically skilled and powerful game
- T33 No – I think there is an equal number of homosexual and heterosexual women who play football. Sexual preference is not a major issue
- T35 No – just because women play football doesn't mean they should all be gay
- T36 Yes – no, % in life?
- T37 Yes – that's the way it is!
- T38 No – just because women's football is seen as man's sport many people assume that women who play must be homosexual/bisexual. I think there will probably be a few homosexual/bisexual women who play
- T39 No – because women's football is seen as a man's sport and they assume women can't play, and that women who do play are homosexual/bisexual
- T41 Yes – no reason – that's life

Survey Questions 41 and 42

Earliest and Current Ambitions

ID		Ambition
P1	Earliest	To play for Scotland
	Current	To go to America
P2	Earliest	-
	Current	Just to do well in my current team, score a few goals
P3	Earliest	National
	Current	Professional
P4	Earliest	National level
	Current	Professional
P5	Earliest	Signing for a club
	Current	Keeping my place within the team and improving my fitness
P6	Earliest	Always wanted to play for Scotland from the age of 12 approx, but mainly just to play for a team
	Current	To keep playing for a few more years – keep fit and injury free. Win the league and cups before finishing
P7	Earliest	To play for Scotland
	Current	To play every game and keep playing
P8	Earliest	To be a good player and to play for Scotland
	Current	To stay fit and win more medals
P9	Earliest	Playing for my country
	Current	Same

P10	Earliest	Wanting to play for a premiership club
	Current	To play to the best of my ability for my club
P11	Earliest	-
	Current	To get one cap for my country
P12	Earliest	To play for Scotland
	Current	To enjoy playing for as long as is possible and to become a better player
P13	Earliest	To be the best player in my team
	Current	To play for Scotland
P14	Earliest	To play professional in Italy
	Current	To try to carry on playing for as long as possible at any level
P15	Earliest	To just play football
	Current	To keep playing as long as my knee injury will let me
P16	Earliest	To play football abroad
	Current	To play for Scotland
P17	Earliest	Enjoyment
	Current	Play regularly with National Squad and win domestic treble in my first full season
P18	Earliest	To play for my school
	Current	To win all cups with my club and to play in America
P19	Earliest	Playing for my country. Playing professional – Italy
	Current	Playing for my country. Achieve major honours in Scotland
P20	Earliest	Playing for my country and captaining the side
	Current	To retire on a high having achieved what I wanted to achieve playing the sport I love
P21	Earliest	To play for Scotland
	Current	To keep playing and then manage a team
P22	Earliest	Can't honestly remember
	Current	To score goal for Scotland. Also to win treble with Kilmarnock
P23	Earliest	Being able to play competitive football
	Current	Being more skilful
P24	Earliest	-
	Current	To play for the Scottish Universities team
P25	Earliest	Playing for my club and hopefully one day country
	Current	Getting into the first team (back from injury)
P26	Earliest	Play for Celtic
	Current	To play for any team or to continue with Albion Rovers
P27	Earliest	Play for Scotland
	Current	To stay in the Premier League
P28	Earliest	Always wanted to represent Scotland
	Current	To play for Scotland
P29	Earliest	To be better than my brother
	Current	To one day represent Scotland at senior level
P30	Earliest	To play for a team
	Current	Win the treble
P31	Earliest	-
	Current	-
P32	Earliest	Playing competitive football
	Current	For my club to be one of the best sides in Scotland
P33	Earliest	To score a goal
	Current	To score another goal!
P34	Earliest	To win the primary school round robin tournament
	Current	To get back into national squad
F1	Earliest	To play pro
	Current	To play pro
F2	Earliest	Representing my country
	Current	Representing my country
F3	Earliest	To be professional
	Current	None

F4	Earliest	Can't remember – I suppose just to play in a league team
	Current	I currently play in Division 1 but would relish the opportunity to play at the top level again
F5	Earliest	-
	Current	To play as long as possible
F6	Earliest	Playing for an organised team
	Current	Stay fit
F7	Earliest	None
	Current	Reach the Premier
F8	Earliest	Winning the cup at school
	Current	For team to go into Premier
F9	Earliest	To score lots of goals
	Current	To win the league
F10	Earliest	-
	Current	-
F11	Earliest	To be picked in the school team
	Current	To survive the season and bring younger players into the game
F12	Earliest	All I ever wanted to do was play football
	Current	To keep playing football
F13	Earliest	Just wanted to enjoy playing football
	Current	Same as above
F14	Earliest	Premiership football in Norway, do as well as I can
	Current	Do as well as I can
F15	Earliest	To go to America and either play or coach
	Current	Just to have fun while it lasts
F16	Earliest	To wear the Scotland jersey
	Current	To take a new young team to the premiership. To keep fit and enjoy
F17	Earliest	To play for Scotland
	Current	None
F18	Earliest	Playing for rangers
	Current	To reach the Premier Division and win a major cup final
F19	Earliest	To play like Celtic/Rangers in a league
	Current	To retire winning the league this year
F20	Earliest	To play at a professional level
	Current	To win promotion to the premier league and reach a cup final
F21	Earliest	To play for one of the best teams in the league, also to play for my country
	Current	It's to gain promotion to the premier league and represent Scotland hopefully
F22	Earliest	To play for rangers
	Current	To gain promotion
F23	Earliest	Wishing that I could play for a 'proper team'
	Current	To retire gracefully, if it's still possible
F24	Earliest	Playing for a successful club
	Current	Play for Premier team and win trophies each season
F25	Earliest	Wanting to play for Scotland
	Current	Same as above
F26	Earliest	Wanting to get a Scotland Cap
	Current	Same as above
F27	Earliest	To play for Aberdeen
	Current	To play for Arsenal Ladies
F28	Earliest	Being a regular member of a team
	Current	To keep enjoying my football and maintain/improve my current fitness/playing level
F29	Earliest	First eleven member
	Current	Royal Air Force Rep
F30	Earliest	Play for Scotland
	Current	To give 100% for my team as vice captain
F31	Earliest	To play for girls/ladies team
	Current	To become a first team regular

F32	Earliest	To play for Scotland or England
	Current	To achieve success with my club and to promote and encourage women's football
S1	Earliest	Score in Scottish cup final
	Current	To get through the season
S2	Earliest	-
	Current	-
S3	Earliest	Wanted to be a footballer and play for Scotland
	Current	Would like to continue playing and improve. May be like to try coaching too
S4	Earliest	To play for Aberdeen FC
	Current	-
S5	Earliest	I wanted to play for Scotland
	Current	-
S6	Earliest	To play for Scotland
	Current	To win a game because we are a bit shit
S7	Earliest	Play for a team
	Current	Be good. Get fit
S8	Earliest	-
	Current	-
S9	Earliest	-
	Current	-
S10	Earliest	-
	Current	-
S11	Earliest	Wanting to play for Scotland (men's team!!)
	Current	To continue to play and enjoy football for years to come. To get fitter and play better
S12	Earliest	Winning the Scottish cup
	Current	To do well
S13	Earliest	Wanting to play for Scotland women during playing U16
	Current	To get back playing
S14	Earliest	To score a goal at club level
	Current	To win something with the club I play for now
S15	Earliest	Playing for Scotland (men's!)
	Current	A bit less ambitious!
S16	Earliest	-
	Current	Just to keep enjoying my footie and have fun
S17	Earliest	Playing for Scotland
	Current	To play for ladies Scotland team
S18	Earliest	-
	Current	-
S19	Earliest	To play 11-a-side for my primary school. I was not allowed
	Current	To continue to be captain of my team and for the team to win promotion. I would also like to play for my country but I'm getting on a bit!
S20	Earliest	None it was always football
	Current	N/A
S21	Earliest	To play for my country
	Current	Same
S22	Earliest	Wanting to win everything
	Current	As above
S23	Earliest	Playing for my school team (Hawkcraig)
	Current	Playing for Hawkcraig
S24	Earliest	To play at competitive level and hopefully my country
	Current	To last the whole 90 minutes!!
S25	Earliest	To play my entire life
	Current	To continue my development both physically (skills, fitness) and psychologically (ie overcoming the mental hurdles impeding full development). Also to play as long as I'm physically able
S26	Earliest	To play for Scotland

	Current	To score in every game I play and play for Scotland
S27	Earliest	-
	Current	To play my best every week and I'd love to play for Scotland
S28	Earliest	Just wanted to make the team
	Current	I want our team to reach promotion
S29	Earliest	To improve my game and play well
	Current	To continue to improve my game, find my niche on the field (position) and to be part of the continued professionalism of the women's game
S30	Earliest	-
	Current	-
S31	Earliest	-
	Current	-
S32	Earliest	To win a trophy
	Current	None
S33	Earliest	To play for Falkirk
	Current	To get promoted
S34	Earliest	Captaining my home team and playing for Scotland
	Current	To get my club to the Premier League
S35	Earliest	Playing for Scotland
	Current	To be promoted into Division 1
S36	Earliest	To win a major trophy
	Current	To get promoted
S37	Earliest	To play for a team
	Current	To play a full season without injury
T1	Earliest	Wanting to play for a ladies team
	Current	To win the league with Arbroath Ladies FC
T2	Earliest	-
	Current	To win the 3 rd division
T3	Earliest	-
	Current	Score a goal
T4	Earliest	-
	Current	-
T5	Earliest	-
	Current	-
T6	Earliest	14
	Current	To win the league
T7	Earliest	-
	Current	-
T8	Earliest	Never had a football ambition in the past
	Current	To score a goal for the team
T9	Earliest	-
	Current	-
T10	Earliest	-
	Current	-
T11	Earliest	Didn't have any
	Current	To carry on playing injury-free
T12	Earliest	Always wanted to play in a women's team from primary school age
	Current	To win the league
T13	Earliest	-
	Current	To improve
T14	Earliest	To get in the first team squad at 3rds
	Current	Recover from an operation on my knee and hopefully continue to play next season
T15	Earliest	To go to Ibrox and see Rangers playing
	Current	Score a hat-trick
T16	Earliest	To play for rangers
	Current	To get Third Lanark promoted to second division
T17	Earliest	Having a team to play for

	Current	Shut out – I'm the goalie
T18	Earliest	-
	Current	-
T19	Earliest	-
	Current	-
T20	Earliest	To play for a team and win trophies
	Current	To play every week for my team and to improve as best as I can
T21	Earliest	Playing football for Scotland
	Current	Managing a team in UEFA
T22	Earliest	To play professionally for Glasgow Rangers
	Current	To play regularly
T23	Earliest	To score
	Current	To see Kemnay pushing top in the third division
T24	Earliest	Playing in a cup final
	Current	For Kemnay to gain promotion to a higher league/division
T25	Earliest	Playing for Scotland
	Current	To win our league and gain promotion
T26	Earliest	-
	Current	To play till I was 40 – now achieved!
T27	Earliest	To play for Scotland, I was 5 years old!
	Current	Keep on getting picked for Kemnay
T28	Earliest	Teenager to play for a club
	Current	To train hard give 100% for my club to gain promotion
T29	Earliest	To be like Ally McCoist and be a good goal scorer
	Current	To play for Scotland
T30	Earliest	Probably when I was 20/21
	Current	To play well and for as long as possible
T31	Earliest	To play for Scotland
	Current	To return from illness into 1 st team football
T32	Earliest	Playing for Scotland
	Current	Playing for Scotland
T33	Earliest	To play football for the women's national side
	Current	To enjoy playing and do as well as possible with Kirkland Ladies
T34	Earliest	Don't know
	Current	To progress up the leagues
T35	Earliest	To score a goal
	Current	To score a goal
T36	Earliest	Winning the Fairs Cup in PE
	Current	To enjoy it
T37	Earliest	Kick the ball straight!
	Current	Kick the ball straight and far!
T38	Earliest	Always dreamed of playing for Scotland
	Current	To get promoted this season
T39	Earliest	Always liked to play professionally some day
	Current	To get promoted this season
T40	Earliest	To win
	Current	To win
T41	Earliest	Scoring a goal
	Current	Scoring!

Survey Question 47

Other involvement

- P1 Coach U12s
- P7 Sometimes help at children's tournaments
- P12 Coaching U14 girls
- P16 I coach kids Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings

- P17 Coaching – boys and girls
- P19 Team coach. Social fund-raiser
- P21 Coaching girls development squad. Coaching football in a school
- P24 Coaching boys/girls football. Going to America in the summer to coach for Euro Soccer
- P28 Coaching – working in America over the summer
- P29 I coach 5-12 year old girls for South Lanarkshire Leisure
- P30 Write for women’s footie mags + websites. Referee boys and girls football
- F4 I previously worked as a sports development officer and was responsible for organising and running sports coaching sessions and competitions for children. I am also involved in coaching football to children
- F5 Involvement with girls football for annual BAA Games Tournament which includes approx 6 coaching/training sessions plus taking team to event
- F11 Coaching. Driver
- F16 Recreational Therapist at hospital. Coach and referee for a Glasgow league for folk with mental health problems throughout the whole of Glasgow
- F20 Coaching young girls of primary school age at the Kelvin Hall prior to an International 5-a-side tournament about 6-7 years ago
- F28 I coach an extra-curricular girls football team (1st year – 6th year). Lunchtime practice and occasional games
- S1 Manage Fraserburgh Girls. Coach Inverurie Ladies. Coach Dons in community. Coach of U14 Banff development squad
- S4 Refereeing girls football when I can
- S5 I coach primary school kids at college
- S15 I coach to primary and early secondary pupils
- S29 Secretary of Aberdour Sports and Development Committee (our affiliated 3 younger boys teams)
- S31 Coach primary 6/7 football team. Coach Alloa Athletic under 9s
- S32 Boys and girls coaching
- S33 Coach under 15s Falkirk girls team
- S34 Coach SWFA Select Squads girls U14
- S37 Coach our U13 team. Coach Forth Valley Select Squads
- T1 Administration
- T6 Coach with Dundee City Council (Sophie Hearn)
- T9 Help with coaching of team
- T21 Manager/coach Dundee City. Fundraiser Dundee City. Goalkeeper coach Tayside girls development centre. Disciplinary appeals committee SWFL.
- T24 Manager of Kemnay Ladies AFC. I have also helped with our U15 team
- T25 Used to coach our U13s team
- T29 I help with ideas and training of the team
- T32 Coaching
- T33 Girls training and boys training at the school where I work. Play friendlies against other school. Training – once a week
- T34 Coaching S1/2 boys school team and S1-4 girls team
- T36 Coaching a female schools football team
- T41 PE teacher – coach 2x girls team

Survey Question 48

Other comments regarding women’s football

- P4 Overall it is good. We need more money and support
- P5 The players put a lot time and commitment into football therefore it would be nice if it could be taken more seriously
- P6 I really enjoyed my time in the national squad and saw a bit of the world while doing something I enjoyed
- P9 Football is a big part of my life, as I really enjoy playing it, but I think that women playing in Glasgow and the surroundings receive better coaching and have more opportunities
- P12 Football is a great game. Everyone should be encouraged to play! (or watch or referee etc etc)
- P14 I played football for the love of the game but with the lack of proper physio treatment my football career has been hampered for the past 10 years

- P15 I feel football and teams in the North East are neglected and there is a bias towards teams South of Perth
- P19 "Football is life" I would not have achieved as much, travelled so far and met so many great people and shared so many great memories
- P25 Women's football should be more widely advertised and more attention paid
- P26 I enjoy playing football and hope to continue until I am unable to
- P28 It should be taken more seriously by the people in charge
- P31 You should practice more than two times a week and think more when you practise – game situations. But you e-mail pages on front – it took 3 weeks to find a team where to practise
- P33 It's very badly run, which doesn't help. My cat could do better
- P34 More money need to be put into women's football. To help both the progress of the younger players and the national level players. To provide better facilities
- F5 Due to my employment I can't spend the time I would like to in my sporting activities
- F7 I think football as a whole has an important part in my life because I can't see myself not playing it. Plus it's a great way to meet new friends
- F8 It's a great way to do something you enjoy and meet people at same time
- F16 It is great to see that young kids are getting the chance to play team sport no matter what sex or ability. That can only benefit women soccer and take it on to the next level 2002
- F17 Women's football has grown significantly since I began playing 18 years ago. We now need professional teams to get involved to push the women's game on. We really find it hard to attract coaches, I don't understand why!
- F19 That lesser clubs never see anyone from the Scottish Coaching Team at games
- F23 I have enjoyed most of my time in football. Playing was always the main priority for me and I'll probably leave the sport completely when I finish playing
- F24 Football is not a choice any more, it's an addiction
- F28 Football has, and still does, play a very important part in my life. I believe that it influenced me into following my chosen career and has provided me with a wide circle of friends and experiences
- S1 Football has been an important part of my life for a long time. More girls and women would be able to play football if the lower leagues were regionalised. It would mean less expense for teams and players. Also they would not have to give up a whole Sunday to participate
- S6 I had Scotland trials a while back. I got to the final trial but because of some Forfar bitch I was unable to play to my full potential. Thanks very much bitch!
- S7 Lack of money in ladies football is a huge problem! Too much travelling; no money
- S11 I met my partner through football – he was the coach of my team in Belgium!
- S13 More women's football results being broadcast on radio/TV
- S15 Women's football rules! Tapadh leat gu dearbh!
- S21 I feel there should be more opportunities for girls football at school. My school only did a boys team and refused to do the girls
- S23 Girls football is an enjoyable sport love it, and will play till am 40 years +
- S24 At present there is a lack of good coaches throughout every level in women's football in Scotland. Through my own experiences males find it difficult to transfer their coaching experiences from males to females successfully
- S25 I think that being involved in an organised team sport contributes to a person's well-being. There are some excellent US studies showing evidence that young women who are involved in sports have a much lower likelihood of teen pregnancy, drug abuse, leaving school before 18 etc. I also believe there are parallel life enhancing qualities for adult women and the more accessible and supported women's sport – the better for society as a whole. Travelling significant distances for a large portion of our matches would make it less accessible – especially for those of us that work – and with the upcoming proposal for a North / South division – this would end up being the case for our team. Playing against teams that are well beyond ours in terms of skill / overall development also makes the sport less accessible – and many would be affected in this way. Women (both girls and adult women) have clearly been discriminated against in terms of substandard provision for sports development, and this continues to be the case. The creation of the SWFA and SWFL have been positive steps toward addressing this. While I appreciate the need to continue to develop Scottish Women's Football in terms of high level players (with an eye toward professionalisation), I don't see the current proposal actually promoting the aforementioned goals. However, I do foresee the proposed change having a deleterious impact for the majority of members of Scottish Women's Football. It is elitist though it is debatable whether it would produce a more elite

- team. Football should be accessible and supported for ALL women at ALL levels. It appears Scotland has been positively moving toward this aim and it would be inappropriate to abandon this for an ill-conceived plan that does not.
- S26 Vera Pauw should look in the lower divisions for new players, if you don't play in the premier league, or may be the first, you will NEVER get picked
- S29 Since joining the SWF and SWFL in 200 I have found it to be very well organised and developing. I am a bit concerned about discussions of north / south league as I think it would have detrimental effect on many teams causing several to have to fold. I have seen a great positive benefit and I hope remain part of an even growing and improving Scottish Women's Football League
- S34 As a journalist I think the media's attitude to convey women's football is neither strongly for or against. General disinterest in the sport is the problem. Many male editors and sports editors still believe it is a novelty and not a seriously competitive sport worthy of attention. The attitude of the media as a whole has to be encouraged to change and made to realise how big women's football is becoming in this country. Only then will an increase in positive media coverage follow
- T12 Women and men's football are very different. Most men look down on women's football but it is mainly down to ignorance on their behalf. They don't understand we play a different game – not necessarily better or worse – just different
- T20 I feel that women's football should be taken as seriously as men's because I feel that it is a game for everyone. I hate it when people say that it's a man's game
- T21 I would like to see women's football clubs linked to a school in the community they play in and interlink with schools. I.e. facilities / training and easy access to young girls
- T22 Football brings commitment and team spirit. The only other issue is I had never heard of the women's football mags
- T29 Football is part of my life and would like to play for as long as possible! Would like to see the women's game be really popular as the men's game!
- T30 I think it becoming larger as we speak and should be promoted to the max. more part-time courses should be encouraged for players of all ages and levels whether it be coaching or playing
- T32 Football is a big part of my life both socially and in respect to being a player. I hope I can continue to play for many years to come and I hope the quality of football (women's) in Scotland improves in future years. I also hope that prejudice against women's football decreases, and, that women's football comes more of a national sport and should receive more media coverage
- T33 I hope women's football continues to move forward and continues to receive positive support
- T35 It's good for your fitness and your social life
- T37 I love being in our team – it makes my week playing on a Sunday and I always look forward to it
- T39 I love playing football, always have from a young age
- T41 I love football

APPENDIX SIX

INTERVIEW INFORMATION LETTER

University of Stirling

Jessica Macbeth
3A52 Dept. of Sports Studies
University of Stirling
FK9 4LA
Tel: 01786 466488
E-mail: j.l.macbeth@stir.ac.uk

Women's Football in Scotland: An Interpretive Analysis

Interview Information

Dear _____,

As discussed in our telephone conversation / via e-mail / at your club meeting on _____, I am currently undertaking research investigating the subculture of women's football in Scotland. This research forms part of the requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy program in which I am currently enrolled.

The research focuses on the meaning of being involved in football in the lives of women football players in Scotland. Four clubs have been selected as case studies, one club representing the SWPL and three representing each of the SWFL Divisions. Your participation in the research involves arranging an interview, which should last approximately one hour, at a time and place convenient to you. The interview will cover a range of issues including, introduction and experiences of football, perspectives on women's football, the meaning of being involved in playing football, and experiences of being an active member of the subculture of women's football. During the interview I will also ask you to complete a typical weekly time profile to indicate how much time you devote to football related activities.

If you agree to participate in the study I will seek your permission to audio-tape the interview so that I can transcribe it for analytical purposes. During the interview, you may decline to answer any question, you may request that the tape recorder be turned off, or you may withdraw from the study without consequence. Information provided will be confidential and the audio-tapes and typed interview transcripts will be stored securely within the University Department with access restricted to the researchers only.

I will be in touch to confirm the tentative arrangements we have made to meet at _____, on _____ at _____. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions relating to the study before we meet.

Yours sincerely,

Jessica Macbeth
PhD Research Student

APPENDIX SEVEN

RESEARCH SUBJECT CONSENT FORM

University of Stirling

Jessica Macbeth
3A52 Dept. of Sports Studies
University of Stirling
FK9 4LA
Tel: 01786 466488
E-mail: j.l.macbeth@stir.ac.uk

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Interview Information Statement and Consent Form

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CONSENT

I agree to participate in the project entitled "Women's Football in Scotland: An Interpretive Analysis". I do / do not (please cross out one) give my consent to be identified in the study. I understand that the study will be carried out as described in the Information Statement, a copy of which I have retained. I realise that I can withdraw from the study at any time and do not have to give my reasons for withdrawing. I have had all my questions relating to the study answered to my satisfaction.

Signed

Date.....

APPENDIX EIGHT

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Background details:

- Where were you born and brought up? What about just now?
- How about your family? Do you have any brothers or sisters?
- What about your parents / guardians? What did they / do they do for a living?
- How old are you just now?
- Where did you go to school? What qualifications do you have from school? Do you work? What work do you do? Have you always done this work? Have you got any further qualifications?
- What social class background do you consider to have had: Working; Working-Middle; Middle; Middle-Upper; Upper?
- What social class category would you consider yourself to be now? Is it different, the same, and why?
- What social class category would you consider the 'typical' woman football player in Scotland to be?

Experiences of football:

- What are your earliest memories of experiencing football?
- What was the nature of your involvement and with who?
- Do either/both of your parents play/watch football? What about your siblings?
- Would you say that football has been and still has an important place in your family life?
- How did you first become involved in playing football?
- What was your first club?
- Who encouraged you to play?
- How old were you when you first started playing regularly?
- What football clubs have you played for and when?
- At what level do you play? In the first eleven? International representation?
- How long have you been playing for this club?

Sporting biography:

- What other sports / activities have you been involved in?
- What about at school, what sports did you play?
- Did you play football at school?
- Would you say that football is / has been your main sport?
- What is it about football in particular that you enjoy?
- Why was it more attractive to you than other sports? (Especially if it wasn't on offer at school / if you were discouraged from playing it)

Other people's influences on football career:

- What has been the role / influence of the following people? And why do you think this is the case?
 - Parents
 - Siblings
 - Other relatives
 - School

- Teachers
- Coaches
- Partner
- Friends (past and present)
- Overall, who would you say has had the most positive, and who has had the most negative affect on you being involved in football? Why do you think this is?

Perspectives on women's football:

- What attitudes have you experienced towards women's football from for e.g. general public, media?
- Have attitudes changed at all over time? Why might this be the case?
- Do you think these attitudes are particular to Scotland or uniform throughout Britain, Europe, and the world?
- Do you think stereotypes are created regarding women's football?
- How, and to what extent do you think that players conform to stereotypes?
- Do you think that the creation of stereotypes is fair? Are they accurate?
- Have certain attitudes towards women's football ever affected your, or anyone else you know, participation in the sport? Have you ever been discouraged from playing? If so how?
- Has anyone ever considered it strange that you play football? Who? Why?

Being a member of a club:

- Despite football, would you say there were any particular characteristics that make women footballers a distinct social group? In relation to the following things, or any others you can think of? I.e. what do you feel you have in common with other players?
 - Background
 - Social class
 - Attitudes
 - Personality
 - Style
 - Clothes
 - Sense of humour
- Would you recognise women footballers as having a particular identity that differs from other sportspersons, or other women?
- What are the main reasons why you play football?
- In the context of your everyday life, what does football offer you, what value does it have? In relation to your job – satisfaction – what does football offer here?
- Is it anything over and above simply playing football?
- How would you describe the social aspects of being a club member? What are they?
 - Friendships
 - Socialising
 - Interaction
 - Community
- How important are such social aspects to you? To other players?
- To what extent would you say that such social aspects are a part of being a member of a club?

- ❑ How do you / would you feel if you are injured and can't train or play in matches? Would you still go along? Why?
- ❑ Have you ever nearly given up playing? If so, why? And, why did you continue?
- ❑ What do you usually do after training or matches? Do you go out? Where, for how long? What does the night usually involve? Is this an important part of being a club member to you?
- ❑ Do you socialise with other players outside of training and matches etc? What does this usually involve?
- ❑ How do you / would you feel if you couldn't make it out socially with other members? Why?
- ❑ What do you understand by the term subculture?
- ❑ Would you think that there is a strong sense of being part of or belonging to a subculture in women's football?
- ❑ Can you explain this? What ways do you experience this?

To recap / summarise

WHAT VALUES AND MEANINGS WOULD YOU ATTACH TO YOUR EXPERIENCES OF PLAYING FOOTBALL?

- ❑ What importance has it had?
- ❑ Would you say that football has played and does play a significant part in your life?
- ❑ What do you enjoy about it the most?
- ❑ What would you do / how would you feel if you weren't able to play football again?
- ❑ What would you miss the most?

Present and future:

- ❑ What plans do you have for the future in relation to football?
- ❑ What part do you expect it to play in the rest of your life?
- ❑ What might make you stop playing football?

APPENDIX NINE

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APPENDIX TEN

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS

INTERVIEW 1 - JENNIFER HOWIE 30/11/02 COVE RANGERS (PREMIER DIVISION)

JM: So just to begin with then, just going to focus on some background details, just to put your experiences of playing football in context really, where were you born and brought up?

JH: Born in Aberdeen, and brought up outside Aberdeen in Aberdeenshire.

JM: Ok what about just now, where are you living?

JH: I stay in Aberdeen.

JM: Ok. How about your family?

JH: They're out the road, out in Aberdeenshire, Peterhead.

JM: Right. Have you got any brothers or sisters?

JH: Two brothers and a sister.

JM: Right, are they older or younger?

JH: A younger brother and the other two are older.

JM: Right ok. Your parents or guardians, what did they do or do they do for a living?

JH: They're farmers.

JM: Farmers, ok. How old are you just now, if you don't mind me asking?

JH: Thirty-one.

JM: Thirty-one, ok. Where did you go to school then?

JH: Midlaw (?) Academy which is North Aberdeenshire.

JM: Right, and what qualifications do you have from school?

JH: Highers and O' Levels. 3 As, 2 Bs, and a C.

JM: Right ok. And do you work at the moment?

JH: I do.

JM: Yeh, what do you do?

JH: I'm a civil servant, policy advisor in meat hygiene for the Food Standards Agency.

JM: Right. Have you always done this work?

JH: No.

JM: What have you done before?

JH: I done that for 2 ½ years, prior to that I've been a prison officer for 4 years, prior to that I stayed in Ireland working as a gardener, and prior to that I done a rubbish managers job for a dodgy take-away pizza company in Edinburgh for a little while after I graduated.

JM: Have you got any further qualifications from after school then?

JH: I do, I've got a BSc in Geography, with a Postgrad Diploma in Information Management, I think.

JM: Ok, what social class background would you consider yourself to have had?

JH: I've never really considered myself as having a, I suppose, farming, well off, you know, not well off but, just, I don't know, country, I guess middle class sort of background. But I mean, I don't, it doesn't really apply.

JM: Would you say that it's different now though?

JH: No I wouldn't. I would say probably more so now in so far as I've got a bog standard civil service job, middle of the road.

JM: What social class category would you say that may be the typical women footballer in Scotland would be? If we're thinking working class, middle class, upper class, or between?

JH: I would say, working class, middle, between the two.

JM: Between the two? Working to middle class?

JH: Aye, if you're going to categorise it. I don't know it sometimes.

JM: It's difficult to categorise it sometimes.

JH: Generally I'd say working to middle, between the two.

JM: Ok. So you wouldn't expect many upper class women?

JH: Every now and again, you get one or two people from quite a, well when I was at university, you know now and again somebody would be interested in football, don't know how much that got carried on after university.

JM: So, about your experiences of football them. What are your earliest memories of experiencing football? Not just playing but...

JH: Earliest memories, oh my goodness, I think going to Pittodrie for the first time to watch Aberdeen. I don't even know how old I was. I was probably older than your average little kid going because my dad didn't like going. Just coming in and seeing the stadium for the first time when I was about 8.

JM: Who did you go with then?

JH: I went with my neighbour, neighbour's dad.

JM: Right, so was that, did you kind of persuade someone to take you?

JH: Yeah. I persuaded to be taken I think.

JM: Do either both of your parents play or watch football?

JH: No.

JM: What about your siblings?

JH: My younger brother watches, he's a fan, my big brother is a fan but he doesn't watch, doesn't support the local teams (?).

JM: So would you say that football has been, or still has an important place in your family life?

JH: Yes, it has, between me and my younger brother especially.

JM: But not your parents?

JH: My mum is really interested in it, she's been to a couple of games, she's always shown an interest. Between me and Mike, we've got quite an interest in it so.

JM: Right ok. So how did you first become involved in actually playing football?

JH: At home with my big brother who wanted someone to play with, stayed at a farm and didn't have much options so he basically kicked the ball at me when I was little.

JM: It was just informal play?

JH: Yeah.

JM: What was the first club that you went along to?

JH: Well primary school set up a team, so that would be my first formal team. And from there it was Midlaw Boys Club, who weren't affiliated to any school, and I got to play with them and that was when I was, I think 11.

JM: So was it a mixed team at primary school?

JH: At primary school it was due to the fact there wasn't very many people interested in playing. And later on I think I was the only girl, it was Midlaw Boys Club, I was the anon boy.

JM: So did you get to like, were you just taken in with them?

JH: Oh yeah, no problem at all.

JM: Good. So who encouraged you to play football?

JH: My big brother definitely. He was encouraging me, he used to, he came along to watch some of our, some of our younger games.

JM: How about at primary school? Who was it who ran the team?

JH: Billy Noble, he was great. He was just somebody local to the school. He set up and ran the team and he had nothing but encouragement.

JM: So he wasn't actually a teacher?

JH: No, he wasn't a teacher.

JM: What were the school's attitude actually, were they fine about it or...

JH: The school was absolutely fine. Because it was a novelty, but it was quite good, we won things. They had a great attitude, there was never any bother at school. I mean I think the attitude was, just let kids play. I think it's when you're older there's may be a slightly different attitude kicks in so...

JM: Yeah, we'll move on to that a little bit later anyway. So how old were you when you started playing more regularly? May be, what happened after the boys club?

JH: Well after the boys club I was actually, well went to secondary school and went, joined the school team, did quite well with the school team, and then got actually banned after a year, there was an ultimatum provided to the school saying the team is wither withdrawn, or this lassie stops playing, they'd got a letter through. So that just kind of cut it off, there and then and I moved on to hockey, which was a poor second.

JM: So you were playing like with the boys at school then you got banned?

JH: And then I got banned.

JM: Why didn't you like hockey?

JH: Just because, it was the very fact that, I mean I did like it in the end, it was just the very fact that I didn't have an option, I was made to play it, well if I was going to do anything, I had to do that. I was quite upset, actually I was discussing this with my older sister, just quite recently and it was one of the saddest days at school is when I got banned from playing football.

JM: Which other clubs have you played for apart from Cove?

JH: Aberdeen Accies, who turned into Middlefield Wasps, who then went under.

JM: Aye, was that last year?

JH: It was the year before last that they ceased to be. So I basically started playing when I restarted playing, when I came back to Aberdeen and that was about 1995.

JM: Was that after University?

JH: 1996, yeah. And a little bit at university, but not that much.

JM: But not much?

JH: No.

JM: So as you are at the moment, what level do you play? Are you in the first eleven?

JH: I have been. The last, about 3 weeks ago, the last game that we had, probably the second last game that we had, I started and finished, played well, then was dropped, so I don't really know my status now. That's a good point, I'll deal with that tomorrow actually.

JM: So no international representation at any stage?

JH: Oh God no.

JM: So how long have you actually been playing for Cove then?

JH: Cove? This season and three quarters of last season.

JM: Ok. Now we're just going to talk about some other sports really, we've touched on hockey already. What other sports or activities have you been involved in?

JH: I took squash quite seriously for a while actually. Early school, probably, well 10 to 16 just about, 15 may be. Played it and played for the regional squad in it. And then not really since actually.

JM: How old were you when you got banned from football at school?

JH: Kind of, I was either 12 or 13, I must have been 13 I think.

JM: Ok, so at school what other sports did you play?

JH: Hockey, school team.

JM: Was that the main one?

JH: Yeah, it was hockey. Played that for the school team, and played for a local team, and played for the regional squad sometimes as well, so that was three different hockey things on the go for a while after football.

JM: My next question has actually been answered really, did you play football at school? Was it just extra curricula that you played it?

JH: Well yes, it was extra curricula, the team was taken seriously, but all the games were after school, training was after school, we did have during school training, but yeah, it was after school.

JM: So in terms of your actual PE lessons that were set aside, was that separate and...

JH: Didn't have football, once or twice, but not as a routine, it was separate, we did separate things. And I played hockey for PE anyway, I just had to do it.

JM: Would you say that football is, or has been, your main sport?

JH: Yes.

JM: What is it about football in particular that you enjoy?

JH: I don't know, I just always have. You can't really put your finger on it, you just always played it, I always played it with my brothers, used to play in the garden, used to play up against a wall, you know anywhere that you could kick about and go and watch the game. I mean it's totally logical, if you start thinking about it, you can't really, it's just something that you, something I've...

JM: Something that's come natural to you?

JH: Yeah, completely.

JM: Why was it more attractive to you than other sports do you think?

JH: I don't know. I did it first, and may be if I'd had a stick and a ball, you know, my brother had hit that at me, or a baseball or something, it might have been different, but it's just so simple, it's just any old thing that you can kick about. We used to play with things in the house. I can remember, we used to make paper balls with sellotape and play in the kitchen under my mum's feet, well we were told not to, but we did. It was just so easy to do.

JM: So it's very adaptable?

JH: It's very adaptable, under the seat legs, against the door, anything acts as a goal. You know, so dive about, kick a ball about, a paper ball, you don't need anything to buy it, scrunched up paper as well.

JM: Does the trick though doesn't it?

JH: It does exactly.

JM: Moving on to other people's influences, what was, I've got a list of certain people and groups of people, I just want you to just go through them one by one really and say what has been the role, the influence that these people on your participation in football and why you think it's the case.

JH: Ok. Siblings have been the most influence, just because ever since I can remember I played with my brother, and my little brother. And at school just the encouragement from, at primary school, Bill at primary school, and one of the teachers who took the team in secondary school, just for being encouraging and wanting you to do well. And then since then I suppose, well that's it, not friends really, I'm just, you know, you like football with your friends, but they weren't the influences I don't think.

JM: How about, if you try and think back to, not just football itself, how about because some research says, you know that when children are young they get dressed differently, in different colours, given different toys to play with and things like that. Were you in particular, do you think, tried to put into like...

JH: No, not at all, not even slightly. None of us were.

JM: Were you treated differently because you were a girl?

JH: By my mum and dad?

JM: Yeah.

JH: No, I don't think. Probably in subtle ways but nothing I'd ever point to. Whenever I got anything to play with, I mean I never got any dolls, never was given dolls, I never asked for a doll. I think that would have been tried out with my sister, she'd got a doll, she didn't play with it very much, you know we. I think still, I think we were really lucky to be brought up on a farm because you just had other things to do, you know, you didn't want certain little things to play with you just had, you know you'd want a bike, to get about. Which is a big deal but it's also a necessity, you had to have a bike.

JM: So it was an active lifestyle really?

JH: Yeah it is. It wasn't a, there was no, you know 'go on, get yourself off, you know, make yourself look like a girl' or anything, I mean we just looked the way we did. In common with other folk out there, that's why I know the class thing when you stay out in the country it applies differently because you play with folk that I suppose, our neighbours worked on a farm, so are they working class? Dad had a farm, but we all did the same things, you know what I mean? But they'd have been probably not as well off, but all the sort of things that you did were the same sort of things that you did.

JM: Yeah, it's in terms of thinking about social class it is difficult to kind of categorise it because it's difficult to you know, what do you use as an indicator of it? And I think there's a difference between a kind of crude way of using income and things like that but it's also to do with values I think as well and the way you're brought up.

JH: Yeah. And in the country you share an awful lot of common values with other folk, if it was a purely material thing then you'd may be class them differently, I suppose it might be slightly easier in the town, you get like posh bits of town and not posh bits of town, but out the road it's a bit more difficult to lay your finger on it.

JM: Yeah, definitely. I've kind of asked the question about the difference between, some people would definitely say that they had a very working class background, but if you, I found this in the research so far, if you then try and categorise the social class from the job that they've got now, they might be very well paid, and if you did it by income you would put them in middle class definitely, but then they perceive themselves still as working class.

JH: Yes, yes.

JM: So it's probably like middle class status now in terms of income, but working class background and working class values that they've still got.

JH: Yep, definitely, I would say that's the case.

JM: It's difficult to define. How about, any others on there at all?

JH: Is this in terms of influences on football?

JM: Yeah, influences on you participating in football, have any in particular discouraged you?

JH: Discouraged.

JM: Or may be not just within them groups, can you think of any discouragement that you've had?

JH: I suppose even though I've said the teachers were encouraging when I went along to trials at school, secondary school, being the only girl and I went to trial, the teacher just thought 'oh yes, we'll let Jenny play', you know thought 'not a hope' sort of thing, and I could tell that attitude straight away, but it just made you want to succeed even more, and he turned out to be the most encouraging because he could see I could actually play. So he was discouraging but in the end I would still class him as encouraging. Nobody put, I didn't get any negative feedback, it was just the faceless bureaucracy that, there was obviously some folk on the sidelines that reported down the, up the line and said 'there's a girl on, they're beating us', I don't know, that's ulterior motives. But you know, but I didn't experience anything first hand at all from anybody.

JM: So you weren't actually put off playing football then?

JH: Oh no, no. Encouraged by my mum, I should say that, encouraged by my mum and dad to play, they weren't, mum was always interested and she always took me to games, so definitely I would say, my mum, not my dad, my mum may be. My dad a token effort but not actively interested, he wasn't like pro-active, he'd sometimes have a bit of a boast if I won something you know, but my mum, my brother, brothers and sister, and I suppose folk at the school.

JM: Would you say may be your neighbour as well because...

JH: My neighbour?

JM: Or was that just the spectating side of things?

JH: Spectating side, not pro-active encouragement to play, it was just he was kind enough to take us along sometimes, not that often but every now and again so my neighbour as well yep.

JM: So it's probably just reiterating but overall out of those who would you say had the most positive and who the most negative effect on your participation in football?

JH: I would say parents and siblings, my brother and my mum, are the most pro-active.

JM: Is that your elder brother?

JH: Elder brother. And negative, I suppose it must really have been peers that were you know less so, I mean I can't really put my finger on it but comments you'd get, just the odd comment. The more (245) might have been at games and things and obviously had fed the need for things to be put in motion you know. But that's only because I have to choose, I can't really say I had much experience of a negative influence.

JM: But it was more behind the scenes that had a negative impact?

JH: Yeah, definitely.

JM: Ok. Now we're just going on to perspectives on women's football. What attitudes have you experienced or do you think are the general attitudes towards women's football from say the general public, or the media, people like that?

JH: It depends, it's just amateurish in this country, I think they're getting better. They're trying to be more professional about it, but it was only a couple of years ago there was highlights of a Scottish Cup game I think. And any old game taken through a sort of hand held shaky camera is going to look bad, and the comic commentary, you know, just taking the Mick, I mean that was on, I think, BBC, it wasn't BBC, it was one of the main channels quite recently, and it was so poor you know. But on the other hand our local paper always has a very positive women's feature on it. Heather writes our articles actually, so we always get a positive spin on our games! But that's good, it's focus on women's football and focus on girls football that they always have. And I think in the last couple of years they've bucked up their ideas a bit, especially I think with the awareness of other places in the world with professional leagues and the fact that say, Julie Fleeting from Scotland has gone and earned, you know, a good wage playing elsewhere, and that there's a real talent you know? I think time has been taken now to actually appreciate talent coming through. The senior women's team are doing that bit better these days and the sort of professional mentality that there might not have been a few years ago, but that the press are picking up on.

JM: They're starting to realise...

JH: They're starting to realise, but so recently it's been so amateurish and so poor the coverage, I mean it's negligible compared to England, but it's beginning to pick up.

JM: You still get, I mean, I listen to radio stations, Fred MacCauley and things like that, even though they've positively got Nicky Grant on you know, talking about women's football, they can't help but make...

JH: Oh they can't. You know, they've always got, they've obviously got a picture of girls in the shower afterwards, they just got this image of things that they do and they just can't get away from it, it's terrible. I think that aye, they're making an effort, but they do they touch their lowest common denominator too many times though.

JM: Yeah. And the next question was really have attitudes changed at all over time but you've kind of, you kind of said that they are starting to change. Why do you think it is the case, just because...

JH: I think it's just an appreciation of the fact that football isn't just for the boys. I think the movement away from the terracing being for guys, to teams actively trying to seek out a female support because they're looking for support in any shape and form. Whether that means they think they're scraping the barrel or not, the very fact that there's so much more women go to games, and you've got what's her name on the tele, who's the anchor for the Premiership, Gabby...

JM: Gabby Logan.

JH: Yeah, just things like that and female sports commentators, Hazel Irvine.

JM: Who obviously know their stuff?

JH: If you come across somebody who knows their stuff and doesn't just comment on their legs, you know, it rubs off. And I think it's just moved, it's just moved on. I mean you still get the flack, it's just beginning to change.

JM: Another interesting thing you said about the local paper treating you really well. I'm starting to wonder whether or not, you know, places like, I went to a conference on Football in the Community and Inverness Cally were very much embracing women's football, you know, and they're a community club.

JH: Yes.

JM: The local paper were very supportive, and you're saying pretty much the same in Aberdeen.

JH: Although I would say, I would say yeah, there probably is much more there's a sense of the community taking forward their team may be just because there's the one team up there. I think Cove themselves have been quite pro-active in getting their profile into the paper by the very fact that we write an article on our game and we post it, and if we don't have a game we let the press know. So they've regularly got contact with the team and the other team in Aberdeen have started doing the same, and I think the girls set up in Aberdeen, they've got a very good football development officer, Wendy Carrick, who, she's really pro-active, and she likes to get things in the press, and it's sort of built up it's own head of steam. And so now they've got like a feature in every Tuesday in the green bit of the sports pages of the evening paper. I suppose it fills their pages, but it's always there and it is a sense of, it's a kind of community thing, but I think probably in Inverness, and smaller places more so. You know, it's more kind of our pushing it that keeps it up here, they're quite receptive to it.

JM: I think to the other extreme, you know Glasgow and Edinburgh, in terms of you know, representation in papers I think they really struggle. You know there's no room for it, because it's just full of Celtic and Rangers.

JH: Yeah, exactly.

JM: And even though there's smaller men's clubs...

JH: They do struggle I think, definitely. And the national papers they, every now and again have a feature on a player or (344) crunch match, European Qualifier for the women's team, but it's just so paltry. They've always got their little sections for the sports that they always have, but they, they just don't take this bit on regularly, which is a shame.

JM: But the women's football things are often not in the sports pages.

JH: Yeah, yeah, feature, yeah they feature on so and so.

JM: I remember one that was, I kind of looked at it, I think it was the Herald, I ended up writing a scathing letter to them actually.

JH: Did you? Good.

JM: There was one that was, you kind of looked at it and you thought, great an article on women's football and I read it and it was kind of positive, but you thought well at least someone has made the effort to get it in a national, and there was a little box saying, for the opinion poll, saying 'should the contact, the physically demanding contact game of football be played by women?'

JH: You're joking? That wasn't the poll? How Victorian!

JM: It was. Not exactly word for word, but exactly, Victorian, that was. I mean we could talk about things like that for ages, but better move on I think.

JH: Shocking.

JM: Do you think that attitudes are any different in Scotland to say other places in Britain, say England, Europe, or elsewhere?

JH: I guess they probably are, but I don't have enough experience of being elsewhere to know, but, I mean I remember being really young and enthusiastic about football and not knowing where to go to play really, in terms of women's football, never even considered women's football when I was younger. There probably was an avenue, like Aberdeen Ladies have been on the go for about 25 years, but when you're staying in the country and nobody knows anything about women's football you played for your local boys team and that's it really. But I remember reading, and my mum said 'look at that Jen, isn't that great?' and article about somebody in Scotland who'd gone over and earned a living in Italy, you know, I was just like young. I thought 'that'd be brilliant' going over to play football for a living. So I've always

thought in terms of other places being much more pro-active and more, just modern in their approach to women's football. And the English game has gotten so much more profile, you know with the semi-professional status that some of the clubs have, so I just think they obviously are that bit more advanced.

JM: Do you think that's to do with attitudes or money or both?

JH: I don't know, I would say probably money actually, I'd say probably money. I mean if Mohammed Al Fayed, you know, chucked a load of money at Cove, you know, then I'm sure we'd get a few top quality people interested and earning a wage and get into papers. I'd say money really, I can't see how attitudes could be so different. But they've also so a lot of bodies, I mean we're kind of restricted, there's so many leagues down south, whereas up here I think we're a bit of a small pool at the moment with the senior game, there's so much interest down below but sustaining it, it's the travel element I think, that's a little bit off-putting for some folk, whereas I think you could get a really good pool of players from a small area. I mean we travel all over Scotland to play, and it's off-putting actually. I mean we've got Ayr tomorrow which is just so far. But I mean you can play at a higher level down south without really having to trail across the country, and so there's, I don't know, it may be just sustains itself a little better down south as well.

JM: Just thinking about attitudes and money, if you think that Rangers and Celtic really, potentially they could really put some money into women's football.

JH: Oh yes, they all could.

JM: But they don't.

JH: No they don't.

JM: So is that attitudes or money do you think?

JH: I think attitudes as well, attitudes and money. No, attitudes probably, Aberdeen is the same, they've got much less money than Celtic and Rangers of course but I mean their scouting (?) system is geared up to encouraging either youngsters to go along and watch them or young boys to come through and play. Because they did actually, Cove entered a sponsorship deal with them just before I came to them which basically, they subsidised the team bus and gave them a strip, but that was it, didn't get anything else, there was no encouragement, no sort of pro-action on their behalf. They basically got their strips worn, and sold a few Aberdeen bits and pieces of merchandise.

JM: So they didn't embrace you as like...

JH: No, I don't think so, Heather, and others that were there at the time would be able to say, but Celtic and Rangers, what do they do, they do nothing for a team as far as I'm aware.

JM: I think it's probably the thought that they're not going to make any money out of it may be?

JH: Yeah, I mean the top teams are, Ayr United was a top team, they've lost a couple of players, but it's a smaller, the smaller clubs are keen to kind of promote the community, you know, boys, women, girls, that side of football, try and get folk interested in their club, and just create interest, and it's a community feel again I think, definitely.

JM: There's quite a few examples of that, you've said already that Inverness...

JH: Inverness yes.

JM: And Raith Rovers, and the likes of East Kilbride as well, pretty much doing the same, yeah it's quite interesting. Do you think stereotypes...

END OF SIDE A

JM: ... what kind of stereotypes do you think are created then?

JH: Well I mean we spoke about, we spoke about the sort of media idea, I don't mean a sort of stereotype as much the ideas some guys have got in their head about they don't really play the game properly, but it's a sort of guys fantasy situation. I think the public just think, although it's changing, a load of butch lesbians play football, but I do think that's actually changing quite a lot. But that's, you know, you do get the quips, and the just the jokes that are made. But I think it is, I do think it's changing actually, just with the women that know their stuff coming to the fore in the media, and the fact that teams are doing well in the face of all the criticism I think, we're ignoring it, so we just glory and I think that's respected, so attitudes have probably changed.

JM: So it's starting to become more natural for women to be...

JH: Yeah I think so, it's just a sport, it's better than any other sports though.

JM: How and to what extent do you think that some players might conform to stereotypes?

JH: Och yeah. There are some really brutal lesbians out there who play football, but to be honest... there's another stereotype of the kind of beer-swilling kind of lad, and that is true, they do conform to that sort of stereotype. You know you go out and have a carryon and use foul language, and you're a bit of a kind of ladette, which is a different sort of stereotype, and that one is conformed to. So there's the two I think on the go. But by and large, I don't know, may be some teams more than others have a kind of, I don't know, a clique of like either friends, or whatever else, and that's not to do with like being butch or any other such thing, but I haven't really noticed it. When I've come to Cove, I haven't really noticed it particularly, I mean you're not looking for it. I mean you just accept people for the way they are, and you know, it might strike somebody else as glaringly obvious that somebody is like, you know, more hair on her chest (?) a guy or whatever, you know?

JM: So do you think the creation of stereotypes is fair?

JH: Well, no, but you always create stereotypes to a certain extent and there's some degree of conformity, but that's only because people are looking for it and expecting it, and hence it's a stereotype.

JM: So they're only accurate in some...

JH: In some ways, but again that's if you look for it, if you're looking for it, there is a degree of accuracy, it has to be said I suppose.

JM: Have certain attitudes towards women's football, in terms of stereotypes and things like that, ever affected you or anyone else you know, participating in the sport?

JH: I think so probably, I'm trying to think of specific examples. Och, not me myself to be honest, I just played, I've always played, well, apart from when I didn't play, but that's one reason or another, nothing to do with that, so it didn't stop me playing. But I, I think when, I mean I hadn't had experience of being, of really going through puberty and still playing, and come out the other side, because I didn't play during then until, I suppose, you know when you're changing, you know you're just young, you're a teenager, then there might be a bit of pressure on, you know you don't want to still be playing, you did that when you were young, you don't want to be still playing football when you're older, you don't want to be just classed as a lesbian or whatever, I don't know, I never had that sort of...

JM: Could you imagine that those kind of stereotypes put a lot of people off...

JH: I would think so, but that's only based on, just a kind of feeling, I mean people, young lasses drop off the scale more so than I would presume young guys do when it comes to playing as they're changing physically, mentally, but that could be for a whole load of reasons, but that might be one of them.

JM: Yeah, and pressure from peers?

JH: Yeah pressure from peers, pressure from their parents possibly, might be one extreme or the other, you know that parent that really wants them to succeed like Kim's mum, and then you may be got the parent who thought it was a thing for a child to do, now, didn't want to discourage her. And this other lassie, who I won't name, but plays on our team, but she's injured at the moment, you'll be able to narrow it down later on, but she has a daughter, and she's said she doesn't want to encourage her daughter to play. Katrina, ooh, said it, is like a brilliant player, but she's said she doesn't want to, I don't know if that's because she doesn't want her daughter to get the flack that she got, I don't know, I mean it's, that's a possibility. But I don't know if, if she hadn't played football herself, she might have encouraged her daughter to play a bit more, I don't know.

JM: That's quite strange, quite interesting that one. Has anyone ever considered it strange that you play football?

JH: Yes, I suppose so, just if you're out and you're probably looking as least like a footballer as you possibly are, and you say you play you kind of occasionally get, you know, disbelieving 'oh, you don't play football'.

JM: Who from, men or?

JH: Men, and yeah men I suppose, some women, not that often really not now. Kind of, I mean I haven't had that many conversations with just strangers in a while that I tell that I play football. But aye, just the occasional comment. At my work, 'you play football, oh do you', you know because it's still the idea that that's a surprising thing to do, which I suppose you're still in the minority when you're older if you play football.

JM: Ok, just moving on to like being a member of a club basically. Despite football itself would you say that there are any particular characteristics that make women footballers a distinct social group. Just to help you out I've got a few, just a few things that I've put on a list. What do you feel you have in common with other players in relation to those kind of things?

JH: Right well, not background, not status, not social class, not occupation, not education, personality, to an extent I suppose, femininity, I suppose that's linked into attitudes and style. Your personality affects some of them, your attitudes come out in your personality, and your femininity or not comes out in your style, and your sense of humour I suppose.

JM: In what ways could you say that women footballers are maybe similar?

JH: Well a kick-off that's not on the list, we, you train twice a week and you share a love of football, which means you might go to see a game as well together, and you play on a Sunday, so an awful lot of your time is spent together, so that kind of, you socialise together because of that to a certain extent. And because you play football and you've had to kind of, you know the stereotypes that there are there, everybody's experienced them and so your sort of sense of humour is quite similar to a degree. You know, you can be completely different people, with different sorts of, with senses of humour, you got personality and senses of humour that are quite similar I suppose, just because you've had to deal with the same sorts of things. And because you do a bit of sport I suppose there is a sort of sporty style and attitude to people

who give you a bit of jip, or whatever, that's quite similar. I mean I don't really wear trackies very much, but I wear them much more now that I play, I've kind of joined the team. But I don't really, but there is a kind of sporty look cap, you know that, Heather's got it, Heather's always in her bloody cap and trackies. Even though I'm not, there is that. So I think style of clothes actually, attitudes, style, and the personality, sense of humour element which you may be kind of lump in together.

JM: Would you say that you interact differently with women footballers in your team and that than you would with say people at work?

JH: Yes, definitely.

JM: In what, is there certain ways there like personality, and sense of humour wise?

JH: Yes. Fiona, who you're not interviewing, och yes, sense of humour can just be so crude, so filthy, which in some areas of work, like my work, you know it's an office and it's quite well-to-do, I compare that to my old work which is a prison, and we could be absolutely...it was more similar working in the prison, the same sort of things that you would speak about at the prison, that I speak about with, not saying they're the same things, but the same way of communicating. Slightly more similar between prison than the office, with football. I suppose you've got more open minded attitude because of like you're aware of the stereotypes and that and you can be more open about discussing those sort of things you know, which you wouldn't at work. Well you might at work, depends, you wouldn't so generally. So, sorry I've kind of lost track of the question...

JM: Just how you interact with people at football and people at work say, or...

JH: Yeah, I would say it's definitely different, och I suppose it's just about attitudes, I think attitudes, collective attitudes are a little bit different. At work you don't really, you choose to be with the people you play football with because that's your choice, at work, you've kind of got to put up with people that are there, and you'll pick out one or two people that you get on with, as you do with a team, whereas you can leave a team if it's getting too much, you can't leave your work. So you're a bit more circumspect at your work, you can't be quite so free and open, so absolutely crude and filthy, not saying that we are, because we're not really, but you know what I mean? Just more open.

JM: How about in terms of where you feel most comfortable then, where, do you have a sense of belonging?

JH: Well, I've not been at Cove that long, there's a lot of Cove players that definitely would have been there since they were little, since they've ever played, you know they started playing for a team full-time. I do feel really welcome in the team, I do feel like I belong there, you know I don't feel like I'm sort of shunned or any such thing because they're a really good bunch actually. Is this in comparison to anywhere else?

JM: Not really now, just trying to think, would you say that, say you did move onto a different club would you say that in women's football in itself, you'll always get the same kind of people that you feel you would fit in...

JH: Yes, by and large, by and large. I mean there's obviously personalities that you disagree with, and in some teams I guess that if they are so tight, their social circle is so enclosed, then you know, it might be a bit harder. You know, but by and large there are similar attitudes that you can find in most teams. I mean I've only played in two teams really but there's been a lot of folk coming and going, and everybody's been able to fit in. I mean even if you didn't really get on with them that well there's attitudes, you know, you can relate to them, you know what I mean. So there is, there

is a sort of way of being, which is by and large welcoming, you know, tolerates all kind of folk, but I suppose with this, it's a kind of gang mentality, I think you don't just get it in football, you get it in certain kinds of work like my old work I suppose, you're kind of in it together sort of style. You get it probably in the army, something like that place may be.

JM: In terms of friends, would you say that some of your best friends throughout your life have come from football or elsewhere?

JH: In Aberdeen, I mean since I've moved back to Aberdeen, six years or so, some of my really good friends are basically football background, but I've friends from university and my friends from home who hate football and they're like really, really dear friends. But since I've, you know, settled in one place it's football, not necessarily the ones in my team but folk that I've played with previously in previous incarnations.

JM: So your social circles...

JH: It's very much a football social circle definitely. But isn't my team, well they are my team as well, but, and other football interests.

JM: What are the main reasons why you play football?

JH: I suppose the social side, I had quite a poor social life. No, I do it to keep fit, I feel that at my age I need to do something, but I've always liked it and whilst I can play, and I'm quite flattered by the fact that I was asked to come and join this team because they were premier team, previously having played at a much lower division. So because there'll come a point when you just can't do it, I could do with feeling that you do it for as long as you can, even though I'm thinking I might just leave if I get dropped, but you know what I mean? So you know, fitness, social life, and just enjoy playing. I'm getting to liking 5-a-sides may be a little bit more I suppose but you get such a rush, if you play and you play well you just get a huge buzz off it.

JM: In the context of your everyday life, what would you say that football offers you? You've kind of talked about that, but how about more in relation to your job and your job satisfaction?

JH: In relation to my job, well if I've had a bad day at work I'm sometimes, when it's pouring with rain I don't want to go to training, but if I've had a bad day at work you really feel like you need to get out and do something and your training helps you just clear your head of it. So it helps with your work I think, playing football, and it would probably help playing other sports as well. It gives you that release, a physical exertion, which you can get in other ways as well!

JM: But is it anything over and above simply playing football?

JH: Sorry?

JM: Is it anything over and above simply playing football?

JH: In terms of the satisfaction I get at my work?

JM: Just generally, why you play it?

JH: It's the high that you get, the social side, there is that. I mean Heather spoke about last weekend, we had a cracking weekend and everybody that was there had some connection through football. And it was a really good night, so that's the social side, which is important. And the buzz that you get off when you do play and you play ok, I mean after a game, I just, I know I should have grown out of it but I reply it and rewind it and think 'if only I'd...', picturing the ideal moment, it's very sad actually.

JM: No, no, I do it.

JH: Yeah, you see your blistering run that you didn't make! 'If only I'd done that'.

JM: *So talking about the social aspects then, how would you describe the social aspects of being a club member? What are they?*

JH: Well, although the club themselves don't do things by and large, I knew most of the folk in the club through other teams basically, I knew them before I actually joined Cove, I knew them all before I joined Cove. So it was kind of because of that that the social thing kind of comes out, I mean I know Lisa who's coming round later on to pick me up, she loves going to watch the Dons, and Fiona this other lassie, and Heather as well, she's a season ticket holder, Susan. Basically we just have the sort of things that you do together and I mean, if you have a laugh together then you tend to go out together as well, I mean I don't go out with my team-mates very much, but other folk connected through football I'm out with them quite a lot actually.

JM: *I've just got a few things down here, friendship, socialising, interaction, how about a sense of community as well?*

JH: Sense of community, I don't know actually, I don't know, I wouldn't rate that much actually. I don't feel like part of a community of players actually. I feel like part of a social circle, community, are those the same things, I don't know? A community sounds like a sort of self-sufficient little group.

JM: *Right, we're going to move onto another thing that might define it a little bit better actually so, so how important are the social aspects to you, would you say?*

JH: I would say, I wouldn't have thought it, but when I think about the things I do and who I do them with, then it's all through football really that I do them, nearly always. My friend from home is housebound at the moment and has been the least sociable person ever, so I'm even more outgoing.

JM: *So if it wasn't for football, what would that do to your social life.*

JH: Well if I didn't have football to be honest I would still have the folk that I knew through football so, well it might be a little harder to maintain some of the links but I don't think it would be devastating. I mean if I stopped playing tomorrow my social life wouldn't be affected that much, other than the social fact of going to training and arranging things may be through training, I might be invited to, I might get involved in a few less things, quite a lot less things. So it'd probably be a negative affect in the long term.

JM: *How important do you think social things are to other players?*

JH: I think that some teams do everything together, there is a kind of self-enclosed sort of life. And I suppose the lassies at the team, if they hadn't met each other through the team, they would've met other people I suppose, but there's a lot of important social links that have been forged at football, so I'd say it's really important that way. But them having been made, if you took the game away you've still made the links through the game.

JM: *To what extent would you say that social aspects are part of being a member of the club?*

JH: Some teams more than others. We used to have quite a few club nights in my old team and we really don't have any club nights with this team hardly. So as a team, being a club member I wouldn't have had the individual social nights or social life that I do have, it's not because the club itself is pushing a night out together or, you know we don't have that sort of big clubby thing going on. But I mean you spend an awful lot of time in a bus going down somewhere, so you're, you just discuss this and that, and what you might do, and 'oh well, do you fancy doing that?'. One or two people might do one or two things.

JM: *How do you, or how would you feel if you were injured and can't train or play in matches? Would you still go along?*

JH: If it was at home, I wouldn't go to away games now, I might have done before, but I'd go to home games definitely. I like watching actually, even when I'm a sub and it pisses me off that I'm sub, I do actually really enjoy watching the game. Whereas I know some players, they're just so hacked off that they're not playing, they can't watch it. But I love watching the game actually.

JM: So is that more the fact that you'd want to support your team or you'd watch any women's football match?

JH: I'd probably watch, I mean I wouldn't make so much of a big effort to go and see other teams, but I do like watching games. Och, it's to do with supporting the team I think mostly, to be perfectly honest.

JM: Have you ever nearly given up playing?

JH: Yes, last year.

JM: If so why, and why did you choose to continue?

JH: Well the team that I was playing for last year was scraping around for players you know, it was always an effort, I always had to drive the mini bus, end of story, I'm not playing anymore. Then because John asked me, that's why I kept playing. And I thought, I'll give it a go.

JM: What do you usually do after training or matches then? Do you go out with each other?

JH: By and large no, after training we always go home, after matches we always go back to the pub, have a drink. Every now and again stay longer, but no we tend to go home straight after games as well.

JM: So the social things are usually other nights?

JH: Other nights, and as I say, haven't really had that many nights out with club members at all.

JM: Ok. Kind of going back to what we were talking about with community, things like that. What do you understand by the term subculture?

JH: Subculture? That's something that's going on out-with the eye, under the eye of the mainstream, it's not really noticed, but you're kind of, the folk that are in it know that they're in it, they know that they're different from the mainstream, they've got their own sort of signs and way of being.

JM: I'll give you a little bit of a definition kind of thing, if we regard it as a group of people who are brought together and interact, and they share similar characteristics, social meanings and values, which make them to some extent distinct from the wider culture. Would you think that there's a sense of being part of, or belonging to a subculture of women's football?

JH: To an extent, but not, I don't know. To a degree, because, just because of the fact that you play and it's still considered a bit of a surprise and there are kind of sort of attitudes I suppose...

JM: Thinking back again to some of the things there in terms of the...

JH: I don't know, I mean I don't feel particularly like part of a subculture to be perfectly honest. I don't feel enough, I don't feel I'm different enough to, or rather, I don't hide the fact I play women's football I just play it and get on really well with every, any team I've played, I've always gotten on with everybody who, you know, I don't know. It's not very clear, my thoughts all through your tape!

JM: Not thinking of subculture as being totally separate from like mainstream, because, but you can be part of both, but obviously you're in the parent culture in a lot of things, but is women's football just a bit that's...

