# ATHLETE RECRUITMENT PACK UNLOCKED 2022



"Making women's sport visible, viable and unstoppable"



# The Women's Sport Trust (WST)

Founded in 2012, The Women's Sport Trust raises the visibility and increases the impact of women's sport through the promotion of diverse athlete role models, increasing media coverage and improving the funding landscape.

We are a leading UK charity focused on using the power of sport to accelerate gender equality and stimulate social change.

Female athletes have always been a key part of WST because we strongly believe they will be instrumental in shaping the future of women's sport.





## What is Unlocked?

- Unlocked is a WST programme that brings together a group of elite sportswomen and helps them to capitalise on the current momentum behind women's sport
- It aims to turn up the volume so more female voices can be heard across sport, to help athletes drive change themselves, as well as make the most out of the emerging commercial and media opportunities
  - We give athletes the space to understand what is important to them and why
  - To think about what are the key messages they want to highlight and understand where and how they can spread those messages
  - Develop knowledge about how to use and grow their influence
  - And we connect them to some of the leading figures from across sport, business, and media



## Unlocked 2022

- In 2022 we will recruit 35 female athletes. Our Unlocked athletes will come from across the sporting landscape, be at different points in their careers, with a variety of backgrounds and interest
- But they will share an ambition to have impact on the issues that matter to them.
- We are aiming for a diverse group of women through representation of:
  - Sports (team/individual, traditional/emerging, Olympic/Non Olympic, Winter/Summer)
  - Age, ethnicity, athletes, Para-athletes, location of athletes in the UK
  - Aspiring/competing/retired athletes (national and/or international level)



# Programme overview

Athlete Launch event April 2022 Athlete bonding, learning and development Activator and Athlete matching event July 2022

Activator & athlete 121 sessions

End celebration event November 2022



Athlete hangouts, spotlight sessions and webinars



Launchpad - Activator 121 sessions



Media and speaking opportunities



## Breaking it down

## Unlocked is a combination of:

- Community building a new network of other elite athletes who face similar challenges and opportunities. To create the ultimate girl squad for support and inspiration
- Hangouts a chance to catch-up with the WST team and the other athletes. Hear
  each other's stories, learn from sport industry insiders in our 'spotlight sessions' and
  discuss relevant topics in breakout groups sharing knowledge and ideas
- Learning through webinars provided by the best experts in the business; create a
  website, understand how to gain sponsorship, find out more about the media or
  fast-track your social channels
- **Connections** we will connect you with an 'activator', a leader from business, media or sport who will help you understand your mission and help make it happen
- Visibility we will provide opportunities to increase your visibility through media opportunities, developing content, speaking engagements and social media



# Light on time but high on impact

The programme will run from April to November 2022 and will include regular online athlete hangouts. We have three confirmed dates but the other dates will vary throughout the year.

#### Confirmed dates:

- Launch event, 7 April 2022 (online)
- Celebration event, 22 Nov 2022 (tbc)
- Athlete social at Eng v Wal Rugby Six Nations (in person at Gloucester reasonable travel expenses will be covered)

#### Other events:

- Athlete hangouts: 2 per month, April November (online)
- Webinars with guest speakers: 1 per month, April November (online)
- Individual coaching with an activator (leader in sport) minimum of 3 121 sessions, July November



# Programme detail

- Two hangouts and one webinar each month (on average)
- Timings will vary to ensure maximum attendance across the athlete team (e.g. lunchtime, after work/training)

## Our expectations of you:

- Attend a minimum of 50% of the Unlocked hangouts
- Attend a minimum of 50% of the webinars
- Full engagement with your activator (if you choose to have one) e.g. attend a minimum of three 121 sessions.



## How to apply

You must be over the age of 18 to apply.

Send a short paragraph or video letting us know:

- 1. A bit about yourself and your sport
- 2. Why you would like to be part of Unlocked
- 3. Tell us about one issue in women's sport that you are interested in and why

Send your application to <u>clairebennett@womenssporttrust.com</u> and please contact Claire if you have any further questions on 07899 914040

Once we receive your application, we will arrange a short informal telephone call.

