

**NOVEMBER 2022**



# **STOCKPORT REFEREES SOCIETY**

**75TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
1947 - 2022**

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## 75 YEARS OF STOCKPORT REFS

I welcome you all to the 75th Anniversary for Stockport Referee Society where we get to celebrate our formation, in 1947.

For the special occasion we brought a top class panel of Premier League & PGMO officials.

Thank you to them all.

As the LRA of the year 2022, Stockport Referees are leading the way in local referee support.

We look forward to another 25 years of excellence in refereeing, training and support.

Barry Rowson





## Our logos through the years

# HISTORY

## Formation

Stockport Referees Society was formed by Jack Spencer, in November 1947. Spencer attended three meetings at Crewe and from this Cheshire Referees' Society was formed and that each district would have a society.

## Bert Thompson

Prior to the formation in 1947, Bert Thompson recognised that there was not much support or assistance for referees in the Stockport Area. Thompson was a well respected Football League Assessor.

## First Meeting

Our first meeting was at St. Andrew's Misson, Newbridge Lane on 21st November 1947. We were formally known as Stockport, Hyde and District Referees' Society. Rules were formulated to make sure that training and support was given, similar to today.

## Opposition

At first there was some opposition. This was due to many thinking that the society in Stockport were trying to break away from the FA. This was soon overcome as people and referees realised that it was an effort to support the training and welfare of referees.

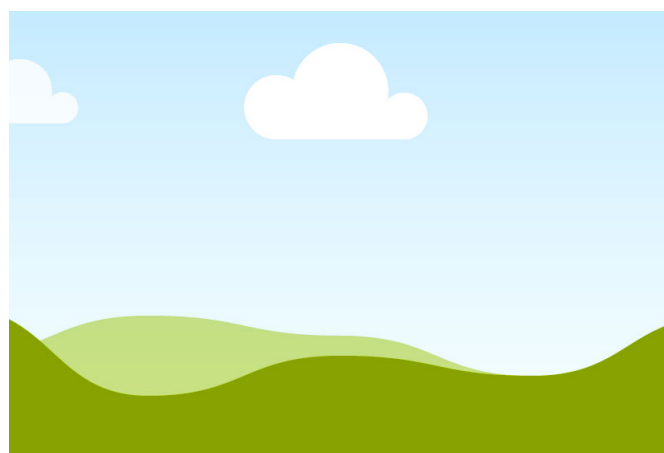
## Achievements

Not only have we had members represent the FA, with Frank Pruce being the first in 1986. We have had current member such as Trevor Massey and Wade Smith represent our society at Wembley for the FA Cup and Play Off Finals respectively. Not only have we had success on the field, but off the field too. These include County RA Quizzes, football and cricket matches and becoming the Local RA of the Year, this year!

## Present Day

\*\*\*\*\*





# PGMOL MEMBERS

*Top to bottom and Left to Right*

Wade Smith - Premier League Assistant Referee

Matthew Donohue - Football League Referee

James Wilson - Football League Assistant Referee

Micheal Johnson - National League Assistant Referee

Oliver Nolan - National League Assistant Referee

Trevor Massey - Step 1 Assistant Referee Coach



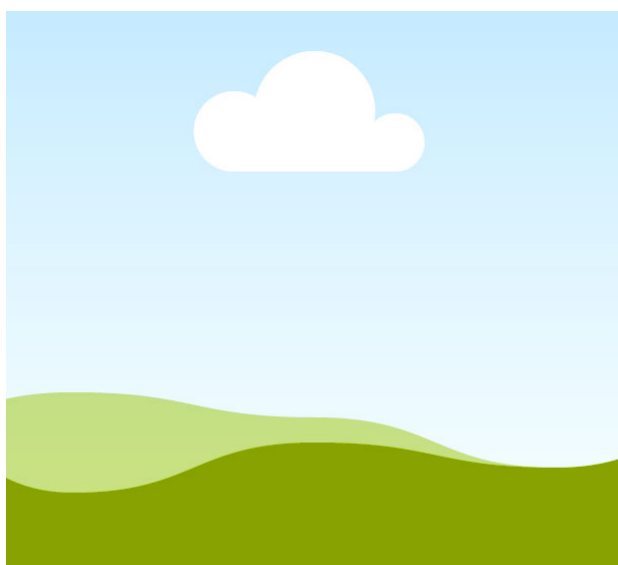


## LIVE ASSISTANT REFEREE TRAINING

Stockport Referees are proud to support officials, who haven't had experience as an Assistant Referee. Training has taken place over a number of years within a Live Match situation where the trainees will be shadowed by an experienced match official.

