

WE'RE THE FUTURE OF WOMEN'S FOOTBALL; WE JUST DON'T KNOW IT YET!

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Background

Women's football is arguably the fastest growing participation sport in Britain, yet female coaches remain in a minority. Elite athletes have been identified as potential future high-level coaches, however the transition from playing to coaching is uncommon in women's football, unlike in the men's game. This makes women an 'untapped resource', therefore this study sought to investigate the experiences of elite female players in Scotland to explore potential influences on their future career intentions.

Results



I'd love to, but could I?

- I'm not sure I'm up to it
- I'm not sure it's worth it
- It's still a man's game

I've not really considered it

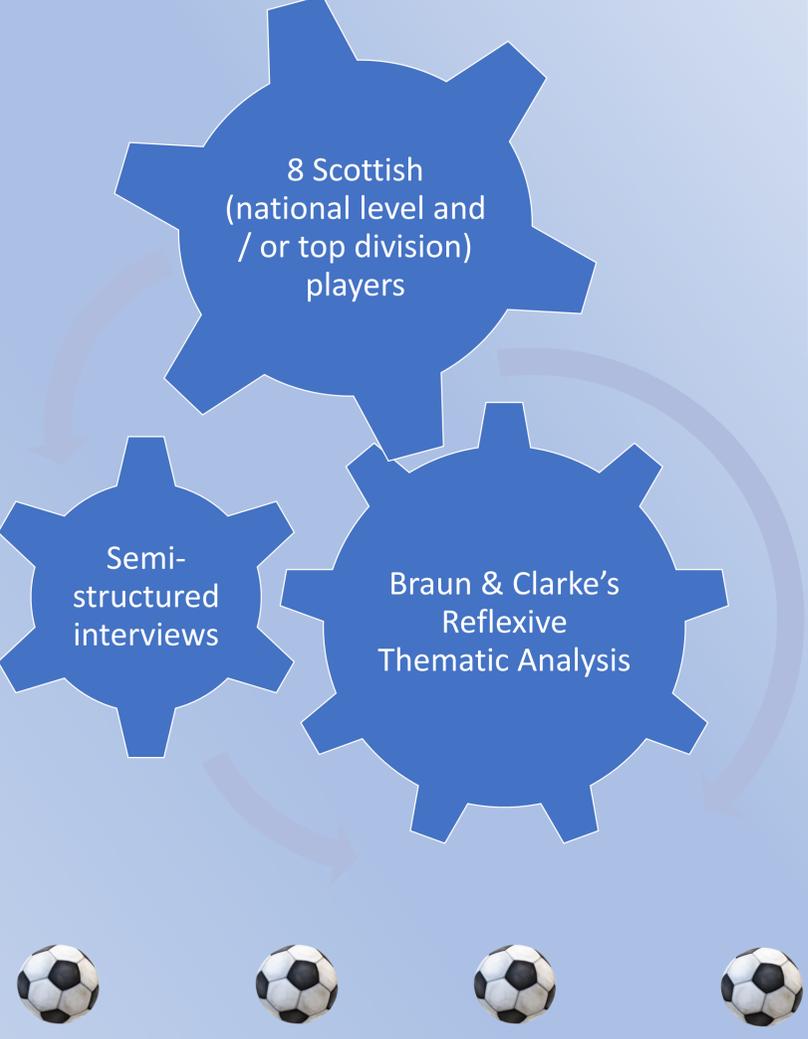
- It's still a man's game
- I've taken another path
- I've not really seen it

We totally should!

- We could be game changers
- We just can't live without football



Methods



Conclusion

Early influences in football are generally male, leading female players to see it as a masculine domain during identity formation. Many attend university and consider (or even embark upon) another career alongside playing. High-level players discuss the 'capital' they could bring to coaching, but most remain unconvinced that it is a viable career.

Recommendations

Research / Teaching	Football
Further research with other female athlete populations	Funding and mentoring for elite players to become coaches, providing them with the knowledge and skills to be appointed on merit
Diverse teaching materials / examples at college / university	Celebrate successful female coaches
Link academics and clubs / organisations to create coaching opportunities and evidence-based policies	Provide opportunities for senior players to gain coaching experience within clubs
	Coaching awards that prepare candidates to work in women's and men's football

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