



# Awards Evening

2019

**Thursday 5 September**

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# SimonRoe

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Official Photographer to the Sussex County FA



All photographs from this event are available to purchase in a selection of different sizes and formats.

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WELCOME

## Welcome

**Tonight's awards will recognise those people and organisations driving grassroots football in Sussex.**

Participation in sport helps to develop the mind, improve health and fitness, sharpen skills, and boost confidence, often regardless of ability. In fact, you don't have to be a polished athlete to feel a sense of accomplishment.

Sport can also affect our moods, our behaviour, even our life choices. Witness in the same week, a real sense of loss at the expulsion of Bury FC from League football, and the extraordinary comeback of Ben Stokes and the England Cricket Team, to level the Ashes series.

Of course, any athlete or footballer will tell you that without a team of people behind them, such as friends and family, coaches, managers and supporters, they probably could not have achieved the same success.

Ellen White broke barriers to become one of the world's best players, and that was evident at the FIFA Women's World Cup in France this year.

As a 10-year-old, Ellen was playing alongside boys at Aylesbury Town, and scored 109 goals that year.

In later years, Ellen was told she could not play mixed football any longer, and this "injustice" as her family put it at the time, only went on to encourage her even further to succeed.

This evening we will recognise the work of people within our grassroots game, many who have given countless hours for the good of football in Sussex; be it facilitating play or encouraging others to get involved with the game. That dedication and commitment from individuals, teams and clubs, all contributes to what we call, 'the beautiful game'.



I am proud to be the Chairman of the Sussex County FA and it is my privilege to recognise the achievements of those nominated tonight.

I hope you enjoy the evening, be inspired by what you hear and encouraged to help others achieve their goals, or even to achieve them for yourself.

**Mathew Major**

Sussex County FA Chairman



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## Welcome

### Sussex County FA Long Service Awards

10 Year Staff Awards

20 Year Staff Awards

15 Year Service to  
Sussex Football Awards

### Sussex County FA Referee Awards

15 Year Referee Awards

### The Referees' Association Awards

Joel Richards Young Volunteer of the Year

### Sussex County FA Representative Squad Awards

South East Counties  
Youth Championship

South East Regional  
11-a-side Disability Cup

## Martin Bodenham Motivational Talk

## Break

### Sussex County FA Long Service Awards

25 Year Service to  
Sussex Football Awards

### Sussex County FA & The FA Referee Awards

25 Year Referee Awards

## The FA Mentor Awards

Above & Beyond Award

## The FA & McDonald's Grassroots Football Awards

Grassroots Coach of the Year

Grassroots Project of the Year

Grassroots Club of the Year

Grounds Team of the Year

Grassroots Match Official of the Year

We Only Do Positive Respect Award

Supporter of the Year

Rising Star of the Year

Volunteer of the Year

### Sussex County FA Long Service Awards

35 Year Service to  
Sussex Football Awards

### Sussex County FA Referee Awards

35 Year Referee Awards

## The FA Referee Awards

40 Year Referee Awards

## The FA Long Service Awards

50 Year Service to Football Awards

## The FA Referee Awards

50 Year Referee Awards

## Thank you

## Close



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## Special Guests



### Johnny Cantor

Johnny has huge experience as a broadcaster on both television and radio across news, sport and entertainment. He is an accomplished presenter and his commentaries have been heard by thousands, used on programmes such as BBC's Football Focus and BBC Late Kick Off.

The versatile broadcaster has made appearances on 5 Live's Monday Night Club and is a regular host at fan forums and ceremonies. Johnny also lectures at universities on both news and sport as well as being a voice over on TV adverts for Radio Times magazine and has presented top stories for BBC Regional news programmes.



### Martin Bodenham

Martin began refereeing in 1966 and progressed through the local leagues to become a Premier League referee. He also operated on the FIFA list, taking charge of international and European club fixtures.

Currently, Martin is on the Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL) and acts as an Observer Reviewer looking at key match decisions as part of his role on the Review Panel. He is also a Referee Developer.



### David Crick

David is The Referee's Association representative on the FA Council and has held the position since July 2013. He first qualified as a referee in 1970, and quickly progressed up the refereeing ladder joining the FIFA list of assistant referees in 1995.

Now, along with his FA Council duties, David is a National League observer and Level 3 referee coach.



### Paul Dolan

Paul is the Senior Regional Manager at The FA for the South East region, providing support and guidance for County FA's and helping them develop football For ALL. He is passionate about grassroots football and rewarding the fantastic work carried out, he spearheaded the introduction of the County FA Recognition Awards.

Previously Paul was Chief Executive at the Kent FA, a role he held for 8 years. He is a trustee for the Kent FA Foundation and a grassroots coach for a youth team.





## 10 Year Staff Awards

Awarded for ten years continual service as a staff member to the Sussex County FA



### Hayley Tunstall

Hayley is a Football Development Administrator at the Sussex County FA. Her main role and responsibilities are courses and coach education.