"quote"

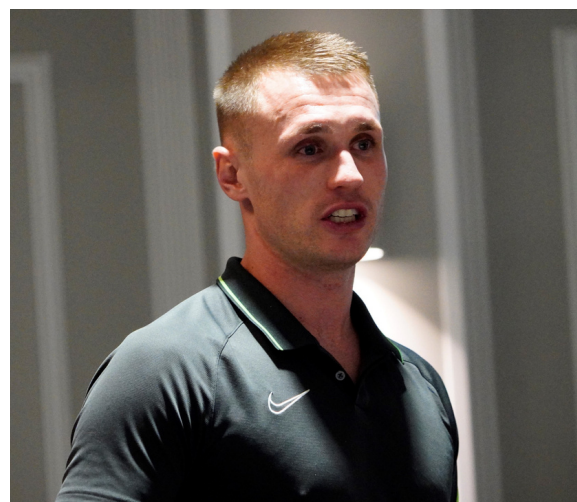




## SOME OF OUR GUESTS

Over the years, we have been fortunate to listen to some quality guests. From World Cup Referees and local referees who have made their way up the ladder, over the last 75 years the members of Stockport Referees Society have heard of great experiences and taken bits of advice.

\*\*\* quote from guest \*\*\*



\*\*\* quote  
from guest

\*\*\*

## SOME OF OUR GUESTS

Top: Martin Akinson, Dan Meeson, Tom Bramhall  
Tom Parsons, Andy Madley, Craig Pawson  
Andre Marriner, Bobby Madley, Mark Halsey, Peter  
Walton

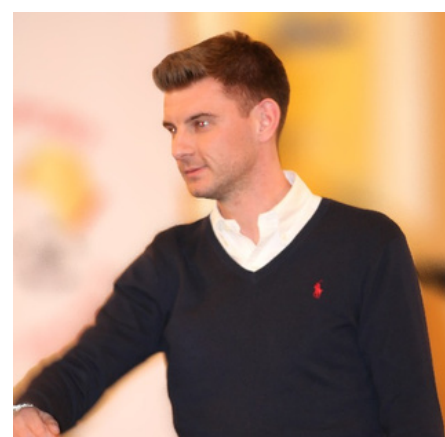
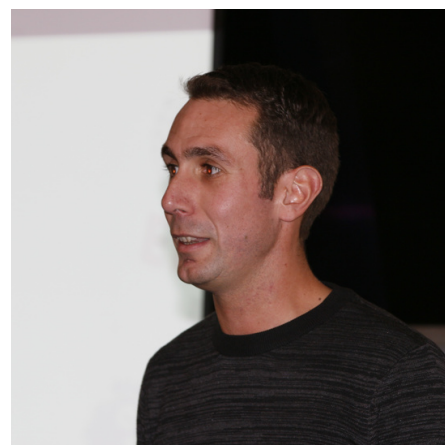
\*\*\*



# SOME OF OUR GUESTS

Anthony Taylor, Trevor Massey, David Coote  
Leigh Doughty, Ed Duckworth, Joe Hull  
James Wilson, James Wright, \*\*\*