JH: I don't think it's, but then again because of the sort of style I suppose there is, I do feel that part of it, to a degree. I mean the other night, last night in fact, there was

a wee gang of us out at the cinema, all, nobody else from Cove, but through football and I suppose everybody else that was out just had their own just kind of Saturday night get up, you know. Whereas we were all kind of really casual sporty types and I mean if I think about it now, folk kind of had a, they were looking at us, you know, I suppose we were looking at them, hugely different, such thing, but their Saturday night get up was completely different from the Saturday night get up from us. So, I don't know, to a degree yes, to a degree.

JM: Right ok. Just to recap on some things, we're pretty much at the end now. What value and meaning would you attach to your experiences of playing football?

JH: Value and meaning, well I love the fact I've played, I've had a buzz out of playing since ever I did play, I like the fact that previously played in the boys team and beat the boys I liked that. So now I just get a kick out of playing when I do play, and play ok. And meaning attached to it, I don't know if I quite know what to say to that, in what way?

JM: It's difficult to express really, I ask the questions! I think it's just more in terms of has it played and does it play a significant part in your life, have meaning in your life?

JH: It does, I mean I love going to watch Aberdeen through thick and thin, I mean I'm not even a season ticket holder, I probably put more money into the club because I pay on the gate, every time. Yeah, I suppose it's the, I suppose now I've reached the stage where it's the sort of watching football thing that's taking precedence really over the playing, although if I moved to 5-a-sides, I mean I love that, I get a much bigger high off of that now I think actually.

JM: What would you miss the most if you didn't play football?

JH: Well I'd miss the buzz that you do get when you play, I'd miss the buzz, that's about it really because I've made enough, the social, I think the friends I've made through football I'll keep them you know. And I'll still go along to watch so I'll still be part of a, because you're right, there is a kind of instant connection between folk that have played. You instantly know that you're kind of on, not safe territory, but you're on the same kind of level, you identify straight away. I mean a lassie was out last week, she used to play football, she didn't really get on, she wasn't the best friends with some of the folk that were there, not that she wasn't, but she just didn't know them as well,. She'd been away for about 3 or 4 years, hadn't seen them for ages, and one of them asked, 'so what have you been doing for the past 4 years? Why haven't you been here?' so instantly it was just, just back into the, you know, just instant connection. So you always get that I think, I think I'll still have that actually as well so.

JM: Just, have you got any plans for the future in relation to football?

JH: Probably think about winding down eleven's if I'm, honestly it's a case of if I don't play then I'll be pissed off if I don't and there's no point in traipsing about the country if I'm not going to get a game. So 5-a-side's my future I think.

JM: A 5-a-side start for the rest of your life?

JH: Yeah.

JM: What might make you stop playing football?

JH: What might make me stop?

JM: What's the most likely scenario, why do you think you might end up stopping playing?

JH: Well, not that I'm planning having kids or anything, but you know that would be a bit of a spanner in the works! That's not even in the plans, I think I should just be

the correspondent one day. But injury, if an injury happens, an injury happens. It's as likely as it ever would've been, so I don't think of it as more likely now.

JM: Just likely to be just, as you get older, you just don't enjoy it more or...

JH: As I get older if I really am struggling, if I just physically, I mean I think I've had a bad hip, I've got jip in my hip, so if that gets bad then yeah. I think the most likely thing is, I don't get to play actually, I might attempt to go back and play for a lower league team or something, I don't know. I'm quite tempted just to call it a day if I'm really not in the first team regularly.

JM: Ok, well thanks very much, that's all the questions.

**INTERVIEW 2 - HEATHER PIRIE 30/11/02
COVE RANGERS (PREMIER DIVISION)**

JM: Right we'll just start off talking about just some background details really, just to put your experiences of playing football into context. So where were you born and brought up?

HP: I was born and brought up in Aberdeen at my mum and dad's house on the outskirts of Aberdeen, in the country a wee bit.

JM: What about just now? I mean, obviously I'm at your house now!

HP: I moved out of home about 3 years ago into a flat for a year, my sister's flat, and then in here for two years.

JM: How about your family, do you have any brothers or sisters?

HP: I've got a twin sister who's a referee, a female referee, grade two, only grade two in Scotland. She started off playing football as well, started off at the same time as I did, and I've got an older sister who lives in New Zealand now, who used to do athletics when she was younger, and I did athletics too, so we've all been quite sporty. Mum and dad are still on the go, mum still helps out at athletics, dad still helps out football and things like that.

JM: Ok, so what about your parents then, what did they or do they still do for a living?

HP: Dad is retired, just semi-retired, he was a avionics engineer, which is fixing helicopters, down at the airport. And mum is a part-time secretary in the chaplaincy department at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

JM: Ok, how old are you just now?

HP: I'm 27.

JM: 27 ok. Where was it that you went to school?

HP: I went to school at Dyce Primary School, which was the local school, just down the road from where we were, well a few miles.

JM: How about secondary school?

HP: Secondary school was Dyce Academy, which was all in the same area roughly.

JM: What qualifications do you have from school?

HP: Well from secondary school I have got 7 standard grades, an O grade, and 3 highers.

JM: Right ok. Do you work now?

HP: I gave up work in August and started doing a Postgraduate Certificate of Education, secondary, to be a computing teacher.

JM: What did you do straight from leaving school then?

HP: Straight from leaving school I applied to go into the police cadet. And I had to leave school in May because the process was quite a long process right across the summer time. I got right down to the last interviews in September and didn't get in so I found myself having left school and not getting into the police cadets. So my sister worked in an office so I went along there and worked there for about a year, and then was sitting at the desk with a computer and thought I had an interest in computers, so I applied to go to university. I did four years at Robert Gordon University, got a BSc Honours in Computing and then worked for four years as a programmer and then...

JM: Decided you wanted to teach?

HP: Then was fed up of doing the programming bit because it was such an individual thing, I mean the office politics I was involved in was a nightmare, whatever, wanted

to get a bit more interaction with people rather than just sitting typing, so I'm trying to be a teacher.

JM: So you've pretty much answered the further qualifications that you've got, and now you're training for your, is it PGCE?

HP: PGCE yes.

JM: What social class background do you consider that you've had, working, working to middle, middle, middle to upper...

HP: As in me or as in my family?

JM: As in your family, like the background?

HP: We've been alright, I mean there was three of us, three kids, so mum and dad didn't have a lot of money when they started off, it's taken a lot. But now dad's quite good with what he's got I mean he can help me out just now because obviously I've got a house and whatever so he can help me out. So I'd say over, I'd say working class, but, you know dad's pretty switched on and...

JM: Yeah, because you've kind of got a distinction with class between social class values and social class as actually your income, sometimes they don't actually match up. You might have had a working class background, your parents might be working class, and their parents, but because of money and things like that, you might actually go into a more middle class category now, but...

HP: Yeah, I think they started off, because mum and dad live in the country mum and dad's family are farming people, which is why we've got a piece of land out in the country out there. So it's basically come from the farming type of, way of life. We're quite a, we're an alright family you know, we're not skint or anything, you know and we'll be alright, and they can support me as well, as they are just now. Dad's been quite shrewd with what he's done.

JM: So you'd say what, working, working to middle?

HP: Yeah, probably working to middle class.

JM: So that's kind of in terms of your background, is it any different to what you consider yourself to be now?

HP: For me, well when I worked for four years as a programmer I had actually a cracking salary because I was doing a quite specialised type of computing, which is why I'm able to, got a house and what not. But because I've obviously gone back to university I'm starting to you, savings are going down, going down, anytime now they're gone. So I'm going to have to rely on them to help me out until probably September, until I've got a job. Then I can get working and then pay them back what I owe, so yeah, I'd say I've had a good start from when, although I had a good start because I managed to get an above average job.

JM: Do you think it's really based on like your occupation then?

HP: Basically yeah. I've managed to go into a really good job for four years which has given me a really good start, otherwise I might not have been able to have moved out of home.

JM: Seeing how like your occupation, your income has really fluctuated, because it'll probably go back down again to a lower income, would you say that your social class as such, your values and things like that have changed at all, or would you say that you're still pretty much...

HP: No, I'm still pretty much, I mean when I was at home I was, you know we've been brought up to respect money, you know, we haven't been given money from mum and dad. You know, if I borrowed money my mum had offered I would pay it back, I just don't absorb all the money they give me. I've got the respect for my mum and dad that I don't do that. Although they would be, they would help me out

as much as they needed to but I will give them it back. So I've always been really honest and good with them, and now that I'm into my own house, I've always maintained that, you know I don't want to be dependent on them. So I think I've, I've hopefully tried to stay the same, I've had a good job as I say and you know, and I've just been the same person all the way through, now that, ok my income has gone from up here to down here, I've just tried to be the same person.

JM: What social class category would you consider typical women footballers, or the typical woman footballer in Scotland to be?

HP: A mixture, I know some of the people in the team are may be still, you know they're younger, they're just starting off, some of them are just getting their first jobs. And others are may be, I don't know I think, I was probably the one on the team that's probably had the biggest job if you know what I mean. I think the rest of them, I think I'm an exception really, but most people are, you know, slightly lower down as I say, they're starting off getting their first jobs and stuff like that.

JM: In terms of their parents may be, and what their background is like, would you say that generally they were working class, middle class?

HP: Probably working class I think.

JM: Moving on now to your experiences of football, what are your earliest memories of experiencing football, not just playing, but just experiencing it, what can you remember?

HP: Dad had a season ticket for Pittodrie, and he, well what happened was, one of my sisters won a competition for a season ticket. We weren't particularly that interested because to sit for an hour and a half at that age was like forever and a day.

JM: What age would this be?

HP: I would have been about 8 or 9. So we won the season ticket so the idea was that it was rotated between the three daughters who would go. And it got to the point that we weren't really that interested in going because it was, dad always went to the football about an hour before it started and we were just sitting there for so long, and it was cold. So we didn't particularly enjoy it, even though that was the spell when Aberdeen were having their really good, you know the 1980s, you know they were the team. We weren't particularly that interested, so then that season ticket kind of ran out, you know we had it for about 2 years or something. And, so that's my earliest involvement in football, he took us down to Glasgow a couple of times to see Aberdeen in the Cup Final and what not, but it was a bit too much for us then because we were just a wee bit too wee. And then we, we didn't do anything for years and years and years. So that was really the first, the start of it, and then there was a lull after that.

JM: What about playing then?

HP: Playing, I was a bit of a tomboy when I was wee, and I would play in the playground with the boys.

JM: Was this like primary school?

HP: Primary school yeah. Primary school in the playground at lunchtimes, and then at home playing in the garden in the afternoons with my sister, and evenings and what not. And then it went up to secondary school, still played in the playground with boys, I was probably the only one that chose football at secondary school and played with the boys there. And then (?) in the later years you stop doing that, and then my influence was more into athletics, I did athletics for about 10 years, I didn't do football. I did play it at primary school which was quite a big start, played in a few local galas and things like that.

JM: You mentioned your dad already but did either or both of your parents play or watch football?

HP: Dad played when he was younger with his brothers, there was a big footballing family there, so the rest of his brothers are still, with the rest of the family football is a big thing. Mum's not the least bit interested in football whatsoever.

JM: So would you say that football has been and still has an important place in your family life?

HP: It does yeah, I mean dad has got three daughters so he likes it when we come home and we start to talk about football, and we sit down and watch a match, he goes on and on and on you know. So, and the fact that Morag, my sister is a referee, has now been doubly a big thing in the house because we're all interested in how she's getting on. So mum's got more into it with Morag, and so has dad, so yeah, it's grown, especially with Morag.

JM: You've kind of mentioned how you first became involved in playing football, mainly at primary school.

HP: Yeah.

JM: What was the first club that you played for outside of school?

HP: The first club I played for was Aberdeen Accies, when it was formed back in 19, I think, 97, 96 or 97.

JM: Right, so this is after your break for athletics?

HP: yes, well what happened with athletics was, I did athletics from when I was 10, straight through until I was 20, I did it for 10 years, I did a lot of stuff. I went to university in 94 and I was in my second year at university when I was asked to play for one football game for the university, at Aberdeen University. I went along to Aberdeen University, I played, I got an injury, in my very first game playing football I got an injury. I tore the cartilage in my knee, that put pay to the athletics, so I then had problems with my knee for ages and ages, and I got more into playing football through the university that way. Although I'd been, I was keen on football, but athletics was the main thing that I did, but because of the injury I could do high jump, or the running that I'd been doing for 10 years, so I got more into the football that way.

JM: So how old were you then, I know you said the date, but how old were you when you started playing regularly?

HP: When I started to play regularly I was in second year at university, which would have been probably 1995/96 ish, that was when I first started.

JM: In terms of playing, obviously primary school obviously was, but you played at little bit at secondary school as well did you say?

HP: I played a little bit at secondary school, I chose it, a couple of times in PE you had an option and I chose football. I was actually quite accepted by the boys playing them, and it was quite ok, it was quite good.

JM: Was that the first few years?

HP: The first few years yes.

JM: And then what happened?

HP: I think that was the first or the second year at school, and then third and fourth year you didn't really get so much PE, and it wasn't, at that time it wasn't, PE wasn't a subject, there wasn't a standard grade available, it was brought in the next year when I went into fifth year, it became a standard grade, and I just didn't, it wasn't an option for me because I was doing other things, so it stopped then.

JM: So there wasn't an option for football like extra curricula?

HP: No, not for girls, no. So it died out at school, it was there in the early years, but then it stopped.

JM: So in terms of other football clubs you've played for, there was Aberdeen Accies...

HP: I started with Aberdeen Accies when the club started in I think about 1996, and then I played there for, I think 4 years, and then I signed for Cove Rangers, and I've been there for about 2 years, 3 years, this will be my third year, something like that.

JM: Ok, at what level do you play, Are you in the first eleven?

HP: Yes, well the manager has got the common sense and the managerial skills of a cabbage, he's a real twat, and you can quote! So he's funny. I mean I'm not the kind of player that goes in aggressively, you know I won't go in there to go right through the challenge. The kind of way I play is to have the ball at my feet and to run, so therefore that's not the kind of way he likes his players to play. He doesn't like to see somebody jumping out of a tackle, especially because I've had an injury and it's bothered me the last few years, so therefore sometimes I'm in, sometimes I'm out. But, mainly I'm in, but sometimes he can be really funny and, for whatever reason, so, yeah he's a nightmare.

JM: International representation at all?

HP: I came down to Scotland's training sessions a couple of times, but never really, that's when I was with Aberdeen Accies, so I was still a young player. And even though I was, what, 22 or something like that when I started, I was quite old in terms of some of the kids that had been playing since they were 12, for example Jo who you're speaking to later started playing in the Premier league when she was 15, you know and I was 22, so I was actually quite older before I started, so no I haven't done anything.

JM: Right. And you say you've been playing for Cove for about 2 years?

HP: I think this is my second or third year, can't remember.

JM: Right, in terms of, you've kind of talked about athletics already, but just to get an idea about your sporting biography, what other sports you've been involved in, what other sports or activities have you been involved in?

HP: I play netball for a team in Aberdeen, in an Aberdeen league.

JM: Do you still play?

HP: I still play. I got involved through my work, I went along to the, they were doing some corporate games that they had and went to Belfast, played there, then had another one in Aberdeen, so I played netball there, and I've carried that on. I play in a Monday night league in Aberdeen and around Aberdeen. And I also do mountain biking as well, again with my old work we go out in an evening, we do that and when I'm at Aberdeen uni just now, I signed up for the mountain bike club so that's kind of Wednesdays as well, so things are pretty hectic.

JM: Pretty active?

HP: Yeah. I think that's about all.

JM: What about at school, what other sports did you do?

HP: At school, I went along with what they did at school, I did a mixture of stuff, whatever was going, I was doing it, and if there was a PE option I would take it. I did a lot of stuff at school, just anything.

JM: What were the main sports that they pushed at school?

HP: Probably badminton and stuff like that, I remember going to after-school badminton clubs, there was a push on netball but I wasn't really into netball at that time. But I just got involved in all the stuff that was going on.

JM: so you told me that you played football at school to a certain extent, would you say that football, even though you did your athletics and play your netball still, would you say that football is or has been your main sport?

HP: I would say it has been my main sport since the last, since I've taken up football it's been the main sport, netball and mountain biking and all that are just one time a week type thing. This has been a train Tuesday, train Thursday, game on a Sunday, travelling away, it's been quite a big commitment, and quite a bigger part of the week than the other sports that I do, so it's probably the main one.

JM: Ok. What is it about football in particular that you enjoy?

HP: I like playing it, if I watched a match I'd be bored to be honest, I'm not really a bigger watcher, but playing it, I like to play. I like to feel as though I've done something, so I far prefer the playing side of it. Although I've been involved in the admin of the club at the Accies, I took over the running of that for a couple of years before hand, and it went onto somebody else, so that was quite good, but I prefer to play. Now I prefer to leave all the managerial stuff up to the manager, and all the organising, I just turn up and I just play, so that's good.

JM: Why is it more attractive to you than other sports, may be other sports that you've played, like may be the netball, why are you more committed to the football than the netball?

HP: Netball is, it's ok it's once a week, and it's with a bunch of older ladies. It started off as helping them out, and then it's like 'oh we need you to come along and play', it's ok but it's not really enough in my life, it's not really, it doesn't fulfil me enough. It's alright and I feel as though I'm helping out, but with football at least, I feel as if I can do a lot more in it, you know. I feel as if I'm putting a lot more into it, you know. The satisfaction of playing in a game, or scoring a goal or whatever is a lot more, and it's such a bigger part of my life. All my friends are football friends, so it's such a big thing, you've got to be involved in everything.

JM: In terms of other people's influences then on you participating in football, I've got a list, if you just want to kind of go through them one by one and just tell me, you know, what's the role or influence of them and why do you think that's been the case?

HP: Ok, parents, my mum hates me playing football. Every time I come home and complain that something hurts she tells me I should take up tiddlywinks or something, so she's fed up of me moaning.

JM: Why do you think that's the case, why do you think she's got that attitude?

HP: Oh, I think she thinks, why do I bother playing football if I come home on a Sunday and I moan about how long a day it has been, or moan about being kicked or whatever, she says 'well just take up tiddlywinks, do something else'. You know 'oh mum, I've got a sore knee', or whatever, 'well that wouldn't happen if you did something else'. She's not particularly encouraging, but she's interested enough, she'll come down to a couple of home games. Dad will come down and watch sometimes if it's a dry day, if it's a cold day he's not that, he's a bit frustrated at the way the manager runs the team, and the players that he picks. So therefore he finds it difficult to come down and watch sometimes because he just thinks he's frustrated at the way it's done, and the way we play football, which is more like kids in the playground rather than proper. All I get is 'well when we played football back in 60 something we used to do this, and we did this', and he tries to tell the lasses on the team how to play football, you know. But no, he's been ok. My older sister isn't the least bit interested in football either, doesn't particularly like me playing it either. Morag is strange because obviously she's a referee so she's interested in football, she

actually referees some of our games through the year. No, she's been quite good, I can talk to her about things, and she knows all the people that I play with and hang around with and stuff, so she's been quite good, she's been quite helpful.

JM: In terms of like, just the people you've talked about so far, how about their influence throughout getting you involved?

HP: Not really, it's all been my, I had to push that, I've had to get involved in that from my point of view. They weren't saying 'why don't you do this, why don't you do that?' Mum and dad would probably say 'well why don't you give it a miss and go and do something else, go and get involved in athletics again?', they would be quite happy if I did that because mum's not interested, and dad finds it all a bit frustrating because he doesn't think it's run properly and what not. And Morag as well, she's been helpful, but she would probably leave me to do my own thing, I'm quite a strong willed person, if I wanted to go and do something I'd go and do it. But it's been quite hard to stick with the football for the last few years because the manager has been up and down.

JM: In terms of your parents, just thinking back, and you have three sisters?

HP: Two sisters.

JM: Two sisters, yeah sorry. Three of you together?

HP: Yeah.

JM: There's been some research done to do with like, parents when they've got babies and toddlers and that, they often, you can't compare it to having had a brother or anything like that, but you know, the clothes they dress you in, the toys they gave you, the way they treated you, is usually based on sex, and they, not push you into things, but very subtly, naturally you get socialised into certain things. Can you remember any kind of...

HP: When I was wee I don't remember being pushed into football whatsoever, no. But I was a bit of a tomboy, so I would, and I had so much energy that I just raced about constantly, so basically it got to the stage I was just so hyper, mum took me down to the athletics club one evening and said, 'look, join in', because I just had so much energy. So that was the influence I had, and that's how I started, and obviously I did that for years and I loved athletics greatly, and I would still go back to it if anything went wrong with football I would just go straight back to it. But that was the push I had, was to go into that, but I mean I enjoyed playing football, and I was quite good at it when I was wee, but definitely pushed into athletics more than football. And that was my mum, my dad wasn't really you know thinks 'girls can't play football', why would he push me into football, he had no interest in it. It was only when I picked it up and started to show an interest in football that he started to interested as well.

JM: Ok. Just carry on down the list then.

HP: Partner, yeah he's not interested in football in the slightest, not interested, which annoys me, because he's not the least bit interested in, I don't know. Friends, well friends are all football friends, most of them. Other ones that aren't football friends, you know it's not really, I don't really talk about it too much, it's not really a big thing, like my uni pals or whatever. They'll may be say 'how you getting on' and stuff, but it's not really, there isn't really much that comes from them because they're not really interested in football. Peers, what I found with women's football is, people are interested, but you have to come to them about it, so it's not a case of people will give you much encouragement or what not. People are interested yeah, but you don't get much support from them. You know that you find as an individual you have to put yourself into things. School, school, there wasn't really much in the way of

football-wise, ok I did take part in it in primary school, secondary school, but then nothing really came of it, there was not really any push into it. These days it's a lot different, there's football development officers and what not. Teachers, teachers just commented on my general sporting ability and not specifically towards football. Yeah, I started athletics when I was 9 or 10 so that would've been at primary school I started that. And again it was all about athletics, it was nothing about football. Coaches, mainly athletics stuff, football-wise the first coach we had at Aberdeen Accies was a young lassie who passed her exams and had a general interest in it, she was very inexperienced and very, quite young. So you didn't get like, you know an older guy like we've got now who, there's the coach and the manager who can give you help and advice, and push you along. It was just another girl, another female who you see as kind of level with you rather than as somebody, you know, somebody you can look at for support. Yeah, I think that's about it, it really has been self-driven rather than, you know, getting a lot of help and advice from people who have pulled me along.

JM: In terms of those groups, or anyone else you can think of, have you ever had obvious discouragement, or comments made and things like that?

HP: I care about what my mum says a lot, and she does say 'well why do you bother' if you're getting, you know, by the time it comes to a Monday and you can't walk properly because your legs are so stiff, and you're really sore. So I kind of stop saying to her, you know I give a general 'oh it was alright', you know? And dad sometimes as well, if I haven't been picked or something or you know, dad has come down and watched and I've not been playing, you know. He knows that I can be better than a lot of the people there, he gets 'well why don't you just', and if I come home and moan he'll say 'well why don't you just pack it in? Give it until Christmas and pack it in, do something else.' They've probably been the main two, which I think is fair enough. And I think I did think about it myself, you know I always think, you know I had a good spell and a bad spell where I'm in the team and then these sort of things happened, I've been busy at uni and you know, my form has slipped, and suddenly I'm not really that into it as it were. Which I'm going through just now because I'm busy at uni, I've had an injury, so it's a case of coming to get back in there and build it up again. But yeah, I tend to try and not say too much because they'll go off on one and 'oh why don't you just go and do something else?'

JM: So just out of the people on the list there or others we've been talking about, who would you say have had the most positive and the most negative affect on you being involved in football?

HP: Most positive is friends, because a lot of my friends play football, I have even passed people who I just play casual Monday night 5-a-sides or something, they probably have been, they're quite good. And friends in general, because of the likes of Jenny, and my other pals, I think I'll spend Saturday with them at Pittodrie, you would chat a lot about football. You know I work with a lassie as well who's in the team, so we chat a lot. So I've had the most amount of encouragement from my friends that carry me along sometimes. If I'm may be not having such a good time then speaking with them, they'll help me out, carry me through. Discouraging, again, parents are probably the only ones, none of my pals have ever said 'well why don't you go to another team, why don't you do this', they've always been really good, they understand that I've got through highs and lows, either with my life or, and that affects people in general.

JM: Are they usually football related friends as well?

HP: Yeah.

JM: Ok. Moving on now to perspectives on women's football. What attitudes have you experienced about women's football from, for example, the general public, or the media?

HP: I think I would say probably in the last year or two there's been a big increase in the amount of publicity women's football has had. I know that for this season, i.e. since September, the local papers have picked up with what we've been doing and we've been in the press a hell of a lot. The team actually has to write it's own article on the Sunday night, which inevitably goes down to me. So I write the article, they'll be photographs, and then it gets published in Tuesdays paper, so there's an awful lot of people outwith the football circle that I have, like at work, and at school and what not, have picked up on this stuff. And I know a lot of my friends in the team have said 'oh my granny saw the picture and was asking me about this, that and the next thing', so I've seen a big increase locally in the last year, just the local papers putting a lot of effort in. But I think the likes of the SWFL and the SWPL have got good websites now you can look up at, and you've got all the information there, so that's really fantastic, that's really helped a lot. I know that the SWFL have put a lot into press releases and all, you know, getting people down to Hampden and doing an awful lot, so there's such a big increase in the last two years I'd say, into how it's all been publicity-wise, and just organisation.

JM: Just kind of saying like, have attitudes changed at all over time, if you think back before then?

HP: If you think back before then women's football was a bit of a joke. You know people didn't take it properly, didn't take it seriously, you know, girls can't play football whatever. But now even if you, Sky Sports will pick up on an England game, or they'll pick up on Doncaster Belles against Fulham or somebody. And suddenly you've got thousands of people at a game, and it's on Sky, so people are starting to speak about it. So I think actions are definitely changing for the better. I mean you've even got Morag refereeing, so suddenly people are taking notice of a female referee, which you know would be good for women in general in sport. So I think attitudes are definitely changing for the better. But it's certainly improving, and it can only get better hopefully.

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

JM: Do you think that attitudes are may be different in Scotland than they are in England, the rest of Britain, Europe, or even wider, the USA, China?

HP: I think you've got countries that women's football is a couple of stages further on, and I would even say England really, I know you've got a professional team, Fulham are probably a professional team down there, the USA are just leaps and bounds way above us, even places like Iceland, Norway even, are so much better advanced than we are. I know a lot of the players from Scotland will disappear off there. And a lot of the, in England a lot more teams down there are to go semi-professional, so I think Scotland are very slightly behind, but they're certainly getting there.

JM: Do you think, why do you think they're behind?

HP: It all comes down I think to the association, and the organisation of the Scottish Women's Football League, or the Premier League, or whatever, really, really getting going and pushing publicity-wise, and getting things organised and getting clubs to be structured, and getting the whole league to be structured and to be reliable and

organised as professionally that it can be. Because I've seen it when it first started off it was a bit of a sham, you know, there was nothing, there was very little information coming out to the wider world about football, but now there's websites you can go to, games are on Sky Sports, it's so much more improved, so I think that's the reason for the improvement, and I would put it down to them.

JM: How do you think they're going to manage that, is there a need for a change in attitudes anywhere, or money?

HP: Money I think, I think attitudes are getting there, if the guys are sitting at home in the evening and watching Sky Sports and they can see a women's game, and it's actually not as crap as they would've expected it to be, they'll think, 'oh I'll watch this', and it's actually quality stuff. I think attitudes will be getting there, and money can only be a good thing, pumped into the sponsorship of leagues and what not, so a lot of it comes down to money, and I don't know how the association has managed the last couple of years with the improvement there's been but a lot of it comes down to money.

JM: How do you think, I mean you've seen, kind of going off course a little bit here, but you've seen like the professional teams whatever, setting up semi-professional in England, the way that the FA as well have actually taken women's football under the wing now, and really put a lot of money into it themselves, do you see a similar thing with the SFA or not?

HP: The only thing that the SFA has been interested in so far is the National Team. They only take responsibility for purely the National side. Which is ok, but sometimes that is to the detriment of the league teams because they decide that they want to have a training day on a Sunday, so therefore everybody's league games in Scotland get binned because you've got all the players getting picked from off teams. Sometimes the SFA are, there's a bit of a clash between the rest of the leagues and the SFA who just come in and say 'right, this is what we're doing', and it sometimes clashes against that. But it's the SWPL for the Premier League that we're in that has to try and, has broken away from the SWFL, the football league, from the rest of the divisions, and is trying to look after itself a bit better. Which I think has been ok, and information-wise, as I say, websites and what not, but I'm not sure, the SFA I think it all comes down to money, they're only ever interested in the National game that gives them, the National team, which gives them a lot more higher profile, they're not really interested in the grass roots stuff.

JM: Do you think that's may be kind of lacking then?

HP: It is lacking yeah.

JM: Because the FA are like, comparing to England again but the FA do put money into women's football at all levels?

HP: That's the difference, the SFA only want the National team, because they'll think 'well, what's the point putting it into the lower leagues?' because they're not going to get any media probably, attention. But if you can look on the SFA website and it's got all the stuff about the women's National team, you won't find anything about the leagues, they're just like 'right if we're going to put some money in we'll just take the best lot'. And take that out, rather than being responsible for the Premier league for example, they just grabbed the women's team and thought 'right, that'll do for us'.

JM: Still on perspectives really, of women's football, do you think that stereotypes are created regarding women's football?

HP: Without a doubt, stereotypes yeah. I mean I mentioned, I've been on school placement at a school recently. And I mentioned that I played football, suddenly they

came up with this stereotype 'oh we had somebody here that played, oh she was big and she was butch, and she had a deep voice, and she was very masculine'. And I thought, you know, that's not what all women footballers are like, you know. We're not all women chasers, for instance, that's the side that really bugs me about women's football. There's that stereotype, there's, you know, and Morag was actually interviewed as a, even woman referee on BBC Scotland, and they interviewed one guy in the street, and you can imagine with his cap and his full-length rain jacket saying 'ah, she's got to be a lesbian if she's going to be doing football and stuff', and that really, really annoyed me because that's the stereotype that comes along with it. Butch girls, you know, and that annoys me intensely.

JM: Do you think, well I think you're going to say no to this, but do you think the creation of stereotypes is fair?

HP: I don't think the way that women are being stereotyped has been fair to start with. It's getting better now as more and more people are getting involved, it's seen as a more and more, you know, organised sport for all. I think, hopefully that stereotype will disappear because, especially in the Aberdeen area, the football development officer has done an awful lot of work with kids, be it primary kids, secondary kids, there is a good, you know, women's football set up around here, so it is starting to come through the kids now, which is far better.

JM: Do you think that those kind of stereotypes that you've talked about, have been conformed to some extent by players, either in the past, or still do?

HP: Probably, it's probably justified years ago, you know, but now it's just become such a popular sport that it's open. So many people are taking it up now that the stereotypes are not justified now I don't think, because there's such a big amount of even youngsters coming through, and people from all over, that the stereotypes I think are old fashioned now.

JM: Who do you think it is who maintains the stereotypes, who believes them still or...

HP: Probably all the old mannies walking down the street, all the old men that haven't really gotten into actually how it is, and never come to a game, and have never seen a game, and never had any interest in it.

JM: What about other women?

HP: Other women? I don't know, I don't know. I mean when I mention to people about playing football and stuff, they're generally quite good, but I don't know, it tends to be the men that you speak with about football, you don't tend to speak too much to other women.

JM: It might have been different 20 years ago?

HP: May be, yeah.

JM: Have certain attitudes towards women's football ever affected you, or anyone else you know, participation in the sport? Have you ever been discouraged from playing, or do you know anyone else who's been discouraged from playing because of attitudes?

HP: Yeah. It does, the stereotype does bug me, it does bug me a lot. Sometimes you think, well I'll not mention women's football because I'll automatically be classed as, you know, a stereotype. So sometimes I'm not sure whether I'm going really, you know, say I play football or whatever in case they give me a label. Yeah, but the school I've just been at I went and said to the PE teacher 'does anyone play football?' whatever, and they were really good and they said 'yeah, go play', which was quite good. But I'm wary of it, very wary of the stereotype but it's a difficult one.

JM: *Do you know of anyone else who has may be been put off playing because, you know they...*

HP: Because of the stereotype?

JM: *Yeah. Or because they've been involved in playing and then other people have given them...*

HP: Information?

JM: *Hassle about the stereotype, whatever, and it's put them off being involved in women's football?*

HP: Might have done. I can't think of anybody off the top of my head, any specific examples because if anybody, we've got a team, I've got a circle of people that I know that play. And if anybody comes in about, comes along whatever, then disappears then I don't really know for what reason they go away you know, I don't know, it's quite a difficult one.

JM: *Ok. Has anyone ever considered it strange that you play football?*

HP: No, most people know me as quite a sporty person, through all the athletics and what not. With football they're, they think it's quite good, you know people outwith family and friends and stuff, they're quite good, they're quite interested in it yeah.

JM: *Anyone in working situations, or whatever, that have thought, like frowned when you've said you play football?*

HP: If they've thought that they haven't said it. Although they probably would think, I mean I remember my old boss, I play football, and it's like 'oh, ok'. You know, and they're not really that interested in it, they don't really say much about it, they know I play football and stuff but they don't really say too much about it. Never, nobody's really been discouraging and said 'oh what do you want to go and play football for?' you know. Because in the office environment you've either got people that are quite interested in it, and the guys in the office who ask, you know, you speak a lot about football and the games and stuff. But you don't really speak about it to some people, they just aren't interested.

JM: *Right, moving on now to talking about being a member of a club. I've got another list just here, anything outside of that as well, but they're just kind of reference for you. Despite football then would you say that there's any particular characteristics that make women football players a distinct social group. In relation to any of these things, would you say that, what do you have in common with other players in relation to these?*

HP: What I have in common? If you looked at the team just now, a lot of the stuff that we have in common has been, a lot of the people have come through university, played football at university. Aberdeen University women's football team was the first team I played for, even though I was at a different university, and I met a lot of people through that. So I think really that's formed the basis of football in Aberdeen in the last few years, has been the university team. The team that we started at the Accies, quite a lot of people had been through the university team. So I think university has been quite a large part of it, and even now the new players that come along, have either met somebody at university or whatever talked about it, and get new players in that way. So a lot of it I think has been based on that, plus there's been people in the area that have been playing football for, I know one, somebody who's been playing for 20 years in this Premier league. One of my pals, she's been playing for 20 years, she's 32 now, she's been playing since she was 12 in the Premier league, which is phenomenal. So there already is an established group, if you like, that have been playing for years and years, that I've kind of met in with

and, you know, got in with. So that's, the general background is two areas, the university plus people that have been playing for years and years.

JM: Right. Are there any things there that you think you share?

HP: Background, status? People come from a mixture, I mean the younger ones are all just kind of starting out in their young jobs, I mean I'm probably, I think the average age of the team is probably around 22,23, with some youngsters, then you've got Jenny and Fiona at about 31, 32. So I'm probably getting on in the team wise, but no, there's a mixture of people that do a mixture of jobs. There's still a university connection there I think, that have been through there. Social class, I think everybody's the same, there'll all, most people are staying at home still probably, some are getting into their own place just now.

JM: In terms of their backgrounds, social class, do you think there's any predominant kind of...

HP: I don't think there's anything too different, I mean as I say, most people either stay at home still or you know have only just recently, over the last couple of years moved into town themselves.

JM: Would you say working, middle, upper?

HP: I'd say working, I'd say working. I mean most of them are on like their first jobs if you like, still in their first jobs. I don't think anybody's doing any huge, great, fantastic, you know, big oil executive jobs. I think everybody's kind of, you know shop work, or office stuff. I'd say office stuff was probably quite a lot. Yeah occupations, there's a manager of a Spar shop, there's somebody who works for an oil company that gives out, you know handles out equipment and stuff so she works in the warehouse there, somebody that works for Aberdeen University, the Microbiology-type Department. All sorts of stuff, PE teacher, I'm a student teacher, you know, I think it all tends to be based at the office, office-type jobs. There's a couple may be, that work for bigger oil companies, do stuff like that, but occupations, I think we're all just about nothing too big and fancy. Education, either got those that have been through university, those that haven't. To me that's the bit of the split, you've got the ones that have done that and the ones that haven't. Personality? There's a few people in the team that are real characters, that really keep the team going, they're really, you know, you rely on them a lot, and they do a lot. Femininity? There's a few, I wouldn't say, aye, we have our moments, we have our moments. Yeah, I mean when you're a football team in the changing rooms, femininity doesn't come into it that much. You know we're all a team, we're all, but on nights out and stuff, yeah everybody's dressed up, and their hair's all down.

JM: If you compare yourselves to like other women, women that you know that don't play football, and things like that, if you think about personality and femininity, attitudes, things like that, how do you see women footballers as being different?

HP: I see them totally different. If you look at us on a night out you wouldn't see anybody with, you know heaps of make-up on, you wouldn't see anybody with hardly a short skirt on, with heels on. It would all be probably just trousers and a blouse or something like that. Nobody is really, I know this is kind of away from the, well getting closer to the stereotype thing, but nobody would be particularly girly. Whereas you could meet a group of girls who've all got next to nothing on, and are all out until 6 o'clock in the morning, and are going home with whoever, you know. But our lot are all kind of the same on a night out. Nobody's really, may be a couple are, but no, the social group that I'm involved in are not really, you know, black dresses and what not every Friday and Saturday night. You know we don't tend to,

ok we go out and have a good laugh, but we're not really big clubbers and stuff like that, we all kind of hang out in the same kind of way. Attitudes, yeah we're all kind of the same sort of, we all chat away really good, and have a good night out. And then, you know, everybody just kind of goes off home rather than have a big night out, and end up wherever. Style, clothes, sense of humour, yeah, we're all kind of similar. We're all kind of similar. We've all got a good sense of humour and the banter that goes through the team at training, the changing rooms, after the game, it's all really good fun, light-hearted stuff, everybody's got a good sense of humour. There are always the poor soles in the team that, for whatever reason, get picked on, and they tend to, they take it really well, and they do tend to get it really in the neck. You know, for whatever reason, somebody could've done something that, you know, you've got the, it comes back to personalities. There's a couple of people on the team that are really the life and soul of the party, and that comes down to everybody's got a good sense of humour, and some poor soul will be the butt of everything. But it always is taken really good, and are a really good fun team to be with.

JM: How you interact with people on your team and that, would you interact in the same way, in terms of sense of humour, with people at work, people outside work?

HP: Yeah, I'm pretty much the same as I am with the people at work as I am with the people in the team. Probably a bit more relaxed, a bit more fun with the people in the team, because I know them on a more personal level than the people at work. But I'm the same person, pretty much, right the way through. It's the same as most people, you've got your work people, you've got your, you know, your football pals, who you're, it's the same whether you're, you know playing football or not, whether you're, how you are with them, you know pretty much the same.

JM: Right. So after what we've talked about there, would you recognise women's football as having a particular identity that differs from other sports people, or other women?

HP: Other women yeah, as I said, you know if we're on a night out we're not really the same as the rest of the people, you know tottering down the street in their heels. You know we all kind of be a bit more, we're all kind of dressed similar, the same, which is different from a lot of other women. But sports people I think, whether it's hockey players, whatever, we probably, I suspect would be the same as us, I don't know. But, yeah we're all the same kind of thing, and we see ourselves differently from other people that go up and down the street, you know, the serious clubbers which we're not really. I don't think there's, there's a couple on our team that are serious clubbers, but we don't tend to go out with the, because they would, you know, be doing different things.

JM: Just kind of moving on then, what are the main reasons why you play football?

HP: I play football now because all my friends do, because if I didn't play football, I'd have a Tuesday, a Thursday, and all day Sunday, I would have nothing to fill it. And all my friends do it, well most of my friends. So it's become such a large part of my life that, you know. I know a couple of the lasses in the team that get fed up with it and want to pack in, but then you think well, all my friends, you know it's such a large bit of your life, that you would miss out, you know, you wouldn't see a lot of people. So yeah that, I mean I haven't been for three weeks now and you know, I'm starting to wonder, ok I should, injury is healing up now, I'll may be go back on Tuesday, I haven't seen anybody in a while. So that becomes quite a big part of it.

JM: In the context of your everyday life, what does football offer you, what value does it have, if you think, in relation to your job, your job satisfaction?

HP: Football has actually been quite good because if you, I've been to interviews and they've said, when you come to teamwork in the office or whatever, you can explain that you've, you're a qualified football coach, you play football, so therefore they know that you can work in a team. You know, that you can, that you're committed to that kind of thing, and particularly because I ran the team for a couple of years they think right that's good organisation skills, you you're running meeting, you're doing all this kind of stuff, which shows a lot to them about that kind of stuff. Largely about the teamwork and stuff, so it's always good to mention at interviews about the sports side of it, and especially at the school, going away to do the teaching bit, they like it that you're working with the kids, and stuff like that. So it's helped me no end, through getting a job, things like that. And also it's always good on your CV if you've got sports down and stuff, people always ask, what do you do, so it's been really, really good for that.

JM: How about in terms of job satisfaction, or some kind of release that football might offer you?

HP: Yeah. I mean I've just finished a 5 week placement and to get away and to do football now would be good, you can just switch off from the responsibilities I've have for the last few weeks and get on now and enjoy the football. You kind of think, it is, it's nice if you've had a kind of stressful day in the office, or at uni, or whatever you're doing, and you go to training and you can just smack the hell out of a football for whatever. Because sometimes I go a wee bit loopy, and it's good just to, just to really, you know. So it is a good release.

JM: Do you find yourself thinking about football when you're at things like that?

HP: Yeah. If we've played a game on a Sunday, and it's been a big game, and it comes down to Monday and ok, I'm sitting at work or whatever I'm doing, I'll just kind of think back about, you know, the way I scored a goal, or what I did, or bits about the game. And then it's, ok it wears off throughout the week and then you're then switched on to thinking about Sunday's, and it goes along like that yeah. I certainly think about it quite a lot, and even training as well, you know, there's a lot going on at training as well, so that's fine as well, there's always heaps going on.

JM: So is it anything over and above simply playing football?

HP: There's a lot more to it. It's become such a big part of my life now, because my friends are involved in it. I mean, I suppose you might be the kind of person that goes along, plays football, what not, never sees anybody else outwith the group. But I mean I've got my pals there, I go and, I've got pals that I'll do work for, whatever, outwith, you know, because I know them I'll go and do some work for them, you know outwith football. I've got pals that I'll go to Pittodrie with. If we're going on a night out, you know, I've got pals that'll do that. So yeah, it's been quite, it's done quite a lot for me you know. And obviously knowing all these people, it helps you in other areas you know in bits and pieces.

JM: How would you describe the social aspects then of being a member of a club? What have you got socially from being a member of a club?

HP: Socially, I mean we have nights out where there's may be an organised fundraiser. So there's work to be done there, everybody's got to be organised and do their bit, you know, if you've been asked to get a raffle prize, sell raffle tickets, that kind of stuff, it's good to go around work and you say well the football team is doing this, so there's that side of it too. And it's good just to feel part of a big group that everybody looks after each other. We've been in the situation where the bus has broke down at the side of the road and we're all crashed outside in the darkness, you know and we're all kind of huddled together, and there's one lassie that's obviously

really cold, so we'll look after her, and you know. You look after the young ones in the team as well, being an older one, if anybody's got any problems or what not, you always look after the young ones. And help people with what they're doing in the team in general, end up decorating peoples houses and things, and end up getting peoples computers home to fix and stuff like that, so it kind of goes...

JM: Extends way beyond...

HP: It does.

JM: I'm just thinking about things like friendship, socialising, interaction, sense of community, things like that?

HP: Yes, all those things definitely come into it. You know, it's a football team yeah, but it's also a big circle of friends. So therefore I'd find it hard to leave the team. You know, I mean I was asked in the summer to leave the team and go and play football for another team, by some friends who play football with another team. But I thought yeah, I might get on better playing football with that team but I couldn't leave my pals, leave my mates, because it would have such a big, I wouldn't be able to train on a Tuesday, a Thursday, you know football would only then be one day a week, and you'd have to travel, whatever. So it wasn't an option really.

JM: So how important are such social aspects to you?

HP: The social aspects are pretty big, as I say it's, that's my pals you know. And if I were to leave the team and go to another team then my pals might not be too, I would have quite a big problem I think with my pals. I mean, we've got season tickets to go to Pittodrie on the Saturday, and I would just get a ribbing from them every week if I didn't play for them and played for another team. I think it would definitely sour relationships. And I've known some of these girls for years and years, you know, and we've shared a lot, you been on holiday, I've been a couple of times with, well a smaller group as well as the big group, you know. We're really quite a solid lot and it is hard if somebody decides to leave, you know it's always difficult, it does strain relations. The same as with new people coming in. They are welcome and stuff you know, but there are little, they would find it quite hard I think to come in because everybody's quite close.

JM: So, you kind of answered this, to what extent would you say that the social aspects are a part of being a member of a club?

HP: Definitely yeah.

JM: Yeah?

HP: Yeah. Because it is really a big bit, I mean we find as well that somebody that may be isn't as socially connected into the group, if they comes along and plays, you know team-wise, that does affect the team spirit if there's somebody who just comes along to training, doesn't really interact with the group, goes away, you know, the chatter, there's a little bit of stuff that goes about, you know, if somebody's not really connected in the social script.

JM: Would you say they missed out on quite a lot by just...

HP: I would say so yeah, I mean there is a good off the field team spirit. And you know, those who just come to training, and don't really, are really quiet, sometimes there is a bigger group of people that can, it's quite hard to describe. But you know, off the field everybody needs to fit in, those that really don't fit in quite so much, it does affect the overall team thing, because we don't feel we know them as much as the rest of them.

JM: This might be a very relevant question. How do you or would you feel if you're injured and can't train or play in matches? Would you still go along and why?

HP: I've been injured for the last 3 weeks, I haven't been along to training and I'm now starting to think that, right, it's also coinciding with being on placement, and now all this stuff is finished I can now think right, and the injury is clearing up I would be able to go back now. I do as if I've missed out the last few weeks, you now. Games on a Sunday, luckily the last 3 weeks have been cancelled as well.

JM: That's good timing.

HP: So it's perfect for me so, otherwise I would've gone down to watch. But I mean, tomorrow's game is in Ayr and I'm not really, it's far too far, I would go down and I wouldn't be, I don't particularly want to play, I've got a bit of a cold. And I don't want, you know, because I haven't been there for 3 weeks my status in the team would be down so, no I wouldn't be that interested in going tomorrow for example, but if it was a home game, yeah I would go down and watch definitely. And we've also got someone who's been long term injury for like a year and still goes down to watch the home games, so yeah, there is quite a big, and even old players, and people we know, always come down to watch games.

JM: So there's still this kind of connection with the team?

HP: Even if they've been injured or they've stopped playing you know, or whatever, you still see a crowd of lassies that will come down to watch.

JM: Have you ever given playing football, if so why, and why did you chose to continue?

HP: Have I ever completely given up?

JM: Have you ever nearly given up?

HP: Have I ever nearly given up? Yeah, I've had my ups and downs, when I've just thought the manager's messed me about for whatever reason, and I have thought about it. But I always come back because my friends are all there and what not. It hasn't got to the point where I finally decided I'll give up yet. If I did give up I would go back to the athletics club and although I've still got my football friends I would probably, you know, I would have another circle of friends, because I already know a lot of people at the athletics club so I'd slot back in there. So I've got that to fall back on if football really did go wrong, I would do that. But I haven't really thought about giving up totally, but I'll do silly little things like I'll not go and buy another pair of boots, stuff like that. I kind of ease back a wee bit, and lessen my total commitment. You know and when it comes to may be signing a new form, I'll may be be a bit reluctant you know, play a wee bit hard to get sometimes and think well you know. But they always kind of phoned you up, and phoned you up, to come along, so I have had my moments. Yeah, I've just finished a low and I'll maybe just start getting back into it again now.

JM: Is that all connected with the football more than the friendship side of it?

HP: It is connected to football. If the football on the pitch isn't happening, or something is going wrong or whatever then it does affect overall, but the friend thing is there, it's always still hanging around you. It's not as if you leave football and that's it, it would be too easy to leave then. If the football wasn't happening at the time you could walk away but there's the huge social thing there that would make it hard to leave.

JM: Right. What do you usually do after training or matches?

HP: I do a car share thing with somebody around here, so just car share. After training, training tends to be similar, 6 until 8 or 8.30pm, so it's a case of nobody's really had time when they come home from work to sit down, have their dinner or whatever. So it tends to be that after training everybody will just go home, everybody just goes their separate ways because we're just dying to get home. After a match, a

home match we all spend about an hour in the pub, have a drink, we'd be chatting away for an hour, and then we'll all go home. It's very rare that we'll all just go out on the town, whatever. But at a away match, yeah, we all go to the pub for an hour and then go back on the bus and then stop somewhere and get some chips on the way home and come back up. So there is something goes on, but not too big a social thing.

JM: But are there social things usually outside, not after training or matches?

HP: Not after training or matches, it might be, anybody fancy going for a pizza on Friday night? And it might be a whole team thing, which is rare, it doesn't happen often. But more than likely there'll be a couple of phone calls and there'll be 5 or 6 of us, and may be some other outwith the actual team, the Cove team, will get together like last Saturday. You know it just so happened that somebody, a couple of people were going out, you know, so the circle gets bigger and you've got, you know, may be 6 from our team, a few from another team, some old friends, you know old football, but they end up on the night out because, you know, that tends to be the most often thing.

END OF TAPE

TAPE 2

SIDE A

JM: You've kind of answered the next question. Basically saying, do you socialise with players outside of training and matches?

HP: Yeah.

JM: How would you feel if you couldn't make it out socially with other members? Would you feel like you were missing out or...

HP: Yeah I would, I would. I'm, normally I'm on nights out, or whatever, so because there's not really that many that happen, yeah I don't like to miss out. But I like to be there, it's normally a good laugh.

JM: What do you understand by the term subculture?

HP: You've got the broader, the general, well you've got the main culture and something that branches off of it, but I'm not entirely sure of what that would be in relation to the team.

JM: Right well, I've just got a little bit of a definition here, if you regard a subculture as a group of people who are brought together and interact, they share similar characteristics, they're brought together for a reason, they share similar characteristics, social meanings and values, which makes them to some extent distinct from wider culture, would you think that there is a strong sense of being part of a subculture of women's football?

HP: Yeah, definitely, yeah.

JM: In pretty much the way that we've...

HP: With what we've talked about, there's such a big, you know, reason for everyone to be close by. It's just how it's happened you know, we've all kind of, such a big group of people that all get on really well with each other.

JM: Yeah. Just to recap then, what values and meanings would you attach to your experiences of playing football?

HP: I've learned a lot about being part of a team, you know, and your responsibility of being in the team either on the park, and off the park. So that kind of stuff, you know I've learned a lot about other people, interacting with other people, that kind of stuff, respecting other peoples views, values, the way that they do things, stuff like

that. It's just being with a group of people, rather than being an individual. So that's been quite a big part of it.

JM: What meaning does it have in your life?

HP: It's had quite a big meaning. I mean because I was brought up in, kind of countryside and what not, not so kind of switched on, not so kind of used to being with a group of people. So, ok I was about what, 20 odd or something, and still quite used to being, you know going home, and not really being a big social person, and then suddenly to be thrown in with this group of people really made me grow up quite quickly. Because suddenly you're in amongst a whole big group, which may be from my, you know, later teen years, just wasn't there because I was still living at home. Whereas now it's made me grow up quite a lot.

JM: Would you say that football has played, does play a significant part of your life?

HP: Yeah. It has for about, as I say, since I started playing, because then my whole social life changed, if you like. Because, you know, I would just be, go to uni, go home, whatever, and now it's like, suddenly social life has just really erupted. So it's really made a huge big difference. I mean I was a really shy person and stuff, and now I've had so much responsibility that I've really given a lot, and had a lot back, it's been good.

JM: What would you say that, if you could pick one thing that you enjoy about it the most, about football and about being a member of the club, the whole thing, what would you say?

HP: Just being with my friends, yeah just being with a group of people that, some of the personalities there are just amazing and you know, getting to know everybody and everything that goes on in the team. You know, we are a good bunch of lassies and everybody looks after everybody, and you know, things have sprouted off from that, you know, may be I've got a job from somebody or so much more. But it's just the whole being with a group, and it's been good.

JM: So if you were told like, how would feel if you weren't able to play football again?

HP: Would that mean sports, or football?

JM: Football.

HP: If I wasn't able to play football again, as I say, I would still have the friends that I've made because they're good friends, they're not just going to disappear because I'm not playing football. I would go back to athletics and really throw everything into that, and the football side of it, as I say still probably on nights out, still see people, still have a season ticket with a group of them that I've got, we'd still see that way. It'd probably be less and less, but then they're friends and that's it. You know, I'm still friends with some people that don't even play football just now, but we're all still a good social group. For example at New Year, there's 20 of us that would go up to a lodge in Aviemore or something, and go up there for a few days, and that would be out with football, but still people I know through it.

JM: What would you miss the most if that happened?

HP: Yeah, the whole social thing, But I mean I would go into another sport, you know, I've got friends there already, so I would just be more involved in that.

JM: Just quickly, the last few questions then. What plans do you have for the future in relation to football?

HP: I'll carry on playing as long as I'm enjoying it, as long as I'm happy. I'm a bit disappointed that I've come into football quite late on, that the kids have got so much more opportunities now that I didn't have. I find that frustrating, but I'm glad that the

kids are getting on with what they do. But I'll just carry on as long as I can, and if it doesn't happen for me, then it doesn't happen, and I'll just pick up other sports, because I'm quite a sporty person, so I would just do something else.

JM: What part do you expect it to play in the rest of your life? Whether just like the actual playing football or...

HP: I'd like, I mean I'm 27 now, I'd like to be playing for a few more years. But I would like to keep with the circle of friends that I've got, because obviously they've been with me now for a few years. But, I don't know, I hadn't really thought about it. I mean I know that my pal that's older, she's about 32, and she's talking about finding it too hard going now, but she would miss the social side of it as well. Och, I don't know, just take it as it comes, week after week, just go with the flow and see.

JM: Could you imagine losing touch with people?

HP: If they moved away from the area. There are some people that often talk about moving away, there are some that have moved away, but the majority of the group still keeps in touch with whoever moves away. But, I don't think I would lose contact with them too much, because it's such a wide circle, it's not just all, it's not as if it's all central, just around the team. There are other, it's such a wide thing.

JM: A kind of network?

HP: Yeah, it's a really, it's quite a big network now, a strong network.

JM: Ok. So what could you imagine might make you stop playing football?

HP: I would, I could see me leaving the team if the manager, he does some really weird things. He for example, a new person would come along from the university, or a player off the street, and he'll give them a game on a Sunday and I'll be the one that sits on the bench because some person's walked straight off the street and into the team. He's done that already this season and that intensely annoyed me because I'd been playing in the team for weeks and weeks and weeks and weeks, but he asked this new person that comes along. So if I did... what was the question again?

JM: What might make you actually stop playing football?

HP: Something like that, if he starts to mess me about, because that's what dad's said, you know 'why are you bothering with him because he's messing you about', so that might make me stop. Apart from injury or what not, I might just get really fed up with how it's all going. But I'd still keep in touch with the people I know.

JM: Ok. That's great cheers.

**INTERVIEW 3 - JO MCWILLIAM 30/11/02
COVE RANGERS (PREMIER DIVISION)**

JM: Just going to start off by focusing on, just some background details, to put your experiences into context. Where were you born and brought up?

JMC: Ok, I was born in Aberdeen, I was brought up in a small place called Teuch (?), which is out the road, it's beside Alford, probably not heard of it, it's west of Aberdeen. It's a wee tiny place in the middle of nowhere.

JM: What about just now? Where are you living?

JMC: I live in Cove, I've just bought a flat there, end of June, so I've been living there. But I've been living in town. I used to live in Edinburgh for 4 years because that's where I trained, and then came back up and just lived out the road for a bit, and then came into town, into Aberdeen.

JM: So just about now? Living in Cove wasn't it?

JMC: Yeah, living in Cove just about since the end of June.

JM: Ok, how about your family? Do you have any brothers or sisters?

JMC: Yeah, I've got a twin sister Jen, and a younger sister Mhari who's 3 ½ years younger, so it's just the three of us, obviously mum and dad.

JM: What about your parents then, what did they do, or do they do for a living?

JMC: My dad lives for an Oil Company, he basically works on the warehouse floor and deals with all the tools that are coming in from offshore, does the maintenance, I think he does the maintenance with tools and sends them back out. Any equipment and stuff they need offshore, he deals with that. My mum works for a (?) Primary School as the school secretary. She works in the office there.

JM: Ok. How old are you just now?

JMC: Twenty-three.

JM: Where did you go to school?

JMC: I went to primary school at Teuch, Teuch Primary School, and then Alford Academy.

JM: Right, what qualifications did you have from school?

JMC: Standard Grades, 6 2s, a 3, and a 4, Highers, an A, a B, and 3 Cs.

JM: Right ok. Do you work at the moment?

JMC: Yep, I'm a PE Teacher, so I've got a 3 day permanent contract at Westhill Academy, but I'm actually working there 5 days a week, because I've got a 2 day Sports Co-ordinator effort in there as well.

JM: Ok, have you always done that work?

JMC: Yeah. I mean, when I left school I just went straight into university. I mean I worked part-time, I did coaching and I worked in a sports shop and stuff during the holidays, but I just came back straight into teaching really.

JM: What uni did you go to?

JMC: Edinburgh University, Moray House.

JM: Ok. So the further qualifications you've got is your...

JMC: B.Ed. PE Honours.

JM: Ok. What social class background do you consider yourself to have had? Working, Middle...

JMC: Probably working class I would think.

JM: Working class?

JMC: Yeah.

JM: What social class category would you consider yourself to be now, would it be any different or...

JMC: Probably not, no, I've never really considered it to be honest, but no I probably wouldn't consider it any different.

JM: What do you think it's based on really, your class then?

JMC: I guess a lot of it's based on your parents background, your parents, what they do as a living, what their parents do as a living, sometimes even the area that you're from, we were from like a small country area. Though I've never really considered it to be honest.

JM: Do you think it's more like income over values or...

JMC: Yes a lot of it goes by income, how much you earn every year, whatever, it does kind of determine your status, your social status.

JM: But attitudes do you think as well, do you think that has a bearing on social class?

JMC: Do you mean like other people's attitudes? Or just kind of like the attitudes you hold?

JM: Yeah, the attitudes that someone holds may reflect their class, you know, they might have kind of working class attitudes to work, a work ethic.

JMC: Yeah, I guess that's probably right yeah, it's how you're brought up. I think we were always brought up, you know kind of, you always get your head down, put in 100% and do your best, and that's good enough, kind of thing. You get up in the morning, you go to work, and you work for as long as you can, get back in at the end of the day, so yeah.

JM: On the same kind of thing, thinking about working class, what would you consider the typical woman footballer in Scotland to be? What kind of social class?

JMC: Oh.

JM: Just from your experiences?

JMC: It's kind of difficult because there's such a range of backgrounds and people you meet in football.

JM: Do you think there's one that's, one kind of class that's more predominant than others?

JMC: Probably working class, I'm not really sure to be honest.

JM: Would you say there were any upper class, many upper class women?

JMC: Not many, I wouldn't think, but there are some. Yeah I would say probably working class and middle class, a mixture.

JM: A mixture of those two?

JMC: Yeah.

JM: I'm just trying to think like, may be other sports if you looked at golf, there might be a lot more middle and upper class there...

JMC: Yeah because it's more an elitist sport, golf yeah.

JM: So if you put women's football somewhere, which class would you put them in?

JMC: Yeah, working class probably.

JM: Working the most?

JMC: Yeah I think so, I think it would be top end of working class towards middle class, know what I mean?

JM: Yeah. Moving on now to your experiences of football. What are your earliest memories of experiencing football. Not just playing but like, if you think back to your memories...

JMC: Well we started, I guess I always had an interest in it. Mum and dad were never into football, dad's into it now, but that's more through me and Jen both play, so it's more through that. I think it happened when we changed, I originally started at Moraymusk Primary School, I lived in Moraymusk, and when we were 8 we moved, moved to Teuch. Teuch was a small primary school, there was like 4 people in our class, it was like myself, my twin sister and 2 boys. And we were in the school with about 30 or 40 kids. So all there was to do at break-time was to go out and play football, you know. So that's kind of my earliest memories of football, to get out, just at primary school, just going out kicking about. Then from then it just grew, dad used to take us to Aberdeen games, whatever, you become more aware of football, you know, professional football I guess. But it was all quite a new thing to me, to be honest. I didn't know really any girls playing football before, but I didn't think it was unusual, we just kind of, because we both enjoyed it we just kind of went along and did it, but I didn't know, particularly know a lot about women's football or anything like until I was...

JM: What kind of age?

JMC: Must have been when I was up to secondary school because there comes an age where you're not allowed to play in boys teams, and from there our primary school headmaster came back in touch with us and said 'I've got a contact for a women's team if you're interested?'. So we got that, that's how we got involved, both got involved with Cove, which was at that time East End Ladies. And that was may be the first, we went along to the first training session, whatever, it was the first time I'd been involved in a purely female group in football.

JM: So it started off really, first experiences with primary school...

JMC: Yeah it was, we got to play for the school team. Went up into secondary, always played with the boys we had like an indoor league. But we played in it in the first year team, team in first year, after first year you weren't allowed to play in the school because of the age.

JM: You've kind of mentioned your dad a little bit, do either or both of your parents play or watch football?

JMC: Neither of them play, dad watches a lot of football now. Mum's got an interest, but again that's more through us I think. But yeah, dad watches an awful lot of football now, and he didn't used to. When we first started playing, I think it was more because we had an interest, he kind of took us along, he developed an interest for it, through it. So yeah, he watches a lot of football now, but neither of them play.

JM: How about your siblings, you've talked about one of your sisters?

JMC: Yeah, Jen plays football as well. I think it's, because we were twins, we were in the same class, had a lot of the same interests and we just kind went through.

JM: You went through it all together?

JMC: Yeah, yeah we did.

JM: How about your other sister?

JMC: Mhari's not interested whatsoever. Don't get me wrong, she could be quite sporty, but she's just, she's quite a good netball player, but she's never really been interested. And I think because, being the youngest one I think she did her best to be completely different from both Jen and I. I think it's having twins as well, having twins and sisters, it's all a bit difficult. So yeah, just completely went away from the kind of sporting side, she was always out. Whereas we were training or were playing games, and you know, it was just different, so she's not bothered about sport at all.

JM: So would you say that football has been, and still has an important place in your family life?

JMC: Yes.

JM: Mainly dictated by your own interest?

JMC: Yes, yes. The whole family is interested in it, but it's through us I think more than anything.

JM: Kind of what tends to happen, I ask one question and we go off and end up answering them. So your first club was East End Ladies?

JMC: Yeah, I've never moved, I've always been at the same club but we've changed our name a couple of times. So we were East End.

JM: When you were how old?

JMC: I'd be 14. So East End, then we went to Cove Rangers, then went to Aberdeen Ladies, and then back at Cove Rangers again. So it's still the same team, same management, a lot of the same players, we've just kind of changed our name in between.

JM: Right, ok, who first encouraged you, you said something about your old primary school teacher?

JMC: Yeah. He was great actually, the Headmaster, George Montgomery, was fantastic because he was under a lot of pressure because Jen and I were getting a game in the primary school team and sometimes it would cause other boys not getting a game. Of course the parents weren't impressed that their sons weren't getting a game because Jen and I were playing. So that caused a bit of friction. But no, he stuck up for us and always encouraged us, he was great. Then when we moved up to secondary school, there was a couple of members of staff there that were really, really supportive as well. Like our guidance teacher, and stuff like that, he was also a PE teacher, they were great, you know, he really did encourage us. Because I think it would be very easy for him just to put it down and say 'girls' football no', just be like that, but no, they were great, they were really good.

JM: And they kind of found alternative ways for you to...

JMC: Yeah, they even got us involved in, I think when I was in about 4th year, 3rd year, or 4th year. They had a staff team who played an indoor game every Friday, and they were like 'Jo, do you want a game in goals for us?', and I was like 'yeah!', so I played for them as well. So they were great, really supportive, so that was good.

JM: So when you first started playing regularly you were about 14?

JMC: Yeah. I'd played since I was about 8, I didn't start playing for a team until I was 14.

JM: Ok, and you've mentioned which clubs you've played for. At what level do you play now then, are you in the first eleven?

JMC: Yes, first choice goalkeeper.

JM: International representation?

JMC: Yeah. I've played twice at under 16 level, once at under 20, and 11 times at senior level, but I'm not currently involved. I was involved probably about a year and a half ago, and obviously you can only take two goalkeepers, and she kind of put me as third choice, so I'm not involved at the moment, but I have been.

JM: And also Scottish Uni's as well?

JMC: Yeah, Scottish Uni's as well yep.

