

Countdown to London 2012 Olympics

Following on from our first athlete, gymnast Reiss Beckford, we continue our Countdown to 2012 with **Chloe Rogers**, Team Essex Ambassador and international hockey player born in Harlow, who played for local clubs Chelmsford, Bishops Stortford, Braintree and Dunmow.

■ How old were you when you knew you loved hockey?

■ I loved and played all sports, particularly football but there were no local girls' teams and the local boys' team wouldn't let me join so I joined the local hockey club aged seven. I quickly progressed to a higher level in hockey which kept me keen and wanting to play more.



■ Did you get help and encouragement from people around you?

■ Yes, I had very good teachers at school who played and coached local club hockey, encouraging me to join a local club from a young age, with my parents taking me to Sunday morning Mini's hockey.



■ How did you fit training around school work?

■ Not very well! I managed to get GCSE's, A-levels and a degree as that is important for my life after hockey. During A-levels my teachers let me hand in homework a little late if I had been away training or miss class on the basis that I would catch up.

■ What motivates you to keep training whilst your friends are out having fun?

■ I find most of the training fun and still get to do other stuff and see friends occasionally. I get to travel the world playing the sport I love for my job. Motivation comes from being competitive and wanting to win medals at every competition. Sometimes the training is a grind, but at a tournament you remember why you do all the work.

■ Who is your inspiration?

■ When I was younger, Sally Gunnell, having watched her win Gold at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, my teacher Carol Wooding at school and an ex player Karen Brown now an Assistant GB coach.

■ What is the greatest goal you've achieved so far?

■ Playing in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and winning a Bronze medal at the 2010 World Cup in Argentina.

■ Are you excited about London 2012 and did you get tickets for other Olympic events?

■ Yes, we now train weekly on the official pitch in Stratford and it's great to see developments on site. It's strange training every day for an event taking place for just two weeks next year and it will be odd not to have that focus after the games. I got one ticket for athletics and one for tennis.

■ Do you think London 2012 will inspire other young hockey players to take up the sport?

■ Having watched Sally Gunnell win Gold in 1992 on TV when I was seven, my dream was to compete in an Olympics in any sport. Each Olympics inspired me to be there competing. I believe Team GB will win lots of medals, encouraging and inspiring younger people.