


## Julia Lee, Director

### Common Sense Initiative

Julia was the first woman qualified men's rugby league referee in Great Britain and Australia achieving international honours as a Match Official in any code reaching professional and International honours. She worked in Rugby League for over 20 years beginning as a Development Officer in Leeds to eventually leading the Development Department to secure £29 million from Sport England. Later she was appointed to the role as the Director of the 2013 Festival of World Cups. In 2019 Julia was appointed as Chair of the International Rugby League Women and Girls Working Group and is leading the strategy to globally grow the involvement of women and girls in rugby league. She is also a Trustee for her beloved Club Hull Kingston Rovers.

In December 2021 Julia successfully secured a Heritage Lottery Grant to deliver a Women in Rugby League project 'Life with the Lionesses' telling the untold stories of former international women players from 1996 – 2003. The project tells the stories in their words through interviews, a touring exhibition and intergenerational engagement.

 [www.womeninrugbyleague.org.uk](http://www.womeninrugbyleague.org.uk)

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## Matt Pooley

### Captain, Lea Rowing Club

Matt leads the team at Lea Rowing Club, Hackney, East London.

The club was founded in 1980 by the members of five Hackney rowing clubs, continuing a tradition of rowing on the River Lea which goes back two hundred years. Forty years later, it has grown to be one of the largest grassroots rowing clubs in the country, with 450 active members aged 12 to 100.

Entirely volunteer-led, the club caters for rowers of all varieties - old, young, men, women, international medal contenders and those who just want to enjoy the sport recreationally.

Rowing is not traditionally seen as a diverse sport, and the club wants to change that. The #IBelong project has created further opportunities for our local community to try the sport - and aims to prove that inclusion can work at the grassroots level.

Matt has been involved with rowing for 15 years, and has been involved with clubs across the UK. He is an active coxswain, racing with the Lea's performance athletes. When he's not running the club(!) he has a day job in the technology sector.

 [www.learc.org.uk/](http://www.learc.org.uk/)



## Amazin LeThi

### Speaker, Activist, Athlete Ambassador


Amazin LeThi is an LGBTQ advocate, keynote speaker, athlete, published author and cultural change leader. She was the only east Asian ambassador for Pride House Birmingham 2022 and first Vietnamese Gay Games ambassador along with being the only Asian LGBTQ Athlete to simultaneously hold multiple LGBTQ sports ambassador roles in the world. In 2022 she became the first Asian LGBTQ ambassador for Sporting Heritage, MQ Mental Health Research and the British Royal family – King Charles organization 'Princes Trust'.

Through her conversations as a cultural change leader, Amazin shares her personal journey from homelessness to becoming one of the most visible and influential LGBTQ advocates in the world. She has been recognized by over 20 international organizations such as the - Human Rights Campaign, Honorary Citizen of the State of Georgia and was named 'One of six Asian women to know' during Forbes magazine's 'Asian Pacific Islander Heritage' month.

As a globally recognised LGBTQ advocate and diversity, equity and inclusion advisor she supports governments, sports organizations and Fortune 500 companies on such issues as racial, LGBTQ, gender and sports justice. She was the LGBTQ and Asian Digital Communication Advisor on the successful Team Biden 'Out For Biden' campaign.

 [www.sportingheritage.org.uk/content/new-contributions/amazin-lethi-new-ambassador](http://www.sportingheritage.org.uk/content/new-contributions/amazin-lethi-new-ambassador)

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