



# AWARDS

# 2023



wmr  
waste  
solutions

## Sussex County FA Awards Evening

supported by WMR Waste Solutions

Thursday 12 October 2023  
American Express Stadium  
Mayo Wynne Baxter Lounge

[#GrassrootsAwards](#)



# wmr waste solutions

- Commercial Waste
- Construction Waste
- Food Waste
- Glass Waste
- Green Waste
- Hazardous Waste
- Washroom Services
- Waste Equipment
- WEEE Waste
- Wood Waste

It's not just skips & bins we're good at - whatever the waste, we'll have the solution for you.

We're always happy to talk rubbish so feel free to get in touch to discuss any of our amazing services.

0808 175 7260  
sales@wmrwastesolutions.com

<b>Welcome</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Order of Events</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Special Guests</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Sussex County FA Long Service Awards</b> 15 Year Staff Award & 20 Year Staff Award	<b>10</b>
<b>Sussex County FA Referee Awards</b> 15 Year Referee Awards	<b>12</b>
<b>Sussex County FA Long Service Awards</b> 25 Years Service to Sussex Football Award	<b>16</b>
<b>Sussex County FA &amp; The FA Referee Awards</b> 25 Year Referee Awards	<b>18</b>
<b>Sussex County FA Long Service Awards</b> 35 Years Service to Sussex Football Award	<b>20</b>
<b>Sussex County FA Referee Awards</b> 35 Year Referee Awards	<b>22</b>
<b>Sussex County FA Equality Charter Awards</b> Equality Charter Awards	<b>24</b>
<b>England Football</b> Grassroots Football Awards	<b>27</b>
<b>County FA Recognition Awards</b> Special Recognition Award	<b>50</b>
<b>The FA Long Service Awards</b> 100 Year Club Awards	<b>52</b>
<b>Sussex County FA Long Service Awards</b> 150 Year Club Award	<b>55</b>
<b>Sussex County FA Referee Awards</b> Outstanding Contribution to the Refereeing Workforce	<b>56</b>
<b>The FA Referee Awards</b> 40 Year Referee Awards	<b>58</b>
<b>The FA Long Service Awards</b> 50 Years Service to Football Awards	<b>60</b>
<b>Order of the British Empire</b> Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)	<b>68</b>



## WELCOME

**A very warm welcome to our Awards Evening - supported by WMR Waste Solutions, which recognises those individuals that have gone far and above the boundaries of their position and driven grassroots football in Sussex.**

These people have given up countless hours of their time to provide a continued and cumulative effort to provide football for all.

Their dedication and commitment, regardless of all weathers, is a true reflection of the remarkable individuals that we have in Sussex, and we are proud that we are honouring them this evening.

Whether they be players, officials, parents, ground staff, coaches, managers, supporters or admin, all have contributed to the success of football within our county.

The winners of each individual award have helped to boost participation and confidence within the game, regardless of their ability, and all are recognised this evening.

By following their performances, this will encourage more people to be involved in whatever aspect is suited to them.

Over the past few years, football has been one of many sports that has supported us all in our wellbeing, our moods and in general, our behaviour towards life as a whole. The different ways in which we reflect this, can only be of benefit to each individual.

I am honoured to be Deputy Chairman of the Sussex County FA, and I hope that by recognising the achievements of these people, it will endorse our sincere appreciation of their efforts.

My thanks also go to Derek and his team at WMR Waste Solutions, as without their support, this fantastic event would not be possible.

Enjoy the evening, listening and reading of the achievements of those that have provided a true picture of football in Sussex.

**John Edwards**  
**Sussex County FA Deputy Chairman**

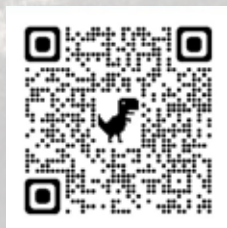
# SimonRoe

PHOTOGRAPHY

Official Photographer to the Sussex County FA



All photographs from this event are available to purchase in a selection of sizes and formats, just scan the QR code below...



FOLLOW ME



Tel: 07747 036956 Email: [simon@simonroephotography.co.uk](mailto:simon@simonroephotography.co.uk)

[www.simonroephotography.com](http://www.simonroephotography.com)

## ORDER OF EVENTS



### WELCOME

#### Sussex County FA Long Service Awards

15 Year Staff Award  
20 Year Staff Award

#### Sussex County FA Referee Awards

15 Year Referee Awards

#### Sussex County FA Long Service Awards

25 Years Service to Sussex Football Award

#### Sussex County FA & The FA Referee Awards

25 Year Referee Awards

#### Sussex County FA Long Service Awards

35 Years Service to Sussex Football Award

#### Sussex County FA Referee Awards

35 Year Referee Awards

#### Sussex County FA Equality Charter Awards

Equality Charter Awards

#### England Football Grassroots Football Awards

Grassroots New Volunteer of the Year  
Grassroots Young Volunteer of the Year  
Grassroots Match Official of the Year  
Grassroots Coach of the Year (Female Pathway)  
Grassroots Coach of the Year (Disability Pathway)  
Grassroots Coach of the Year (Male Pathway)

### BREAK

#### England Football Grassroots Football Awards

Grassroots Grounds Team of the Year  
The Lioness Award  
The Positive Football Environment Award  
Grassroots League of the Year  
Grassroots Club of the Year

#### County FA Recognition Awards

Special Recognition Award

#### The FA Long Service Awards

100 Year Club Awards

#### Sussex County FA Long Service Awards

150 Year Club Award

#### Sussex County FA Referee Awards

Outstanding Contribution to the Refereeing Workforce

#### The FA Referee Awards

40 Year Referee Awards

#### Memorial

Sussex Football Remembers

#### The FA Long Service Awards

50 Years Service to Football Awards

#### Order of the British Empire

Member of the Order of the British Empire

### THANK YOU!

### CLOSE





# The ultimate website solution for non-league football clubs



Sussex County FA preferred club website provider

## and Digital Content Specialists



[touchlinefc.co.uk](http://touchlinefc.co.uk)

# SPECIAL GUESTS



**Ash Slaughter**

Ash is well known on the Sussex football circuit having been a referee since 1998. He joined us as a staff member back in 2002, working his way up to Football Services Manager before departing for his current role in The FA's Grassroots Football Division in 2018. At The FA, Ash is the Platform for Football Lead for Grassroots. The role sees him support the game by bringing all forms of processing and administration from the Whole Game System into the England Football portals.



**Thura KT Win, JP LLM FCMI MCI Arb**

Thura first got involved in football administration by qualifying as a referee in the early 1980s. He is now on our Board of Directors and represent us on The FA Council from this season. Thura has been a member of The FA Council since 2007, previously representing Women's Football Conference, which he chairs, and he is currently a member of The FA Board, FA National Game Board, FA Affiliated Associations Committee, FA Judicial Panel, FA Disciplinary Sub-Committee and FA National Serious Case Panel, where he chairs disciplinary commissions and appeal boards. He is also a UEFA Match Delegate, FIFA Match Commissioner and a member of the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body.



**David Crick**

David is a great friend to the Sussex County FA, assisting on many events over the years. This followed a distinguished refereeing career, which included observing appointments, at the highest level of the game. He is currently The FA Councillor representing The Referees' Association. He qualified as a football referee in 1970, at the age of 14. He worked through the ranks, reaching the International List as an Assistant Referee, and having the honour of officiating at Wembley on four occasions. He was promoted to the Referees' List of the Football League in 1997, serving until 2003. He was the Secretary to the Surrey Referees' Association for 18 years.



**Derek Cornwall**

Derek is a Director at WMR Waste Solutions, headline sponsors of our Awards Evening. WMR Waste Solutions is a family-run company established in 2017. They help companies across the UK recycle, process and dispose of waste in a responsible, sustainable and cost-effective way. Operating nationwide, they tailor their services to business needs, taking the stress out of waste management and ensuring optimal use of available recycling facilities.



