



It's a dream come true

DANIELLE 'Nolli' Waterman was a crucial member of the England team that came home from Paris with the Women's World Cup last month. Days later, it was announced that the England sevens team would become professional for the first time. Nolli told us what the win and new contracts mean for women's rugby, as well as explaining what a sneaky weasel is...



by sports editor Ian Eddy

■ How much are you enjoying being a world champion?

It's just been unbelievable. And now we've had so much media coverage and so much exposure for the game as well, it's really put women's rugby on the map, which is amazing.

■ Your try came from an amazing team move. Did that make it more satisfying than a scrappy try?

Just to be able to cross the try line in a final is an unbelievable feeling. I didn't realise until I watched the highlights just how much of a team try it was. I knew that it had passed through four forwards' hands, including a dummy and a show-and-go through the space, but I didn't realise it had started from our own 22. It shows where we are, that all of our performances came from a team effort rather than from individuals.

■ How's your cheek after getting Emily Scarratt's boot in your face?

Ha ha! Yes, it's okay. It's healed up really well. I might have a little scar for a while, but luckily I've got freckles, so it kind of hides it!

■ Tell us more about the team's 'sneaky weasels'!

Every tour we have a sneaky weasel, which is something that everyone on tour has to have on them at all times, and at the World Cup it was a cuddly toy. If you don't have your sneaky weasel, you have to do a forfeit, where you have to roll the dice and each of the numbers mean different things. You can also have your sneaky weasel stolen from you and then you have to pay a little ransom, whether it's dancing in front of the team or singing from the bus!

■ You and the rest of the England women's sevens team have just been given professional contracts for the first time. What does that mean for the women's game?

I think it's huge. Obviously it's a dream come true as an individual to become a professional rugby player but, for the sport, it really shows that you can become a professional athlete if you do make it to the top. That gives the young girls coming into the sport a realistic dream of becoming a professional rugby player, which has never been possible in women's rugby.

■ This year England's women cricketers turned pro as well – do you feel like 2014 has been a big turning point for women's sport?

I think London 2012 really put female sport on the map. The media really got behind the likes of Jessica Ennis and Rebecca Adlington, who are fantastic athletes but also good role models. Winning the World Cup and being able to promote it as much as we have has been unbelievable, and it's all come at such a great time. I think that young girls growing up now have got aspirations to become elite sportswomen and it's not seen as a butch thing to do; it's something that's seen as being fantastic to be part of.

■ England were fourth in the last Sevens World Series. How much improvement is needed to catch up with New Zealand and Australia?

We had some great results over the World Series with a relatively young squad. The difference that the contracts will make will be huge to our performance and we'll definitely be hoping to get top three or top two – even number one – this year.

■ Sevens will feature in the Olympics for the first time in Rio in 2016. What effect on rugby do you think that will have?

I never even thought that rugby would be part of the Olympics during my career. But it will really showcase our game. It's exciting, it's fast, maybe not as difficult to understand as the 15-a-side game. It's such a brilliant form of the game that it's only going to introduce more people to the sport that I love.

■ Do you think more young girls will want to take the game up after seeing your World Cup win?

Oh, definitely. It's already shown. I've heard that the clubs have had a stream of young girls who've been watching the World Cup and turning up and saying: "Have you got a girls' team?" I bumped into someone in the street and he said: "I've got a seven-year-old girl and she just absolutely loved watching you girls." That's not happened to me before, so that hit home to me how great it was.

■ Lastly, tell us a fact about you that people won't know. My favourite food is tomatoes. I eat them like apples!





GLOSSARY

Women's Rugby World Cup - the premier international competition in rugby union for women. (15-a-side)
Held every four years.

England Women's Sevens - the English women's national rugby union sevens team which represents England at national level. Rugby sevens is a variant of rugby union in which teams are made up of seven players, instead of the usual 15, with shorter matches.

Sevens World Series - a series of international rugby union sevens tournaments for women's national teams.

Professional rugby player - a player paid to play rugby. This enables players to give up their jobs and train full time. England's amateurs won the 2014 women's rugby world cup last month and 12 of the players from that squad will be given professional contracts to play for the women's sevens team.

