



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

# RHODRI COOK

**By Alex Erdinc - Volunteer Coordinator**

**Tues 7th February 2023**

At The Hunslet Club, we have a team of dedicated football coaches that volunteer to give their time to help our players learn the sport, training during the week as well as weekend matches. Coaches are the key to good football, and the future of football itself. As well as teaching them skills, playing a vital role in their player's lives, by acting as mentors and role models.

Our monthly volunteer spotlight features Rhodri Cook. Rhodri has been a volunteer here at The Hunslet Club for around three years coaching the current U9's dual and helping out with the open age reserves team. He always makes his sessions fun for the players, and his positive attitude is contagious amongst his team. Together with help from Kyle Swithenbank and Rob Moore, they teach their players that exercise can be fun and beneficial rather than just another chore! Playing a sport is hard work. With childhood and adult obesity both rising at a steady rate, football is exactly the type of activity that our young members need in their lives now more than ever!



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

As a lot of people will know already, I am not originally from Leeds and was born in the greatest town in England (Northampton). I am a huge Northampton Town fan, we need as many fans as we can get, if anyone is looking for a team to support!



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

As a child down South we didn't have anything like The Hunslet Club, so when my son Noah (now 7) was old enough to play football it came highly recommended. After being down here a few weeks, I was asked to help out and haven't looked back since! So I suppose my inspiration to help out and provide my time was my son and giving him the opportunities that weren't always around when I was growing up.

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

I'd say the best part of volunteering is seeing how far the kids have come and how much they have developed over the years as both footballers and children. You always make a lot of friends yourself through volunteering and really feel part of the Hunslet Club community.

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### **What advice would you give to someone who's thinking about volunteering at the club?**

Any help you can provide will always be appreciated. No matter how small or big the help is, it could be simply helping out on match day setting up the pitch or helping out on a more full time basis. I know from own experience I couldn't have done any of it without the help and support from Kyle Swithenbank and Rob Moore!

**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 page [hunsletclub.org.uk/volunteer-with-us](https://hunsletclub.org.uk/volunteer-with-us)**