



1988

Wild horses couldn't drag Jagger away from her job

Lisa blazing a trail with new position

By Alan Hedley

LISA Jagger likes being first. She was the first in her family to become involved in rugby league and was a founding member of women's side the Huddersfield Raiders.

Now she is the first woman to be appointed by the Rugby Football League as one of the sport's development officers, and is working in the North-East, where the game has been transformed by the success of Gateshead Thunder.

"People have said to me 'You're going to find it hard being a woman in sport', and to be honest at times it has been," says the 28-year-old graduate in Health and Sports Studies.

"But I've never had anything but help and encouragement from the Rugby League and the clubs. No-one has ever said 'You can't do that'. They have always been behind me.

"There is a development officer for the Women's Rugby League and a rugby league co-ordinator, who was appointed three months ago in Leeds, but I'm actually the first woman to be appointed develop-

ment officer for the game and is still captain of Huddersfield Raiders.

How long that continues will depend on the development of her role in the growing North-East rugby league fabric.

"I like the North-East and I have an ambitious nature. It's a good career move and that's why I'm here," says Lisa.

"I don't have a rugby league background as far as my family is concerned. My father is sports-minded - he likes football and rugby union - but my mother has no interest in sport.

"I came into sport in my early-20s, which is quite late really, and I'm from Huddersfield so I suppose that's partly why rugby league. It was mainly through friends who

played. I went along to watch and met a few women who played and who became friends."

The involvement led to Lisa taking coaching courses to level three, the equivalent of a senior coach, and the completion of a Bsc honours degree in health and sports studies at Huddersfield University, which she finished just a few weeks ago.

"I worked in rugby league development with the Kirklees Development project for about three years part-time while I was at university," adds Lisa.

"That was as schools development coach so I've had a fair bit of experience of that side of things and I've also worked

with Huddersfield Giants in their schools development programme. While the actual job title here is new, the work isn't so much different.

"I've lived in the North-East before and I'd like to try and build a career here in rugby league. It's a game that I love and I can't imagine doing anything else."

Lisa has been given a three-year contract and the main priority will be working with junior school-age children and getting them to participate in the game.

Those that show potential will hopefully be given a route to come through the system and possibly reach the top.

"The presence of Gateshead Thunder gives a good focus," adds Lisa.

"Any child needs role models, especially if they are going to go anywhere in sport, and they have to have something to aspire to.

"But I'm there to help anyone who wants to play the game. Not just boys. Perhaps coming from women's rugby league has made me more aware of the obstacles that can be put in people's way and I will be trying to make sure that anyone who shows the slightest interest in being involved in the game as a player, spectator or whatever gets the opportunity."

Somehow, I don't think it will be difficult with a woman of Lisa Jagger's calibre in

that." Lisa caught the rugby league bug about seven or eight years ago and ended up playing for Dudley Hill Thunderbirds before helping to found Huddersfield Raiders, switching from a sales and marketing career based in Middlesbrough in 1996.

Forging a reputation as a formidable player and later as a coach, she was appointed assistant coach to the Great Britain and Ireland women's squad and played an important role in the establishment of the Women's National Academy squad. But she hasn't lost touch with the playing side of



Having a ball: Lisa Jagger, the new rugby league development

1999

2000



2023



BBC SPORT



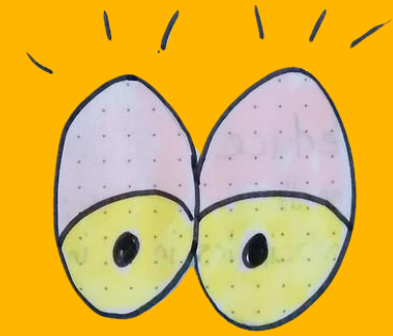
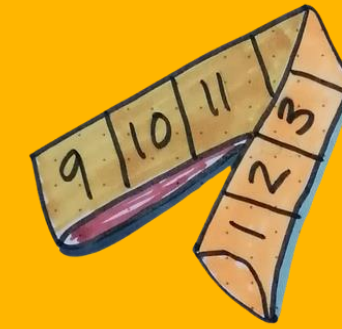
140

With 140 appearances, Sarah Hunter is the world's most-capped women's player and is England's most-capped player, across the men's and women's game.

GETTY IMAGES

The image features a woman, Sarah Hunter, smiling and wearing a white England football kit. The kit has the Umbro logo on the left chest, the England rose crest on the right chest, and the O2 logo below it. The background is dark with horizontal yellow light streaks. The BBC Sport logo is in the top left corner. The number "140" is prominently displayed in large white font. Below it, a text block provides context about her record. A small "GETTY IMAGES" watermark is visible in the bottom left corner of the image area.

Outcomes: *(Change)*



1. **Generate** at least one idea for thinking outside the box (*think differently, unconventionally, or from a new perspective*)
2. **Identify** three key things that a funder really wants to know
3. **Develop** a strategy to help us prioritise what to include in an application
4. **Identify** at least one new technique that helps you tackle key questions



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Sport England Examples

- Our Movement Fund offers crowdfunding pledges, grants and resources to **improve physical activity opportunities** for the people and communities **who need it the most.**
- Our main focus is to support **projects that match our goal of getting more people active**, reducing the number of inactive people and tackling long-standing inequalities.
- This means our investment supports the goals of our **Uniting the Movement** strategy.
- We especially **want to support projects** that give opportunities to groups of people **who typically haven't had as many chances to be active.**
- We help **local communities to thrive** by funding projects that make a **real difference.**

Answer 1

“All our sports equipment is broken and we don't have enough income to cover the replacement costs. Our staff are really busy and don't have time to raise the funds. We would really like to buy some new equipment”

Answer 2

- Our centre attracts 12,000 youngsters each year, and as a result of general wear and tear, some equipment needs replacing.
- We keep admittance fees to a minimum as we are situated in an area of multiple deprivation.
- Grant funding will enable us to replace vital equipment to ensure our young people continue to access high quality sports provision, whilst we continue to find ways to diversify our income streams.

Focus on the Essential - Eliminate the Rest

You can do Anything - But you can't do Everything