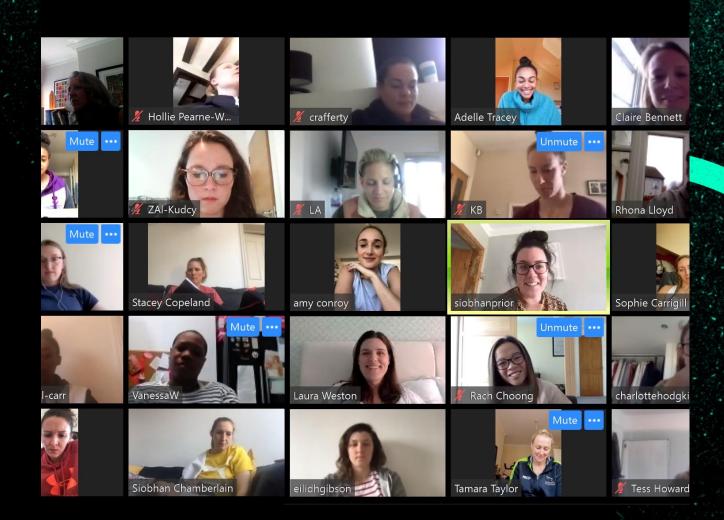
All applications must be received by Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022



# Unlocked alumni

## Unlocked alumni

- In 2020 we launched our first Unlocked programme, with 41 athletes from 24 different sports
- Together the group became a vibrant community, supporting each other, sharing ideas and experiences and tackling significant issues
- The programme received significant media coverage and our athletes were able to tell their stories to a wide audience
- We now have 76 incredible athletes in our alumni group following Unlocked 1 and 2. They continue to support one another and make a difference in the areas that they are passionate about.





## Athlete stats

- It was important to us that Unlocked made a tangible difference for our athletes, so we conducted research at the start, middle and end of the programme
- Athletes scored themselves on areas including; understanding influence, profile, career navigation, managing commercial opportunities and being prepared for transition
- Across each area every athlete scored a marked increase
- 92% increased their overall confidence, this was clear to see as the group grew in strength and we saw the real outcomes of Unlocked.
- Our athletes secured sponsorship, took on media opportunities, championed diversity in their sport and created ways to inspire and reach out to women & girls.
- Each athlete receives approximately 40 hours of high-quality learning and engagement through the WST team, the activator relationship and formal learning.



## Athlete success from Unlocked







Montell Douglas
Was selected as
the voice of
Bobsleigh athletes
this season and
will help promote
the athlete view as
they prepare for
Beijing 2022. She
also became a BBC
Sport columnist on
Unlocked



Rach Choong
With support from
Unlocked activators,
Rach landed a
commentary role at
the Paralympic
Games in Tokyo
2021



Georgina Roberts
Selected as a
board member for
the British
international clay
target shooting
federation. She is
now also Brand
Ambassador and
Marketing
Manager for Clays
London



Alice Dearing
Launched the
'Black Swimming
Association' and
used her profile to
encourage more
diversity in the
pool



Amber Keegan
Launched 'Athlete
Interactions' in
collaboration with
Unlocked athletes.
They are passionate
about supporting the
mental health and
wellbeing of athletes
and are now working
in partnership with
organisations to
support this



## Athlete feedback for Unlocked

Stacey Copeland, the first British woman to win a Commonwealth title in boxing said;

"Taking part in UNLOCKED has given me the opportunity to meet with my activator Baroness Sue Campbell who I've always felt is a hero in sport and this has been the catalyst for me to take the next steps moving forward with my charity 'Pave the Way'." **Unlocked 2020** 

### Hannah Burke (Golf) said;

"I have definitely increased my networking and have started to use my voice a lot more when I have had the opportunity. I feel like the programme has given me a greater understanding that in turn has increased my confidence around issues that I am passionate about."

Unlocked 2021



"Unlocked has changed my life and I don't want it to end." Unlocked 2020





Home | Football | Cricket | Formula 1 | Rugby U | Rugby L | Tennis | Golf | Boxing | Athletics Unlocked: 35 female sports stars join charity programme to increase diversity in sport



Unlocked: Top sportswomen join Women's Sport Trust drive for increased diversity

sky sports



Unlocked: Women's Sport Trust initiative will see 35 elite female athletes come together to tackle diversity in sport head on

yahoo!finance

SPORTS BEAT | Sportsbeat

Trailblazer Nabila Tejpar on her motorsport roots and the need for increased diversity

**▼** INDEPENDENT PREMIUM

Getting 'fitter, faster and stronger' for biggest World Cup ever for women

Great Britain hockey duo aim to highlight lack of diversity

**SPORT** 

"Unlocked": 35 top players per la diversità nello sport



GLORIOUS
CULTURE IN PLAY





## GLORIOUS

CULTURE IN PLAY



## Unlocking The Future

How a new programme from our charity partner The Women's Sport Trust is giving athletes the confidence to make real change an drive our mission forward

By Kate Carter Photography by Heiko Prigge

09/04/21



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Women's Sport Trust launches 'unlocked' campaign to push for 'greater ambition' in 2020s

O 16 January 2020 | Sport



The profile of women's sport has grown hugely over the last decade but a leading charity believes there needs to be much greater ambition.

