



**ENGLAND  
FOOTBALL**

## ***OLIVIA CLARK***

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I'm Olivia Clark and I play as a goalkeeper for Coventry United Ladies in the FA Women's Championship and also for the Wales National Team. I signed my first professional contract at the start of this season and also made my senior Wales debut against Scotland in June 2021 and now have 4 caps.

Football is pretty much my whole life now. I was lucky enough to sign a professional contract at the start of this season, so I can now say that this is my job and that is something I have always dreamed of. Since turning full-time, I have moved away from home to pursue this as a career, as well as combining my university studies with training most days. I am also a massive football fan, so I normally spend my weekends or evenings watching games on TV or going down to Sincil Bank to watch my team, Lincoln City. It has also had a massive impact on my family, as they have made a lot of sacrifices for me to be in the position I am, especially my dad who travels the world to see me play. Hopefully the success I've had recently makes it all worth it for them.

Football has the power to bring communities together and inspire the next generation, which is what makes it so special and is part of the reason why we play. For young girls, seeing women play professionally on the biggest stage shows them that anything is possible and that certain sexist comments or behaviours that they may have experienced are not true. If I can help to inspire the next generation of girls to play football or fall in love with the sport, that will mean everything to me.



I played football in Lincolnshire from when I started as a young girl up until I was 18 years old, so it has helped me massively to get to where I am now. I started off by playing for Greenbank and my primary school team, where I was the only girl that played. I was then part of the youth teams at Lincoln Ladies and Lincolnshire FA Centre of Excellence, before moving to Boston United and then Nettleham Ladies. My time at Boston United was probably most pivotal, as it allowed me to make the step up from U16s to senior football and they were a club who were very professional in their setup and I loved my time there.

Women's football in Lincolnshire has huge potential and it's great to see the investment that has been put into the game in recent times. Hopefully this will only improve with the Euros being held in England this year. I can't wait for the day there is a professional women's team or a Regional Talent Club in the county again, so that girls can play at the elite level in Lincolnshire. This is when the power of the game will truly be shown in the county.