JM: Ok, so you've been playing for Cove basically under different names, for how many years?

JMC: It must be, this must, yeah this must be my testimonial year! This must be my tenth year, how scary is that?

JM: Do you think you'll get a testimonial?

JMC: No! I'll have to mention that tomorrow.

JM: That's a productive thing that's come out of the interview! You're due a testimonial.

JMC: Yeah, I can't see it happening but never mind!

JM: Just moving on now to your sporting biography really, not just football. What other sports or activities have you been involved in?

JMC: Ok. I've always been involved in quite a lot of activities. Like through school it was hockey, basketball, volleyball. Recently I've got more into, more the fitness side of it really, we did a couple of 10k runs this summer time, myself and Jen, which was good, and a 10k cycle as well. So, just tons of sports, but always football has always been kind of the main one, and it kind of dominates, it takes up your entire time. And I found that, through school, I could play in the teams and stuff, but when I finished school, and I went to university, I was feeling kind of restricted because you're training so much times during the week, your weekends are taken up by football. SO other activities kind of fell by the way side a little bit. It's only now that, not that I (?) or anything, but you sometimes think, it's be nice to try a different sport occasionally. And it'll probably be something I'll do when I finish playing, whatever, I'll try something else, like volleyball or something.

JM: We've kind of talked about what sports you've, because in secondary school you weren't allowed to actually play football after a certain age, what sports did you mainly play, what were on offer for you at school?

JMC: I was in the hockey team, played hockey, played volleyball, basketball, that was about it really.

JM: So did you play pretty much everything that was on offer?

JMC: Yes I did, yes. Kind of that if something came up, yeah I'd give it a shot.

JM: Could you play football in extra-curricula?

JMC: Yes, we could. When we first started there was this thing called 'leisure', which was the last 80 minutes on a Friday, and I think it was just first and second years, would be able to, or may be it was just first years, would be able to pick an activity, not always a sporting activity, and certain activities would be put on. So you could pick football in that, there was always some kind of provision, but it just wasn't formalised as a team as such.

JM: So, you've kind of answered this already, but would you say that football is or has been your main sport?

JMC: Yes, definitely.

JM: What is it about football in particular that you enjoy?

JMC: I don't know to be honest, I think the nature of the game, it's a team sport, there's always a social element to it. I just found that it was something I was reasonably good at and I just enjoyed playing. I don't really know. I think it's, I mean, some days, like tomorrow, we're going away to Ayr and you think 'what a journey'. But it's a good laugh, we have a good laugh with the girls. And you go down, and you know the Ayr girls and you have a good laugh with them. But I mean the game is taken very seriously. I don't really know why I enjoy it so much, it's just something I've always enjoyed so.

JM: I suppose when you start at such a young age, just informally...

JMC: Yeah, you just kind of, you just develop an interest for it, and that kind of keeps you going.

JM: Has it been like a natural part of your life?

JMC: Yeah, definitely. I do, I've discussed this with one of the other girls I play football with, I don't really know what I would do if I didn't play football. Because sometimes you're not, you're not determined by playing football, but you know often people will say, 'Jo and Jen, oh you're the twins who, you play football don't you?'. And that is often the first thing they say, 'oh the twins, oh yeah, they play football', people kind of know you because of it, you know what I mean, it's a bit strange...

JM: Is it part of your identity?

JMC: It is, part of your identity yeah.

JM: Why was it more attractive to you than other sports really, was it just because you know, as you said, it was just one of the first things you did just informally, or have you tried other sports and kind of pushed them aside because, you know football...

JMC: I think because I found I was good at it I enjoyed it. But I also enjoyed basketball, which I was reasonably good at. But I think, because I was relatively good at, and it was a thing I went into a club situation with. I think maybe if I'd, if I'd just enjoyed football and enjoyed basketball for example, and got into a basketball team, then that would've probably been my main sport. I think it was just because I happened to fall into a kind of team and that kind of kept it moving on. And once I was in that situation things just kept progressing really. So yeah, I think that was probably, rather than just specifically thinking that this is the main things I need to follow, it just kind of happened.

JM: Some of the things, and you're probably quite interested in it as well, I'm looking at in terms of, a lot of girls don't get offered to play football at school, but obviously get offered hockey, or whatever, but they don't tend to continue with hockey as much as may be some girls continue with football. I'm wondering why that is...

JMC: I'm not too sure. I mean I think there's been a change of approach in schools. Where it is more available, football more widely available, and I think that's a development in all areas in Scotland, of clubs coming through at younger age levels as well, you're seeing under 12s or whatever. And I think the interest is now just being picked up and kind of channelled into, you know, like a development programme. And I just think probably people years and years ago had the same interest, there was probably the same number of kids, girls, wanting to play football but there wasn't the, you know the clubs, or the initiatives in place to kind of take advantage of it.

JM: But with hockey really, although you do it at school, there isn't still a structure...

JMC: No, there's not no.

JM: Because there's a lot of research that says girls drop out, as soon as they finish school, there's not many girls that are really interested in PE. I mean the research is a little bit old, but they're not that interested in PE. And then when they leave school they drop out of sport altogether, and it's quite interesting thinking that when that research was done, you know there was obviously women that play football who went to school during that time, but they've dropped out of hockey and netball and chosen football.

JMC: I don't know if it's partially may be about people trying to make a point and say 'we can do this'. Football is something that's put down, you know 'girls can't play football', and people may be take it on board and go 'of course we can, you know, just come and watch', kind of thing. Maybe that's, maybe it's a challenge, I don't know.

JM: May be it's just that football is one of the national sports.

JMC: It is yeah.

JM: And a lot of them will spectate at...

JMC: Definitely, well yeah, football is such a big thing in this country, oh definitely the main sport. It gets so much, there's so much coverage of football in general, not women's football, it's always on TV or whatever, so yeah, I guess it's kind of.

JM: Next section now we're pretty much going on to. There's a list just there, just basically getting an idea of peoples influences and roles on your football career, at any stage basically, introducing you to it, or ongoing kind of influence. So just going to ask you really, what has been the role or influence of these people if you go through them like one by one, and why do you think they had that kind of attitude towards your football?

JMC: Mum and dad probably, they didn't initially, it wasn't as though they planted the seed, we just happened to be playing at school, but they were always very, very encouraging, and whatever we wanted to do they would be behind 110%, whatever. I remember, because we lived out the road, it's like a 45 minute journey to get in for training or whatever, twice a week. So my mum used to, we'd come in, come home from school, grab something to eat, change, away into town to train, twice a week, and games on a Saturday or a Sunday. You know, and she was just, she never complained, she was probably never out of the car, you know. When I realise now how much driving I do, I think, oh and she never complained once. And dad used to come along to the games, still does, comes along to all the games. And they've just always been very encouraging, they've just always taken a great interest in it. You know, even if we weren't, they weren't particularly interested in if we were winning or, as long as we were enjoying ourselves, you know, they were quite happy to help us out in any way they could. They were just very, very encouraging.

JM: Just sticking with your parents just now, just talking about research again, you know there's research saying that when kids are babies or toddlers, you know, they get dressed differently according to sex, or different colours, toys, different games, they treat you differently. Were you particularly treated as, you know, like dressed in pink and given dolls that you can remember?

JMC: I don't, I'm sure we had dolls and stuff, but I was always a bit of a tomboy. I remember all these, I think that may be happened after I started playing football. Because we were hanging about with the boys all the time I was a bit of a tomboy. But yeah we had, when we were younger, we had dolls, I'm sure mum dressed us in pink occasionally!

JM: But you wouldn't admit it now?

JMC: Yeah. But yeah, it was never a big thing to, we weren't like 'brownie girls', we weren't kind of them. It was never forced upon us that, you know, this is your stereotypical role of a female, you've got to keep to that. It was just, you know, just let us kind of develop as we kind of wanted to.

JM: Ok, if you want to just carry on down the list.

JMC: Siblings, well obviously Jen, because she plays, it's been, we just went through everything together to be honest. I think it helped because you did have someone who, when you're going through a new situation, may be first night at training, it's scary, it's intimidating. You go into a big, a whole group of girls you've never met before, all older than you, and it was it was intimidated. But because we did it together it was easier. And Jen and I are so close anyway, and for a while when I was playing international stuff, Jen wasn't, didn't play international. And I think some people thought that might cause a bit of tension, it didn't, Jen was just my biggest

supporter, and so encouraging, and just so pleased for me. And I think it's, it's just been great because there's just been someone to go through everything with, and still, I mean she's playing for a different team now, than me, but still on a Sunday we're 'oh how did you get on?' And I train with her sometimes, and she comes and trains with us. You know, it's great actually, it's like your best pal is there, going through the same things at the same time. Which is good, so she's been great. Mhari has always, she just avoided it. Because obviously, when mum was taking us into training she had to tag as well, and of course she hated it. But now she's, she's not got that great interest, but she'll occasionally say 'oh how's the football going?' You know, she's happy if we're happy kind of thing, but she doesn't take a great interest in it, but you know, she's quite kind of keen, if I go and speak to her about football and stuff she'll go 'oh great Jo'. She won't really be you know, it's like 'ok', it bores her a little bit to be honest. Other relatives?

JM: Grandparents, whatever?

JMC: Grandparents, they're great actually, they always ask how you're getting on. Granddad used to come and watch the games and stuff, he's not been that well, but he does, when he can come and watch the game, he'll come and watch. And he's always 'did you get a game this week Jo?', and they're always, they're all really supportive and they're interested. Even aunts and uncles and stuff are all really interested. And it is, it's something you always, when it's a family gathering or whatever, 'do you still play football?', I'm like 'yeah', they always ask. Everyone, because they think it's quite unusual, or they think maybe we should've given it up by now.

JM: Or may be the fact that you've made international representation as well?

JMC: Yeah, I think so yeah. Yeah, I guess that probably was quite a big thing. Granny used to cut all the bits out of newspapers and stuff.

JM: 'My granddaughter plays for Scotland!'

JMC: Yep, every conversation, they're like 'ok'. You're embarrassing me now. Partner, well, most of the guys I've been with are quite interested. The main boyfriend I had for a while wasn't really that interested. He would kind of ask, he never came to watch any of the games and stuff. He wasn't really generally interested in football you see. So it wasn't a personal slant against me, it was just because football didn't really interest him. Yeah, I think, I think if you're with someone, they're interested in you as a person, and football is part of my personality, it's part of me, it's part of what I do, so most of them tend to have at least that kind of passing interest in it, and come along to games, or whatever. Friends. Friends at school were great, they began to get really interested in it, because they used to come, well they had no choice really because they hung about with us, we were down at the games hall every lunch time doing some sporting activity or other, mostly football. So they would come along, a couple of my friends were really great and you know, went to cup games, cup finals, they'd come along, you know, really supportive. I think Jen and I have both been very lucky, we've always encountered quite a positive response from people when we say 'oh, we play football'. I've never really had anyone just kind of dismiss it, and if I have they've done it in a jokey way to try and get a reaction, and I'm just like, you know 'that's your opinion' kind of thing.

JM: Why do you think that is, do you think it's because the two of you have gone through it together or...

JMC: Possibly yeah, I don't know. I think also because we came from a small community, it was different, it interested people. Maybe, I don't know.

JM: Like some girls, if they were in a class and they were the only person, they could get singled out, but there's two of you together.

JMC: Yes, because there was two of us in the group, yeah it made it a little bit safer for us I guess, I don't know. It could have made a difference to be honest, definitely.

JM: Peers?

JMC: Yeah, people at work and stuff always ask. I think it's possibly being a PE teacher I think, you know, obviously the department are interested in sport, so you're quite often asked how the game's going. On a Monday morning we always have a departmental meeting and last season it was terrible because we were just not winning games, we were losing every game, it was terrible. Being a goalkeeper, when you say you got beat 5-0, you know, this is bad.

JM: It's your fault!

JMC: Yeah, so we used to sit down every Monday morning, and it was like 'right Jo, how was it this weekend?', 'yeah, got beat again'. But they're great actually because we sell a sweeper to raise funds and I always come provided, 'sweeper this week Judith?', she's like 'yes'. So they're great, you know, they take an interest.

JM: What about outside the PE department?

JMC: Some of the staff, it's funny because some of the staff who taught me at school now work in the same school I'm teaching in. So, and one of the guys, who's know our, well he's our Acting Rector, David Innes, was great at school, he was one of the most supportive guys. Yeah, he always asks. Yeah, quite a few of the staff know, mainly the ones that are to do with the boys football team at school, because I help with the under 13s team. And they sometimes ask, sometimes they don't, but yeah quite often they'll say 'how's the football going?' or whatever. But it's not a, it's not a big thing. I think once you're a bit older it's not as interesting for them may be, you know what I mean?

JM: Yeah.

JMC: So tends to go on and off a bit.

JM: School and teachers, you've kind of mentioned those already?

JMC: Yeah, they were great, because I don't think I would still be playing if it wasn't for a couple of members of staff who just were so keen, just kind of, they didn't keep pushing you, didn't push us at all, but they were always asking about it, and you know always did their best to help us in any way. And they were great if I needed time away to go away with the squad or whatever, they were so understanding. And you know, they made a big deal of it, if it was in the paper it'd be up on the notice board the next day, a major embarrassment it was.

JM: So was that mainly secondary school?

JMC: That was mainly secondary school.

JM: Were they PE teachers, or just...

JMC: One of them was my guidance teacher, who was also a PE teacher, and David Innes was a geography teacher but just had an interest in football, he did some coaching and stuff and just had an interest, and it was just kind of rooting to see us do well I think.

JM: Any of the other teachers that were less influential, or may be discouraged you or...

JMC: No. To be honest they were all, because I had to get time off occasionally, especially when I was with the under 16s Scotland squad when I was still at school, and then I started playing with the Senior team in the last kind of years at school. And they were always great, but I think also because my mum and dad always got us into the idea that if we didn't have our home work done we didn't get to training, so

everything was done, at it was just basically we were quite organised. So I think if we'd been the type of pupils that, you know, would fall behind in work, or weren't putting effort in because we were more interested in football, it wouldn't have gone down too well. But because this was at a time when I was trying just as hard at work as I was at football it wasn't a problem, and they were quite keen to see me do well, and they were supportive in that way. But I think, you know, if you fall behind with work, they'd take a different approach to it, you know hang on here a second. But because things were ok, and work was getting handed in, or whatever, I never really had any, not that I can remember, any major negative. May be at university actually, and I was in first year at the time, and there was a trip planned to Brazil for 10 days. So it must have been about 1st or 2nd term university, and I approached one of my lecturers to ask for time off, he says no, he says 'no, you're not getting time off'.

JM: Was this a football trip?

JMC: Yeah. He says 'you're not getting time off because we've got an end of unit assessment planned for that day that you'll be missing', and I was like 'I'll come in and do it earlier', he just said no. So I was almost in tears, oh my god, I'm not going to get the chance to go to Brazil, which was a big thing you know, with the Scotland squad or whatever. And so I took it to the course leader and he was like 'of course it's not a problem, we'll sort it out for you, don't worry', and it was just this one guy, he was probably having a bad day to be honest, and he was just like that, no, dismissed it out of hand, not a chance kind of thing. But the course leader, I think with it being different because it's a PE course, so there's lots of elite athletes there, there's lots of people who needed time off to go and play, represent Scotland, or whatever you know, at their activity, so it's quite a common thing at university for people to get time off. So I didn't really get that many negative attitudes, again I couldn't be very lucky to be honest, because I'm sure there are some, I think it's changing now...

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

JMC: ...years ago, girls probably had a worse time of it if they said 'oh I play football', there's always a stigma attached as well that as soon as you say you play football, your sexuality or whatever is in question.

JM: Aye, we're moving on to that in a bit.

JMC: There's always that, but no I think I've been very, very lucky that I've never, everyone I've encountered has been supportive, but I'm sure there are girls who try to go and play and there's people saying 'no you cant'...

JM: One of the things that really gets me about this, because I'm sure there are a lot of girls, you know, that have tried it at one point and have just been put off, but it's so difficult to track them down.

JMC: Yes it is.

JM: I mean if you interview women who play now, and obviously they play because they've been, they've got through the barriers.

JMC: That's right and there's lots of girls who do drop out at the kind of, age 16, top end of the kind of under 16 level, as you move up to senior you lose a lot of them. And I don't know if that's through, it's just them developing a social life or whatever, but you just feel that they're not putting the effort in anymore, rather than people's attitudes, but it's also yeah, it could be they may be don't see it as feminine.

You know, they kind of reach the stage where they're trying, you've always got this image of a female footballer, you know, and they'll be trying to get away from that.

JM: What about just the last one on the list then? Coaches?

JMC: Coaches? It's difficult because I've only ever really been with one club, so I've only experienced one or two coaches.

JM: But generally?

JMC: Yeah. I mean I've been through coaching, I've gone to coaching courses, you know like your E license, C license, whatever. And it's all mainly guys there, and to be honest with you I think it's a bit of a novelty for them, they're kind of watching you. It's a lot based on how well you do, if you come in and they can see right away, you know you can kick a ball, you can control a ball whatever, they've got respect for you and they're great, they're very encouraging. But I think if you came in and you couldn't, your standard was very low they wouldn't have much time for you to be honest. And there are a lot of coaches who I've encountered that just dismiss it, just write it off, can't be any good. And you're just like 'well come and watch the games, it's different, it's not how you perceive it to be'. For a while when I was back in the Scotland Squad I was training with a boys team, an under 15 boys team, three times a week, and they were fantastic. The coaches were brilliant, and they had no problems at all with me coming along. And the guys, the kids themselves were brilliant as well. You know, they were really interested, like 'have you got a game this weekend?', I find that at work as well, at school, the boys are all really interested and they come up and ask 'how was your game at the weekend Miss?' you know, they have a genuine interest, I don't think it's particularly because it's female sport, I think it's just because it's football. And we love football, and football is part of our culture.

JM: If it was hockey would they be the same?

JMC: Probably it wouldn't be the same kids coming up to you I don't think. There wouldn't be as big an interest to be honest. I think it's because football is so big, and it interests them, it's female football, it's women's football, it's slightly different.

JM: Well just to kind of summarise that section then really, just wanted to ask basically, who would you say, out of those groups or particular people, had the most positive influence so far?

JMC: I think it's got to be parents and siblings as a main, but also school teachers I would say.

JM: The most negative, you haven't really come out with anyone but, if may be anywhere someone was going to try and have an attitude, would say something that would put you off...

JMC: Yeah. Possibly I think when we were at school, you know may be a bit vulnerable, the older pupils. Even pupils in the same year as you, if they hadn't been as understanding, or thought 'you're a bit of a freak, going to play football', I think that would've been quite difficult. So possibly friends and stuff at school, or your peers at school if they hadn't taken it so well it would've been difficult. So I think if you struggle, if a big issue is made of it into a negative attitude from people then you're not going to stick at it, and may be we were so lucky that it was just such a positive, you know people took a positive interest in it.

JM: And if teachers are setting the example of having a positive...

JMC: Yes, well that's right, that's right.

JM: That would have a big influence over the children.

JMC: Yes, definitely, yeah.

JM: Right good. Just moving on now to perspectives on women's football. What attitudes have you experienced towards women's football from for example, the general public, or the media, what kind of attitudes?

JMC: The general public I think it's sometimes just dismissed out of hand. Guys who have may be been involved in football for a long time, boys football, just think girls can't play football, until they come and watch a game, then it's different. The media, you always get the stereotypical image sometimes, I think they're trying to get away from that. The media, there's more and more coverage now, and more of it's positive. It's always something that's done as a kind of jokey effort, you know, at the end of Sports Scene or something, they put a quick 3 minute or less, a bit jokey thing on women's football which they think is doing you justice, but it's just not. And I don't think we've been helped by various teams, was it Doncaster Belles that did a documentary that wasn't particularly. I didn't see all of it, but I heard about it, I don't think it particularly portrayed a positive view of women's football.

JM: The FA weren't very happy about were they?

JMC: Yeah, I can imagine!

JM: It's a while ago now that was.

JMC: Yeah it was, it's a good few years ago yeah.

JM: It's about 10 years isn't it?

JMC: It must be yeah, because I was...

JM: Aye, it was about 10 years ago.

JMC: It must've been because I must've been early secondary school something like that.

JM: Because the book came out about them, about 7 years ago.

JMC: Yeah, I must have been like first or second year, first year. So yeah, I don't think, I think it just depends on how the media handle it.

JM: How about like newspapers and stuff?

JMC: It's difficult, there's not always that much coverage.

JM: Do you think there's distinction between local and national?

JMC: Yes, I think national, our local papers are more (?) Cove really, really well, they were great and they'd always want you in the newspaper. I think, if you're successful there is something to latch on to. If you're not then it just kind of fades away. Because they don't think there's that great an interest, they don't think it kind of needs a space in the newspaper, or whatever.

JM: What about national papers, does it get much interest?

JMC: May be more so now than it's ever done. I think it is changing, but changing slowly. Which is surprising when you consider that football is such a big thing, but it's men's football. But you think well, it's football all the same. You know, there's a market for it, but it's just not always tapped into I think.

JM: Just in terms of the media's attitude, do you think their main attitude is that it's not going to sell newspapers?

JMC: Yes, I think so. Yeah, I think they're quite dismissive that people won't find that interesting, who's going to read that.

JM: And that's why it's often, I mean I've found just looking, it's often put in as a feature almost as if...

JMC: Yes.

JM: And it's not the results, people aren't going to look and find out the results...

JMC: Yes, yes. Yeah it's like a wee special bit that they put in.

JM: Like 'oh that's interesting'?

JMC: Yeah, like once every three months there's a little snippet about women's football, or whatever.

JM: I think you find the local papers tend to do like the results and match reports kind of thing?

JMC: Yeah, they do. They are more interested.

JM: It might vary in locations.

JMC: No, I think you're right because I guess they know, because it's a local area, they know locals are probably involved in it, and are probably looking for the results. Whereas nationally, they're probably just, oh they'll not be caring what's going on in women's football up in Aberdeen or whatever.

JM: Also I think like, Heather was saying earlier that in terms of the local paper they do give you like coverage but she writes it.

JMC: Yes, Heather's our reporter. I mean if they were that interested and want something in you think they would put someone out to watch the games or whatever. But yeah, also I think if you want coverage you've got to do it yourself, you've got to provide them with a story.

JM: But at the same time, at the moment, that's the way to get the right kind of coverage.

JMC: Yes, well that's right, at least, I mean ok I'm sure they can manipulate a little bit of what Heather's been saying, but it's all positive because we're giving them the details, yeah. Because they would always try and put a twist on it I think, if they made it up their own stuff, they're obviously trying to sell newspapers, they want it to be interesting, put a spin on it, or a twist. It's funny, we were at training on Thursday night, we'd just had a new player signed, Rachel Hamil, so John, our manager, decided we needed some publicity of this. So they went down, and they always do really cheesy photos, and I said to Kerry, that's one of the girls, 'you know they'll pick the worst photo?', she goes 'yeah they do'. They always pick the quirky one or, I don't know why but they always put out the cheesiest photo, no idea why, but I guess they want it a bit different, you know?

JM: We've kind of talked about this, but have attitudes changed at all over time do you think, in terms of the media?

JMC: Yeah, I think so. I think it's more acceptable now to play women's football. It's kind of recognised that girls do go out and play football, they can be successful at it, there's structure in place. I think it's just, it's just bigger now, we are kind of moving forward, slowly.

JM: Do you think, kind of like the attitudes we've talked about, whether positive or negative are particular to Scotland, or do you think they're uniform throughout Britain, Europe, the world?

JMC: I think probably the reactions you get in Scotland are probably roughly the same in England. But I think if you go abroad there's probably a slightly different attitude. I mean you look at America, it's bigger than men's football. Other European countries, you know, they've made it professional whatever, so they're obviously a bit further ahead than us, even England have gone, you know, they've got a fully professional side now there as well, so they're that step ahead. I think a lot of it's to do with not opinions, but money. And I don't think there's the money in the sport here right now to move it forward.

JM: It's interesting, we've touched on that point in a couple of the other interviews, but then we've kind of said well why is it that the two football clubs, Rangers and Celtic in Scotland, haven't got women's teams?

JMC: Well that's it.

JM: Is it attitudes then, or is it just not profitable?

JMC: Probably not profitable, because when we moved to Aberdeen it was more what could they make from us, what could we bring to them really. It was a bit of a publicity exercise I think, and what could we give to them? It wasn't because they wanted to develop women's football in the city, it wasn't because they wanted to, you know, be forerunners in Scotland, or you know, a kind of development in women's football. It was just a bit of a publicity stunt and could they make any money from us I think.

JM: We've kind of talked also I think about the teams that tend to embrace women's football teams, the local community kind of clubs like Inverness Cally...

JMC: Yeah, yeah, and lower division teams, yeah, yeah. Teams that have probably been in the position that women's football is in, where you know, they weren't really recognised, and they had a bit of a struggle to get where they are now. And I think they kind of may be appreciate that we're in the same boat and trying to make things work, but we need a bit of help. And teams like Inverness Cally and stuff have been great, but you find it's the smaller clubs and it doesn't make sense because they're the ones with no money.

JM: Yeah exactly, but will provide a kit and a bus.

JMC: Yeah, that's it. Then you've got teams like Rangers and Celtic, have no interest in it.

JM: They really could afford...

JMC: Yeah, they could have three teams each probably yeah, they could.

JM: And how many young girls at school now would want to go and play for Rangers or Celtic?

JMC: Exactly, that'd be amazing, yeah.

JM: Put on a Celtic shirt and go and play.

JMC: Exactly yeah (?)

JM: Yeah it's quite interesting. You've kind of mentioned stereotypes already. Do you think that stereotypes are created regarding women's football?

JMC: Yes, completely. It's may be not as predominant now as it was when I first started playing. I think you've got to be quite a strong person to play women's football, to keep at it, because there is this attitude that all women football players are butch lesbians who, you know, would knock lumps out of any guy, you know what I mean? You know, you've got the image. And I think you've got to be quite a strong person to not get drawn into how you're perceived to be, kind of thing, and just be yourself. But yeah there's definite stereotypes.

JM: Who are the people who kind of hold these stereotypes do you think?

JMC: Media, men.

JM: Women?

JMC: Yeah, some women probably do yeah, I'm sure they do.

JM: Younger, older?

JMC: Probably older I would say. I think if they know of a local team, or they know a couple of girls who play it's different. If you've got no kind of connection with women's football it's very easy to just, you know, take it for fake, what it is, what their idea of it is. And also, I don't know, yeah media, they put this image across. I'm trying to think of that programme that was on BBC One...

JM: 'Playing the Field'?

JMC: Yeah. I didn't actually watch it, so I couldn't tell you if it was a stereotypical image or not. But, you know, there's things like that that come in, they've got girls

there playing who probably can't kick, you know actresses who can't kick a ball, and that doesn't, you know, they've got extras in but it's very, very obvious that it's, you know?

JM: Yeah, it's difficult,, you could analyse that programme until it's death. But yeah, what was I going to say then? Oh yeah, in terms of the stereotypes it's just quite interesting to think that the fact that, if you're thinking it's like mainly men but some women, and you're kind of thinking older people who hold the stereotypes, the more that women's football becomes accepted within the school structures then boys and girls throughout the school will see it as almost natural.

JMC: Yeah, I mean I see a difference now because I'm teaching. We were really lucky that the guys that we played football with at school were great, very accepting. But I see it now, I think at younger age levels, first and second year I'm thinking of. We've got a couple of girls playing football, I'm running an S1 inter-tutorial football competition, it's indoors, and it's great because I just put the things out to the tutorial groups and said to pick ten players, I didn't stipulate five girls, five boys, I let them decide, but every team has got at least three or four girls in it. And it was just a case of, because they were interested and wanted to play, the boys are brilliant. Some of the girls are not particularly good and they put them on and there's no animosity, you know, it's been great. And I think it is changing, there's slightly more understanding.

JM: What age are they?

JMC: First year, so they're like 11, 12. And I was quite surprised that there is that many girls. The area I teach in there's quite a strong kind of girls football club anyway, or set up, so I think it is changing. I think younger people are more accepting and just, you know it's just like 'oh there's so and so, she plays football, oh that's great', you know?

JM: It's more natural?

JMC: Yeah, yeah.

JM: Just in terms of the stereotypes, do you think to some extent some players do actually conform to the stereotypes?

JMC: Yes, I do.

JM: And to what extent? And has this changed, is this beginning to diminish or...

JMC: It's difficult to say, I think it depends on your character, how strong a person you are. Because I think it's easy to kind of get led into things, you think you should be behaving in such a way because this is how it's, you know, portrayed, or whatever. And that's how you, if you go in with an attitude that's how you're expected to behave that's how you'll behave. But if you come in saying, well that's may be what's expected but I'm going to behave how I want to behave, whatever, it's different. May be it is changing a little bit, I'm not too sure to be honest.

JM: But some players...

JMC: Yeah, I think some players do kind of conform to the stereotypes.

JM: I think, I mean somewhere along the lines some players must have been the ones that created the stereotypes in the first place...

JMC: Yeah possibly, probably if you go back, you know, if you go back to the very, very early days of women's football, it probably was the kind of stronger women, you know short haircuts, whatever you know, who were quite male.

JM: I think a lot of the stereotypes were actually created in the 60s and 70s and it's the whole kind of like feminism movement that was linked to it.

JMC: Yeah, so it was more a case of, they can do it, so can we, kind of thing, yeah.

JM: And then stereotypes were created in response to that.

JMC: Yeah created from there, yeah.

JM: *So, it's kind of the same question, do you think that the creation of stereotypes are accurate at all?*

JMC: No, I don't think that the stereotype that is created is, you know, it's not really what women players are to be honest.

JM: *Is it just a stereotype?*

JMC: It is a stereotype yeah.

JM: *Have certain attitudes towards women's football, just thinking about the stereotypes basically, ever affected yours, and from what you're saying it doesn't seem like it has, but anyone else you know, has it ever affected their participation in the sport. Has it stopped them from playing, put them off or...*

JMC: Yeah I think, you know I think, as I said before about the young girls at 15 or 16, at 14, 15, 16, that kind of age, and you suddenly think it's just, it's not acceptable for them to play football. They themselves probably think, you know that's a bit masculine, that's a bit, you know I'm not wanting to be a tomboy anymore, I'm wanting to be a girl, to go out, or whatever, I want to be more feminine. And they sometimes don't equate the two, they think if they play football they can't be feminine, so they get shot of the football or whatever.

JM: *Peer pressure?*

JMC: Yeah peer pressure yeah.

JM: *Have you ever been discouraged from playing?*

JMC: No. Not at all.

JM: *Has anyone ever considered it strange that you play football?*

JMC: They've may be found it unusual, but in an interesting way. It's always a kind of, it's a topic of conversation I think. They've never outright said 'oh god that's a really silly thing to do', you know I've never really had that kind of reaction. People find it interesting rather than strange I think, well that's my experience.

JM: *Ok. Just moving on now to the main section really, being a member of a club. Here's another list. So despite football would you say that there's any particular characteristics that make women footballers a distinct social group? Kind of like, what things, I've got a list here for you to like look at, but in relation to these what do you feel you have in common with other players? If any, and for which ones you think you have in common, just explain it a little. What about background?*

JMC: I think we all come from various, well, not various, but I'm saying, may be that's occupations. Background, it does vary because there's a couple of girls from the country that play, me, and a couple of other ones. There's some, most of them from town, and we've all just got different backgrounds. All got a different status in society I would say, and in the team. Social class, difficult to say, probably we're all about the same, but I think that's may be because we all come from the same kind of areas, apart from, obviously, country or town or whatever.

JM: *Some of the things in terms of social class that I'm trying to get hold of with my research is, are girls from working class backgrounds more likely to be socialised into football?*

JMC: Ok. I would say so yes. But I think it goes back to stereotypes. I think it's very unfeminine or unladylike for an upper class girl to be playing football, you know what I mean? Whereas it's not, I think a working class girl would just be like that 'I'll give it a shot', you know?

JM: *And is that also to do with the fact that football is generally, or used to be perceived, as the working class sport as well?*

JMC: Yeah, I think so definitely.

JM: From working class families, football families?

JMC: I think so yeah. Because I do know a lot of girls who play football, and it's because you know their dad or their brothers have always been into football. And it's just kind of been, it's like in their blood, you know? It's just, it's a family thing, so. We've all got varying occupations to be honest. We've got, well I'm a teacher, we've got other people who are probably very high paid jobs, got some girls who are, you know, are students, or work in shops, it's just completely different to be honest with you. It's not just one, it doesn't just hit one kind of line of occupations, it's just completely different.

JM: I think that's also something that's changing the more, the more people play football. Where if I think I'd asked this 30 years ago we'd have got very similar works teams, things like that...

JMC: Yes, and I think it is, it's just a complete variety now. I don't know if it's because maybe we're starting earlier so you know, your occupation has not been decided yet kind of thing. We all go through, and we've all got different interests outside football, or whatever, all different strengths outside football, and we all sort of go our own separate ways, but we've got that common interest, kind of thing. I think that's linked to education, there's quite a few of us that have got degrees or whatever, and some that have left school in fourth year, it's completely different.

JM: It's difficult to judge whether or not that's because more people from an educated background are going into football, or it's more people are open to get an education?

JMC: Well that's it, there's a lot more people now that would move onto further education than there probably has been. So yeah.

JM: These are the main things actually, the last few, that are kind of...

JMC: Personality? I don't think there's one personality that football kind of appeals to, because there's some of us that are really quite quiet, some are just completely zany, off the world, you met Jen, who's very, very intelligent, no common sense, she's just one of the characters of the team kind of thing, you know what I mean? So yeah, it's just completely different. Some are more feminine than others I guess.

JM: If you try and think now in terms of, these last few here, in terms of, although we're looking at the similarities between you and the rest of the football team, how about how you as a whole differ from other women that you know. Other women that don't play football?

JMC: Ok.

JM: If you think of it compared to them, because if you try and say 'oh, have I got things in common with all my team', it's difficult to pick out. But if you think of yourselves and then think of others, can you then start to find 'oh right, compared to them we all have this in common'?

JMC: Yeah, ok. I think in terms of, we had this discussion on Thursday night at training, this photo, that we're not very impressed with because we all just look like boys or lesbians. You know it's really, really bad we were saying because you get taken before the game, you've all got your hair back, you all you know, because you're away to play it's all like, everybody was like this, you know that must give a really bad picture to the public, these big and butch girls who play football. But we're not really like that, and I says well why don't we get one done where, you know, maybe a night out, or I've seen one done, one of my friends went to play in America, and her team all dressed up in black trousers, white shirts, whatever, white blouses, and got a photo done. Hair done, make-up on, it looked really good, and that

portrays a much more feminine image of women's football than that does, you know?

JM: Would that photograph be a true reflection, not that one, the one that you think with make-up on, more glamorous?

JMC: Yeah, probably more so than that. Because that's how we are on a Sunday. (?) Everyone's just got up and showered and you know, but if I'm wandering about I've normally got other clothes on, and a bit more feminine, whatever. But that's just, that's part of us, but it's not the whole part of us, do you know what I mean?

JM: In terms of like being more feminine and things like that, if you then think like ok that's may be not a true reflection seeing as you're in your football gear, but when you are say going out for a night or whatever, how would you think that generally women who play football might be inclined, differ from other girls that are out on the town?

JMC: Yeah, I'm totally with you, my younger sister is much more kind of girlie girl than Jen and I, but whether that's to do with football or sport or whether it's just different personalities, I don't know. She's always spends hours, she gets up in the morning and her hair and make-up and whatever, whereas Jen and I don't.

JM: Would you say that you in Jen then, in that way, have something in common with the other footballers?

JMC: Yeah, probably yeah. May be a bit, yeah, we've probably got that in common with them. In comparison with, thinking about the rest of the team in comparison to Mhari or whatever, yeah, we've all got that in common. When we go out and stuff we spend time but it's not every day. Whereas there are a lot of girls who spend a lot of time every morning getting themselves organised, all ready to go out and look their best, whereas sometimes (?) you know, you just get up and go out kind of thing. So yeah, I'm not really sure.

JM: How about things like attitudes may be, some of the other things?

JMC: I guess we do have some attitudes the same, I guess it depends what your, which topic you're discussing. In terms of women's football and stuff, we've probably all got similar attitudes, but I think it's may be because we've had some of the same experiences. You know, may be some of the problems we've encountered, or the successes we've had have kind of been together. It's difficult to say.

JM: Just leave that one then and move to style and clothes?

JMC: Style and clothes? I think we're a bit more sporty. It's difficult to say as well because I mainly see the football girls at football, at training or at football, I socialise with a couple of them but, you know, a team night out, whatever. Clothes-wise, we're always in sporting situations, so it's sports clothes. I think most of us, the kind of girls I know that I hang about with from the football team we're all kind of like, you know, jeans, trainers a lot of the time, or whatever. Kind of smart but casual, you know a lot of jeans or whatever. But I don't know about all of them. So I guess quite similar but then I only really see them in a football situation.

JM: Ok. Sense of humour? Just thinking about your interaction at training, matches and what not?

JMC: There's always a few characters, there's also the, I mean I'm probably one of the quieter ones, and there's always a couple of characters that just, you know, hold the court kind of thing. But there's a whole range of personalities and senses of humour in the team, and I think it's the same, you know, if you're comparing that to other people, I guess it's the same. If we compare it to another group, there'll be people in that group who have similar sense of humour and some who just differ greatly.

JM: Would you, kind of thinking about these kind of things then, would you recognise women footballers as having a common identity, or a particular identity that differs either from other sportspeople or other women, outside of their identity as playing football? Do you think that with that comes other kinds of just subtle identities?

JMC: I'm not very sure to be honest. Yeah, probably, but I don't know if it's because sometimes it is this kind of feeling that we're in it together kind of thing. (?) because we just go along every Sunday and play, and we're there because we enjoy it.

JM: It's interesting, because things like this it might be easier to see as from a complete outsider.

JMC: I think it probably would be yeah. I think we're probably too close to it to. It's quite difficult that one.

JM: It's ok, we'll kind of explore that a little bit more. What are the main reasons why you actually play football then, would you say?

JMC: Enjoyment I think. If I didn't enjoy it, and I went, a couple of seasons ago I wasn't enjoying it and nearly packed it in and it's something that if I'm not enjoying it then I feel there's no point in doing it. I don't particularly, I prefer to win games, I'm quite a competitive person, and I always go and put in 100% effort, but I do it because I enjoy it. The social side of it, I don't think we're a great team that socialises together to be honest, I'm sure there are more teams that socialise a lot, lot more as a team. We don't socialise that much so it's not, there is a social side of it, you have a laugh on a Sunday, you meet the girls, have a chat...

END OF TAPE 1

TAPE 2

SIDE A

JMC: I think that if we didn't have the common interest of football then we wouldn't see each other outside of football, do you know what I mean? You wouldn't choose to socialise with them, or you wouldn't have met each other. Whereas we have, we've got this common interest so there is a social aspect to it but no I play football because I enjoy it, not because I was trying to prove a point to all the boys, but just because I genuinely had fun at it. And luckily it was something I was quite good at which meant I could continue playing.

JM: In the context of your everyday life then, what would you say that football offered you, what value does it have, just thinking in terms of say job satisfaction and things like that, do you find yourself thinking about football at work, or looking forward to Sundays?

JMC: Yeah sometimes. I think I view football, a lot at the training anyway, it's a fitness thing, it's a thing to keep fit, an enjoyable way to keep fit. Yeah I find myself during the week thinking 'where are we this weekend? Right, ok', and it dominates your weekend, and that sometimes irritates me to be honest. You come home on a Friday night and you think 'right I need to go out tonight, because if I don't go out tonight I can't go out tomorrow night, because I've got football Sunday', and it does dominate your weekend. And some weeks you're 'oh I can't be bothered doing this', but then you get there and you think 'oh I'm really glad I'm here', you know? So yeah, it does dominate, and you do think about it, it does, if you've had a bad game Sunday and you've not won, it sometimes puts a bit of a cloud on your week to be honest. But I remember a couple of weeks ago, the last game we played and we had a

good win, down 2-0 and won 4-2 it was a really good win, a cup game, and it put me in a good mood. You know, Monday morning, you bounce into work, kids are like 'oh how did you go on?', 'oh brilliant', on a high, you know, it kind of sets you up for the week if you've had a good game. Whereas if you've not it can be a bit 'oh', you know, 'I'm not looking forward to this kind of training on Tuesday', but if things are going well then you can be quite upbeat and keep things going. So it does creep into everyday life, you know you're thinking about it occasionally and stuff, but it doesn't dominate it.

JM: Does it act as a release at all, looking at it the other way around, if you've had a bad day, the other way around?

JMC: Yeah, sometimes if you've had a bad day at work or whatever it's great, because you know you can just switch off, forgot about what's gone on during that day, and go and enjoy, go and have a laugh with the girls, going and getting your head down at training, think about something else for a while.

JM: I think that's quite an important part of it.

JMC: Yeah, I think so, I think so.

JM: What would the alternative be if you'd had a bad day at work?

JM: Well I'm sure some people would head straight to the pub, you know what I mean, there's that or you just go home and sit with yourself and think about all the things that have happened and think 'oh god'. But yeah, it is a bit of a release, you can just try and get it out of your system and say 'oh well that was..', you know you come back from a night at training, you're too tired to think about the bad things that's gone on during the day, you just go to sleep or whatever, you know? So I guess it is a release, yeah.

JM: Just thinking about that, is it anything over and above simply the actual playing of football?

JMC: Yeah, it probably is, because it's got such a hold on you as a person. It doesn't shape you as a person I don't think but it's a big, well it's a big, big part of my life. So it obviously has some influence.

JM: Does it become part of your identity?

JMC: Yeah I think so, I think it does. Yeah, because when I nearly packed it in a couple of years ago, and I was speaking to Jen about it, I said 'Jen it's really weird because if I pack it in, we're not going to be the twins who play football anymore', she goes 'yeah I know'. Because it really has kind of, you know that's how people know us, she goes 'yeah, I know', you know it's weird, but it has, it's got quite a big, it's how people perceive you I think.

JM: The twins where one of them used to play football...

JMC: Yeah, it doesn't quite have the same ring to it!

JM: Thinking about social aspects now, you've kind of said that they're not the most important thing to you, but what would you say the social aspects are, what do you get out of football. I mean, I've got a few things written down here, friendship, socialising, interaction, community...

JMC: Yeah I think it is a bunch of girls who have this common interest, from different walks of life, and you chat and you get other people's opinions, and you know, it's a good way to meet people. There are people in the team I would've probably never have met if it hadn't been through football. And friendships, some of my best friends are through football, and I met them when I first started playing. It is, it's people with the same interest as you, it's a kind of common bond isn't it?

JM: How important are those such, social aspects, to you?

JMC: Yeah, very important I think. You know I was thinking about two of my best friends who at football, one of them especially, and it's really important, you know, that our friendship is wider than football, but it started off, just as someone I knew through football, and it's kind of really stemmed from there. Some girls you don't know, you might know about their job, but you don't know much about their family or what's going on in their everyday life kind of thing, some of it's quite superficial, it's like a superficial friendship. Whereas other you get to know really, really well. You've got to be able to take a bit of slagging, there's always joking going on, or, you know?

JM: Banter?

JMC: Yeah, it is, it's a good laugh. You can always have a bit of a moan with them, and you know, it's good, it's nice to chat away to them, get to know people that you probably wouldn't have met if it hadn't been for football.

JM: How about other people? Do you think the social aspects are more important to other people may be?

JMC: Not in our team, because I don't think we're a kind of socialising team. I know girls who specifically play football because, I'm thinking about lower divisions probably, they specifically play football because after training on a Tuesday or Thursday night they'll probably head to the pub, or they go all ten-pin bowling together, may be they'll head into town after the game on the Sunday, but they're there for the social aspect more than the playing, the playing is a kind of aside, you know. Whereas I think we're all there for the football, I don't think there's any of us who would say 'yeah, we're here for the socialising', because if they were, there's not much socially, you know, we're not a socialising team I wouldn't say, in comparison to other teams. But I'm sure there are girls who specifically go into football because there's the kind of, a way to meet people, a way to meet friends, you know, a way to get you out of the house kind of thing.

JM: So, to what extent would you say that social aspects are part of being a member of the club, do you think that varies then like you've just said?

JMC: Yeah, I think it varies, I think it depends on the club that you're in.

JM: Do you think it's strictly ability or does it depend on the close-knit nature of the club?

JMC: I don't think it is ability because I'm sure there are some Premier league teams who spend an awful lot of time together as a team. So I don't think it's ability, I think it's just the group and their people that probably determines it.

JM: How do you feel, or would you feel, if you're injured and can't train or play in matches?

JMC: A nightmare!

JM: Why is it a nightmare?

JMC: Training, I hate not training.

JM: Is that the fitness thing then?

JMC: Yeah, I think it is the fitness thing. I think it's, you know, you're always trying to keep weight off or be a little bit fitter. Sometimes, you know, you're tired after a day at work and think 'I cannot be bothered with training', but you know you feel better after it. And then, you know, if you're injured it's a nightmare because it's just, I don't know why, but it's just. I'm the world's worst spectator ever, I wouldn't like to, you know, I'm not a good spectator, I like to be involved. Because you stand at the side, I think sometimes even as a goalkeeper you're standing at one end and you can see play going on in front of you and you can't get involved in it, it's really

frustrating, it's even worse if you can't play. You know, you've got no input in it at all.

JM: if you were injured, and obviously couldn't play in a match, would you still go along and watch?

JMC: I think it depends on how severe an injury it was. If it was a kind of long-term thing then I don't know if I would because then every week you're constantly seeing other people play and think 'god, I wish that was me'. Whereas if it's a short-term injury, you know you'll be back in a couple of weeks, you know, you can kind of cope with that. Luckily I've never really had a serious injury that's kept me out for any great length of time, so I've never been in that situation. But I think I would find that more difficult. I know there's a girl in our team who's out at the moment, has been out, how long has she been out now, it must about 10 months or something, it's been a long time, she's waiting for an operation. And she doesn't even come along to the games, because she finds it frustrating, she finds it difficult. She'll appear at the home games occasionally, see that's another thing, the travelling, you'd feel as though, as much as you'd like to go along and support the girls, it's going to be frustrating for you to sit there all day knowing you're not getting to play...

JM: Getting involved in the build up of it all...

JMC: Yeah, and it's a whole day event, it's your whole day gone kind of thing. So yeah, she tends to come along to the home games, and just kind of makes an appearance and doesn't, you know, she'll may be come over to say 'hi girls', you know. But she's not really part of it at the moment because she is injured, but it's a pity. But she's chosen to deal with it in that way, because she finds it difficult to come along and be an integral part of it while not playing.

JM: You've kind of mentioned this actually, have you ever nearly given up playing, if so why, and why did you continue?

JMC: Right. Yes I nearly gave up, because it came to the point I think, I'd always, always played football, it was always the most important thing. Like I didn't drink until I was 18, and the reason I didn't drink was because, well I didn't like the taste, but to be honest I didn't have time for it. There was no point me getting wrecked on a Friday or Saturday night with a game the next day, it just wasn't appealing to me. And I think it came to the point where I was about 21, 20, 21, and I thought 'god, I've not got a life', you know? Football was dominating it and I thought 'I'm going to pack this in'. And it happened to another couple of, well another girl on the team at the same time, roughly the same age as me. I think we were both seeing people at the time, you get different priorities I think. And I wasn't enjoying the football, thought I wasn't playing well, I wasn't enjoying training because it was monotonous, I wasn't enjoying games because it was taking up my whole weekend. And I was just kind of resentful of it, I still went along, and I still put in 100% for the games but I just wasn't enjoying it. But the reason I didn't pack it in was because I thought this will pass, this is going to pass. I've always enjoyed football and I don't, to be honest I might enjoy not doing something on a Sunday for a couple of weeks, but it'll come to the point when I'll probably be bored and I'll think I wish I was playing football, and I'll miss the girls or, what would I do during the week if I'm not training, you know? And the reason I stuck at it was because I knew I'd come back to enjoy it again. I knew I would miss the, you know I was always finding training quite bad at the time, and knew I would miss the kind of fitness element of it, and so I just stuck at it. And also, that was at the time when I spoke to Jen about football kind of determining us as people, I said 'people know me as Jo who plays football, but it'll just be Jo', you know? And I thought, football is a kind of part of who I am, and I

didn't chuck it. And yet it came back around, and then I started training like 4 or 5 times a week, and I was loving it, I was training with the boys, it was variation, it was great, really, really enjoying it. And then this season I've loved, been difficult the last 3 or 4 weeks because we've not had games, so I'm not particularly looking forward to tomorrow because it's a long journey and it'll be a tough game. But I've been really enjoying my season, and I knew it would happen, I knew it would come back around and I would love it again. But I think you just hit a phase where, you it's suddenly, football is not the most important thing in your life, and it gets a little difficult to kind of keep at it. But I'm glad I did.

JM: Because at the same time you realise it is an important aspect of your life?

JMC: It is, it is, and I would miss it if it wasn't there, because I'm sure it'll come a day when I'm sure I can no longer play, or I'll just decide that it's time to retire. But I'll probably have some involvement whether it's to do with my profession, or through coaching, or whether it's going along to watch a couple of games now and then, or you know, I'm sure that I still will have an involvement in it.

JM: What do you usually do after training or matches, do you go out, or just go home?

JMC: After training we normally just go home, after games we all just normally go back to a pub, because it's a pub that sponsors us, and I sometimes don't because I always go out to see my Grandparents on a Sunday. It's a thing we've done since we were younger, I always went out to see them on a Sunday, and of course we started playing football, and now a lot of Sundays, like tomorrow, I won't see them. So there's kind of a couple of weeks I won't see them and I always feel, if we go back to the pub at half past four, and not getting out until, they live in Inverurie, so the time I get out it's half past five, six o'clock, I'm almost leaving at the back of seven whatever, so I feel I've got no time. So I sometimes don't socialise with the team on a Sunday, I just go out to see my Grandparents and stuff because they're really important to me. Away games, we always just head home, I think it's because you know you're working Monday. If it's a, say if it's a long weekend, if we've got like Monday off, a couple of us will say 'right, we heading out?', like 'yeah, yeah', so we'll go and get changed and I'll head out. But it's never as a team really, or we'll head out separately and see each other and we end up together or whatever.

JM: Do you socialise with other players outside or training and matches?

JMC: Not many of them, probably out of the squad of whatever, 14, 15, 16 of us, it'd be 2 of them. One of them, who's like my best friend, so I see her a lot, and another one, we're seeing each other more at the moment, we've always kind of been in touch and phoned each other, texted each other whatever, but it now happens that I'm going out with her boyfriend's best pal, so we've seen each other more kind of thing. But it works out really well because we've always been friends, and I would always have classed her as one of my best friends at football anyway so.

JM: So when you do go out socially, is it usually with football people, not necessarily your team, but friends through football?

JMC: Yes it probably is because normally when I'm out on town or whatever I'm out with Jen my sister, so that's not through football, but yeah Emma, who's through football, Angie who plays football with Jen, you know, so that kind of is, it's people through football.

JM: Kind of a network?

JMC: Yes, it is. So yeah it is really, it's kind of through football.

JM: How would you feel if there was a night out, a club night out or something like that, or a fairly big group of people from football going out, or may be not just

your team but your group of friends, and you couldn't actually make it out socially with them, would you feel like you were missing out a lot?

JMC: Yeah, I'd always kind of feel that I was letting them down a wee bit, you know? Say it was a club night out, you feel you should always make an effort and turn up, even if you're just going to make an appearance for a bit and then go off with your own friends, or whatever. So you kind of feel you're letting them down a wee bit. I would be disappointed because it's guaranteed it's always a good night.

JM: Some stories?

JMC: Oh yeah, many stories!

JM: Just kind of relating to the things in common, and identity thing now. What do you understand by the term subculture, any ideas?

JMC: Is it, you know, there's a culture, like Scotland has a culture, every country, and then every kind of place has a culture, and a subculture is something that's grown from that?

JM: Kind of yeah. If we just, right I've got a definition just here...

JMC: Perfect.

JM: If we regard subculture as, a subculture as a group of people who are brought together by something and they interact because of that, they share similar characteristics, social meanings and values, which make them distinct to some extent, not completely, but to some extent from wider culture as a whole, would you say that there's a strong sense of being part of or belonging to a subculture of women's football?

JMC: Yeah I think so. I think, I mean I've got friends on other teams, I think when you're playing in Scotland you get to know other players, and there is this wide network of, you know if I bump into someone and say, you know, you would say 'oh that's such and such who plays football', and suddenly it's a common interest, it's 'oh, who do you play for, how did you get started?', whatever, it's like a shared interest. So I guess there's a kind of common link.

JM: Do you think, we've kind of talked about characteristics and stuff like that, do you think generally, if you compare people you know through football, not just your team, but people you know through football, do you think you have more in common with them than you do with maybe other people that you meet from work say, that aren't related to football?

JMC: Yeah probably. It's difficult to say, because there's always people, you always have something in common with someone, you know what I mean? I think maybe just more in common with the footballers because we've got the shared interest, probably got a similar view of why we're there, so there's more possibilities to have a link with them kind of thing, because we do the same kind of thing. But then, you know, people at work, you've got that link with them, do you know what I mean? And also, I think it's slightly different because I'm from a sporting you know, kind of background, work, it's all kind of, there's a big common interest, big common link. So most of the people I know, it's through sport and stuff. Probably yeah, probably more so with the team, yeah.

JM: Just to recap then and summarise on a few things. What value and meaning do you attach to your experiences of playing football?

JMC: Did you say what value?

JM: Yeah.

JMC: I think it's been really important, I think it's, I think it has shaped me in a way, it's given me something from such an early age to train for, to achieve at, to become focused, you know. It developed me into a person, not just that I mean obviously

parents and whatever had major and more so, a bigger influence on me, but I think it kind of got me into the way of thinking that you've got to work hard at this, you've got to try 100% at things. And you know it has, it's shaped me as a person I think. I don't think it would've been as much if I had have given it up at an early age but because I've stuck at it and continued, yeah I think it's a really important part of my life.

JM: I was just going to ask, has it played an important part in your life?

JMC: Yes!

JM: What would you do, or how would you feel if you just weren't able to play football again?

JMC: I'd be quite distraught actually. But I think it wouldn't just be because of football, it would be because, probably if it had been an injury or whatever, it would mean all physical activity, and being quite a sporty person, the kind of job I've got, you know, I would just be devastated. And I would be a complete loss I think, and I sometimes think may be it would be a good thing! But no, I think I would, I would be quite upset.

JM: Is it part of your identity?

JMC: Yes it is yeah, and it would just, it would be quite life-changing because you would suddenly have to say 'I have to find a different hobby', you know, and you'd have to stop and think 'what else do I want to do?', because if it wasn't sport then I just don't know what I would do, you know?

JM: What would you miss the most, would you say?

JMC: I'd probably, I'm kind of wavering in between the fitness aspect or the people to be honest. Probably the people because you know, the fitness aspect you can get anywhere, so probably the people I would miss most, yeah team-mates.

JM: What plans do you have for the future in relation to football?

JMC: I haven't thought too far ahead, I would still like to be involved in the Scotland squad, but I just don't think it will happen anymore. From there, you know, I will probably play another few seasons, one of the other girls and I kind of have this joke that if we win something this season we're retiring, we're not really.

JM: You've got to get your testimonial!

JMC: Exactly I know! We won't really, so yeah I'll just continue to play for as long as possible, for as long as I'm still enjoying it. After that I'll probably get more involved in the coaching side, I already did some coaching for regional squads, I put my name down for more courses to go through that, and I'll probably end up doing coaching. I don't think I'll want to run a team because it's far too much of a commitment. Like I know that the time our manager and coach give up and the organisation that's involved, so I don't think it's that area I want to go in, but I'd still like to kind of, you know, keep a hand in kind of thing, so yeah probably coaching. Whether it was a team, or the likes of the regional stuff I took the goalkeepers, so may be I could see myself doing more in that way, being a goalkeeper, you know, doing that coaching, more specialised coaching I think.

JM: What might make you stop playing football, what do you think realistically, apart from injury and whatever?

JMC: I think if I got to the stage where I was dreading it every week and just didn't want to do it then, yeah, there's no point hanging about. I think if I felt I wasn't playing to my best or whatever, for whatever reason, you know it kind of gives you a hint that it's time to go, kind of thing. But I think mainly if I wasn't enjoying it, because that's why I nearly packed it in, because I wasn't enjoying it. I think if you

dread it every week there's no point doing it, there's no point doing something if you're not enjoying it.

JM: That's great, cheers for that.

JMC: Not at all, I hope it helps.

INTERVIEW 4 - KIM DUNCAN 30/11/02
COVE RANGERS (PREMIER DIVISION)

JM: Just going to start off by asking you a few things about your background, just to put your experiences into context a bit. Where were you born and brought up?

KD: I was born in Banff and brought up in Banff.

JM: Right, and what about now, where do you live?

KD: Newmucher, just about 3 minutes out of Aberdeen.

JM: Ok. What about your family, do you have any brothers or sisters?

KD: Yeah I've got a sister.

JM: Is she younger or older?

KD: Older.

JM: An older sister right, how much older than you?

KD: Seven years.

JM: Seven years, right ok. What about your parents, what did they do or do they do for a living?

KD: My dad, he's an engineer, my mum, she's a bus driver.

JM: Right ok. How old are you just now?

KD: Seventeen.

JM: Right, ok. Where did you, do you still go to school?

KD: No.

JM: No, right, where did you go to school?

KD: Dyce Academy.

JM: Right, what qualifications did you have from school?

KD: I've got one '1', one '2', five '3's.

JM: Right, so that's Standard Grades?

KD: Yeah, an 'A' and two 'C's.

JM: Right ok. Do you work just now?

KD: Yeah.

JM: What do you do?

KD: Office Junior.

JM: So you've done that work straight from leaving school?

KD: I have yeah.

JM: Have you got any further qualifications yet?

KD: No.

JM: In terms of social class, like your background, what would you say you were? would you say you had a working class, working to middle class...

KD: I'm not actually sure.

JM: Not that sure? Just in terms of like, comparing to other people, in terms of your mum and dad's jobs, how well off your family have been?

KD: In between the two I'd say.

JM: Working to middle class?

KD: Yeah.

JM: Ok. So you consider yourself to, I ask this question, like has that changed, usually it like, when people are older and they've got their, they've been working for a long time, things like that. So you'd say you were still in that kind of category then?

KD: Yeah.

JM: What about other women footballers, do you think there's a typical kind of social class that they come from?

KD: Not really, they come from all different.

JM: Do you think you'd get many like upper class women playing...

KD: Oh no!

JM: So would you say predominantly like working class...

KD: Yeah.

JM: And middle class really?

KD: Yeah.

JM: But not upper?

KD: No I wouldn't say.

JM: So the difference between those?

KD: Yeah.

JM: Right, ok. What about your experiences of football then, just moving on to that. What are your earliest memories of experiencing football, not necessarily playing, what are the first kind of memories you've got of it?

KD: Just watching really, and I used to support Aberdeen when I was about 3 or 4, I used to go and watch them playing. Then just from there on I just started playing when I was younger.

JM: Who took you along to...

KD: My dad.

JM: Your dad?

KD: Yeah.

JM: Do either or both of your parents play or watch football?

KD: Well my mum comes and watches when we're playing, but she never, my dad he comes and watches as well.

JM: Did either of them used to play?

KD: My dad used to play, he used to be a manager as well.

JM: What about your sister?

KD: No.

JM: No? You're laughing at that there! Is she quite different to you then?

KD: Yeah a lot.

JM: Would you say that football has been, or still is, or still has, an important place in your family life?

KD: Yeah, it still has a very important part I'd say.

JM: In what way?

KD: Just like talking about things, it's always football, football, football.

JM: In terms of your playing of it, and watching?

KD: Aye, yeah.

JM: Do you still go along to Aberdeen matches?

KD: Yeah.

JM: Is it with just your dad or...

KD: My dad, sometimes my mum comes, and most times I just go with my friends and that as well.

JM: Ok, football friends or...

KD: No, just outside friends.

JM: School and stuff?

KD: Yeah.

JM: How did you first become involved in actually playing football?

KD: Playing football, it was at primary school. I used to play with the boys, then I got into the team from there. Just carried on, all the way up until thirteen, then I joined a girls team.

JM: Could you play at secondary school?

KD: No.

JM: No? Right, so that's when you decided, you know, you still wanted to play?

KD: Yeah, well I stopped for a year, and then I thought, I hated not playing, so I got into the girls team.

JM: Right, what girls team was that?

KD: It was Cove Rangers, and then I moved to Aberdeen about 2 months after that.

JM: Ok. Who encouraged you to start playing? I know you played at primary school and that but did people encourage you?

KD: Yeah, all my friends, and my mum and my dad.

JM: How about when you first started playing for a club outside of school?

KD: Yeah that was, just my family although my friends mostly.

JM: Did anyone, did you kind of say you wanted to play or did someone find a team for you to...

KD: Oh it was me, I just said I wanted to play yeah.

JM: So how old were you when you first started playing regularly, you said you played for a girls team...

KD: Thirteen.

JM: Thirteen, right. And since then what football clubs have you played for?

KD: Aberdeen Under 16s, the Dons, then Cove Rangers.

JM: Right, and at what level are you playing now, are you in the first eleven?

KD: Just outside.

JM: Just on the verge?

KD: Yeah.

JM: Any international representation at all? At any age?

KD: No. I did trials.

JM: Scotland trials?

KD: Yeah.

JM: At what age?

KD: Under 16s, I was a member of the elite squad, and the regional elite squad.

JM: Oh right. How long have you been playing for Cove?

KD: Two years, two years yeah.

JM: I'm just going to ask you a little bit about other sports and things like that just to kind of get an idea of where football lies against them. What other sports or activities have you been involved in?

KD: Netball, badminton, tennis, basketball, that's it.

JM: Where did you get involved in them?

KD: At school.

JM: All at school were they?

KD: Yeah, apart from tennis, because that was outside of school.

JM: Were they the main sports that were on offer for you at school?

KD: Yeah.

JM: So you pretty much, are you fairly sporty, you pretty much played all the sports that you could?

KD: Yeah.

JM: *Ok. You weren't offered football at school after the age of, what was it?*
KD: After, was it twelve, at twelve.
JM: *Was it offered like in extra-curricula, like after school?*
KD: No.
JM: *So the school just didn't organise anything?*
KD: Boys teams but not girls.
JM: *But not girls, right. Would you say that football is and has been your main sport?*
KD: Yep.
JM: *Without a doubt?*
KD: Aye.
JM: *What is it about football in particular that you enjoy?*
KD: Oh I just love it all.
JM: *You just love it all?*
KD: Yeah. It's just really, really good playing against people who are as good as you, you know you can beat them, it feels really good.
JM: *Why is football may be more attractive to you than other sports?*
KD: It's more competitive I'd say, because basketball, it's non-contact, it's boring.
JM: *How about compared to say netball?*
KD: Netball is boring altogether.
JM: *Why is that then, what do you think are the differences between the two?*
KD: There's no aggression, it's just throwing a ball about, it's not me.
JM: *What is about, do you think it's the fact that it's a team sport as well?*
KD: Yeah.
JM: *Can you explain that at all?*
KD: Any other sport, you're not really in as a team, you're just like all sort of individuals playing. Basketball, you just go on your own and try and score baskets, or whatever you do, but football you've got to work as the team to get the goal, because any other sport you can sort of like just go on your own.
JM: *So it's like the competitive nature of it, and the aggression?*
KD: Yeah.
JM: *And you don't think you get that in netball or things like that?*
KD: No.
JM: *Do you think, is that based on like playing netball for school and things?*
KD: Yeah.
JM: *Do you think that if you had a go at playing netball in a more competitive league and stuff like that it would be different, or would football still be what you wanted to play?*
KD: Football would still be what I wanted, I don't like netball at all, I don't.
JM: *Yeah, just trying to get an idea without putting words into your mouth as well, is it like because you've always played football, is it kind of natural to you?*
KD: Yeah, it's the natural thing to do like I've always, since I was about 2 or 3, I've always had a ball at my feet. I've never really been interested in playing anything else but football.
JM: *In terms of, just got a list here for you, like talking about other peoples influences. And before we actually get on to this list, you've mentioned your sister being very different from you. I just want to ask about your parents when you were really young, toddlers and whatever, can you remember how if they, not purposely, but if they kind of dressed you in certain colours, gave you certain toys,*

encouraged you to play certain games. Can you remember anything like that, or how you and your sister might have differed?

KD: I think we were always the same when we were younger, we were all dressed in girly clothes and skirts and all that, but I never liked skirts.

JM: When did you see yourself kind of, like start deciding, did you put your authority kind of down and say...

KD: Aye, well I used to do Highland dancing as well when I was really little, I got sort of pushed into that because my mum and my sister were like really good at that. So I was sort of pushed, but I turned around and said 'one day I'll want to play football', that was when I was about Primary 2 I think.

