

PFAS MEMBER CASE STUDY

Rangers F.C. Footballer and Common Goal Member

Tessel Middag

You've recently joined the PFAS Management Committee - are you looking forward to using this role as a vehicle for change or influencing positive steps for the women's game?

Absolutely. The Scottish women's game is growing and getting better every year which is great, but we also have a long way to go still. Many players in the league aren't full-time and don't have access to the right medical facilities, so those are things I'd like to address through the PFA.

I'm currently the only woman on the Management



Committee, and I think it's important to have that female representation. But as much as I'll share my insights into the women's game with the other guys on the Committee, I'm equally as keen to learn from them and the issues at stake in their teams and leagues. We all have in common that we want to improve the conditions for professional footballers in Scotland.

You also have your own considerable platform(s) on social media – how useful do you find that to promote initiatives you're involved with as well as for own personal use?

People who follow me on Instagram and Twitter can see



that I share things about my football career. But I've been using social media to promote some of my non-football activities as well, as I'm hoping to use my platform as a professional footballer for what I feel are good causes.

What initiatives are you involved with alongside football and how do these align with your personal values?

Since 2016 I've been a member of Common Goal. They aim to "mobilise the football industry to pledge a minimum of 1% of all revenues to help shift society towards a more sustainable and equitable future for all". Last year I became involved with Fossil Free Football as well which is a Dutch organisation that hopes to kick out polluting fossil fuel sponsors in football. The climate crisis is happening and it's serious and the football world needs to take its responsibility.

You're studying History at the Open University in the Netherlands at the moment – how are you finding this alongside your playing career and other commitments?

Busy! I've been trying to write my master's dissertation since I've moved to Glasgow in the summer of 2021. It's the only thing I've got left to do before completing my study. My thesis will be on the history of Scottish women's football in the 1970s and I'm looking forward to hopefully speak to some of the players and managers that were active during that time. I've done much research and met many people who can help me, so it's up to me now to get started with writing. It has turned out to be quite difficult to combine my studies with all the other things I like to do, but it's my aim to finish my dissertation this season.

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