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My Story

I don't know one of my colleagues who made a career choice to work in transport, and I am no different. My passion was languages. My advice to school children now is to follow their passion and the career will follow. That was the case for me. I studied languages and foreign correspondence, but still did not know what to do. Fortunately I was approached by Thompson Holidays to work in Spain. I returned for the winter and obtained what was intended to be a short term job as PA to the northern general manager at a Gondrand, a French company, based locally. Within a short period of time I was running the French and Swiss department and never looked back.

I was then approached by a French company MJL International (France) Ltd and asked to set up a UK based transport company. This was a challenge. I was only about 21, but what an opportunity. I set up MJL UK Ltd and in collaboration with MJL in France we built our fleet to a 100 vehicles. In 1995 we sold to Giraud, which at the time was one of the top 5 hauliers in France. My career boomed as I became director and Company Secretary of Giraud UK with offices in Leeds and Birmingham, joint MD and Secretary of Barbour European in Scotland (a Giraud Company) and Giraud U.K. Logistics in Bridgend. At the same time I set up Freightlink Europe with my now husband. My life was a juggle between Leeds, Birmingham, Scotland and divisional and head offices in Izegem (Belgium) and Paris. During the same period I managed to marry and bring up 2 children.

In 2008 I left to join my husband full time in our family business Freightlink Europe, based in Bradford and now operating a fleet of 25 vehicles with clients throughout the UK. In 2008 I set up Freight Train to deliver driver CPC training and transport consultancy.

It was in 2015 that the seed for She's RHA was sewn in collaboration with fellow transport colleagues Edna Gill, Linda White, Brenda Ward, Lyndsey Bowler and Sally Hall. It has been a long journey, but I am thrilled that we now have a passionate team of individuals a steering group to assist in driving forward She's RHA. The perception is that our industry is unexciting and male dominated. This is far from the truth. A career in transport can involve meeting a variety of people from different industries, countries and cultures. The job offers are equally as varied ranging from internal roles in transport planning, logistics or IT, to external sales, driving, ware house control or being a mechanic. These opportunities are available to men and women alike, who may have a variety of skills sets. With a current skills shortage in our industry and evidence that this will worsen in years to come, I see She's RHA providing role models to encourage men and women across society to make transport a career choice. Studies have shown that more diverse management teams outperform those with only men or women. My hope is that She's RHA will encourage women to find their voice and step forward to even the numbers leading our industry