# PAUL SAUNDERS

Paul is the Projects Manager at the Sussex County FA, with his main responsibilities being to support clubs, leagues, and other stakeholders in the development of facilities through Football Foundation funding, including larger projects identified in the Local Football Facilities Plans.

Paul joined the Sussex County FA in February 2008 as part of our refereeing department and continues to help support match officials across the county, along with continuing in the training of the next generation.

Paul is also the County FA Alzheimer's Referrer, which sees him support anyone from a football

background that has dementia concerns for themselves or a loved one, into the referral process.

This April, aged 60, Paul completed the Brighton Marathon in aid of The FA's chosen charity the Alzheimer's Society, in an impressive time of 4 hours, 7 minutes and 31 seconds. Paul had been in training for months in order to complete the 26-mile race around the city, and his efforts have raised over £800 for the charity.

# BRIAN SHACKLOCK

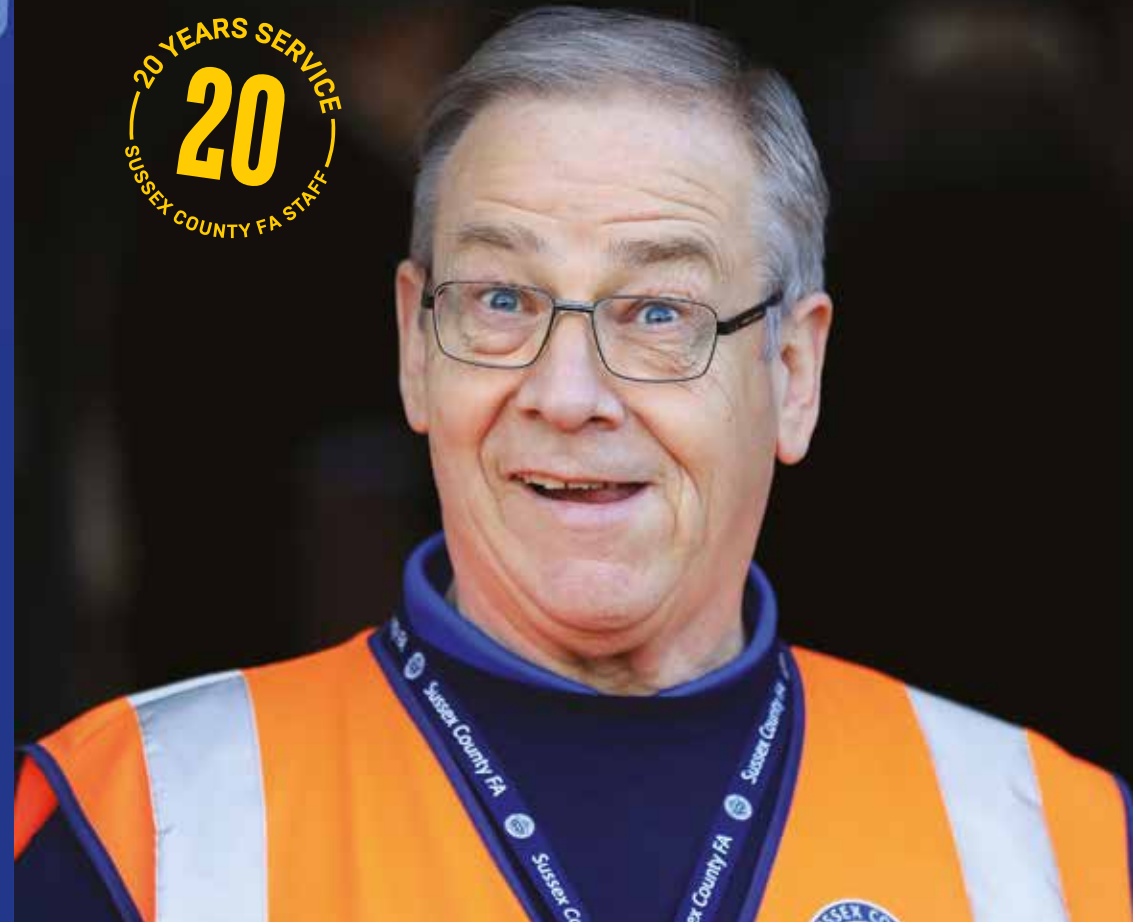
Brian is celebrating 20 years with the Sussex County FA, having first joined the team back in June 2003.

As our Stadium Supervisor, his main responsibilities are to oversee the supervision of the stadium, including all aspects of health and safety and the hire of our function rooms.

Working alongside our Stadium Manager, Adrian Howell, Brian also has the responsibility for the bar and catering staff, who also make up the stadium team.

His role also sees him overseeing many a County Cup Final at Culver Road, and the sight of him bustling along in a high-visibility jacket is one familiar to many.

His involvement with the County FA began as a County Member and has seen him take on a number of other duties outside of his job description, including overseeing our representative teams for a number of years.



# 15 YEAR REFEREE AWARDS

Awarded for fifteen years continuous active service as a referee, assessor, tutor and/or observer



## SEAN BURNETT

Sean has served on many leagues and also covered various cup competitions



## ALEX HOWARD

Alex (above) is a Senior County Referee and has officiated on the Sussex Principal RUR Charity Cup Final and the Southern Combination Division 1 County League Cup Final.



## DAN JEFFERY

Dan (above) started on the Sussex Sunday Youth Football League, before moving onto his first adult football refereeing on the Brighton & Hove District League. He now referees on the Southern Combination Football League, and Isthmian League as an Assistant Referee

## MARTYN MILLIGAN

Martyn (main picture) has officiation on the East Sussex, Mid Sussex, Sussex County and Isthmian Leagues plus occasional ladies and youth appointments. His first ever middle was at Bexhill AAC which resulted in three red cards and numerous cautions - not quite how he thought it would go! He recalls his first County game; it was a breeze and assumed it would be the norm. However, his second was a disaster and he then realised he had seriously stepped up a level or two. Hythe in 2013 made him consider whether he would continue, but an RUR Cup Final appointment made him realise it was fun after all!

## ANDREW PAIGE

Andrew officiates on the Mid Sussex Football League, Crowborough Junior Football League and the Mid Sussex Veterans Football League.

## STEVE RODRIGUES

Steve has served on many leagues and also covered various cup competitions.



## PAUL ROWLAND

Paul (above) officiates on the Sussex Sunday Youth League, Sussex Sunday League, Brighton League, Mid Sussex Football League and the Southern Combination Football League.





## EDWARD SMITH

(Main picture) From the start of Edward's career and until 2020 he officiated on the Essex Senior League and Spartan South Midlands. Now he operates on the Southern Combination Premier Division. He has also been an assistant referee on the Contributory League for 14 years. His career highlight was a FA Youth Cup 3rd Round Proper tie in 2011 as assistant referee for Stevenage vs. Spurs. He was also appointed last minute as a 4th official on a live Football League game Dagenham & Redbridge vs. Tranmere in 2015 where he was lucky to work with now Premier League referee Graham Scott.

## MARTIN TOMLIN

Martin operates on the East Sussex Saturday League and West Kent Sunday League.



## KATIE WILDE

Katie (above) officiates on the East Sussex Football League and the Southern Combination Football League.



## 25 YEARS SERVICE TO SUSSEX FOOTBALL AWARD

Awarded for twenty-five years  
continual service to Sussex football

## DARREN ETHERIDGE

Horsham's Darren Etheridge is a true one club man, having washed, prepared, and repaired the Hornets first team strip for the past 25 years.