When Hayley started with the company 10 years ago the role was very manual with lots of paperwork and filing and little information actually held on online systems. However, the role has developed significantly during her time with a full register of courses filled with information, which has helped the department and benefitted the learners.

Hayley is proud of the "fantastic" facilities at the Sussex County FA Headquarters, and enjoys watching them be put to good use by the local community.



### Ray Welch

Ray is celebrating 10 years with the Sussex County FA as Referee Central Appointments Officer. His main role is to support the delivery of the National Game Strategy in partnership with key stakeholders whilst delivering high quality administrative support.

Ray delivers a very professional level of work in line with fairness, equality and inclusion and has been crucial in supporting the Referee Development Manager, Paul Jeffery, with administrative support related to new referee courses.



## 20 Year Staff Awards

Awarded for twenty years continual service as a staff member to the Sussex County FA



### Paul Baston

Paul celebrates 20 years with the Sussex County FA in the role of Finance Officer. In Paul's role he oversees all the companies finances and banking and makes sure everyone gets paid (if they are nice to him!).

Paul's involvement in football goes back a long time to when he used to be treasurer/manager for Stone Quarry United and has been involved in football to all degrees for most of his life, as well as past work in finance.

He says the Sussex County FA has come along a huge amount since his original appointment when nothing

at all was computerised. Paul recalls having to queue at the bank every week to send off cheques to ensure they got paid. As a result, he is very thankful we now have online banking!

As well as computerisation, Paul notes during his time how the company has grown massively with a new 3G Artificial Turf Pitch, which creates a larger revenue stream, and how the number of staff members has trebled in his time.

Paul is happy to admit there is always room for improvement within the company, and looks forward to being a part of it for many more years to come.



# 20 Year Staff Awards

**Awarded for twenty years continual service as a staff member to the Sussex County FA**



## Nina Edwards

Nina joined the Sussex County FA 20 years ago having previously worked on the bulletin for the Sussex County Football League. When a vacancy became available with the organisation, she joined on a part-time basis originally before taking the full-time position looking after Youth Competitions.

Nina is now Competitions Secretary and Football Services Officer and her key responsibilities consists of affiliations, insurance and County Cups.

Over the past 20 years the County Cup competitions have grown, and Nina is proud of how much football

is now played in Sussex. When she first started there were no female competitions, whereas now there have several both youth and adult!

There have been many changes at the Sussex County FA during Nina's time, and she recalls the many office improvements, as well as the introduction of the 3G Artificial Turf Pitch, which has revolutionised the County FA and benefited Nina hugely with her County Cup Finals planning and arranging.



# 15 Year Service to Sussex Football Awards

**Awarded for fifteen years continual service to Sussex football**

## Frank Dorman

Frank is often described as the backbone of Haywards Heath Town FC. Over the past 15-20 years he has carried out, diligently, and without complaint, everything he is asked to do. He has made the bar and hospitality area his responsibility and his commanding presence there is always assured. His role in the club includes the important task of cleaning and clearing the dressing rooms where it is reliably reported that he is usually engaged until well past midnight on match days!

There are many other unsung duties, for instance that of Assistant Groundsman which he willingly undertakes – a true supporter of the club. Frank is a real club stalwart and it is felt that his overall contribution to football is wholeheartedly felt by many in Sussex.

## Ian France

Ian is a founding member of West Chiltington FC and has been the secretary for the club since its formation. He is responsible for making the club run as smoothly as possible, dealing with all league matters and keeping everyone up to date. He is also accountable for correspondence with other clubs and referees to confirm fixtures and arrangements.

## Keith Tomsett

Keith is one of four people who reformed West Chiltington FC and has been part of the club for 15 years as First Team Manager as well as Chairman for much of it also. During his tenure as Manager, the team have gone from Division 5 to the Premier Division of the West Sussex Football League, finally winning the title last year after a number of near-misses.

They also won the Walter Rossiter Trophy last year as well finishing runners up of the Malcom Symonds Cup. He refuses to let the club fold and won't retire until he can be sure that won't happen. What's more he has overseen the fundraising required to pay back the club's share of the loan that was taken out in order to build the club house which now ranks amongst the best facilities in West Sussex.



# 15 Year Referee Awards

**Presented for fifteen years continuous active service  
as a referee / assessor / tutor / observer**

## Chris Ahearne

Chris registered as a referee in 2003, has been a very acute official on grassroots football. He has operated on many leagues and has a host of FA appointments. Chris is also heavily involved as a referee observer and has great relationships with new referees in his very active role as referee advisor.

## Wayne Webb

Wayne started refereeing in 2003 when he put question to his own playing ability! After seeing an advert in his local chip shop looking for referees he thought he would give that a go instead. His first game was in the Sussex Sunday Junior League at Palatine Park. The game, as he recalls, went well, but looking back thinks it was probably very poor in reality! What Wayne found most rewarding was putting theory into practice which he found a massive learning curve.