JM: So what age was that?

KD: About 6 or 7.

JM: 6 or 7. So would you say that, you know you said, like girly things and whatever, how would you describe what you were like as a girl?

KD: Still sort of really girly, all my friends are girls. When I was younger obviously played with dolls and that, I played football and they didn't that was the only difference.

JM: Did they think that was strange at all that you played football?

KD: No they didn't, they just, some of them joined in as well, because where I lived before there was hardly anything to do, so we just all had a kick about or they played with dolls or something and I played football.

JM: Just got this list here of kind of groups of people. I just want you to kind of go through them one by one and say to me, tell me what their role of influence has been over you playing football and why you think that might be the case. So like your parents first...

KD: Well they've just kept me going playing football. Like if I come home really angry because like I've played really badly and I want to stop playing football, they just say just keep on going.

JM: Are they kind of like, although you said you'd kind of did it all yourself, what influence have they had in like getting you to places and may be finding out new teams and things like that?

KD: Aye, well my mum used to take me everywhere, up to Inverness, just everywhere for football. Didn't matter where it was, she would take me there. Dad, he would be there as well. Training, they just put off everything just to take me to football, so it was that.

JM: So your parents are really supportive then?

KD: Aye.

JM: What about siblings then, your sister?

KD: Yeah she's the same, like say I couldn't get to training one night she would take me, or she'd sometimes come and watch me.

JM: Although she's not interested herself?

KD: No but she's still, she got interested through me playing, but if I didn't play I don't think she'd really be bothered, if it's on TV now, she'll watch it, that's about it.

JM: How about other relatives, grandparents, aunts, uncles?

KD: Not really, no.

JM: No interest really or...

KD: My granny does, she saves our photo in the papers, cuts it out and shows it to all her friends!

JM: Anyone else?

KD: No.

JM: Partner or whatever, may not apply really, boyfriend or anyone?

KD: No.

JM: Friends?

KD: Yeah, well they're really supportive. Like, they come and watch me whenever they can, they just try and come. They go and tell everybody that I play football, and if I do something, say I got trials for Scotland they go round telling everybody and I wouldn't know.

JM: Are your friends footballers themselves?

KD: Aye.

JM: Most of your friends or...

KD: No, the majority of them don't play.

JM: Right ok, those that don't play are they still supportive as well?

KD: Yeah.

JM: Your peers is kind of the same thing, in your context with you being 17 like, what about at work, like your peers at work, have they got an interest at all?

KD: Aye, well I've just started working with them, they're really interested in my football and they're always asking how I got on.

JM: Are they mainly men, women, young or old?

KD: Both men and women, the majority of them are older than me. They're about 30 or over.

JM: No negative attitudes?

KD: Oh no, no.

JM: Ok, how about at school then? General attitudes of the school, what influence would you say they had on your football career?

KD: Not much, no. Like I used to play with boys, and they used to always go around saying 'girls aren't supposed to play football' and all that, but I never minded, I just got on with it. It was mostly boys, some girls as well, bitching about you.

JM: How about teachers?

KD: Some of them were alright, but some of them were just like, because it got in, my football and my homework and that, because I didn't do any work because I was too busy playing football so I'd get into trouble for that. They didn't seem to realise how much commitment you have to have to play football. They just said well 'you should give up the football then, or what do you want to do?', I thought I'll play football then, I don't really care about homework and that.

JM: So in terms of, they didn't actually give any provision?

KD: No.

JM: Were there any other kind of comments at all made by teachers, negative ones?

KD: Not that I heard no.

JM: Just that it was kind of neutral? Just no real effort put into it?

KD: Yeah.

JM: How about the coaches you had then, what kind of influence have they had?

KD: Oh a lot. They've kept my head.

JM: Any in particular?

KD: Any coaches?

JM: Yeah, at certain ages and whatever that, or certain moments you might have given up or anything like that, and they've really encouraged you in a certain way?

KD: At the Dons, and Cove, they've really kept me my head down, kept me going. Before, like under 13s and that they had their favourites and they just ignored other people. They starting saying to them, and just speak to them, and coach them, and

train them, and just leave everybody on the side. But at Cove just now (?) just keeps saying 'do this' and 'do that'.

JM: Makes you want to keep trying hard?

KD: Yeah.

JM: Any other people you can think of that have like been influential at all?

KD: Just like footballers I think, Aberdeen footballers, David Beckham.

JM: Role models?

KD: Aye.

JM: Yeah? So you kind of look up to them and that kind of keeps you going?

KD: Yeah.

JM: What about other women footballers as role models?

KD: Like Julie Fleeting, she's away to America, yeah that sort of thing.

JM: Is that what you kind of hope to do?

KD: Yeah. It's just made me think somebody can go out and do it, people in Scotland can go there, that's kept me going a lot.

JM: And at the age you are now, you might be able to go and make the most of it.

KD: Yeah.

JM: I've had some of your, your older team mates going 'I wish I had the opportunity....', so do I actually! So overall who would you say has had the most positive and who's had the most negative impact on your football?

KD: Most negative would be when I was at school, some people there, and the most positive would be my parents.

JM: Why do you think that is at school?

KD: Because everyone is expected to be, they all expect you to be girly, and just go out and not play football. But it's supposed to be boys that did that. I think it's just because we're different, we don't want that, we've got something to aim for, they don't, they're just like there at school with their head down and that

JM: I think it's quite interesting because I thought I'd find that the younger people would've had more positive experiences at school, but I think it totally depends on the school and the PE teachers, a lot of it. Because some schools have got such good structures now for girls football, but others, like yours, are obviously...

KD: There's a lot in Aberdeen that are really good, but mine just wasn't one of them.

JM: Do you think that would have made much of a difference to your ability or not?

KD: I don't know, I would've had been more, probably more confident, but I don't know.

JM: Because you still had the structure outside of your school?

KD: Yeah.

JM: Ok that's that list just gone, just going now to perspectives on women's football. What attitudes, if any, have you experienced towards women's football from the general public, and say the media?

KD: I haven't really seen any in the media, there's not a lot, you don't hear a lot in Aberdeen. Because of that it's probably why, because they don't think anyone is interested in women's football, you don't hear a lot.

JM: So the media don't cover it?

KD: No, not here I don't think I see a lot.

JM: Is that just in Aberdeen or is that in Scotland?

KD: I think it's just Aberdeen, could be just over Scotland, but don't see a lot. It's probably just negative (?)

JM: How about the general public, generally people who aren't connected to football, how do you think they view, if you went up to them and said 'I play women's football' how do you think they'd react?

KD: Probably ask you about it a lot, say 'where do you play?' and all that. But I don't think they're really interested.

JM: Do you think attitudes like that might have changed over time or might like start to change?

KD: Yeah, I think it's started to change now.

JM: In what way?

KD: Women's football becoming, Scotland, they're getting better and people are taking notice of that, so they're beginning to think 'oh may be they can play'. But I don't know if it will change as much as the men's, the men's game.

JM: What about if you compare Scotland to say England?

KD: Oh, it's totally different I would say. I think they're more, they're more proud of their England team. Scotland, they're in the top 16 and nobody knows it. If you go to ask somebody about it they're 'what?'

JM: So relatively, the Scotland women's team are more successful than Scotland men's?

KD: Aye, but nobody knows it.

JM: Yeah, it's annoying isn't it?

KD: Aye.

JM: I've just kind of asked that really, are they particular to Scotland or Britain, what about Europe, what do you know about women's football in Europe, or even further afield like...

KD: Well, Germany are good.

JM: What about professional status, anything like that anywhere?

KD: Italy, they're professional there, that's the place to go, if not America, it'd be Italy.

JM: Iceland and places like that as well do a professional league don't they?

KD: Yeah, France I think, they've just started just now.

JM: Do you think that there are any stereotypes people think of when they talk about women's football?

KD: Yeah, they think they're all big and butch.

JM: Right, any other kind of stereotypes? Or is that just the main one?

KD: I think that's just the main one.

JM: Do you think that some players do actually conform to those, do you think they're accurate in some cases?

KD: Well it depends what level you're at really. If you're at the Premier League I don't think you'd see much like that but if you go down the leagues like first, second and third, yeah probably.

JM: Why is that do you think, is that just...

KD: I just don't really know, just fitness and they're just there for a laugh really. They don't take it that seriously so they don't really bother trying to get fit.

JM: Have certain attitudes, you know like negative attitudes or stereotypes, things like that, towards women's football, ever affected yours or anyone else you know, participation in it?

KD: Yeah, there was a lot of the people, like when I was at under 16s, a lot of the people I was with there stopped playing altogether. Just really because I think like they went to university and they've got hassled there because of it, they play football.

JM: What kind of hassle?

KD: I don't know, just like told they shouldn't be playing because it's a boy's sport and that. They just stopped playing.

JM: So they were like elite level were they at under 16s?

KD: Yeah, they were then.

JM: And they dropped out?

KD: Yeah.

JM: Have you ever been discouraged from playing?

KD: Not really, no.

JM: Has anyone ever considered it strange that you play football?

KD: Yeah.

JM: Who?

KD: My granny, and some people at work didn't think that I would be a footballer, because they all thought they were big and butch, they were surprised that I play. And my Granny, she was just worried.

JM: In what way?

KD: Getting hurt and that, because she watches men's football on TV, and says 'oh you don't do that do you?'

JM: And you go 'no I go in harder!'

KD: Yeah! If I get hurt or anything my mum will tell my Granny and my Gran will go 'got to stop playing that football, think about her work now!'

JM: Just going to talk now about being a member of a club. Despite football itself, which is obviously why you're in a club, would you say that there are any other like things, characteristics, that make women footballers a distinct group, social group. I've just got a list just here, if you want to just go through them, to just give you some ideas of what you think you might have in common with other players in relation to these characteristics?

KD: Most of us has played since we were really young, we've all really have a lot of experience in it, from when we were really little to now, at this level that we're at just now.

JM: Has it always just been a kind of natural sport to do?

KD: Yeah. We all love doing it I'd say.

JM: Ok, status is you know, marital status, things like that...

KD: I don't there's anyone married, that I can think of.

JM: Actually, the survey that I've done pretty much says that the majority are single, but would you say that?

KD: Aye, I would say in my team, I can't think of anyone that's married, no.

JM: Social class? We've mentioned that before.

KD: Aye, is it working, middle, or upper? There's not any upper that play I don't think.

JM: Is it working to middle class?

KD: Yeah.

JM: Occupations at all, are there certain types of jobs that are more common, there might be, I don't know.

KD: There'll all different, a range from office, to engineers, to posties, to teachers, it's different.

JM: Ok, education in terms of like what qualifications you've got, is there people that are, you know, really, really qualified, people that are less qualified, or all pretty much the same?

KD: There's a lot of people that are really brainy, they're really qualified. But then there's people like me that are just...

JM: But there's a variety would you say?

KD: Aye.

JM: Ok, the last few on there are more kind of like, not like economic kind of things, they're more personality things. What would you say to any of them?

KD: Personality...

JM: Yeah, would you say personality that you have in common with each other?

KD: What me? Or other footballers?

JM: Not necessarily you with other women footballers, but when you think of women footballers do you think they've got the same kind of personalities?

KD: No. Completely different, you get shy ones, you get really loud ones, that you just want to tell to shut up. No, I would say they're all different.

JM: Right, ok. Femininity? If you start to think about it, if you just think about women footballers, and you might think that well there's quite a lot of variation, but then if you think about women that you know that don't play football, and then compare women footballers to them...

KD: That's different that, like people who don't play football are really feminine, like their make up. You wouldn't see anyone at our football with make up and all on. But I would say it's half, some are really feminine, some are just, no.

JM: What some footballers are really feminine?

KD: Aye, but again, it depends on the level I think, because the lower level you get, some are really feminine, they're just there for a laugh. And some, you do get a lot at our level who are really feminine.

JM: What about attitudes to things?

KD: It's all different.

JM: What about clothes and style?

KD: No. Our team is completely different, one or two you're like 'oh my god, you didn't come like that did you?'

JM: If you compare them with like other women, do you think, is there a certain kind of, or certain style of clothes that women footballers, not just in your team, but just in general, you would say, yeah they all do kind of wear the same clothes?

KD: I think jeans and that, and jogging bottoms. But if somebody's walking down the street you couldn't say 'oh they're a woman footballer', because they're wearing jeans and that. I think they're just the same as anyone else.

JM: But would you expect to see a woman footballer in like a skirt and high heels?

KD: No.

JM: So they tend to be in that first bracket?

KD: Yeah, aye.

JM: What about sense of humour, things like that?

KD: I think we're funnier than, people that don't play!

JM: Why do you think that is? Is it that they're funnier or is it because when you're together?

KD: Aye, it's a team thing, and just everyone has a laugh. People that don't play football I think they're more, they're not as confident as we are as a team, just shy, and don't have a laugh. But the team just don't care.

JM: Does the sense of humour like play off each other, not just in a football sense but...

KD: Aye, everything.

JM: Ok, anything else there you think? Anything else you can think of that you've got in common with each other?

KD: No.

JM: Ok. It's kind of related, but would you recognised women footballers as having a particular identity that is different from other sports people, or other women?

KD: Identity, what do you mean by that?

JM: Just kind of, would you identify yourself, would you say that being a woman footballer was part of your identity?

KD: Yeah.

JM: And, do you think you being involved in football, and having things in common with other women footballers, it's difficult to describe, kind of gives you an identity that's slightly different to other women and other sports people. You know like, women footballers, are they slightly different to women hockey players, are women footballers different to women who play tennis, women footballers different to other women?

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

KD:hardly wear anything for a start, they're more feminine, so they would be more like your other women. Hockey, I think that's more like football, basically the same. So they would have the same identity, but like tennis, netball and that wouldn't.

JM: Do you think you kind of identify with the people because of the sport, and then because of like just being with them?

KD: Yeah.

JM: You start to have things in common with each other?

KD: Yeah, got a lot of things in common.

JM: What like?

KD: Just like your background, and like what you do in your spare time, just seems to be the same.

JM: What kind of things?

KD: Like we all go to the cinema, go out with other friends, have a kick about, things like that.

JM: What are the main reasons why you play football?

KD: Because I enjoy it a lot, I've always enjoyed it, and I want to be a professional one day.

JM: Right, ok.

KD: Hopefully.

JM: Yeah. In the context like, just thinking about your everyday life, may be in terms of like going to work, Monday to Friday, whatever, what does football offer you, what value does it have?

KD: Its just like, when I'm at work I always know I've got football at night and I get excited about it.

JM: Do you think about it a lot?

KD: Aye, yeah. That's all I really think about just football, football, football.

JM: Even when you're at work and that are you thinking about it?

KD: Yeah, aye I think only four hours to go until I'm kicking a ball about.

JM: What if you'd had a really bad match or something, does it affect your mood?

KD: Och, yeah! Like Monday, they know not to speak to me!

JM: And is it obvious to people at work if you've had a storming game?

KD: Yeah, I never stop speaking, always smiling.

JM: So it kind of dictates your mood?

KD: Aye, a lot yeah.

JM: So that kind of leads me on to this question, is it anything over and above simply playing football? Is it the playing that really drives you, or is there more to it?

KD: I think the playing more.

JM: Mainly the playing?

KD: Yeah.

JM: What about social aspects? It might be slightly different because you're quite young, but in terms of, you know, how would you describe the social aspects, I've got a few ideas, mainly like friendship, socialising, interaction, sense of community and things like that, are you familiar with anything like that?

KD: Yeah, like going out and that or...

JM: Yeah, or just things you do in your spare time, do you do with people from football or...

KD: No, I mainly do it with people out of football, it just clears your head, don't want to be with them all the time. You see them when you're training, every Sunday, can get a bit stressful if they're the people in your social life with as well. Mostly they're my friends from, I used to go to school with, people that I round about, I'm mostly with them when I'm not playing football.

JM: Right, do you think that might change a bit more when you've been with the club for longer?

KD: It might, but I don't know.

JM: And may be like when there's more people, because are you like one of the youngest in the club?

KD: Aye, I am.

JM: If say in five years time, can you imagine that...

KD: If there's more people the same age as me, yeah may be, probably yeah.

JM: Yeah, it might make a difference. So at the moment, how important are such social aspects to you?

KD: Not really important.

JM: Like friendships, forming friendships with other team members and stuff like that?

KD: With team mates, aye I'm friends with them all, and because I'm like the youngest one, they'll all look after me.

JM: What about other players, when you think of the other players, do you think that those kind of things are really important to them?

KD: Aye. I would say so, socially, they're out every Friday drinking, whereas me, I'm not like that.

JM: So when you're like in the club and at training, is it obvious that they kind of bond well?

KD: Yeah.

JM: But are you still part of it because of the football but have they got something over and above football?

KD: Some of them do, some of them don't. Because a lot of them are just there to play football and that's it, they don't really worry about bonding with everyone. Some of them are really close friends.

JM: *So to what extent would you say that the social aspects are part of being a member of a club?*

KD: I wouldn't say socially, no.

JM: *Not important?*

KD: Not really. It would be because you get close and if you're all friends you'd go out on Sunday, it'd be good for everybody, but just now it's not really.

JM: *How do you feel, or how would you feel if you were injured and couldn't train or go to matches?*

KD: I'd go off my head!

JM: *Why is that?*

KD: I wouldn't know what to do because that's all I really do, train, and every Sunday like, oh I'd be lost! I don't know what I'd do.

JM: *Would you still go along and watch?*

KD: Aye, I would still go and watch them.

JM: *And how would you feel?*

KD: Really annoyed that I wouldn't be out there playing, I'd be stressed probably.

JM: *Why would you still go along and watch?*

KD: To cheer them on, make sure they're doing well, keep them going an that. It's good because if you've got somebody else injured, they're out of the team and they're watching, supporting, it's a good thing.

JM: *Have you ever nearly given up playing at all?*

KD: Oh yeah, when I went to the Academy and there was no football I stopped, when I went to the Academy yeah, I stopped for a year, then I just started again because I was just desperate to play.

JM: *My next question was, if so, why? And why did you continue? So during that year what did you do?*

KD: I didn't really stop playing football, I was out with my mates up at the park, kicking about.

JM: *You just weren't attached to a team?*

KD: Not attached no. I was still playing, I just couldn't stop playing really.

JM: *But since then have you ever been at a point where you're really fed up with it and wanted to stop?*

KD: Yeah, when I first came up to Cove I wasn't getting a game that regularly, it was getting frustrating because I knew I was better than some of the people who were actually playing, but they were more experienced than me. I was going really off my head, but no, I didn't think I could stop playing, I just kept on going.

JM: *What do you usually do after training and matches?*

KD: After?

JM: *Yeah.*

KD: Sleep.

JM: *You just go home?*

KD: Yeah.

JM: *No socialising or anything like that?*

KD: Oh I can't, I'm too knackered.

JM: *Outside of training and matches, do you ever socialise with people from football, not necessarily on your team but people you know from football?*

KD: Not really, because all the ones I used to socialise with that were at football stopped, so no.

JM: *So, there's not really anyone your age in football?*

KD: Not really, no.

JM: So it's mainly your school friends?

KD: Yeah.

JM: So this probably doesn't apply but if there was, say there was an end of season do or something like that, or a social night out, fundraiser, or something like that, you'd go along to them would you?

KD: Oh yeah, aye.

JM: Do you think that's an important part of being in the club?

KD: Yeah, it's good fun at the end of the season, when you know you've done well and just celebrate with everybody there, it's important I think.

JM: How would you feel if you couldn't make it out on these kind of occasions?

KD: I wouldn't be that happy if I didn't manage to go, but I'd be all right. I wouldn't be happy about it.

JM: I'm just going to mention a term to you now to see if you've got any idea what it relates to, but I've got a definition we can talk about in a minute, the term subculture, any idea what it might mean?

KD: No idea.

JM: Ok, well what I'm trying to do is equate it to women's football. A subculture, we think of it as a group of people who are brought together by something, and because of that they interact, share similar characteristics, social meanings and values which, because of these similarities it makes them slightly different to some extent from wider culture as a whole. Would you say that there was a sense of being part of, or belonging to a subculture of women's football?

KD: Yeah.

JM: In what ways?

KD: Like the people I know like in Aberdeen, I don't think I'll have ever knew, I wouldn't have. They're not the sort of people I would be friends with out of football, but it's brought us together in the end. But I've become friends with them now, I don't think they would have been people I'd have spoke to before out of football. I've met a lot of people through football.

JM: That you wouldn't have met otherwise?

KD: No.

JM: If you think about other players as well, do you think that their kind of social circles revolve around football a lot or, even if it's not just the team, is it players they know from back when and things like that, do you think there's kind of a network of...

KD: Yeah, I'd say.

JM: Could you imagine that for you, building up the older you get as well?

KD: Probably, when more people my age start coming through yeah.

JM: Ok, we're pretty much getting to the end now. What value do you attach to your experiences of playing football?

KD: What value?

JM: The importance of it?

KD: Really important, yeah.

JM: Would you say it played a significant part in your life?

KD: Yeah.

JM: To what extent?

KD: Well, football, that's all I ever do, work, football, sleep, you know?

JM: What do you enjoy about it the most?

KD: Just competing against other teams, working as a team, the people like, the friends and that, winning, I love winning!

JM: What would you do, or how would you feel if you weren't able to play again?

KD: I don't know what I'd do.

JM: You've never thought about it?

KD: Don't want to!

JM: What would you miss the most?

KD: Just running with the ball, and being with people.

JM: Would you say that it's like, just, although you say it's a significant part of your life, is it part of who you are as well?

KD: Yeah.

JM: And if you couldn't play football would that be like part of you taken away?

KD: Yeah it would.

JM: Just now, in terms of present day, and the future. What plans do you have for football?

KD: Hopefully I'd like to play with Scotland and go professional one day. As soon as possible really.

JM: You'd jack in your job?

KD: Aye! Oh aye, nae problem!

JM: What part do you expect it to play in the rest of your life, do you think it'll play a significant part?

KD: A really big part hopefully.

JM: Do you think it will be your life?

KD: Aye! I would like it to, yeah.

JM: What if you can't achieve all you can playing, would you try and still be involved in...

KD: I'd still be involved in coaching, or whatever, I'd just do that.

JM: Ok, what might make you stop playing football, aside of injury and stuff that like that what do you think could eventually stop you playing?

KD: If I'm too old I'll have to stop eventually. That's all that would really make me stop playing football, if I got injured, when I get too old.

JM: So physically then?

KD: Yeah, if I can't do it anymore.

**INTERVIEW 5 - ANGIE MURCHISON 30/11/02
COVE RANGERS (PREMIER DIVISION)**

JM: Just to start off with I'm going to begin by asking just a few things about your background details, so that we can put your experiences of playing football into context.

AM: Ok.

JM: Where were you born and brought up?

AM: Aberdeen, well Westhill, which is just outside Aberdeen.

JM: What about just now, where are you living?

AM: Living in Aberdeen itself.

JM: Right, how about your family, do you have any brothers or sisters?

AM: I've got a younger sister, she's three years younger.

JM: And your parents, what did they or do they do for a living?

AM: My dad is a painter and decorator, and my mum was a housewife but she works part time in a post office.

JM: How old are you just now?

AM: 26.

JM: Where did you go to school?

AM: In Westhill.

JM: Ok, and what qualifications did you get from school?

AM: Standard Grades, about 8 or 9, 4 Highers, Sixth Year Studies, and then went to college for a year and got an HNC, then went to university and got a degree.

JM: Right, ok. What was your degree in?

AM: Geography.

JM: Ok. What work do you do just now?

AM: None, I'm at home because I've got the wee one and I just do some part time sports coaching, just like, may be 2 or 3 hours a week.

JM: Did you work straight from university?

AM: Yes.

JM: What did you do?

AM: I worked for the council in sports events.

JM: Have you picked up any further qualifications since like, well you've got your degree haven't you? Anything else after that or...

AM: Well I've got football coaching qualifications, and some other coaching qualifications as well.

JM: Ok. In terms of like social class background, what would you consider your background to have been, say working class, working to middle, middle...

AM: Probably working, working to middle.

JM: Ok. That's in terms of your background, what about in terms of like where you are now, would you say it's pretty much the same?

AM: I would say it's pretty much the same yeah.

JM: Not changed at all?

AM: No, not really.

JM: In terms of, what about a typical woman footballer in Scotland, what would you say generally, what social class would you say they were?

AM: Probably the same, working, working to middle.

JM: Not so much upper?

AM: Well, when I was at university a lot of the university teams were girls from, you know, good backgrounds, private school education and that kind of stuff, so a lot of them, they were. So I think may be it depends, in the university leagues you've may be got people of a higher class playing than you do in the regular kind of leagues.

JM: The national women's senior leagues?

AM: Yeah.

JM: Ok, just moving on to your experiences of football. What are your earliest memories of experiencing football, may be not playing, but like what can you first remember about football...

AM: In women's football, or football in general?

JM: Just in football in general?

AM: I remember, for some reason, playing in my back garden with my dad and half of the kids in the street when I was, must have been little, like may be 5 or 6 or something.

JM: Ok, it was mainly your dad was it who played with you?

AM: Yeah, with my dad and other kids. My mum used to kick a ball about in the back garden with us as well, but I remember playing with my dad in the back garden, I don't know why I remember that.

JM: That just kind of leads me on to the next bit, do either or both of your parents play or watch football?

AM: Yeah, they both watch, my dad played to quite a high amateur level, and my mum used to kick a ball about at youth club when she was younger as well.

JM: How about your, was it your younger sister?

AM: She doesn't play at all. She's not interested.

JM: She's not interested. Right, ok. Would you say that football has been and still has an important place in your family life?

AM: Yeah.

JM: Is that in terms of your parents?

AM: Yeah.

JM: How did you first become involved in actually playing football?

AM: Playing, you mean with a team or just a kick about?

JM: Yeah, playing regularly.

AM: At school.

JM: Primary school?

AM: Yeah.

JM: Was that like mixed teams?

AM: Yeah, some of the boys that I was friends with used to play with well it was the school team which girls weren't allowed in at that point. And it was quite a big school so one of the dads had formed a second team to play friendlies against other schools that had sort of second teams, so I got to play in that team.

JM: Right, ok, how about secondary school?

AM: I didn't play at secondary school. Didn't have any competitive sport at my secondary school.

JM: Right, none at all?

AM: None at all.

JM: So did you carry on playing football, just through other means?

AM: Yeah, well I also played badminton to quite a high level, I think it was first and second year at senior school I played badminton. And then I kind of get fed up of it, it wasn't as good as I was, and I wanted to play football so I found a team to join.

JM: Ok, and what was that team?

AM: It was Aberdeen Ladies.

JM: Aberdeen Ladies? Right, who kind of encouraged you, was it yourself, or did someone push you?

AM: No, I was keen to play, I wanted to play and sort of hassled my mum and dad to find a team for me to go to. And obviously they were reasonably committed because they used to drive me to training every week, and to matches and things.

JM: So what football clubs have you played for, since starting playing like regularly?

AM: Well, in the senior ladies I played for Aberdeen Ladies, which I joined when I was about, may be 13 or 14, and I was with them until about 2 or 3 years ago, and I'm at Cove now.

JM: So you've been at Cove for...

AM: 3 years.

JM: 3 years ok. What level do you play for at Cove, are you in the first eleven?

AM: Yeah.

JM: Have you had any international representation at all?

AM: Yeah.

JM: What was that?

AM: I've got about 10 or 11 senior caps, which I got when I was at university, it's easier to train when you're at university.

JM: Right, moving on now to just sport in general, what other sport or activities have you been involved in?

AM: Well I played badminton at quite a high level when I was a kid, and I've done a bit of running, you know like, 10ks and things like that, 5ks and stuff. I do other sports just for fun, well I certainly used to until I had my wee one. I used to cycle, play a bit of tennis, I was good at tennis, and may be played to odd game of squash or badminton, or whatever.

JM: What about at school then, what sports did you play?

AM: Well I played lots, we did lots of PE at school but we never had any teams at school so there was no outlet for competitive sport at our school at all.

JM: Right so there was no actual just competition in that sense, but you got it provided in PE?

AM: I mean we got all the PE and games lessons and things, but there was never a school football team, or a hockey team, or anything at our school, there was a headmaster who was against sport.

JM: How big was the school?

AM: It was about 800 or 900 kids.

JM: So it's a big school then?

AM: Yeah, and you'd be surprised to learn actually that there's quite a few kids have gone on to get international honours in different sports, athletics, skiing, ?, some hockey players at well, which is quite strange considering that the school didn't sort of encourage you.

JM: It's normally said that the school is like, kind of make or break of sports people, if it's offered then...

AM: The school certainly didn't but some of the PE staff would be always sort of asking or may be offer you a wee bit of advice for training, or whatever, but certainly as a general kind of thing the school didn't.

JM: So you didn't play football at all at school? In your secondary school?

AM: No.

JM: And there was no extra-curricula?

AM: No extra-curricula activities.

JM: Would you say that football is and has been your main sport, or has that changed?

AM: It's been my main sport probably since I was about 13 or 14, prior to that it was probably badminton that was my main sport because I played to quite a high level.

JM: What is it about football in particular that you enjoy?

AM: I don't know, I like the game, I'm quite good at it, so I like that as well!

JM: Why did you go from badminton to football?

AM: Well I'd always liked football, I just may be never really had as much opportunities in football when I was younger like, may be 9, 10, 11, there wasn't, you know I wasn't allowed to be in the school team or anything like that. And there wasn't any leagues for girls at that age so I think it was just may be the fact that there wasn't much opportunities at that level. My mum was a badminton coach as well, so she kind of pushed us into badminton, both my sister and I played.

JM: So it was just basically when the opportunity arose for football it felt natural for you to...

AM: Yeah, well I'd kind of got fed up with badminton, I wasn't as good as I was, and I wanted to be good, and I knew I was quite good at football, I wanted to give it a shot.

JM: Is there any difference between it being an individual sport in badminton, and a team sport in football, or does that not come into it?

AM: No, I don't know, I mean may be, I mean, I'm not sure, not sure, Sometimes I wish football was an individual sport, I don't know. No, I don't think it was particularly that, I think it was just that I'd reached saturation point of it.

JM: Ok, just moving on now to other people's influences on your football career. Basically I'm going to ask you what has been the role or influence of the following people, I've got a list for you to look at there, so if you can just go through them one by one and kind of see if you can give me a reason as to why their influence has been...

AM: Ok, parents have been positive because obviously when I was younger they used to drive me about, take me, and buy boots and kit, things like that. Sister, siblings, probably not had much interest, my sister, other than saying 'did you win today?', that's about it. Other relatives, probably quite positive, they always ask how you're doing, things like that.

JM: Is that aunts and uncles and cousins, grandparents...

AM: yeah, keep all the cuttings, things like that in the paper. Partner, obviously he's positive because he's got to look after the wee one when I'm training or matches and things! Friends, friends who are interested in football are mostly, you know they're interested, take an interest, but other friends probably not really interested, other than to say 'oh, you're at football', and that's about it. Peers...

JM: Your workmates and things like that, people throughout different, you know, peers at university, peers at work?

AM; Probably again the same as friends, just kind of may be throw in a question every now and again, but not really interested. Unless, you know, sometimes may be their friend plays football themselves and may be the guys play for a team and they'll strike up a conversation and you know 'how's your team getting on?', and you know, like that. But if they're not really interested in football then they don't really take much interest. School, well secondary school, not interested. Some of the teachers

were interested, would keep you behind after class and ask how you were doing, things like that, but generally no.

JM: Not really a positive influence on you?

AM: Not really, no. Coaches, well coaches have obviously got a positive influence because they're there taking the training sessions every week so. I mean they're there, they turn up for the 2 hours and they've obviously done a bit of preparation and they arrive 15 minutes before the session with their balls and their cones and the things are all out and they book the halls and things so...

JM: So generally the coaches that you've had have had a positive influence on you?

AM: Oh yeah.

JM: It's just like some people have negative influences with coaches, things like that, well certain coaches so...

AM: No I think it's got to be positive because they're there, encouraging you every week aren't they?

JM: Ok. Anyone else you can think of?

AM: No not really.

JM: Overall then, out of what we've just been going through, who would you say had the most positive and who would you say had the most negative effect on you being involved in football?

AM: Most positive would be parents I suppose, most negative effect would have been, I don't know, it's difficult to say, you could say school but that's kind of because the kind of school's whole thing at that time was no competitive sport, but you know, may be if I'd been at a different school, so it's not fair to single out the teachers and say that when some of them really were interested, kind of against the grain of the school.

JM: So more the school attitude as a whole thing, rather than...

AM: Just the competitive sport thing, the school's attitude wasn't good.

JM: Like, so it would have been the same if you wanted to take up hockey, or...

AM: Yeah, or gymnastics, or swimming, or whatever it wasn't just football.

JM: Ok. I've just thought of a question to ask you there and I've forgot it, no it's gone, completely gone. Just moving on to perspectives really, on women's football, what attitudes have you experienced towards women's football from, for example, the general public, or the media?

AM: Well I think attitudes are changing, but sometimes people think it's a bit rough and it's big butch women who play, and things like that. I think that's may be changing because there's lots of young girls leagues now, with lots more young girls playing. So I think may be when you get the parent of a 10 year old girl who's just started playing, their minds may be a bit more open.

JM: Compared to?

AM: Compared to may be older people whose views are kind of stuck in the mud sort of thing.

JM: How about the media? How do they cover...

AM: Some bits of the media are quite good, and then you open the paper the next day and see some dodgy article about, I don't know, doing them all up in make-up and all this kind of rubbish, and so I think it just depends. It's strange because sometimes one paper will have a really good article one week and then the next week they've got a pile of rubbish in. So I think it just depends.

JM: Have you noticed anything about, you know when there is a article, where it's usually placed in papers, in national papers?

AM: Often it's placed in kind of lifestyle bit, rather than in the sports section.

JM: So what do you think about that? What does that say to you?

AM: Well they're not really taking it as sport are they? But then when they do that their article is kind of may be, not really about the match or the competition, or the cup or whatever, it's may be a bout a player and, this player is going to be the next superstar, that sort of thing, whatever.

JM: Yeah, more of a feature rather than...

AM: Yeah, rather than a sports article.

JM: So it's not really on that level treated the same as men's football yet?

AM: No, I don't think so.

JM: It's still like, this is something new, they kind of attach significant events or significant things and use it as a feature article, they don't usually present the results, things like that?

AM: No.

JM: Do you think there's any difference between national and local papers in that respect?

AM: Well I think our local paper has got quite good this season, they seem to have devoted a page to girls and women's football, and they have all the results and the league tables, and usually they put in a, what do you call it, match report. And they usually have a reporter or whatever, or somebody doing a match report for, may be girls under 16s league, and then another one for the under 14s and that, under 12s or whatever.

JM: So it's starting to get, may be at a local level...

AM: So, certainly at local level you're starting to get some sort of once a week match reports and things like that. But it's quite good because they do the same for the boys football, and the schools football, and the amateurs, and the welfare, and things like that.

JM: So it's treated on a par?

AM: It's treated on a par definitely.

JM: Good. Next question was really how have attitudes changed at all over time, do you think, we've kind of talked about what it is now, do you think in the past it's been any different?

AM: I think attitudes have changed yeah.

JM: What do you think the media and public were like in the past may be?

AM: I think, well I think that a lot of people are more open-minded to girls playing football now than they were, may be 15, 20 years ago.

JM: Do you think that the attitudes that we've been talking about are particular to Scotland, or do you think you get them the same in England, Britain, Europe, elsewhere in the world?

AM: I think you probably get the same in England, I don't know anything about in Europe, but I certainly know you don't get that kind of attitude in America, Canada, because, you know, that's what girls play over there, girls play soccer, boys play American Football and baseball. So obviously they've got a completely different attitude than with America.

JM: Why do you think that might be the case?

AM: Haven't got a clue. May be because American Football can be quite rough, you know it's really rough, throwing about and things like that so. I mean I'm sure there are women that play American Football but I don't know, obviously soccer seems to be the sport that the girls play.

JM: It's kind of related to the history and the national sports. Like you're saying that boys play American Football, baseball, basketball, over here boys play football. And over there women have been able to tap into a sport that isn't really a male...

AM: Sport yeah, and made it their own.

JM: Yeah, pretty much that's how it's happened. Do you think stereotypes are created regarding women's football?

AM: Sometimes.

JM: What kind of stereotypes do you think?

AM: I think sometimes people think like people are gay, or they just get the impression that they might be butch, big, strong, masculine-looking women.

JM: To what extent do you think that some players conform to those stereotypes?

AM: Do some players? I suppose some do, I mean I don't think many do to be honest.

JM: So would you say that the creation of stereotypes is fair and accurate?

AM: Probably not really because I don't think there's an awful lot of people like that playing.

JM: Who do you think creates the stereotypes usually?

AM: I don't know really, it's difficult to say.

JM: What about by sex, and age, and ...

AM: I'm not sure I think sometimes people have just been given an idea, you know, something that's been battered around for a long time and they just pick up on it.

JM: Do you think it's more likely to be older people that have still got those kind of ideas?

AM: I think so yeah. I would think it would be older that would have that kind of a stereotype in their mind, rather than a younger person. I don't think you'd get maybe a, you know a teenager or someone that's maybe 20 or whatever picking up that kind of image.

JM: Especially now as football for girls is more popular in schools...

AM: Yeah.

JM: It's almost seen as...

AM: It's equal almost in schools.

JM: Yeah, the kids that are at school now, when they're in their 20s or 30s, whatever...

AM: They'll not think anything of it because all the other kids are playing.

JM: Have certain attitudes towards women's football, like negative attitudes, or just the creation of stereotypes and stuff, ever affected yours or anyone else you know, participation in the sport? Has it ever made you, put you off playing or anything at all?

AM: No it's never put me off playing.

JM: Does it ever annoy you at all?

AM: Not really, I don't think I've ever had an experience where anyone has said anything to me.

JM: Right, do you know of anyone else who has maybe been discouraged from playing, or just had a bit of myther from people just in terms of stereotypes?

AM: Oh yeah, I mean certainly you hear of maybe parents saying 'oh my daughter's not playing once she gets to 16' or whatever. I mean that's maybe happened sometimes, or maybe it's not happened, it's maybe been a rumour that some girl's not going to be allowed to play because her dad and mum say no. But then it may be doesn't happen, or whatever.

JM: Ok. Has anyone ever like openly, well not openly, but have you ever got the impression that someone has considered it strange that you play football?

AM: Strange? May be not strange, may be just 'oh, you play football?'

JM: Interesting then, or...

AM: Yeah, interesting, or may be just 'ooh, that's kind of different'. And then may be people who have said that have thought, they're may be the ones who've had the sort of stereotype in their minds, but they've may be not said it to you, they may be just go 'oh, so you play it?' Then people will may be ask you questions, they're a bit more inquisitive about it.

JM: Right, just moving on now to talking about being a member of a club. Despite football itself, would you say that there are any particular characteristics that make women football players a distinct social group? I've got kind of a list here just to give some ideas, but in relation to some of these things, do you feel you have anything in common with other players?

AM: With other players?

JM: Yeah. Either within your team or just generally women footballers that you know.

AM: Yeah I would say there's things in that list that you have in common.

JM: Do you want to just go through a few of them and explain them a bit? Background?

AM: How do you mean, like I would say that there's other players that come from a similar sort of background as me.

JM: In terms of?

AM: In terms of like their social class or whatever?

JM: Yeah.

AM: Or what do you mean by that, in terms of the experiences they've had playing football or what?

JM: Yeah, I mean just getting you to think about things like that, I mean social class is one of the options, but may be background in terms of, you know the family, being involved in football from a young age, or a footballing family...

AM: Oh yeah, I mean I would think so yeah.

JM: Status? That refers to kind of like marital status and stuff like that, is there commonly any kind of...

AM: Yeah, there are some people playing who have young kids but I think there's may be not an awful lot, that's may be because I'm quite young to have a little kid of 2 ½. A lot of people don't have kids until later. I certainly know a girl, a lady that played for another team this year, well up until about 2 years ago she's may be 31, 32, she stopped playing football, and she's now got a little baby. So may be those people delay having kids until after they've stopped playing.

JM: Also if you think like having things in common with footballers, if you try and think of women you know that aren't footballers, and see how then, not so much, see how women footballers might be a little bit different, like distinct. Do you think there's a lot of people, a lot of women who in their 20s or whatever that by now would be married and things like that, are women footballers any different in that respect?

AM: I don't think they're any different, no. I think there would just be kind of a broad spectrum of anyone. I don't think the fact that they play football matters as to whether they've got married, or settled down, or have kids or anything like that.

JM: Right ok. You've mentioned social class and you think may be similar social class?

AM: Yeah.

JM: Occupations?

AM: Yeah, similar kind of occupations.

JM: Yeah? What like?

AM: Well there's a couple of teachers in my team and then people who may be work in offices, like accounts assistants or things like that, so I think a lot, you know, it's difficult to say. I mean roughly the same kind of occupation I mean I don't think there's anybody in my team who's earning like £100,000 a year or, you know, anything like that. I think everybody's probably on, may be they're not doing exactly the same job but they're doing something kind of similar and earning the same kind of money I would think.

JM: Education?

AM: Yeah, definitely people in my team that have had roughly the same education as me, or who have gone through school and then may be gone on to college, and then there'll be others who have may be just left school at 16, 17 so.

JM: The next few things kind of group in together, these were more kind of like economic things, but talking more about more personal things, you know like personalities, things like that, do you think there's anything in common with other footballers?

AM: Well everyone's obviously got a love of sport and a love of football because they commit a lot of time to it. So everyone obviously shares that passion. Often people have may be interest in men's football, so I would say that. And...

JM: Just moving down the list if you want?

AM: Femininity? I suppose, I don't know, I don't think anyone's particularly girly or feminine. I think you have to be a little bit tomboyish to be playing football in the first place. So I think everybody has, you know, kind of tomboyish, and not feared to run out in the cold with shorts on and things like that. Whereas, you know, I've got some friends who would just be, oh the horror of the thought of running around in winter time in a pair of shorts in the mud.

JM: Yeah. I mean it's easier to see the common things sometimes more when you compare women footballers to like friends you've got that aren't involved.

AM: Yeah.

JM: How about attitudes, quite a difficult one...

AM: Attitudes is difficult because you don't really know what people think, unless you ask them. And some, I suppose people have the same attitudes to some things, like they have the same attitude to being committed to football, and to turning up, and I don't know, that's a difficult question.

JM: Move on then to the style and clothes that you kind of come in together, do you think there's something quite common with the way that women footballers dress, the style they have?

AM: I don't think there's anything common in the way that they dress, any more than there wouldn't be in terms of how people of that age group dress. To be honest most people wear, you know, jeans and a top, normally that's what most people would wear I think. I don't think all women footballers go around in Goth clothes or anything ridiculous like that. So I think everybody's just kind of general just kind of fashion, whatever is going down the high street kind of thing.

JM: Would you say it was kind of like, I don't know, if you compare it to other women that you know, are other women that you know may be more inclined to wear skirts and things like that and may be dress up a little bit more feminine?

AM: Yes. Sort of tomboyish like in jeans and a top kind of thing again.

JM: Sense of humour? Just thinking about how you get on, how you interact with other players, in your team or outwith the team?

AM: Yeah, I suppose there are, some people obviously have the same sense of humour and other won't. that's a difficult question again because you can't tell what someone is going to find funny. It just sort of applies to anyone really.

JM: Would you recognise that, just thinking about the kind of things that we've talked about, would you recognise women footballers as having a particular identity that may be differs from other sports people, or other women?

AM: Other sports people, and other women?

JM: Would you think that you yourself have quite a strong identity as a woman footballer, and do you think that is different than say may be being a woman that plays netball, or women that...

AM: No I don't think so, I don't think that if I was walking down the street someone would be able to pick me out as a woman footballer, rather than a woman athlete or swimmer or anything else. So, I don't know, I think I just. When you're together in your team I suppose you have quite a strong identity of being a women's team. When you're travelling together and you're all wearing the same tracksuits, things like that, but out with kind of that, I don't think so no.

JM: So out with it not so much, but when you're together would you say that the identity strengthens a little bit?

AM: Well obviously when you're travelling in a team you've kind of got a physical identity, but I don't think you have an identity other than when you're with your team then it's obvious.

JM: Ok, what are the main reasons that you play football?

AM: Fun, fitness, why do I play football? I like it, I'm quite good at it, makes me feel good.

JM: Anything over and above simply like the actual playing of the game, what about the social side?

AM: May be a little bit, not much, I like it for the game. I like the game, probably there is a lot of players who play for the social side, but I'd also say that I'm may be not one of those players who particularly plays for the social side, that doesn't mean that I don't get on with the team mates or anything like that, I do, but the reason I play is, I play for the game.

JM: In the context of your everyday life, what value would you say that football has? If you think, you're not working at the moment are you, but when you were playing, well it still applies to it now, but just day to day living, do you think about football and are you looking forward to the game on Sunday?

AM: Oh yeah.

JM: How much does it impose on...

AM: Well I like, I like to, I like training, so I look forward to training and I like the game, so I look forward to the game.

JM: When you were at work did football offer you anything, you know if you'd had a bad day or something like that, does football offer you any kind of release?

AM: Release? Yeah, I suppose it does, because it totally like takes your mind off stuff, you know? You're just away playing and concentrating on the game, concentrate on your training, and you don't really think about anything else. But I think that may be depends on what type of person you are, that that could apply to any sport or any activity that you're doing, if you're the kind of person that likes to use that sport, or something different, to switch off.

JM: It also depends on, I suppose your job as well, how much satisfaction you've got with your job.

AM: That's right.

JM: There's some people that I've read things on that...

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

JM: In terms of the social aspects, although you say that they're not like first and foremost really, what would you say, what kind of social benefits would you say you get out of football?

AM: What kind of social benefits?

JM: Yeah. I've got a few things written down like friendships, socialising, interaction, sense of community...

AM: Yeah, I would think that you'd get all those things out of playing football. Sense of a team, of being part of a team, certainly at our team you get that, quite a good team spirit our team. Everyone works together, belongs together. Friends and social things like that as well, yeah.

JM: How important are such social aspects to you?

AM: Not as important as the game, the physical training and things like that.

JM: But aside of that are they still important?

AM: Oh they're important yeah. I mean obviously I don't think I'd be able to enjoy my sport if I wasn't getting on with my team mates, if I wasn't having a good time at training and things like that. You know, if there was a bad atmosphere or you didn't get on with players or things like that, I don't think you could enjoy it. So obviously it is important so that you enjoy the rest of the game.

JM: The whole experience?

AM: Good overall experience, yeah.

JM: How about other players, do you think that other players may be find the social aspects much more important?

AM: Probably, may be yeah, they might do, I don't know. May be if that's the case in my team, I certainly think so at some other teams that are playing at may be a lower level than our team is playing at.

JM: But, you've kind of already said this, but you would say that the social aspects are actually part and parcel of being a member of the club, it's not simply the playing football?

AM: Yeah.

JM: Ok. How do you, or how would you feel if you were injured and couldn't train or play in matches?

AM: Hacked off.

JM: Yeah? Why is that?

AM: Because I'm a person who likes to be active and things like that and if I was injured it would do my head in.

JM: Would you still go along and watch? Say matches, not training?

AM: No. It would do my head in.

JM: You wouldn't? You'd have to detach yourself from it would you?

AM: Yeah.

JM: Right ok. You wouldn't even just go along as like support for your team or...

AM: May be but I think if I was injured I would find it difficult to be standing watching everyone else running around.

JM: Have you ever nearly given up playing?

AM: No. Well I had to give up obviously when I was pregnant with my daughter but...

JM: But nothing else at any other time has made you think 'oh, I'm going to stop playing'?

AM: No, well, no. Well I did for a wee while after I'd had Eilidh, I thought 'this is quite good this', but that quickly wore off and I wanted to play again, it only lasted a few weeks.

JM: What do you usually do after training or matches?

AM: Go home.

JM: Just go home?

AM: Yeah. Go home and eat because we train from 6 until 8 and I'm starving!

JM: Do you socialise with other players outside of training and matches?

AM: Players on my team?

JM: Or players on other teams?

AM: I sometimes socialise with players from another team. Not really with players from my team, may be once or twice, or whatever, not a lot. Not like on a regular basis.

JM: Just may be particular events. Like fundraising evenings?

AM: Yeah, I mean we would go to the cinema or something like that, not, you know may be socialise with them, decide that we're going to go and do something together, whatever.

JM: But not like regularly?

AM: No, not like regularly but it's more difficult for me to socialise because I've got my family, and a lot of the others haven't, so obviously I've got other commitments, so I don't perhaps socialise as much as like the others.

JM: How would you feel if you can't make it out socially, if you know something is going on and you can't make it out, do you feel like you're missing out on anything, or have you just got other priorities?

AM: I've got other priorities, I'm not bothered.

JM: So you don't feel like you're missing out on...

AM: No because usually if there's like a fundraiser, or the Christmas night out or whatever, you know I get to go, it's not a problem, but, so it's not a problem.

JM: Just got a term here I'm going to put at you, what do you understand by the term subculture?

AM: Subculture? It's a culture within a culture, something that is below, but not, is that right?

JM: Yeah, it is pretty much. I'll just give you a, just a bigger definition really just to explain it a bit. If we think of it as like a group of people who are brought together by something, and because of that they interact, they share similar characteristics, social meanings and values which in a way makes them distinct to some extent, not totally different, but distinct from the wider culture as a whole. Would you say that there's a sense of being part of or belonging to a subculture of women's football?

AM: I suppose if you put it like that, but then I suppose there's like subcultures that belong to netball, or swimming or to everything, so I suppose it like another kind of community because when you're, you meet lots of people playing football and may be you've been in national squads, different age groups, or you've been playing for a long time and you've may be been at tournaments with another team, you get to know people on other teams. So it does, you know, you always like go to the bar

afterwards and chat to people after a match, and you, so I suppose in a sense there is kind of a little culture within. But I think that same kind of thing may be applies to other sports like may be to hockey, or to volleyball, where you have teams from different areas competing all over the country against each other and things.

JM: Just groups of people are brought together by different sports, different activities, different views on things?

AM: Yeah, and they've all got kind of football in common, or they've all got volleyball or hockey, whatever, in common.

JM: Do you think within women's football, not just thinking in Scotland but generally, there could be even, I'll use to term subculture but do you think you could split it up. You've kind of talked about already how some people like really do it just for the socialising, some people are very serious about their sport, do you think that could split it up further into different subcultures within women's football? People have different values and meanings that they attach to...

AM: I suppose, yeah but I think may be that within teams you can may be, you know, you get people from both those groups. People who are may be doing it to may be better themselves, for fitness, and want to be at their best, and then you still get people who are just there for a laugh, because their pals are, you know, a good way to spend a Sunday afternoon or whatever, you know? I think you can get that even within one team.

JM: Ok. We're pretty much at the end now. Just kind of recapping on some of the main points. What value would you attach to your experiences of playing football? Has it had a lot of importance?

AM: It's had a lot of important because obviously I've spent a lot of time doing it over the years so I've had a lot of experiences, I've met a lot of people that I wouldn't have met, but then you don't know because you might have been doing a different sport, so you don't know, you might have met different people with other things. But certainly I've been to lots of places to tournaments, and obviously when I was in the national squad, to different countries and things like that so I've met some different people, seen different parts of the world, and things like that, made new friends and all that kind of stuff.

JM: So, it's had a lot of importance?

AM: So it's had a lot of importance yeah.

JM: So you would say it's played a significant part in your life?

AM: Yeah, because football has given me the opportunity to meet these people, or see that city, or that country, or whatever.

JM: What is it you enjoy the most about football?

AM: The game.

JM: The actual playing of the game?

AM: The game.

JM: What would you miss the most if you couldn't play?

AM: The game, definitely the game, that's what I would miss, because I was able to train when I was pregnant with Eilidh and it was just the game, I missed the game on the Sunday afternoons.

JM: Just a few things about like present and future plans really. What future plans or hopes do you have in relation to football?

AM: Well I want to keep playing, keep playing for as long as possible. I hoping that when I'm 50 I'm going to be one of those people down at the goals complex on a Monday night running around paying 5-a-sides.

JM: So you expect it to play a part in the rest of your life?

AM: Yeah, I would think it would play a part. I mean also, I also coach so I've got that as well, and I like to go and watch as well.

JM: Do you think that the people that you've met within football will also play an important part in your life?

AM: Yeah, because some of them are like friends so yeah.

JM: What do you think will inevitably make you stop playing aside from say injury?

AM: Make me stop playing? Probably family commitments, like may be my daughter starts doing something which means I can't afford to commit the time, things like that. Other than that, injury, or if I got to the point where I wasn't able to compete at the level that I would want to. You know like if I got really slow or whatever. Sometimes players get to the stage where, you know, they're in agony for days after the game because their body can't take in anymore, I couldn't do that.

JM: Because you would stop enjoying it would you by then?

AM: Yeah, I would stop enjoying it.

JM: Ok, well that's everything, thank you very much.

INTERVIEW 6 - DAWN BROWN 23.01.03
ARBROATH (3RD DIVISION)

JM: Just to start off then, just going to begin by focusing on some background details, just to put your experiences of playing into context, like your family background and things like that. Where were you born and brought up?

DB: Born in Arbroath, but brought up in a village just outside.

JM: Right ok. What about just now, where are you living?

DB: In another village called (?)

JM: How about your family, do you have any brothers and sisters?

DB: One brother and two sisters.

JM: Right, are they older or...

DB: One older sister, a younger sister, and a younger brother.

JM: What about your parents or guardians, what did they, or what do they do for a living?

DB: My mum doesn't work, dad works as an engineer.

JM: An engineer, ok. How old are you just now?

DB: Twenty four.

JM: Twenty four. Where did you go to school?

DB: (?)

JM: Right, and what qualifications did you have from school?

DB: Well (?) and Arbroath Academy. Seven standard grades, four highers.

JM: Do you work at the moment?

DB: Yeah.

JM: Ok, what do you do?

DB: I'm a leisure attendant, and a fitness instructor.

JM: Right, is that in Arbroath?

DB: Yeah.

JM: Have you always done this kind of work since you left school?

DB: Yeah. I went to college for a year though.

JM: Ok, what did you do at college?

DB: Sports Coaching, and I worked as well.

JM: What social class background would you say that you have? Would you say working class, middle class...

DB: Working class.

JM: Working class?

DB: Yeah.

JM: What social class category would you say you are now, do you think it has changed since you got a job and that, or is it still the same?

DB: No, still the same.

JM: What social class category would you say that the typical woman footballer in Scotland would be, generally?

DB: Probably working class.

JM: Working class?

DB: Yeah.

JM: Ok, moving on now to your own experiences of football. What are your earliest memories of experiencing football, whether it's playing or watching, or really informal play when you were younger...

DB: I watched football a lot because my dad likes his football, and then just played with the boys in the park and in the playground.

JM: Right, what kind of age would that be?

DB: Quite young, primary school, well definitely primary school, I'm not sure what age, probably eight or something.

JM: You've just mentioned your dad there, but do either or both of your parents play or watch football?

DB: Mum doesn't really, my dad does.

JM: Is he a big fan?

DB: Big Rangers fan yeah.

JM: What about your brothers and sisters?

DB: My big sister is a Celtic fan, and my brother and other sister are Rangers fans, and they watch the games. They sometimes come along and watch our games as well.

JM: Ok. Do any of them play as well?

DB: No, they play 5-a-sides with us but they don't train or play matches.

JM: Right. So would you say that football has been and still has an important place in your family life?

DB: Yeah probably.

JM: How did you first become involved in playing football?

DB: For my team?

JM: At any level really.

DB: Played football for Standard, for Higher PE back in school. And then did it at college, then signed up for Arbroath in 2000. I'd seen an advert in the paper for the Arbroath team, and I just came along to training.

JM: So Arbroath was your first club? Your first official club?

DB: Yeah.

JM: Who encouraged you to play, did anyone actually push you along or was it just...

DB: I went myself, I wanted to play.

JM: You wanted to play and you looked in the paper?

DB: Yeah.

JM: So how old were you when you first started playing regularly?

DB: For a team, it was 2000, so I was 21.

JM: I was going to ask about other clubs, but it's just Arbroath. Did you play for an actual team at college, or was it just informal?

DB: No, just informal.

JM: What level do you play, are you in the first eleven?

DB: Yeah.

JM: No international representation at all?

DB: No.

JM: So you've been playing for Arbroath for the past three years now?

DB: Yeah.

JM: Ok. We're just going to move on now to get an idea now of what other sports or activities you've been involved in really, throughout school, or just generally. Are there any other sports or activities that you are involved in?

DB: Used to play badminton a lot, but because I play so much football I don't really have much time for my badminton now so.

JM: So that's kind of taken a...

DB: Yeah, well I'm starting back up again, I'm playing this week.

JM: At what kind of level did you play badminton?

DB: We did used to play in a league, but then the team that I used to play for, they folded so that's how I really stopped and started playing football.

JM: So if you start again who are you going to play for?

DB: I'll just go and play with one of the clubs, I don't know if I'll play in the league. It probably would clash with football.

JM: What about at school, what sports did you play at school?

DB: Badminton was about it.

JM: Any team sports?

DB: Basketball or hockey.

JM: What about like PE lessons?

DB: Oh yeah, I did all of that.

JM: What were the sports that were on offer?

DB: Basketball, hockey, we did handball, waterpolo.

JM: Any football?

DB: Yeah, we did do football.

JM: Was it in, did you say standard grade?

DB: Higher.

JM: Higher?

DB: Yeah.

JM: Right, was it provided for all, for girls?

DB: Yeah it was just male and female.

JM: What about in earlier years, like just PE lessons, outside of Higher?

DB: We didn't really do very much football.

JM: Would you say that, although you've said that you've played badminton, would you say that football is at the moment your main sport?

DB: Yeah.

JM: How long has it been your main sport?

DB: Since 2000.

JM: Since you started playing it with Arbroath?

DB: Yeah.

JM: What is it about football in particular that you enjoy?

DB: I don't know....

JM: Yeah, people struggle to pin it down.

DB: I don't know, I just find going to the gym and everything a bit boring. And football involves a team, it's difficult.

JM: Yeah. Do you prefer football than badminton? Although you've played a lot of badminton?

DB: Yeah, probably I do.

JM: Are there any other things that football offers you, just outside of the sport do you think? Outside of the actual playing football that you think makes it more enjoyable than other sports?

DB: Probably because it is outdoors rather than indoors. You can get all messy!

JM: Well we'll kind of come back to that, a few other things that we talk about might generate some more thought about that. Just moving on now to other peoples' influences on you playing football. I've got a list here of people, and groups of people. Just basically asking you what has been the role or influence of these people and why do you think that might be the case? So if you want to just kind of go through them one by one and say whether they've had a positive,

negative, what kind of influence they've had on you playing football, and why that might be the case?

DB: Parents, they've encouraged me to play, well my dad especially, because he likes his football so much. What else did you want me to say?

JM: Just basically why you thought, but you've said that really.

DB: Brother and sisters, they've not really said very much about playing, although they do come along and watch games sometimes. Other relatives...

JM: Aunties, Uncles, Grandparents?

DB: Not really, they've not really encouraged me or anything. They've never said 'don't do it' but they haven't really spoke about it that much. Although my Grandad asks about football.

JM: In what kind of way?

DB: Just asks how you got on, 'did you get beat?' Partner, I don't have one at the moment. Friends, well I'm quite friendly with most the people on the team anyway. All my other friends just don't play football.

JM: What are their reactions to you playing football?

DB: They don't mind me playing, but they just wouldn't play themselves. Peers, what do you mean?

JM: People at work, or may be when you were at school?

DB: There wasn't any, there wasn't like girls football when I was at school. And it wasn't really a big thing when I was at school. So I wasn't really encouraged to play. People at work, I play mostly with the guys at work anyway, we play five-a-sides and everything so. And they, some of them come along and watch our games as well. School, Said that, there wasn't really a girls team, although we did play like in class and that, in PE. Teachers, teachers never encouraged it because there just wasn't a girls team. Coaches, the only coach really would be Cahli's dad, John who's in charge of the team. He encourages you to come back, we're still there now so. Can't think of anyone else.

JM: Just going back to like your parents, just thinking back further now. Just trying to get an idea of how, because you said you've got brothers and sisters. Some research has said that when kids are babies and toddlers parents often dress them differently, in different colours, give them different toys, different games, or treat them differently just based on their sex. Can you, have you got any experience of that, can you remember at all if you were treated differently or dressed differently than from your brother say?

DB: Yeah, I totally was a tomboy when I was younger. I just never wore a skirt, you wouldn't get me out of the house with a skirt on. I always wanted to play football. I asked for cars and tractors for Christmas rather than dolls and prams.

JM: And what were your parents like with that? Were they happy with that?

DB: They were happy with it, yeah.

JM: What about your other and sisters, were they any different from you?

DB: Yeah, they all played with dolls and prams, dressed in pink.

JM: So just thinking about what we've talked about there, overall who would you say has had the most positive and who's had the most negative effect on you being involved in football?

DB: My dad is the most positive, most negative probably had to be at school, because there just wasn't anything, they didn't encourage it at all.

JM: Moving on now to perspectives on women's football. What attitudes have you experienced towards women's football from, for example, the general public or the media?

DB: I don't really know, there isn't really much about women's football, you never really hear about it much. Sometimes on Sky you get the women's games on but not very often. Generally like, the guys, all the guys I know are ok, are like they're quite happy with women playing football. You do get the odd one who says it's a man's game, but they just say that to wind you up.

JM: Anything else? Have you ever experienced any, just any kind of negative attitudes?

DB: No, not really, just like for a laugh someone would say 'it's a guys game, women shouldn't be playing', or 'women's football?' which says that they're obviously not that very good (?) but they just do it to wind you up.

JM: Do you think that attitudes might be changing at all?

DB: Yeah probably, well yeah they have, from when I was at school, to now.

JM: In what way?

DB: Well, there are now more girls teams and women's teams. Although it's not on the television, it's not on the news that often, or in the papers.

JM: Why do you think that might be?

DB: ...

JM: I chatted about this with a couple of other people when I've done interviews, and they were kind of saying that it's just, it depends who prints the papers, who decides what goes in the sports pages.

DB: Probably a lot to do with that. Because there aren't really that very many famous women footballers, you could go on for hours naming male famous footballers.

JM: People just don't know about them do they?

DB: No.

JM: Do you think that any attitudes about, you know that fact that, do you think that Scotland is any different from say England, or elsewhere in Europe, or say the USA, or places like that in terms of kind of attitudes about women's football?

DB: I don't know. Mostly the games that I've seen on Sky have been English games, haven't seen any Scotland games, or Scottish league matches.

JM: How about how popular women's football is and the kind of profile it's got in different countries, do you know much about that?

DB: Not really no.

JM: Ok. Just trying to get an idea there of the fact that in England they're trying to get a professional league, and in America they've started off a professional league, and I was just wondering what you knew about that?

DB: Have they actually started up over there?

JM: Yeah they have done, it's been going for nearly two years now. Because Julie Fleeting from Scotland has gone over there...

DB: To play?

JM: To play over there professionally yeah. A couple of English players have gone over there as well.

DB: That's brilliant.

JM: Yeah, there's like 8 teams I think and there's loads of money it in by media groups, Fox TV, and big media groups. So from that I was just kind of trying to get an idea of whether you think Scotland is a little bit further behind other countries?

DB: By the sounds of things it is now. It's years until, we'll there probably isn't any talk of going professional because we're so far behind.

JM: Well England are trying to get a professional league set up. A couple of seasons ago in Scotland Stenhousemuir were semi-pro for a bit.

DB: Were they?

JM: *Yeah. And a few players in the closed season go to play in Iceland, places like that because they've got a professional league. I think Pauline Hamill is one of them who's done that. So it's very patchy, how it's coming about. Right, next question is, do you think stereotypes are created with regard to women's football?*

DB: Possibly yeah.

JM: *What kind of ideas do people have sometimes?*

DB: Butch women.

JM: *Any other kinds of negative aspects that you hear?*

DB: It's difficult because we don't normally hear the negative things said about women's football. I've never heard it so I can't really say. But I would definitely say that if you say speak to someone about women's football they just expect butch women to, rather than younger and fitter.

JM: *So do think, kind of reflecting on that, do you think that that is accurate, those kinds of stereotypes, or are they just...*

DB: No. Although you do get butch women playing football, you do.

JM: *But it's not all women?*

DB: No not all.

JM: *I think your answer to this is probably going to be no from what you've said, but have certain attitudes towards women's football, you know negative attitudes, things to do with stereotypes and whatever, ever affected yours or anyone else that you know, their participation, has it ever put you off in any way?*

DB: No.

JM: *Why is that, because you haven't experienced it or because you don't care?*

DB: Probably both I think. I don't really care, and I haven't experienced any. Although we had a few girls down doing five-a-sides with us last night and I think they would probably play, but they're quite slim, they're quite petite, and they just think that they'd get bashed about, whereas they wouldn't because there's quite a few players like that.