The son of former Horsham goalkeeper Keith, Darren followed in his father's footsteps when stepping up to resolve a goalkeeping crisis at the club in 1999 and showed he was a chip off the old block by saving a penalty at Wivenhoe Town.

He began his stint behind the scenes at the club in 1998, with his first game at Tooting and Mitcham's old ground, Sandy Lane.

Since then, he's been a mainstay for the club, and someone who's become synonymous with everything to do with Horsham.

Indeed, back in September 2016, when fans learned that Darren's 1000th game for the club would be away to Tooting and Mitcham, they proceeded to arrive sporting masks of his own face!

25 YEARS SERVICE  
25  
TO SUSSEX FOOTBALL

# 25 YEAR REFEREE AWARDS

Awarded for twenty-five years  
continuous active service as a referee,  
assessor, tutor and/or observer



## STEVE BAKER

Steve was previously a Sussex County Senior List Referee, also operated on the Brighton League and Sussex Sunday League. Now he officiates for the Mid Sussex League. His most memorable appointments are the RUR Cup Final in 2006 as fourth official and the Intermediate Cup as Assistant Referee in 2000. He has officiated on 22 cup final appointments since qualifying as a referee in 1996.

## DENNY BRAIN

Denny operates on the Sussex County Football League, Brighton Worthing District League, Sussex Sunday Football League and the Mid Sussex Football League.

## ROB CARRON

Rob is currently assistant referee on Southern Combination Football League and has too many good memories to recount the best ones.

## BRIAN HUMPHRIES

Brian has operated on a host of leagues: Bedfordshire County Football League, United Counties Football League, Spartan South Midlands Football League, Eastern Region Womens' Football League, Southern Womens Combination League, Beds & Herts Women and Girls Football League, Chesham Insurance Bedfordshire Colts League, Chiltern Youth Football League, Milton Keynes Border Counties and Nursery 7's football League, West Sussex Football League, Arun & Chichester Youth Football League and the Southern Combination League. His most memorable appointment was on the Bedford Colts League between Brickhill Wanderers and Beds Park Rangers (under 16s). He was in the middle and his oldest daughter,

a level 6, and his son, a level 7, were on each line, at the old Rushden & Diamonds stadium with a full crowd in.

## HARRY LENNARD

Started refereeing on 13 March 1997 before working his way through the refereeing ranks in Surrey, West Riding and Sussex where he has lived since 2006. Having been promoted to the Premier League for the 2012/13 season he is now in his twelfth season and has completed over 300 games. Domestic highlights are the 2020 Carabao Cup Final between Manchester City and Aston Villa as well as the 2022 FA Community Shield between Liverpool and Manchester City; as well as numerous high profile Premier League appointments.

## JOHN RAFTERY

John's most memorable game came when the appointed referee had pulled out so he stood in and appealed to both captains to be sensible with his connection to the home club evident. However, his worst nightmare ensued as he had to decide on a penalty for the home side in the first five minutes, he was minded to give it, but the opponents reacted furiously saying they would abandon the game if he did, so he consulted their Assistant Referee who said from his view it was not a penalty, whereupon John's own side reared up as he decided to go with that advice and not give it. The rest of the game was an ordeal as the away team and the home team both appealed for fouls constantly, but he got through it and most of the opponents shook his hand at the finish, afterwards he observed to himself 'well that was fun!'

## THEO VERMEER

Theo (main picture) operates on the Sussex Sunday Football League and Disability Football League.



35 YEARS SERVICE  
35  
TO SUSSEX FOOTBALL

## 35 YEARS SERVICE TO SUSSEX FOOTBALL AWARD

Awarded for thirty-five years  
continual service to Sussex football

# BRIAN SHACKLOCK

Brian's involvement in the beautiful game started back in 1977, when he laced up his boots and turned out for the Copthorne Hotel.

Once his playing days were behind him, officiating was the next step for Brian, as he began his refereeing career in 1983.

Off the pitch, a role as Club Secretary for the Southdowners FC soon followed before stints as League Secretary for the East Grinstead and Crawley District Sunday Football League [EG&CDSFL].

Having left the EG&CDSFL in the mid 90's, Brian was then asked to assist the Crawley Youth Football League as their Secretary in their transition period, which he did for two years.

The 1990s also saw Brian take up the position as Secretary at Three Bridges FC and also became their Women's Club Secretary.

In early 2000 Brian moved to Ashington and became the secretary for Brighton & Hove Albion Women's FC while also taking on the role of Secretary for the Sussex County Women's & Girls' Football League.

To this day, alongside his work with the Sussex County FA as Stadium Supervisor, Brian also remains a registered Referee in Sussex.



# 35 YEAR REFEREE AWARDS

Awarded for thirty-five years  
continuous active service as a referee,  
assessor, tutor and/or observer

## COLIN DAVIES

Colin officiates on the Brighton, Worthing, and Mid Sussex Leagues also the Southern Combination Football League and the Sussex Sunday Football League. He can recall many games but his first official match between Beecham's and Worthing BCOB at Sompting Recreation Ground that finished 4-4 was a great introduction to officiating.

## TONY GURR

The highest level achieved by Tony was level 3 as a referee and assistant referee on the Conference and Premier League reserves. He refereed the Sussex Senior Cup Final and many other Sussex cups in his career. Enjoyed his time as a referee at the senior level, however he is now the secretary of the Southern Combination Football League Youth Under-18s Section and has been for the last 14 years. He is registered nowadays as a level 5 referee for local and youth football.

## ALFONSO LIGUORI

Alfonso operates on the Sussex Sunday Football League, Lewes & District Sunday Football League, Brighton & Hove District Football League, Brighton, Hove & Worthing District Football League, Sussex County Football League, Sussex County Women & Girls Football League and has officiated on various cup competitions. He has lots of great memories, although his very first appointment, back in 1986, will always have a special place. For Alfonso though it was and is all about the people, his referees colleagues, and the players too, that he has been fortunate to know during his refereeing journey.



# EQUALITY CHARTER AWARDS

Awarded to clubs that have put the right tools in place to be knowledgeable, open and inclusive.



We have introduced the Sussex County FA Equality Charter Award Scheme, as a way for clubs to promote positivity and inclusion within their club.

Our Development team, headed by Jade Harker, are working towards attaining the UK Equality Preliminary Level Standard and want to use this knowledge to assist our clubs equality development too.

The Scheme has been designed to drive forward the desire to make football inclusive to everyone and encourage those from diverse communities which have not always, at times, felt confident or even welcome to join clubs.

The Equality Charter Award Scheme consist of three Levels:

**LEVEL 1 - COMMITMENT**

**LEVEL 2 - PROGRESSION**

**LEVEL 3 - SUSTAINABILITY**

Each Level sees clubs asked to develop within their community key components that will bring knowledge to members and be able to manage all areas of our diverse world.

Included in the Scheme are simple actions like signing up to Kick It Out and implementing an Equality Policy within their club, to hosting workshops for club members in an Equality specific workshop.

Clubs are also asked to dedicate a weekend of games to raise awareness of disability, race or homophobia in football and organising and running an event of their choice to highlight issues.

Clubs are supported on a 1-2-1 basis by our Development team, to help them to be a knowledgeable, open and inclusive club.

Since the Scheme's inception, it's been great to see so many clubs take part, and our congratulations go to those receiving their Level 1 Awards!



## BRIGHTON SEAGALS

Brighton Seagals (pictured left) is an inclusive football club for women and non-binary people in Brighton and Hove, who continue to champion the Football For All mantra.

Their award of the Equality Charter was fully deserved, following a continued drive to make the club as inclusive a space as possible.

One such event that epitomised the clubs' drive for inclusion was their Seagals Rec x Trans Day of Visibility Event, one of their many inclusive recreational football sessions.