Dummy - when a player fools the opposition into believing they are about to make a particular move and then they do something different.

Show-and-go - a tactical move to enable the player with the ball to find a weak point in the opposition's defence.

Emily Scarratt - a female rugby union player who plays for England.

Jessica Ennis - a British track and field athlete. She is the current Olympic heptathlon champion.

Rebecca Adlington - a retired English freestyle swimmer. She has won four Olympic medals.

Danielle celebrates her try in the World Cup final with team-mate Kat Merchant



Danielle bursts through the Irish defence during England's 40-7 victory in the semi-final

Getty



Carefully read this week's Sport and then answer the following questions.

Part A: Find the facts (AF2)

A1. Who is Danielle Waterman?

A2. Complete the following table by putting whether the statements are true or false. If false then insert the correction. (Some of the answers are in the glossary.)

Statement	True or False?	Correction (if applicable)
The England team won the 15-a-side Women's Rugby World Cup this August.		
England's squad at the Women's Rugby World Cup was made up of professional players.		
Following the World Cup, some of England's team have been given professional contracts to play in the England Women's Sevens team.		
England were third in the last Sevens World Series.		
Sevens will feature in the Olympics for the first time in Rio in 2016.		

A3. What didn't Waterson realise about her try in the World Cup final until she watched the highlights?

A4. What is a "sneaky weasel"?

A5. When speaking of how Sevens will feature in the Olympics 2016, how does Waterman describe the game?

Part B: Interpret the information (AF3)

B1. England's women's rugby team are world champions. How is this significant for the game in this country?

B2. Jessica Ennis and Rebecca Adlington are not rugby players so what relevance do they have in an article about women's rugby? ?

B3. Suggest why Waterson laughs about getting Emily Scarrett's boot in her face.

B4. What relevance do Jessica Ennis and Rebecca Adlington have in an article about women's rugby?

B5. What impression do you get of Danielle Waterman from this interview? Give reasons for your answer.

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation (AF4-7)

C1. Analyse the headline "It's a dream come true."

C2. There are several pictures of Waterman in action as a rugby player. However, the main close-up of her is when she isn't playing. Describe this picture and give reasons to explain why it has been included.

C3. Comment on Waterman's use of language.

C4. Look at the structure of this article. Do you think that the question and answer format is effective? Why/ why not?

C5. Why do you think that such a lengthy glossary is included with this article?



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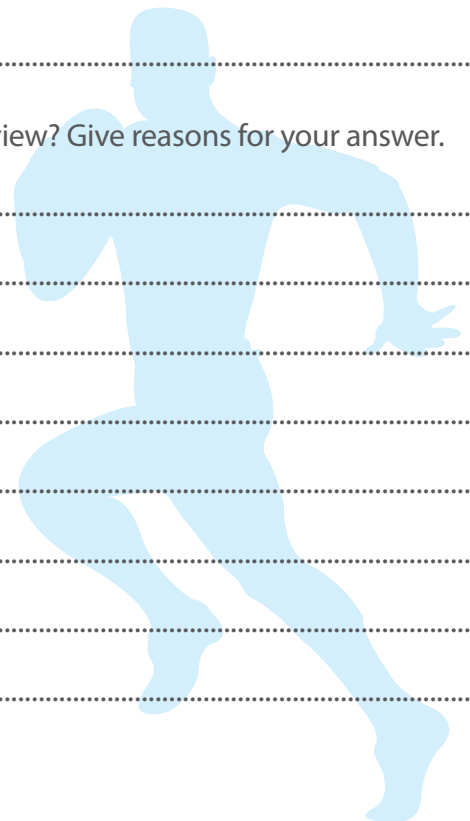
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Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation (AF4-7)

C1. Analyse the headline "It's a dream come true."

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C2. There are several pictures of Waterman in action as a rugby player. However, the main close-up of her is when she isn't playing. Describe this picture and give reasons to explain why it has been included.

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C4. Look at the structure of this article. Do you think that the question and answer format is effective? Why/why not?

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C5. Why do you think that such a lengthy glossary is included with this article?

