

BBC

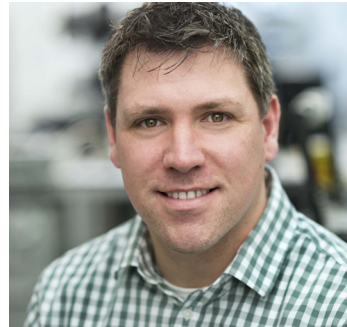


Loughborough University

Name:
Andy

Job Title:
Professor in Sports Technology

Where do you work?
Loughborough University



What does your job involve?

I head up the sports technology institute and also work to improve sports equipment from the sports industry.

How did you use science to solve a problem?

Cricket helmets were being hit by the ball and the ball was passing through the gap between the peak and the face-grille, which was causing some very nasty eye and face injuries. We worked with the helmet manufacturers and the cricket authorities to develop more effective tests which are now included in the British Standard that all helmets need to pass. We developed a test where a ball is fired at the helmet at certain speeds and precise locations to check the grille will keep the ball out.

Has your test made helmets safer?

So far no player has suffered an injury caused by the ball passing through the gap whilst wearing the new helmet.

How do you share what you have learnt with other people?

I am lucky that I teach and supervise students at the University so I talk to them about what we have learnt. I also get to talk to a lot of people from the sports industry too.

What influenced to do the job you do?

Two things inspired and influenced me to do the job I do. One was a lifelong enthusiasm and a passion for sport. The second was the key people in my life such as a science teacher at my school and also a professor at the university. Not that I knew this at the time but by pursuing the things I was good at school, which were science and maths, I was ultimately able to find a way to align my job with my passion for sport.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy watching football and cricket. I like spending time with my family. I am also a mad supporter of Chesham United. I play and coach cricket and also coach football.

What skills and qualities do you need for your job?

You need passion, enthusiasm, excellent communication skills, and excellent creativity skills. You need a logical mind, being good at problem solving, being a good communicator, being creative, and also being able to solve problems that other people can't.