Speaking on receiving the award, the club posted on social media: "We're proud to announce that this season, the club received the Sussex County FA Equality Charter Award Level 1!"

"The Equality Charter Award Scheme has been designed to drive forward the desire to make football inclusive to everyone and encourage those from diverse communities which have not always, at times, felt confident or even welcome to join clubs."



"By taking part in the Charter, we discovered the many campaigns and activities The FA are involved with, such as Rainbow Laces and Kick It Out, and how grassroots clubs like us can take part.

"We noticed through the process the need for us to further understand the demographics of our surrounding area, and review how best we can be considerate and proactive with our communications to be more inclusive.

"Going forwards we plan to elevate the Club Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer role on to the board, to ensure equality, diversity and inclusion is at the heart of all decisions and matters at the highest level of the football club!"

Club Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Gayle Stephenson, added: "Over the past year we've worked very hard in ensuring that all of our players, parents, supporters and clubs we come into contact with are aware of the efforts we are making to become more inclusive.

"We're proud of the way this has been received by our community, and we'll continue to learn and share the message across our club."

## BURGESS HILL TOWN

Back in January, Burgess Hill Town Juniors (pictured top right) became the first club to receive our Equality Charter Award.

Upon receiving the award, Vince Alfieri, Chairman of the club, said: "We're very proud to receive this award and be the first club in Sussex to do so.



# MAIDENBOWER COLTS

Maidenbower Colts have achieved our Equality Charter Award. Upon receiving the award, Club Chairman, Richard Coleman said: "The Equality Charter Award process came at exactly the right time for us. Maidenbower Colts FC had just established our Pan Disability Football Sessions and welcomed our first ever all girls' squads to the club.

"We strive to be an exemplary youth football club and lead the way in terms of how we engage with our young people, their families, and the greater grassroots community in the area. This process gave us the guidance for our club's cultural growth."

Reflecting on why the club wanted to take part in the award in the first place, Coleman said:

"As a community minded grassroots football club, our primary focus is not only on developing young athletes' football skills but also on fostering a strong sense of community.

Overall, the process has really helped to evolve our approach to equality and inclusivity, it has taught us the importance of self-reflection, collaboration, and embedding these values into the fabric of our club."



# PRESTON DYNAMOS

Preston Dynamos have achieved our Equality Charter Award. Upon receiving the award, Club Chairman, Gavin Kelly said: "I'm extremely proud of the club and this group of players.

"They have worked hard to achieve this award and used their own time and resources to do so. I believe it's testimony to a true club spirit and an authentic ethos being nurtured."

Club Equality Officer, Todd Penfold added: "We're honoured to have achieved this Equality Award. Its importance to our members is huge. We champion diversity, equality and inclusion and the award physically represents our ethos.

"Through going through this process we've learned a deeper understanding of how equality within football is achieved and maintained, not only within the male game but within football as a whole."

Looking back on the work done by the club to achieve this, what would they say has been the highlight?

"The highlight would have been the workshop hosted by Jade Harker and being given the opportunity to work and learn as a team," said Penfold.

23 23 23 23 2  
23 23 23 23 2  
23 23 23 23 2  
23 23 23 23 2  
23 23 23 23 2  
23 23 23 23 2  
23 23 23 23 2

23

# GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL AWARDS

23 23 23  
23 23 23  
23 23 23  
23 23 23  
23 23 23



ENGLAND FOOTBALL





# GRASSROOTS NEW VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Awarded to a volunteer who has arrived this year and made a positive difference

## HARLEY ROWNTREE

Harley was new to Rustington Otters at the beginning of the 2022/23 season, but he didn't waste a second getting stuck in and getting to know the team.

During his time at the club, he's put a lot of effort into making the environment fun, supportive and inclusive for all.

Harley works closely with all the lads offering positive encouragement all the way. In particular, one young lad playing up a year, whose confidence was low, has flourished thanks to Harley helping him work through this and use it to his advantage.

He always gives individual praise to every child, regardless of score line, the focus is first and foremost having fun and learning something new.

One lad especially who struggles with behaviour, concentration and faces regular school exclusions has settled well with Harley's guidance.

The whole team supports and encourages each other, and Harley has nurtured this positive environment from the start, with match days a true delight to watch.

Harley puts in 110% effort all the time, and the impact his coaching has had on the children is profound and the improvements in their life outside of football from parents' comments speaks for itself.

He is a breath of fresh air and exactly what football needs.

It's hard to put into words how important role models are at such young ages, with the players in question being Under-7s, and the impact it has.

But it's clear the lessons they've learned from Harley will stay with them as they grow, and everyone at Rustington Otters hopes that he stays involved for many years to come!



23





# GRASSROOTS YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Awarded to a volunteer under the age of 25 who is dedicated to helping make grassroots football enjoyable for everyone

## HARRY SCHUETZE

Harry Schuetze, 17, has been a volunteer coach for the past eight years at Eastbourne Borough.

Every Saturday Harry helps set up the pitch and training equipment at 8.20am, ready for the first of the three-hour long community sessions at 9am.

Harry's first session is coaching our 'Sports Stars' Squad (boys aged 3-5), then at 10am he helps coach the 'Saturday Soccer School' Squad (year 1 boys) and then finally at 11am he works with our 'Spirit of Football' Disability Squad.

His compassion and consideration especially towards our disability players is a particularly outstanding feature of this young man.

The impact that Harry has made on countless young children that have come through our youth pathway at Eastbourne Borough has been immense, with many coming up and thanking him.

Harry is also now especially skilled and experienced at working with special educational needs children, having done so for the past eight years, which for a teenager is extremely rare.

Finally, Harry stands out because he has put up with a very demanding Head Coach for eight years that, through his own mental health challenges, has not always been a joy to be around - and he has not moaned once.

He is a ball of positivity and laughter, with a deep core through him of hard work and determination.

Harry is not only a hero to Tim Brown, who nominated him, but a hero for lots of children in Eastbourne!



ENGLAND FOOTBALL

23







# GRASSROOTS MATCH OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Awarded to a match official who has the determination and drive to ensure everyone plays fair

## REDMOND EGAN

Red is in his first full season as a level 4 and has dedicated time both on and off the pitch to improve himself and taken time out to develop younger referees.

The Chair of the County RA-FA Youth Council, Red, alongside this role, has also set up training events for grassroots referees and regularly supports the local Brighton Referees Association as a committee member.

He has led the RA-FA Youth Council training evenings, inviting guest speakers, and targeting new / potential referees linking in with local youth teams. This led to well attended sessions and some attendees booking on future referee courses.

As a level 4 Red has had a standout season. In this, his first year, Red has been towards the top or at the top of the merit table and has been given a level 3 development game.

His performance was recognised by an email sent to the Isthmian League praising his performance. He is exemplary in his fitness standards and was rewarded through his selection as an assistant referee for last seasons Sussex Senior Challenge Cup Final.

Red has made steady progress from level 7, four years ago and was promoted to level 4 mid-season last season.

Outside of refereeing Red is a Secretary of a local Sunday League football team, and occasionally dusts his boots off when the team is short.

*\* Since his nomination Red has been promoted to level 3.*



23





# GRASSROOTS COACH OF THE YEAR (FEMALE PATHWAY)

Awarded to a coach in the female game who is inclusive, encouraging and inspiring when it matters most

## KAREN BRIDGEWATER

As a coach, Karen has been fantastic at developing herself via the FA Mentoring Programme.

At Steyning Town Community FC she has been supporting and developing the girls' pathway, with new girls attending every week. This is also thanks to Karen starting a new Under-10s girls' team and supporting the new volunteers, whilst simultaneously running the Under-12s girls' team.

Karen is currently Undertaking her UEFA C badge and has worked hard in self-development to improve her knowledge and help develop her players.

