

Stirling honours World Cup winner

France's most-capped footballer, Lilian Thuram, said he was "deeply honoured" to receive an honorary degree from the University of Stirling (Fraser MacLean writes).
The former defender

and World Cup winner, who made 142 appearances for Les Bleus, collected the accolade for services to football yesterday at a ceremony in which Alison Brittain, chief executive of Whitbread, and Pete Cheema, chief executive of the Scottish Grocers Federation, were also celebrated for their respective achievements.

Thuram, who played for Barcelona, Juventus, Parma and Monaco during his club career, has an impressive list of honours, including winners' medals from the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000.

Thuram, 47, who received his doctorate for his contribution to football as well as his commitment to tackling racism through education, said: "Sport, especially the world's number-one sport, football, is a wonderful

way of progressing equality. It helps us to come closer to each other because whatever the colour of our skin, our sexuality, or our religion, we share the same emotions. I feel deeply honoured to receive this award."

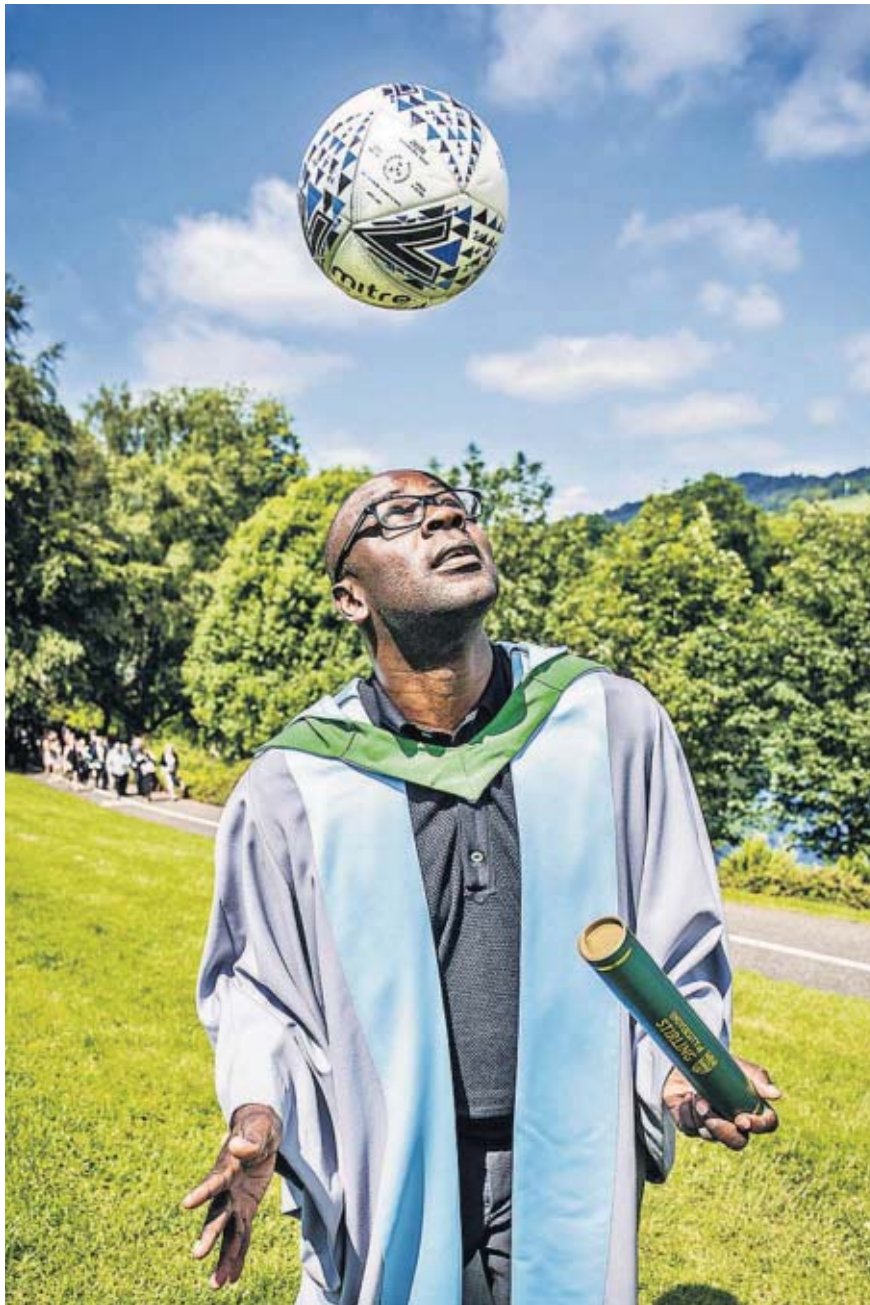
Ms Brittain, 54, a Stirling graduate who was recognised for her outstanding contribution to business and leadership, is one of five female chief executives listed on the FTSE 100.

She said: "I studied business as an undergraduate at Stirling and have many happy memories of my time there, and am very grateful for the strong academic foundation it provided for my future career."

In total 2,113 graduating students and six honorary graduates will celebrate at Stirling's three-day graduation.

On Tuesday the double Bafta award-winning director Hamish Hamilton received an honorary doctorate, with the *Outlander* star Sam Heughan and retail expert John Dawson due to be recognised today.





Lilian Thuram, who won the World Cup with France, and Alison Brittain, Whitbread's chief, got honorary degrees