The Women's Sport Trust has launched a campaign called 'unlocked' which will pair 40 elite athletes from 24 sports with leading figures from business, sport and the media.

Sportswomen on the programme include Rio Olympic hockey gold medallist Maddie Hinch, England and Manchester City goalkeeper Karen Bardsley, England netballer Sasha Corbin and racing driver Alice Powell.

Tammy Parlour, of the Women's Sport Trust, said there were still too many closed doors in the sports industry which has meant progress has been uneven, with peaks and troughs of attention and investment

She said: "Despite increasing profile, we believe the value of women's sport needs to be unlocked faster, with more impatience and greater ambition."

The athlete launch was hosted at the BBC Sport headquarters in Salford and the campaign's aim is to create critical mass of noise and energy to propel women's sport

Boxer Stacey Copeland said: "Most female athletes are not only concerned about their own sporting ambition but about what impact we can have as role-models and on the

"I want to see more women and girls in non-traditional sports like boxing and I have created my own project 'Pave the Way' to do this.

"I have had success but believe this campaign will connect me to people who can take it

#### MarketingWeek

#### Top marketers pledge to take women's sport to the 'next level'

The Women's Sport Trust is pairing marketers from Sainsbury's, Disney and Facebook with female athletes in a bid to amplify the message around women's sport.











#### The simple solution that could spark a seismic shift in equality in sport

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## yahoo!

**Powell insists W** Series is just the start for women's motorsport









Women's Sport: Women's Sports Trust to 'unlock the future of women's sport' with new campaign





GIVEMESPORT



Women's sport charity. Women's Sports Trust have today announced a new five-month-long campaign that they believe will 'unlock the future of women's sports'.

The campaign, named #UNLOCKED, will include 40 elite female athletes and 40 leading figures from business, sport and media, known as 'activators', who will pair up to help shape the future of women's sport. Each unique partnership will further support and challenge one another as they create an unprecedented critical mass of noise and energy to propel women's sport to the next level.

#### **Forbes**

**Boxing Champion Stacey Copeland** Hails Innovative Initiative To Increase Female Influence In Sport



specialise in sports news in the UK and across continental Europe



stacey Copeland has halled a bright future for women's sport MANCHESTER CITY FC VIA GETTY IMAGES

Stacey Copeland has called for greater investment in women's sport after being unveiled as a key figure in the Women's Sport Trust's Unlocked campaign.

SPORT

me | Football | Formula 1 | Cricket | Rugby U | Rugby L | Tennis | Golf | Athletics

Evie Toombes: Showjumper with Paralympic dreams on life-changing surgery & invisible illnesses

By Katie Falkingham

13 June 2020 | Disability Sport



vie Toombes' motto is "find a way, not an excuse", and it's one that many of us could robably learn from.

le could all learn a lot from Toombes herself, too. At 18, her life has become unrecognisable from what it could be", in and out of hospital and far from that of a

The biggest thing I have learnt is that your happiness is very much based on your expectations, so if you keep your expectations pretty minimal, you're always going to ind some light in things. That mindset seems to really help me to muddle through ometimes," she says.

When BBC Sport speaks to the para-showjumper, she is in hospital awaiting a date for he surgery that will change, and save, her life.

form with a form of spina bifida which affects the nerves to her legs, bladder and owel, three years ago Toombes was diagnosed with gastroparesis, a chronic condition

which the stomach cannot empty in the normal way.

#### Alice Dearing: 'I don't want to always be referred to as the black swimme







Britain's best in the open water shares her experiences of racism in swimming and how she is breaking barriers for black

early a century after the sprinter Jack London became the first black athlete to win an Olympic medal for Britain in 1928, and more than 40 years since Viv Anderson became the first black footballer to start for England, Team GB has never sent a black female swimmer to



Guardian Guardian

#### The Women's Sport Trust: we're keeping athletes from the sidelines, and brands can too

By Rebecca Stewart - 14 July 2020 08:00am





Amid the sport shutdown, the Women's Sport Trust found a space to tell the unique stories of athletes from a wide range of backgrounds and use community to drive change. Post-lockdown, it hopes a so-called 'invisible summer' for women's tournaments won't hinder the progress already made in unlocking the value of women's games for fans and sponsors.