With Steyning having a number of girls from Ukraine and South America, with English as a second language, Karen continues to shine with her inclusive approach and attitude to grow the female opportunities in the area.

Karen also runs her sons Under-8s boys' team at Horsham Herons - doing so as her son couldn't make the other Under-8s team within the club, and Karen, not wanting the boys and girls to miss out, started a second Under-8s team within the club with a developmental, inclusive and Football For All mindset.

She has helped start and grow opportunities for many girls in her club, giving up many hours in planning, delivering high quality sessions.

Karen's friendly and inclusive nature shines through, along with her high standards in coaching, and drive for personal development.



23







# GRASSROOTS COACH OF THE YEAR (DISABILITY PATHWAY)

Awarded to a coach in the disability game who is inclusive, encouraging and inspiring when it matters most

## ANDREW DYE

Andy set up the Wick Dynamos Inclusive team back in 2017, originally to give his nephew Alfie (who has congenital cytomegalovirus and autism spectrum disorder) a team to play for.

Since then, the team has grown from just the three players to a huge number now registered, spanning three age ranges, Under-12s, Under-16s and Under-18s/Adult.

Not content with giving up his time to coach and manage each week at training and league matches, Andy also steps up to play in goal for the team when needed!

Alfie and the team now have a club they feel they belong to and a team they feel a part of.

Under Andy, each players' social and technical skills have improved, and the club has a friendly, family feel with the right level of competitiveness.

Andy has made a difference to each player and their parents, thanks to his dedication and passion for inclusive football.

He makes sure they are also part of the Wick Dynamos grassroots football club and included in the tournaments and end of season presentation day.

Everyone at the club says a huge thank you to Andy, and say without him, none of this would not have been possible!



23



# GRASSROOTS COACH OF THE YEAR (MALE PATHWAY)

Awarded to a coach in the male game who is inclusive, encouraging and inspiring when it matters most

## LEE DENNIS

Lee is joint manager at Hastings Athletic Hawks Under-12s.

In December, Lee lost his son Harry in a car accident. Harry had been part of the team since it started four years ago.

Since that tragic day Lee has not missed a game or training session.

He puts his heart and soul into the team and has shown such strength in helping the other members of the team try to get through the tough time.

Lee is loved by everyone at the club, not just the team. He is a true inspiration to everyone. Even though Harry is now in heaven looking down on us all, Lee still goes out of his way to help players get to training and games.

His passion to help everyone is second to none. He's been through so much recently but still finds the strength to make sure everyone can get where they need to be.

He goes above and beyond with the club, refs all the home games as well as other games when he can. He lines pitches and cuts and rolls the pitches when they need it.

Speaking on Lee, his fellow coach Scott Ramsey, said: "I honestly believe Lee deserves this accolade; I couldn't do what we do without him.

"After the accident I was thinking about pulling the team from our league, but it was Lee that said, we should carry on, and keep Harry's legacy going. He gave me the strength to carry on!"







# GRASSROOTS GROUNDS TEAM OF THE YEAR

Awarded to a grounds team who transforms poor pitches to good pitches

## PETER FORD

Without the dedicated grounds team at Rotherfield FC, the playing surfaces at the club would not be what they are today.

The small team of volunteers, led by Peter Ford, who co-ordinates the ground maintenance, undertake the vast majority of the ground maintenance, such as line marking, grass cutting, spiking, raking, and brushing as well as applying fertiliser seasonally.

As well as preparing the playing surfaces for match days, they erect Respect barriers, ensure changing areas, toilets and clubhouse are clean and safe to use and ensure regular maintenance of machinery and equipment is carried out.

The ground is not naturally conducive to winter sports being Wealden silt, so Peter, who is also the club chairman, has led applications for grants that have been awarded from the Football Foundation to install primary pipe drainage, to install secondary gravel band drains and to purchase suitable machinery.

Also, most recently, the award of the six-year tapered Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund will help to keep the playing surfaces in good condition.

Games are occasionally lost due to the weather but given how poor the natural ground actually is, these are minimal, thanks largely to the work Peter and the team do to keep the soil uncompacted to allow percolation of excess water through regular spiking.

Furthermore, the ground is a parish recreation ground used by many, many others and as is the case with all such spaces there are many incidents of inappropriate use that then require repairs to maintain a playing surface for football.

The club's philosophy is that the most important part of their facilities is the pitch the players play on, and Peter and the other volunteers deliver on this week in, week out.





# THE LIONESSE AWARD

**Awarded to a club, league or project that has developed opportunities for women or girls in recreational or competitive football**

## KAREN DARE – COFFEE & KICKS [PORTSLADE]

Receiving support from Age UK and Freedom Leisure, Coffee & Kicks is a weekly walking football group for women over 40, based in Portslade.

Overseen by FA Level 1 coach, Karen Dare, the sessions take place indoors, and always end with the players meeting in the café for a hot drink.

Following legacy funding from the Women's EUROs, Coffee & Kicks sessions were able to expand and attract more players.

Offering the chance to be coached by a female coach, learn new skills and meet new people, has seen new players join the sessions - with some having never even kicked a ball before!

The legacy funding also enabled, Coffee & Kicks to run a 'Legacy Legends' festival which brought all the walking football groups together

that have been funded by the Women's EUROs legacy programme in Sussex.

It was the first of its kind for the county and was complemented by an all-female event team and referees.

Coach Karen Dare said: "It has been great seeing the players settle into playing football at our Coffee & Kicks sessions!

"Week after week they give their full effort, and their footballing ability has improved and alongside their confidence.

"All players always play with a smile on their faces and clearly enjoy the football, new friendships and chat that the sessions provide. It is a real pleasure to coach such a lovely group."



23





# POSITIVE FOOTBALL ENVIRONMENT AWARD

Awarded to a volunteer who creates a fun, safe and inclusive space for everyone

## MARK SANDERSON

For over 25 years Mark has been involved with Worthing United.

He started as a dad watching his son train and quickly moved on to running the training sessions for kids as young as five.

He was Chairman and Vice Chairman of Worthing United Youth and has held the same positions with the senior team - he is currently Chairman, Secretary and Groundsman.

Mark was also notably incredibly brave and strong in the face of adversity following the Shoreham Air Crash in 2015 when unfortunately, two Worthing United players, Matthew Grimstone and Jacob Schilt, lost their lives on their way to a match at the ground in Lyons Way.

Mark was the one who fronted up the situation and dealt admirably with the mountain of local, national and international press enquiries and attention, whilst also dealing with internal club matters and his own feelings of loss.

He's helped build the relationship with the Youth and Senior teams, kept the pitch in pristine condition - working every weekend on the pitch for nothing other than the pleasure of keeping "his" pitch looking great.

He's seen players on a journey starting aged five barely able to kick a ball move up to the first team - maintaining the bridge between the two sections of Worthing United. He's also roped in his son James and daughter Ellie to help out to make it a real family affair just like the club is as a whole.

Clubs like Worthing United are at the beating heart of grassroots football and Mark is the embodiment of a grassroots hero through his countless hours of dedicated work all for the benefit of others so they can go out and enjoy the beautiful game!



23







# GRASSROOTS LEAGUE OF THE YEAR

**Awarded to a league that thinks outside the box to make football more accessible for more people**

## SUSSEX COUNTY WOMEN & GIRLS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Established back in early 2004, the Sussex County Women & Girls Football League (SCWGFL) was established following a request from The FA to the Sussex County FA to set up a Women's League for the 2004/05 season.

With clubs such as Brighton & Hove Albion and Crawley Town in attendance at an inaugural meeting, a straw poll was taken, with clubs being in favour of its establishment.

In the nearly 20 years since that meeting, the league has grown from strength to strength.