Wayne states that refereeing can make or break you and takes many positives and low points from his experience.

Would Wayne recommend refereeing to people? "Yes absolutely", he states.

## Alex McGill

Alex registered as a referee in 2003. He was promoted to Level 6 in 2008 and has been a very keen official on grassroots football, particularly the Mid Sussex League.

## Phil Baldwin

Phil qualified as a referee in December 2003 whilst being an active manager and coach at Pevensey & Westham Junior Football Club. After stopping coaching in 2009 Phil took up refereeing on a regular basis and started officiating open age football as well as youth. He is also a qualified Futsal referee which adds a different dimension to his usual refereeing duties.

His main achievements to date are being chosen to officiate various Cup Finals at the Sussex County FA HQ with his proudest moment being awarded a 98% mark by both team managers on a Cup Final.



## Stewart Courtney

Stewart was a late-bloomer to refereeing, taking up the whistle at 58 after a playing career that finished when he was 37. He first went into coaching and management culminating in two seasons managing Hailsham Town. He then became a founding member of Shoreham AFC and was chairman for eight years until a merger with Eastbourne United.

Stewart has been fortunate to have refereed 18 cup finals and his favourite grounds to officiate on have been Motspur Park (Fulham FC training facility) and Eastbourne Town's Saffrons Stadium.

## Nathan Welch

Nathan was introduced into refereeing by his father, Ray Welch. After watching Ray when he was a child, he instantly became a role model to him and it took little persuasion for him to become a referee himself. 15 years later he is still aiming to be at least half as good as him and share his commitment to the game, to the dismay of his wife! His favourite ground to have officiated at was The American Express Community Stadium which was his dream to do as a lifelong Brighton fan.



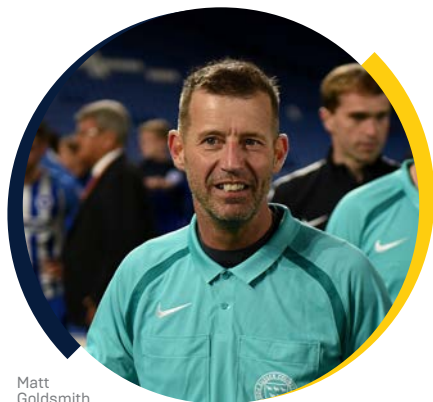
Richard  
Smallwood

## Richard Smallwood

Richard's refereeing journey began in 1981 and carried on refereeing on and off in both adult and youth football until retaking a refereeing exam in 2002. He was then lucky enough to be promoted to level 5 and be invited onto the Senior list for the Southern Combination Football League.

Richard recalls his favourite match as the Reserve Section Cup Final between Eastbourne Town and Eastbourne United played at Eastbourne Borough's Priory Lane due to the large crowd in attendance.





Matt Goldsmith

## Matt Goldsmith

Matt has been a registered referee since 2003 and quickly rose through the ranks to that of Level 3. He boasts a wealth of great experience having officiated in the Bostik Leagues and National League also. Matt cites that refereeing the Sussex Senior Cup Final in 2018 between Brighton & Hove Albion and Crawley Town as the highlight of his career.

## Rajab Seruwagi

In his 15 years as a referee Rajab recalls his most memorable game as Hastings United under-23's vs. Tooting & Mitcham under-23's in the Bostik South Development League. Instead of it being Hastings United's under-23 side, it turned out to be their first team due to them not having a mid-week game! Coincidentally, Rajab states Hastings United's Pilot Field as his favourite ground to officiate at.

Outside of football, Rajab enjoys swimming and claims to have not missed a day swimming so far in 2019! Rajab states that Sussex referee Steven

Hughes has been a huge inspiration and he is thankful for his continued advice over the years which has been of great help to him.

## Darren Boulton

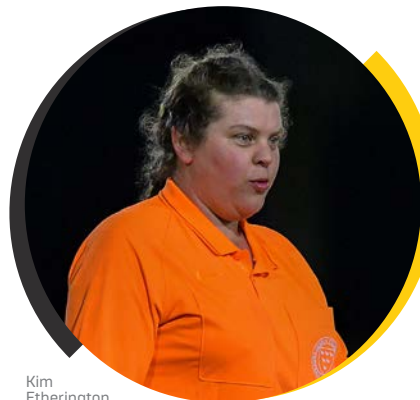
Darren started refereeing due to a rule in the Chichester & West Sussex Sunday league which insisted that a member of the squad must be a qualified referee. His initial plan was to take the course, officiate 10 games (which meant the course fee was refunded) and then quit... Well that certainly didn't happen!

He soon found that he was enjoying refereeing, so this became his new Saturday afternoon pastime whilst continuing to play on Sunday mornings for several more seasons. Darren was fortunate enough to officiate three county cup finals - two as referee (Intermediate cup, and Sunday Cup), and a third as fourth official (Veterans Cup).

