



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

# MICHAEL GILL

**By Alex Erdinc - Volunteer Coordinator**

**Friday 4th November 2022**

**Firstly, can you tell me a little bit about yourself and how long you've been involved with The Hunslet Club?**

I'm fifty years young, and I've lived in Leeds all my life. I've been married to Samantha for twenty years, with two children (Leah, 19 and Lucas, 15). I'm a lover of most sports and a massive fan of Leeds United, and have been a Season Ticket Holder for over thirty years. I've been involved at the club coaching for over ten years now. In the past few years I've been heavily involved in the club's Annual Football Gala.

**What inspired you to give your time to the club?**

I used to bring Leah to Gymnastics on a Saturday, and saw plenty of activities going on. It wasn't until Lucas was five that I started to get involved. I brought him down to the club one day to see what he'd like to do, and what he would get involved in. There was football and rugby happening outside, and I took him inside to the club to show him the other activities that he could do such as boxing, or gymnastics. Lucas wanted to play football though, and after a few months training he was invited to join one of the teams, and from that day I just got involved. Whether it was setting up goals or handing bibs out, I thought I'm going to be there with Lucas every week, it was just a natural thing to do, as I played football myself.



I started coaching my first group of U7's in 2013, and continued this year (with the help of Craig Hartley and Mindaugas Zemlickas) to work with the U16's. Without their help for the past three or more years, it wouldn't have been possible to do it on my own, so big thanks go out to them and others who have helped over the past 10 years.





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### **What do you like about volunteering and what does it mean for you?**

I remember when I was a kid growing up, going to youth clubs, and playing football, there was always somebody looking after us. Now it's pay back time for me to give back to the community. Also, it's good to see how far some of the players come in their football & social development, as they started as pre-school kids, and they are now in their final year of high school, before heading to college.

**Look out for more of our volunteers' inspirational stories in next month's volunteer spotlight. For more information about how you can get involved, visit our dedicated Facebook page [#hunsletclubvolunteers](#) or [hunsletclub.org.uk/volunteer](https://hunsletclub.org.uk/volunteer)**

### **What advice would you give to someone who's thinking about volunteering at The Hunslet Club?**

Don't think about it, just do it. If you're going to be there just get involved. It could be something as small as getting the goals ready for a match, to helping other coaches at training sessions. My son Lucas has seen what I have done over the past ten years. He helps on many Saturday morning sessions when he can, as he enjoys it too.