Now consisting of over 300 teams and just over 4,000 players, The SCWGFL has become a driving force for developing football in all its forms for women and girls, irrespective of their ability.

Alongside their work with players and clubs, the league has made a real effort to help support and help young referees working in the league.

Referee Ian Willkins said: "From a personal point my progress as a referee has been made possible by support of appointments officer Russell Brooks and others working at the league."

Of course, the success of the League has been helped by the remarkable performances of the Lionesses over the past two years.

"The Lionesses have without a doubt helped in bringing about the remarkable growth we're seeing today, and have been seeing recently," said Gary Crane (pictured), Chair of the SCWGFL.

"The League itself has been going from strength to strength as a result, and the support we are able to offer our teams, players and referees, would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of all the volunteers behind the scenes!"







# GRASSROOTS CLUB OF THE YEAR

**Awarded to a club that sits at the heart of its community providing an opportunity for all to get involved**

## BURGESS HILL TOWN

The first club to receive the Sussex County FA Equality Charter Award, Burgess Hill Town has now also taken the steps to invest and create its own well-being centre, The Huddl.

The Huddl works directly with children and families who need support, with a clinical child psychotherapist and personal trainer/nutrition coach assigned to work with kids across a number of mind, body and soul initiatives to make them more confident, resilient and happy.

The club has successfully worked with over 20 children with the program last season, providing families with a welcome source of support.

On the pitch, they've now got over 100 over-30s active who were not playing the sport, by opening a dedicated over-30s section.

The club also started 'BobCats', an over-30s football program that now has over 100 participants, along with also growing its girls and women section to over 150 players, and its junior section to over 500 players and 39 teams.

A keeper academy called "Stopper Squad" has also been created, with over 50 keepers signing up from all over Sussex.

The club provides free football for those who are vulnerable or fallen on hard times across the county, along with working hard to lay the groundwork on opening a special education needs (SEN) dedicated section and a deaf football section.

The football club has become a key pillar in the community, in a time where the town of Burgess Hill, like most towns around the UK, has been through hard times in recent years.

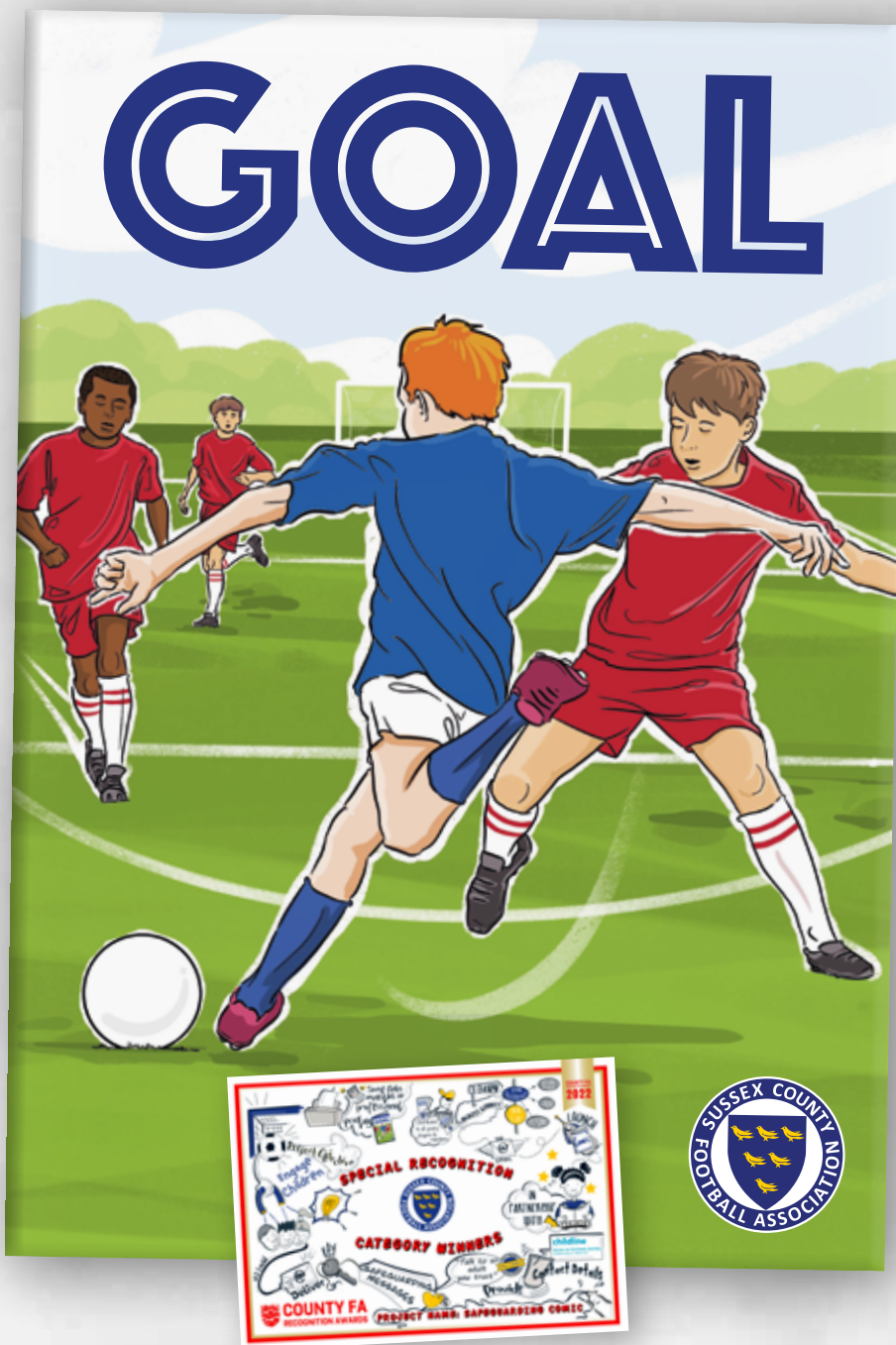
Burgess Hill Town have been relentless in their efforts to include people, put on fun events, promote positivity, care for all and provide support via The Huddl when more help is needed.



ENGLAND FOOTBALL

23





## SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Open category so County FAs can be recognised for the great work they do

We were delighted to land the Special Recognition Award at the 2022 County FA Recognition Awards for our Safeguarding Comic!

The Awards, which were hosted at Wembley Stadium connected by EE, recognise and endorse the best projects, products and services delivered by County FAs over the past season while sharing best practice and learnings from around the country.

We were handed the Special Recognition Award for our Safeguarding Comic, which encourages children and young people to talk to a trusted adult when they have worries and to help them feel comfortable to report concerns.

The aim with the comic is to engage with young people and promote the key message of not holding onto what is worrying them but talking

to an adult that they trust. We want all children to know that there is always help should they need it.

The comic depicts Sammy, who, through the support of his teammates and coach, overcame touchline abuse to score the winning goal for his team.

Ken Benham, our CEO said: "It's a privilege to have received the Special Recognition Award, for the Safeguarding Comic we produced.

The award reflects the great importance we as a County FA place upon safeguarding, and our role in ensuring the football is a safe place for all to enjoy the beautiful game.

My thanks go our safeguarding team for their hard work in producing the comic."



# 100 YEAR CLUB AWARDS

Awarded to commemorate a clubs centenary

## PEACEHAVEN & TELSCOMBE

Founded in 1923 as a result of a merger between Peacehaven Rangers and Telscombe Tye, Peacehaven & Telscombe can boast an illustrious history over the past 100 years.

The team first joined Lewes District League until joining the Junior Division One of the Brighton, Hove & District Football League for the start of the 1949-50 season.

For the start of the 1969-70 season the club then joined Division Two of the Sussex County Football League, and then went onto make their debut in the FA Cup for the 1972/73 season beating Burgess Hill Town in the First Qualifying round before losing to Lewes in the next round.