Darren's main pastime away from refereeing is a love of motorbikes, mainly track days in Europe and USA road trips in recent years.



Rajab Seruwagi



Kim Etherington

## Kim Etherington

Since qualifying as a referee in 2004, Kim worked her way to Level 5 with what she describes as "plenty of highs and lows on the way". Kim's recalls her biggest achievement as refereeing the Under-18's and Under-16's County Cup Finals along with many league finals as well.

She has been a committee member for the Brighton RA and also referee secretary for the Sussex Sunday Football League. Kim now acts as the Treasurer and Assistant Referee Secretary for the Sussex Sunday Youth League where she is actively involved behind the scenes in the running of a league and appointing referees. Kim says she has overcome many problems on her journey but has continued with her hobby which she would never give up.

## Brian Vacher

With over 15 years' experience as a referee, Brian has seen it all, memorable matches, officiating in all different kinds of weather from sunny days to high winds where the ball won't come out of the goalkeepers box!

Brian recalls being assistant referee for a pre-season game between East Grinstead and Crystal Palace which sticks out as a memorable day for him in his career along with several county cup and general cup finals.

Away from football Brian enjoys a round of golf, spending time with family, a passion for music, and most of all his main rock in life, his wife Evie who is always by his side.

Brian can look over the previous 15 years with great pride having done most of what you could wish for as a referee and can often be found at Selhurst Park following Crystal Palace.

# Joel Richards Young Volunteer of the Year

Awarded to a young volunteer member and run under the auspices of the RA-FA Youth Council

## Will Briers

Sussex-based referee Will Briers won The Joel Richards Young Volunteer of the Year Award following a highly successful season for him personally.

The award was instigated by The Referees' Association (RA), in memory of West Bromwich-based referee and local RA-FA Youth Council member, Joel Richards, who tragically died in the Tunisia terrorist attack in June 2015.

Will has been a key figure at the Brighton Referees' Association over the last season where he has supported as a guest speaker and

assisted in practical sessions as well as being the delegate to the County RA.

In addition, Will has been the Recruitment & Retention Officer for Brighton RA and has overseen the Society achieving its highest membership (121) in many years.

As an active referee himself, Will has been officiating Youth, Senior County and Women's football and has always been involved in promoting national initiatives such as rainbow laces and Football.v.Homophobia.







# South East Counties Youth Championship

Awarded to the League winners

## Under-16s Representative Squad

It was an incredible year for the Sussex County FA Under-16s Representative Squad who were crowned champions of the South East Counties Youth Championship this season.

The squad got off to a flyer with a 2-0 win over Kent FA who were eventual runners up which was followed by a very impressive home victory over London FA winning 7-0. Two months later the boys cruised over Essex FA 4-2 to set up a league decider away to Middlesex FA.

Sussex then clinched the title with a game to spare, in dramatic fashion, as they beat Middlesex FA 0-1 thanks to a late Conrad Honore header.

Sussex capped off a brilliant season with a 2-2 draw away to the Amateur Football Alliance which ensured the squad stayed unbeaten in the league and were ultimately able to get their hands on the trophy.



# South East Regional 11-a-side Disability Cup

Awarded to the Cup Winners of the Pan-Disability Competition

## Disability Representative Squad

Disability football in Sussex is truly flourishing, and the Sussex County FA Disability Representative Squad prove that with a triumphant season.

Players are selected to play from the Sussex Disability Football League, and they compete in the South East Regional 11-a-side Disability Cup.

After cruising through the early rounds, the latter stages of the competition were hosted at Middlesex FA, with the tournament consisting of two semi-finals and a final.

Sussex got off to a flyer seeing off Charlton Athletic Deaf FC in the semi-final with a convincing 5-0 win thanks to goals from Dave Lambert (4) and Tim Partridge.

The final then loomed against a very game and ready Sutton United side who had swept aside Reading in the other semi-final.

After going behind early on, Sussex rallied and had a crazy two minutes where they flipped the game on its head scoring twice in as many minutes.

Following the turnaround Sussex were eager to extend their lead and soon added a third goal when Partridge lobbed the Sutton goalkeeper from close range to seal the silverware.

The victory ensured Sussex retain the trophy and capped off another successful season with what is turning out to be a very talented and successful group of players!





## 25 Year Service to Sussex Football Awards

Awarded for twenty-five years continual service to Sussex football

### Bill Clifford

Bill has contributed to Sussex football for 25 years as a player, manager, coach, chairman, secretary and treasurer all within Men's football, and more often than not, in two or more of those roles at the same time!

Bill started his own club from scratch 25 years ago in the Brighton League. His achievements include winning the Sussex Intermediate Challenge Cup as a manager with Hurstpierpoint in 2014, and as Player/Manager of the Brighton Seals Walking Football team they were the only team from Sussex to make it to the National Finals of both The FA People's Cup and the Walking FA National Cup in 2018.





