**Transcript for Angie Banks**

My name is Angie Banks. I'm now known as Angie Taylor Banks. So, I joined [Brighton & Hove Albion Women’s] when I was 11 years old. There was no girls’ teams around when I was a kid and the caretaker at my junior school actually told us there was a ladies team in Brighton. And he had contacted, because he had seen me and a friend of mine playing on the playground so he contacted them and asked if two young girls could come along and play.

As 11-year-old I was quite small and skinny, and I was playing against these grown women. And I absolutely loved it. I think we lost our first games, something crazy, like so 20 – nil.

My mum and dad at the beginning thought it was just a phase and even though they knew I love football, they just thought I was never gonna you know, all this time I'm losing, and they didn't actually really get involved until I went to like Sweden and started playing at a high level so I wasn't supported I would say much. It was a lot of my own doing. Going on the bus, 11 years old, going to Withdean stadium playing, East Brighton Park.

I grew up playing football around boys and always boys, and then grown up playing with ladies, my physical side of the game how to improve instantly. So, I think I had the technical talent. I think it just helped me to improve my game by playing with the older ladies as well.

I played at a high level for Arsenal and England. And I was semi pro. My escape was football from real life and school and things like that. Because I was different. I was a different type of girl, I loved football and at that time, it was a bit strange if you were young playing football. It wasn't you know, why are you playing football you're a girl, that's not the sort of thing. So, for me, football and playing alongside people that love the same thing as me was my escape. And then when I went to Sweden, it was so normalised because they’ve been doing it since they were five, six years old. I felt completely at home, didn't feel different. And it wasn't till I came back to England six years later that had times started to change a little bit.

The first time I got my [England] Cap, it was in Italy, I got a penalty or won a penalty and things like that. I can't explain it. I can't explain it. It's just one of them things you've just wanted as a kid and you've always wanted to do as a kid, and it was just a wonderful, wonderful time.