**BBC Radio 4**

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 speaking to Mark Cardiff studio that are now 11 minutes to 8 how should football react to a scientific study revealed today that links the heading of old-fashioned leather footballs with dementia and Angela contact sports react as well in particular rugby in the United States similar accusations made about American football would deny by the games organisers 1st and then in the end in response to legal action they settled at some cost the supplement could cross the National football League a billion dollars over 65 years but expects 6000 at nearly 20000 retired players to suffer serious kill a effects on the line is Dawn Askham daughter of the former England and West

Bromwich striker Jeff Astle who died in 2002 at the age of 59 having suffered from dementia Dr Barry O'Driscoll joins us as well former medical adviser to world rugby member of the concussion committee morning to you both more than a dawn dawn 1st of all just tell us when did you when did it become apparent a good should have was unwell and that worse just before he was 55 he suddenly started to and ask such strange questions and many would ask is a monster a life and me I'm a grandmother die so to 20 ease before and when my son was born he could remember his name any care can ask him what's his name again and it was just little things and the fact he became extremely restless that that obviously worried some worry mom

But that was completely oblivious to wait you know mom 8 took only truly weeks and weeks to convince dad to go to the doctors because she was reader she was worried at all worried about him and you say Dr Thomas fit as a fiddle and physically he was put it the with signs that something was very wrong and he did go to the doctors said he did some tests and they basically tell mum that turn they believe dad had started early onset air dementia and as a family you convince way right from that moment that it was as a result of what I'd done prolific we always thought it Aaron because we couldn't understand why why that Panesar cells with dead or dying from to bring anything link week kind with it was headed the balls and that was obviously confirmed as dad died in January there was a coroner's court inquest at Burton on Trent and earn a pathologist who looked at that sprained described how

badly damaged it while Sony said that it found that there was considerable evidence of trauma to the brain which was similar to the brain of a boxer Mark any said at the time that the main candidate for this trauma was was heading to the football and the coroner decides they need it they have mustered coroner actually rule he said that Mr as still tight dementia was entirely consistent with heading the ball and the occupational exposure had made at least a significant contribution to the disease which caused his death on the bed it was industrial disease that killed and that was when was that back in 2002 Yes so when you read about the University College report that we've been looking at the programme this morning Pat and the football Association another same they take this very seriously and his apology at least that things have to say he should be in doing this research and take it more seriously quite a few years ago Yes and and that's not so forgivable really an indefensible as well because the

evidence was there you know we we we we always thought the timing of that can't be the only one we can't possibly be the only one and then we hear more and more footballers and families hundreds of fat families have contacted me to say that their former player as he died a degenerative brain disease all living with the consequences of it but it's enormous you know what we know sadly of a nobby Stiles Martin Peters Ray Wilson then all with indicted dimension because Jackie chan room with memory problems you got for you got nearly half the 1966 world Cup team in which problems and that and that team is unique it's the same for the Aston Villa team in 1957 FA Cup final for 5 of those nearly half the team again a gone on to have dementia a bit did you ever have conversations with the football Association amended did they talk to any kind of formal way by the famine we week

but when dad died and they told us that they would be doing research with the PFA and it would be 10 new project and only happy with that the Aussie that that was to was so important but then we learnt and backing March 2015 that this research collapsed and we did not know to collapse will we thought he was still ongoing men weak weak weak we heard that its collapse obviously that's when and we approach the FIA end because we felt that he added we can if we felt that they try to sweep dad's death under the carpet it wrong all we wanted was answers answers as to why are what killed him nothing the main point is that we try to make these and I think it's a point that's been bought at in the research East have we got a problem with a former players and dementia you accumulate dad was a dad was a football

Or how did he die for boxes train Dawn Astle thank you very much for talking to us as a doctor no Driscoll was listening for medical advice in world rugby and that the sporting authority's say that don't they that they are up to speed on this they're very aware of it but it has come pretty late Yes it has it has come a how soon should have started it I don't know listen to Dawn Astle will obviously 10 many years ago it started a research which got lost on the way but over the last 10 years now we've learned so much about concussion two points 1st of all it look we've learnt a is there worried is no good news coming through about a tall and and the other point is the we're not quite sure who it's going to affect when it's going to start affecting them so now the time they've got to act on all the sport in the same way as they did start early enough we start smoking and asbestosis and now we've got

to start a new look at what's happening in rugby at the moment where people when they had an obvious blow to the head are taken off the field now the protocols including for for schools players took the kids playing but on the other hand it's fair to say isn't it that that repeated blows to the head that don't result in any obvious symptom also seem to be dangerous but that's the point the sub concussive blows now it's logical in a way that if their blows enough to cause a slight dizziness and Dennis damaging brain but fish just short of that it's not damaging brain is no doubt about it I think now that we have got to worry about sub concussive blows in rugby and soccer and that could change the whole perspective because measuring and find out about bills could take quite a long time here and and so just briefly worried Yes but but act as well do you think I think that Chris towers said rugby goes Dave they dared do an awful lot of their protocols and and there but given

a bad example still 4 years have been put in a concussed players back on the field that's got completely stop thinking sock good school boys had got to seriously think about not involved in practice only because the study said this special says they won't look at that youngsters and modern balls as well do you think this is serious enough they should think got to start looking at things that got to try and be a step ahead not 10 years behind which is what always happens in the past Dr Barry O'Driscoll thank you very much don't ask thank you the time now is 3 minutes to a Matt Taylor thanks