



CITIZENSHIP AWARD WINNERS 2020

STEPHEN JOEL CROWTHER

Steve Crowther (aka Basha) has been the driving force behind Todmorden's junior football community for over 20 years. The commitment, passion, hard work and support Steve has given to the young football players of Todmorden has earned him the complete respect of the children he coaches and their parents.

Born in Cornholme in 1969, Steve is an ex professional footballer having risen through the apprenticeship scheme at Bradford, going on to play for Bradford before joining Burnley and later retiring due to injury. Post retirement Steve coached for Burnley FC and Huddersfield Town and has recently run coaching sessions on behalf of Manchester City.

Steve's first involvement with coaching in Todmorden goes back to 1996 when the only team in Todmorden at that time was languishing at the bottom of their division. The then manager Phil Lapish cajoled Steve into helping and the very next season they won the cup. He continued to help with the team up until 1999.

In 2000 Steve was employed at Todmorden Sports Centre as the football coach, running four Saturday morning sessions for both Boys and Girls ages 4 to 14, which he continues to do with enthusiasm today. These sessions are attended by over 100 children every week with varying degrees of ability Steve has a way of motivating and inspiring them all

In 2005 Steve was instrumental in the creation of Todmorden Sports Centre Football Club starting with just one team. Todmorden Sports Centre Football Club now has twenty teams (u7's-U18's) with over 230 players, which Steve is involved in coaching every week of the year. In recognition of his contribution to Todmorden Sports Centre Football Club, he was recently unanimously voted Chairman of the club.

Over the last 15 years Steve has also worked at various schools throughout Todmorden, Cornholme, Castle Hill and Walsden to name but a few. When the Rev. Nancy went into Walsden School and asked the children to think of a famous people to name a toy sheep after for the Easter hunt, such is their fondness of Steve they named one of them "Basha",

Steve has coached literally thousands of players in Todmorden over the past twenty years and it's a fair bet that he remembers the name of every one of them, probably their parents and siblings' names as well.