

FOOTBALL
Written by Paul Wilshaw

Hello, my name is Paul, and I am a massive football fan. Whenever my teams play, I get down when we lose and get frustrated when we play bad, but lockdown has shown what football really does for me and why it helps me personally.

See I said I am a massive fan but that's not all, I do not just watch, I play. I play in the Dorset Durdle Door Ability Count League which a lot of people do not know about, but it is football for people with disabilities and it's the players abilities that matter.

I travel down to my hometown of Wimborne in Dorset once every month to play and people would say you're mad there are teams up here in Yorkshire. But that is just it, the teams up here are not my family. I played for Bradford Ability counts and the players up there are my friends, but I started Wimborne ability counts and I would do anything to support anyone of the team and staff and I bet your wondering what has this all got to do with Lockdown and loss and grief.

It's simple it is about the friendships and bonds that you make, the connection not only with your own teammates but with your opposition and the fact you are there to support each other.

I long for the day when I can get back on the pitch with my friends but I long even more for the day when I can say in person hello to my footballing family and make sure they are okay.