



Max - Sports Research Technician/left and Steve - Technical Manager/right

## Steve and Max are the technician dream team behind some of the UK's best sporting innovations.

Behind every great team is a great coach. But behind every new England Rugby World Cup shirt, revolutionary golf club or high-performance tennis racket is a team of technicians. Just like Steve and Max.

When they were younger both Steve and Max were more interested in the practical side of things - while Max enjoyed building Airfix model kits, Steve was designing booby traps for his Action Men. After leaving school, Max studied a qualification in electronic and electrical engineering technology at college before continuing to do his HND in electrical engineering. Steve took a different path, joining a small engineering company as an apprentice before going back to college to study for a CNC programming and machining qualification.

These days, they both work in Loughborough University's Sports Technology Institute. Their work is incredibly varied, and that's what Max loves about it. "I like the fact that a technician role allows you to get involved with variety of tasks. I already had a great passion for sport - this job allows me to combine that with my passion for engineering."

The range of projects they work on is huge. Steve and Max provide day to day support to the academics and students in the Sports Technology Institute, as well as working with major sporting brands including Nike, Adidas and Speedo to improve equipment and athlete performance.

### Max's timeline

- 1982  
Left School with 7 GSE 'O' levels and studied for a BTEC Diploma in Electronic and Electrical Engineering Technology
- 1984  
Went to Teesside Polytechnic to study for a BTEC HND in Electronic Engineering and Computer Technology
- 1985  
First job as an Electronic Engineer designing, building and testing electronic circuits for a small electro/mechanical production company that produced small tablet hardness testing machines
- 1996  
Moved to a small company that built asphalt testing equipment for the civil engineer sector
- 1999  
Joined the Sports Technology Institute at Loughborough University working as a Sports Research Technician



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Most recently, they've been involved in projects supporting the development and testing of the Adidas Euro 2016 football and testing the safety of the new British standard cricket helmet. In the run up to the Rio Olympics, Steve and Max have both been working with the Team GB Paralympic tennis team on how best to transport their specialised wheelchairs to the Games.

Steve really enjoys the problem solving element of his job, although his approach is not always orthodox. "Some very simple engineering solutions have created outstanding results. I have my best ideas and Eureka moments in the bath!"

Both Steve and Max would recommend becoming a technician to young people. "The best thing about being a technician is being able to be part of the design, solve some problems and create something really great for the user. We get to work with all the major sporting brands and some great people - we have the freedom to design, create and see the product through to the very end."

#### Steve's timeline

- 1972 - 1999  
Left school and joined a small engineering company
- Gained distinctions in City and Guilds qualifications in engineering and 14 distinctions in Electrical and Electronic Engineering Level 3 qualifications at college
- 1999  
Became the first technician at the Sports Technology Institute at Loughborough University
- 1999 - present  
Technical Manager at the Sports Technology Institute



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