JM: *Do you know anyone else who's, you know like at similar levels, wanted to play but heard things and it's just put them off? Or, you know, they've had the Mick taken out of them?*

DB: Not that I know of.

JM: *I think this is probably no as well then. Have you ever been discouraged in any way from football?*

DB: No.

JM: *Has anyone ever considered it strange that you play football? You know if you've told someone, what kind of reactions do you get?*

DB: Yeah, my Gran did to start off with, she was like 'play football?'

JM: *Why do you think that might be?*

DB: Probably because in her day football was a man's game and that was it, not anyone else I don't think. Well some people are shocked, like at work, if they say 'do you go to the gym?', and I say 'well not very often, I play football and I prefer to do that', then they go 'oh', and look at you. But they won't make a comment, they'll just be shocked that I obviously play football.

JM: *Why do you think that is?*

DB: May be, may be some people are like, older ones are like, back in their day it was a man's game. It isn't really, I don't think not very many people know about it, that we actually exist.

JM: I actually forgot to ask when we were talking about the media earlier on, I was going to ask what kind of, do you get any coverage in the local media, the local paper?

DB: When our game, like say we play on Sunday, then the following Friday our game is reported in the local Arbroath paper, but that's it.

JM: Is that usually one of you writing a report?

DB: Yeah, the manager would do that.

JM: What about, have you come across anything in the national papers or anything like that, related to women's football?

DB: No.

JM: Moving on now to being a member of a club. Just trying to get an idea of, despite football, would you say there were any particular characteristics that make women footballers a distinct social group?

DB: (?)

JM: I've got another list actually, just kind of like in relation to these kind of things, do you think that you share anything in common with other women football players, or other people in your team? I mean it seems quite vague when you're first looking at it, but if you think of the people in your team, and then other women footballers, what you might share in common with them, compared to other women in society that aren't involved in football. So background is kind of looking at your family background, things like that. Social class is what we've talked about, you've said working class already. If you want to go through those things bit by bit...

DB: Yeah. Probably a lot of the older players have the same sort of background in relation to when we started playing, like there wasn't teams, there weren't like women's teams when we were younger. Whereas the younger ones, Cahli and that, she played in a junior girls team, played in her school team, and there wasn't anything like that. So the older ones, I think their backgrounds would be similar. Status?

JM: That's related to married, single, whatever.

DB: Most of them, most of the team are single, although I was married, I'm now separated. So I don't see anything in common with the rest on that one.

JM: What about outside the team, what kind of feelings do you get generally? Like, women footballers altogether?

DB: I don't really know many players on other teams so I wouldn't be able to say. Social class...

JM: What about people in your team?

DB: What do you mean by that?

JM: Oh sorry, working class, middle class?

DB: Most of my team are from working class backgrounds. Probably like what I said earlier, women who play football are working class, that's what I would say anyway. Occupations, I think there's only myself and one other girl who's in sport. The rest do like office type work.

JM: Right, would you say they were highly paid jobs, or...

DB: Not particularly. Education, do you mean...

JM: Just kind of, you know, do you think, is there a lot that have gone on to university say, or do most go to school and then, is there anything in common there or is there quite a variety?

DB: A lot of our players are still quite young, so they've still to either go to university or whatever. The ones who are older, most of them have just got jobs, I'm

not sure if they've been to college or anything before hand. I think may be one or two has may be been to university.

JM: That's out of, about how many have you got in your team?

DB: Struggling at the moment, probably signed we've got about 15 players. Personalities...

JM: Yeah, when it comes to these kind of things people are like, from the interviews I've done so far, they're kind of like 'well we've all got a different personalities', but they I say, well compare it with the football lot, and then when you're with other girls or whatever, and they start to realise that they're similar in certain ways, or, I don't want to put words into your mouth, but they talk about the banter that goes on, sense of humour things like that so...

DB: Yeah, I think generally in the team, we're all kind of similar, same personality, same sort of personality, the carry on, the jokes. But we've got the quieter ones, and the livelier ones, but even the quieter ones still come and have a joke. There are a few who are tomboys, and you can tell that straight away, but most of them on our team are quite girly.

JM: In what ways?

DB: I'm trying to think who's on my team. Well there's a few who wear skirts for example, and a few who would only wear jeans, tracksuit bottoms, whatever. The ones, same folk who wear the skirts would be the ones who wear the make-up, people who wear the jeans don't wear so much make-up.

JM: Is there any particular, you know, is there any that are more common than others?

DB: Probably half and half.

JM: Right ok, is that related to age in any way?

DB: No, I think it's spread. Attitudes, is that related to playing?

JM: Difficult one this one, I don't know why I put it in actually. I think it's more related to your attitudes about playing football, things like that. Attitudes towards, you know, what it means to you, how important it is?

DB: I think most of the team all kind of committed to their football. We play football, some days at training on Thursday, and play five-a-sides like once a week as well so it's three days of the week, well three nights or days of the week we actually play football. Although there are some who only turn up when they can be bothered, come to training may be once a month, may be play once a month. But most of the team are quite committed to football. Style?

JM: Yeah, that's kind of related to the sorts of things you've said already, like appearance wise and things like that.

DB: And clothes, most of the team...

JM: If you compare say your team to other women you know say, may be work wouldn't be the best because it's kind of sport related again, but outside of sport?

DB: They would be, they're more informal I would say. Generally they're, don't come in high heels! Tracksuit bottoms or jeans. Sense of humour, most of us have got a similar sense of humour.

JM: What kind of interaction is there between you, like when you're all together as a team?

DB: Everyone gets on really well, the banter is really good, and we'll wind each other up, and it's not taken, it is taken seriously when it has to be but, that's why I think everyone joins in because it's not serious.

JM: Right, kind of relating to those things, we've finished with that list now, we have done them all haven't we?

DB: Yeah.

JM: Would you say that women footballers have a particular identity or do you think, that is different from other sports, or other women. We've kind of talked about it in relation to that. But do you think you can tell that someone plays football, you know, would you recognise someone else?

DB: Probably not, I don't think so. There's a few girls on my team, the girlie ones, who you would never think they would play football, you wouldn't think it would be their sport but...

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

JM: Yeah, just certain identities?

DB: You could probably tell if someone was.

JM: You can with some though can't you?

DB: Yeah you can, definitely with some you can, but there are a few I wouldn't say that, like you'd never expect to play football, but obviously they do.

JM: Ok. Kind of going back now, now we've talked about a few other things, what are the main reasons why you play football?

DB: To keep fit.

JM: To keep fit?

DB: Yeah, and socialising.

JM: Ok, what would you say is the most important to you there?

DB: Keeping fit, because I don't enjoy going to the gym or anything like that.

JM: In the context of your everyday life, thinking about your job ecetera, job satisfaction and things like that, what does football offer you?

DB: Well I need to be fairly fit for my job anyway so that relates to that. I do, I am qualified to coach football so it helps there, like running skills and doing drills and everything. I can talk about the games and everything with the guys from work. They play on Sunday as well, most of the guys from work play, they'll ask about my games and I'll ask about their games.

JM: Some of the other players have been saying, you know, they just love when they've had a bad day at work just going and kicking the ball...

DB: Yeah, that's good.

JM: Yeah? In what ways?

DB: Taking all the stress out on the football, you feel good once you've trained. Go there miserable and can't be bothered, but as soon as you get a ball you're happy.

JM: Do you find thinking about football when you're at work and throughout the week when you're not training?

DB: Yeah, I do think about football. I watch football a lot as well, if there's football on the TV I'll watch it. I'd rather watch football than the news or whatever!

JM: How about, do you reflect on the game and stuff, when you're, do you just shut off after a match or training, or do you think about it the next day.

DB: No, I think about it and speak about it a lot too, like I said, with the guys from work, my Dad, or my Gran, whoever might ask.

JM: So, kind of going back to the social side, I think you mentioned it's one of the reasons why you're playing, would you say that it was anything over and above simply playing football, being part of a club? Or is it just the football that you're all there for?

DB: No it's, we go out like for a night out with football as well, like me and Cahli will go out a lot. So it is quite a lot to do with the social side and the socialising.

JM: How often do you go out with other players?

DB: Well we normally if we're out on the town we'd meet up or whatever. We may be wouldn't arrange it all the time, just sometimes meet up when we're out. We try and have a night out, get everyone together for a social. Trophy night is good fun.

JM: How would you describe the social aspects then, of being a club member? I've got a few things just jotted down, friendships, socialising, interaction, a sense of community, things like that.

DB: Yeah well, a few of them on the team are say, are friends, like if any of them are going through a rough time then I know where they are and they know where I am as well. Socialising, we'd go out for a drink or meet up when we're out.

JM: What about may be not you with other players, what about friendships, or whatever between other players in the team. Not necessarily, sorry, you know you're saying you're friends with one or two, is there like other players in the team that are always like best mates or whatever?

DB: Not really, I think everyone just came on their own. I'm trying to think who came down. Cahli did, and Lisa, and may be a few ???

JM: Is it quite a new team?

DB: Yeah, well it's only been since 2000, the rest, there are three girls came from Forfar, who used to play for the Forfar team, so they've always been quite friendly. We've got one from Montrose who plays, one from Stonehaven who plays, so they've kind of come individually, we've not come in groups.

JM: Do you think there's like a sense of community at all between your team, saying about team spirit and that?

DB: It is, we have got a quite high team spirit. We've not had a game for a while and with John leaving and everything. But once next season starts, we're even in training now, the training is much better and everyone's perkier and carrying on, laughing, joking the way it used to be, so it's good.

JM: Have all the players stayed together though, no one's left the club?

DB: No one's left.

JM: How important would you say then that the social aspects, like friendships and socialising and that are to you?

DB: To me? Very important, most important for me.

JM: What about other players?

DB: I think most of them just enjoy playing football, and the fitness part, socialising as well. They wouldn't, I don't think the Forfar lot would come through to Arbroath, and we wouldn't go through to Forfar because it's just like too expensive, and like Montrose and Stonehaven. But the ones from Arbroath, socialise with them.

JM: I'm trying to get some kind of indication really of, from like the Premiership teams, the balance between socialising and really concentrating on the football at a higher standard, whether that changes at all the further down the league you get, but it's difficult to say since this is the first interview from outside the Premier League. To what extent would you say that the social aspects then are an important part of being a member of a club?

DB: What do you mean?

JM: Do you think, I mean if a player came a long and was just totally dead focused on football and didn't really interact that much with the rest of the team, would they fit in?

DB: If it was just that they wanted to play football and not mix with anyone then it would probably be really difficult, because we are quite friendly, we do all get on well. There's no bitchiness or anything like that, we're all very open with each other. I think if someone came along like that, it would be really difficult.

JM: So would you say the social aspects are quite an important part?

DB: Yeah I think so.

JM: Kind of like, these are 'what if' kind of questions at the moment, but how would you feel if you were injured and can't train or play in matches, would you still go along?

DB: I was injured last season.

JM: How did you feel?

DB: Really bad, just wanted to get on and play. I tore the ligaments in my ankle, and damaged my calf muscle so it was quite a bad one. So I was out for about, well before I could kick a ball, it was about 3 months, so that was quite difficult. Because of my work I saw the physio as well, because I work for the council, they paid for me to go to a physio to get treatment, but it is quite difficult to go and watch the games. Training, if I wasn't, I wouldn't go out of my way to go to the training sessions, but I would, if I was in Arbroath or whatever I would go down and see.

JM: Is that just to be involved then in the social side of it really?

DB: Yeah, it is yeah.

JM: Have you ever nearly given up playing, I know you've not been playing for that long?

DB: Not really.

JM: Have you ever thought, 'oh I've had enough of this'?

DB: When we first started, we used to get hammered all the time. We still get beat just now because we can just never get a team. And I thought to start off with, I'm not wasting a whole Sunday to get hammered, you know, to get hammered every week. But the more and more you get involved in a team, you just want to keep going. You just want to get better, it's more encouraging to play well.

JM: Do you think the fact that you all get on well is a big thing in that?

DB: Yeah, it really is. If there was bitchiness or such and such didn't speak to such and such, it would cause an atmosphere and then you wouldn't want to get involved. But everyone does get on, we all encourage each other.

JM: So, if you kind of think, say you were thinking 'oh I don't really want to play any more', would you say that the social side, the fact that you get on, is pretty strong enough to convince you not to, whereas if you were in a team where people weren't getting on and the social side wasn't that high it'd be easier to leave?

DB: Yeah.

JM: What do you usually do after training or matches?

DB: Go home for a bath.

JM: Do you go out at all with other players?

DB: Yeah, we, after our games we go back to the pub and have some sandwiches, drinks and whatever.

JM: Is it usually a big night or...

DB: No just may be for an hour. Training we, well we train just beside the pub so sometimes after that we'll go there.

JM: Would you say that's an important part of being in a team as well, the fact that you do that rather than just...

DB: I think so, because if we were just to leave after the game I don't think everyone would get on as well with each other as what we do, because we just speak to everyone, asking what they've got up to.

JM: I've kind of asked this but do you socialise with other players outside of training and matches?

DB: Yeah.

JM: What does that usually involved? Just going out or going round to each others houses?

DB: Yeah, I would go and (?), play five-a-sides.

JM: In terms of like the friends that you hang about with just in general, not just football ones, how many are kind of football related, or have you got a lot of friends outside of football?

DB: Most of my friends are outside of football, just from school, work, or whatever, most of them aren't involved in football. Well the women don't, but the guys, all the guys have some involvement with football, whether it's just a Sunday pub team or Saturday team.

JM: How would you feel if say you couldn't make it out socially with other members?

DB: If they were all going out and I couldn't?

JM: Yeah.

DB: Gutted.

JM: Why?

DB: Because I'd missed a night out. It's be annoying because they'd all be talking about, well it wouldn't be annoying, but I just would feel left out, because they'd all be talking about it and wouldn't know what they were talking about. Yeah I would, a trophy night in particular.

JM: So thinking back like on what we've been saying then, is the social side of the club more important to you now, when you think about it, is it more or not?

DB: Probably yeah.

JM: Would you say it was just like part and parcel, like football brings you together, and the social side is...

DB: I don't believe it's like this in all teams though. I don't believe all teams get on as well as what most of our players do, all our players get on well. I think other teams, I mean if I was to go to say Carnoustie and play, I think I would probably find it difficult.

JM: What, is that just your experience of seeing them interact with each other?

DB: Yeah, they're just in groups here, a group there.

JM: A bit cliquey?

DB; Yeah.

JM: I'm going to ask you what you understand by a term, doesn't matter if you don't understand it, because I've got a definition, but have you ever come across the term subculture?

DB: No.

JM: No? Basically what it is is, you regard a subculture as a group of people who all get brought together for a certain reason and they interact, they share similar characteristics, social meanings and values, and those things make them in some way distinct from the wider culture to some extent. Would you say that there is any sense of a subculture of women's football?

DB: Yeah. Well, yeah I would, definitely.

JM: In what ways?

DB: Just basically everything that we've said before. You could tell mostly if someone played football. Don't know about sense of humour though.

JM: Just the kind of things that you might have a carry on about with your football lot, would you have a carry on with other people, your other friends, about similar things?

DB: No, probably sense of humour is sort of different.

JM: In what ways?

DB: Well probably what we would find funny in the dressing room, my mates probably wouldn't find funny in the pub, or when we're at the pictures or whatever.

JM: What about outside the team, would you say that women's football in general is, could you call it a subculture in the way that it is slightly different from wider culture, you know, can you define it, can you see it there?

DB: Probably, but I don't know how you would describe it.

JM: Here's just some ideas, although you might be within one team, but you might go to another team say and still fit in the same, because you've got the same kind of, you expect the same kind of meanings and values and characteristics of the people there, and so in that respect, you know, is it just a subculture within the team, or is it like throughout women's football that you're going to get these kind of common...

DB: I think it would be throughout women's football.

JM: And would you say that women's footballers then in that way are a distinct from women in society?

DB: Yeah, I would say so.

JM: Some of the others have said that although they've obviously got the team, they've got a lot of contacts, it's like a network because they know a lot of players in other teams.

DB: I don't really know very many in other teams.

JM: That might be related to how long you've played.

DB: I think it is yeah.

JM: Ok, just basically finishing off now. To recap then what values and meanings would attach to your experiences of playing football, what value would you say it has had in your life? What importance has it had?

DB: It is important, I mean 60% of what I do outside of work is football, whether I'm watching it, whether I'm playing, having training in fives, watching a game on TV.

JM: So would you say it plays, at the moment, it plays a significant part in your life?

DB: Yeah.

JM: What do you enjoy about it the most?

DB: It's either going to be enjoying the keeping fit part of it, or the banter side of it, having a giggle, helps you destress from work. But probably mostly, I probably enjoy keeping fit, and I enjoy playing.

JM: If say tomorrow you were told you weren't able to play football again how would you feel?

DB: Gutted. Really gutted.

JM: Would you ever give up football do you think to play any other sport other than football?

DB: No, not now. May be to start off with when I had just started playing, I would've probably, I could've probably easily gone back to badminton, but not now.

I'd go back and play but I wouldn't go back and play in a league, it would be too much, football and badminton.

JM: Do you think there's difference in the fact that badminton is more individual, although you're in a club, I'm not saying that there is, but do you think that there is any difference between the fact that it's a team sport football, whereas badminton is more individual?

DB: Yeah probably because, I think I would probably take badly to going back to badminton. Because of the fact that it would seem, I probably wouldn't enjoy it as much because the people I'd play with older. And they're not as, trying to think of a word, as lively I think, they're not as lively and probably wouldn't, I probably wouldn't enjoy my badminton as much as I enjoy football.

JM: What would you miss the most from football if you didn't play it again?

DB: The games, training, and all the people that play, and seeing them all, the carry on.

JM: Just very final questions now. What plans do you have for the future in relation to football?

DB: Carry on playing for as long as I can. Try and keep fit and just get fitter and play better.

JM: Would you try and get to a higher league, stuff like that, or would you be happy just to stay with the team that you're with?

DB: I'm happy where I am, I just do it more for fun, I don't take it too seriously, I enjoy it more for fun. I don't think I could ever leave the team and go to another team, in our league anyway.

JM: But if you got the chance to, you know, if you got better and thought 'right I can make it into the higher league', what would you do?

DB: That's difficult. I would find it hard, because I would probably find it hard going into another team, to start off with anyway, I could get used to it. I wouldn't say I wouldn't do it but I'd have to think really hard about it.

JM: What part do you expect football to play in the rest of your life, you know, even when you've finished playing, would you still be involved in some form or another?

DB: Well, if I'm still doing the job I'm doing now then yeah because I could like coach. I've got two little nieces and nephews who want to start playing football.

JM: Could you see yourself going into coaching with women's football teams?

DB: Well we were just thinking about that today, may be starting up a girls, like after, we've got after school classes, so one of the classes which is basketball only has 5 kids in it and so we were speaking about may be getting a girls team, or a girls class or whatever, put on some coaching for them. May be I'd do that.

JM: What do you think is going to be the thing that is likely to stop you from playing football?

DB: An injury, that would probably be the only thing that would stop me.

JM: Not saying you're any where near it but like just when you get older and you didn't feel like your fittest?

DB: Yeah.

JM: I'm not saying it's soon though anyway! There's people I've interviewed that are like 'when I'm 45 I'll still be playing' it's great.

DB: Yeah there are a few older people in our league.

JM: But do you think it would be like the physical side of it that would stop you playing?

DB: Yeah probably, injuries.

JM: Ok, anything else that you'd like to add at all?

DB: I think that's it.

INTERVIEW 6 - CAHLI LAIRD ON 23/01/03
ARBROATH (3rd DIVISION)

JM: Right we'll start by focusing on some background details to put your experiences in context a bit, just to do with your family and stuff like that. So where were you born and brought up?

CL: I was born in Arbroath and brought up here.

JM: Right and just now, you're still in the same house that you...

CL: No, what house was I in, I was in Granwell Drive, St Mirrens Crescent, and the here.

JM: Right, but it's all within Arbroath?

CL: Yeah, all within Arbroath.

JM Right, how about your family, do you have any brothers or sisters?

CL: No, just me.

JM: Just you, ok. Your parents or guardians, what did they do, or do they still do, for a living?

CL: My dad, he's like, he works for William Clarke, he's like a lorry driver with them, he goes around delivering stuff. And mum is a domestic up at the hospital, she does cleaning and things like that.

JM: Ok, how old are you just now?

CL: Seventeen.

JM: Ok, so you're still at school?

CL: Yeah.

JM: Which school are you at?

CL: Arbroath Academy, just down the road.

JM: Right. What qualifications have you got so far? And what are you doing in school?

CL: Well, my standard grades and stuff?

JM: Yeah.

CL: Well I've got four 3s and three 2s, in Maths, English, French, PE, Modern Studies, RS, and Chemistry.

JM: Right, and what are you doing just now?

CL: And just now I'm doing three Highers, Biology, English and PE.

JM: Right ok. What are you hoping to do?

CL: Go to Dundee college and do a sports coaching course, fingers crossed anyway.

JM: What kind of course is that?

CL: I don't know, it's kind of like a sports coaching and development.

JM: Right, is it like a...

CL: HNC, and then HND, then hopefully go university and get a degree hopefully.

JM: Have you worked at all as well?

CL: yeah, I've had a job at the library, and I'm currently working in Semi-Chem.

JM: Right, so that's just part-time?

CL: Yeah.

JM: What social class background would you say that you've had? Would you say working class, middle class, upper class?

CL: Probably working class yeah.

JM: What, based on your parents jobs?

CL: Yeah.

JM: And the area that you're...

CL: Probably, I don't know may be sort of in between middle and working class.

JM: Working to middle class?

CL: Yeah.

JM: What about women's football in general, do you think that women's footballers tend to be either working class, working to middle, do you get any from like upper class backgrounds?

CL: Sometimes though, you look at folk and you think 'what a snob', and you think 'you're so up on yourself', but I would say probably more working to middle class as well. I would say so anyway.

JM: Yeah, just from your experiences of playing?

CL: Just on my experience I think, from the people that I know that play and stuff.

JM: Do you think that's related to you know, just people that are interested in football...

CL: Probably just their spare time and stuff I would say, that's what I would say anyway.

JM: Yeah. Right moving on to your experiences of football just now. What are your earliest memories of experiencing football, whether it's playing or watching or, just kicking around when you were 3 or 4?

CL: Probably just kicking around with my dad, in the back garden, down at the park, just kicking everything and anything really, that moved.

JM: At what age? As long as you can remember?

CL: Probably, probably may be four or five, just kicking about.

JM: Have you been, did you watch football as well?

CL: I used to go to like nearly every Arbroath game when I was little. Supposedly I went to a game when I was like, well a baby, I was taken to a game, obviously I don't remember, but I was taken to it.

JM: Has it mainly just been your dad then, or what about just playing in the streets with other kids or things like that?

CL: I used to play with one of my mates up here, we used to have a kick about in the street and kick it in folks gardens. Mainly it was with my dad because we used to go to the park, or even in the front garden, just be kicking about and that.

JM: Do either both of your parents play or watch football?

CL: My dad usually plays, my mum just stands and goes 'yeah, come on!' in support sort of thing.

JM: What about supporting football sides things like that? Just Arbroath like you said?

CL: Arbroath and Rangers.

JM: Right, and you haven't got any brothers or sisters have you?

CL: No.

JM: Ok. So would you say that football has been or still has an important place in your family life? Not just yours, but just generally in your family?

CL: Yeah. Well my uncle and that, they're into football, but I don't really see my dad, well not much anymore, and I would say yeah. My Gran and everyone, everybody's interested in what I'm doing in football so, and even in general, like the Old Firm.

JM: Kind of like a footballing family?

CL: yeah, everybody likes it, sort of thing.

JM: How did you first become involved in actually playing football then, did you play at school?

CL: Yeah, I used to play for my school team, primary school team, King's Head, and then I got asked to join BYC Carnoustie when I was about 8 years old, that's the first team I started to play with.

JM: Is that a girls team?

CL: Yeah, that's the first team I started playing with.

JM: And then, so that was primary school, did you play at secondary school?

CL: I'm still playing at secondary school yeah.

JM: Have you been playing all the way through?

CL: I've just played from like, at the beginning at primary school we weren't really, girls weren't allowed to play football. The (?) master didn't allow you to have a girls football team because girls can't play football, but we kind of proved them wrong, and we built the team up.

JM: Ok, so the first club you played for was BYC Carnoustie, how long were you with them?

CL: A good few years I reckon, probably three years or something.

JM: And then?

CL: And then I moved to Inchcape Strollers.

JM: And then?

CL: And that moved from like under 12s, and I moved up to under 16s, and then they disbanded and then we became Arbroath Ladies that we are just now.

JM: Who encouraged you to play at first really, to get involved in it?

CL: I think it was just myself, because I had such an interest in it, I was just playing all the time, just wanted to just keep kicking the ball.

JM: How did you find out about BYC Carnoustie?

CL: It was through the school, yeah they were saying 'oh there's this Carnoustie team, you should maybe try and go along there', so I got my dad to take me through. And then I just started training with them then playing the league games.

JM: Who was it who ran the team at your primary school?

CL: Mr Pritchard.

JM: Was he just one of the teachers?

CL: Yeah, he was the Headmaster, he still is actually.

JM: Right, ok. So when you first started playing regularly in the team, that was quite young then wasn't it?

CL: Yeah.

JM: About 8 did you say?

CL: About 8 or 9 yeah.

JM: Right, so were you playing like actual matches and stuff like that?

CL: Yeah. It was like 7-a-side games.

JM: Against other girls teams in the area?

CL: Yeah, against like from all over, not really from like the Glasgow area, just like, more like Angus, and maybe Aberdeen occasionally.

JM: Right. At what level do you play at the moment? Are you in the first eleven?

CL: Yeah.

JM: Mind you, I've heard that you've only got about 15 of you!

CL: Och, sometimes not even that, sometimes about 8 or something, it's terrible!

JM: So you're in the first eight!

CL: Yeah, something like that!

JM: How about, have you done any regional or international kind of representation?

CL: I've played for my, I've played for Tayside, I don't know what that is...

JM: Regional?

CL: Yeah, region yeah.

JM: When was that?

CL: That was about, not sure exactly when that would be, about 4 or 5 years ago, with a few other lassies from other teams, like in Perth and stuff. We went up to Aberdeen and played a tournament up there.

JM: How long have you been playing for Arbroath then, well it was a different team before, different name wasn't it?

CL: Yeah, well it was Inchcape Strollers, but as Arbroath Ladies we've been running for about 2 years, 2 ½ years now.

JM: Right, just going to move on now to just like sports in general, just to get an idea of other sports you might have been involved in. What other sports or activities have you been involved in?

CL: Probably like at school it'd be like badminton, basketball, hockey.

JM: Were they the sports that they offered in lessons?

CL: Yeah, there were loads of other sports clubs, I didn't really go to them, it was just mainly basketball and hockey, things like that I'm interested in anyway.

JM: Ok. Is it more team sports than individual sports then?

CL: Yeah, I would say more team sports.

JM: Why do you think that might be?

CL: I don't know, sometimes I like being in single sports, I'm a competitive person, and I want to win always. But like in a team, it's kind of like, you're giving other people confidence, like if they're not as good as you are you can guide them, and you feel good in yourself, because you've helped somebody else. That's another reason why I like being in a team better, I don't prefer being on my tod and doing it myself, it's just kind of the mixture.

JM: So what about now, outside of school, what sports outside of school, do you play any others or is it just football?

CL: I play badminton outside of school.

JM: What kind of level is that, is it just recreational or...

CL: Just a laugh, just a giggle now and then.

JM: I've asked a lot of these, a lot of these are like, did you play football at school and that, because a lot of the people aren't still at school. So when you are actually at school, like at the moment as well, have you got a school team that plays?

CL: No we don't play regularly, the teachers, we've really got to approach the teachers and say 'right, we've got a tournament coming up, a friendly coming up or...'

JM: So is it mainly friendlies and tournaments, rather than a league as well?

CL: At one point there was going to be a league, but it never actually materialised, don't know why that was.

JM: Is there quite a lot of interest at school?

CL: Not really, there is, you get like the lassies that come along for the sake of it really, they couldn't really kick a ball to save themselves but they try, and it's just extra bodies really.

JM: Right. So would you say that football is and has been your main sport?

CL: Yep, for sure.

JM: What is it in particular about football that you enjoy?

CL: Just, I don't know, everything, the winning, well kind of, and just like being involved in the team. It's a good feeling like when you win, like when we won our first game it was like, just everybody was as high as a kite, and it was just the best

feeling. But then when we're getting beat we just try and keep each other going. But I'd say it was just kind of everything, there's no real any particular part of it.

JM: Just the whole package?

CL: Yeah.

JM: Why is it more attractive to you than other sports?

CL: Probably because it's been in the family, just family influence, and my dad, who would be constantly kicking a ball, and if my uncle was down he'd be kicking a ball.

JM: So it's just something that's natural?

CL: Yeah, just loved it from when I was young.

JM: I've just got a list just here now. Moving on to other people's influences on you playing football. You've kind of mentioned your dad already, but if you could just like go down through these one by one and just give me an idea of what kind of role they've had on you participating in football, and why you think they might have had that attitude as well.

CL: My parents. They've just given me 100% support from like day one. Siblings, don't have any. Other relatives, like my uncle, if he was down we'd have a laugh, a kick-about with my dad. So they've been helpful as well, even my grandparents, they'd even have a wee ball bought for me. A wee soft one so I could kick around the garden when I was little.

JM: Actually, I'll just cut in here as well, in terms of parents and stuff like that, and grandparents, there is research saying about how, you can't actually compare to if you've got any brothers or sisters or anything like that, but when you were young, the way that you were dressed and things like that, and toys that you were given, ways you were treated, were you particularly treated as, you know, some girls are always dressed in pink, given dolls and things like that, what experiences did you have when you were younger?

CL: I was constantly in a football kit, trackie bottoms, trainers, never really wore dresses or, I did obviously when I was like a baby, but once I started being able to walk and things I was always be in, always be in a football kit. I would have cars, the odd doll, turtle figures, I was kind of a bit of a tomboy when I was wee, but that's just the way I am. But I've always been like that, I'd get cars for my birthday, footballs, just things like that.

JM: Right, just carrying on through that then.

CL: My friends. I used to play with my friends when I was little, I still play with my friends now, at school especially, and even on my team, I've made good friends on my team, with them.

JM: So they've all been supportive, or positive?

CL: Yeah.

JM: Any friends that, you know, thought it was strange or funny?

CL: No. Most of my friends, well my girlfriends anyway, like they play, or they used to play for us, and they've gone on to other teams, or gone on to college and play for college teams or something, just different things like that. People at school, I've got a girl who plays for Carnoustie just now, and she mocks us a bit because we're always losing, she's in the same league, she's from Carnoustie, but she's always interested, she just tells us to keep going, keep our heads up, so that's kind of a positive thing. School, it's just been there really, football has always been there at school, so I've just gone along whenever I can. And if they've got no-one there, if(?).

JM: Is there any teachers that are, you know, particularly positive about football, or particularly negative about girls playing football?

CL: Well Miss Mitchell, she has just recently left the school, but she was like the person who ran the team.

JM: Was she a PE teacher or...

CL: Yeah she was a PE teacher, and she was always trying to get girls in, even people that would come regularly to get people to, to just encourage them and say 'look, just come along, it'll be a laugh and fun'. So she was probably the most influential at school for me. Another teacher, Miss McKinley, she's like fill-in now, she's doing the football, she's taken over, and she's kind of the same but she's a bit laid back about it, she's not really bothered about what kind of goes on, well she does sometimes.

JM: So the school in general, what kind of attitude do they have towards...

CL: A good attitude towards girls football now, probably more so than the boys. I mean you hardly ever see the boys, I never see the boys having a kick-about.

JM: Really?

CL: It's always the girls yeah, that's what I see anyway.

JM: Do you play it in like PE lessons and stuff like that?

CL: Yeah.

JM: You did, it wasn't just like extra-curricular?

CL: No, you got to play it like, you'd not get it now so much in Higher, you don't get it at all actually, but in Standard Grade and first and second year, you were always kicking a ball, always playing football. And the girls were like 'oh I can't do this, I'll break a nail', but some of the lassies that got interested in it and wanted to get stuck in came on.

JM: It's changed since my day.

CL: Coaches, basically my coach will just be my dad, and this guy called Dave Beattie, they've been supportive and just basically just tell you to keep going. You know if you're losing or, just to keep your head up and keep going. They always been, both of them have been positive towards football. Other people, I'm not sure...

JM: Just try and think if there was anyone in particular that doesn't quite fall into those categories.

CL: Yeah, no not really just those.

JM: What about any negative influences or attitudes towards football?

CL: Well, when we would, there was one point we were trying to do some fundraising and get some money for the club. And my mum and a few other people from the team were at Gayfields, that's our local football team's ground. They were down there collecting money, just like at the door after the gate bit as you go in. And guys were just coming up and saying 'oh women's football, it's a waste of time, who would want to spend money on that rubbish, can't even kick a ball, they don't even know the rules'. You know stuff you really don't want to hear because it obviously gives another impression on somebody else, and they say 'oh yeah, you're right'. Then that may be, it could change what goes on, so we don't really need that kind of negative stuff, I believe the positive stuff.

JM: But I mean a lot of those kind of attitudes are through ignorance as well, I mean they've never actually...

CL: Exactly, never actually seen girls play football. I remember one time I actually went on to Gayfield at half-time and one point and played like a 3 minute, 5 minute game, and everybody was like cheering, and then you come off and you still hear attitudes like 'you can't kick a ball', it's quite sad, it's not fair really. Women's football, I think, needs more publicity than it gets.

JM: Yeah, we'll be moving on to that in a minute.

CL: Oh sorry.

JM: No, it's alright, I'm not going to stop you but we will be actually, pretty much now, but just reflecting on those things before we finish that one, who would you say has had the positive and who's had the most negative affect on you being involved in football?

CL: My dad probably the most positive, and I really honestly cannot think of anybody that's been negative.

JM: That's fine. Yeah, that's basically it from there cheers. Right. moving on to perspectives on women's football now. What attitudes then, you've kind of mentioned one, but what attitudes have you experienced with women's football from just the general public or the media, things like that, the general attitudes.

CL: General attitudes, I would probably say, probably most people would be positive towards it. Because like when we're training, you get the beeps in the cars and like 'hey!' and waving, and may be that's a positive thing, I don't know. But then we get phone calls and the press has like put out ads. You get the odd phone call from women that want to play but there's not really very much negative that we receive like personally as a club, not really, it's just like mainly silly comments at the football games.

JM: What generally do you think in the media and stuff do you think, the media's attitude towards women's football, newspapers, television?

CL: Well I would say you only way that you would get like women's media coverage is like to put it in the paper. Because they wouldn't come to you and say right we've got you. Like some other clubs, like bigger clubs they'd go to them and say 'do you want a match report' and stick it in the paper. We've got to actually do it ourselves, they wouldn't come to us and say.

JM: Do you get much coverage in the local papers, press around here?

CL: Sometimes, if we've had a good game, we'll obviously put in a report to show that we're doing ok, but if we've had a pretty pants game then we usually kind of don't because that gives like a bad part of our team, and folk would say 'why do you want to go and play for that team, when they're playing so badly?' But we do when we've had a good game.

JM: What do you think just about generally, women's football in general, rather than just your own team. Like, national papers and things like that, are you aware of what kind of coverage?

CL: I have never in my life seen anything to do with women's football in a paper before in my life. No. The only time I've seen it is in may be a weekly newsletter that you get from the SWFA and that's obviously all about women's football, I've never seen anything in the paper about women's football.

JM: Well part of my research really is that whenever there is something in the papers, to kind of grab it. What you do tend to find, with like the Herald and the Scotsman, although it's starting to change, it's pretty much always the national squad if something is going on there, and a lot of the other times, when there's an article on women's football it's in like the features section, or in the women's section of the paper, and not in the sports pages. Why do you think that is?

CL: Well I think everybody's got such a attitude that women can't play football, I think that, that's me personally, I think they think 'well it's just women, what can they do? They're only good for being in the house, they can't be out playing football, and doing man's things.'

JM: Do you think a lot of people still have that attitude?

CL: May be not so much now, but probably like (?) they go on and stuff.

JM: Do you think it's more older people now that have that attitude?

CL: Yeah, old people are like 'oh women, kitchen!'

JM: It's kind of related, but have attitudes, do you think, changed at all over time, and why might this be the case?

CL: Well at one point we had a guy, can't remember how old he was, must have been in his 70s, and he came along and he was willing to coach us, and that was him like willing to help out a women's team. So may be like, over the years and as time goes on and more people will start to change and think 'women can play football' even sometimes better than men. So I'm hoping that it does change as we move on.

JM: Just thinking about the kind of attitudes you're saying about 'women should be in the kitchen', things like that, do you think they're particular to Scotland, or do you think, you know, you get the same sort of attitudes in England, or in the rest of Britain, and then try and think further afield like may be European countries, women's football there, and in America and China?

CL: Well like, for women, I mean on Sky, you would get the odd women's game, like Arsenal v Fulham, but the only Scotland game we've seen would be Scotland, actual national team. So you don't even get any of the like clubs in the Premier Division or anything like that. I think it's, in England it probably gets more of a push from like your men at Arsenal and your Fulham and teams like that. I don't think it is so much up in Scotland.

JM: Yeah we actually, chatted with a couple of other people about it, they were saying how they thought it was more to do with money that women's football isn't encouraged in Scotland, like when they compared it to England, rather than attitudes. But it's quite interesting when you say, well Rangers and Celtic are the most prosperous clubs, but they haven't got women's football teams.

CL: Exactly.

JM: So is it money or attitudes?

CL: I don't know, I, may be it's going to be a mixture. Not many men's teams don't want to part with their precious money to give to these little women that want to run about in the park for 90 minutes.

JM: Because you could imagine really that if Celtic and Rangers said 'right, we're going to put money into a women's football team', the amount of girls that would want to run out in a Rangers or Celtic strip...

CL: Thousands, millions! I'd be one of them, that's for sure.

JM: But yeah, so we've also talked about how sometimes it's the lower league clubs, the smaller clubs like Inverness Cally, East Kilbride, trying to think of any others, that actually take women's football on board and incorporate it into the set up.

CL: The thing is may be, lower clubs don't even have as much money, so may be it is to do with attitude.

JM: May be it's like the sense of community in smaller clubs, that they see women spectators and women players as an important part of the club, whereas Rangers and Celtic, it's money driven.

CL: I mean that was like us. When we went to Arbroath to begin with they were like 'yeah, come aboard, we can get everything you want, changing facilities, we can do goals, we can do this, we can do that', promises that we never, ever, ever got. We got changing rooms in about 6 months, same with goals, then that was it.

JM: Why?

CL: They wanted nothing to do with us. They just didn't want anything to do with us. And supposedly Arbroath had got money, and supposedly when they gave us the

kits and everything and they said 'right, we'll take you on', they supposedly got a £10,000 like, put in of money to help us out, and we never, ever seen nothing of it. And then we were trying to like say 'look, come on, give us some help here', they were just totally arrogant, they wouldn't give us nothing.

JM: They disowned you?

CL: Basically yeah, so we had to fend for ourselves.

JM: Did they get a lot of publicity when they said they were taking you on board?

CL: Not really, I don't even know what they got out of it, may be the money, I just don't know, but they just didn't want anything to do with us at the end of the day.

JM: Do you think stereotypes are created regarding women's football? And you can say whatever you want.

CL: Kind of.

JM: Yeah? What kind of things?

CL: I don't know, just the usual snidey comments that you would get, like there's no need if you were like, you know, going down to the park and someone was coming past and they would just be booing or, and probably that would be affecting their friends as well. Like they'll say 'oh, did you see that, look at them, they can't even do that, I could do that', and they'd start a, it'd probably be like starting the chain again, they pass it on to other people, I think so anyway.

JM: Do you think there's a kind of, someone people have this like image of women's football that's may be not fair or not accurate?

CL: I don't think that people think that women can actually play football. They just think men can play good football, they can do the Beckham crosses, or whatever, but so can women. But obviously because, may be women's football is not as publicised as much as men's not everyone is getting the chance to see how good women are, and actually see for themselves that they can actually do things, that'' what I think.

JM: Do you think in terms of like, people have this idea, an image of women's football in terms of like, what a women footballer typically looks like or acts like, or anything like that?

CL: Probably like somebody that's like built like a brick shithouse, basically, somebody that's just big, sort of muscley I'd imagine.

JM: Do you think that those kind of stereotypes are accurate at all?

CL: Some of the lasses come in and you think 'they play football?' They come in with their hair all up, make-up on and then they just get stuck in out on the park.

JM: Do you think some people do conform to those kind of stereotypes?

CL: I think so yeah.

JM: Have certain attitudes towards women's football ever affected yours, or anyone else you know, like participation in the sport, has it ever put you off at all or...

CL: It's made me more determined.

JM: Has it? In what ways?

CL: Just to prove that we can actually play football.

JM: To prove people wrong?

CL: Yeah.

JM: How about other people, do you know anyone else who's wanted to play and then have been put off by the kind of reaction they've had or attitudes towards them?

CL: I can't really think of anyone, I don't think so. Not anybody from our team anyway, but I don't know about anyone else.

JM: It's quite, because one of the things I'm interested in is how people encourage girls to play football, things like that, and the problem obviously is like interviewing people who are playing now, have obviously got through any barriers, but it's very difficult to get hold of people that may be wanted to play or weren't allowed because there were barriers to play and stuff like that. So I was just wondering if you knew anyone who wanted to start playing but...

CL: I can't honestly think of anyone, me personally.

JM: I'm going to have to try and get hold of people like that. Has anyone ever considered it strange that you play football?

CL: No, everybody's been really supportive and positive around me.

JM: Good. Right, just moving on now to being a member of a club. I've got another list just here. I'm just going to ask really, despite football itself would you say that there are any particular characteristics that sort of make women footballers like distinct. I've got a list of a few things here, in case you think 'yeah, we're all...

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

CL: Yeah.

JM: Background in terms of, may be family background, it's quite a vague one actually, how you got into football things like that.

CL: Yeah, that's probably through school, through school and my dad, that's probably how I actually got involved in it for like a team.

JM: How about other women footballers, do you think you have the same kind of things in common, from schools and stuff like that?

CL: Probably through school, and probably just through mucking about, or through a friend, you know, somebody that was in the team who said 'yeah, come along'.

JM: Ok, next one.

CL: Status?

JM: Status, yeah that's kind of relating to, you know, marital status, things like that, single or married. If you think of women's football, women footballers you know, do you think they tend to be married, tend to be single, tend to be living with partners? Generally?

CL: I would probably say they'd be a mixture of married and single. Because I know like a few folk that are married, and some that are single as well.

JM: It can also relate to the age as well I suppose...

CL: Yeah, some of the younger people are single, well obviously they have boyfriends and stuff. Social class, I'd probably think you're working-middle class, yeah I'd probably say that.

JM: Why do you think might be?

CL: I don't know it's just. Probably just an interest really, may be more spare time, to keep themselves fit or something, I don't know. Occupations vary, I'd probably say like they're sports people sort of thing. You know, in leisure centres, swimming pools, coaching, or even at school if you're younger or at college, people like that.

JM: What about, do you think that there's many that have got like really high-flying jobs?

CL: I wouldn't, in my experience I wouldn't have said so, may be there is, I don't know, but from my experience I wouldn't have said so, I would've just said that they were sporty jobs. Education?

JM: Just kind of distinguishing that, would you say, generally, people that play football are, you know, most of them have gone to university, or most of them left school and worked straight from school or...

CL: I'd probably have said like, moving from like your secondary school to college, then may be the odd folk go on to university. But I would've said from secondary on to college.

JM: So may be like further education?

CL: Yeah.

JM: You know, kind of looking at it, just in terms of, when people look at these sometimes they think 'oh, I don't know, I'm not exactly the same as everyone else in my team', but then if I say to them then 'try and think, when you're with your team, and how you get on and things like that, then think of women that you know outside of football, do you get on with them in the same way, do you talk about the same kind of things', see what I mean? In what ways are your personalities, stuff like that, in what ways do you share similarities and characteristics with other footballers?

CL: We're all mad!

JM: You're all mad?

CL: Yeah, we're just like, yeah everybody just talks about anything and everything really. And probably with outside the team I would talk about things that would happen with the team. Just everything, television, 'did you see the football last night?', (?) we're all just totally nuts and we just laugh about everything and anything really. But I would probably get on with people outside the team as well, just general stuff. Femininity?

JM: Yeah.

CL: I wouldn't say there was too many, we're probably more like tomboyish, not so much like we're just like boys or (?). you get the odd person who's got their make-up on and their pink jumper and their pink trousers, and their shoes and their bag, but I'd probably say we were more tomboyish. Attitudes? Probably like a competitive attitude.

JM: Do you think that it's generally strong-willed people, extroverts, or quiet and shy?

CL: No, we're just like in your face sort of thing. Because that's like from my experience that you get people in the side 'come on then, get stuck in, take their legs from under them', and stuff like that. So, and that's like from other members of the team, and that obviously influences people on the park and they carry on with it so, I would say like really competitive and sort of in your face sort of people. Style, is that like?

JM: It kind of links with clothes and stuff.

CL: Probably like your trackie bottoms, jeans, or if you've got a kit, your kit, your club kit. Some people would obviously wear like black trousers and nice top and stuff like that but probably mainly trackie bottoms and trainers, jeans. Sense of humour, everybody's just like crazy, we're just really mad.

JM: How do you interact with each other?

CL: It just depends, you kind of see from the start of training on the park, and like you hear folk with their comments 'oh we're going to totally nail this team', blah, blah, blah, but sometimes you like get a nice team and they'll start, and they'll make time to stand and chat to you and say 'how you getting on in the league', and 'any new players', or (?). I'd say in general many women's teams are friendly, you get the odd team that's just 'we're gonna get you'.

JM: Would you say that, just having gone through those things, would you say that women footballers have a particular identity at all that's like different from other sports people, or other women in general?

CL: Probably people think that we're manly but not, we're just more tomboyish. You wouldn't see, may be a gymnastics person, just as an example, I don't know, I don't think, I don't know.

JM: I'm just wondering in general, you know you're kind of talking about like it's style and clothes and stuff like that, like if you were going out for a night how would you typically be dressed with the football lot, and how would that compare with other women?

CL: I'd probably have my black trousers and top on or something, then you'd see somebody else would be out with a skirt on (?), but that's what I would say anyway.

JM: Ok. What would you say were the main reasons why you play football?

CL: To keep myself fit, to take up any spare time if I've got any, and just to be part of something, just get to know different people.

JM: In the context of your, this is more related to jobs, like people who are working, probably relate to school as well. In the context of like your everyday life, like going to school and what have you, what does football offer you, does it, in terms of your, at the end of the day when you've been to school or whatever, what does it offer you?

CL: Probably most nights I would, I would just go and play fives (?) somewhere, leisure centre.

JM: What do you get from that?

CL: Probably experience, in the fact that we're all playing as part of a team, confidence because you like, you don't have time on the ball, people come charging into to you to get the ball. Confidence boosting because like a few of the lassies on the team will come along with guys, and get totally stuck in with all the guys, who'd just be like 6 foot odd or something like that. But on the football park against women to begin with before they played fives they would just be weak, be useless and cower away sort of thing, but then with fives they'd get into it, it's like a, because I was like that earlier (?).

JM: In terms of, I don't know if it is more related to jobs like, but if you've had a bad day at work or a bad day at school, something like that, does football offer you anything?

CL: Probably because you just take all your aggression out when you play, I've done that, because if you've had a really, really shocking day at school you just get all your aggression out. Or if I've had a really bad mark in my test or something like that, and I've got football that night I think 'right get everything out, whack this ball about, any chance I can get, especially at the goal.

JM: Do you find yourself, you know when you're at school or, after training or after a match on Sunday and stuff like that, like the next day do you find yourself thinking about football, reflecting on the game?

CL: Thinking about, if you were there at that particular point, would that have gone in? If I was at this side of the post, would this ball have gone...' I always think about that, always think about that.

JM: Do you not shut off at all really?

CL: Not really, no I'm constantly like think of it all the time.

JM: Is it anything over and above simply playing football, we've talked about interaction and stuff like that. If say you were in a team where ok you were playing

good football and stuff like that, but people don't really chat that much, you know, didn't go out with each other, would it appeal to you as much?

CL: Not really, because it's not so much of a team spirit then I don't think. I mean if you met, may be twice a week at training, nobody hardly spoke, then the game on Sunday, still nobody hardly spoke, you would just kind of, you would become distant from people and you wouldn't know what impact, you wouldn't know how to be with them. And if you did say something you'd be worried they may take it the wrong way (?)

JM: So how would you describe then the social aspects of being a member of a club. I've got a few things that I've put down, like friendships, socialising, interaction, sense of community?

CL: Loads of nights out anyway.

JM: Yeah? What about them?

CL: Like if we've got a trophy night or something, or Christmas night out, end of season night out, we're all there, and all drinking, having a laugh, it's just really good fun.

JM: In terms of like, the friends that you have, are most of them football related?

CL: Not really, I've got a few that are like really, really, really close friends at football, then I've got friends at school, that are not so much to do with football, but that I can obviously still speak to like, and interact with.

JM: Just in terms of like those things we were saying, friendships, socialising, interaction, community, would you say there was a strong sense of that with your football friends?

CL: I would say there is a lot of, because we all get on, nobody doesn't like anybody, everybody's friends. If somebody's got a problem with someone, sometimes it's like, I don't know you'd tell somebody else, then somebody else might have found out, and it goes around the circle, and then the person it's related to will find out anyway. Then it'll be discussed, but in general I would say it was like very, very friendly environment we've got, especially in our club.

JM: Do you think that's any different in other clubs?

CL: No, not really. Because like if you're from the same area, obviously you're going to know them, I would say that probably most teams are like that. All like family and friends, and socialise together, be at school, or be at work together.

JM: So it's kind of over and above just the football, it kind of extends beyond that?

CL: Yeah, yeah.

JM: How important would you say then that such social aspects are to you? The social side?

CL: I think they are important.

JM: Why?

CL: Because like, you've got to have, that's another thing that we speak about as well we'd say 'oh, last Saturday night, what a laugh eh?' And then that's like a happy atmosphere in most of the team, we'll reflect on things that happened like the night before, I would say it was important.

JM: What about other players, do you think that everyone feels the same way?

CL: Possibly, may be, probably most of them do yeah. Everybody would say 'oh did you watch this last night?', everybody just interacts with everyone else, there's nobody left out.

JM: There's not really anyone that just comes along, yeah, is there not generally many people who just come along to play football and just don't really interact with each other?

CL: We did have a couple of players actually that just came along, just at the start, and they just come along totally, made so welcome, everybody had got on and 'oh this is such and such, I'm...' blah, blah, blah. So if somebody comes in they do, they're not made to feel like they're an outsider because they've not been in the team for so long. We've just had a lassie from (?) she's just come in and she speaks to everyone. So may be that's just her personality, but even if somebody was like quite quiet everybody would make them feel welcome.

JM: How would you feel if you were injured and couldn't train or play in matches?

CL: This has just happened to me recently actually. About 2 months ago I tore the ligaments in my ankle, it's still sore just now, but before I was just going to it all the time. And it's happened to me before, I did my knee, about a year and a half ago, I'd be down at training, and I'd be totally gutted that I can't kick a ball.

JM: So you'd still go down to training?

CL: I'd still go down, but it would annoy me that I was there.

JM: Why would you still go down?

CL: Don't know, just had to be, it was just like I had to be there in case I missed something.

JM: Something in terms of what?

CL: Just even like a stupid little thing like a joke or something, even just stupid wee things like that. And it would annoy me that I was there, but if I wasn't there it would still annoy me because I wasn't there.

JM: Right.

CL: I know that sounds daft but...

JM: No, I know what you mean.

CL: But that's the way it feels, it's just quite hard on you.

JM: So being part of the club extends way beyond, even when you can't play football?

CL: Yeah.

JM: Have you ever nearly given up playing at all?

CL: Yeah.

JM: Why?

CL: Because at one point our team was just almost gone.

JM: Would you have given up playing or would you have tried to go to another team?

CL: I was going to just give up playing completely, but there was another lassie in the team and she was like 'you cannot just give up, you're a good player, just keep your head up and you'll just find somewhere else'. But then the team finally picked up and we got back to having a team and stuff, so I kind of got back into it, but I was totally 'I'm giving it up, can't really be bothered with this rubbish anymore'.

JM: So why did you carry on playing, was it just the teams encouragement?

CL: They just kept me going, just because they were just positive attitudes I was getting from people was like 'you're too good a player to give up, and you shouldn't be just like wasting that sort of thing', and that's what I thought about.

JM: What do you usually do after training or matches?

CL: Either go out just for a drink. I'm a close friend of Dawn who was just here, might go to hers, or I just come home, get changed, get fed, go to bed.

JM: Do you socialise with other players that much outside of training and matches?

CL: Not all of them, some of them I do.

JM: What does that usually involve?

CL: Cinema, town, shopping, just those kind of things, things like that.

JM: How would you feel if there was a social event, either just a group of you or the whole team, and you couldn't make it?

CL: I'd be gutted.

JM: Why?

CL: Absolutely gutted, because if you're part of that team, you obviously want to be there, you want to experience what they're experiencing. Because I would feel, I wouldn't feel jealous, envious towards any of them, but I'd feel that I'd missed the experience that I would have wanted. But I would feel really, really gutted if I didn't get the chance to go.

JM: What about in terms of when you go to away matches and stuff, what's the banter like when you're on the bus?

CL: Mad, totally mad.

JM: Is that a big part of...

CL: Yeah, it just totally builds the team up, because like there's so many characters, like you've got the spanners that just act totally nuts, you've got a couple of quiet ones, and then you've got like the people that just go along with everything. Probably mainly on the bus it's all banter, a laugh, absolutely brilliant, but it's obviously building up high spirits when you go on the park anyway so it's just going to continue.

JM: I'm going to ask you about a particular term now, I don't know if you'll know what it means, but then I'll give you a definition, and we'll try and work from there. Have you come across the term subculture?

CL: No.

JM: Well what it basically refers to is, you know, a group of people that are brought together for a certain reason, brought together by something, and they interact, and share similar characteristics and values and meanings, which make them in some way distinct from the wider culture as a whole. Would you say that women's football in general, not just your team, but women's football could be seen as a subculture?

CL: Sometimes. If you've got, may be a few people that you know, if you had one person that knew, may be four other people, that's five people. But you would bring in other people from outside that as well sort of.

JM: Would you say that even say you don't know someone who is in, I don't know, the Raith Rovers team something like that, would you still expect that if you went along to their team that you still would have characteristics in their team, as you do in yours, in terms of women's football as compared to the wider culture, just the general public?

CL: I would hope so.

JM: Yeah?

CL: Yeah, because from my experience most of the people on the team are nice people, and you would speak to them and get on with them, so probably yeah.

JM: Just kind of looking at the term subculture, that's how I'm kind of analysing women's football, looking at it, and to what extent is there a subculture outside of just the sport, you know, the social networks that are set up within a club, and outside a club. And speaking to the Cove Rangers lot, they were saying some of them are quite a bit older, so they've played at a few clubs and they've still got this network of a lot of people related to football, and most of their friends are related in some way. And it's trying to track down, is it the subculture where they're

brought together by the football, and they share similar characteristics. And in that way, although, not saying that they are different because obviously you're part of the wider culture when you're at school and stuff like that, but the fact that you're brought together by women's football, does that make you part of a subculture set apart from the wider culture?

CL: That would be, I would probably agree with that.

JM: Ok. Just recapping then really. What value would you attach to football in your life? How important is it?

CL: Very.

JM: Very?

CL: Probably without football I would be like, really bored.

JM: What else would you do? Would you do a different sport or...

CL: Probably, somebody would get me roped into something.

JM: Would you say that football has played, and does still play a significant part in your life?

CL: Yeah, very much so.

JM: What do you enjoy about it the most?

CL: I love the game, just the taking part, the winning, when we used to! Meeting new people.

JM: What would you do, or how would you feel if you weren't able to play football again? That's a horrible question, I know.

CL: I'd be suicidal! If I did I would maybe get into coaching football or something, if I couldn't actually play, due to whatever, I would probably have a go at coaching. I wouldn't want to just miss out.

JM: It would still be part...

CL: It would still be part of my life.

JM: What would you miss about it the most if you couldn't play? If you weren't playing, which meant you weren't part of the team, so didn't go to the training?

CL: Probably the social side, just missing the banter, the jokes, and the giggles, and all that.

JM: Right. Just talking about the last few questions here. What plans do you have for the future in relation to football? What are your hopes?

CL: Well I hope that may be one day I could play for Scotland, that's what I've hope for since I was this high, and that's been my ambition. I've played for the region which was like, it wasn't special but it was to me. It just felt good being selected for Tayside, that I actually got picked to play, but hopefully to play for Scotland anyway.

JM: What part do you expect football to play in the rest of your life?

CL: I'll probably play it until I'm 90 or something!

JM: And if you can't, coach?

CL: Yeah, that's what I'm hoping for anyway.

JM: What do you think is the most likely thing to stop you playing football?

CL: Injury.

JM: Injury?

CL: Yeah, old age!

JM: Is that pretty much it, not just like if you're fed up of it?

CL: No, I'm never really fed up of it, I can't see it anyway.

JM: Right, that's great, thank you very much.

INTERVIEW 7 - LISA VANNET 14/04/03
ARBROATH (3rd DIVISION)

JM: Just to start off then where were you born and brought up?

LV: I was born in Dundee Royal Infirmary but I've always been, lived in Arbroath, parents have always lived in Arbroath. Been there for twenty-eight years now so.

JM: And you still live in Arbroath?

LV: Yeah, I still live in Arbroath.

JM: How about your family, do you have any brothers or sisters?

LV: I've got a younger brother, he's twenty-five next month and that's the only brother or sister that I actually have.

JM: How about your parents or guardians, what did they do or do they do for a living?

LV: Both my mum and dad currently work for Strathtay Buses, my dad is a bus driver and my mum is a bus conductress.

JM: Ok, and have they done that for most of their lives?

LV: Yeah, I think they've both been there for a number of years, my dad has been there a lot longer, he used to work in Harrow Buttons near the industrial estate years back, but then he was made redundant and they were putting loads of people off. I suppose he's been working on the buses now for I don't know, fifteen years, it could be more than that, it could be a bit less. My mum, she's been working there for quite a lot of years now anyway, may be nine years or something like that.

JM: How old are you just now? If you don't mind me asking.

LV: Twenty-eight.

JM: Where did you go to school then, was that in Arbroath?

LV: Yeah.

JM: Where?

LV: Arbroath Academy.

JM: Ok, and what qualifications did you get from school?

LV: A few Highers, Accounting, Art, I got 'O' Grades like Sectarial Studies, Arithmetic, English, it's hard to think that far back actually!

JM: That's ok, you got a few Highers yeah?

LV: Yeah.

JM: Did you go on and do any further qualifications, or did you go to work?

LV: I went straight into work.

JM: What did you do?

LV: I went to work in an office environment, like a shop but house furniture, it's like a family-run business, it's been going for the last hundred and so many years, so it's kind of a small-knit family business. And I left there to go to Norwich Union, I've been there for about ten years now.

JM: What's your kind of role, what's the job that you do?

LV: It's in the credit acclaims department, just process people's claims looking into people's claims. It's like payment protection, loans and credit cards, people to get protection in case they've been made unemployed, or they're sick, or they've had an accident. Your condition, your details is logged in the policy documenting, (?) so that would be where we come into play. You know you process someone's claim and things like that.

JM: Ok, and you've been there, what did you say, about nine years?

LV: Yeah.

JM: *Ok. What social class background would you say that you've had, like in respect of how you were brought up, would you say you were working class, working to middle class, middle, upper class?*

LV: Probably like the average, not (?) I wouldn't say we were, but...

JM: *Your mum and dad have always had a job have they?*

LV: Yeah.

JM: *So, what may be, by the type of occupation that they've had would you say they were quite working to middle class?*

LV: Yeah, I would say.

JM: *If you think sometimes like working class is described as people who do quite semi-skilled type manual jobs, trying to think, you know traditionally things like factory work or, you know, working in shops and things like that would fall into like working class category. And then more middle class would be slightly more professional jobs.*

LV: I would probably say more like working class.

JM: *More working class?*

LV: More working class than professional.

JM: *Would you say you yourself would still be the same now or would you maybe be a little bit higher?*

LV: No I would, I would still say about the same type thing.

JM: *Ok. What would you think about, maybe just the typical woman footballer, do you think that they come from a similar type of background generally? Or do you think it varies?*

LV: It maybe varies, the people actually within the Arbroath club they're all like at, some of them are at school still, you know they're still at school, there's only a few adults within the team that have got like, you know, full-time jobs, things like that. So I would say they were kind of the same category as, well I'd say Sarah was probably more professional because hers is more to do with research and things like that, but other folk like work in a sports centre, or kind of work in an office environment, within the club as well. And I've never had any experience out with the football club, I've not been involved with anything else football-wise until I joined the club so it probably might vary actually, but I wouldn't be able to tell you.

JM: *What if we went back just to the other end of the spectrum, if you think of upper class people, do you think that there's many upper class women that get involved in women's football?*

LV: Yeah, I mean I think if you enjoy that type of thing, though it maybe depends on the past background as well, say the influences and things like that, there might well be a lot of professional folk that do football and things like that. Like from an athletic point of view, I know there is quite a lot of people doing doctoring and things like that so I presume it might well apply to football the same as athletics.

JM: *Just generally now about your experiences of football, I know you've said to me already that you've only recently started playing, but do you have any, did you play when you were a toddler or anything like that?*

LV: No. There wasn't anything going through, like primary and secondary, there was no women's football at all, so this is like the first I've ever recently come into contact with it.

JM: *Can you remember in terms of your family and your brother maybe, did you ever have like just informal kick-about and things like that in the garden?*

LV: No, my brother was never really into football and that either.

JM: *So it's very much a recent thing?*

LV: Yeah.

JM: Right. You didn't go and watch any football?

LV: I mean I did watch my fiancée and that playing football on a Sunday or something like that but I wouldn't say that ever really influenced me to play myself, you know what I mean? It was just I went along to watch because he was playing type of thing.

JM: So your parents aren't really interested in football?

LV: No.

JM: So it's not really been a significant part of your family life?

LV: No.

JM: So just run it by me again just for the sake of the tape, how you first became involved in playing football?

LV: I became involved with football through a friend called Sarah who was looking for reliable folk to train, because there wasn't enough people turning up to training or football games and I got involved that way. Like I say they were looking for reliable folk, because like me and Sarah do hang about quite a lot with each other then she basically asked me if I wanted to join the club and I did join it.

JM: How long ago was that?

LV: That was last September so we're talking about maybe seven months ago, something like that.

JM: And you've been playing quite consistently?

LV: Yeah, going down to train, although we only trained once a week, since Leighton and Steve have taken over the football it's been like twice a week or something. So whenever there's been football training sessions I've been down and joined in and things like that.

JM: At what level do you play, are you like always in the first eleven?

LV: Well that's one of the things with the football club, there's about nineteen people within the team, but last season we found out a lot of people had injuries or a lot of them work on a Sunday as well, so there's not always, you know, the amount of folk that you need to play on that particular day, there might be less, some other days there might be slightly more, and things like that.

JM: So usually if you can play you're in the team?

LV: Yeah! Usually yeah.

JM: I've experienced that a few times! So obviously, just for the sake of saying, it's just Arbroath that you've ever played for?

LV: Yeah that's right yeah.

JM: Just moving on now to just sport in general really. What other sports or activities have you been involved in?

LV: Athletics.

JM: Is that the main one you've...

LV: Yeah, I did swimming as well.

JM: Ok, how long have you been involved in athletics?

LV: Since 1986, so that's what sixteen years or something?

JM: Ok, and where did you get involved in that?

LV: I was always good at running, like cross-country, or your end of year sports, you know your athletic sports. And I was always good at sprinting and things like that, so it was out of interest because I enjoyed it, I got in touch with the local athletic club with one of my other friends, and that's how I got involved in that. And before that I did swimming as well. I swam in galas, swimming galas and things like that. I gave that up to do my athletics.

JM: Did you get introduced to swimming and athletics at school really or was it outside?

LV: The swimming was more outside, a kind of push from my grandparents. Athletics was my own choice, it was just through like sports at school and things like that.

JM: What other sports did you play at school? What were the main ones that you got chance to play?

LV: Just your, probably just your general ones that everybody has to do on a weekly basis. Things like basketball, badminton, all those types of sports, you know like racket sports, things like that.

JM: Did you play many team sports at all?

LV: No.

JM: Hockey or netball?

LV: No, none of them no.

JM: So you didn't have the chance to play football at school?

LV: No, it was nothing like that at all at school.