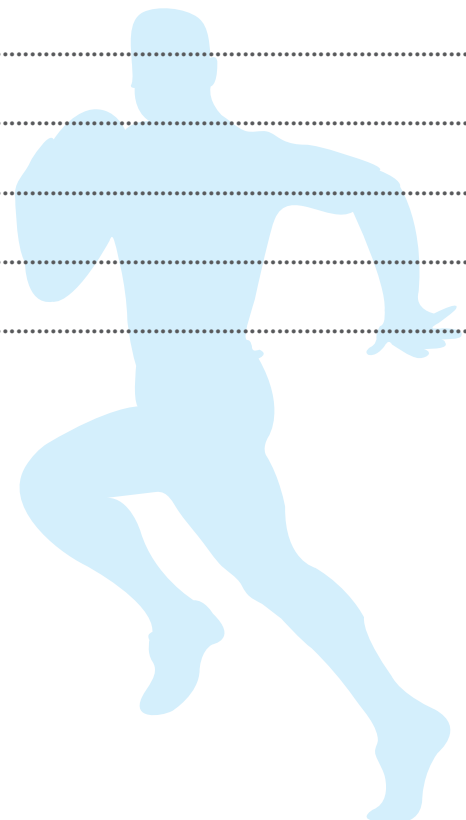
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TEACHER ANSWERS

The teacher answers are intended to provide a guide to the reading skill each question is practising, and to suggest more comprehensive answers pupils may give as their reading skills progress.

CURRICULUM UPDATE - Question AF strand and levelled answers

Currently, the teacher answers provide a guide as to the AF strand of the question and possible responses from pupils working at different levels. In the level 5/6 answers we try to provide the most complete answer possible in order to provide teaching points when discussing the answers with pupils.

These will continue to be included for the next academic year to support schools in England where the Year 6 SATs in 2015 will still be based on these criteria. However, this term, we will update this resource to include references to the programmes of study in the new English curriculum in England.

Part A

A1. Who is Danielle Waterman?

AF2-understand, describe, select, retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to the text.

Possible answers:

L4- relevant points identified

- Danielle Waterman is a member of the England team that came home from Paris with the Women's Rugby World Cup last month.

L5- additional relevant information

- She was a crucial member of the team as she scored a try in the World Cup final. Waterman also plays for the England women's sevens team and she has just been given a professional contract with them.

A2. Complete the following table by putting whether the statements are true or false. If false then insert the correction. (Some of the answers are in the glossary.)

AF2-understand, describe, select, retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to the text.

Possible answers:

L4-correct answers

L5-correct answers with corrections where applicable

Statement	True or False?	Correction (if applicable)
The England team won the 15-a-side Women's Rugby World Cup this August.	True	
England's squad at the Women's Rugby World Cup was made up of professional players.	False	They were all amateurs.
Following the World Cup, some of England's team have been given professional contracts to play in the England Women's Sevens team.	True	
England were third in the last Sevens World Series.	False	They were fourth.
Sevens will feature in the Olympics for the first time in Rio in 2016.	True	

A3. What didn't Waterson realise about her try in the World Cup final until she watched the highlights?

AF2-understand, describe, select, retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to the text.

Possible answers:

L4- relevant point identified

- She didn't realise until she watched the highlights just how much of a team try it was.

L5- additional relevant information

- She knew that it had passed through four forwards' hands, including a dummy and a show-and-go through the space, but she hadn't realised that it had started from England's own 22.

A4. What is a "sneaky weasel"?

AF2-understand, describe, select, retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to the text.

Possible answers:

L4- relevant points identified



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- A sneaky weasel is something that everyone on rugby tour has to have on them at all times. At the World Cup it was a cuddly toy.
L5- additional relevant information
- If you don't have your sneaky weasel then you have to do a forfeit. You can also have your sneaky weasel stolen from you and then you have to pay a little ransom such as dancing in front of the team.

A5. When speaking of how Sevens will feature in the Olympics 2016, how does Waterson describe the game?

AF2- understand, describe, select, retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to the text.

