

1st Lap

Case studies: Sporting heroes and heroines

Sporting heroes and heroines

cut out the statements below

**Robina Jalali**

Robina Jalali, was born in Kabul, Aghanistan in 1986. She represented her country at the 2004 and 2008 Olympics competing in the 100 metre sprint. People all over the world noticed her for running while wearing the hijab, the traditional Muslim woman's head covering, and because she was one of the first women ever to represent Afghanistan at the Olympics.

Robina is one of nine children. She was home schooled during the time of the Taliban when schooling for girls was forbidden. She could not attend school until after she was 14. Describing life under the Taliban, she has said: "There was nothing for us girls to do under the Taliban. You couldn't go to school. You couldn't play, you couldn't do anything. You were just at home all the time."

She is now hoping to get into parliament.

**Mo Farah**

Mo Farah, born in Somalia, has become the first ever British man to win the 5,000m at the World Athletics Championships in South Korea. He is the UK's finest distance runner of his generation. Who would have thought this when he arrived in London with very little English as an 8 year old boy from the Horn of Africa?

He is an inspiration to all young people in Britain and around the world – he has achieved his success through determination and a 'never give up' attitude. He will now be training hard for London 2012.

**STEVE BROWN**

At school Steve played football, cricket and ran cross-country. He also loved the countryside. His ambition was to become a wildlife presenter. "I loved programmes like *The Really Wild Show* and everything with David Attenborough. So that's what I wanted to be. But the careers master just told me I wouldn't be able to do that and to forget it."

When Steve was 23, he had an accident and broke his neck. While in hospital, he was taken to watch wheelchair rugby. He felt very sorry for himself but as he watched he thought: 'If they can be that confident, why can't I?'

When he left hospital he took up wheelchair rugby. He worked hard and became captain of the British Paralympic squad in 2011. At the London 2012 Paralympics, Steve led his team to 5th-place.

Since he retired, Steve has been on television commenting on the Olympics and Paralympics, and on *Springwatch* and *Blue Planet UK*. In April 2017 he finally got his dream job as a presenter on BBC's *Countryfile*.

Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson

Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson was born in 1969 in Wales and christened 'Carys Davina'. Her two-year-old sister Sian gave her the name 'Tanni', thinking she was 'tiny.'

Tanni started to use a wheelchair from the age of seven. From the outset, her parents were supportive and encouraged her independent streak. Tanni tried many sports at primary school and particularly enjoyed swimming, archery and horse riding.

Tanni first tried wheelchair racing at school, aged 13. At 18, Tanni was selected for her first World Wheelchair Games. Since then she has won 11 Paralympic gold medals at 5 different games and also won 6 London Wheelchair Marathons.

Tanni has many awards for her Paralympic and sporting achievements and most recently she was chosen to be a member of the House of Lords.