The 1975-76 season saw the club gain promotion to Division One for the first time.

The 21st century brought more success for the club, with the 2012-13 campaign seeing the

club win the Sussex County League, this time earning themselves promotion to the Isthmian League.

The very next season saw them win the Isthmian League Division One South and earn a second successive promotion, reaching the Isthmian League Premier Division.

In December 2014 the club reached its highest position in the Isthmian League Premier Division, however they then began to slide down the table and ended back in Division One South.

The club was back in the Southern Combination Football League Premier Division for the 2016-17 season.

2016 also saw Peacehaven & Telscombe become a community club, owned by its fans, and have continued to be competitive in both league and cup competitions since.



## POLEGATE TOWN

The first Polegate Town football team was founded back in 1915, with most players joining from the nearby Royal Navy Airship base.

The club started playing at the Polegate War Memorial Recreation Ground in Wannock Road in 1923 and still play there to this day.

The 70s proved to be a successful decade for the side, as they won one league title and four cups in the East Sussex League.

One of the best Polegate teams was the 1996-97 team which won the Eastbourne FA Challenge Cup in 1996 but improved the following season securing the league and cup double in the East Sussex League.

2006 saw the club officially change its name to Polegate Town and finish the season as Sussex County FA Junior Cup runners up.

A move back to the East Sussex League in 2008 saw promotion back to the Premier Division at the first attempt and saw the start of a second team in 2009, before both teams were moved to the Mid Sussex League in 2011.

Recent successes have seen the side win the Eastbourne FA Challenge Cup in 2018, and the second team completing a Mid Sussex cup double in 2019 winning the Parsons Cup and Tester Cup.







## SCAYNES HILL

Last year saw Mid Sussex Football League side Scaynes Hill celebrate its 100-year anniversary.

To mark the occasion the club hosted an anniversary dinner, whereby our late Chairman, Mathew Major presented them with a certificate.

More recently, Club Chairman, Ian Tessier, was invited to our headquarters in Culver Road, Lancing, to be presented with a commemorative FA plaque, by our Chief Executive, Ken Benham.

"When my brother and I joined back in 1971, Scaynes Hill had two teams, competing in Division One and Division Three of the West Sussex Football League," said Tessier.

"Over the years we've fluctuated, like all clubs, going down to one team but now we're happy to be back up to four teams."

With Ian and his brother, David, having celebrated 50 years of service to Scaynes Hill, they've certainly overseen their fair share of change at the club over those years.

"When I came into the role, I saw that in the local area, schools weren't giving as many opportunities to young people to play.

"So, at Scaynes Hill, once we'd got a place that was more financially stable, I started putting the case forward for us to bring in a fourth team, and in doing so, give sporting opportunities to those people who perhaps wouldn't have had the chance before."

# 150 YEAR CLUB AWARD

Awarded in recognition of 150 years' service to the game

## CUCKFIELD TOWN

Founded by Mr. Wyndham Burrell and Mr. G.T. Bunting in 1872, Cuckfield Town FC (CTFC) celebrated its 150th birthday in 2022 with a large village-based event, in the true style of village events that no-doubt occurred in the early days of CTFC.

Initially playing in red and black striped tops, matches were against local colleges around Sussex, with the first reported match a 4-0 loss to Brighton Rangers.

In 1900 CTFC was a founding member of the Mid Sussex Football League (MSFL), and subsequently adopted the official colours of white shirts and blue shorts.

The most notable alumni of the club is Tommy Smith, who went on to play for Brighton & Hove Albion and remains, to this day, their leading goal scorer.

In 1925 the team moved to their current home of Cuckfield Recreation Ground, putting in some great, and not so great performances on a weekly basis.

1947 saw CTFC finally win the Montgomery Cup (The FA Cup of the MSFL), 36 years and six tries after their first attempt, going on to win the competition a further eight times, as well as a host of other league and cup victories.

Plenty more ups and downs have occurred over the years, with the club coming close to folding in 2014. Since being revived by a small and committed number of players and committee members though, it's now in great hands with two adult teams still plying their trade in the MSFL, 122 years after they started.



# OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE REFEREEING WORKFORCE

Awarded for extraordinary service to the refereeing workforce



## KEITH BRISLEY

Since attending the FA National Supply Referee Observer Coordinator meeting at Nottingham FA on 3 July 2011, then taking on the role of Southern Combination Football League Supply League Referee Observer coordinator role in June 2011; Keith has diligently led the training and appointing of Supply League Referee Observers, making himself readily available, to anyone that needed support and guidance. We are grateful to Keith, for the standard of his work and attention to detail, that he shared with us. This set the bar high, and will continue to help our referees, for many years to come. Keith

has had to step aside from this role, as The FA has regionalised the referee co-ordinators roles. However, he is still a very active member of our Referees' Working Group, and until recently served as Deputy Chair of the group. He also serves on the management committee of the West Sussex Football League, and is a stalwart for the Sussex South West Referees' Association. An active referee and observer, Keith is very much a 'service before self' person, leading to him being well respected in the Sussex refereeing family.



## WALLY ELVIN

Wally has been one of our County Members (previously known as Council Member) for nearly 20 years. Until recently, he served as Chair of the Referees' Working Group, steering the ship through many refereeing changes, governed by both The FA and ourselves. For this role, his expertise and guidance has been invaluable. Wally is wider known for his role as Referees' Appointments Secretary, for the

Southern Combination Football League. Some may say a daunting task, trying to please over 200 referees on a weekly basis! This is also pivotal to our refereeing development programme, enabling our referees on the promotion pathway, to get an opportunity to officiate at a higher level. Countless hours are spent doing this and it is really appreciated by all of us!

# 40 YEAR REFEREE AWARDS

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



## JOE JOHNSON

Joe has officiated on the Southern Combination, Sussex Sunday League, Ladies Southern Division, Isthmian Youth League, Sussex County Women and Girls League and the West Sussex Football League. He has also refereed in America at the USA Cup, as well as refereeing in Norway at the Oslo Cup. He enjoys being a referee and before he retires, he would like to officiate in a game at Wembley.

## MIKE NOBLE

Mike refereed many years ago on the Nottinghamshire League, then the East Sussex League and West Kent Sunday League, and now referees on the Kent & Sussex Independent Schools League plus non-league games between Independent Schools. He also turns out in the Crowborough & District Junior Football League. He has no memorable games, but that probably says more about his memory than the games!

## DAVID PHILLIPS

David (pictured left) refereed on the West Sussex League, Sussex County League, Southern League and the Football League as an assistant referee then referee where he was appointed to 438 games at professional level with the Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL). Notably he was appointed as 4th official for The FA Youth Cup Final between Chelsea and Manchester City, as well as 4th official at the first ever Premier League match played outside of England, between Swansea and Wigan. He was also the referee for the opening matches at the Amex Stadium, between Brighton & Hove Albion and Chelsea and Brighton vs. Tottenham. David retired in May 2014 and has been a Football League Observer since and still is today.





50 YEARS SERVICE  
50  
TO FOOTBALL

## 50 YEARS SERVICE TO FOOTBALL AWARDS

Awarded for fifty years' service to football

### DEREK BUDGEN

Since his first game for Balcombe FC when he was 16-years-old, football has been a constant in Derek Budgen's life.

His entry into the Sussex football scene came in the form of Cuckfield Town, and after spells playing for teams in the capital, he returned to the county to manage Balcombe Sunday in 1981.

It was during this time that Derek also started to take his first steps on a journey into officiating, eventually taking the course and running the line in the County League.

At the same time, he was also part of the group that founded a new Sunday side Brook Street Buccaneers, which had a successful first season in Lewes & District Sunday League and then the Sussex Sunday League, finishing mid table in the league and reaching the Lower Junior Cup Final.

