

Transcript

Pushing the speed barrier: Trailblazing Women in Motorsports – Audio 4

Helen Owton

Yeah. So tell me how this got you interested in, completing a PhD?

Lorna Stevens

Well, I had always wanted to do a PhD. Even, you know, in my 20s. The time was never right for me then. It's a huge commitment. I managed to do a master's whilst I was working full time, and that nearly killed me.

So I just. There's no way I'm taking it on as a full time, thing. While I'm working full time. But I knew even back then that if I did to do a PhD. It would need to be in something that was really, really, my thing. And my thing is bikes. And being a petrol head, I knew there were other petrol heads out there like me.

And I realised that there are a group of women, a very small group of women who who do this and it takes their lives over, and so the there's about a dozen women in the UK who, who race every weekend they can. And so the two sort of, you know, coming back to the UK meant I could afford time because, and money, I suppose, were having a, a partner here who was employed full time at home meant I could, you know, kind of like ease out of the money needing employment, if you like.

So a PhD and my desire to explore what it's like for these women to, to to go through what I started to go through. But, you know, they just have kept at it and, getting so far and they need to get further and they need to be recognised for what they're doing, just like, women in other sports are, and it's such a skillful endeavour.

Helen Owton

And as you say, high stakes.

Lorna Stevens

High stakes. Yeah, yeah, yeah.