# 25 Year Referee Awards

Presented for twenty-five years continuous active service  
as a referee / assessor / tutor / observer



Nigel  
Baker

## Nigel Baker

Nigel started as a referee in the Crawley and District League on a spring Saturday afternoon 25 years ago. He was soon invited onto the Sussex County Football League with his first match being assistant referee for Franklands Village vs. Midhurst & Easebourne, with friend and fellow referee Gavin Currie in the middle.

Nigel's progression to Class 1 was rather quick and he was invited onto the Isthmian League as an assistant referee. He moved on to County League Football middles in the

summer of 2000 with his first game between Newhaven and Steyning Town.

During his time as a match official Nigel has been fortunate to officiate at professional clubs grounds like Millwall, Crawley Town, Portsmouth and Brighton & Hove Albion, in front of crowds as high as 3,500. A memorable highlight for Nigel was officiating at the end of the 2017/18 season on the Isthmian Premier League Semi-Final Play-Off between Dulwich Hamlet and Leiston.

## Martyn Chandler

In his 25 years as a referee, Martyn has had the chance to work with and meet some amazing people and personalities in varied competitions and locations.

His highlights are having the chance to officiate in several Sussex League and Cup Finals.

Having served in the Royal Navy he is also affiliated to the RNFA and had the privilege of refereeing the Navy Cup Final, the Royal Marines Tunney

Cup Final as well as the Inter Services and Combined Services Finals.

Martyn thanks all that have supported him over the 25 years and intends to carry on for as long as possible!

## Jonathon Elms

Jon has refereed in several countries during his 25 years as an official. Over the course of those years, Jon's refereeing experience has mainly been junior football in which he has continuously facilitated a safe and structured environment for juniors to develop a love for the game.

His most interesting match was when he was at the University in South Wales and at the end of a junior game an club official asked if he would do another game. All of sudden he was being given a mini-lesson in sign language and told he was doing a Welsh Development deaf match!

Jon thanks his step-dad Robin Hall for inspiring him to take up the whistle and looks forward to another 25 years.

## Terrence Harvey

Terrence started refereeing when his two sons started playing for a team and he was asked to run the line. After filling in as a referee he started getting counts of abuse which led him to think that he should get some training! 25 years later Terrence continues to flourish as a referee in Sussex.



## Above & Beyond Award

Awarded to a coach mentor who goes above and beyond the call of duty to help develop others

### Pam Chandler

Pam has been in the FA Mentoring Programme for 5 years and is the Support Mentor for Sussex. She has a great passion for her role in the Female & Disability Football pathway and she has been an inspiration for many coaches offering support and guidance to many.

Pam continues to develop a community of learning through the

female mentoring group, with regular group meetings and attending the individual sessions where she also invites other local female coaches to visit her sessions and talk about support and development.

Pam will now also be supporting the women's recreational festival for the coaches' forum.

# 19 GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL AWARDS



## Grassroots Coach of the Year

**Awarded to an individual who people count on to make sure everyone is included**

### Gary Mansell

Mile Oak Wanderers FC

For 6 years now, Gary has nurtured a team of individual players and developed them as people on and off the pitch. He has achieved a huge amount of respect from all at the club – the players, parents/carers, other teams and match officials, setting a great example and becoming a brilliant role model. Gary praises good behaviour and encourages the boys to reflect when things don't go well. The development of the players always comes first, and tactics are meticulously planned for each match.

Gary has shown incredible commitment to the team above his other football endeavours and works tirelessly on a voluntary basis to plan challenging but fun training sessions. His team win together, lose together but above all else, just love football. Gary's coaching style, expertise and general way with the players is second to none and is totally humble with the respect he has achieved and what's more, doesn't realise truly the impact he has had.

He is totally committed to the team, above his other footballing endeavours. He works tirelessly on a voluntary basis to plan training sessions, organize optimal fixtures and fun team building events. The team do fun activities, parties, camping, go on holiday...they are the Mile Oak family. Ultimately, Gary's coaching style, expertise and way with the boys is second to none. His humbleness reflects the fact that he doesn't realise what a huge impact he has on everyone around him.

Gary has become an exemplary role model – respectful, passionate, talented, kind. He is gifted and shares his skills to maximise the team's potential. He challenges bad practices i.e. cheating, disrespect to refs, time wasting, and he encourages the boys to react to such things with dignity and humour. He is a credit to Sussex.





# Grassroots Project of the Year

**Awarded to a project that makes a positive impact through football away from the game**

## Worthing Town

Worthing Town Juniors are an inclusive team of players with disabilities who regularly play in the Sussex County Disability League.

To support them as a team the club allocate additional funding for external coaching on an all-weather pitch with both coach and manager training and encouraging the players. Players are taught to show respect for their team and opposition as part of their football training.

This project was started to provide additional football to a number of club members who struggled to play a whole game in grassroots football due to the individual challenges brought about by their disability. Worthing Town is an inclusive club welcoming all young people and was able to identify the need to offer more to this group of players. Additionally, training was sourced for the manager together with another coach being assigned to the team.