Possible answer:

L4- relevant points identified

- She describes the game as being exciting, fast and "maybe not as difficult to understand as the 15-a-side game."

Part B:

B1. England's women's rugby team are world champions. How is this significant for the game in this country?

AF3- deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

Possible answer:

L4- appropriate inference

- It is significant because the success of the team has led to a lot of media coverage and exposure for the game. This has raised the profile of English women's rugby.

L5- comments develop explanation of inferred meanings

- Indeed Waterson believes that more young girls will want to play rugby after seeing England's World Cup win. She has heard that the clubs have had lots of young girls enquiring about girls' teams because they have watched the World Cup. This will help the future of women's rugby.

L6- there is some attempt to explore meaning in detail

- It could also be argued that the success of the women's team in France helped women's rugby to be taken more seriously. The England Women's Sevens team were awarded professional contracts for the first time following the World Cup and although Sevens rugby is different, many of the World Cup team also play for the England sevens team. Therefore, the success of the team in France may have contributed to the decision to award the professional contracts.

B2. Why is it so important for the England Women's Sevens team that they have been given professional contracts?

AF3- deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

Possible answer:

L4- appropriate inference

L5- comments develop explanation of inferred meanings

L6- there is some attempt to explore meaning in detail

- It is so important for the England Women's Sevens team that they have been given professional contracts because it means that they will be paid to play rugby. Thus they will be able to give up their jobs and train full time which should mean that the performance of the team will improve.
- It also shows the members of the team that they are valued because they have made it to the top and so have been given status as professional athletes. This had never been the case before now.
- Therefore the fact that the England Women's Sevens team have been given professional contracts will also help them to inspire young girls even more because the dream of becoming a professional rugby player has become possible.

B3. Suggest why Waterson laughs about getting Emily Scarrett's boot in her face.

AF3- deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

Possible answer:

L4- appropriate inference with some explanation

- She laughs because she was not seriously hurt. Her cheek "healed up really well" and so she is able to joke about how even if she has a little scar for a while her freckles will hide it.

L5- comments develop explanation of inferred meanings

- She also laughs because Emily Scarratt is an England player and so the injury was caused by her own team-mate! Thus it can be deduced that there was no malice intended and Waterson's laugh shows that there are no hard feelings.

B4. Jessica Ennis and Rebecca Adlington are not rugby players so what relevance do they have in an article about women's rugby?

AF3- deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

Possible answer:

L4- appropriate inference

L5- comments develop explanation of inferred meanings

L6- there is some attempt to explore meaning in detail

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• Although Jessica Ennis and Rebecca Adlington are not rugby players, they are athletes who have had Olympic success and like England's women's rugby team, they are considered to be good role models, particularly for young girls. They are relevant to this article because in Waterman's opinion London 2012, and the part that Ennis and Adlington played in it, put "female sport on the map." There is the implication that what they have done in sport paved the way for other female sports like women's rugby to be given more status. The association that Ennis and Adlington have with the Olympics is also relevant because Women's Sevens rugby will feature in the Olympics for the first time in Rio in 2016.

B5. What impression do you get of Danielle Waterman from this interview? Give reasons for your answer.

AF3- deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

Possible answer:

L4-appropriate inference

L5- comments develop explanation of inferred meanings

L6-comments are securely based in textual evidence

- Danielle Waterman seems like a good team player because when speaking of her try she acknowledges that "all of our performances came from a team effort rather than from individuals."
- She seems brave because she makes a joke about the injury that she sustained to her cheek.
- She also comes across as ambitious because whilst England came fourth in the last Sevens World Series, she is hoping that they'll "get top three or top two-even number one-this year."
- Waterman also seems fun-loving because she explains in detail about the team's sneaky weasels and the forfeits and pranks. It makes it seem like Waterman and her team-mates have a laugh together. The little fact about her liking tomatoes so much that she eats them like apples also makes her seem charming and interesting.

Part C:

C1. Analyse the headline "It's a dream come true."