\*\*\* quote from guest \*\*\*

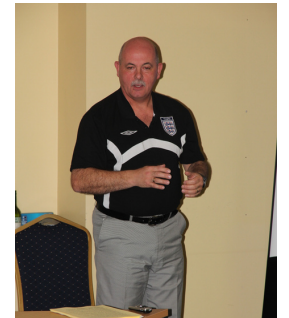




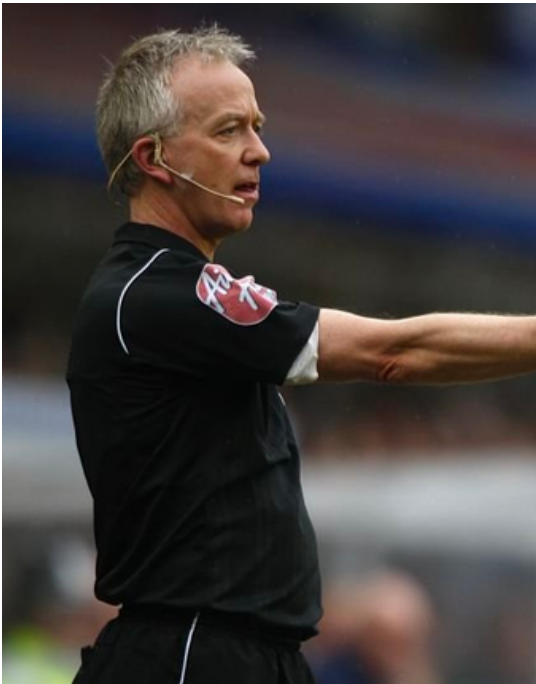
# SOME OF OUR GUESTS

Mike Sailsbury, Ray Olivier  
 Steve Race, \*\*\*, \*\*\*, Mark Heywood  
 Kevin Friend, George Cainm Peter Roberts, \*\*\*  
 Mike Sutcliffe, Andy Garret, \*\*\*, \*\*\*, Mark Astley  
 Jane Simms, Anthony Moore, Brian Riley

\*\*\* quote from guest \*\*\*







## 75 YEARS OF PRESIDENTS

2004 - Present

1996 - 2004

1979 - 1996

1970 - 1979

1958 - 1970

1955 - 1958

1949 - 1955

1947 - 1949

T Massey

H Holland

HJ Morris

J Spencer

F Pruce

WJ Gaiger

H Hardy

H Ponsonby

“

### A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I became a member in 1983, and back in those days Stockport Referees' Society used to meet above a local pub!

Things have changed massively over the years. As time has moved on, so has our meeting venues and the makeup of 'Our Committee'. We have been meeting at Edgeley Park, home of Stockport County now for over 30 years. We also have recruited a younger element to our committee, who help us with all things social media, marketing and IT!

Our younger IT experts have set us up with a 'WhatsApp' group for our 'Fitness Training Group' and our 'Referee Committee'. They have even set up one for tonight's Anniversary Subgroup!!!

So, what does Stockport Referees' Society offer?

As well as our quality monthly meetings (Guest speakers, Law Quizzes, Clips to debate and much more) where we discuss everything 'REFEREEING'.....

.....we also run weekly fitness sessions, a 'Mentor' scheme for our brand-new 'Trainee' Referees to help them through their first 5 games. Also on offer is 'The Bob Hurren Trophy' - This is aimed at recently qualified referees, where we send out an experienced referee to offer support and development feedback to help them improve their refereeing 'Skill Set'.

The winner of the 'Bob Hurren' trophy is the Referee who is deemed to be the most improved!!

As President, I am extremely proud in what Stockport Referees' Society offers to our Referees'

Other than during COVID, where we could not have face to face meetings, our membership numbers have always been in excess of 100, which puts us as one of the Largest RA's in the Country!!!

