



team at Murrayfield) because she wanted to do the "overseas experience", is a case in point. As well as playing centre position for the Glasgow Wildcats she also plays for the Rugby Ecosse Sevens squad. And now, because she has been resident in the country for 12 months, she can play netball for Scotland. She is, she says, delighted.

"It's pretty cool," she says, shaking back her ponytail as she performs some stretches against the wall. "I've actually been quite overwhelmed at how the girls have taken me in because obviously I'm a bit of an outsider, not being from

**NO TRAIN, NO GAIN**

Nicola Collins, Claire Drownie and Hu Paul, coach Tim Silvester puts Nicola and Hu through their paces; Nicola, Hu and Claire in action

here. But they've been so welcoming. It really is a family. I've been so lucky."

It's all a far cry from Madame Osterberg's college of physical training in Hampstead, where the first game of netball was played in Britain in 1895. Imported from America, where basketball had been created four years

earlier by James Naismith, a Canadian who was asked to invent an indoor game to keep the restless young men of a Massachusetts branch of the School for Christian Workers occupied, "women's basketball" arrived in England with no printed rules, no court lines, circles or boundaries. The goals were actual baskets, hung on walls. Over the next few years the ladies of Madame Osterberg's played around with the game, finally printing a set of rules in 1901.

It became an instant hit in schools because of its simplicity, and the fact that it could be played indoors, and PE teachers were quick to introduce it to their pupils.

Netball is, perhaps, the consummate Commonwealth sport. In the early part of the 20th century it spread like wildfire across the British empire, which is probably why today's world rankings include countries such as Jamaica (4), Cook Islands (7) and Trinidad & Tobago (10) in the top ten. There is an intense feeling now among the netballing community in Scotland that if Glasgow is to host the Commonwealth Games in 2014, it cannot afford to let the side down.

Storie, who as well as working full time is juggling her training with a set of accountancy exams, puts the team's motivation into words. "I can't wait for 2014. That's my main goal. That's why I'm here, doing all this training. This is what it's all for."

The training session is beginning to wind down. Sleet is still falling and the sodium coloured lights cast a pale gloom over the streets. The team pull their jogging bottoms back on over their shorts and the girly conversation resumes with a resounding chatter. They slip out into the night - women, Wildcats. □

Glasgow Wildcats' next Superleague game is vs Surrey Storm, broadcast live on Sky Sports, 8 February, 7.30pm. See [www.glasgowwildcats.co.uk](http://www.glasgowwildcats.co.uk)

# WATER

**PLUS UP TO AN ADDITIONAL 30% OFF BIG BRANDS**

**Duravit, Kohler, Daryl, Hansgrohe, Jacuzzi, Utopia, Burg, plus many more**  
 You'll find in the Victor Paris **January sale** we've cut the full **17.5% VAT** off all prices plus we're giving up to an additional **30% Off** every bathroom product in store. So that dream Bathroom can now become a reality.

	<b>NO VAT + 10% OFF</b> VICTORIA & ALBERT
	<b>NO VAT + 30% OFF</b> JACUZZI BATHS
	<b>NO VAT + 15% OFF</b> UTOPIA
	<b>NO VAT + 15% OFF</b> KOHLER

**SALE NOW ON!**

**VICTOR Paris BATHROOMS**  
 A FAMILY BUSINESS SINCE 1975

Edinburgh  
 178 Dundee Street,  
 Edinburgh, EH11 1DQ.  
 (Next to Fountain Park)

Glasgow  
 60 Washington Street,  
 Glasgow, G3 8AZ.  
 (Off the Broomielaw)

Tel: 0845 607 6944  
[www.victorparis.com](http://www.victorparis.com)

FREE PARKING AT BOTH SHOWROOMS. OPEN 7 DAYS