

Meet April

Trying her way to the top



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April Platt joined Mary Hare School in Year 10. She studied BTEC Sport in Year 11. April has played second row in the England Deaf Rugby squad and scored her first try in 2018 when she played during the second half. April's love of rugby started later in life. How hard was it to join her first rugby club as the only deaf player? What has her selection for England meant? What future dreams has April now set herself? April tells us her story.

You have had quite some success so far. When did your love of rugby start?

I started Mary Hare when I was Year 10 and studied BTEC SPORT with PE teacher Mr Owen. He also played rugby. At the time I was playing football but was losing interest in it so thought I would try rugby. After that I loved playing rugby.

What difficulties did you have to overcome when you joined your first rugby club?

I found communication difficult. I am a full British Sign Language user and I can't hear at all so I had to lipread others and the coaches.

You played football before. What is it you love so much about rugby?

It's more rough and I love the contact. I love playing matches, I love it. I have more passion for the game than I do for football.

When did you realise you had a talent for the game?

When I got for my first trial for long Eaton club, they signed me up straight away afterwards. They saw me training and showing some of my good skills so I think they were happy. I was happy too.

Do you have a strict training regime every week?

I train twice a week. It needs commitment and each session is one hour and a half.

Tell us a bit more about your first trial session with England Deaf Rugby.

It went okay but I was shocked as all the players were hard of hearing and use their voices. There was no interpreter so I struggled and had to follow and copy the England players.



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What has been one of your proudest moments in the game?

My first game for England. I didn't expect it but glad I scored a try.

You were selected for the South Africa rugby tour in 2020. How hard was the selection?

We were asked who wants to go to South Africa. I said I did and so I got in.

What has been the biggest obstacle for you so far in the game?

Playing my first game with England against Wales. As I have very high anxiety so I basically face huge challenges.

What dreams do you have for the future?

I would like things to be more accessible so I can communicate better in rugby. I would also like to travel and play against different teams.



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