In a nutshell, we offer a 'Mother Care Service' for our Referees'

TREVOR MASSEY

”

# 75 YEARS OF CHAIRPERSON

2004 - Present

BF Rowson

1998 - 2004

BT Davies

1994 - 1998

TP Bateman

1989 - 1994

KW Mills

1979 - 1989

KJ Webb

1974 - 1979

HJ Morris

1968 - 1974

HR Harrison

1967 - 1968

RB Lee

1961 - 1967

KC Hesketh

1955 - 1961

J Spencer

1949 - 1955

WJ Gaiger

1947 - 1949

JW Richards



“

## A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

I became a member in 1983, and back in those days Stockport Referees' Society used to meet above a

**BARRY ROWSON**

”





## 75 YEARS OF SECRETARIES

1991 - Present

RA Hurren

1989 - 1991

TP Bateman

1981 - 1989

KW Mills

1978 - 1981

MJ Vallance

1971 - 1978

PR Walker

1967 - 1971

JE Brown

1965 - 1967

RB Lee

1962 - 1965

JA Barenfield

1952 - 1962

GH Stevenson

1950 - 1952

JA Barnfield

1948 - 1950

F Pruce

1947 - 1948

CG Chadwick

“

### A WORD FROM OUR SECRETARY

I moved down from Northumberland in 1987 and visited the society as a guest - and was surprised how many members wore ties to the meetings. It seemed that Committee Members were obliged to wear ties! I suppose it all fitted together from the standards of dress when refereeing - white laces in your boots, white top socks, white collar and cuffs on your shirt.

In 1989 SRS asked me to become the 'Secretary'. From 1989 to 2022 things seems to have moved on a wee bit! Probably for the best really!

I realised quite quickly that nearly all the house in Stockport had carpets and electricity, in the same house. Back then, most only had house phones, or you had to use the phone box at the end of the street to make a call. No mobiles, websites, social media, no internet, texts and certainly no emails. That hadn't been invented then - Oh what bliss! All communication was formal: appointments, confirmation and misconduct was done by letter. You were expected to reply immediately. I wonder how many write formal letters now?

Anyway, things have vastly improved, not just on the communication front. Referees are now encouraged to become very good referees, through support, encouragement, guidance, training, development, fitness and mentoring by local Referee Societies, like Stockport, The Referees Association, PGMOL and The FA. We can see what is going on around the world, we can watch video clips and we have the laws at our finger tips. It was only recently I threw away my 2001 Laws of the Game booklet!

Refereeing is one of the hardest 'voluntary' duties that we are likely to ever undertake - there is abuse, from all sides, but we do it because we love it, we are good at what we do, and we wont be beaten - long may that attitude continue. Now we have VAR- is that helping to put our very best referees in a good light? That a question for the future!

**BOB HURREN**

”



# THE YEAR OF 2022

## AWARDS

### Local RA of the Year



During the Referees Association Development Weekend, Stockport Referees Society picked up the award for Local RA of the Year, in the North West. On receiving the award our Chair, Barry Rowson said "The hard work of the committee over the past 15 years has seen us target every referee young or old in the local area to deliver an outstanding service to every member."

### Social Media and Digital Excellence



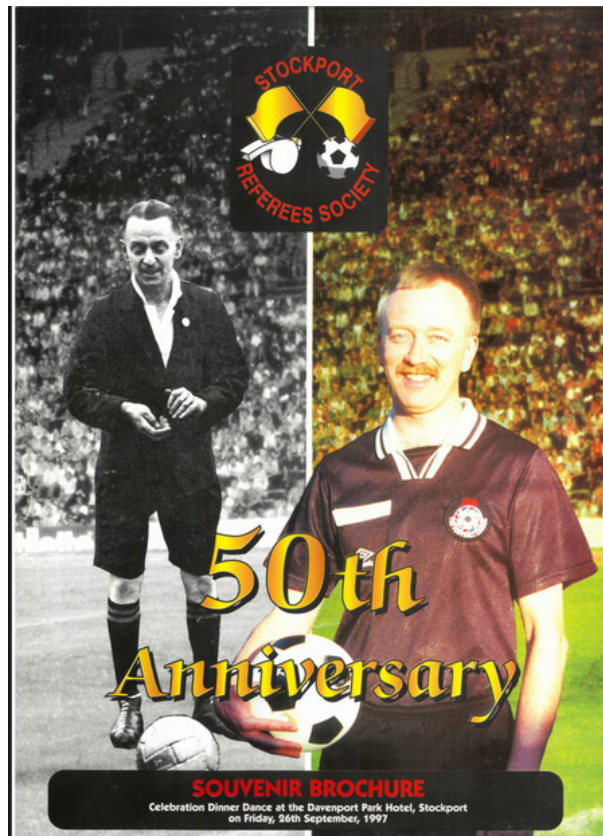
Not only did we win the Local RA of the Year, we also picked up the award for Social Media and Digital Excellence. Harry Winters and Micheal Johnson have been working to promote Stockport Referees to the wider footballing world. Building on the work on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, we now have over \*\*\*\* interactions across Social Media.