In January, the Women's Sport Trust (WST) launched 'Unlocked' - a campaign designed to amplify the

The five-month-long initiative from the charity paired 40 elite athletes from 24 sports with leading figures from the world of business, sport and the media. Marketers from Disney, Sainsbury's and Facebook signed up to be matched with sportswomen including Rio Olympic hockey gold medallist Maddie Hinch; England and Manchester City goalkeeper Karen Bardsley and Emily Defroand, hockey player for Team England and

The initiative was planned as a means to drive an "unprecedented critical mass of noise and energy" that would propel women's sport to the next level in 2020. The athletes and activators were to support each other to unlock media platforms, pitch to investors, speak out on live issues and tell new stories, getting into boardrooms and breaking down assumptions about women's sport.







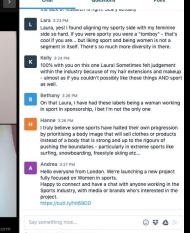
#### **Radical Thinking for Radical Times**

Series 2 Session 2: "Being ourselves. If only it was easy" With Sasha Corbin, Naomi Ogbeta and Emily Defroand Thursday 8th October 11.30-12.30











## Sün

#### SPORTS HEROES REVEAL HOW THEY'VE TRIUMPHED OVER ADVERSITY









Melita Emanuel-Carr



## campaign

# Sun on Sunday runs International Women's Day special edition

Newspaper claims to be first tabloid to run edition especially for IWD.





The Sun on Sunaay: wiii include athletes from women's Sport Trust

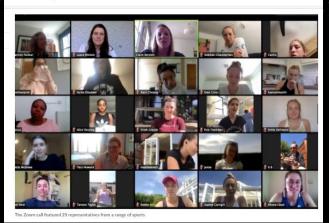
NEWS WEBSITE OF THE YEAR

The Telegraph

## 'We must not let the narrative turn negative' — listening in on the Women's Sports Trust

Female athletes explain that they do not want fears about the demise of women's sport to become self-fulfilling

By Molly McElwee





BBG ©

Women's sport: Suggestions coronavirus will halt progress 'disappointing', says Commonwealth boxing champion Stacey Copeland

By Becky Gre

① 18 June 2020 Sport





Laura Weston, trustee of <u>The Women's Sport Trust</u>, explains that "sport is a powerful signifier to society and that's why it's so important for a diverse range of female athletes to be seen and heard".

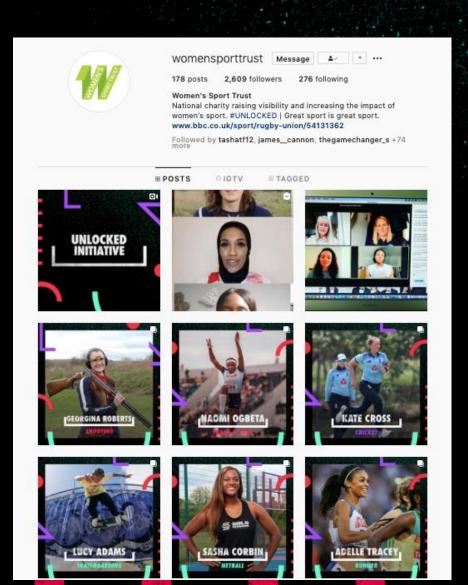
"We work with athletes to help them understand how they can use their platform for good and make changes around issues they care about. It's hard to put your head above the parapet and so it's incredibly frustrating when the athletes come up against trolls. What helps is when we can form a community of sportswomen who can support each other through issues such as this. Then, they can share tactics, frustrations and ensure that they keep going despite this pointless criticism."







## Social media







I BELIEVE THAT
REPRESENTATION IS SO
IMPORTANT, I WANT TO
INSPIRE THE NEXT
GENERATION

UNLOCKED

I WANT TO SHARE
SKATEBOARDING WITH
THE WORLD AND INSPIRE
MORE GIRLS AND WOMEN
TO GET ON BOARD
77

UNLOCKED



# Thank you