



**ENGLAND
FOOTBALL**

MARK WORDSWORTH

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My name is Mark Wordsworth, I am aged 45 and my current role within football is that of a Senior County Referee (L5), I am on the season 2021/22 promotion scheme working towards L4.

I got started in grassroots football by helping a local village club with their 'kickstart' sessions, where my son was part of the sessions. The following season, I enrolled for the FA Level 1 FA in Coaching Football, the sessions were so successful, we had attendance of enough players to have three teams at the club for the U7's for the following season.

My involvement extended to joining the club committee, where I also became chairman at Messingham Juniors Football Club (FA Charter Standard accredited), where we accounted for over 25 volunteers (Coach's and Managers, with some who had dual roles of Secretary, Safeguarding, Treasurer etc with nearly 200 players affiliated to the club.

In 2017, I was asked by one of the older team managers if I would referee his games as there was a shortage of referees in the area and he rarely got a referee appointed, I reluctantly agreed to referee my first game on the 5th of November 2017 and thoroughly enjoyed the experience! I am now into my 5th season as a referee and have officiated nearly 700 games.

I have mentored several young referees over the last few years including my son who has really taken to the role when he decided to stop playing but wanted to remain in the game. At 16 years old, he has started officiating open age football this season and is looking to progress through the promotion scheme over the next few years.

Football has made a significantly positive impact on my life, both physically and mentally as the benefits of exercise and mind stimulation are limitless when you are involved in something you enjoy!



I manage my time to officiate regularly and working with different or new referees on a variety of leagues allows me to develop myself and to interact with others and to hopefully enhance their outlook on the sport.

I also like to get involved with the teams of mixed abilities, there is a local club in Bottesford who have a team formed a DS Active squad. The participants have a real zest for life and provide a greater outlook on what it is like to be part of something greater than just a game of football!

The County FA have given me fantastic support over the years. My refereeing journey has progressed due to the input from various departments at Lincs FA, the support and development is there for everyone involved. I have received support since I officiated my first game, and is still ongoing through the promotion scheme, this includes practical advice on my strengths and opportunities to develop and move forward. The FA have also provided guidance and advice on matters of discipline, when applicable.

As the recipient of the Lincolnshire FA Grassroots Match Official of the Year 2021, I can't state enough of how pride I was to have been nominated in the first place, but to receive the award meant a great deal to me and my family. The FA award demonstrates recognition of not only hard work and commitment but the inclusion of everyone involved at grassroots that has a mutual respect and love for the game!