AF6-identify and comment on writers' purposes and viewpoints, and the overall effect of the text on the reader

Possible answer:

L4- simple comment on overall effect on reader

L5-comment on overall effect on reader with some, explanation

- The headline is a reference to the fact that the England women's rugby union team won the World Cup and that the England women's sevens team have been given professional contracts for the first time. However it is also appropriate because as is mentioned in the main body text, the success of the rugby team enables young girls to have the realistic dream of becoming a professional rugby player in the future.
- The headline hooks the reader because it is vague and the reader has to read on to find out what the dream is that has been realised.

C2. There are several pictures of Waterman in action as a rugby player. However, the main close-up of her is when she isn't playing. Describe this picture and give reasons to explain why it has been included.

AF4- identify and comment on the structure and organisation of texts, including grammatical and presentational features at text level.

Possible answer:

L4-simple comment on the presentational feature

L5-some detailed explanation of the effect of the presentational feature

- In the main picture Waterman is shown against a background of green trees and grass. It is a close-up shot of her head and upper body and she looks to be wearing an England rugby training top. Her blonde hair is framing her face and she is smiling.
- It is likely that this picture is included in order to appeal to the reader and draw them into the article. As women's rugby is only becoming more high profile now, readers might not be familiar with the face of Danielle Waterman and thus this picture is to show readers the face behind the interview in order to create interest. The other pictures are of Waterman in action and so they are mid/ long shots and it isn't as easy to see her features. In this picture Waterman's face can be clearly seen and she is smiling which makes her seem friendly and engaging.
- It is also likely that Waterman is pictured at ease and with her hair down to show that sportswomen can be feminine. As she says during the interview: "young girls growing up now have got aspirations to become elite sportswomen and it's not seen as a butch thing to do." The close-up picture supports her assertion because although she is wearing a rugby top, she still looks girly. The picture is included because in the action shots she is wearing a mouth guard and her hair is scraped back.

C3. Comment on Waterman's use of language.

AF5- explain and comment on writers' use of language, including grammatical and literacy features at word and sentence level

Possible answer:

L4-simple comments on writer's language choices

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L5/6- comments show awareness of the effect of writer's language choices

- It is clear that this report is based on an interview because there are characteristics of the spoken word in Waterman's language. For example, there is repetition. She repeats the phrase "on the map." She also uses vague informal expressions such as "kind of." Furthermore, there is written representation of her laughter. Such features make the report more accessible for First News readers because it is just like being privy to a friendly conversation.
- Waterman uses specialized vocabulary such as "dummy," "show-and-go" and "22". These terms have specific meanings in rugby. She also refers to a sneaky weasel. This has particular meaning for her team. Such terms assume prior knowledge and could exclude the reader. However, the use of them shows that Waterman is an expert in her field and is totally immersed in the world of rugby.

C4. Look at the structure of this article. Do you think that the question and answer format is effective? Why/ why not?

AF4- identify and comment on the structure and organisation of texts, including grammatical and presentational features at text level.

Possible answer:

L4-simple comment on the structure of the text

L5-some detailed explanation of the effect of the structure

- The question and answer format is effective in that it enables the writer to cover more information than would have been possible had it been a straightforward report on the World Cup triumph. This is because it is acceptable to span a range of topics in an interview, whereas there tends to be the expectation that a report on a sporting event will be much tighter. Therefore, the question and answer format is likely to appeal to First News readers because light-hearted topics such as "sneaky weasels" and Waterman's favourite food are included.
- The question and answer format is also effective in that it raises the profile of Waterman herself. This is because the reader is able to gain some insight into her personality as her answers to the questions are reported directly.

C5. Why do you think that such a lengthy glossary is included with this article?

AF6-identify and comment on writers' purposes and viewpoints, and the overall effect of the text on the reader

Possible answer:

L4- simple comment on overall effect on reader

L5-comment on overall effect on reader with some, explanation

- Such a lengthy glossary is included with this article because sports experts have been involved in producing it and thus quite a lot of prior knowledge is assumed. As First News readers tend to be between the ages of 7-14 they may not be familiar with the rugby union game, the specialised vocabulary associated with it or the sports personalities mentioned. Therefore a detailed glossary is included in order to enable the readers to fully understand the interview.