



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

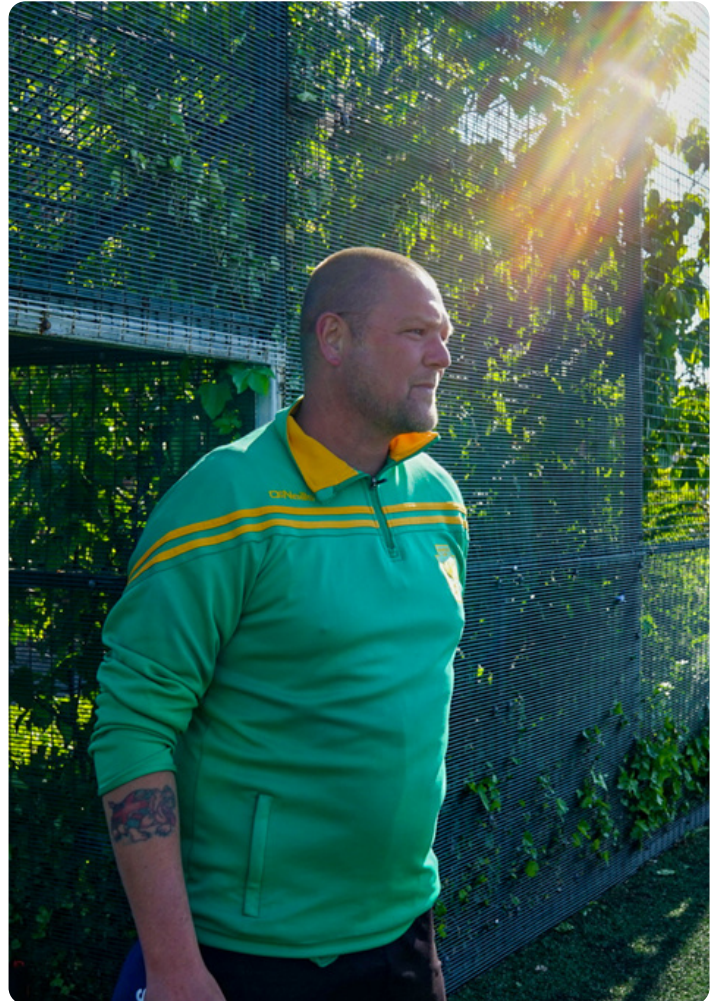
# MATT SURTEES

**By Alex Erdinc - Volunteer Coordinator**

**Monday 3rd July 2023**

**Our Year 9 football team is coached by our volunteer coach Matt, they train at The Hunslet Club on a Monday and Wednesday evening. It's great to see the team in action and it's clear to see the respect that the team have for Matt as well as for each other. His passion and dedication shines through, helping to develop them into a well polished team. Prior to becoming a volunteer coach, he was a footballer himself, playing semi-pro and signed for Rotherham United when he was 14 years old. He played football for several clubs before sadly having to retire due to injuries.**

I have been a coach at Hunslet for the past 9 years. It all started when my son Aden joined at five years old. I ended up helping out when I met an old team mate who worked here, I then became responsible for my own team. It all went from there and I haven't looked back since!



One thing I've learned about coaching different age groups (whether it's under 6's or under 16's) is to listen and understand. Not all players are the same level, so you need to stay patient and most of all make it enjoyable and encourage them to keep believing. To any up-and-coming coaches my best piece of advice is don't be afraid to make mistakes as it's how you learn.



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Don't be afraid to think out of the box at training and try different things, it may work, or it may not but at least you've tried. A brilliant quote that came from my dad is "you volunteered, when others didn't".

Over the years I've had a great group of players, as well as parents and have had a very successful time. We were the first grassroots team to be invited to an England FA Tournament called ACES which is an invitation only Tournament. We played at Man Utd, Man City, Leeds United, Barnsley, Doncaster, Sheffield Wednesday, Sheffield United, Harrogate Town and on each of these occasions had great feedback.



*"I still to this day get a buzz from coaching and get nervous on match days."*



These are reasons I got into coaching to give players chance to play at these types of venues. For some coaches it's about trophies, but for me it's seeing the looks on players faces when you arrive at these places, building a memory they will treasure and be able to tell friends and family when they're older. I still to this day get a buzz from coaching and get nervous on match days. I'd love to be sat in a beer garden and an ex-player walking in seeing me and coming over with a drink and saying thank you for what you did for me. I've had 17 players sign pro at clubs and to this day 14 are still with these clubs with one of them costing Man Utd 75k at just the age of 13.

**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)**