JM: Did the boys play football?

LV: Yeah, the boys played football yeah.

JM: Probably know the answer to this, but would you say that football is now, or ever has been your main sport? I know previously it wasn't, but what would you say now?

LV: I'd probably say that it's probably on a par with my athletics.

JM: To what extent are you still doing your athletics then?

LV: I do a lot, I still do it about four or five times a week. I think that's one of the things that Steve and Leighton are trying to change just now for there to be more training sessions. So I'd probably have to juggle training nights, if you know what I mean, to try and fit it all in.

JM: Which one would you, do you prefer one more than the other? Or are they just different?

LV: They're just totally different, there's nothing about them that's alike at all. I've done athletics for sixteen years so it's always going to be a part of me that I love, I'm always going to want to do that. But it might come to it, because I actually took up football because I wasn't enjoying my running at one stage, but through starting to play football I realised that I missed my running and that's why I went back to it. So there might be some time in the future that I might give up my running and concentrate on the football, but I probably won't know that until the time arrives when I feel that's the way I need to go.

JM: How would you say that, like you say, they're totally different, what is it that you really like about your running, and what is it that you really like about football? I mean they are like very different, ones a team sport and quite aggressive, and then you've got an individual...

LV: In athletics it's more, you're working for yourself, for your own achievements and things like that, you know so you're training yourself, constantly trying to get better at something. But with the football, well at the moment in the club, I don't know that there's that many folk that take the training seriously. See their attitudes on a football game is different as well, where you said about aggression, a lot of players on our team don't have aggression, and they're also, if you're playing a football game it's like, one ball will seem to go through the net, then next some other will go through the net, and it's just like 'oh come on girls, keep on going there's only ten minutes to go'. But I would be like, I've shouted a few times on the pitch,

that it doesn't matter how many minutes there is to go, you still play right until the end, you know what I mean? There's just different like attitudes towards, you know because I wouldn't say to myself, if I was running around the track 'I'm losing, I've got fifty metres to go, just keep on going', you know you'd be trying your hardest. If by the end, it doesn't matter whether it's a minute you run for or whether it's ninety minutes, you put in a certain amount of effort for that duration of whatever sport you're doing. So I find that really difficult, I like get frustrated and things like that because they just don't think the same.

JM: Do you think that's at the level, I mean how well is the team doing at the moment, are they struggling?

LV: At the level yeah.

JM: If you may be were at a team that is doing better you might have a ...

LV: Yeah, I think they probably would have a different attitude, and I think as well they probably will have a more weekly basis than what our team does. And that's one things as well, because we don't really win a lot of games and things like that, and that's because there's not enough players to actually play on the day. It's like everybody's attitude, everybody's like always losing, you know things like that, they just turn up to play because there's not enough people to play. And half of them are like really unfit and things like that as well. I think that after we kind of like go through preseason training and things like that I think a lot of things will get better and the way they think might actually change and things like that as well.

JM: What is it that keeps you going then if going and you're losing pretty much, quite often, and the attitude of other players is a bit frustrating, what is it that keeps you going?

LV: I think it's just, it's probably the same as athletics, you're kind of in amongst a team and because you get on well with the girls that are actually in the team, it's more like a social type thing as well. We like go down and have a chat and a muck about with the girls and things like that, so that's really what keeps us going and things like that, yeah.

JM: Moving on now really to other people's influences. Now you've not been playing football for that long at all so it might be quite quick getting through this. But just basically, not so much just getting you introduced but generally since you've been playing what has been the role or influence of some of the following people I've got a wee list here. If you want to work your way through and just generally say what the reaction of each of these groups has been really?

LV: Parents, well I've never really had any bad reactions from my parents or anything like that. I think it's more of one of those types of things where they're kind of like saying 'just watch yourself, don't break any legs!', things like that. There's been a few times when my dad has phoned us on my mobile when we've been on the bus on our way to somewhere and he's like 'tell all the girls good luck' type thing. So there's never been a bad kind of negative attitude from parents. I think my parents are kind of more whatever I want to do then they accept it, they're happy with that, as long as I'm happy.

JM: So they're quite encouraging?

LV: Yeah.

JM: Do they ever come and watch you play?

LV: No, they've never came to watch yet. But you never know they might, they might do once we start maybe winning a few games! I don't know though like they say that women's football is quite aggressive and all the language as well that seems

to appear from people's mouths, and your parents don't know that you actually swear like that on the pitch!

JM: What about your brother at all?

LV: I've never really spoken to my brother about football or anything like that, so I wouldn't know.

JM: So he's not that interested in it really?

LV: No.

JM: You said about your grandparents with your swimming, do they have any input at all?

LV: Well I've only got, the ones that pushed me into like the swimming and all that, they're no longer with us, so I've only got the on gran now, and she's the same as my mum basically 'just watch yourself, don't break anything or anything like that'. So, but my gran's never really said anything more about it, she's dead like my mum, they think the same way and things like that so. Partner, well Leighton he's, as I said, he's taken over as team manager with Steven, Sarah's husband. So he's always had an active role in football even before he took over the manager's position and things like that. So I would say Leighton would be more, he's be pushing me into go training and you know, get better and things like that as well, so he'd have a really big active part in that. Friends, I've never really discussed football with my friends either.

JM: So Sarah was a friend that got you introduced to football, but what about friends outside football?

LV: Outside, not really. I mean my friend Alison used to do football, she's involved in athletics as well, so she's never really said anything, you know bad or anything like that.

JM: Peers, just people at work...

LV: They usually just laugh!

JM: Is that women, or men, or both?

LV: Both.

JM: Do they take an interest in it, do they ask you how you get on?

LV: Well a lot of them support either Dundee or Dundee United, my team, so I think it's because they probably don't think of, especially the guys, women playing football. And then the girls that I actually do work with as well, I don't think it's maybe a sport, I mean its not like any of them do any specific sports anyway. So it's probably just something that amuses them because they maybe think of it as a man's sport and then there's me trying to play it, things like that as well so. But then again I've never had any bad reactions or anything like that from people at work or anything like that. And, well the school part of it doesn't really apply to me.

JM: There's just nothing that went on?

LV: No, there was nothing at school, nothing like that at all. And again teachers, that wouldn't apply. And coaches, well there's no specific coaches within the football team or anything like that. There's a lot of athletic coaches that know that I do football things like that, and they seem to accept it, they don't say anything like 'you shouldn't do that because you're still running' or things like that. They've never said anything about that. I think it's just one of those things where if you enjoy doing it then they just let you get on with it basically.

JM: Others is just if you can think of anyone else outside of that, but I think we've covered...

LV: Yeah it covers most things doesn't it?

JM: Yeah, I think so. So just overall out of that group, who would you say has had the most positive affect on you being involved in football?

LV: Probably my partner.

JM: Your partner, yeah?

LV: Yeah.

JM: Since you've been involved, and maybe Sarah to get you involved in the first place?

LV: Yeah, probably yeah.

JM: Any of them had a particularly negative impact?

LV: No.

JM: You've not really come across negative...

LV: Never come across anything like that, no.

JM: Just moving on to perspectives now. What attitudes have you experienced towards women's football from say the media and just the general public, what kind of attitudes do you think that there is towards women's football? In terms of the media, newspaper coverage, or...

LV: There's not really that much really. I've seen it once or twice like on the TV, like on Sky and that, like Arsenal was playing the other week on TV and all that, and I watched part of that. But I don't think there really is that much coverage.

JM: What about in Scotland?

LV: I wouldn't think so no. In the press like with women's football, like I only really started paying attention to it once I started kind of playing it. So I've never really come across anything before then. And like since I have been playing, there has been one or two games on the TV of women's football, but I've never really seen anything in the papers at all. I would say in Scotland it's more like men's football, you know, Rangers or Celtic splattered over the last ten pages of the papers, things like that.

JM: Even the smaller men's football clubs struggle to get some recognition.

LV: Yeah, yeah that's right.

JM: Actually I noticed in the paper this weekend, for the first time I think it was the Herald that had actually got the fixtures for the women's Premier League.

LV: Really?

JM: Yeah, which is the first time I've ever seen that. Sometimes there's the odd article, the odd feature, but to actually get like the fixtures there is quite a big thing to get that in there, I don't know if they'll publish the results or not. What about the general public, what kind of attitudes do you think they have towards women's football in Scotland?

LV: I don't know, I know there's a lot of kind of younger girls teams you know, under 15s or whatever. See I think it's one of these kind of sports that is actually more kind of appealing where they are playing football kind of at school and after school and things like that. So perhaps their parents and that are more kind of willing for them to like be into sport.

JM: That kind of leads into my next question, just wondering whether attitudes have may be changed at all?

LV: I would think so yeah. Like from when I was at school to people that are at school now, I know there is people playing, younger girls playing football. Like two of Leighton's cousins both play football and they're younger.

JM: We've talked about, you know Scotland and England, what do you know about the difference say with the rest of Europe, or the rest of the world, do you know if women's football is more, got a higher profile anywhere else?

LV: I don't know if it has got a higher profile, like again I've not really come across anything like that, you know, Europe or anything like that. The few things that I have seen have basically been a few teams down south playing on TV and that's the only thing I've ever come across. I don't think I've ever come across any European women's football or anything like that, but then again there must be teams, because like Ronaldo's wife, she plays for someone as well?

JM: In Spain.

LV: Real Madrid or something like, something like one of those teams she plays for. So there must be those teams across there, but whether they're seen on TV or anything like that, or in the papers. Like I say there must be these teams but I don't think there's that much coverage at all.

JM: Like awareness, I mean obviously I'm in a position where I've researched it and there's professional leagues in some of the European countries, and in America in particular it's like women's football is more popular than men's 'soccer' as they call it over there.

LV: Right.

JM: And quite a few English, and a couple of Scottish best players have gone over to play professionally over there.

LV: Oh right.

JM: In China as well, it's really, really popular in China.

LV: Oh right.

JM: So I was just wondering kind of like, if you compare Scotland and England, well definitely Scotland with other countries...

LV: It would probably be quite low then.

JM: Yeah, a relatively low profile. Do you think there's any stereotypes that are created in relation to women's football? If you haven't come across any now, can you remember say when you were at school if say you went and played football what kind of attitudes do you think if you wanted to play? Would you have come across any negative stereotypes?

LV: I don't know if it would be that much different to what it is now. It's hard to kind of like comment because it's one of those things that's never, like it was never about full stop so. But I'm sure if what's kind of applied now was applied back, you know if it was introduced earlier then it could be that the attitudes are, you know, pretty much the same. There was just never anything like that about when I was at school. I mean there was different sports after school, but football just wasn't one of the ones that was considered as a women's sport kind of thing.

JM: Do you think there's any, ever been any kind of stereotypes created about women who play football at all, have you come across any?

LV: No.

JM: Any really sexist attitudes towards it?

LV: No, I've never come across anything like that.

JM: Ok. It's probably going to be related to the fact that you've not played for that long, but are you aware of any kind of attitudes that other people have had that have may be stopped them playing football? Like if they've been discouraged from playing football?

LV: I've never come across that either.

JM: You've said about a few people at work laughing when you say you play football, I was just going to ask like has anyone considered that it was strange that you play football?

LV: Perhaps in a way, it's just that they would never think about playing football themselves, they just think of it as perhaps kind of funny. But then like once they know that you play football it's like, you know, they don't really say anything at all, you know what I mean? It's not like, say if you were to say that you're playing football on Sunday, they'd say 'oh how did you get on?' and things like that you know?

JM: So at first they might be...

LV: Yeah, but then they seem to warm towards it, you know what I mean? But then again it's not, the people that I work with are not really sporty folk either so they'd probably consider, maybe consider other kind of sports, you know like funny and just in general.

JM: Just moving onto the main last section now really. It's basically looking at being a member of a club rather than

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

JM: So despite football is there any particular characteristics of women footballers, like despite actually playing football, any characteristics that they have in common at all. Just in relation to these kind of things. It's difficult sometimes to look at those kind of things and think yeah, you know pin point what women footballers might have that's the same, but if you then think of like, what you were saying, like women at work who aren't sporty. How do the women footballers that you know, do they have things in common, that maybe other women that you know don't?

LV: Don't have?

JM: Kind of in relation to any of those things? Background could relate to say a sporty background or family background, that kind of thing...

LV: Probably like, I mean I know everybody has got a sense of humour but like generally going back to my own team again, I'd say they were more, I'd say they were madder, you know just having a laugh, joking about with each other, things like that. Some of the other things there, like going back again to my own team, some of the other things here like most of our backgrounds, some are like working class, occupations are similar and all that as well, like to people that I work with, so things like that. Things like, I mean we've all got, the people that I work with are feminine and I'd say the people that play football are outside of football are feminine if you're going on a night out, things like that.

JM: It's just interesting what some people have answered already, like they've said you know, they'll get dressed up for a night out but generally people who play football will wear the jeans and trainers or...

LV: I was going to say that like, there's been a few occasions where, maybe just a certain few, maybe not everybody in the team but a certain few would probably seem comfier in baggy trousers or say a hooded top, things like that. I'd probably say they are maybe less feminine, I'm thinking about some people that were in the team that kind of left when I was just starting type thing. I'd probably say they weren't as feminine in their style, their clothes and things like that were like I say more casual. I mean people at my work would go out on the nines, you know what I mean? Like spend hours getting ready, and these people you'd probably think well perhaps they've maybe spent ten minutes putting on their clothes and things like no make-up and things like that.

JM: What about in terms of the sense of humour you were saying, is that just kind of like, just a general kind of banter between people on the team?

LV: Yeah because you get, you kind of get to know what, you know, their own sense of humour is, what they mean by, the joking about, you know maybe brought it back or whatever and you maybe said something to the work colleagues and they'd be like 'what do you mean by...', you know, you seem to have your own language code between each other and things like that, and football and all that. They're just mad, they just carry it on all the time and just have a really good laugh.

JM: A lot of taking the Mickey out of each other?

LV: Yeah, basically yeah. And probably more between the younger part of the team rather than with the older part of the team, you know, being around about school-age, college-age type thing, you having a like just basically taking the Mick out of each other yeah. That's about all I can think of.

JM: Would you say that women footballers probably identify with each other in certain ways, see themselves as having similarities and stuff like that?

LV: Not really I don't think, they're the main things.

JM: What would you say were the main reasons why you play football?

LV: I really enjoy it.

JM: You enjoy it do you? What about it, is it just the playing football or the whole...

LV: It's just different altogether I think...like from my athletics, it's just completely different you know? The social aspect of it and all that as well. Because I didn't really enjoy it at first because I didn't really know what I was doing, but the weeks and months go on and you learn it bit by bit you know? I enjoy it now, I enjoy going down training...having a laugh, things like that. I think that for all teams, having a laugh and you know, getting on with the people they're playing with things like that, makes all the crowd go back every week.

JM: In the context of like your everyday life, in terms of your job and things like that, what do you think football offers you. Some people have about, you know, if you've had a bad day at work...

LV: Yeah, it's like a stress relief, going back to my running again, it is like a stress release, you know what I mean? You just go out, train or whatever and your kind of mind is going and you're not really thinking about all these things that were going around and around in your head, things like that. So I would say more like a stress release.

JM: Would you get that regardless of whether it's football or...

LV: Yeah, yeah definitely.

JM: Maybe the thing that football is more of a team thing, more social as well, does that give you an extra distraction as well?

LV: Yeah, yeah. It takes your mind off because if you're having a good laugh and things like that it probably takes the extra edge off, you know, you're at least forgetting about probably putting in calls again the next day or so. Yeah, probably more on the football side you're probably getting more of a, like I say you get the stress release from both, but it's the social aspect of everybody being equal and around the same age and stuff like that. So there's more stress release from the football side of it rather than like my athletics.

JM: How would you describe the social aspects of being a club member, what would you say they were, what kind of social things do you get out of playing football? I've just put a few pointers down here like friendship, just socialising,

interaction with people, sense of community and belonging, those kind of things, do any of them feature?

LV: Probably just like socialising, like going out on nights out at the pub things like that. Just like forgetting everything and just having a good laugh with all your, obviously friends and things like that on a night out.

JM: Is that different with football than just with your other mates, different in any way?

LV: No I wouldn't say so.

JM: Do you think that the social side is an important part of being a member of a club?

LV: Yeah I would say so, because you've got to know, you know how to take folk, you know what I mean? What they, you know how they feel and things like that, you know? Just general aspects of like their normal to normal day life, you, things like that.

JM: Getting to know other team members?

LV: Yeah, then you can ask them questions about, you know, things that they're talking about and you understand where they're coming from, what they mean by things and stuff like that. You get to know them a lot more.

JM: Do you think the social side transfers on to the pitch as well?

LV: Yeah. Because that's one thing at our team at the moment, because of them being kind of relatively, there's a lot more younger folk than older folk and things like that so getting to know them does actually help when you're on the pitch and things like that. You know, just if you say something they're not going to get offended by what you've just said, to take care that there's no harm to anything what you've just said, you don't mean anything bad by it.

JM: How would you feel, or do you feel if you get injured and can't train or play in matches?

LV: I've never really come across that yet.

JM: How do you think you would feel?

LV: Probably left out.

JM: Would you still go along and watch?

LV: Yeah.

JM: Yeah? Why?

LV: Just, week to week being with these girls and things like that, the feeling and all that when we're away, just be interested just to cheer them on and things like that. Most the players if they can't play or are injured, things like that, generally do that at the moment anyway.

JM: It's probably not a relevant one, it's sometimes quite a relevant question for people that have been playing for a long time, have you ever nearly given up playing, and if so, why?

LV: No.

JM: I might have to come back to you on that one!

LV: In a few years time or something like that.

JM: Usually after training or matches do you go out with each other or...

LV: No, just generally just like go training, and then afterwards we just all kind of go our separate ways and just go home. A lot of them are, not everybody is kind of in Arbroath so a lot of people are out with Arbroath so. We train from like seven until nine at night, it's kind of one of those things where you've just got in from work and you've been out for a few hours and you need to get home to your bed or have some

tea or something like that. There's not really any social thing after football at all really.

JM: So the social things, are they usually organised just completely...

LV: Separately, yeah.

JM: How often would you say you organise something socially?

LV: I don't think it was something that really happened a lot beforehand but things are slowly, I think they're going to change in this coming year and things like that, like more social nights out, we just had one a few weeks back, things like that, end of season night out and all that. I think that's going to be introduced more regularly, you know quite a lot in the next coming year, the club are talking anyway about that's what's going to happen.

JM: Sounds good, I think I might come and join too! Would you say that's quite an important part of being a member of a club?

LV: What, nights out and things like that?

JM: Yeah.

LV: Yeah, I think it kind of goes back to the questions before, it's kind of one of those things that is important and things like that. To go out on nights out and just having a laugh, it's just really like going out with any of your other mates and just having a good laugh and a few drinks and things like that, and trying to get to know folk better.

JM: How would you feel if you couldn't make it out socially with other members, say on a social night out?

LV: I'd probably be wondering what they're doing, what they're all getting up to! I'd probably like phone somebody just to check how the night went or something like that.

JM: To get all the gossip?

LV: Yeah.

JM: I'm just going to mention a term here, subculture, do you have any understanding of that term?

LV: No.

JM: Right. Well basically what I'm trying to get at in terms of the social side is trying to determine whether or not being part of a team, or being part of women's football is kind of like a subculture. A subculture is basically, we define it as a group of people who are brought together and interact, they share similar characteristics and social values that make them distinct to some extent from wider culture. They're brought together and form a subculture as such from just wider culture, and football here is what brings them together really. To what extent would you say there was a sense of women's football forming a subculture?

LV: With regards to Arbroath?

JM: Yeah within your own club you've got experience of it within your club haven't you?

LV: Yeah.

JM: I'm just trying to get at, you know, although everyone's day to day life, you know they're just part of the wider culture generally, but when you are involved in women's football does it bring together people with similar characteristics, certain similarities, similar social ideas and values maybe?

LV: I don't see that we're any different to anybody.

JM: Do you think it's just the fact that you're interested in football...

LV: Football, that's what makes them go along and things like that. I wouldn't say we were any different to, you know, when their on their own compared to other folk

I hang around with, see on a daily basis, things like this. It's probably more just the aspect of them enjoying football, the people that are like their friends, they've got, you know, playing football and that kind of makes them come along, like I say just the social aspect, along with the fact that they quite enjoy it. The enjoyment is something that is always going to make you want to go back week after week, if there's no enjoyment there then you're never going to go, you know, you aren't going to go back if you don't enjoy it, and the people that you're with and all that. So I think that's important.

JM: Just thinking may be like, it's people from similar backgrounds, like we were saying before, might have similar characteristics to first get involved in football. So they've always got something in common probably at some level?

LV: See I don't really know, of the people that are actually in our team at the moment, I don't know, maybe the younger, younger girls that are kind of at school or they're leaving school or at college doing social, like sports-related subjects and things like that. I don't really know too much about their kind of backgrounds. I wouldn't say there were any different, like occupations or different like backgrounds, you know, like their parents backgrounds and things like that, I don't think there's anybody who's way out against somebody else, that you can kind of pin point a certain thing or anything like that.

JM: Just summarising really then, what value would you attach to your experiences of playing football? Is it important to you? Is it an important part of your life just now?

LV: I would say so. But say like prior to September there was nothing, there was just, I wasn't really interested in football and after then it's just like whenever there's training I go along, whenever there's a game, I'm always there playing a game and things like that so I would say it's a pretty important bit in my life anyway.

JM: What is it you enjoy about it the most? If you could just say one thing? Looking at it across the full range of like being active, getting a chance to actually play football, all the way through to like having friendships and the social side of things, what is the main thing for you?

LV: Probably the social side and the enjoying it with the people I'm with.

JM: Right, ok. Could you imagine just like stopping playing football now, having your life now without football?

LV: No, maybe within the first couple of months when I first started to play football I could've easily said to myself 'no, I don't like this because I don't know what I'm doing', because I nearly did that. But then since time goes past you get better at it and things like that. So it's one of those things that's totally turned itself around, where I joined because they were looking for people to fill up the spaces on the team and I wasn't really enjoying it when I first started it because I was kind of like separate to everybody else. But then like I say, you get better and then you are part of the team doing drills and all that kind of thing, and it kind of like becomes more social type thing as well. Everybody's doing the same things, you don't feel kind of like left out and things like that which maybe makes you want to kind of give up. But I couldn't give it up now that I, no, there's no way that I could give it up.

JM: What would you miss the most if, say you got injured or heaven forbid you couldn't play anymore, what would you miss the most?

LV: Again, probably just the social aspect of it. Just having a laugh at training, things like that, you know, the company that you're in and that, I'd miss that a lot.

JM: What plans do you have for the future in relation to football, what hopes have you got?

LV: To get off the bottom of the table! I think so yeah.

JM: Do you have any big ambitions for it or is it just a case of...

LV: No, I think it's just a case at the moment of seeing how I develop and then take it from there. I don't know if it will be one of these sports where, you know, you're to the extent that you might play for Scotland or anything like that, not like athletics and things like that. The reasons that I keep on, I really enjoy it, I'll keep on going until the bitter end basically, probably, well maybe not when I'm sixty or that but!

JM: As long as you're physically...

LV: Can, yeah.

JM: Ok, that's brilliant, thanks very much for that.

INTERVIEW 8 - SARAH PARK 14/04/03
ARBROATH (3rd DIVISION)

JM: So just to start off with then, where were you born and brought up?

SP: I was born and brought up here in Arbroath, well I've basically been here all my life, even though I've worked in Dundee, but no here in Arbroath.

JM: How about your family? Have you got any brothers or sisters?

SP: I've got one younger sister, five years younger than me she is.

JM: Ok, and your parents or guardians, what did they or what do they do for a living?

SP: My mum's basically just been at home due to ill health, and my dad he's an engineer.

JM: Ok, and how old are you just now?

SP: Twenty seven, yeah twenty seven I had to think about that.

JM: Where did you go to school then?

SP: I went to school Muirfield and then Arbroath High School, here in Arbroath.

JM: What qualifications did you get from school?

SP: I had six highers, and I think ten standard grades.

JM: Right, and what did you do from school?

SP: Well I went to university, to Dundee to study physiology, and then after my degree I did a PhD in physiology and I'm working at Ninewells Hospital now in research, medical research.

JM: Ok, and have you been doing, is that what you've been doing since you got the PhD?

SP: That's what I've been doing since I've done my PhD yeah.

JM: So how long, about a couple of years?

SP: Three years, yeah.

JM: What social class background would you say you've had?

SP: I would say middle class.

JM: Middle?

SP: Yeah.

JM: Ok, in relation to parents occupation and...

SP: Yeah, I would say middle class.

JM: What about yourself now, would you consider yourself still the same?

SP: Still middle class definitely.

JM: What about the typical woman footballer, what would you say it was?

SP: I think a typical woman footballer, because in our team in particular are younger players, I think it would probably be based on their parents, which I reckon would probably be middle class.

JM: Middle class?

SP: Middle class yeah.

JM: Do you think there'd be many upper class people playing women's football?

SP: A couple maybe, yeah, but not many, I think it would generally tend to be middle.

JM: What about working class?

SP: Yeah, well working-middle, a mixture of the two yeah.

JM: A working to middle class background?

SP: Yeah.

JM: *Right, what about your experiences of football then, what are your earliest memories of football, I mean did you play when you were a toddler in the back garden, that kind of stuff or...*

SP: No, not really. My earliest is really my dad watching football, or watching football with my dad, or going to football with my dad and my uncle.

JM: *At what kind of age?*

SP: I would say about seven or eight, I can't really remember anything before that really.

JM: *Right, was that going to watch local sides?*

SP: Yeah, local sides, a couple of times you know the likes of Rangers and that, and it would be like a treat. But no, it was athletics that I did mainly, initially from about seven years old.

JM: *Right ok, was that through school or was that...*

SP: That was just through being introduced to it by friends of the family.

JM: *Yeah, ok. How about your parents then, or your sister as well, how much are they involved in football, are they interested in football?*

SP: No not really interested in it at all apart from coming to watch me, or, I mean my sister watches football but I wouldn't say she was, she's definitely not that interested, she's not really sporty at all.

JM: *So would you say football has had or still has an important place in your family at all?*

SP: Not really, no. I've sort of been the first person that's sort of started to play it. I mean my dad used to play it when he was younger, most guys do when they're younger, but no I was always the first.

JM: *How did you first become involved in actually playing then?*

SP: About, it must have been about three years ago I got quite a bad back injury in athletics which kind of led me to have to give it up. So for about six months I wasn't really doing much sport. And then somebody just suggested football because it's played on grass and would be a bit more gentle than a track. I just thought that it might be quite nice to get involved in a team sport, because I'm really quite, I like to stay fit and like to do activities, so it was actually somebody that suggested to my dad, I think it was our manager at the time, said for me just to come along and see what I thought.

JM: *So your first club was Arbroath?*

SP: Yeah.

JM: *Ok, so who really encouraged you to play then, mainly?*

SP: I think it was probably myself, I don't think that there was anyone really that stood out.

JM: *The opportunity arose and you...*

SP: Yeah, the opportunity arose, it was suggested to me, but I kind of liked the idea myself.

JM: *So you were, about twenty-four was it when you first started playing regularly?*

SP: Yeah.

JM: *And you're generally, Lisa laughed when I asked this question, are you usually in the first eleven, because she said usually you're lucky if you get eleven!*

SP: Yeah!

JM: *And, yeah you've been playing for Arbroath for three years. Just moving along to just sport in general now, you've mentioned your athletics, but what other sports or activities have you been involved in?*

SP: It's really just been athletics that's been really involved, athletics six or seven days training and things so there really hasn't been any other sport apart from athletics until football.

JM: What about at school?

SP: At school it was mainly athletics, team sport-wise we, I mean I wasn't really interested in netball or anything like that.

JM: Was that offered to you at school?

SP: Yeah netball, I'm trying to think, there was trampolining, gymnastics, things like that. But I was really heavily involved in athletics, so it was about the only thing I've really taken part in. But football, rugby, things like that, we never got any like that, not at school at all so I don't know whether I would have been interested in it.

JM: Did the boys play football and rugby at school?

SP: The boys played football and rugby.

JM: Ok. Would you say now that football is your main sport?

SP: Yeah definitely. Well not at the moment because I'm pregnant!

JM: But you'll go back to it?

SP: Yeah.

JM: So you've stopped the athletics completely, three years ago?

SP: Yeah.

JM: What is it about football in particular that you enjoy?

SP: I like the fact it's a team, I mean I've only been involved in athletics since I was eight, athletics is a very individual, apart from when you go away for team events, it's still an individual performance. But what I like about football is that there's eleven of you's and you're trying, well usually eleven of you, and you're trying to work together as a team. That's really the main thing that attracts me to football, the fact that it's a team sport, and you know, not as much pressure on one individual as there had been in athletics.

JM: Yeah. Is that what makes it more, does that make it more attractive to you than athletics? I mean, if now, having played football for a while, if you were able to still do athletics...

SP: I'd probably try and combine the two of them actually, which would probably be possible because athletics is a summer sport and football tends to be over the winter so I would, I would try and combine the two if I could.

JM: You'd try not to, if you had to choose one...

SP: If I had to choose one I'd probably go back to athletics, just because I've done it since I was eight years old, basically that's where my heart is I think.

JM: Just moving on now to other people's influences on you playing football. I've just got a list here of general groups of people. If you could just go through them like one by one and just give a general idea of what influence they've had on you playing football, whether it's been positive or negative, or they've had a real encouragement, that kind of stuff.

SP: Well my parents, my dad's been very, well he's encouraged me a lot. Because like I say, he's played football in the past, and yeah he's been quite keen for me to play, he's come down and watched. And, well my mum, she's encouraged me to a certain extent, but been quite worried in case I get injured, or like it's quite rough, but generally my mum and dad have been very I would say, like behind me. My sister I don't think, well she's come down and watched me but I don't think she really, you know, she's not, I wouldn't say she's discouraged me as such, she's not discouraged me or anything like that.

JM: So she's quite impartial?

SP: Yeah, she probably thinks oh well is that what she's doing now, well that's fine, sort of thing. Other relatives, trying to think. I've only really got one other grandparent and she's, she's been quite encouraging as well. I mean I've not really had any negative, well negativity from anybody really. Steve, my partner, he's been very encouraging. I mean he's actually involved in coaching the team and that now so he's been really, you know, he'll encourage me over the summer to get back into it, yeah so he's been very positive. Friends, they've found it quite funny!

JM: Friends outside of football?

SP: Yeah, friends outside of football yeah. Particularly at my work and that, a lot of them think 'oh football, how can you play football?' but, like I say, they've been down on Sundays usually to watch and support as well. Peers...

JM: That's kind of people at work as well.

SP: School, doesn't really apply, teachers, not really. Coaches, well that's really Steve and Leighton now, and they're obviously encouraging us and trying to get us to train harder and get more people involved and things.

JM: Others, is just if there was anyone else...

SP: No, I don't think there is.

JM: So that pretty much covers.

SP: Overall I think it's been positive from everybody. I don't think anyone's actually, you know, tried to discourage me.

JM: Who, out of all of those people then, who would you say has been the most positive influence?

SP: My partner definitely, Steve yeah.

JM: Any that have been slightly more negative than others, I suppose may be schools?

SP: Yeah with school we just didn't even get the opportunity, I know that's changed now, because I know that there's quite a good, you see in the paper a lot about schools, they're really getting behind women's football now. But when I was at school, no it wasn't, we couldn't even consider it as a sport for females at that point.

JM: Kind of related to that then, just moving on to attitudes and perspectives of women's football generally. What do you think are the general attitudes towards women's football from the general public, or the media in Scotland?

SP: I would say it's not, I would say men, I don't know. See it depends who you speak to. Some men are sort of, I think they dismiss it, you know 'women playing football, don't be so bloody stupid', then again there's some, there's other men, I mean like my friends and things that...but then may be that's because I'm involved in it they're not going to say anything negative about it to me.

JM: What do you think if you thought of, you know just stood back and thought of the general public in Scotland, what do you think?

SP: I don't think they realise that there's that many, that there is like a league structure and there is a premier, first, second and third. Because when you say to them 'I play for Arbroath and we're in the third division', they're 'third division? What do you mean? I didn't even know there was...' You know what I mean? I think, but I think that could change over the next wee while because more girls are playing at school. But in general I think not a lot of people really realise how structured, the fact that there are a lot of teams formed.

JM: At that level of awareness?

SP: I think so.

JM: Kind of related then, what do you think about media coverage, like in the newspapers, on television?

SP: Well the only thing that I've ever really seen on the television has been the Women's FA Cup Final, and even then it's not really been that well televised, publicised even. So I don't think there's a very, media-wise, haven't really done much. But I don't know, that could change over the next, it's may be just starting.

JM: What about newspapers?

SP: In newspapers there's absolutely nothing, there's no league tables, there's, I mean there's a web-site for the women's football league but I don't think anyone's going to go on there unless they know or they're involved in teams, like they play themselves. But there's not even results from the Premier division, well I don't know.

JM: It's quite a pertinent point that because for the first time ever I noticed in the Herald the other day they had the fixtures for the women's Premier league.

SP: That must be a first then.

JM: Yeah. Do you think there's may be any difference, I mean I don't know if Arbroath are represented in like local newspapers?

SP: There is, because I used to be, I was involved in the athletics, and I'm still involved the administration side of athletics and I was the publicist for four years. And I know that our local paper, certainly if you provide them with news and results they will print it. There has been some local, in particular Carnoustie that are doing quite well, they're second in our division, they've been getting league tables printed in the local paper in Arbroath anyway. It's not the Courier or anything but they certainly have been getting, you know, little write ups and things like that. So I think local papers are quite happy to print local news. But on a more national scale I don't think, there's just nothing. I mean the Scottish Cup and things like that I don't think.

JM: I think sometimes they get the odd feature on it you know, at certain times.

SP: But apart from that there's none, not that I'm aware of anyway.

JM: Kind of related to that I was going to ask you how attitudes might have changed over time. I mean I've had some people that are in their thirties, late thirties, who have kind of talked about now, they see it now as a lot better than before, so you're kind of saying things will change, do you think things will change?

SP: I think they will definitely with the schools, with the fact that kids are now, and there's under sixteen's, and under, you know, all these teams at schools, definitely. I mean I think I found it quite surprising that there's not enough publicity and things because I've come from athletics which is really kind of highly publicised. But I mean I don't know what it was like for women's football back, I mean I wouldn't have even considered, I wouldn't have even known there was any women's football going on when I was at school. Because it wasn't even a sport that we could think about getting involved in. But nowadays there is a good structure starting from a really early age, which is what we need.

JM: Yeah. It's one of the fastest growing sports just now.

SP: That doesn't surprise me, yeah.

JM: Do you think those kind of attitudes would be particular to Scotland, or throughout Britain, or in Europe, or further afield?

SP: I don't know, I wouldn't really be able to say. I think in countries like Germany for instance, I mean I know that they take their sport very seriously. And youth development there, even in a sport like athletics, I'm probably speaking about athletics too much, but they have any sort of potential recognised at a young age they'll take you away and there was actually sports colleges and things like that. So I'd imagine that they've probably had that going in football for quite a long time.

Scotland always seems to lag behind, you know, even England I think the leagues down there are much more, you probably know more about what's going on in women's football down in England than you do up here in Scotland. Yeah, so I think Scotland probably is a wee bit behind, but I think it's probably not a, just in football, it's probably in any sport just generally yeah.

JM: I think some of the differences really having researched it, for example in America it's fully professional there.

SP: Well exactly, I mean the scholarships and things that have been offered to players, you must realise that over there they're really, they're on the ball, excuse the pun!

JM: Even within Europe itself there's certain semi-professional leagues, and some professional leagues and things like that so it's different. Scotland are probably to some extent lagging behind a little bit. Do you think there's stereotypes created regarding women's football?

SP: I'm not sure now, now having been involved myself, but certainly team sports in general, like football and rugby in particular I think, it's all, you know if you're feminine you can't be a footballer or rugby player. But having played football now, and played against different teams and things like that you realise that that's not. There's people, like in athletics and in any sport, of all different ages, shapes, sizes, whatever playing, it's not like you have to be particularly manly or butch or, you know what I mean, to play football. Which is what I think people tend to think about rugby in particular, and may be football as well I think.

JM: Do you think that some, kind of like some of the stereotypes that people tend to suggest, like you say butch, masculine women, some people say it's full of lesbians, things like that, those kind of things.

SP: Yeah.

JM: Do you think to some extent players conform to that or is it, from your experience do you think it's just a stereotype basically?

SP: I think it is basically just a stereotype, I think it depends team to team really. I think there has been teams that we've played against, where you've just, it's awful saying it, but there's seemed to be a sort of higher majority of more butcher looking women. You get the feeling that there's, you know, may be, I don't know, I'm speaking from like our team Arbroath, I would say there's not really, there's no sort of stereotype within our team, whereas there's certainly, I mean that's just making an assumption on what people look like. But you know, other behaviour when you then go for a drink after the match, you just, you see women together and things like that, some teams have more of that going on than other teams. I would say generally no, I'd say, but definitely people's, like when I first said I was playing football at my work and that, people's attitudes they all used to think that, I mean I think rugby is worse than football, but football they definitely think that's a man's sport, you know I can't even think about playing that, you know. And I think a lot of my friends were surprised because I didn't really look like what they thought a footballer would have looked like. So I don't know whether, I don't think that anymore, and I don't even think I thought that before, having been involved in sport quite heavily, but I can imagine it might put off other people, or it might be something that they think that women's football is like or, yeah, so there is definitely stereotyping going on but from what I've found now.

JM: Do you think that's something along with the lack of media coverage and that kind of stuff that would probably diffuse out of more youngsters...

SP: Definitely.

JM: I suppose that if girls are playing football at school now, then it's seen as almost natural for them to play it, whereas, and the boys that they're at school with will see that as natural.

SP: I mean I think that when I was at school there was may be one of the girls that used to play football with the boys.

JM: What did people think of them?

SP: Well people would just, I mean probably at the time, they'd like hanging around with the boys all the time, and why do they do that? You know, it's not natural for a girl to want to do that. And may be more tomboyish, which is getting back to this butch sort of stereotyping again, you know, that's the sort of attitudes that I've grown up with. But nowadays it seems, of the people in our team, you know, there's may be one girl that we know that's a lesbian, but apart from that the rest of us are all with partners or whatever, you know, we're all from different backgrounds and...

JM: Ok. Just along that kind of line, have any attitudes, like you were saying, stereotypes and things like that, do you know of anyone who's been discouraged from playing because of those kind of attitudes?

SP: I don't think so, no I don't.

JM: It might just be a case that they just haven't got involved anyway because of...

SP: Yeah, it might be, but not that I know of because of that.

JM: And you've never been discouraged?

SP: No, definitely not.

JM: Has anyone ever, you said about may be some of your work colleagues having a bit of a laugh, has anyone considered it strange that you play football?

SP: Probably initially, I don't know whether it was just because I'm a blonde and things, and because may be I didn't conform to like a butch, stronger type. But I mean I was fit because I did athletics, so you know, it's not just about being manly. So yeah, some people at my work did think it was a bit strange when I first started playing, but now they're all used to it.

JM: Just moving on to the main section now really, the last section, about being a member of a club rather than just the football itself. Just trying to get an idea of similarities that people who play football have, and basically despite football would you say that there are any particular characteristics that make women footballers have things in common. Is there certain things that they have in common? I've got just a list there of just some general ideas, if you could have a look at them. Would you say that there's things that you think you share with people in your team that may be you don't share with people at work or other women or...

SP: I think with background, as in if you've may be had a sporting background. You reach the stage where it is quite nice to take part in a team sport. I know Lisa who's probably, she's almost the same age as me, and at school you probably weren't ever given the opportunity to do that. So there are quite a few players on our team that I know that have done sport to some sort of degree and then they've come to football and then. So a sporting background I think I would have in common, an active background. And then may be finding in a sport like athletics that you can't sustain that sort of level of training so then you move on to something like football, or a team sport, so yeah, sporting background. Occupations, I mean I don't really, social class. You see I'm quite an old, I mean I'm probably one of the oldest in the team.

JM: Right, so they're quite a young team?

SP: Yeah, I mean they are quite a young squad, I mean they are, a lot of them are still at school I think. So social class and education, and things like that, I don't really. But I mean saying that, it doesn't seem to get in the way of having a good laugh or

anything, the fact that, I mean we probably all just think I'm really old and 'oh my god' you know, 'she's like married' and things like that but I wouldn't say that. Personality, we've all got different personalities. Femininity? Sense of humour, well we all get on really well. But a lot of those things, I don't think, I mean when you look at our team we're all from different, doing different things at different stages in life, and you know, there's may be not that much, apart from the fact that we love playing football, that we've actually got, football has brought us together. Whereas quite a lot of the others, being at school, they've brought their friends along and they've, you know, so that's may be. Or they work together, I know Dawn, who works at the sports centre, she's got a lot of other friends and that involved through her work and things but no I wouldn't say.

JM: Is there any striking differences would you say between like women footballers that you know and say just women who don't play football, in terms of any of these things, may be like the femininity, style and clothes that they wear, is there any differences or any similarities between women footballers, is there any differences to other women?

SP: I don't know I mean a lot of, a lot of my friends probably wouldn't be seen dead in a football strip, so yeah, that is a difference. You know, they'd think 'oh I don't want to get all dirty', or wouldn't want to do training, or run around on a football field, or even choose a pair of football boots or whatever.

JM: Are they likely to just not be sporty do you think, or is it more to do with football?

SP: It's probably a combination of both, may be more not being sporty for some of them, but then others, I mean, a lot of my friends are quite fit, they go to the gym and things like that but they wouldn't, I mean I've said to them before 'have you thought about football?', 'no I couldn't see myself playing it, it's too rough', or 'it's too, I'm scared I would get hurt', or whatever. So yeah, attitudes and things towards football probably.

JM: So in terms of that then you start to may be see where people in the team you may be do have kind of similarities...

SP: Yeah, but they all come back to the fact that we want to play football really.

JM: And to want to play football you've probably got certain similarities?

SP: Yeah.

JM: Anything else that jumps out at you?

SP: Not really, no.

JM: A couple of other people have said that, in terms of the sense of humour and that, that they always get on and have a laugh, and it's difficult to determine whether that would be the case just in any group of women together, or if it's emphasised a little bit more with the fact that the combination of a team sport...

SP: Yeah, but I mean we have like a group of, it's mostly females that I work in a lab with at the moment and we all sit and have a right laugh. Work is the only thing that we really have in common, so it's probably just a group and female group...

JM: Dynamic?

SP: Yeah.

JM: Would you say that women footballers on a certain level can identify with each other in relation to these kind of things, or do you think mainly that it's just the fact that they play football that they have in common?

SP: I think, well for me I just feel that football is the only thing I have in common with a lot of them, yeah. So I mean apart from some of the girls that are thinking

about going on to do, you know, a degree at PE college, or things like that, you know, you can chat to them about that.

JM: Again that's kind of the sporting connection.

SP: It is, it's the sporty thing yeah.

JM: Just moving on then, what are the main reasons why you play football? If you're looking at the wider things rather than just playing football, in the context of being a member of a club as well, what are the main reasons you play?

SP: For enjoyment really, I really enjoy it. Despite the fact that we don't have a very good team or anything at moment. But just to maintain a level of fitness, yeah I just enjoy it, I like doing, being active, you know. Having a match every Sunday, training, just something to focus on really.

JM: What about in the context of your everyday life and your work, what does football offer you may be outside of that?

SP: Just something completely different, using your physical thing rather than, I mean my job is mainly, you know, sitting down at a computer writing papers and using your brain, it's not really a physical job that I do. So it's quite nice to be able to, at the end of the day, go like training, and do some, and have something completely different to focus on, because it is completely different from what I do everyday.

JM: Would you say that would be the same whether or not it was athletics or football? Or does football offer may be a bit more in terms of may be the social and team side of it?

SP: It does, well not, in a way yeah, comparing that to athletics it was the same sort of social thing because you were with a group of people when you were training. But yeah it does offer you a social thing as well rather than just coming home and doing a hobby like playing a musical instrument or whatever on your own. Yeah there is a, there is definitely a social side to it as well.

JM: Just sticking with that social part then, what would you say the main social aspects of being a member of a club are?

SP: Drinking together, that's probably the main, yeah. Just going to the pub after training, may be sometimes having nights out during the season. And you usually end up in the pub after a match anyway, so it's mainly sitting around drinking together.

JM: And is it like, you form friendships, you've got your socialising?

SP: Me in particular, I mean yeah, I would definitely say I'm friends with everybody in the team. But I wouldn't say I then saw someone out with the, you know the team, it's mainly just due to training and things like that, I wouldn't arrange to see them out with the club really.

JM: Would you say that the social aspects related to football is like an extension of how it is on the field?

SP: Yeah, yeah.

JM: Is it like a sense of belonging and community?

SP: I think so yeah. It's like you say, like a group, a group of people with that one thing in common, that you can just sit and have a laugh. You can, I mean on nights out and that you speak about football, you speak about training, you speak about matches and that, so yeah it's definitely an extension of what goes on at training or on the field.

JM: How important would you say that the social aspects are to you?

SP: It's important that it's nice to have a laugh and be able to relax with your team as well, but I wouldn't say it was highly important to me. I mean, but obviously I

wouldn't play in a team if I didn't like anybody or whatever, but it's not like that, everybody seems to get on.

JM: How about with the other players? You say some of them are a bit younger, how important do you think the social aspect might be to them?

SP: I think it's probably really important to them, much more important than to the likes of me. Because I mean at the end of the day, in a month or so I'm going to have a baby as well, so there's may be a completely different, one life for me...

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

SP:...yeah I mean I know that a lot of the younger players may be meet up every Saturday night and have a night out together or whatever, they're more sort of involved with one another. I mean they see each other at school and things as well. I mean I don't really see any of the other players unless I'm training, or a match on a Sunday, or if there's an organised night out. But no I think it would probably be quite important to them. When I was younger and doing athletics the social thing was one of the things that held you there.

JM: Right, so it depends on the context of your life?

SP: I think so, definitely, definitely.

JM: To what extent, it's kind of the same question but to what extent would you say that the social aspects are a part of being a member of a club? I know you're brought together by football, but say if someone went along and played football but just didn't really socialise at all, how would that be seen, how important would people consider it?

SP: Well people would probably wonder why. I mean it's sort of generally, you we tend to, especially like the managers and the coaches you know tend to encourage everyone to have a drink at the end. If somebody was to take themselves out of that all the time then I think you'd probably wonder why, and I don't know whether it would end up snowballing and people, you know that person would end up leaving. I mean I don't know because generally in our squad we all do, I mean we travel away to away matches and that, you can't really come away on your own anyway, so you do tend to sit and have a good laugh or whatever. But I'd imagine it probably is quite important to do that.

JM: It's part and parcel of being a club member?

SP: It is yeah, I think so.

JM: This is probably quite relevant, how do you feel or would you feel if you were injured or you just couldn't train or play matches?

SP: Pretty gutted. Yeah, I mean when I found out I was pregnant I was really happy but it was just the thought of 'oh my god, I'm not going to be able to play football for like the whole season!', you know what I mean? And I played until I was about 10 or 12 weeks, and then the doctor said 'look, it's not worth it, especially if someone else injures you, or something happens'. So, no I was quite gutted, and I'd been along watching all season at the matches which has really been, it's been awful because you feel like you want to get on the pitch and help them out, it's been really quite hard, I mean I haven't really enjoyed it sometimes. I mean I've wanted to support them, you know, I've even been down to training and that, to kind of...

JM: I was going to say why do you go along to training and that when you can't actually play? Although you've kind of been saying the football is more important...

SP: The main thing...

JM: But you still do go along to training when you're not actually playing?

SP: Well I went a long to training just to remind the manager that I was still around! And that I'd eventually be able to play again. But just to kind of still maintain a feeling that I'm in the group, you know, and it's nice to find out how everybody, or how the team is getting on as well. Because I think if I'd stayed away for six or seven months I'd feel completely out of it. You know I wouldn't say I'd been down to every training session, just a few, but I've been down most Sundays and I've been to a few away matches as well to support them really.

JM: So it's still an important part of your life even when you're not actually playing?

SP: Definitely, definitely.

JM: Have you ever nearly given up playing, obviously you've had to stop now, but have you ever nearly given up for other reasons?

SP: No, not at all, I've not felt like that yet anyway.

JM: What do you usually do after training or matches, do you go out or?

SP: Matches, we usually go to the pub and have a few. But because we're working on Monday we don't usually go out all night. And then training usually finishes quite late about half nine at night, so I'm usually back, you know because I'm up, I travel to my work every morning so driving and that after a night out is just not on the cards. I'm not saying I wouldn't like to but, no we usually try and go to the pub for a drink or something, do something afterwards but not really, it's not like a long night, it's very low key.

JM: So when you do go out socially with other members what does that, how does that usually organised?

SP: At the moment, I mean we've had quite a sort of difficult season with our manager leaving, and a couple of players leaving and things. Before then the social nights would sometimes be a bit strained because of tensions, but now I think the social aspect of it is a lot better. And they're mainly organised nights out, you know like just a team night out in the middle of the season, or near the end, or near the beginning, but I wouldn't say it was a regular thing. But a lot of the players are friends from school so they will maybe go out on a Saturday night. And you might bump into them and end up staying with them or that, but there's nothing really I would say organised, there's not like an every couple of weeks or whatever.

JM: How would, if something was organised socially how would you feel if you couldn't make it out?

SP: I'd probably be disappointed missing out on a drink I think. Because like the last night out that they had, and I mean I couldn't go because I wasn't well during the day, so I felt a bit sort of like I was missing out, but I just couldn't help it really.

JM: Just, I'm going to run a term by you now, what do you understand by the term subculture?

SP: Subculture, I don't know. I've never really heard that expression before.

JM: Well, just basically if I just give you a general definition and then we're going to try and apply it to women's football. Subculture is generally a group of people brought together by something and because of that they interact and they tend to share similar characteristics, social meanings and values attached to what they do which makes them distinct to some extent from wider culture. But, although obviously they're still part of the wider culture, but the fact that they're brought together as a group makes them to some extent separate from the wider culture.

Would you say that there's a sense of being in part of a subculture of women's football?

SP: I think there probably would be if you were involved for a long period of time, I'm not sure if you spent a season with a team, or whatever then you would. But yeah I think that over a number of seasons and a number of years, yeah there probably would be. Yeah, because you'd grow up with one another, things would be going on in each other's lives that you'd find out about. Yeah, I think yeah I would agree with that.

JM: Like some players that I've talked to that have been playing for years and years, they say like not only within their club, within their club they feel like they're may be a distinct group within the subculture because they're different from other teams, whatever. But also on another level women's football on the whole in Scotland is part of a subculture because they knew other players in other teams and they've got this same bond, it's like a network as well that is distinct really. The reason is that they play women's football so it's distinct from wider culture.

SP: I haven't experienced that because I haven't really been involved that, I've only really been a sort of season and a half that I've been playing, but I haven't experienced that. But I did in athletics, I mean there was like a, you know we came from all over the place. I mean I even knew people from down south that I kept in touch with, penfriends and things like that, and you did felt like you were in an athletic community as such. But I haven't experienced that with football yet so I wouldn't be able to say on a more sort of national level whether that was the case or not.

JM: But would you say so within...

SP: I would say so yeah within the team, within the town where we live and things.

JM: Just to recap then really, what value would you attach to your experiences of playing football, have they been important to you?

SP: I would say it is very important to me, and I've only really realised that having become pregnant and not being able to do it all summer, I can't wait to get back to training, I can't wait to get back to playing. So I would say yeah it is quite a valuable part of my life now.

JM: What is it that, you've probably said near enough, but what is it mainly that you enjoy about it the most? Out of the whole scale of things? Or can't you pick one thing?

SP: I can't really pin point it on one thing, it's the whole combination of things, the training and I'm a bit of an adrenaline junkie, I love the feeling, you know the feeling like before you're coming out for a match. Just, I mean I've always loved physical sports and there wouldn't be anything that I could really say. The team thing is important, you know, the doing something on a Sunday, getting away from it all, getting away from my work is important, so it's the whole package really. I wouldn't say there was one particular thing.

JM: How would you feel if you weren't able to play football again?

SP: Pretty gutted, yeah I would, I would feel pretty gutted.

JM: What is it about it that you would miss the most?

SP: Everything that I've mentioned really. Because I was really gutted when I couldn't do athletics again. I think you would miss being out of that team situation.

JM: Would you try and maintain that if you couldn't play football?

SP: If I couldn't play football ever again I don't know if I would, it would probably be too hard to go down and watch without being able to say that at a certain point I'll be back hopefully yeah.

JM: Would you see yourself may be taking on different roles within football, like coaching or anything like that?

SP: May be, perhaps, I mean I did consider that with the other sport that I did with athletics, but then obviously I had to do my PhD and I was in my final year so, you know yourself that kind of takes over. And then I sort of came out of the athletics, I mean I try to, I still help out with the administration of the athletics on the committees and stuff. So, I may be would, I don't know, I would have to see how I would feel, I don't know how I would feel at the time.

JM: What are your kind of ambitions really for football? Just thinking about the future, do you want to stay with the same team and try and stay with the team...

SP: I would really like to stay with the team and for the team to become better and, you know, to may be, I mean we've really gone through a transition stage over the past wee while and we're recruiting players all the time. I think the way our coach and our manager is speaking the summer is going to be pretty hard going for us, training-wise.

JM: Preseason?

SP: Yeah, it really is. I mean we never really had much of a structure beforehand. So I'd really like, you know other than on a personal level, I'd really like to see the team do well. You know I'd love to take, I'd love Arbroath to you know, not necessarily win a league or whatever, but just be up there, so we feel like we're challenging.

JM: And win matches...

SP: Yeah and then may be once you get to that stage you would may be, I don't know, consider moving to another team or, I don't know. At the moment all I'd like to see is Arbroath doing really well and to be a part of that, my loyalties lie definitely with Arbroath.

JM: So what part do you think football is going to play in the rest of your life?

SP: Probably quite a major part.

JM: What do you think might make you stop playing?

SP: Injuries, probably, I'll try, I mean I'll try not to let my work get in the way or home life. It depends what happens, whether I have another baby or whatever. But I'm going to try not to let that stop me from playing. But probably injury, that's probably the only thing that I'd worry about that would stop, getting older, not that old, but you know what I mean.

JM: So you'll keep playing basically...

SP: Until I can, yeah.

JM: Right, ok. Well that's brilliant thanks very much for that.

INTERVIEW 10 - FIONA MELVILLE 01/05/03
FALKIRK (2nd – 1st DIVISION)

JM: Ok, just to start off with then, where were you born and brought up?

FM: I was born in Glasgow, but my mum and dad moved when I was a couple of months old, through to Falkirk, so I've spent all my life in Falkirk, well outside Falkirk at a place called Polmont, so basically stayed all my life there.

JM: Ok, and just now you're still living there?

FM: Yeah.

JM: How about your family? Have you got any brothers or sisters?

FM: A big brother.

JM: Older brother? How old is he?

FM: Twenty-three.

JM: Twenty-three. Right, what about your parents or guardians, what did they do or what do they do for a living?

FM: My dad, he's a timber salesman, he's like done that all his life. And my mum, she works for the NHS.

JM: Has she always done that?

FM: No, she's mostly sort of admin jobs, but for the last kind of ten years she's been doing that.

JM: Ok, how old are you just now?

FM: Twenty, nearly twenty-one.

JM: Nearly twenty-one. Where did you go to school?

FM: High school?

JM: Yeah, High school.

FM: Just in Falkirk.

JM: Falkirk High is it?

FM: Graham High.

JM: Graham High. What qualifications did you get from school?

FM: I just did my Standard Grades at school so that I could go on to college because at that time I thought that all I wanted to do was to do my HND in Sports Coaching. So I did my NC first to get an automatic place on that course. So instead of like risking doing my Highers or whatever, not knowing what I would get, I thought it'd be easier just to go and do that, sports-related things rather than doing crap stuff, Geography and everything.

JM: So what qualifications did you then get?

FM: SO for Standard Grades do you mean like the subjects and that lot?

JM: Just like, you got Standard Grades to get into college, then what did you do at college?

FM: I did my NC in Sports and Recreation, then I did an HND in Sports Coaching and Development, and then just at university doing my degree in Sports Studies.

JM: And you're in second year?

FM: Yes.

JM: Have you done any work as well at the same time like sine, during school or whatever, part-time stuff?

FM: When I was at school I never did any work, when I went to college I started doing coaching, football coaching, and then I've just basically done that ever since, but except from holidays from uni and college I'm working in the hospital. But I'm coaching obviously through term and not in term time.

JM: And is that just in the local area? What kind of coaching qualifications have you got?

FM: At the junior set up they've got different qualifications for different age groups. So I've got like my goalkeeping certificate in two different bands, like the five to eight year olds, and eight to twelve year olds.

JM: Right, and when you do your work you're employed by the SFA is it?

FM: It's through local authority, so like, and the club as well, because Falkirk have got a Lottery Funding and they're sponsored by (?), they actually fund me to do coaching as well so we are coaching under 13s, but I coach like for Stirling, Falkirk, and Clackmannanshire Councils just doing different things like school visits, girls secondary school league, just loads of different things.

JM: Just going to kind of like your parents background and when you were brought up and that, what social class background would you say that you had? If you think either working, working to middle, middle to upper?

FM: Probably working to middle.

JM: Working to middle?

FM: Yeah.

JM: Based mainly on like your parents jobs and attitudes and things like that?

FM: Yeah.

JM: What about now, do you consider yourself to still be the same?

FM: Myself or my parents?

JM: Yourself now, I usually ask this question because sometimes people are like in their late twenties, thirties and have got jobs and they see themselves...

FM: Right.

JM: Probably not changed too much then if you're not too sure? It's just asking that question mainly...

FM: ... the same as my parents.

JM: Ok, what about typical women football players? What would you reckon, what background might they come from?

FM: Well the stereotype is from a working class, that kind of thing. But probably a lot of the players that I know are either the same age as me, or kind of roughly about my age or younger. So a lot of those are probably seen as their sort of parents kind of class grouping as well so I don't know.

JM: Yeah, it's difficult to say.

FM: A lot of the older players, I think they're generally working class, kicking about the streets and that kind of thing.

JM: So just from your general experience...

FM: I think there's a difference from the older player to the younger player.

JM: Moving on to your experiences of football really now. What are your earliest memories of experiencing football, just like in any capacity, whether it's kicking a ball about when you're...

FM: Just like kicking a ball about with my brother in the garden, that kind of thing, with my brother's friends. When I was about nine or something like that, there was a course through the council just like for a, I think it was an Easter course just like to go for basically a weeks football coaching. And I had nothing to do so I thought I might as well go and do that, as I say it's basically just went on from there.

JM: Ok, did you ever go and watch football as well at all?

FM: Not until I started playing, I never went before. Like my dad, he's not really a football person, so there was like other sports that I went to watch, but it wasn't until

I actually switched to playing myself that I started moaning at my dad to take me, so he never actually went until I was playing.

JM: So it was pretty much like informal play just in the background?

FM: Yeah, when I was younger yeah.

JM: From about what age would you say, just as early as you can remember?

FM: Probably from about six or seven.

JM: You've kind of just mentioned this but do either or both of your parents play or watch football, or have they?

FM: When my dad was younger, he watched, he went like, he's a Rangers fan so he went to watch Rangers games, he's got like other interests, other sports as well. My mum has got no interest whatsoever. Until I played, she never really wanted me to play or, but because I'm into it more she takes more of an interest but not much really.

JM: What about your brother? Has your brother always played football?

FM: No, he's not into that kind of thing, he's more of an indoor person. When he was younger he used to like kicking about that kind of thing, in the good weather, but no interest. He was a swimmer so, he wasn't into outdoor sports.

JM: So reflecting on like your dad's interest, your brother's and your mum's interest, would you say that football has had an important place in your family life? Some people say that their family are football mad, kind of thing...

FM: It's been important since I've been playing it because my mum and dad, my mum not so much but my dad, he comes to all my games and it's a big part of his life, especially when I was younger, like transport and all that kind of thing. Everybody like talks about it, but not, people basically talk about my football, they don't talk about this kind of thing going on on the TV, all that kind of thing. So it has been quite a big thing, not as big as sort of football mad kind of families.

JM: So kind of their interest in football has come from you really, more than anything?

FM: Yeah.

JM: Apart from your dad's initial involvement with Rangers?

FM: Yeah.

JM: So you said about the course that you went on for about a week when you were about nine was it? Is that how you first became involved in playing football?

FM: It's the first organised kind of thing.

JM: And then from there, did you start playing for a team?

FM: Well I started with that first course and then obviously that gave me sort of more insight, or whatever, I was like more into it. And then after that, that was like Easter time, then after the summer holidays there was a course put on, it was the first course in the area, and it was put on for like girls only. There was before sort of mixed football where the girls could go but in football that's seen as a threatening atmosphere for obviously girls who don't want to play with the boys. So it was set up as a girls only class, and I went along to that for about three or four months. Then at that time Falkirk Ladies was formed, that was 1993, I was eleven, it was 1993 that that was formed. Then from then obviously I joined the club then it's basically went from there.

JM: Because Falkirk Ladies were kind of, were you kind of like the first group of youngsters going through it?

FM: Yeah, in the area.

JM: Do you think that that kind of happened on the back of those courses do you reckon?

FM: It was because Alison Mackie, she was a teacher, but during her Easter holidays or whatever a lot of teachers obviously look for other work. And that course that I went on was the Easter holidays, and Alison, she was the coach at it. And I think at the time, you'll probably get a lot of information from the Falkirk web-site and how the club formed, it's got a lot of things on there about that. There was basically a bunch of lady players that wanted to play football, because Alison was involved in football and whatever she realised there'd need to be a sort of feeder system so that there was girls going through the age groups. That's why they set up that, and that was on the back of the courses that she was coaching in. The same thing now, like the coaching that I'm doing at the moment, I'm looking for players for under 13 team, so you see the pathway, the pathway that starts at grass roots, it's basically just through that, and that all started from Alison.

JM: Ages ago? Ten years ago?

FM: Yeah.

JM: So you've always been with Falkirk since...

FM: No.

JM: Have you not? You've played for other clubs?

FM: Yeah. I was at Falkirk for eight years, seven years maybe, then I got the opportunity to move to Stenhousemuir, Cumbernauld Ladies, and then moved there for a year, then I went back to Falkirk.

JM: So you've been back at Falkirk for how long now?

FM: Two seasons.

JM: Two seasons. And why did you move to Stenhousemuir, just because of the higher ability was it?

FM: Mainly because there was the opportunity to play at a higher level and better players, no disrespect to Falkirk, but there was better players. Falkirk were in the second division at the time and Stenhousemuir were the best team basically with the majority of international players. And they actually had the set up where, I was at college at the time, and several of the players were like full-time training at the college, that kind of thing, and it was just a great opportunity for me that I couldn't have passed down to go to it.

JM: Right, a lot of these questions have actually been answered. So you play in the first eleven at Falkirk, goalkeeper?

FM: Yeah.

JM: International representation? At any level, any ages?

FM: I played for Scotland under 16s, that was a few years ago, I had one cap in a tournament, a kind of triangular tournament in Ireland and I played in one of the games, but that's all I've ever.

JM: Scottish unis as well?

FM: Yeah. Oh and trials for under 18s that kind of thing but I never got in, I'm too short apparently.

JM: Too short?

FM: Yeah, and I've done Scottish unis for the last two years.

JM: Right, that's all those about early experiences. Moving on now to your sporting biography really, what other sports or activities have you been involved in?

FM: Lots.

JM: What are the main ones other than football that you've...

FM: I used to be a swimmer before football, badminton, karate.

JM: And was that mainly through school or was that...

FM: No. My brother's a swimmer so it was like through the club, so I kind of took part in swimming. Basically lots of my sports were because my brother played them and I wanted to do the same as my big brother kind of thing. My friends did the same so it wasn't through school. It's like playing badminton at school, my brother played badminton as well, most of them just through, not anything to do with school, just because of my brother really.

JM: What about at school then, what sports were on offer at school?

FM: High school?

JM: Yeah.

FM: Just the usual really, badminton, basketball, swimming.

JM: Any team sports, other than basketball?

FM: Not in sort of first or second year, that kind of thing. When you were a bit older you had the opportunity, you could choose what you wanted to do. There was opportunity to play football, but that was only, that was in fourth year, you could do that. But I was like the only girl that chose that, the other girls did aerobics and trampolining and all that, but there was the opportunity to play if you wanted to.

JM: So did you have girls football team in your school?

FM: At primary school there wasn't anything but just after I left they actually formed one, and that's still going, it's a good team. At high school there was a tournament, this is through Alison Mackie, so she's like quite a big influence in the area, she used to be obviously girls and women's football development officer. She used to have this, she had this school league and everything set up at the time, but my school never had a team entered into the league. But they had another tournament that you could just sort of play in, a one-off tournament that the school entered, but just basically they didn't have the staff to keep it going so we never had a team.