The project demonstrates that a need was identified, evaluated, funded and met to ensure that football is positive for all young people with no barriers.

Parents of players are fully supportive of the project and network within areas that their child is educated and socialises. Referrals for players with disability have been made from families in the local community based on this. Worthing Town promote and this team and are prepared to grow the availability of inclusive football at the club. This actively impacts on grassroots football to evidence that football is for all and a truly positive activity for many players who would otherwise not have the opportunity to enjoy football.



# Grassroots Club of the Year

**Awarded to a club that makes match days something to look forward to, using new formats to attract and welcome everyone**

## Uckfield Grasshoppers

Uckfield Grasshoppers pride themselves on the way they coach the children to fully understand respect and inclusion. They offer football for all and have built links with the County FA disability group to ensure players get the mainstream football they need to develop.

From a young age the club promote their three core beliefs to players, which are: play safe, have fun and show respect.

The club introduced new Respect policies, barriers and education tools last season and they are really proud to be recognised as a Charter Standard Development Club.

Development on and off the pitch has improved greatly over the last few years at the club. They embarked on their second season of wildcats in the spring, in the hope of inspiring the next batch of Lionesses.

Grasshoppers also run Friday Night Futsal for all their age groups on top of their regular training sessions. This is down to the belief that their players should be involved with as many different opportunities within the game as possible to ensure they grow and develop with knowledge and experience of various football formats.

Grasshoppers have provided football in the community for over 30 years. They are still the biggest community football group in Uckfield for children and are now springing further afield attracting players from other towns and clubs. Their belief is that players want to come to the club because of the environment that has been created and still continues to be developed each season, with mentoring, coach education, youth council, their coaching standards, ethos and philosophy.





## Grounds Team of the Year

**Awarded to the person that makes the pitch match-perfect, maintains the facilities and helps keep the environment safe, week in, week out**

### Andrew Probee

Bosham FC

Andrew Probee and his team maintain arguably one of the best pitches in the county a Bosham thanks to his guidance and leadership. It is especially good considering the goals are left up all season with the goalmouths consistently maintained to a high standard.

Andrew Probee and all the ground staff at the club commit to ground preparation throughout the year. They volunteer their time turfing, watering, rolling and cutting the pitch. Even when the daylight is limited come the autumn/winter months. The team even dedicate hours in the evenings and prepare the pitch for the weekend - before they go home after an already long day's work.

The pitch is marked weekly and without this they would not be able to have the amount of games they do on a Sunday. As Bosham Recreation ground is used by all the community, without the ground's volunteers, no one would be able enjoy its use!



## Grassroots Match Official of the Year

**Awarded to the person who has the confidence and conviction to always play fair**

### David Jackson

David has trained hundreds of referees and followed their development on their refereeing journeys.

He set up a Development Group for young referees, which is still going strong now. He has inspired so many referees over the years, he treats everyone as an equal, which instantly makes them feel comfortable, and in a safe environment to learn and develop.

David is naturally always respectful, which breeds respect back for him. He has shown determination and drive, which becomes infectious, and you can't help being swept along by his presence. He still embraces change, even after 43 years' service to refereeing.



# We Only Do Positive Respect Award

**Awarded to an individual who inspires positive change and always brings out the best in people**

## Luke Baldwin

### SC Pass And Move

Luke is an inspirational coach that makes football fun. He leads with example and has become someone who all can look up to. Respect has always been at Luke's forefront and will not shy away from how important it is to respect others, especially to understand the different views and opinions of team mates. He brought in a respect line so parents knew the boundaries and could not cross which created a friendlier atmosphere and put the kids much more at ease.

Luke's foresight is to make player development a priority and spends a lot of time educating them and families about respect in football. This has since encouraged much more positive behaviour from players and parents which has created a real family environment at the club. Players are taught to shake hands and always help up those that have fallen over.

Luke gives up a massive amount of his personal time to help not just the team but the club. He runs an adult's team to help more men socialise encouraging fun and fitness in the community. He gives up his time with his family and even though it doesn't cost anything it has given some players a real sense of belonging and self-worth. The town has a lot of families in struggling situations but no matter the circumstances Luke makes everyone feel equal. He is a great role model, father and friend and what's more, a vital member of the team and community.



# Supporter of the Year

**Awarded to an individual who always supports their team, sets the example and encourages everyone come rain or shine**

## Lee and Alan Westlake

### SC Pass And Move

Lee and Albie stand out as exemplary supporters for SC Pass and Move. Aside from just supporting the club, they volunteer in any way they can and never miss a game.

According to Lucas Hodd, a player for Pass and Move, Lee and Albie are the biggest supporters of the club. Due to short numbers, Lee agrees to help referee some home games and is always the first to remind everyone about respect to opposition's teams and to yourselves. What's more, they are supportive to every player on the team not just George, who Lee and Albie are Grandad and Great Grandad to.