# 50TH ANNIVERSARY

\*\*\*\*\*



Stockport Referees' Society



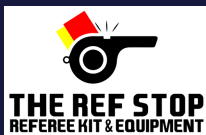
celebrate their **50th** Anniversary  
with a  
**Dinner Dance**  
at the  
Davenport Park Hotel, Stockport  
on  
Friday, 26th September, 1997  
7.30p.m. for 8.00p.m.

Tickets £12.50  
Including 4 Course Meal

Full Bar Facilities  
Smart Dress



WITH THANKS TO



Thank you to the members and guests who have contributed with the brochure

Written and published by Micheal Johnson





WHAT PEOPLE SAY

# Testimonials

The best thing my son has done is to have joined Stockport Refs Society.

The support, development and mentoring he has received has enabled him to progress as a referee and be confident to move from youth to adult football. He gets the opportunity to work with and receive training from other referees and officials right the way up to the Premier League.

*Ceri Travers*

SRS supports, develops and educates their members, in and out of meetings. From starting out in 2005 and joining SRS shortly after, Now officiating at Step One, SRS have given me support and advice, as well as winning The Bert Thompson Trophy and the Don Clark Quiz.

*Mike Johnson*

I joined the Stockport Referees' Society and remember well going to the early meetings in a room above The Hollywood pub in Edgeley. The stalwarts of the Society were the likes of Harry Morris, Bert Thompson, Dick Worsley, Don Clark and Harry Holland. They were always very supportive and helpful with useful advice for all the members. We had some excellent meetings and guest speakers. It was always instilled in us that we were representing Stockport and the wider refereeing family. There were standards that had to be achieved with our appearance and behaviour and there were always people in the Society who were more than willing to talk to us about anything we wanted to discuss from a recent match. As time went on myself and others became committee members. The Society continued to flourish and grow. I think it's fair to say that Stockport Referees' Society is a leading light as a society in the country. It's brilliant to see the high attendances at meetings and the lively participation of our members and then the appreciation and pleasure our guest speakers get from being to Stockport. As we celebrate our 75th Anniversary those same values of support, guidance and advice as well as having fun are as true today as they have always been. We are very fortunate to be referees in Stockport. Here's to the next 75 years!

*Jeremy J Nutter*



## WHAT PEOPLE SAY



# Testimonials

Stockport Referees were, and still are, a fabulous help to my son. There wealth of knowledge is invaluable, especially to new referees starting their journey. It's a pleasure and privilege to be part of such a supportive group. This has now led him to start his progression as a referee.

One of the best in the country and welcoming to the young referees. The society welcome all members and guests.

I joined in 1980 and all the encouragement is still here today. That is what the referees need. We have kept going and welcomed other societies.

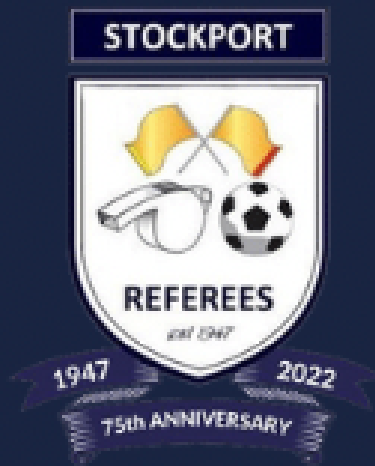
We have good leaders throughout. Anything you need to know, we have the referees who can provide the answer.

