

Manchester City Manager Stuart Pearce becomes President of IOG Manchester Branch

Stuart Pearce, manager of Manchester City Football Club, is the new president of the Institute of Groundsmanship's Manchester Branch.

In a move that reflects the IOG's Manchester members' drive and determination to re-establish the branch, his appointment brings to the post the experiences of one of the country's leading footballers whose career in recent years has spanned clubs such as Coventry, Nottingham Forest, Newcastle, West Ham and Manchester City – and nobody could forget his performances as one of England's greatest full backs.

Commenting on the announcement, Stuart Pearce says: "From my early days as a player at Wealdstone to my last game as a Manchester City player, I have realised that the standard of grass surfaces has improved dramatically. "I have played all over the world and at no time have there ever been pitches better prepared than those in this country.

"In becoming the new president of the IOG Manchester Branch, I feel it is important that everyone continues that trend, from volunteers at local club level to professional groundsmen such as the staff here at Manchester City.

"Players and managers realise the importance of a good surface and it is essential that the work of those involved is supported."

Branch secretary Lee Jackson, who was instrumental in the appointment, commented: "Since we re-launched the branch at the turn of the year, the response has been excellent.

"Stuart's willingness to get involved with the institute shows how much we want to further improve the profile of both the branch and the IOG."

Stuart Pearce takes over the post from Russ Faulkner, who has retired due to ill health. In recognition of his years of service to the IOG, Russ has been made a branch life president.