Nominee Luke Hodd says he feels more at home when Lee and Albie are around as his own Dad can't make every game which proves the big impact they have on other people. Luke states that when he's nervous he instantly feels better once he sees one of them showing support on the touchline.



Lee and Albie are regarded as very good and respected people in the community due to their kindness and sense of humour. They are always happy and smiling which creates a warm feeling around the club and even when Lee fills in as referee he is very firm and fair. Luke finishes off by stating: "they aren't just George's Grandads they are the whole team's Grandads".

## Rising Star of the Year

**Awarded to the person who shows real commitment and dedication, always willing to put in the time to help make the game great For All**

### Pablo Aguilar Cabanes

Pablo has excelled in his first four years of refereeing. Reports received about him show a determined young man, respected in grassroots football. This is not an easy audience to win over, but feedback indicated that clubs now ask if he can referee their matches!

He presents himself well, and has achieved his first promotion which, as a result, saw him inducted into the Referees County Development Group structure. His potential talent shone through, which then led to him joining the FA CORE group of referees.

Pablo is a popular character, and his balanced personality rubs off on those around him. He can be inspirational, just by his presence, without even knowing it showing a level of maturity, well beyond his years.



## Volunteer of the Year

**Awarded to an individual who's always there for your club, who gives up their own time for the enjoyment of others**

### David Rowland

Upper Beeding FC

Dave is a stand out volunteer in the county not just at his club Upper Beeding. No matter what day, what time or what the weather, you will more than likely find Dave at the club carrying out any variety of task that needs tending to.

The various voluntary roles Dave oversees include groundsman, secretary, social media, matchday hospitality, kitman, sponsorships, player match fee's, social event organisation and so on. Add to this, he is just an all-round good guy whose enthusiasm and positivity is obvious for all to see, within and outside the club.

Dave has built strong relationships and friendships with so many people within the club and outside, including the league and local community, and all of them would wholeheartedly say Dave is a worthy winner of this award.

He is a huge reason why Upper Beeding is regarded as a well-respected, successful, approachable and reliable part of the local community, and the fact that the majority of that is down to one man is truly outstanding.

His dedication, commitment, time and most of all enthusiasm is a league above everyone else, he is Mr Upper Beeding and the club and the community wouldn't be the same without him.







# 35 Years Service to Sussex Football Awards

Awarded for thirty-five years continual service to Sussex football

## John Goss

John has been involved in football since the 1980s when he spent rewarding years with Uckfield Town FC where he served on the Management Committee as Club Treasurer and as Team Manager. Throughout this era he was also a member of the Mid-Sussex League Management Committee.

This followed several years as a qualified referee not only in the Mid-Sussex League but also in the East Sussex Sunday Leagues and Sussex County Leagues. Later, he continued his officiating duties in Division 3 of the County League as an assistant referee.

John began his love affair with St. Francis Rangers in 1996 and without a break over the following 23 years, he had close involvement with the club as a Management Committee Member, Groundsman, Gateman, Match Secretary, Club Secretary, and (for 12 years) as Chairman.

As of 2018, and despite his strenuous and determined efforts, he was unable to prevent the demise of St. Francis



Rangers, much to his regret and great disappointment.

His service to football continues, however, and he is currently associated with neighbours, Burgess Hill Town FC where he carries out the duties of gateman.



# 35 Year Referee Awards

Presented for thirty-five years continuous active service as a referee / assessor / tutor / observer

## Derek Budgen



Having started as a referee in 1984, Derek boasts 35 years' experience officiating in Sussex. Despite his wife insisting he got a normal hobby, Derek did of course refuse!

Derek looks up to Pierluigi Collina as an inspiration to him as well as local referee Alan Gunn who he admires due to his professionalism.

The best ground Derek has officiated at is The New Den, Millwall when he refereed London Fire Brigade vs. Lloyds of London.



# 40 Year Referee Awards

**Presented for forty years continuous active service  
as a referee / assessor / tutor / observer**

## David Huggett

David qualified as a referee in 1979 and his last referee promotion to a Level 5 Senior County Referee came in 1996. Dave has refereed on many leagues and is a long-standing servant of the Southern Combination League (formally the Sussex County Football League), and various leagues in the west of the county.

He has officiated in numerous FA Cup competitions, culminating in many appearances in Sussex County FA and League Cup Finals.

## Robin Ready

Robin is a keen sportsman who has played football at local levels. He qualified as a referee in 1978 and has officiated for Sussex County and a number of leagues at all level across the county. Aside from refereeing, Robin is Welfare Officer for the Sussex County Schools and Colleges. After retiring from a career in managing 3 Leisure Centres he is now acting as administrator for Adur Indoor Bowling Club. Robin is also a keen sailor and teaches visually impaired as part of their recreation activities along with taking blind and visually impaired on groups world holidays.