JM: So would you say that football is, or has been, your main sport out of all your sports?

FM: Yeah.

JM: So since you've started playing that, although you've played other sports, football has...

FM: Well the other sports that I played were basically before, because I started like playing competitively when I was eleven. So the other sports were up until I was eleven. Like I swam from when I was about five up until eleven, then since then I had to basically choose like either football or the other ones, so I chose football, ever since then it's just been football.

JM: Why did you choose football rather than the others?

FM: I don't know, well it was an outdoor sport, all my other sports had been kind of indoor, and I just enjoyed being outside, I don't really know. My friends at the time, that's not my reason for playing now really, but at the time my friends were there and, I don't know. I think it was just a change for me. Because I went through a stage where I was like trying every kind of sport and then when football came along, my mum went 'no, you're not playing that, here's another sport', and all the rest of it. But I kind of stuck at it more because I wanted to prove my mum wrong.

JM: Right, a bit rebellious?

FM: Yeah, so I don't know why I actually chose it over, I think obviously I enjoyed it more, and I was getting fed up with the other ones.

JM: It is quite difficult to pin point what it is...

FM: Yeah, it is difficult, I can't think of my reason exactly behind choosing it.

JM: *We'll talk about now other people's influences on your football career, as I'm going to call it. I've got a list here of just groups of people basically. If you could just go through them like one by one and just kind of say what role or influence they've had and why you think that might be the case, so starting with your parents.*

FM: My dad, he's been a big influence, just like supporting me kind of thing, like my transport getting me to places, I know you don't appreciate it when you're younger but my dad has had like a big influence on me. My mum, she's like supported me as well, she was like, in the first couple of years she was a bit apprehensive about it all, since then she's like supported me fully. I think because she obviously saw that I was enjoying it and because I was being quite successful she supported me even more.

JM: *You won the battle then?*

FM: Yeah.

JM: *Your brother?*

FM: My brother, he's like actually quite funny because even to this day he knows he can wind me up so he tries to wind me up with it. Like 'oh, women's football, never should be playing', all that kind of thing. But he does support me as well he's like 'oh had did you get on?' and all the rest of it, but it just when he just winds me up because he knows that he can wind me up. So with that kind of thing you kind of think, oh he's not really into it, but he does support me. He comes to watch my big games, that kind of thing.

JM: *So he has got an interest?*

FM: He does, although he tries to hide it, he does I think. He always like tells his pals and all the rest of it so that makes me think he does.

JM: *What about other relatives, aunties, uncles...*

FM: Like my Grandpa he was a big help, he used to like always ask me how I was getting on, and he used to come to some of my games, and all the rest of it. But apart from that, we've got quite a small family, so like my dad, he's got like no other family, like my mum's family that's all down in England so we don't even have much contact with them at all. So it was just basically my Grandpa he's been a big influence on it.

JM: *What about your friends, school friends things like that, in the past...*

FM: Not really, they just slag it basically.

JM: *We'll come on to that a bit later talking about attitudes towards it. Other friends, a lot of people say that their friends are all from the football club anyway, what about outside of football?*

FM: My friends that I've grown up with, obviously that's my main friends kind of thing, even to this day I've had the same friends since I was five or six years old. And none of them play football at all, they're kind of like girlie girlie, hair, make-up has got to be perfect. Just like 'are you coming out tonight?', 'I can't, I've got a game tomorrow', you know that kind of thing, 'you've not given it up yet?'. It's like those kind of things and, although like when I was younger I guess I played it a little bit more because it didn't take up quite so much of my social life, that much of my time that I can't have a social life basically a lot of the time. But even now kind of thing although they say they support me I don't think that they do because like my best friend, she says to me 'are you not getting bored of it yet?'

JM: *They think it's a phase you're going through or something?*

FM: Yeah, 'are you not getting bored of it? I've got nobody to go out with tonight, do you want to just come out, it doesn't matter?' And like when I was younger I used to like say to them, especially when I was at school, kind of high school, I was like

'you should understand that it is an important thing to me, you should respect that' and they did at that kind of age because obviously they weren't wanting to go out like at nights that kind of thing, because they were playing with their My Little Ponies, or whatever. But like now when there is other things to be going on, some of my friends think, they're getting a bit fed up with it, so they don't really support me. Like I said to my friends the other day that I've played football for ten or eleven years, not one of them came to watch a game.

JM: Have they not?

FM: Never.

JM: Do you think that's, do you think your football has like come between your friendships a bit?

FM: Yes.

JM: It has?

FM: It has definitely, especially like, because I've got my uni pals, my football friends, and my home pals, and they all get jealous of each other, and it's hard to kind of deal with them all. Because especially my friends at home, they say 'how come you can't come out on a Saturday night?' and it's nothing to do with my other friends and that but I don't go out on a Saturday because obviously I play on a Sunday. And they say 'but you go out on a Wednesday and whatever at uni, you go out on a Thursday night with your football friends', and it's just obviously because I'm not spending enough time with them. And obviously their work and that kind of clashes with it, but a lot of them do get a bit jealous and that kind of thing. I've got more interests with my football pals and a lot of the time, although I do get on with my friends from home, they're kind of my best pals, there's quite a bit of a conflict going on.

JM: Do you think that's ever threatened you carrying on with football?

FM: Not at all.

JM: No? What would have happened if it had come to the point where like they were 'oh it's football or us'?

FM: I don't know, because a lot of my friends, saying that like, a lot of my friends, especially like my two best pals they used to be swimmers with me. So up until about three years ago they were still swimming, so when I was playing football they were at swimming so it wasn't much of a difference. But now because they're not swimming, I don't know actually, it's never, I hope it doesn't come to that point, hopefully not. That's the kiss of death, I'll be saying that to you next week!

JM: Peers is kind of like related to the same thing, it's usually related to people you might work with, or just other people rather than your close friends that you come across. But you work doing football coaching so...

FM: I suppose like my work, like in the hospital as well, it's sort of middle-aged kind of women and they say things like 'oh good healthy, getting a bit of exercise', I don't think they understand the sort of competitiveness of it. But they like say, 'oh how did you get on?' and all the rest of it.

JM: You didn't tell them that you got cracked under the chin...

FM: Obviously not.

JM: How about at school then? We've kind of talked about at school, what kind of influence would you say that they had on it all?

FM: None.

JM: None at all?

FM: None whatsoever.

JM: So teachers, just...

FM: I can remember like one teacher asking me like 'oh how did you get on?' that kinds of thing, but apart from that no influence whatsoever. They weren't interested...

JM: Your PE teachers, what about them?

FM: No interest whatsoever.

JM: None whatsoever? Coaches then?

FM: Well when I was younger it was Alison Mackie, I owe a lot to her, she sort of got me started playing football, and the first couple of years she was my coach. Also she kind of looked after things locally, then that guy, you know Peter Connell?

JM: Yeah.

FM: He was with some of the parents who came along to help out when I was at Falkirk and he's been a big influence kind of thing. He made like football more enjoyable and that kind of thing because at one point I was hating it, just like different things and that, but he like was always a big influence. But apart from that because I was at Falkirk there weren't too many coaches.

JM: Any others? I've just put others down in case people have random stories about just somebody they bumped into that wasn't, you know, any of the above, or whatever?

FM: No.

JM: Right, out of all of them who would you say overall had the most positive, and who would you say had the most negative effect on you being involved in football?

FM: I don't know, it's really hard to say because sometimes, alright although my mum and dad have been quite important they've never like overly kind of 'yeah football!' I think I've just kind of like went myself a lot of the time. I've never had anybody kind of saying like basically from birth 'play football', because it's not like ours is a big football family. Although my mum and dad have been like supportive in ways that like, with all my other sports, getting me there, obviously financing it, like all that kind of thing, they have been supportive, but I can't think of...

JM: Who would you say was the most positive then out of all of them?

FM: I don't know, between my dad and my Grandpa I think.

JM: What about, you were saying about Alison Mackie?

FM: Aye, obviously since I have been playing football she has been supportive.

JM: So from when it was more structured and organised?

FM: Yeah, but obviously from the beginning, parents and my Grandpa. Even to this day Alison does support everybody in the area kind of thing. She's in a post at the moment doing that kind of thing, but she still has got an impact on young girls who are kind of coming through just now.

JM: Most negative? Or just like no influence whatsoever?

FM: When I was at school.

JM: What kind of attitudes there?

FM: Just like 'oh you can't play', just like that kind of thing. Although some of them were quite supportive, I mean I used to be like, at school, at playgroup, whatever, play just on the pitch with the boys in my team. And no other girl got to play except for me who'd get picked. And I always remember, here's a story for you, one day all the girls at my class in primary school they decided 'how does she get to play and we don't get to play?' so they basically sat in the middle of the park and didn't let us play. They all had their little dresses and that on and were actually sat in the middle of the park and says 'we're not moving until we get to play'.

JM: Did they want to play then, or...

FM: I think they just wanted to play because I was playing.

JM: Right.

FM: I mean they couldn't play, do you know what I did, I actually set up a wee park and was like 'go and play there', that kind of thing and the girls, they actually started playing at primary school. But obviously when you go to high school they got other interests, whatever, but at primary school there was more of an interest and like, they weren't moving.

JM: Just totally like unstructured, just in the playground?

FM: Yeah, just all over the place.

JM: So why were you allowed to play, was it because you were good and they knew you were good?

FM: Yeah.

JM: Being modest there.

FM: Obviously I was better than the other girls and, I don't know, I just think girls get chucked in goals kind of thing. Although I was a 'keeper I think it worked out better, but probably because I was good at the same time, and you got a chance to just run about kind of thing. Although there was a guy 'keeper and they chose me over him, so I don't know, maybe because I was better than the guy but, I don't know, so that was obviously a positive kind of thing, but the whole thing as you get older, the attitudes kind of change.

JM: Or maybe if you'd not been as good at primary school and you'd wanted to play, maybe you wouldn't have had quite as positive...

FM: Probably not.

JM: You might have had to sit in the circle with the other girls!

FM: Maybe!

JM: We're kind of like moving on to the same thing here, perspectives on women's football. What attitudes have you experienced towards women's football generally from like the general public would you say, what kind of attitudes are there?

FM: First I think it's changing, you can see that, but when I was obviously younger there was no coverage or anything like that, so people were saying it was just 'oh a bunch of girls, they can't play football, get in the home'. But obviously that's changing now with more coverage, occasional newspaper article here and there.

JM: So the media coverage goes hand in hand with the public opinion?

FM: Yeah well it's the media telling the public what to say and what to think.

JM: Next question was, has attitudes changed at all over time? Which you've kind of answered that, why do you think they're changing?

FM: I don't know, probably just like because these ladies that were playing, obviously some of them have got families so obviously they're bringing their children up to maybe play football. Or like one of the ladies I know, she's got a daughter so her daughter plays, it's just going to stem from that. Because more girls are playing they're passing on their values or whatever, saying it's alright. I think because the skill level has increased and better performance, people are actually looking at it now. They're saying 'well they can play' I think a lot of the time. So a lot of the guys say 'oh they can't play football', but a lot of them, Peter Connell used to say exactly the same 'girls can't play'. Until they actually go to a match or whatever, although it's a completely different game to a guys game, they can see there is something there. I think that's maybe how a lot of attitudes have changed. Some of the coverage on the TV as well and then like the FA Cup on Sky Sports, a lot of people will look and say 'oh they aren't just running about pulling their hair back and doing cartwheels in the middle of the park, they can play football'.

JM: Just kind of thinking about the attitudes you were saying earlier about you know 'girls can't play football', that kind of thing, do you think they're more particular to Scotland? Or do you think that they're similar in England and the rest of Britain, how about and then thinking about it a bit wider, do you know of like if attitudes are a bit more open to women's football in Europe or elsewhere in the world?

FM: I don't know about England, I don't know, probably just the same, I don't know, I wouldn't like to say. But just because it's like a traditional thing. See if we look at America it's a new sport, they didn't have that traditional culture or whatever, it was a new sport so it was accepted. Just because of the history dating back until, whenever, I should know this!

JM: So it's just, basically it's historical basically, you're saying. Not stepping on like male toes or anything like that, and that's why...

FM: I don't need to explain it further really.

JM: Right, ok. Is there any like stereotypes created about women's football?

FM: It's always like big butch girls, they can't play, and it's all that kind of thing.

JM: You've come across that have you? Those kind of attitudes?

FM: Yeah.

JM: Do you think it's conformed to at all or do you think, just generally they're inaccurate and it's a narrow view?

FM: I think it's narrow, but there are people that are like that kind of thing. If you take into consideration that some of the footballers are like that, but there's a broader view saying there's more to it than that. Especially like the younger, I think it comes down to the changes with the younger players coming through.

JM: Right, so do you think the stereotype is more based on players years ago?

FM: Especially the likes of, I'm not saying any names, but the thirty-five, forty year olds, the has-beens that are still trying to play, they've got a cropped hair cut, and they're like that kind of thing. Everybody's kind of seen that.

JM: Have certain attitudes, like the attitudes we've talked about, the stereotypes and that towards women's football ever affected your willingness to participate or has it ever put you off?

FM: Not that I can think of, not really. I've heard that a lot of girls drop out because of all this kind of thing but I think I was like so strong minded and determined that I just wanted to play football, and I never cared. And I've always thought, you actually hear a lot of people saying 'why don't you give up?' and all that, because obviously you know this big full thing about lesbians in football, all this kind of thing. Someone says to me 'oh why do you play football when...', and I've just, actually a coach said that to me, I said 'to be honest I don't care about whatever's going on but I've found something that I'm good at', and no matter what anybody says or people's ideas or whatever, I'm going to keep playing football, no matter whether it is'. I'd be a minority if I want to be, kind of thing, and I'll play football, but I'm never going to give up anything just because of what people think. I think I've always been quite strong minded.

JM: That's actually come up quite a lot in the interviews actually when I've said, you know, 'have certain attitudes nearly stopped you playing?' I think if people were affected that much by them they probably wouldn't be playing now. Did you know of anyone who maybe played when you were younger and that but maybe because of attitudes or peer pressure or anything like that, they stopped?

FM: I think a lot of them.

JM: A lot?

END OF SIDE A
SIDE B

FM: ...obviously it's different factors why people give up but maybe one of them would be because of that. They don't want to be associated to playing football, which is obviously associated to being, that kind of thing.

JM: I've read a lot of research about girls in sport and in that kind of sense it's in adolescence when the main drop off is, when other things come into play, you mentioned that earlier, they start to get other interests and things like that. And it might be the case that, you know, just any kind of sport there's chances of a drop off, but when it's a more male, traditionally male sport the pressures, the attitudes might be amplified a bit.

FM: Yeah.

JM: Moving on then to being a member of a club, this is like the main section really, just trying to get an idea basically. Ok, people that you play football with obviously you've got a common interest, or a common identity there, but I was just wondering if you could just pick out any other similarities that you think you have with people that play football but maybe you don't have with your other friends, or your friends from home. These are just some ideas just to think around, it's kind of related to background, status, it maybe applies more to older women that I've asked, but marital status and stuff like that, and going through basically. Do you think that you have certain things in common with other people who play football in relation to any of them?

FM: A lot of them are the same, like education and that kind of thing.

JM: In what way?

FM: Well like I'm at university, and my friends, the majority of them are educated, like one of my best pals, she's like graduating this year. Like a lot of people at my club, like they're in education as well.

JM: Ok, what kind of courses do they generally do, the ones that play football?

FM: They're obviously more sports...

JM: Do they tend to be sports-related courses?

FM: The majority yeah, whereas I can't see my friends doing sports courses. Their attitudes and that are different towards sport, towards people and towards things in general. And like sense of humour is like quite different.

JM: Different in terms of what, your football is different from your other friends?

FM: Yeah.

JM: In what way is that? Do you want to expand on that a bit?

FM: Like with football it's so crude and that, like the things that they say. See it's like so smart, some of the things they come out with, it's hard to explain, but if I, some of the things that are said at football, if I said that to one of my friends they'd be like 'oh my god what are you talking about, what are you...'. I mean you might think something is really funny at football and then if I explain all this to one of my friends they'll just look at me 'right ok', that kind of thing. I think the sense of humour is different.

JM: So do you feel that you share, tend to share similar kind of sense of humour with people who play football?

FM: Yeah. Style and clothes, I don't, that's actually quite a hard one, because although like the activities and whatever that I'm involved during the day I've got to

be like wearing sporty clothes. Whereas a lot of my pals at football are quite the same, but when I go out at night or whatever I'll obviously not wear my trackies and that kind of thing. But obviously my pals at home are obviously like kind of, they've got to be perfect day and night even if they're sitting in their house.

JM: What if you went out for a night out with your football mates?

FM: With my football pals I would never be caught dead with my hair tied back or a pair of jeans on I wouldn't, even when I'm...

JM: So that's not how you'd go out dressed in...

FM: I wouldn't be wearing, no, never. I think that's because like I've been brought up with my pals at home.

JM: What about...

FM: A lot of them they go out like tinks! To be nice! I would rather go home and spend two hours doing my hair than having two hours being out drinking. I would rather go later and get my hair and that done than go out.

JM: Do you think that's the pressure from your other friends like?

FM: I don't think it's pressure, because it's just the kind of normal thing for me to do. Like they go out, especially at university, they all go out like tinks, they do!

JM: In what ways then? Like uni mates, your football mates at uni, what do they...

FM: On a Wednesday after uni, you probably done it yourself!

JM: Probably!

FM: But like after a game of football they all get, like obviously a shower or whatever, they get changed and they go out like with their T-shirt and their jeans on, and I can't do that. It's not so bad at uni but if we went into town I couldn't, no way, it's not done!

JM: Why is that do you think? Because I know, obviously they don't care about doing that.

FM: I don't know, maybe because their friends, or they've been brought up a different way, or whatever. Especially if my mum sees me gong out like a tink, she'd be like 'hmm, nice'.

JM: That's funny, quite a good one. In terms of like, you're saying the sense of humour, quite a lot of people have said in interviews there's just this kind of like, although people have got different senses of humour, and people are louder than others within football, there's this kind of common banter that...

FM: Yeah, vulgarness!

JM: Vulgarness? So we've got, they all go out as tinks ... no, no I'm not going to quote you like that!

FM: You better not!

JM: But you do see differences between like your football mates and your...

FM: Saying that, I don't see like differences in outgoing personalities and that because my friends at home, they're quite outgoing and that kind of thing so that's similar. But just like the things that are said and that kind of thing. Especially at university, the things that are said there, they're completely different from at home.

JM: Ok, anything else on that list?

FM: Occupation doesn't really.

JM: Because a lot of them are still at uni, stuff like that?

FM: Yeah. Obviously there are some at the club that are employed.

JM: What kind of jobs?

FM: That's actually quite interesting, one of them is a journalist, she's actually going to work for the BBC now, somebody is a teacher, a school teacher, Alison Mackie works for the Local Authority.

JM: *She used to be PE teacher as well didn't she?*

FM: She's like a qualified PE teacher. So it's not as if it's a kind of working class, factory jobs which is quite interesting actually. Of the rest three of the kids are actually still at school who play in the senior team, they'll go on to university. Apart from that everybody else is in education.

JM: *Like three of them are at school did you say, so everyone else in education is like at college doing HNCs and that...*

FM: Most of them, one is at college, the rest are at uni.

JM: *Right, ok. Just kind of summarising the things we've just talked about in relation to that, would you recognise, would you say women footballers have a kind of identity that differs from other sports people maybe, and other women as well? Could you kind of like recognise a woman footballer do you think quite easily?*

FM: What like walking down the street?

JM: *Yeah.*

FM: A stereotypical one yeah.

JM: *Yeah?*

FM: But that could be associated with like other team sports as well.

JM: *What, maybe in relation to those kind of things...*

FM: Well like dress and that you could see. You know a sporty person when you see a sporty person. Don't know what to say to kind of bring it together.

JM: *Would you think that like when you're with other women footballers and, do you think that they think as well, that you've kind of, you've just this something in common with all the others and that you feel comfortable with them? Is there an identity on that level as well do you think?*

FM: I think there is an identity, quite a lot of them especially, I don't know how to say this, but a lot of them I feel at my club especially. I've never said this to anybody, but I'm kind of like an outsider. Like the way they all go out to Glasgow to their gay clubs and all that kind of thing. At my club it used to be, well nobody was like that, but now that's like the majority going to Glasgow. And like especially like a lot of my friends at football, I've grown up with them and a lot of them were all 'oh get away from that'. Honestly, a lot of people are like that, and a lot of them have actually decided that they want to be involved in that now, so they all go to that, so they're kind of like a wee group. I think there's a lot of them in football teams, either all, or the majority of them are like that, and they all kind of stay together. And then, because they obviously go out on a Sunday night and they come back in to training and they talk 'this happened, and that happened'. But I'm not kind of involved in that so I don't know, I think I don't have a common, except obviously playing football. Basically at the moment I'm there to play football, I'm not there for the social kind of thing because I've got my pals at home for maybe on a Saturday night, not a Saturday night but whenever I go out with them or like my uni friends. But I don't have that actual identity with my team, whereas a lot of the other people do, the majority do have that thing in common.

JM: *Ok. That's fine. What are the main reasons you say you play football?*

FM: The main reasons?

JM: *Yeah.*

FM: Enjoyment, just to play because I've been successful at it I want to carry on. It used to be obviously because of my friends like and that, but I don't see it as being a social thing. Fitness, exercise, that kind of thing.

JM: *Playing the actual sport itself rather than...*

FM: Yeah.

JM: *In the context of like, just your everyday life, yours probably revolves around uni and stuff like that. I've kind of asked this question before with people to try and get an idea of, it is geared towards some people more than others, this question really. Because some people that have worked at like, they say they get bored at their job they don't really like their job, and football just offers them just like a kind of total release. I mean that might not just depend on the job itself, but what does football offer you just kind of in your everyday life?*

FM: Well basically, although I've got my uni, and I see my uni I as being very important, however football is my life. Like obviously I see uni as being like really important, and that takes priority like if I've got an essay or whatever, that's more important. Saying that, football is my life in terms of, it revolves around it, and like in terms of coaching, actually playing myself, organising different things, or whatever, that is my life. And everyday, I don't get a day when I don't have either playing, coaching, watching. So, sometimes I do get bored, I'm not going to hide that, I do, sometimes like 'oh, I can't be bothered' that kind of thing, but it is basically my life, I've always got football. See if I gave up football today I think I'd be like sitting in the house 'lah de da', not knowing what to do because basically my life is football.

JM: *Well I was basically going to say, is it anything over and above just simply playing football that keeps you interested? I'm kind of trying to get on to the more social side of things now, but you're saying it's not as important to you?*

FM: I don't see it as being important because at the end of the day all my friends that I've grown up with and, although I get on with a lot of the girls I play football with, have a laugh with them and that, but obviously my pals at home that I've grown up with are my friends. And a lot of people in football like lose their friends, lose touch with their friends at home, basically the team is their friends, that is there social sort of, that's who they go out with.

JM: *They become detached?*

FM: Yeah. Maybe they've had the problem that their friends haven't been supportive, or whether they have completely broken away with their friends, but I don't see it as being that.

JM: *What about, because you've got kind of a cross over haven't you, because you've got your uni team as well. And how do you take that, do you take that as seriously as Falkirk, or...*

FM: Last year no, I didn't. But because this year like at Stirling involved in the Club Performance Programme it is more serious. But I find like the university team more frustrating in terms of, no disrespect to the uni girls and we have got a good team, but there are some people that don't see it as being, obviously their reasons for being involved are completely different from me. A lot of them just like go along for a laugh, but that's fine, it's university football whatever, they do what they want. Whereas at Falkirk it is more serious, not completely, but it is slightly more serious. So it can be frustrating at university it is quite a different situation. Other people at university get really riled with me, and the likes of Leanne, people that play football, they get really annoyed, oh like 'you take it so seriously' and 'it doesn't really matter' and all that kind of thing. But I think if you've got a competitive nature you want to win, whether I'm playing at a training match, having a wee five-a-side game, playing for Falkirk, or playing for uni, obviously I'm wanting to win, I think it is quite a hard cross over.

JM: Do you think, you're kind of saying like when you're talking about with Falkirk it is the football mainly and you don't really socialise that much with your team. But at uni, do you think you get a bit of both, do you tend to socialise more, so with uni is it anything over and above just football with the uni team?

FM: I think in the past at university, from what I've heard, it used to be more of a social kind of team, club. So that was more important than playing football.

JM: That was when I was social convenor!

FM: But since, I think because of the sport at Stirling, with there being Club Performance, the actual sport itself is being made to be more, not more important, it's probably on a level par now. But you do get, I think lets say in three years time you're at Stirling, you've got, probably in two years time, there's basically a football team. And a lot of the members who have left, the ones that aren't particularly players, it's not going to have as much of a social.

JM: You're going to have some of the younger girls that have been playing for a long time coming through as well.

FM: The ones that are playing for clubs, like I know of like some Premier League players that are coming to Stirling next year, so obviously that's a different mentality, different reasons for playing football. Although like obviously at university you go out and get drunk that kind of thing, that will still happen, and because like different reasons or whatever, I think I don't know, I've forgotten what I was going to say.

JM: Probably like, just with the university like, with better players coming through and that, just the attitude, the mentality towards it is more professional...

FM: And you've got like at club football, I think in years past there was more of a social thing as well. But now it's getting, because the level of football and the increased performance, obviously that come in and more teams are taking it more seriously, there is much of a social, there's less of a social. I think that's happening the same at university football as well.

JM: Yeah I think, I mean this is one of the things I've been trying to look at in terms of the research is looking at how it, like how age, and different age groups. Is it the younger ones that are more serious about it than maybe the other end of the scale, and also ability level as well, to see whether...

FM: Just like their experiences, and the coaching they've been given I think.

JM: I thought maybe that ability level would kind of, they would maybe be the ones that do it more socially, the ones that are at a lower standard. But it doesn't, it is still taken seriously at lower standards as well, it's, I don't know, I'll find out and tell you when I know. Kind of breaking down the social aspects a little bit more now. I know you say they don't apply to you that much, but would you say that you formed friendships within football, and kind of breaking down the social aspects into friendships, socialising, interaction, a sense of community, do you think they feature within Falkirk, within the club?

FM: When I was younger definitely because like the majority of the team, people have come since, but the majority of the team has been there for, it's the ten years, it's the tenth anniversary this year. And as I've grown up with these girls we are good friends and whatever but socialising, that kind of thing, it's just I don't know, they do. They'll go out and have a laugh and do whatever they do and get drunk and all that kind of thing, so then that's obviously outside of football. But then not everybody is involved in that, but there is, the majority, a lot of the majority actually, they just play for Falkirk so they can go out with the girls, so that is for those girls.

JM: *So if I spoke to like some other girls in the club maybe I'd get quite like slightly different attitudes?*

FM: Like I'm seen, you know like university football I'm seen as somebody totally like 'this is what you should do', and totally like so serious. And see at Falkirk people say the same things about me, 'why do you take that so seriously?', they all go out on a Saturday night, the majority of them, and get gassed, and then they say to me 'what did you do last night?', 'I was doing my uni work, watched a bit of TV', and they're like 'why?', 'because I take my football seriously', whereas a lot of them don't take it as seriously.

JM: *So it's just different attitudes to it, personal approaches to it?*

FM: Yes.

JM: *So you've kind of summed this up but how important would you say the social aspects are?*

FM: Like me myself or?

JM: *You yourself first.*

FM: For me myself I'd say more so at university, but obviously because that's my friends at university as well. There is like a difference because they go out after the game.

JM: *Rather than the night before?*

FM: Rather than the night before, and that kind of thing. But for my club, especially since like it's completely different like how there's Stirling and Falkirk, then in Falkirk I've got my other friends as well. So I don't see it as being important at all, I don't care, I've completely detached myself. A lot of people in the past just went along and played football, left, and that was it. Basically I leave an hour after the game, maximum. I would rather like go and see my pals rather than stay kind of thing.

JM: *Right, but to other players...*

FM: Oh, other players, they hang about and they have a laugh, they have a drink, and that kind of thing, but that's just an individuals preference what they want to do.

JM: *Right, ok. How do you feel, how would you feel, this is quite an up-to-date thing, if you were injured and couldn't train or play in matches?*

FM: Very frustrated. Like I've had it myself, like obviously last week, last Sunday, I got injured. It's not going to keep me out for that last, hopefully I'll be playing tonight. But like, last year I got a bad ankle injury and I couldn't train or play for, you know, months.

JM: *Did you still go along to training and matches?*

FM: Yeah.

JM: *Why?*

FM: Just to be nosy, see what the coach is doing at training. And to support the girls and obviously you want to stay involved so that when you do come back you're not completely alien to what's been going on. Like on Tuesday night I went down to training to see how the girls were getting on, I still, I do have a laugh with them but, that kind of thing, but not outside of the football pitch I don't really.

JM: *Have you ever nearly given up playing?*

FM: When I was younger.

JM: *When was that, and why?*

FM: When I was in about, it was when I first started playing for the club, twelve or thirteen, because I got bullied.

JM: By other people in the team?

FM: Just other people on the team being bitches to me.

JM: Why did you carry on playing then?

FM: Just because, like I spoke about earlier, basically because I wanted to prove my mum wrong kind of thing, so I just kind of stuck at it.

JM: Strong willed?

FM: Yeah, and when Peter Connell came he kind of changed the team around and that kind of thing.

JM: Ok, you've kind of answered this already, what do you usually do after training or matches, do you go out, and what does it usually involve? What's the difference between that and at uni, if you just want to, between Falkirk and the uni?

FM: Well we all go up after training, there's a wee kind of pub thing and we go in there and have a wee juice and a wee chat about what's been going on. I talk to my pals basically, that I've grown up with my life, I don't really have much to do with, the older people and that I don't have much to do with them. But like after games, Sunday night I think is the big night to be out in Glasgow or whatever, and a lot of them go out on a Sunday night. They all meet up and go on mini buses and all that kind of thing. I'm a good girl, go and do my uni work. University football, I go out with them more but like I've got my work and that kind of thing so usually after a game in the pub they're drinking all night kind of thing, I've got to go home to my work. Like last year I never really made much of an effort because it was just a kind of, last year like I took university football basically as just an extra game for me, to sharpen me up, an extra couple of training sessions, if I could make it that was. But this year I've might like such a big effort basically just to be more part of the club like, and going out. Like last year if folk said 'are you coming out?' I was like 'I've got my work', my work finished at half eight and if I'd really wanted to last year I could have like made more of an effort and went out with them. But this year I have like made more of an effort so basically I go to my work and then I come back. There's actually a willingness there, I like get on with uni lassies and like going out with them more.

JM: Why do you think that's a difference?

FM: I've come up with a thesis, not a thesis, an idea.

JM: Right, go on then.

FM: This isn't to get published.

TAPE TURNED OFF

JM: What do you understand, do you understand anything by the term subculture?

FM: Yeah.

JM: Yeah? What is your general idea of it?

FM: Small groups in a culture, within one culture.

JM: Yeah, if we think of it as say a group of people that are brought together for a reason, and they interact because of that. They tend to share similar characteristics and social meanings and values maybe to certain things, which makes them to some extent different from the wider culture, but also obviously part of the wider culture but they're different because they are brought together for those reasons. Would you say that there's a strong sense of being a member or belonging to a subculture of women's football?

FM: Yeah.

JM: Yeah?

FM: I think there's different subcultures within it. Like, I don't know what the word for this would be but there's like a subculture, you play football so you are different from Joe Bloggs in terms of like your values and whatever, but in that there's also another subculture, what's the word for that?

JM: Sub-subculture?

FM: Yeah, there are different other wee groups that also have different.

JM: So one aspect of that could be the gay scene within women's football?

FM: Yeah, but then like there's other wee groups that are different. I don't know how to explain it but there is a group, a subculture that is different from normal society. You can even see the difference from like my football friends and my home friends, you see a difference there. But then still you can't generalise all these football players are the same kind of thing, that would be inaccurate.

JM: Well that was what I was kind of hoping you'd say.

FM: It's because of my education!

JM: So you've experienced that in, what kind of, if you could put yourself into like a subculture within women's football...

FM: A sub-subculture?

JM: Say...

FM: Because I'm already in the big subculture.

JM: Right, say we've got women's football as the subculture and then if you could put yourself into a group within that where would you fall, just from some of the things you're saying today...

FM: I see myself as being in a wee sub-subculture from somebody...

JM: Do you think that you're not typical...

FM: I see myself as having a different attitude towards my football, I'm a competitive person, it's basically there for my football's sake. I'm not there for, like when I was younger I probably was, but I'm not there for social reasons. I'm not there for very much fitness reasons kind of thing because obviously I've got the gym or whatever at uni, because obviously the whole kind of wee thing, be fit to play football, not play football to get fit.

JM: If we're kind of looking at it, you know kind of saying there, it's a group of people who are brought together and interact, on that side they're brought together by football anyway. Who share similar characteristics, social meanings and values, do you think it's at that point where you kind of get split off further?

FM: Yeah because everybody's got different values and whatever.

JM: Different values and social meanings attached to playing football?

FM: Everybody's got different reasons for playing football. Obviously there's two distinct, people that take it seriously and people that don't take it as seriously and maybe see it as a social, people that see it more as football for football.

JM: Ok, that's great. Just to recap then what value would you attach to your experiences of playing football? How important has it been in your life?

FM: Very, very. Football obviously is very important, whether it is uni or whatever, because I've got the same attitude towards my football, I take it seriously, I'm always competitive, but I don't see, at this stage of my life, I don't see it as, I think university football is completely different, but for my club football, it's not for a social reason whatsoever.

JM: What would you do or how would you feel if you weren't ever able to play football again?

FM: I think I might cry, I don't know. I'd be very intelligent because I'd have lots of time to study and do that kind of thing, but...

END OF TAPE 1
TAPE 2

JM: ...Yeah, if you weren't ever able to play football again?

FM: Well obviously because I'm a coach, coaching is a big part. It depends, if I broke my neck on Sunday and couldn't even walk, I don't know. But obviously coaching is a big, coaching is probably as big a part of my life as actually playing itself, so that would just take more importance. Obviously when I've finished at university what my plan is to do is, because I'm wanting to get a job in Sports Development. But until I do that, because I'm going to finish university when I'm twenty-three, twenty-two, twenty-three so obviously I'm not going to get the job that I want when I'm twenty-two, twenty-three. So what I'm going to do is basically coach for maybe two or three years, something like that. Because that's just a big part of my life, so when I give up I'm obviously going to be coaching basically, until I get bored of that.

JM: We've kind of gone into my final thing asking what plans do you have for the future in relation to football? What are your ambitions?

FM: After football I suppose I'll continue my coaching. Obviously there's the coaching thing, but obviously I want to get a job and give more opportunities to girls and like all that kind of thing. Probably, obviously there's not funding at the moment, but kind of a similar job to Alison, what Alison had been, girls and women's football development officer, or even, like a lot of the sort of people like Vicky Barr or whatever, just actual football development officers. Obviously being females they have more of an interest in actual development for women's. Because if you look at say just a football development officer, guys football, although in their remit they have got to have some kind of work done for the girls they don't really put that much into it I don't think. So I feel if I was in a job like that, I'd like increase participation levels, all that kind of thing.

JM: What about in terms of like your playing football, what are your hopes for that?

FM: I don't, obviously when I went to Stenhousemuir, I'd played for Scotland Under 16s which was a big thing for me, to get as high as I can get, whatever. But then when I went to university obviously I realised that I'm not going to be in, I can't get paid for playing football, and obviously I need to get an education, whatever. Because that's where I can get money from football, like a sports development job, but you've got to have an education to get there. So I don't take it quite as seriously, obviously I do take it seriously, I think that's just my nature.

JM: But you're not under the illusion that you can like play professionally?

FM: But unless...

JM: It depends how things get moving really doesn't it?

FM: It does, I think being a goalkeeper I've got an extra chance as well because 'keepers can play longer than out-field players. But I don't, it depends what else happens in my life, how long I keep playing and all that kind of thing. But I don't see it as important now, that's why I went back to Falkirk because obviously it was more local for me. Stenhousemuir completely folded which meant I would have to look for a team, maybe travel and whatever, x amount of miles a week going to training and

games. So it was just like a better step for me to go back to Falkirk, but then with getting promoted to the First Division now obviously it's looking...

JM: There's an incentive to stay there?

FM: It is. Basically because we're up a division, a lot of the girls are obviously going to have to screw their nut in and take it more seriously if they're wanting to get any further. Or if they're going to be getting their games, they're going to be bringing in a lot of young players next year. So it is taking that, it's gradually getting more important for me.

JM: What would you imagine would stop you playing then, final question? What can you imagine that would stop you playing football?

FM: Obviously injury and that kind of thing.

JM: So you wouldn't just decide to stop you don't think?

FM: If I met the man of my dreams maybe! But I don't think that would because I'd still continue playing. If I had like kids or whatever that would obviously like put me off for a wee while but I'd still want to play.

JM: Why is that, because it's too much part of your life?

FM: It is, I don't know, obviously it's something I enjoy. I suppose like a lot of people see it as a kind of getaway or whatever. So maybe when I am older, just say I don't, complete change of thought, I don't get a job in the kind of sports job, I'm working in a factory or something, football might be a sort of getaway or kind of a release kind of thing for me. So I don't, until I'm like really old, my mum says to me now 'Fiona when you're thirty you're going to have arthritis all over you, you're going to not be able to walk', all that kind of thing. But unless obviously like I'm injured or not, if I'm not enjoying it I'm not going to play. That's probably the most important thing, if you don't enjoy your football.

JM: Ok, well that's everything, thanks a lot for that.

**INTERVIEW 11 - ALISON MACKIE 21/05/03
FALKIRK (2nd – 1st DIVISION)**

JM: Just to start off with then where were you born and brought up?

AM: I was born in Dunblane and brought up in Dunblane.

JM: What about just now, where are you living?

AM: I live in Denny, I moved to Denny six or seven years ago.

JM: How about your family, do you have any brothers or sisters?

AM: I've one older brother and that's it.

JM: And your parents or guardians, what did they do, or what do they do for a living?

AM: Well my dad, he's retired now, he was a personnel officer for Forth Valley Health Board, my mum's just a housewife.

JM: How old are you just now?

AM: Thirty-two.

JM: Where did you go to school then?

AM: I went to Dunblane Primary and then Dunblane High School.

JM: What qualifications did you have from school?

AM: From school? High School?

JM: Yeah, the highest qualifications you got?

AM: I have three Highers.

JM: Ok, did you go on to university?

AM: Yeah I went on to Moray House PE College and did a Physical Education Degree.

JM: Do you work just now, obviously you do, but what work do you do just now?

AM: My job title is called Active Primary School Co-ordinator.

JM: Ok, for what area?

AM: For Clackmannanshire, I work in work in the eight schools that feed into Lawrencehill Academy, developing sport and activity.

JM: Have you always done this work?

AM: No only for the last eighteen months, for six and a half years before that I was a Forth Valley Football Development Officer for girls and women, and then three years before that I worked as a PE teacher in Edinburgh.

JM: Ok, so that's basically from university through to now?

AM: Yeah.

JM: What social class background would you say that you've had?

AM: Middle class.

JM: Middle class, right ok. Do you think that's changed at all...

AM: Just from the location that I live in, it's not a middle class area anymore. Although probably if you talk to anybody, my values are very middle class, but the kind of area that I live in now and things like that it probably wouldn't be seen as a middle class area.

JM: What would it be seen as?

AM: It's just Denny, I don't know what you'd call Denny. I live in the posher part of Denny but I still wouldn't say people would say that was middle class, probably kind of more working class.

JM: So based on maybe your occupation and your values...

AM: My values are definitely, and my occupation are definitely middle class, my friends call me a snob so there you are!

JM: What would you say about the typical woman footballer in Scotland, what kind of social class would you say...

AM: Not middle class anyway.

JM: Not middle class?

AM: I think the perception of, and I suppose my own perception to a certain extent, is not middle class, it's more working class. But when you get to know folk you know it's not, but that is your initial, I think that's still the initial perception of it.

JM: That women's football is a working class sport?

AM: Yeah.

JM: What are your earliest memories of experiencing football then, like not just playing necessarily but your earliest memories?

AM: Watching my dad play. My dad used to play goalkeeper for a local team. And then just playing, growing up playing with my brother and my dad. I didn't really go to any games other than just watching a local game with my dad, or maybe watching a bit of it on the TV. I remember the, watching the World Cup on TV, Allies Army, whether that was Mexico, Argentina, I don't know. But that's like my only real memories.

JM: And any kind of playing was just informal?

AM: It was just informal, playing with my brother and his pals at the Primary School, because at that point you weren't allowed to play organised mixed football really other than in Primary School.

JM: So that's kind of like, what kind of age would you say your earliest memories were?

AM: I just have memories of playing football, I don't know what that would go back to, but I do have memories of always kicking a ball about.

JM: Ok, you've kind of answered this in relation to your dad but did either or both of your parents play or watch football?

AM: My dad did. My dad doesn't go to any games or anything like that, to watch any internationals or to support a team or follow a team, but I just remember kicking a ball about with him, he was a goalkeeper for a team, but that was like a really old memory.

JM: How about your brother, you said you've got an older brother?

AM: Yeah, but no he kicked about but he's more into golf.

JM: So football, he wasn't like a...

AM: No he didn't play for a team or do local coaching or what not.

JM: So would you say that football has been, or still has an important place in your family life?

AM: In my family's life? No, not really, just in mine. Apart from the fact that my brother supports a team and watches them on the TV, he doesn't go to games or anything like that. My dad will maybe watch a Scotland game on the TV but he just turns it off because they're crap! I would say in my family life, no.

JM: But just in terms of your life?

AM: Yeah.

JM: How did you first become involved in actually playing football, more organised football?

AM: More organised, well when I went to university, when I went off to college. We had year group teams, girls teams, and then, I can't remember what year it was at college but they allowed females to go through the C License as it was at the time, the very first time, and they actually did it at Crammond. So through that way and

then actually getting involved in sitting a license to coach football was one of the most, that was the really kind of first organised sense that I got involved in it I think.

JM: So what was your first club outside of university?

AM: Falkirk.

JM: And that was like starting Falkirk up was it?

AM: Yeah. A year after I came out of college Sheila Begbie, who was then the Team Sport Scotland National Co-ordinator, was looking to promote girls football. And because I had been through the C certificate, and then I actually went through the first ever B license as well, that she was on. They were looking for coaches in different areas, and I helped set up just coaching one Easter, and we had a huge response. And just from knowing some friends that were playing football we just formed Falkirk from that. I mean it was just in a really short time and we thought why don't we try and form a team and go in the league.

JM: What year was that?

AM: 1993.

JM: '93, ok. Next question really is who encouraged you to play, did anyone else in particular encourage you to play or was it all off your own back?

AM: It was all off my own back. My mum hates the fact that I'm involved in football, she hates it.

JM: We'll talk about that in a bit!

AM: Yeah, you know so, really, doesn't like try and put me off, but didn't you know go 'yeah, good for you, go out and do that', kind of thing. So just friends and kind of each other.

JM: As I start asking these questions some of them start getting answered in the previous ones as well, I'll just have a quick scan through them. Right, so you've always just played for Falkirk?

AM: Yeah.

JM: Nowhere else. What level do you play at the moment? Are you in the first eleven?

AM: Yes, this season.

JM: Any international representation at all?

AM: No. Definitely not.

JM: So you've been playing for Falkirk since 1993 was it?

AM: Well not really because in 1993 we started a ladies team and it kind of went, I think I played for like the first season. And then the people that were there and the coach split the team in two, so I stopped playing after the first season and I kept coaching. And the ladies team lasted for another two seasons then broke away completely from our club, which was fine. So we only actually had two junior sections for about five or six years. And our ladies team reformed, this is the end of our fourth season so I really only played year one and the last four years. So out of the ten years we've had the club I've only actually played for five years of it.

JM: Ok. What about other sports then, what other sports or activities have you been involved in?

AM: I actually played at national level for badminton. When I was at school that was my sport. And then I played at regional level for tennis so I was actually, because in Dunblane there's a tennis club and badminton club, so that really was, they were my sports.

JM: Did you play football at school at all?

AM: In the upper Primary School they started to have like class teams. So I was like, because I played with the boys at lunchtimes, whatever, it was myself and another

girl that were actually allowed to play. But you weren't allowed to play representative for the school. So we just kind of played in class teams, nothing at secondary school, there just was nothing available at that point, we weren't allowed to play.

JM: So saying that you played badminton at a high level and tennis as well, would you say that football is or has been your main sport or not?

AM: It has in adult life, because as soon as I started playing football, I don't play tennis anymore, I don't play badminton anymore, it just took over my life. But I mean obviously badminton was my, at school was my sport, it was.

JM: Yeah, why did you stop playing badminton?

AM: My knees are shot. I had to stop at university because I wasn't going to get through university because I've got no cartilage in my right knee. So it took me a long time to get over that. And then I started playing football again, I'm surprised my knees have lasted this long. But I gave up because of my knees basically, because of pounding on the floor it wrecked my knees.

JM: What is it about football in particular that you enjoy?

AM: I like the social aspect of it. I mean that's it.

JM: That's the main thing?

AM: Yeah. Because I've never played at a high level and I've actually retired now, when we won the league the other Sunday, that was my last game.

JM: I heard about that.

AM: So, you know, so I mean it's been the social aspect and it's nice to be involved in a winning team and stuff like that but it's always been the social aspect.

JM: So, when I ask like why is it more attractive than other sports, say badminton or tennis, is that generally the social aspect?

AM: I think so. Although saying that, in terms of badminton and that, I haven't been involved in it in my adult life so I don't know if the social aspect of that could be on a comparable level or not, because I kind of moved away from that sport. But I would say at the moment it's still, because even though I'm not going to be playing I still want to be involved in it in some way so that I still get that social element.

JM: We're just going to look now at other people's influences, you've kind of mentioned your mum's attitude. I've got a list here, it's basically just groups of people, if you want to work your way through them one by one and just give me an idea of what their role or influence has been and why you think that might have been the case.

AM: Ok. Parents, my dad always like asked how we get on and you know, is always quite happy that we win he's fine. My mum, even when I got the job as a Football Development Officer and that was my living, she was like 'when are you getting another job, when are you getting another job?' And mum and dad came and watched me play last Sunday, and the first thing my mum said after the game was 'right, I take it that's you finished now'. So, although she was happy that we won and always has been happy when my teams have won leagues and things like that, show her the trophies, there's that side of it. But there's a real, she has this whole problem with females playing football and also the fact that injuries and everything that come of it, she's just so.

JM: Why do you think that it?

AM: I don't know.

JM: Do you think it's a generation thing or...

AM: Yeah I think so in my mum's case. My dad's just a bit more easy going and just happy with what I do, you know, being a daddy's girl and all that as well, he's kind

of happy with whatever we do. But my mum's just kind of stuck in her ways, because they're both a bit older, you know, so it probably is a generation thing. Siblings, my brother doesn't really ask much about my football or whatever. If you talk about it he's a bit interested, hasn't seen me play. My sister-in-law, his wife is, you know quite enthusiastic, she's come watch me play a few times, the kids always come, my niece and nephew always come, that kind of stuff. But other than that it's not like a 'go for it', 'don't go for it', with any real influence anyway. I don't have any other close relatives. Partner, doesn't like to watch me play.

JM: Why is that?

AM: Scared I get hurt, but very encouraging and happy that we won the league, but more happy that we spend more time again together now that I'll not be playing, so there's that side of it. Friends, all very encouraging, I mean everybody, very encouraging want to know how we've got on, excited if you win, disappointed for you if you lose, listen to the moans and groans, coming to watch a lot of the games, particularly home games, very supportive. Some of them play football, some of them don't. A lot of my friends, my best friends, don't play but they'll come and watch and support us and bring their wee boy along and stuff like that, so very supportive. Peers, all my peers play football I think, aye, play football or are involved in it so they've kind of got to be supportive to that. More supportive in the fact that for a lot of them I used to be their coach and then they've gone from that situation to be playing alongside then, so actually a lot of them have been really good and encouraging. Whether, I know myself I've improved over the last four years and they're very encouraging about that because I'm not the best player, I'm well aware of that fact, and they've been really good about it. School, as in when I was at school?

JM: Yeah, just the influence they've had on you?

AM: Well at Primary School, although they didn't allow us to play for the school team they didn't stop us from going out and playing every lunchtime, every break-time, you know. There was never any 'you are not allowed to play football', certainly at Primary level.

JM: Because other people I've interviewed have said things like that.

AM: Yeah, no we, they didn't stop us from playing and say when it got to the upper school, a couple of wee festivals and we weren't not allowed to play within the school team, in the class team you know, that was it. So that wasn't a problem, it was Dunblane Primary and they were quite good that way. But just at that point the laws of the game didn't allow mixed football in Primary School, in competitive situations outwith the school, so they didn't stop us from playing. Again, so teachers, nobody encouraged me to play but nobody said no. In terms of Secondary School there just wasn't that opportunity, there weren't girls only teams. And obviously you weren't allowed mixed football so it never really came up.

JM: What kind of sports were on offer to girls at Secondary School really?

AM: Hockey, I was a hockey goalkeeper.

JM: So you could use your feet as well.

AM: And I made the badminton team, but also I was at school when the strikes were on. So my mum took the badminton team so that the school had a badminton team, because of the level that I played at and some of my friends played at. So they created that environment for us to play in. The hockey team was only there in first and, first year and then fifth year, with the strikes in between. Other than that there wasn't any other school teams. There wasn't even a, Dunblane is a rugby school, so there wasn't really even football for the boys. So it wasn't an issue anyway, it was a

rugby school, and if you didn't play rugby you were dirt basically in terms of the PE staff. So it wasn't an issue.

JM: Did any girls play rugby then?

AM: No.

JM: No?

AM: No that was a complete non-issue. Actually nobody ever asked as far as I can remember, we had a really sporty year, but nobody even thought of playing rugby, (?) that was not an issue at that point. Coaches?

JM: Just any other coaches really throughout your...

AM: Well Sheila Begbie has been really good, she was really supportive in terms of me getting involved in coaching and also getting involved in playing right back at the start when I got involved in it. I had, my own coaches ever since in terms of being involved in our club were, up until recently with the likes of Fiona Melville and that now involved, and in terms of being involved in our club most of them are very, very supportive. One or two of them are still a little bit wary of the fact that it's a female thing, you still get that because some of them are parents that have come into coaching and just help with the team. But on the whole it's been not too bad, been quite supportive.

JM: Others is just if there's you know anyone else outside those groups, but I think we've pretty much covered...

AM: Yeah, in terms of like employers and things like that, most of them have been, because of the job I did as well, the fact that I played football was almost like an add-on, it was quite good, if you know what I mean. My boss Marjorie always kind of asks 'how did you get on?' and quite a lot of the folk in the office heard that we won the league last week and a lot of folk were coming up and congratulating me and Claire, you know. So it was quite good, a lot of people know that we're involved in football and ask how we get on, so you know it's quite positive, you don't get a negative result, you know response in here from people, which is quite good.

JM: Ok. If you were kind of looking over those groups again, overall who would you say had the most positive and who's had the most negative effect on you being involved in football?

AM: My friends and peers have got to be the most positive, negative my mother.

JM: Both football related friends and none football related?

AM: Yes definitely, because if I didn't have the support of them I wouldn't be involved. I mean my mum, not that it stopped me, but it did help me make the decision to come out of working in football. You know, maybe it'd shut her up for a while, it'll shut her up even more now that I've stopped playing! You know, but probably her, but other than that I've not really, I've come up against one or two people along the way who still don't believe that women should be playing football, but that's just ignorance anyway, you know. Yeah but it's not anybody that would make me think twice about actually doing what I'm doing.

JM: Ok, yeah we're basically moving on to perspectives on women's football just now. What attitudes have you experienced towards women's football, say what do you think the attitudes are in the general public and the media in Scotland?

AM: I think it's changed dramatically over the last few years, even at a local level to national level. When we first started playing it was hugely negative, we couldn't get anything in local papers, you know. We tried to get sponsorship, non-existent because people just didn't think that females should be playing football. So it was really negative and just your stereotypes, the guys that just stereotype women that play football, and just weren't interested in going and looking at a game to see if they

could actually play football. But recently I think the attitudes have changed a hell of a lot, from a local level. I mean the coverage we got from our last game of the season when we won the league. We had a section across the bottom of the Herald, and everything else to do with Falkirk, you know the last game as Brockville meant that we were included at the bottom, and like it was a fantastic piece and photographs. It just shows the difference to be included, and also the fact that we're fully integrated in Falkirk Football Club now. At the start Falkirk Football Club didn't want anything to do with us. Now we're on the board, I sit on the board and one of our captains sits on the board at the Falkirk School of Football. We're involved in developing a site, we're involved in a multi-million Lottery grant and I helped write it to ensure that the females are involved in this. So I mean attitudes, and I was at the Sportsman's Dinner on Friday night, there was over four hundred businessmen there, including people involved in Falkirk. And in the opening speech the Chairperson congratulated Falkirk Football Club on winning their division and whether you realise or not the women also won their division, and quoted off the score and the fact that we'd won and got promoted. Now that would never have happened, and we got a standing ovation by these four hundred businessmen. Now that would never happen, you know and just talking to some of these people, a couple of guys were still, I don't know, and I'm like 'come and watch us play', you know. And a couple of the guys were, people who sit on the board, Campbell Christie and things like this and chair-people at Falkirk were like defending us and saying, you know it's such a more technical game, it's a more skilful game than guys, it's not all about brute force and everything, and they were defending us on the style of game. Now that's just poles apart. And even the coverage, we had the piece done in The Sun newspaper, and it was really a positive piece. It wasn't taking the Mickey out of women playing football, it was a positive piece about the fact that the women had got promoted and x, y, and z, but the men haven't yet, and all this kind of stuff. I mean you don't get that in papers, and there'd be a lot of coverage of the likes of Julie Fleeting and going to America to play, and it's good pieces of reporting. Whereas in the past I think about four or five years ago there was a girl, Dannie from, Dannie Hamilton who during a football game celebrated by taking her shirt off over her head, running about with her bra, and the photograph was of that. And it was like 'wey hey guys, come on', you know, that was the kind of coverage compared to what the coverage is now. So I just think it's leaps and bounds, the attitude.

JM: Do you think there's any difference, you were saying about like the attitude of Falkirk and how that's changed so much. Do you think, I've chatted to a few other people about the representation of getting local papers compared to the national papers, they say that they think local papers are a lot more interested, obviously because it's their local area, their local community and things like that. And we were saying how it tends to be the smaller community-based clubs that embrace women's football a little bit more than say Rangers or Celtic. What do you think the reasons are for that?

AM: Rangers and Celtic are out to make money and there's no money in women's football, and there still isn't, and it's going to be a long time before there's money to be made out of women's football in this country. I mean even England have gone a step back. They were supposed to go professional as of next season, and the only team that was professional, Fulham, has now got to go semi-pro because other teams can't make the money to go a professional league in England. They're, what, ten or fifteen years ahead of us. So Rangers and Celtic, for all everybody says 'get them a ladies team and everybody will follow', why should they? Because there's no money

to be made, you know? And they're businessmen so I can see that side of it. Local communities, I don't know if local communities embrace it or not, I think it's how your team comes across, and the people that are involved. If you can come across as a professional attitude and not just a bunch of lassies out there drawing out the stereotypes that go with women's football, you know, and you have to work on that. I think people will embrace women's football if you're getting rid of, I'm not saying the stereotypes are right or wrong, but you have to come across a professional attitude. When you go to papers and things like that you have to be saying the right things, not 'hey guys look at this, we're a bunch of lassies playing football', which a lot of teams still do. But it is, it's all about making the sport more professional and that's a huge issue. And that's what Maureen McGonigle has been doing, and what Vera Pauw, for all her faults and positives and negatives of what people think of her, she's brought a professional attitude into the game, and about the way that people are thinking about developing their clubs and showing their clubs off. Falkirk Football Club is all about a community club, and that's ultimately why we were brought more into the fold. But that's only because they're a forward thinking board and they realise well the community involves the women. But they did look at us and there were a lot of talks and it was because we put across a professional case. I'm sure that the fact that we'd been running for ten years, and we'd done x, y, and z, and we bring in this much money and take out this much money, we get sponsorship and we get this, and we get grants, they see well actually it's a well-run organisation. It's not just something that's going to fall apart at the first hurdle which a lot of women's teams go and do.

JM: Yeah, I think a lot of the women's teams just kind of go and just want a kick...

AM: Exactly.

JM: Obviously you've had the coaching structures in place, the junior structures and everything like that.

AM: A lot of women's teams are teams, they're not clubs. You know there's no feeder system, there's no ongoing progression for the girls. I mean we take girls in at age five, by the time they get to age eleven or twelve they can then go on to a competitive structure. You know but we train girls from age five, and the girls are constantly coming up, and they can come up to the top level, which is the senior team. You know so we're, and Falkirk have taken that all onboard and they've realised that it's there.

JM: How many other women's teams have got that kind of structure?

AM: Not many. I think probably five in the whole of Scotland. I mean we're involved in a club development project within sportscotland and Scottish Women's Football, they fund us. And we're in the pilot at the moment on learning how to do it, how to develop it. Then they're going to shell it out to other clubs, obviously build it up as the model, they're already presented it a couple of times. Because we've a really good structure, we've always had a good structure.

JM: And it's starting to pay off.

AM: Exactly.

JM: We've kind of mentioned how, just going back to some of the more stereotypical attitudes that you've mentioned every now and then about women's football. I'm just trying to get an idea of whether Scotland is worse than other places, you know in terms of, probably usually men's attitudes towards women's football. What kind of things have you come across?

AM: In terms of what women's football is like or what people think it's like?

JM: Just bad attitudes towards women's football that you've come across really.

AM: The main problem we have at the moment is the site that is trying to be developed for Falkirk Football Club as their new training facility. There's a certain guy that's got a team already running out of there and he's taking initial steps to get the site developed and then Falkirk Football Club have kind of come onboard to put money into it. And, you know, saying that we're going to bring in x amount of money as long as you allow x, y, and z to train and play out of here. And the minute the ladies were mentioned the guy said 'no way, get rid of it all, you're not coming in with that'. Just because he had the view that no, no way, they shouldn't be playing, blah, blah, blah. So that's now, even now, we've managed a way to get around that but that's an issue at the moment. I mean just people still saying 'oh do you swap your shirts at the end of a game?', you know typical comments like that. Just those kind of things, you don't actually hear them as much anymore, but that's the kind of thing. You know, we used to do can collections outside Brockville to raise money. And you'd got the girls standing there and it was 'I'll give you money if you'll give me a kiss', 'give you money if you swap shirts like you do at the end of the game', you know, just those stupid kind of things, but still the kind of stereotypes. You don't get it as much now though. And then you just get the people who say 'what do you play?', 'women's football', 'ah, women shouldn't be playing' and that's it. You can't say anything about it and can't them along to a game to look at the skill involved, and they're just, that's it, blank, no way.

JM: Just ignorance?

AM: Aye.

JM: Do you think, I don't know if you've experienced anywhere, but do you think just, your knowledge of your game in different places like down in England or elsewhere in Europe, and maybe the US as well and China and whatever, do you think that Scotland is a little bit behind in terms of these attitudes it has to women's football?

AM: Yeah I think to a certain extent because in Scotland it's always been a man's game, and it's been the national sport. America has only just got it onboard and it's actually only developed through women playing football. I mean America is kind of the real exception to the rule because it's the women that has brought soccer to America with the success of their national team. The women to a certain extent, the likes of Mia Hamm, you know they are national role models and people have seen them because of it gets coverage, it's played live on ESPN and all that. So people can constantly see the level that they're playing at, and now with obviously their national soccer league, you know the professional league, people are seeing high quality football so there's a completely different perception over there. And also the American women are athletes, athletes first, footballers second. So you look at an American female footballer and then you look at the typical Scottish woman footballer who probably went into the game for a bit of fun, for the social element, not the Julie Fleeting type, it's somebody who likes to sit down with a pint after a game, there's a stereotype thingy. But you know that's the image that people have you know. If you think of the American women's football team, you think of Mia Hamm, an athletic, superbly fit, really talented footballer, but the immediate image you might get of Scottish women footballers is not that image, it's like a rugby player, the images of female rugby players. You know so, in Europe again, because they've got professional leagues it's so much more seen, you know, it just seen as a professional game, they're athletes, you know that's my kind of perception with it

anyway. It's still not here because it's a recreational sport, you know is just girls having a kick about, you know.

JM: I think over in America as well it kind of developed through the university system...

AM: That's right yeah because were no clubs. You went, you played at university, if you were good enough you played for the national side, if you weren't good enough as soon as you'd played at university there was nowhere else to go, no teams. But obviously now there's a professional league so, and they're trying to put structures in there as well but yeah you're right it went through universities.

JM: It went through universities and they got a lot of money in for women's sport at uni's so it was very professionally run, probably more so than the academic kind of side.

AM: Probably.

JM: So, you mentioned a few stereotypes there, what kind of stereotypes do you think are created regarding women's football?

AM: They think they're all lesbians, they think they're short, they're fat, they can't play football, and they've got no skill, I mean that's, with tattoos everywhere. But I think that's still in the back of people's minds. You know we've got very athletic, particularly the younger girls that are coming through, we have a really athletic breed who are athletes first, footballers second. And I think really from probably about two years ago and the girls that are coming through, that is what's happening, because it's a different type of player that's now coming through because of all the structures that are now in place. But there's still a lot of us that went into the game for the social side of it who wouldn't be seen as footballers, you know, we went in for the social side of it. But a lot of girls now, they love their football, they want to progress, they want the skills, they want university scholarships, they want to play professional football, they've got a different attitude for different reasons now, you know. so you have it, but that's still the stereotype, I still think if you ask a lot of people, and if they're being truthful about it that's what they think of women's football, but not many folk are truthful about it. But that's the image that they have.

JM: So you're kind of saying these kind of stereotypes aren't particularly fair for everyone?

AM: No.

JM: But they still maybe exist in some cases?

AM: Yeah I mean I think they still do because there's lots of different teams and...

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

AM: ...they have a lot of the stereotypical image, they maybe are not actually but if you look at these teams from the outside. Sometimes we come up against teams and we're like 'oh my god', I mean we've got some of the young girls they're like shitting themselves because of the size of some of these. The Dundee game the other week, my mum was like, the opposition were standing in the dugout boozing. I didn't know that at the time, obviously the referee didn't spot it, but they were standing with cans of beer. So there's your stereotypical image being acted out.

JM: In front of quite a lot of people as well?

AM: It's not only that, I mean they were quite big physical women, you know their language was atrocious, I'm not saying our language is very good on the park, but

they were like gruff, scary, getting kicked all over the park. So anybody watching that game might say well that quite fits with the stereotype, but then you look at our team and it probably wouldn't, you know, you've got two different teams, so it's still there.

JM: There are elements of it still there?

AM: Yeah.

JM: Have any kind of negative attitudes towards women's football ever affected yours or anyone else you know participating in the sport, have you ever been discouraged, you mentioned your mum discouraging you but you said that you were determined...

AM: Yeah, every now and again when you get these stupid programmes on TV about women's football that paint negative images, girls drop out of football, parents stop them from coming along. You get one or two that stop, or you get parents coming in and asking 'is that what it's like in the ladies team when they get there?', you know. Sometimes you get these stupid daft programmes, I remember a programme years ago about the Doncaster Belles and it painted a really, really bad image of women's football. And then you've got the really positive image of Bend it like Beckham, you know, which is really encouraging young girls to go into football. But most, from my point of view now, is that a lot of parents will come and talk to us about things that they're concerned about, which is really good. And we can talk to them you know, if they've got any concerns, parents concerned about going up to seniors. Because one of our ex-coaches ended up going out with one of the players and they were concerned about this. We ended up getting rid of him anyway, but he's still with the girl, he was only a few years older anyway. So I mean that wasn't a real issue but you know, they saw it as an issue like the male coach preying on the young lassies because the girl was only seventeen. So stereotypes yeah, they read things, see things, but luckily our parents come and talk to us about it but whether that stops any new girls coming in I don't know because you're not in contact with these people.

JM: Yeah it's difficult isn't it? That's one thing I'm really interested in but you can't, it's so difficult to find people...

AM: You can't find somebody who says 'well I was going to let my daughter play football but I didn't because I saw that piece of information', or 'because I went along and I watched them and oh she looked a bit butch', you know? You can't find those people can you, it's a difficult one to measure. I've had one or two girls drop out because of things like that, just a wee bit of concern. And girls talk 'oh if you go to that team they're going to pounce on you in the changing rooms', you still kind of hear these wee kind of stories. But you try to, you know if you hear anybody talking about things like that you know you go and talk to them, and you just confront them over it and say 'don't be so stupid'.

