



ECB Yorkshire South Premier League

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## HALL OF FAME

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No 5

**Stuart Roberts**



Stuart Roberts took up umpiring several years after his playing career was cut short by injury. After umpiring for four seasons in the Doncaster League, Stuart joined the Yorkshire County Premier League in 1988. He has now completed a remarkable 30 seasons as a premier league umpire.

Apart from a two-year stint at Hickleton Main, Stuart's cricketing career was spent as a batsman at Conisbrough Cricket Club, during which time he won the club's Young Player of the Year award. A loss of form and interest led to his early retirement on 1980, but former international football referee Ernie Crawford, himself also a cricket umpire, persuaded him to try umpiring. This led to him joining the Doncaster & District Umpires Association in 1984, where he soon became regarded as a very good umpire, and he was accepted onto the Yorkshire County Premier League panel in 1988.

Stuart's calm, unflappable and quietly authoritative on-field demeanour; his methodical and organised approach; his consistency and sound decision-making soon made him one of the League's most respected umpires. He umpired the Yorkshire League Knock-Out Cup final in 1998 and 2006, and stood in the League's first t20 final in 2011. He was twice the Yorkshire League Umpire of the Year and was recognised by Yorkshire CCC, for whom he umpired second XI matches between 2001 and 2004. He had the honour of being selected to umpire an England XI v Yorkshire t20 game at Headingley in 2005, in front of a 17,000 crowd and TV cameras, but unfortunately a deluge caused the game to be abandoned without a ball bowled.

When the Yorkshire League was split as a result of the reorganisation of premier league cricket in the county after the 2015 season, Stuart was its longest serving umpire. Since then he has served on the newly-inaugurated Yorkshire Leagues umpires panel. He is arguably the best official produced by the county never to have stood in the first-class game.

Stuart was the chairman of the Yorkshire League Umpires Association between 2002 and 2015, and was both chairman and training officer of the Doncaster & District Umpires Association until 2016.

Stuart Roberts was inducted into the Yorkshire South Premier League Hall of Fame on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017.