## Phil Surlis

For 40 years Phil has thrived in Sussex football and has always enjoyed the variety of grounds he gets to visit.



Robin Ready

For Phil, refereeing is about the people he works with and meets that make the difference. The one's that are there from 10am marking lines, cutting the grass and the one's who generally make football a community.

Phil thanks all at the Sussex County FA who make himself and others feel part of the footballing community in the county.

## Elton Waddingham

It all started for Elton at Ardingly College where he studied the Laws of Association Football and took a refereeing exam which he achieved 96% in. When the East Grinstead & Crawley District Sunday Football League introduced a rule that all clubs should have a qualified referee to cover one game per month, Elton became a Class 3 referee for the 1979/80 season.

Aside from refereeing he regularly played for Ashurst Wood FC on both Saturdays

## Ray Welch

Ray began refereeing in March 1979. It all started when he was linesman for a team he was registered to play for but couldn't get playing time for so he decided he would start officiating properly!

By 1983 he was a Level 6 referee and by 1986 he had made it to level 4. Ray has spent 18 years on the contributory list and 40 years on the Southern Combination Football League list.

During his 40 years as a referee he has had 14 visits to the USA cup as a referee, 2 visits to the USA Cup as a volunteer, 4 visits to the Toronto Cup as a referee and a highlight officiating the 2001 Senior Cup final between Lewes and Bognor Regis Town.

A former chairman of the Brighton Referee Society and the Brighton & District Midweek League, Ray is now Central Appointments Officer, at the Sussex County FA.



Phil Surlis

and Sundays but would always fit in refereeing when he could.

After refereeing many of his son's teams in the 1990s he then got into officiating junior and youth football in the Horsham & District Youth Football League on Saturday mornings and the Mid Sussex Youth & Minor Football League on Sunday's. Elton has done this for the last 10 years now which he loves to do, keeping him fit all year round!

Elton says refereeing is a great way to meet new people and stay sociable and the chance to officiate league finals every year is a highly enjoyable experience.

# 50 Year Service to Football Awards

Awarded for fifty years service to football

## Keith Soane

Keith moved to the village of Broadbridge Heath in 1969 and after receiving a leaflet through the door from Broadbridge Heath Football Club, he went down to train with the club. Little did he know that this would in fact become his life for the next 50 years.

He played for the club even as veteran in his 60s and has been chairman of the club for the last 30 years since a work injury put a stop to his playing days. Significantly, it is the club's centenary season marking 100 years as a club and what's more, 50 years since Keith first stepped foot in the club himself.

In Keith's time at the club, Broadbridge Heath have won the

West Sussex Division Three Charity Cup and have also been West Sussex Division One champions after being promoted from Division Two.

During Keith's time as chairman, the club have risen through the ranks of the Southern Combination League to the Premier Division which they have been in since promotion in 2014.

Keith is a very private person who would never let anyone put himself forward for such an award, but 100 years of Broadbridge Heath Football Club and 50 years of Keith being there, is definitely something to celebrate!



# 50 Year Referee Awards

Presented for fifty years continuous active service  
as a referee / assessor / tutor / observer

## Ian Hubbard

Ian embarked on his amazing 50 year journey back in the 1970 Southern Combination Football League season as a linesman. He lined on the Division 2 Cup Final the following season and he recalls a particular match at Steyning where the club only had one assistants' flag so as the junior assistant referee, he ran the line with his own white handkerchief! He soon learnt from that experience and bought a set of flags.

Another tale he recalls is lining in an Athenian League game at Billericay in front of a decent sized crowd. There were shouts from the stand that Ian had lost his flag which he shrugged off as normal jeers from the crowd. In actual fact he move up with play and soon realised his flag had detached from the pole 20 yards away!



In his time in Sussex Ian has officiated on numerous Senior Cup Finals and during his time on the Isthmian League he was a senior assistant referee on their League Cup Final.

# 50 Year Referee Awards

Presented for fifty years continuous active service  
as a referee / assessor / tutor / observer

## Martin Savage

It all started for Martin 50 years ago at Selhurst Park in 1969 calling for people to become referees. After attending a course in Croydon, he passed in November 1969 and became a Class 3 referee. After moving to Sussex in the 1970's he refereed for many years in the County League and often linesman in the Isthmian League. Martin's biggest achievement is to have officiated many Cup finals over the years with the pinnacle being the County League Division 2 Cup Final.

Due to family and other work commitments, refereeing time became restricted for Martin and he took up other hobbies such as squash and golf. In 1999 he discovered his opportunities to go higher with refereeing became limited and he became an assessor – now an observer. He feels honoured he has got to observe many County Cup finals. In 2009 Martin was



unfortunately diagnosed with aggressive Prostate Cancer but this has since been cured and 50 years on he is still refereeing on Sunday mornings and observing on Saturday afternoons.

Martin offers a special thank you to all at the Sussex County FA and especially to Paul Saunders, Paul Jeffery and Ray Welch for all they do.



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