JM: Do you think, you know what you were saying about a lot, quite a few parents coming to talk to you about things like that anyway, and obviously they let their girls carry on playing, do you think there's more scope for that because you've got such a good club structure. Maybe in other teams, the smaller like where it's just the team basically...

AM: I would hope that that would help but I think it depends on the people that are involved in running the team and their accessibility, and the way they conduct themselves as well. You know because you've got to be really careful because you've got the whole child protection issues and things like that as well, particularly as a coach. You got to make sure that you are accessible but not put yourself in

situations where people can read things the wrong way. You know there's kind of a double issue and parents do come and ask us, and it would be nice to think they went and asked if they had any concerns in other teams, that they would do the same. And hopefully I would think most teams do do it, but I don't know, I only know what happens in our team. I mean they don't only approach me, they approach other coaches as well you know, and then if they've got something they're not sure about they come and ask me and I'll go and speak to the parent or give them the advice to give to the parent.

JM: Ok. Moving on now to look at being a member of a club. I've got another list somewhere, I'm not sure how good these are exactly. But basically, despite football, obviously you're all together to play football. But would you say there's any other particular characteristics or things that you have in common with other women footballers that you don't really have in common with just people outside of football in relation to these kind of things?

AM: It's difficult for me to answer that because I'm so much older than the rest of the girls in my team.

JM: How about just your knowledge of other women footballers, not necessarily just within your team?

AM: They come from all social classes, and all different backgrounds, from single-parent, some are mothers themselves, some are married, some are single. Occupations is everything and anything. Education, again it's, I mean it's girls who are at university, girls who work.

JM: I'm just trying to think, you know what we were saying about America before, I think with some of those things you might have kind of like middle class...

AM: You would because a lot of these people have gone to university so therefore their education is there. Because in Scotland it's different... personalities? Femininity? That's a huge one, I can't say I have that in common with a lot of the girls because a lot of them are really athletic looking, nice looking lassies and I'm a short person with short hair. You know, I mean in terms of, you know it's really everything, attitudes, we all want to play football and love football, I mean that's the ultimate, that's the only reason we go because we like playing football, there's nothing else for us, we can't make money out of it. Clothes, my clothes sense has improved from being around the likes of Claire and Steph and all them. I don't know, I think it's such a diverse cross-section of people that are involved in football that. In football, regardless of their age, likes a drink after the game. Sense of humour, I'd say we all had a sense of humour, but you've met Fiona Melville so!

JM: I won't quote that one.

AM: Don't put that in, but you know. I mean clothes, I couldn't think of anything else that would, a love of the game, having fun, the social element. But social class, you know status, occupations, education, personality, you know you've got really outgoing folk, you've got folk who are really quite quiet, but put them on the football pitch and they're psycho's. You know it's, femininity that's (?) anyone who plays football. Attitudes, they like playing football and think females should be allowed to play it, it's just a really difficult one.

JM: It's very diverse then?

AM: It's huge, it's huge.

JM: Ok, do you think that's more so now there's more girls, obviously it will be as there's more girls playing, but do you think, you know, I don't know twenty years ago it would be a bit more limited?

AM: Yeah I think it would. I mean, ok there's your stereotype, and I think it probably would have been working class people, people who maybe didn't have that high an education, but I don't know because I wasn't involved in it years ago so. In saying that Sheila Begbie was involved as a player twenty years ago and she was a PE teacher and things like that, so I mean that completely blows your middle class, educated.

JM: Aye I've interviewed someone who like played in the 1970s and she was saying it was either kind of like factory-based working class works teams, people would come through that way, or they were PE teachers generally.

AM: I mean we started a team, in terms of occupation, I was a part-time PE teacher but I was also a college lecturer and made some friends with some of the students, but I was teaching. And it was from their, it was students that we kind of had a five-a-side thing going, and it was from there that we actually started the ladies team. So we all kind of came from a college background to start with. Occupations at the moment, because the girls are so young, they're either at school or in college, and one or two of them have jobs, you know so occupations, because they're so young. So I mean that's kind of how it started even ten years ago, we all kind of came from the same working area or so. But now it's just...

JM: Just because of the increase in the numbers playing?

AM: Yeah.

JM: It's a lot more diverse?

AM: I mean we have folk drive up in BMWs and Jags, and folk coming by foot and by bus and walking, you know. So in terms of social class it's everything and anything, single-parents, you know kids are coming, as I say there's a couple of mothers, divorcees and all.

JM: It's quite interesting people's views on things like that because I've done, like the survey that I did there was basically about one hundred and forty odd, but it was a good representation.

AM: Is that the booklet thing that you did?

JM: Yeah, in terms of like the social class, status and things like that it was overwhelmingly single rather than married and things like that, social class, in terms of social class background I think most people said working, or working-middle class, but when you did it by their occupation it was more middle class.

AM: Yeah, I don't think people realise what is now listed as middle class. You know I think people still have a perception of them being working class but they're not actually. And a lot of the younger girls, I know when our lot filled it out they didn't know what class they were and they were just, maybe because of where they lived they stuck it as working class, you know, but they're at university. You know, so what is university, is it not maybe more looking at middle class, is it not? I would say.

JM: I think it depends on occupation, kind of like or wealth or anything like that compared to values...

AM: As I say because I mean yes, because of my job I would be classed as middle class. I live in Denny, my accent has changed as my mother keeps telling me. You know I play a sport that my mum says is working class, but in terms of my values my friends call me a snob because of things I do and the type of holidays I want. You know so I see my own values as middle class, it's strange, and a lot of the younger girls who filled those things out wouldn't know, actually understand some of your questions. I was finding that, I think you got quite a lot of ours back actually, you got quite a good, because we sat them down one day and said 'right, fill that out', it felt

like giving them an exam! You know, but some of them genuinely didn't understand some of the questions and the words and things like that and I think that kind of gives an implication of background and social class as well. But yeah, it's hugely diverse.

JM: So the next question then will probably reflect that, just kind of getting an idea, some people have given me kind of like groups where they see there's different identities within their team or whatever. There's girls that are more feminine, and then there's it's difficult to put it into words, but you wouldn't say that women footballers as a whole have a particular identity?

AM: No I mean if you take our team, looking at our team, looking from the outside some people would probably say x, y, and z is gay right. And I could probably go actually no a, b, and c is gay, you're completely wrong right. So we have a, I don't see myself as particularly feminine or particularly butch, I just see myself as kind of middle of the road right. And there's quite a, there's few other players in terms of looks and build are probably about the same as me, then there's quite a lot of girls are very feminine and very athletic looking. You know so in terms of that there's a huge diversity in looks and style, athletic-ness, femininity. You know you go out with our girls, and everybody looks the same in training, you then see them on a night out and you get the girls who are really glamorous, really dressed up, and then you get the likes of me who puts my jeans and shirt on. But that's how I feel comfortable, that's me dressed up, and you get a few other girls who are the same. So yeah in terms of looks and femininity and build things like that, yeah there is again a huge diversity, but it maybe comes into two or three categories.

JM: But you don't really see that diversity on the pitch as such because you're all in the same strips...

AM: Well yeah exactly, well people still 'she looks really butch', or 'Christ look at her, she's a cracker', you know, 'check out number four!' Audrey and Ashley, our two top goalscorers, very feminine looking lassies, fantastic footballers as well, under 19 international players, the Julie Fleetings of our team in terms of build, athletic-ness, looks. They're the ones that, you hear the comments from the sidelines, I'm a defender so I'm out wide, you hear the comments and 'oh wow, look at them they're fantastic, check out so and so I bet she's...' you know? You hear it because of looks and just an image, and yet you're all dressed the same and playing the same game, but you still hear it.

JM: Kind of getting to why you play football now really. What are the main reasons you say you play football?

AM: The social element, I mean the people in the team are very, very good friends. You know that's it, it's a friendship that's really the main thing. A bit of fitness, fitness as well which is a big thing for me, my weight goes up and down so the fitness element is important.

JM: In the context of just like your everyday life, and your work and whatever, it's probably very related, what does football offer you? Just kind of, some people have said that after all day at the office they're just looking forward to training, kick a ball about, things like that...

AM: It's changed slightly because obviously my job was football, I did it all day and then I went and did it at night. The last eighteen months, I'm still involved in working as a football coach in terms of getting paid for some of the stuff that I do. But in terms of the club and my job at the moment I still promote quite a lot of football within the job that I do because it's part of the clubs and things that I run, I still have quite an active part in doing football through my job. At night, up until this

point now where I'm actually a bit, quite happy to step back from the club side of it, I'm kind of getting to that stage, it's just been again it's the social element. I go there because I'm going to see my friends, go and get a good chat, going to get a bit of running about, get off some of the energy, but I'm more to the point now that I'm so knackered at night that I can't do that anymore anyway. So that kind of enjoyment of going and getting a run about has kind of gone for me, but that's just because of health issues at the moment, so that's kind of like a different thing. But before it was going and getting a run about, see my friends, you know and having a bit of banter, and losing some of the frustrations of perhaps through the day, taking it out on the football.

JM: Better than taking it out on someone else?

AM: Yeah.

JM: So how would you describe the social aspects of being a club member, we've got a few things, you've already mentioned friendship, just socialising...

AM: Yeah I mean the friendship thing is a big thing because as I say the girls are so much younger than me, I kind of was worried that when I went from a coach to a player I was wondering how it was going to be. Because I think, Steph who's our captain is the closest in age to me and she's still seven years younger than me, and she's my best friend now. It just kind of grew into that, in the last couple of years I made another couple of really good friends to the extent that we're going on holiday and things like that. It's been a huge, huge thing for me. At the time we started out senior team I split up with my partner and was kind of at a loose end so that kind of came at just the right time, it gave me another focus and some new friends to go with. So within football the friends that I've made there, I mean they'll be there for life, it's just fantastic. And also for my friends out of football, it's also given us a focus, something that we can also do together, you know that they can come and be part of the social nights and things as well. We go out quite a lot together as a group or subgroups within it, you know within the club. We have nights that we all go out as a team, we have nights that certain groups go to certain places, you know. Birthdays and things like that you tend to get the whole team come together for that, so I mean the socialising element of it is huge and as the girls get a wee bit older more and more join into that, you know once they become eighteen. You know, they'll join into the socialising element of it.

JM: To what extent would you say that those kind of social aspects are part of being a member of a club?

AM: I think they're a big part, I think, I mean there's still a couple of girls who don't really socialise that much and you're always a wee bit aware of it with them being slightly on the fringe of things. They're included and they're part of it but they're always slightly to the side of it. And they miss out on a lot because you know cliques, actually not in our team I wouldn't call it cliques, but stronger friendships are made. And at the moment it's probably the only time that we don't have any cliques which I think is an evil thing within teams. You know, so they miss out on a lot of it, so they'll miss out on the jokes, the in-jokes, or some things that have happened and everybody is talking about them without them. So I think it's really important that you try and get as many people involved in it as possible and at the moment with the team that we've got we're quite lucky and it's like 99% are involved in almost everything we do in the social, that side of it.

JM: So the team on the park transcends into the team kind of thing...

AM: The team off the park, you know and then vice versa. We've got a really good atmosphere and over the last few years it hasn't been like that. There's been cliques

and break-ups, and the fact that we've got rid of two or three folk, and then all of a sudden it's gelled and everybody's getting on now, you know, it's just so important.

JM: If in the past like you were injured and couldn't train or play in matches would you still go along?

AM: Yeah, I had, about two years ago I had an operation so I missed basically from February to the end of the season. And I'm slightly different because I coach as well, for eight weeks I couldn't go anywhere near the football. I couldn't drive or anything like that so I tried to get along to games once I was able to stand by the side of pitches and things I would go along and watch the games.

JM: To support?

AM: To be that and then the girls would come and visit me and keep me company, things like that are important as well and they'd be coming to me so. And you tend to find that if any of our players are injured they're always there, you know, regardless of what injury, broken legs and things like that, they're standing at the sidelines supporting the team.

JM: Have you ever nearly given up playing at all?

AM: Yeah I was ill, as I said, I was ill two years ago and I had an operation and I thought that was going to be it. But I managed to get fit and I've had last year and this year then that's basically I'm ill again so I want to give up.

JM: So it's health reasons rather than...

AM: Yeah, and also the fact that just in general terms it takes me so long to recover from a game of football. I play on a Sunday and it maybe takes me about Thursday to recover from the general sore legs and something pulled or, it takes me so long to recover, but it's health problems really that's why I'm stopping.

JM: What do you usually do after training or matches? Do you go out or...

AM: We have a social club, we train at Falkirk Rugby Club and they have a social club. So after training we'll sit in, just have a couple of cans of juice, I mean nobody drinks alcohol after training, they sit and just have a can of juice and a wee chat for twenty minutes, then we go home. After a game if we're the home team we have to put on food anyway and 99% of the team will stay. And if it's an away game it's the same, the opposition has to do it, so we'll sit and have a few drinks and sandwiches and stuff then go away. So you have that immediate social element straight after the game as well.

JM: Do you socialise, I think the answer is probably yes, but do you socialise with other players outside of training and matches?

AM: Yeah.

JM: What does it usually involve?

AM: Going out, out to the pub drinking.

JM: How often do you usually...

AM: It depends, we go through phases of going out like every Sunday, we tend to go out on a Sunday after a game. Some of the girls, you know the younger girls, are friendly they're going out Friday nights, Saturday nights. You know, the likes of Fiona will go out with Leanne from Dundee, and you know Fiona will go out with Claire and Shirley from our team. And some of the, because a lot of the girls used to play for Falkirk and now play for other teams they still socialise within teams as well, across teams. But I would say probably at least once a month we'll go out as a group or a subgroup will go out, you know, but it depends on the time of year and what's happening. There was a time, like just before and after Christmas we were out every Sunday after a game, you know.

JM: Right. How would you feel if you couldn't make it out socially with other members?

AM: Well I've actually not been out with them, I was just thinking that, I've actually not been out with them the last few weeks but that's more a case of just again stepping back from the team. But there's times, I mean the night we won the league I never went out, I was knackered and not feeling that great. I just went home and slept but I'd wanted to go out with the team and socialise and that was like, you know, the big thing. No I mean I wouldn't like to never be able to go out with them, you know, that would be hard.

JM: Missing out on...

AM: Just missing out on the gossip and, a typical female I want to know what's going on, and as I say they're all friends as well so that's like missing out on seeing them in that kind of, away from the football.

JM: What do you understand by the term subculture?

AM: A subgroup of something that happens across the culture. So there is a group of people that play football and within that group of people that play football there are female footballers. So it's like a subgroup of an activity or something that's going on.

JM: Yeah, pretty much the idea of it yeah. I was kind of trying to gain a sense of whether you would say there's a sense of a subculture in women's football. If you're thinking of subculture as a group of people who are brought together and interact, they share similar characteristics and are brought together for some reason...

AM: There's a sense of identity, you know. I think if you ask somebody what sport they play they say they play women's football. They don't say they play football, although we're trying to change that attitude because it's not, if you say women's football they think you play a different sport, you should say we play football and happen to be female, you know. So that's a whole culture thing that we're trying to change is the idea that we're actually playing football and not women's football. Which is what it has been called, Scottish Women's Football Association, it should just be Scottish Football Association brackets, women or female or something, women's department which is what it is now called in the SFA rather than, you know, trying to change that culture. But yeah I think there is, I think people know everybody. A lot of folk know folk from other teams, you know, particularly the players that have been involved, maybe not so much the younger players coming in now, but like people of my age everybody knows everybody. You know so there's a subculture within that, you know the people, you recognise folk from other teams on nights out, you know who folk are, who they play for, you know, such and such, and such and such.

JM: Like a network?

AM: Yeah, totally.

JM: Ok, just to recap then. What importance would you say football has had in your life, it's significance?

AM: Well it's had a huge thing because it's influenced my job for six and a half years, you know, it made me want to go into that as a line of work. It influenced me the fact that I still coach, it's influenced me and had an impact on the friends that I've made, in terms of that. And a lot of things I do in my life is based around football in my week, you know. In terms of what I do in a week is always, and my forward planning is well, where's my football within that? And just in terms of

coaching or playing it's been, for the last ten years, that's ruled my life in terms of holidays and everything as well to a certain extent.

JM: Could you imagine what your life would've been if you just hadn't been involved in football at all?

AM: No, I've been trying to think, like from now if I take the step back that I'm going to from the club, what it's going to be like. You know I'm kind of at that point now is like well what am I going to do if I don't play, can I go to training and not want to play? So therefore I shouldn't really be going to training because I'll want to play. You know, and then can I be involved in the senior team without being a coach, because I don't want to coach alongside the guy that's involved. You know, so does that mean me, and can I go and watch the girls on a Sunday, week in week out, and knowing that I'm not going to be fit to play next week, because that's what's always been. You know so I'm kind of at that point just now, trying to imagine what it's going to be like. I actually can't imagine what my life would've been like the last ten years if I hadn't got involved in football. I mean I would still be a PE teacher, you know I wouldn't have come out of that line of work, you know so it's really hard to imagine actually.

JM: And just lastly then, what plans have you got for the future in relation to football?

AM: I'm still going to coach. Obviously I'm not going to play anymore, and I still work for the SFA as an employed coach with them at the high level kids. So I mean I work at that level, I work at club level, I'm still going to stay on as administrator within the club, you know, so I'm still going to be there. But as to what extent that's going to be, I'm not sure yet, I'm having to figure it out. The coach was asking me last night, you know 'what involvement are you going to have?', but I don't know yet so I haven't figured that out yet.

JM: Ok, have to work that one out?

AM: Yeah. To be continued...

JM: Yeah, well thanks very much for that, that's brilliant.

AM: That's alright.

INTERVIEW 14 - SHIRLEY MARTIN 16/06/03
FALKIRK (2nd – 1st DIVISION)

JM: Just to start off with then, I'm just going to focus on some of the background, your background details like, just to put your experiences of playing football into context a little bit. So where were you born and brought up?

SM: I was born in Falkirk and brought up in Falkirk.

JM: And just now obviously you're living...

SM: Yeah, I've just still lived in Falkirk all my life.

JM: How about your family, do you have any brothers or sisters?

SM: Yeah I have two brothers.

JM: Are they older or younger?

SM: I've got an older half brother and a younger brother.

JM: What about you parents or guardians, what did they do, or what do they still do for a living?

SM: My mum was a secretary but she's retired, my dad is a factory manager.

JM: And how old you just now?

SM: Twenty-one.

JM: Where did you go to school then?

SM: Falkirk High School.

JM: What qualifications did you get?

SM: My Standard Grades?

JM: Not like details of each one but about how many Standard Grades...

SM: Oh right, I got eight Standard Grades and three Highers.

JM: And what do you do just now?

SM: I went to Falkirk College and have done an HND in Sports Coaching, and I'm currently at Abertay doing a BSc in Sport, Health and Exercise.

JM: Right, so you've gone straight through education all the way?

SM: Yeah.

JM: So you've not worked?

SM: Well just part-time but nothing full-time.

JM: What would you say if I asked you what you think your social class background would be?

SM: Just kind of middle class.

JM: What's that based on?

SM: Just what I think really. I don't think I would be working class, but I wouldn't say I was particularly upper class, just like a working family kind of thing.

JM: What about the typical woman footballer, what would you reckon, working, working to middle, middle...

SM: Yeah, probably say working to middle as well.

JM: Just generally from the people you know?

SM: Yeah, from everyone I know, I wouldn't particularly say that any are upper or lower, like I said before, just kind of the same as myself.

JM: Ok, just moving on now then to your experiences within football. What are your earliest memories of experiencing football, whether it was playing or watching?

SM: I can remember playing football, just out the back there with my dad and my brothers.

JM: What kind of age?

SM: Probably about six or seven. And I used to play at school on the playground, I always remember because I was the only girl. And like I played for my Primary School team and I was the only girl in the team, I remember that. But I joined Falkirk quite early anyway because I started going to training when I was eight at Brockville, in a class run by John (?), he was the kind of youth development officer at the time, community coach sorry. And he started up girl's classes so I just kind of went along. And then, I'd just seen it in the paper and went along, on a Sunday it was.

JM: How about watching? Did you watch football as well?

SM: Yeah, I'm a Falkirk fan so I've been going to their games from probably since I was about nine. But I can remember like watching it on TV and that, and Camelon Juniors park is just up there and we used to go up there when we were younger to watch the Juniors play football, probably since I was about eight as well.

JM: Who would you say kind of had one of the biggest influences on you being involved in football?

SM: Probably my dad, and my mum as well, she likes football, but not as much as, so I would say my dad. And just my friends really as well I think.

JM: Other female friends as well or just like other lads...

SM: No, other lads probably.

JM: Next question is kind of related. Did either or both of your parents play or watch football?

SM: My dad used to play, and then, yeah he played for quite a few clubs, he was pretty good and that, so. Yeah, my mum never played but she'd. she wasn't really into it at the start but she is now, like she watches all the time, goes to Falkirk games.

JM: Has that been brought on by your involvement?

SM: Probably yeah.

JM: What about your brothers as well, are they interested?

SM: My older brother not as much, but yeah he'll watch it and that, but he doesn't play. My younger brother, he used to play a lot for teams, and he likes to watch it, but he's joined the army now so, I think he plays for the army team, but I'm not very sure.

JM: So just kind of thinking about football and your family, would you say that it's had quite an important place in your family life?

SM: Yeah.

JM: So you first became involved in playing like unofficially at Primary School, your Primary School team was it?

SM: Yeah.

JM: Were you the only girl that played?

SM: Yeah.

JM: And your first club was Falkirk straight away was it?

SM: Yeah.

JM: So how old were you did you say when you started playing organised for Falkirk?

SM: Well it wasn't for Falkirk it was just kind of a development class, but it was girls only. That was when I was eight and it was at Brockville. But there wasn't a team or anything it was just going along and training pretty much on a Sunday.

JM: So when did the team first start?

SM: It was in 1993, so I would've been eleven, I think I was only ten when, ten I was, ten. It started in 1993, so I've played for them since then.

JM: So did you like get into the, was it junior teams like that when you were ten?

SM: Yeah, I was in the under 13s, although at that time they only had under 13s, under 16s, and senior. I played at under 13s but there wasn't a lot of girls so I played at under 16s as well. Like even though I was only eleven, but a lot of us did that, like the majority of the under 16s team were the under 13s team.

JM: And you just worked your way up?

SM: Yeah.

JM: At what level do you play just now? Are you usually in the first eleven?

SM: Yeah.

JM: Have you had any like international or region representation at any stage?

SM: Just, no not really. Just you know how players get selected to go along to the development squads?

JM: Yeah.

SM: Well I've done that and stuff, and I've had a couple of Scotland trials but that was a few years ago. I'm not sure if it was 13s or 16s, but it was years ago, not recent.

JM: So how long have you been playing for this club, you say 1993 was when you first started having the team?

SM: Yeah that was when the team was formed so.

JM: So ten years?

SM: Yeah.

JM: You could have a testimonial!

SM: Aye, I'll mention that at presentation night next Friday.

JM: Just going on to like other sports as well now, what other sports or activities have you been involved in?

SM: I used to play quite a lot of volleyball and basketball at High School, but I've sort of tried everything like. I like to ski and snowboard and stuff, waterski and stuff like that, I pretty much do anything.

JM: So you're just generally active?

SM: I've played most sports I have, because I've done a lot of PE at High School and obviously like sport-related courses at uni and at college. In sports coaching as well you have to take the class, so whatever they were coaching, I've done. So there's a lot, a wide range like shinty, hockey, American Football, all that, so I've tried pretty much everything.

JM: How about like competitively? Have you played any other sports...

SM: Oh right, yeah volleyball and basketball.

JM: Was that like after school, or through the school years?

SM: Yeah, after school it was, and it was at first Falkirk High School and I played for both of them. And then I played a few times for Falkirk volleyball teams.

JM: Did you play football at school?

SM: Yeah.

JM: So you were allowed to play?

SM: Yeah.

JM: Was that all the way through school?

SM: Yeah, and the whole thing was they used to struggle to get a teacher to take that, but we used to play from about, yeah first to sixth year I would say, we had a team.

JM: Was that playing against other schools in the region?

SM: Yeah.

JM: There's not many people that have said that actually. I think sometimes it just depends on the region, if they've got the right people in the right, pushing it...

SM: Yeah well like you say, like there was a couple of us at that school that played and we were kind of nagging at the PE staff to have a team. But sometimes we didn't have like training or anything but a teacher would take us to the games and that. And I'm pretty sure there's a few years or a year that we didn't, because we couldn't get anyone to take us, but the majority of the time I remember having a team.

JM: And when, which, did you have to travel quite far to play other teams...

SM: No it was, locally it was either Kings Park in Stirling or, you know, Sunnyside down the road so never too far.

JM: Would you say now then that football just throughout your life, would you say that football has been your main sport?

SM: Yeah.

JM: A lot of the other ones you were just doing like recreationally?

SM: Yeah, that's what I would say yeah.

JM: But why is it most attractive to you than other sports?

SM: Football? I think just because I've always done it and I like it. I'm, well, I think that I'm alright at it, that helps as well. And just, I enjoy doing it.

JM: Just by the sounds of things, from what you've been saying it's been quite an important part of your family life as well when you've been brought up?

SM: Yeah definitely, yeah I would say that like pretty much it's I do or have something on to do with football so. But I mean I wouldn't do it if I didn't enjoy it, so I do like it.

JM: The next section now is just looking at other people's influences on you playing football. There's just a just there really, if you could just go through them one by one and give me a general idea of what their influence has been, and maybe why you think that's the case?

SM: Well, my parents, from even when I was younger, I think it was my dad that got me into it. And I've always liked sport, you hear a lot of maybe your mum doesn't want you to play or whatever, but my mum's always been fine, I always like got my right equipment and stuff so that was fine. My siblings, yeah they've encouraged me, come to watch me and stuff like that but they've never like not said 'oh don't play', or anything like that, yeah they've encouraged me. Then other relatives, just really in the same way, always asking how you're getting on, not really an influence I would say. I don't have a partner. My friends have influenced me, well most of my friends are through the football anyway. But my other friends have as well, well a couple are kind of like 'well it takes up a lot of your time', but the majority of them are like supportive. And I would say they've kind of influenced me because they've come to watch, maybe a couple of them have come along to try and play, and all that stuff. Just the same answer for peers I would say as well. My school was good. I took Standard Grade and Higher PE and at both we had a choice of what activities you wanted to do and football was there. And I think it was me and only one other girl that did it, but it was always, we always had the choice to do it, so that was good. My teachers were all supportive as well like. As I say like, they took as school team, when I was in sixth year they like asked me to take the team so they were helping me out as well and just stuff like that. Then coaches, yeah they've influenced me. I've never had a bad coach, like one that always shouts and stuff but I've always had good coaches I think so that's been a good influence. They're always good, trying to do what's best for you, things like that.

JM: Any that might not obviously fall into those groups but has anyone had a particularly negative influence, or any discouragement from anyone?

SM: Negative? No not really, I wouldn't say so.

JM: I think that varies sometimes, with some of the interviews I've done with the age of people, sometimes those who are in their early 30s or whatever have had a fair bit of discouragement, it's quite interesting how it changes.

SM: Of course.

JM: So overall, out of those kind of groups of people we've talked about, who would you say has had the most positive influence?

SM: I would probably say coaches and parents.

JM: But you say no one has really had a negative influence?

SM: Yeah. No I've never really had a negative influence.

JM: Ok. Moving on now to perspectives really on women's football. Just to get an idea of what attitudes have you experienced, or do you think exist about women's football in either say the general Scottish public or the media?

SM: I think that they don't realise how what a good standard it is until they go and see. I think it's a lot of like, although it sounds a bit dated I think a lot of the guys are still like 'oh women's football, what's that all about?' But once they go and see it I think they change their minds. And then, I'm not, can you say that again?

JM: Yeah, just kind of like the general attitudes, are you talking about the general public there?

SM: The general public yeah, and the media. Well the media is getting better now I suppose. It had some things in it about the recent Scottish Cup Final and things like that. But I mean it doesn't get, what kind of percent can you say that it gets compared to male football? But then I suppose it is, the majority are recreational and they don't get paid and stuff, like non-professional sorry. So that's probably, I don't know, in it's place or not, but nothing compared to the men's. And I don't think this is going to change any time in the near future. Yeah and what sells of course, it's not going to be what people want to know is it?

JM: Do you think there's any difference, thinking about the media like that's probably an idea about the national press, the Daily Record, or broad sheets like the Scotsman, the Herald, what about the local papers, do they pick up on it, like the Falkirk Herald or anything like that? What are they like?

SM: Yeah, they've always been pretty good actually, one of our ex-players used to write for them so I don't know if that's a good influence. And she used to put the match reports in. so yeah, they've always been pretty good with them. And we've ended up, we're affiliated with Falkirk, we're on their web-site, so all the match reports go on the Falkirk web-site and pictures and stuff. So yeah we've had quite a lot of coverage from the (Falkirk) Herald. And we were also in The Sun as well, because like we got promoted and the Falkirk men's team didn't so there was a cover in The Sun about it.

JM: So you get treated pretty well by Falkirk Football Club?

SM: Yeah.

JM: You got to play, did you play the last match at Brockville?

SM: Yeah we played the last match at Brockville.

JM: That could be a right good pub quiz question, who played the last match...

SM: Yeah I know.

JM: This question is kind of like, I was going to ask have attitudes changed at all over time, do you think that they're going to change a little bit, the general public's attitudes?

SM: Yeah I think it will. But it's not going to be, I can't see it being like a fast change because like I say that's people's opinion and I don't think that the majority of people have actually seen a game of women's football, or maybe they have and

they've just got that opinion anyway. I think it will change eventually, just like with everything else really to do with women and sport.

JM: Do you think that these kind, like the attitudes you're talking about, do you think that there's any difference between Scotland and say England, and then if you think about Scotland compared to other European countries or even further afield?

SM: Yeah, you see in some countries, like in America and Italy, they've got professional women's teams, so I think that they've got a bit more respect over there. And it's not just thinking that they go down and have a kick-about. And I think that's to do with the fact that they get more coverage, well you obviously know that women's football is bigger than men's in America, so they're going to get hype from that. And then, I'm not sure about England, I know that they've got a full-time team anyway, but I don't know how many so. But even in England you see some of the games on Sky Sports and stuff and that so that's going to be plugging it as well. Getting some coverage so it's going to make people more aware.

JM: A lot of it's about awareness isn't it really?

SM: Yeah definitely.

JM: Do you think that there's stereotypes created regarding women's football? In the public, do you think a lot of the general public might just have this stereotypical idea about women footballers?

SM: I don't know about stereotypes but I think their general opinion is that they can't play. I'm not saying everyone here by any means but the people that think 'oh women can't play football', I think that they just think it's a farce basically, that they just go about and are kind of all screaming and kicking a ball about. It's like that, but maybe not to that extreme, I don't think they realise the standard. It's maybe just in a stereotype kind of way that it's not very good.

JM: What about any other kind of stereotypes just in terms of what, have you come across any ideas or comments you know by people saying if you're a woman and you play football they presume certain things about you?

SM: No I don't think so, no.

JM: Ok. I've got a feeling the answer is going to be no to this although I have had some like completely different responses for certain questions, but a lot of it relates to the age of the player, and how long they've been playing, things like that. But have any negative attitudes towards women's football ever affected yours or anyone else you know participation in football, has it ever?

SM: Well I know that, a couple of my, well not close friends, but people that I knew used to come along. And I know that their mum and dad weren't very keen on them going and all that. And when you're young you have to rely a lot on them. So like if my mum and dad didn't like support me to play football I couldn't have gone because you have to pay money every week to train, you have to get to training, you have to go to the games and all that. So I guess that just if your parents weren't interested then you wouldn't really have a choice I think.

JM: Why do you think some parents might have not been very interested or...

SM: I'm not too sure, there could've been a lot of things. I mean it does take up a lot of time, and then money obviously as well, and maybe they just don't want to, don't want their girl playing football, they maybe see it as masculine. So I don't know, it could be down to many things.

JM: Has anyone ever considered it strange that you play football at all?

SM: No.

JM: No? It's just been always part of your life?

SM: Yeah it's always been that kind of thing since I was young.

JM: Just moving on to, this is kind of like the main section. Just asking you do you think that other players in your team, or other women footballers that you know that play football, and then compare them to women outside of football. Do you think there's any particular characteristics that you all have in common, that women footballers have in common? I've got kind of like a few ideas here, but anything else you could think of, just carrying on from that. Looking at background, social class, status, is like marital status. Just if you want to kind of work through, or anything outside of that, any ideas that...

SM: Right, background, well there'll obviously be a few exceptions, but like I said, just kind of working-middle class. Like anyone can play football, do you know what I mean, you don't need like vast equipment like horse riding or whatever. I don't think status, social class is kind of the same. Occupations and education, well everyone I know that's at football is into sport and most of them do go on to do sport-related studies. Either go to college or uni to study something to do with sport. But not everyone, but most of them are.

JM: What about the ones that have got jobs, is there any kind of...

SM: That have got jobs?

JM: Yeah.

SM: In my own team, except one, everybody's got a sport-related job, or is doing sport at uni, or is studying, still at school or whatever. But there's only one that's got a job that's not sport-related. I'm not sure about personality, there is kind of similar to my friends outside of football. Attitudes, the same as my friends. Sense of humour, well obviously everyone's got their own sense of humour, I'd kind of say that everyone at football was up for a laugh, but that's kind of...

JM: There's some people just kind of saying like the whole sense of humour thing, everyone's got a different sense of humour but, you know, when they're with the football lot there's banter that goes on.

SM: Yeah, that's right yeah.

JM: But then whether or not that's because it's football or it's just the being together or what.

SM: Yeah it's anything.

JM: What are the main reasons that you play football?

SM: Probably, well my dad got me into to it so that was the main one, I like it. Just I guess at the start there was a team so it was handy and stuff. I was all right, I was like ok at it and I could kind of do it.

JM: We're kind of moving on a little bit to like the social aspects and that, are they important to you as well?

SM: Yeah.

JM: In the context of like your everyday life as well, does football offer you any kind of escape, release from...

SM: Yeah I suppose in a way it does. But then I suppose sport does.

JM: How would you describe the social aspects then of being a member of a club?

SM: Yeah they're good, most of my, well a lot of my friends are through football. And I've met, like you say there's good team banter that goes on. And we go on nights out together, things like that, so it is an important part I think.

JM: So you like develop friendships but also like socialising as well?

SM: Yeah.

JM: How important would you say that those parts of playing football are to you?

SM: Yeah I think they're really important.

JM: What about other players do you think?

SM: Yeah I think they're like, it's an important part to them as well. Because that makes it more enjoyable, and so if you weren't enjoying it would be as good.

JM: Is it generally people that are in your team that socialise and everything, there's not really anyone who just comes along just for the football?

SM: Not really, everyone kind of socialises.

JM: So you would say that that's quite a big part of being...

SM: I'd say that was a big part of being in our team.

JM: But it might differ from team to team?

SM: Yeah.

JM: How do you or how would you feel if you were injured and couldn't train or play in matches?

SM: Well I'd obviously miss the football and the social as well. I think I'd still go along and support them at matches because I'd see a lot of my friends. But I don't think I would like it anyway.

JM: Why not?

SM: I think I wouldn't like not being able to train and stuff like that.

JM: But you'd still go along to training or just to matches?

SM: I don't know, probably training and I'd probably go and watch the matches yeah. I don't know about training, but the social side as well.

JM: Which would you miss the most if you couldn't train, the playing football all the social side?

SM: No, I'd miss playing as well. I'd miss them both but I think I would miss the football most.

JM: Right. have you ever nearly given up playing at all?

SM: No.

JM: Not at all?

SM: No, not at all.

JM: What do you usually do after training or matches then?

SM: We usually go on to the club and get a can of juice or whatever and sit and have a chat about the game and that. Like after the actual matches you have to provide the food for the other team so everyone has to go back and do that.

JM: Outside of that do you socialise with players, outside of training and matches?

SM: Yeah.

JM: What does that usually involve?

SM: Just like getting a video, going to each others houses, going out for nights out things like that.

JM: So quite a lot of your friends base is actually related to football?

SM: Yeah.

JM: How would you feel if, we've talked about how you'd feel if you were injured and couldn't play football, how would you feel if you couldn't make it out socially and there was a night out and you couldn't make it?

SM: Well it wouldn't be the end of the world, but I'd feel I'd want to know what had happened and kind of all that. Like yeah I would be disappointed that I wouldn't be able to go.

JM: Would you feel like you were missing out?

SM: Yeah.

JM: Kind of getting right to the end now. I'm just going to run a term past you, the term subculture, I don't know if you've come across it at all. But basically I'm trying to look at women's football as a subculture which is defined really as a

group of people that are brought together for some reason, in this case football. And because of that they interact and they share similar values and meanings. Which makes them not completely different but distinct to some extent, quite a distinct social group, than from just say the wider culture. Would you say that there's a strong sense of being part of a subculture of women's football?

SM: Yeah I think so.

JM: Is there any certain characteristics that you think you share or do you think it's just the fact that you play football?

SM: There is, well we all kind of do the same stuff, so we've got a lot of things in common and that. We train and that takes up a lot of your time, and then we socialise as well so it's like a subculture yeah.

JM: Just to kind of go back then and summarise some of the things. How important would you say that football has been in your life, and still is in your life?

SM: Very important part.

JM: In terms of how, the fact that you enjoy it, or the time that it takes up or...

SM: Both because it takes up a lot of my time, and I do enjoy it.

JM: Do you do any coaching?

SM: Yeah.

JM: What's that involve?

SM: I coach Falkirk girls under 15s team, when I'm at uni I coach the Tayside development squad girls, I coach for Clackmannan Council, just primary school kids and development classes, going around the schools and stuff. I do a bit of toddler coaching as well.

JM: Quite a lot then?

SM: Yeah.

JM: Is that kind of like part-time work as well or...

SM: Yeah that's my part-time work.

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

JM: What would you say that you enjoy about it the most?

SM: Playing football?

JM: Yeah.

SM: I enjoy, I probably enjoy playing the most. But I enjoy all the social aspects of it as well, but I would say playing the most then the social.

JM: If you weren't ever able to play football again how would you feel?

SM: Not good, no. I would miss it.

JM: What would you miss?

SM: Just not being able to play I think because you can still have the social and everything, but I'd miss not being able to play definitely.

JM: Because you've formed the friendships and things like that so if you weren't playing you'd still have the social network?

SM: Yeah.

JM: Just the very few last questions then really. What plans do you have for the future in relation to football, or any ambitions?

SM: I don't really have any ambitions to take my playing any further in terms of level but I would like to keep playing just basically as long as I can really.

JM: What about your coaching?

SM: I've got quite high, I've got my level 3 coaching so the next step would be to take my license but I'm not sure. I think I will do it, but once I've finished uni. I think I will do it because I enjoy coaching.

JM: What kind of work do you think you'll get after you've done your degree?

SM: Obviously something sports-related but I'm not sure, I'm not sure.

JM: This is a horrible question, what might make you stop playing football, what's the most likely thing to make you stop?

SM: Probably injury I would say.

JM: Injury?

SM: Yeah.

JM: So you can't imagine just getting bored of it?

SM: No, I can't see that.

JM: Play it until your body won't let you play anymore?

SM: Yeah.

JM: Ok, that's brilliant thanks.

INTERVIEW 13 - CLAIRE PEEBLES 16/06/03
FALKIRK (2nd – 1st DIVISION)

JM: Just to start off with then, where were you born and brought up?

CP: I was born through in Kirkcaldy, was there for a few years and then moved through to Alloa and I've lived there since.

JM: So how long have you been in Alloa?

CP: I think I moved there about thirteen, fourteen years ago.

JM: And you're still staying there now?

CP: Yeah still there now.

JM: How about your family, do you have any brothers or sisters?

CP: No, just me.

JM: No. What about your parents or guardians, what did they do or what do they still do for a living?

CP: My mum, she's an accountant, and my dad owns his own business.

JM: And is that pretty much what they've done all their lives?

CP: Pretty much.

JM: How old are you just now?

CP: Twenty-two.

JM: Where did you go to school?

CP: In Alloa.

JM: Alloa Academy?

CP: It was Lawrencehill Academy but it's in Alloa.

JM: What qualifications did you get from school, just generally how many Standard Grades...

CP: Seven Standard Grades and six Highers.

JM: Right, ok. And what did you do from school, did you...

CP: I went straight into university and I did Leisure Management.

JM: Where was that?

CP: Glasgow Caledonian.

JM: What are you doing just now?

CP: Sports Development.

JM: In...

CP: Clackmannanshire.

JM: So have you gone straight into that work from your degree?

CP: Yeah.

JM: Have you picked up any further qualifications at all other than your degree?

CP: Mainly just coaching qualifications, coaching awards and stuff.

JM: Ok, is that just general coaching or football?

CP: Football specific, a lot of general stuff, first aid, and everything.

JM: What social class background would you say that you've had, in terms of working, or middle, or upper class?

CP: About middle.

JM: About middle?

CP: Yeah.

JM: Based on, what your parents jobs and things like that?

CP: Yeah, pretty much and the life I've had I would say.

JM: What would you say about the typical woman footballer in Scotland in terms of social class, do you think that's...

CP: Probably all sorts to be honest, I wouldn't say there was a sort of a class to put them into.

JM: Do you think there's a predominance of some classes?

CP: I can't say that I'd think there's that many upper class.

JM: Right, so kind of like working to middle class?

CP: Yeah.

JM: How about your experiences of football then, what are your earliest memories of experiencing football, whether it's like involved in playing or watching?

CP: Well I started going to it when I was about six.

JM: Going to watch games?

CP: Yeah.

JM: And what did that involve?

CP: Rangers games, I went along to Rangers matches.

JM: Did you ever just like have a kick about in the back garden or...

CP: Aye I kicked about with school friends and family but nothing structured at all.

JM: Ok, and who generally got you involved in watching Rangers?

CP: My dad.

JM: Your dad. Do either or both or your parents play or watch football?

CP: Yeah, they both watch and my dad used to play.

JM: But you haven't got any brothers or sisters?

CP: No.

JM: So would you say that football has been an important place in your family life?

CP: Yeah I would say so.

JM: Just in terms of, you've always, you're parents are both interested in it?

CP: Yeah.

JM: How did you first become involved in actually playing football?

CP: It was through my work really because I went to uni then got a job in Sports Development. And then it was really through Alison she said they'd got a club and to come along so I went to training a few times and that was pretty much it.

JM: What age was that?

CP: Eighteen, eighteen, nineteen.

JM: So you didn't play at all before?

CP: Nothing structured, just having a kick around, that sort of stuff, but nothing never structured.

JM: Right, so Falkirk was your first club then?

CP: Yeah.

JM: And they're the only club that you've played for?

CP: Yeah.

JM: You said that Alison encouraged you to play but was there anyone who encouraged you?

CP: Actually my Granddad, he went on about it (?) 'you should try for a team' and whatever, but it was just really lacking in opportunities in the area. So I had to go out-with Alloa, find a club, get there, that kind of stuff so it wasn't until I was eighteen I was independent enough to actually.

JM: Because there's not really any teams in Alloa?

CP: No.

JM: There's a couple of teams near Fife but...

CP: Yeah but it's closer to come here than Fife.

JM: So you were eighteen or nineteen when you first started playing regularly?

CP: Yeah.

JM: At what level do you play at the moment? Are you in the first eleven?

CP: Pretty much.

JM: Pretty much yeah?

CP: Yeah.

JM: Any other kind of representation like regional, that kind of thing?

CP: No.

JM: No? Ok. So how long have you been playing for Falkirk?

CP: I think it's my third season. The first season I never really played because I was, I used to work in a part-time job so I just used to train during the week and never really got a chance because I was always at work. So I've really never played until the last two seasons.

JM: What about other sports then? Is there any other sports or activities that you've been involved in like through your childhood?

CP: I used to play tennis and I used to dance, I don't know if dance is classed as a sport, but yeah, I did dancing as well. That's about it.

JM: At what kind of level did you those?

CP: At tennis it was regional.

JM: Right, at what age?

CP: It would've been at ten or eleven and then that just kind of faded out.

JM: What about your dancing was that at any certain level or was that just recreational?

CP: That was kind of regional as well.

JM: How about at school then? What kind of sports did you play at school?

CP: We did badminton at school, basketball, I think that was it.

JM: That was generally just the main sports that you got?

CP: It was yeah, there wasn't really any after school clubs or things.

JM: Right, so you didn't play football at school then?

CP: No, maybe at lunchtime we did but that was it.

JM: But it wasn't in the lessons?

CP: No.

JM: Was there a girls team?

CP: No.

JM: Would you say that football is, or has been, your main sport?

CP: Yeah.

JM: Just over the last three years?

CP: Well even when I was watching Rangers games I'd be there every week, so definitely my main sport.

JM: What is it in particular about football that you enjoy?

CP: I don't know really, I just get a lot of fun out of it, the social aspect is a big part of it, and the enjoyment, fitness.

JM: Why is it more attractive to you than say picking up another sport?

CP: I suppose it's because that's the sort of sport I enjoy. I enjoy doing it and I think it's fun, and the social interaction with other players.

JM: The fact that you've been watching it since you were young as well?

CP: Yeah, definitely.

JM: Just moving on now to other people's influences on you and your football career. I've just got a list here of groups of people. If you want to just look through them and just give me a general idea of, looking at them one by one, just let me know basically what kind of influence they've had, positive, negative.

CP: My parents I would say definitely positive. My mum sometimes thinks I'm a bit daft going out playing football but she's generally encouraging, my dad especially, he's been a really positive influence. Siblings, that's not really relevant. The third one, well like I say it was my Granddad that originally said, oh I missed golf, I used to play golf as well! He got me into to playinG golf as well, but he'' always be a positive encouragement and asking how I was getting on, so again that's positive. Partners, I think on the whole I would say they've maybe been a bit sceptical, you know women's football, they'd have a laugh, but nobody's ever discouraged me. Friends, again they've been positive about it, like my friends from uni come and watch when they can. Friends from school, I don't think they had much opinion on it, but again nobody really had a negative opinion. School, I'd say that was pretty much a negative thing because at school there wasn't anything at all. There was a few of us to try and set up a team and but we'd have to just arrange it ourselves, no support whatsoever.

JM: So did you approach teachers to try and...

CP: Yeah we did actually, in first and second year, we asked the guy that took the guys football team. But he was not keen at all, there was guys football but not girls football, I think that was the general feeling.

JM: None of the female PE teachers were...

CP: Not then. I know well actually working, doing what I'm doing just now in my job, and it's totally different now. But then, I don't think there was any kind of team thing like hockey or netball or anything, nothing happening whatsoever. So it wasn't just in football, there weren't many chances for girls at all really. Teachers, that's probably the same as I've said for schools, not very helpful at all. Coaches, well looking at like Alison obviously she's been one of the biggest kind of in terms of getting me going in the first place, so she's definitely positive. That's about it.

JM: No others you can think of that's influenced?

CP: I think that's it.

JM: That's most of them? Some people out with random 'oh yeah, a neighbour' or something but nobody apart from what you've said?

CP: No that's it.

JM: Ok, overall then out of those groups of people who would you say have had the most positive, or any particular person who's had the most positive influence?

CP: Probably my dad I would say, he's always encouraged me and stuff so probably him.

JM: Who would you say has probably had the most negative?

CP: Like I said I don't think there's anyone that I could say has had that much of a negative. But I suppose the school, they never really tried to help with a team so I suppose I'd say them.

JM: Right. We're just going to look now at perspectives on women's football. What kind of attitudes have you experienced towards women's football from like the general public and say the media. Maybe not so much what you've experienced first hand but what do you think are the general attitudes of the general public?

CP: I think it generally depends where you look at it. If you look at the tabloids they've got a different perspective from others. I remember when Falkirk were in the Sunday Times about how difficult (?) and that was written a lot different to the tabloid newspaper.

JM: What kind of...

CP: Well I think when I was doing my research The Sun had a, Glasgow City had just produced a calendar, I think they look at that completely differently, it's not

taken seriously at all. Whereas if you look at some other types of media they may take it completely differently.

JM: How about, if we're kind of talking about the possible differences between national press and local press as well?

CP: I think local press are normally positive. We've had articles in the Falkirk Herald, the local paper. They make more of an effort into getting the girls stuff into the paper as well, yeah I'd definitely think they pay a lot more attention to it, and what's going on with it.

JM: How about the general public? Just Joe Bloggs on the street?

CP: To be honest I don't think many people know a lot of about it, you know realise it exists, they just think 'women playing football?'. They think it's just a couple of girls having a kick about and don't realise there's this big massive structure. They never really kind of know, they're not that aware about it.

JM: Right, and because of that what kind of perceptions do you think they have?

CP: Well I don't think it's taken that seriously I wouldn't say. They just think it's a bit of a laugh, which I think in a way it is but it's not taken as seriously as the guys football. But I think a lot think it's just a kick about.

JM: Do you think, asking those questions relates a little bit better to people that are a bit older, but it's kind of like do you think attitudes have changed, have you got any knowledge of attitudes being worse say a few years back or...

CP: I think they are changing, but I think it'll take a long time before attitudes change. I suppose if you're talking about it being taken more seriously it'll be a few years until standards are higher and more people understand about it.

JM: Do you think standards needs improving for people to take it more seriously, or do you think it's just in need of greater awareness?

CP: Well I think in a few years you're going to have that. There's more clubs, more in schools now, and that's been over the last five or six years that there's such an improvement there. So the kids are growing up with a lot more opportunities to get involved. They're playing football while their younger so they can grow up with that. And their parents are obviously going to have a different opinion as well because of their kids and things, so there'll be more opportunities that way.

JM: Do you think that Scotland is any different than say England, are they lagging behind or, if you think not just England but maybe anything you know about European countries or further afield like America and China?

CP: Yeah I was thinking we are lagging behind but I think that's just the nature of Scottish sport, we're always just catching up with everyone else, but I think we're maybe getting there.

JM: What about in terms of women's football then?

CP: Well I think it's getting better here but if you compare it to like America, obviously in America it's massive, but not so much in Britain.

JM: Why do you think there's those differences?

CP: I think they're treated a lot better over there, they've definitely got the whole thing, like Mia Hamm, she's massive over there she's got a lot of respect. And I think there's just greater awareness as well.

JM: Some of the things I've looked at when I researched it actually is like just looking that over here football is the traditional masculine sport historically. Over in America the traditional national sports are American Football, basketball, baseball...

CP: That's right, and I don't think actually football is that popular, and the Major League Soccer or whatever, that's really just down to the World Cup Finals just now.

And it's potentially that's where players go when they're finishing. So I don't think it's so big it's maybe been a place where the women can take the limelight.

JM: Do you think there's stereotypes created about women's football?

CP: Possibly yeah, I think so. I think there's stereotypes in any women's sports

JM: What kind of stereotypes?

CP: Well the main ones are speculating about sexuality in women's sport in general. But I think with more kids coming into play football I think that it's changing. And I think we'll get rid of that stereotype as more girls come through and play.

JM: So the stereotypes have kind of been created a while back and...

CP: I think they're still there a wee bit but I think attitudes are changing.

JM: Have any attitudes towards women's football, you know negative attitudes relating to stereotypes and things like that ever affected you participating in football?

CP: No I wouldn't say so.

JM: How about anyone else you know, has anyone else maybe wanted to play but they've been put off?

CP: Not that I'm aware of.

JM: Has anyone ever considered it strange that you play football?

CP: Yeah, everybody!

JM: Yeah? By who, what kind of response have you had?

CP: Och, I think a lot of people when they first hear are surprised that I play football, they're not necessarily surprised about women playing football, but they don't expect me to play football.

JM: Right, why do you think they're surprised by it?

CP: I think mainly because of my size! I think that's probably about it.

JM: We're kind of going on to the main section now about being a member of a club. Despite football, would you say that there's any kind of characteristics that you think you share with other women footballers that kind of make you feel like quite a distinctive group? Here are just a kind of, just a few ideas just to go through. Is there anything that you feel you have in common with...

CP: Well I think because you're playing football that's obviously the common ground and that's the same for anybody who's part of any group, you're going to have some common ground, in this case football. Obviously the majority play football. Education, I think, there is probably quite a few of us have went on to do sport-related degrees, and things, but that's not maybe because we play football, that could be the same for the majority of sports or whatever. Personalities I think are kind of mixed, obviously you've got some that are louder and laughing kind of thing.

JM: Yeah, most people have kind of said that within their club they've got the extroverts, the louder ones then you've got...

CP: That's going to happen anyway, that's just pretty normal in any group of people really. Occupation, well that again is influenced by like education and that. We've got sports development, PE teaching, so you're occupation perhaps that's kind of, but then again other people have got other jobs so.

JM: Any other things like clothes things like that. If you compare like women footballers to maybe just other women that you know, other friends that you've got that aren't related to football...

CP: Well in terms of clothes, we turn up to a game and everyone turns up in trackie bottoms, whatever. But then outside I would say they don't dress too much different from anyone else.

JM: So just in the context of football you maybe dress accordingly?

CP: Yeah, but you'd do that for anything.

JM: So based on that would you recognise women footballers as having a particular identity at all that is different at all?

CP: Not really.

JM: You're just brought together by football?

CP: Yeah.

JM: What are the main reasons why you play football?

CP: I actually enjoy playing. I just like keeping fit and it's more interesting than sitting in the gym for hours. The social aspects of it as well.

JM: In the context of like your everyday life, like in relation to your job and things like that, does it give you any kind of escape or release?

CP: Probably not because my work is related.

JM: They're related to each other?

CP: Yeah, they're related to each other. But in fact, it probably does because if I've had a bad day at work it helps me relax if things at work are, and at work I have to organise it all, so I suppose it does. It's nice to take a step back.

JM: Nice to be on the other side of it?

CP: Yeah.

JM: How would you describe the social aspects of being a club member? What do they involve? I've got a few things written down like friendships, socialising, interaction, sense of community...

CP: We're really good friends like, we have a laugh and whatever. Again, I don't know if that is particularly related to football, it would happen if you were together for other reasons so I think that is pretty much a standard thing within a group. But no definitely those social things, I would agree with that.

JM: How important are those kind of social aspects to you?

CP: I think they're very important.

JM: Why?

CP: I think everybody I know, well most girls play football for the enjoyment really, they're not looking to get to the top, they're looking to have a laugh and have a good time, so it is quite important.

JM: Kind of part of my research is to what extent the social aspects are important. And kind of like, because I've interviewed people in the Premier League as well and a few like 17 year olds in the Premier League that are like the social aspects don't come into it, because they've just got their hope that one day they'll play professionally. It's quite interesting that you've got such a range of meaning of football in people's lives. Maybe age and ability level...

CP: I think that might also come back to a change in attitudes. The girls that are growing up now have got more chances, if I think of the opportunities for kids starting in this area for football. So by the time they get to fifteen or sixteen there's the chance that they'll be really good. And they've now got the pathway to get into Scotland squads. So you're maybe going to be more ambitious of what you can do.

JM: To what extent would you say then that generally social aspects are part of being a member of a club?

CP: I would say to a large extent, at this level anyway.

JM: How would you feel if you were injured and can't train or play in matches?

CP: I think it would be frustrating, like watching them and wanting to get on and have a shot.

JM: Would you always go and watch matches?

CP: I'd try and get to the matches yeah, maybe wouldn't go to training sessions but yeah I would try and get down to see the games.

JM: Why would you try and do that, just to...

CP: Just because although you're not playing you're still part of the team, still wanting to know how they do.

JM: So just to support them?

CP: Yeah.

JM: Have you ever nearly given up playing at all?

CP: Not really, I've just really started so not really.

JM: Right, at no time have you thought 'oh I can't be bothered'?

CP: Not really.

JM: What do you usually do after training and matches?

CP: Just pretty much go into the club for a few drinks, a can of juice or whatever, then head off. On Sunday we're with the other team and have a drink or whatever, something to eat and something to drink.

JM: So the kind of socialising usually is not straight after training or matches, it's usually arranged...

CP: Yeah, we usually stay for a few hours after, but then head off, especially after training, just go home. We usually arrange something.

JM: How often do you usually like organise nights out with football?

CP: I guess it depends what's going on. Like last month about five of us had their birthdays so we were out all the time, and then maybe there's other nights that we'll go out to the pub or whatever. But I think it just depends, but most weeks we usually do something.

JM: How many, if you think of your friend base what kind of percentage are like football related?

CP: I would say about 70-75% are related to football.

JM: So in terms of your socialising and things like that then it's most of the time it's football related?

CP: Yeah but I still go out with friends from home and from school and whatever.

JM: Right. How would you feel if you couldn't make it out socially, say on a social night out?

CP: Well sometimes I've got something going on with work like if on Friday's the girls have got a competition and I maybe can't make it, and it's a bit frustrating, but there's nothing I can do so.

JM: You'll make up for it some other time?

CP: I'm sure I will yeah.

JM: Just kind of talking about the term subculture just now. If we kind of look at it in terms of people brought together by something, in this case football, do you think there's a sense of being part of a subculture of women's football?

CP: Yeah probably because we're all brought together obviously through football, but I'd imagine there isn't any difference in any kind of sport.

JM: In any kind of sport do you think?

CP: I think it's pretty much the same thing. You've got like a golf club as well, you'll go for a drink after, there'll be a few nights out as well. But yeah I'd say that was an element in all sports.

JM: Just to go over again then, just some of the main things. What importance has football had in your life, you've not been playing for as long, well just a few years, but what kind of importance would you say that it has?

CP: Well now I'd say quite a bit, because through my work and playing for the club just now, and I still go and watch the games as well, so I'd say it was important.

JM: What is it you enjoy about it the most?

CP: I enjoy the playing and the social aspects of it.

JM: Evenly?

CP: Yeah, I would say so.

JM: And if you weren't able to play football again how would you feel?

CP: I think it would be very frustrating. Especially being promoted and trying to get further and if I was able to do that it would be very frustrating.

JM: Something I forgot to ask you earlier but would you be happy to stay at Falkirk because of the players and friends that are there rather than strive for a higher level or...

CP: I think so, I think it is easier and you know everyone and get on with everyone and I'd enjoy it much more than moving somewhere else.

JM: So it would only really be if you were, if the football was most important to you that you might move?

CP: Yeah I think so. I suppose if you move to join a team somewhere else, and that might involved doing a bit of travelling. But other than that yeah it would only be football, if I was trying to improve and do much better with a better team, but that's not what I'm after.

JM: Ok, what plans have you got for the future in relation to football then?

CP: I haven't really got any ambitions, I'm happy where I am.

JM: What are your hopes?

CP: Just to enjoy playing.

JM: What about coaching, anything like that?

CP: I do quite a lot of coaching through my work as well. And I've already picked up a few things, I'd like to get further in that.

JM: Why is that?

CP: I'm working on getting my license.

JM: So do you expect, in relation to your work probably as well, do you expect football to play, probably in many different ways for you, but do you expect it to play an important part in the rest of your life?

CP: Probably, I can see so through work, and carrying on playing and whatever, I can't imagine giving that up.

JM: What might make you stop playing football?

CP: I think probably if I move away. If I ended up going back through to Glasgow, I suppose moving to Glasgow and I can't always get back through that might make me stop playing football, and I wouldn't really look for another team.

JM: So if you moved to Glasgow, you don't think you'd, if you couldn't get back here you wouldn't...

CP: Obviously I'd try and get back here for it, but I wouldn't join another team.

JM: Why is that then?

CP: Probably just because I'm happy where I am just now, so I wouldn't want to move.

JM: So you haven't got this big desire to just play football, it's kind of like the combination of the football and the social side?

CP: I think it's the combination and to have the football without the social or whatever, I don't think that's something I would do.

JM: Right, well thanks very much for that.

APPENDIX ELEVEN

TIME PROFILES

Weekly Time Profile: Jennifer Howie (Premier Division)

Time/Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
9	Work	Work	Work	Work	Work	Bed	Football match with club team
10						Read papers	
11							
12				Work		Food shopping	
13				5-a-side			
14						Watch Aberdeen	
15							
16							
17							
18	Stay in house	Football club training	Tai Chi	Football club training		In supper	
19							
20		Stay in house	Stay in house	Stay in house watch TV	Out either pub or friends (non-football friends)	Socialise often with footie folk	
21							
22							
23							
24							

Weekly Time Profile: Heather Pirie (Premier Division)

Time/Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
9	University	Home study day	Home study day	University	Home study day	Housework day	Football match with club team
10							
11							
12							
13						Watch Aberdeen if home game	
14			Aberdeen Uni football or mountain biking				
15							
16							
17							
18		Football club training		Football club training			
19							
20	Netball training		Occasional netball game or mum and dad's in evening				
21					Social night		
22							
23							
24							

Weekly Time Profile: Jo McWilliam (Premier Division)

Time/Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
9	Work	Work	Work	Work	Work	Cleaning and shopping	Football match with club team
10							
11						Watch football with dad	
12							
13						Home or cinema	Visiting family
14							
15						Out with friends (normally football related)	Home
16							
17	In flat		Visiting friends		Out with friends (normally football related)	Home or cinema	Visiting family
18		Football club training		Football club training			
19						Home	
20		Football club training		Football club training			
21		Home		Home		Home	
22							
23							
24							

Weekly Time Profile: Kim Duncan (Premier Division)

Time/Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
9	Work	Work	Work	Work	Work	Home	Football match with club team
10							
11						Socialise (non-football) or watch football (1/month)	club team
12							
13						Training PFI	Home
14							
15						Socialise (non-football)	
16							
17					Training PFI	Socialise (non-football)	
18	Training PFI	Football club training	Training PFI	Football club training			
19						Home	
20		Football club training					
21	Socialise (non-football)	Home	Socialise (non-football)	Home		Home	
22							
23							
24							

Weekly Time Profile: Angie Murchison (Premier Division)

Time/Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
9	Being a full-time mum	Being a full-time mum	Being a full-time mum	Being a full-time mum	Being a full-time mum	Sometimes watch kids game	At home with family
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15	Home	Football club training	Home	Football club training	Coach U16 Dev. Squad	Home	Football match with Cove
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21	Home	Home	Home	Home			At home with family
22							
23							
24							

Weekly Time Profile: Dawn Brown (3rd Division)

Time/Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
9	Work	Work	Work	Work	Work	Home	Football match or training
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15	5-a-side	Visit family	Socialising (Football friends)	Football training	Socialising (non-football) friends	Socialise (Possibly with team-mates)	Pub
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							
23							
24							

Weekly Time Profile: Cahli Laird (3rd Division)

Time/Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
9	School	School	School	School	School	Work	Prepare for match / travel
10							
11							Play game
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17	5-a-side	Study	Socialising (Football friends)			Go to cinema or	Refreshments / travel home
18							
19				Football training	Socialising (non-football friends)	chill in the house	
20							
21							
22							
23							
24							

Weekly Time Profile: Lisa Vannet (3rd Division)

Time/Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
9	Work	Work	Work	Work	Work	Athletic training	
10							
11							
12							Football / socialising
13							
14						Home	
15							
16							
17							
18							Out with friends or home
19				Football		Out with friends	
20	Training Athletic	Training Athletic	Training Athletic		Visit parents		
21							
22							
23							
24							

Weekly Time Profile: Sarah Park (3rd Division)

Time/Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
9	Work	Work	Work	Work	Work		
10						Gym	
11							
12							Match or training
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18		Training		Training			
19	Gym		Gym				
20							
21			Athletic				
22							
23							
24							

Weekly Time Profile: Fiona Melville (1st Division)

Time/Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
7					Uni team training		
8							
9	Uni team training	University	University	University		Coaching	
10					University		
11	University						Football match with club team
12			University football match				
13				Coaching			
14						Watch Falkirk F.C.	
15							
16							
17	Coaching						
18							Study
19		Football club training Home	Coaching				
20				University			
21				work or night out			
22			Maybe night out with Uni team				
23							
24							

Weekly Time Profile: Alison Mackie (1st Division)

Time/Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
9	Work	Work	Work	Work	Work		
10						U15s matches	
11							
12							Senior matches
13							
14							
15			Coach Primary Sch team				
16							
17							
18	Meetings		SFA U13 and U19 Coaching				
19	for Falkirk	Senior training			Coach U15s	SFA Fitness U17s	
20	Board and						
21	West League						Senior night out
22							
23							
24							

Weekly Time Profile: Shirley Martin (1st Division)

Time/Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
9	Coaching		Work/ univeristy	Work/ university	Work/ university	Coaching	
10	Work/ university	Coaching					
11			Play for university			Watching football	Playing
12							
13							
14							
15		Coaching					
16							
17				Coaching	Social	Social	Social
18	Training	Falkirk training	Coaching				
19	PFI						
20							
21	Socialise	Socialise					
22	(non-football)						
23							
24							

Weekly Time Profile: Claire Peebles (1st Division)

Time/Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
9	Work	Work	Work	Work	Work	Coaching	
10							
11							
12							Match
13							
14						Rangers game	
15							
16							
17							Social
18				Coach			
19		Training		U13s			
20							
21							
22							
23							
24							