

# One in a MILLION!



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**This week, we're recognising the life-changing work of Michelle Wilcock, 43, from Golborne. She said...**

Seeing the players progress in the Football Association (FA) talent pathway, I had a bittersweet feeling.

As their football coach, I felt so proud knowing that despite their disabilities, some of them could end up playing for England.

But knowing that there were so many others who were missing out was frustrating.

And seeing only a few players from my cerebral palsy (CP) team for 12 to 16-year-olds progress left me feeling heartbroken.

I'd grown so close to them and I just wanted to see them succeed.

'Why can't there be a bigger program?' I asked my fellow coaches.

There was such a high



Football for all



Michelle Wilcock

specific football centres in the North West.

It's not me who does all the work – our volunteers are truly exceptional!

Watching as one of our players takes to the pitch without a walking frame for the first time makes my heart swell with so much pride.

And seeing everyone cheer each other on and bond on the pitch, I'm

reminded of how much of a difference our club is making.

'We really have formed a family here,' one player said.

Hearing those words, our mission to make football more inclusive felt worthwhile.

However, there's no way we're stopping there!

My next goal is getting more people on board.

Without our volunteers, all of this wouldn't be possible – we're dead lucky to have them.

And although I've now been coaching football for over 25 years, this has been the most rewarding experience of my career to date.

With Cerebral Palsy United FC, I feel we're onto scoring a real winner!

• To get involved, please visit: [cpunited.co.uk](http://cpunited.co.uk)

demand for it, too.

And so we set up Cerebral Palsy United FC in 2014.

Putting our players at the forefront, they decided what worked best for them.

Some of our players, trustees and coaches have lived experience of cerebral palsy, too – whether they have it themselves or care for someone who does.

We've since expanded to include players of all ages, too, making the game accessible for all.

From coaching to funding, fundraising and the day to day running of the club, I love getting stuck in with the team.

But my biggest highlight was when we finally became a charity in 2017.

With hard work and funding, we've opened six CP

**We put our players at the forefront**

## Bitesize!

1	2	3	4
5			
6			
7			

### ACROSS

- 1 Sprites (4)
- 5 Humble (4)
- 6 Against (4)
- 7 Is obliged to (4)

### DOWN

- 1 Mosque prayer leader (4)
- 2 List of dishes (4)
- 3 Household animals (4)
- 4 Parody (4)

Read down the shaded squares for the answer.

Answer on page 47.

JUST FOR FUN

**DON'T MISS OUR PICK ME UP! SEPTEMBER SPECIAL OUT NOW!**



## Sneaky peek at this week!



Salmon treats p40

Nature's choice p26

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