*Norton Gamble*





# Stockport Referees Society



in partnership with  
**RefStop**



# Become and member today!



## First Year Free for New Members

Prices after first year  
£28 - adults  
£20 - U18's



**75th Anniversary**  
**1947 - 2022**

2022

*Local RA of The Year*

*Social Media and Digital Excellence*



# SOCIAL MEDIA

KEEP UP TO DATE ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

## Twitter



@StockportRefs

## Facebook



Stockport Referees

## Instagram



StockportReferees

## YouTube



Stockport Referees  
Society

## Website



stockportrefs.com

## Social Media

### Interactions

Twitter: 300,000+

Instagram:

Facebook:

# WORLD CUP 2010

## WITH CHESHIRE FA

In the summer of 2010, Howard Webb, Darren Cann and Mike Mullarkey refereed the World Cup, in South Africa.

Howard Webb and Darren Cann presented at \*\*\*\* in Stockport, in partnership with Cheshire FA, about their experiences.





# SRS AWARDS

## Bob Hurren Trophy

The Bob Hurren Trophy, formally known as *The George Page Trophy* and then *The Bert Thompson Trophy* is awarded to the most improved referee, over the course of the year. The award is awarded to the referee who regularly attends training, meetings and their administration is up to date.

The Trophy was first awarded in 1969 and eventually named in Bert's memory. Thompson was a long standing member of Stockport, since 1947, and contributed to the development of newly qualified referees in Stockport. In \*\*\*\*, the trophy was renamed the *Bob Hurren Trophy* for the same reason... the tremendous support for NQR's, by Bob.



## Mally Gammond Trophy

Malcolm Gammond was a committee member of Stockport Referees Society, until he sadly passed away in 2011. 'Mally' supported referees of all abilities and ages and gave up his time for refereeing. Before his passing, he wanted the volunteers of Stockport to be recognised, the reason his name lives on, in the form of a trophy.



## Don Clark Quiz/The RefStop Quiz

The trophy is awarded at the end of the year to someone with the highest score. The three questions are all based on current law.



# OUR VENUES

Over the 75 Years, we have held our meetings in a number of different venues, from upstairs in a pub to the present day, a Football League Venue - Edgeley Park.

Our first meeting venue  
21st November 1947



St. Andrew's Mission Hall,  
Newbridge Lane

Courtesy of Metropolitan Borough of Stockport Heritage Library (50th Anniversary Brochure)



**The Mersey  
Hotel**  
1948 - 1970



**Victoria Bowling  
Club**  
1971/1972 and 1977



**British Rail Staff  
Association Club**  
1973 - 1974



**The Hollywood  
Hotel, Edgeley**  
1974 - 1993



**The Finger Post,  
Offerton**  
1987 and 1993



**Gardeners Arms,  
Offerton**  
1993 and 1994



**Cheadle Heath  
Club and Institute**  
1994



**Stockport County FC  
Edgeley Park**  
\*\*\*\*\* - Present

# A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

## WHAT HAPPENED IN 1947 - 1948?

1946 - 1947

**First Division Champion**  
Liverpool  
**First Division Runner Up**  
Manchester United



1947 - 1948

**First Division Champion**  
Arsenal  
**First Division Runner Up**  
Manchester United

**FA Cup Winner**  
Charlton Athletic  
**Runner Up**  
Burnley



**FA Cup Winner**  
Manchester United  
**Runner Up**  
Blackpool

**Second Division Champion**  
Manchester City  
**Second Division Runner Up**  
Burnley



**Second Division Champion**  
Birmingham City  
**Second Division Runner Up**  
Newcastle United



**November 1947**

Wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten



**November 1947**

Number 1: "Near You"  
Francis Craig and His Orchestra with Bob Lamm





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# Stockport Referees Society 75th Anniversary Magazine

**Written and Published by:**  
Micheal Johnson

**With support from:**

Barry Rowson  
Trevor Massey  
Bob Hurren  
Chris Dyson  
Harry Winters

**Committee 2022-2023**

Barry Rowson  
Trevor Massey  
Bob Hurren  
Chris Dyson  
Harry Winters