During his refereeing career he joined the Mid Sussex Referees Association, and it was through that involvement that he took part in the organisation's trips over the pond to Minnesota each July for USA Cup, with Derek attending in 1995 and 2001.

2001 also saw him take on the role of Referee's Secretary for Mid Sussex Football League; a position he held for nearly 10 years.

A role as Fixtures Secretary then followed in September 2019.

Derek called time on his refereeing career last season, after officiating in most of the Mid Sussex League Cups Finals and many County Cup Finals.

50 YEARS SERVICE  
50  
TO FOOTBALL

## BRIAN 'SAMMY' DONNELLY

For Brian 'Sammy' Donnelly, there are few clubs in Sussex that haven't had the pleasure of having him in the dugout.

Starting at Brighton Ramblers in 1972 at just 25-years-old as the reserves' manager, a move to Wigmore United (now Worthing United) mid-season to try and save them from relegation followed.

Whilst he would be unsuccessful in saving them from the drop, Whitehawk took notice and took a chance on him.

Sammy would go on to lead the club to a Southern Counties Combination Division 1 title in his first season, and two years later, he guided them to a Premier Division win.

Eastbourne United then followed for a couple seasons before a move across to Eastbourne Town.

Yet, when Whitehawk came calling once again, Sammy couldn't say no, returning to the club for another three years.

Through his seven seasons with the Hawks, he won the club a total of 14 trophies.

Lewes was next, with Sammy leading the club to promotion in his first season, before heading back to the coast to manage Shoreham, where, in typical style, he won them promotion and two cups in his first season.

Arguably his biggest challenge was yet to come though, as in 1996, Worthing approached him to take the manager's job, with the club 17 points off safety.

It took a dramatic win in the last game of the season to ensure the teams survival. Yet those heroics provided a springboard for the club to go onto thrive in the subsequent years, winning the Sussex Senior Cup the very next season.

Sammy's love of a cup run extended even as far as The FA Cup, as in 1999 he led Worthing to a First-Round tie against Rotherham, a highlight of his career.

After leaving Worthing in November 2001 Sammy would go onto manage Lancing, Southwick and Three Bridges before joining our late chairman, Mathew Major, in becoming co-owners of Shoreham.

Yet the lure of coaching was always too strong, and stints at Horsham YMCA, East Preston, Ringmer, Shoreham and Southwick followed, whilst also taking charge of the Sussex Men's Representative Squad for a number of seasons.

Now, 50 years on from his first coaching job, Sammy is currently lending his vast coaching experience to Mile Oak.



50 YEARS SERVICE  
50  
TO FOOTBALL

## JOHN ROSENBLATT

There are few in Sussex who can match John Rosenblatt (pictured in receipt of his award from Sussex County FA ambassador Tony Kybett) in dedication to one club.

Joining Whitehawk back in 1970, John took over as the club's secretary from founder Ron Powell, and thanks to his dedication, the club have still only ever had two secretaries in its entire history.

During his time at the club, he helped oversee a number of key developments in its history including the building of the teams first club house in September 1980, before it's replacement with a brick structure that still stands to this day.

The much-heralded installation of floodlights in 1988 was another such development that was enabled through the hard work of John and the rest of the staff at the club.

On the pitch, John's 50 years has seen him have a front row seat for many triumphs and trophies, from winning the Sussex County League Division One title in 1983 to lifting the Sussex Senior Cup, most recently in 2015.

Speaking on the occasion of John's 80th birthday in 2020, Club Chairman Andy Schofield said: "Non-league football wouldn't exist without people like John Rosenblatt.

"Nearly 50 years dedicated service is quite remarkable. John is not only secretary and treasurer, but also runs our very efficient laundry room and cleans the dressing rooms.

"Whenever I meet players and supporters from the 70s and 80s they always ask after him. Everyone connected with this club owes a tremendous debt to John Rosenblatt. "He's a true Hawks hero!"





50 YEARS SERVICE  
50  
TO FOOTBALL

## KEN BENHAM

In Sussex football there are few people as well known and widely admired as Ken Benham.

Ken's footballing journey started back in 1973 when he started playing for United Christian Fellowship (UCF).

Kingstonians were the next club he would ply his trade for, whilst also turning out for Brighton Telecoms, and British Telecom in their South East region matches when they needed a player.

1978 then saw Ken's return to UCF in a Club Secretary role, one he would hold with pride for the next nine years, eventually leaving in 1987 to take on the role of Secretary for the Brighton & Hove District Football League.

Off the pitch, and after many years as Secretary for the League, it was time for the role to be passed on, as for Ken, commitments to the Sussex County FA were becoming the primary focus of his time.

After joining as a Council Member in 1994, Ken was appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in 2000. Ken would also be appointed as Secretary for the Sussex County FA Benevolent Fund.

Since then, Ken has continued in his role as CEO, clocking up 23 years and counting at the helm of the organisation, which has seen him work tirelessly for the promotion and betterment of grassroots football across the county.

# MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE (MBE)

Awarded for an outstanding achievement or service to the community which has had a long-term significant impact

## COLIN KEYWOOD

Back in December, one of our regular St John's Ambulance volunteers at our headquarters in Culver Road, Colin Keywood, 80, was given the recognition he deserves when a letter arrived, informing him that he had been put forward to receive an MBE for services to St John's Ambulance.

Then, after a few months waiting, Colin, his wife Deirdre, and their children Hellen and Richard, made the journey to Buckingham Palace, where the award was presented to him by Princess Ann, the Princess Royal.

"It meant a lot that it was The Princess Royal because of her connection with St John's Ambulance, as she's the Chief Superintendent for the cadets, so we had quite a chat about the service and I told her how glad I was that it was her presenting the award," said Colin.

Colin recently celebrated 65 years of volunteering with St John's, the service he first joined when he was just 14-years-old.

"Back when I joined, St John's ran the ambulance service in West Sussex, so at 16 I was working on the ambulances."

Whilst that prospect might have daunted some teenagers, that certainly wasn't the case for Colin.

"For me, at that age, I was just excited to be able to help, and so I kept doing it up until I was 21, when the ambulance service stopped being overseen by St John's."

Away from his work with the ambulance, Colin's time was also spent either out on the sports field or watching his beloved Brighton & Hove Albion.

Indeed, Colin's passion for the beautiful game was such that he would train to become a referee, eventually making it as a Class 1.

"It started out as just something to do! I'd not been a player, but I had run a youth team with St John's in the Mid Sussex Sunday League, hence why refereeing crossed my mind as something to get involved in," said Colin.

"From County League games, to those up in the Isthmian League, and finally becoming Chairman of the Brighton Referees Association, my refereeing career is certainly one I look back on with pride."

Yet as important as football was, it was always St John's that was at the forefront of Colin's mind, and what makes him such a worthy recipient of the honour.





NOTES:



# SUSTAINABLE PRINT SOLUTIONS

BASED IN SUSSEX

Promotional Merchandise  
Signs & Graphics  
Commercial Print  
Exhibition & Display

Contact us

hello@connectmedia.uk  
0330 118 0068

ECO   
We're in!  
**Are you?**

Connect Media is a team with years of industry knowledge and experience, bringing together the very latest technology with traditional methods to produce creative printed marketing solutions.





# AWARDS 2023

## SUSSEX COUNTY FA

Culver Road, Lancing,  
West Sussex, BN15 9AX

**Telephone:** +44 (0)1903 753547

**Email:** [info@sussexfa.com](mailto:info@sussexfa.com)

**Visit:** [sussexfa.com](http://sussexfa.com)

Supported by:



**Printed by:**

Connect Media  
[connectmedia.uk](http://connectmedia.uk)

**#GrassrootsAwards**