

On 19 November 2024, I was welcomed to Stanways Autobody Ltd by company director, Nasar Khan. On arriving at the business, I was welcomed by Stacey, who quickly introduced me to Nasar and offered me a brew - got to love Northern hospitality! From the moment I arrived I was made to feel welcome, and I spent the next 4 hours with Nasar, learning about his business – it's heritage and the ambitions for the future.

Stanways was a well-known, respected and large dealership in Lytham St. Annes on the Fylde Coast. In 2017, the business was being sold and Nasar saw the opportunity to develop the bodyshop. Stanways has been a company and brand in the area for over 50 years and carried a good reputation. Although he was offered the full site, which spanned 1.5 acres, he chose to just take over the bodyshop part of the business and Stanways Autobody Ltd was born, keeping the strong name of "Stanways" alive as a mark of respect and continuity of the high level of service.



The bodyshop itself spanned 20,000 sq. ft. and so it was no small venture and Nasar's ambition was and remains to develop the business into a leading repairer in the Northwest. Starting with only 2 Operatives in the site, the business grew in the coming years.

The old site. The bodyshop took up the back half of the building towards the top of the picture and covered 20,000 sq. ft.

The business grew from very early on and Nasar thanks some early contracts; Thrifty, Enterprise, Kindertons, Blackthorn, Winns, S&G Response, VMS Fleet and WNS, for the advice he received off them as he was developing the business. They guided Nasar and Stanways Autobody on a path of excellence.

They achieved BS10125 in June 2021 through CARSQA and still hold the standard today. A demonstration again of Nasar and his teams commitment to standards, customer care and the industry in general.

In 2022, Stanways Autobody Ltd had grown its operative staff to a team of 8. Later in 2022, there were rumours that the land was being sold and in November 2023, Nasar was given 1 month clause to vacate the premises.

By 1st December 2023, Nasar had bought the site where the business currently sits and had broke ground on building a brand new Stanways Autobody on Queensway Park Farm, still in Lytham St. Annes and still maintaining the brand he had nurtured and grown since 2017.



Through grit and determination, Nasar managed to keep the business trading while the new premises were being built and still managed to gain new contracts and maintain the relationships with his existing contracts. He told me of a de-fleet company who approached him, and he miraculously turned



around 50 vehicles in 3 days. A testament to the commitment of both Nasar and his team. The company still work with Stanways today.



February 2024 saw the booths commissioned. The 2 Rowley Spray booths can accommodate LWB vans and motorhomes, the full site is operated on a fast track system, which Nasar had designed and built themselves to take into account the type of vehicles they repair. An added benefit comes from moving EV's - the track system also lowers the risk of wheel rotation and the car gaining charge. The site can confidently and competently carry out repairs on any make of car, LWB vans and Campervans.



The business operates a linear workflow with all vehicles moving through the shop on tracks. A vehicle can be moved easily with a gentle push.

By June 2024, they had received their BS10125:2022 audit which they again passed with zero non-conformances.



The team is now 13 strong with 3 of the team being apprentices; 1 apprentice being M.E.T, 1 apprentice doing a multi-skilled apprenticeship and the final apprentice covering paint. It's clear to see that Stanways Autobodies are invested both in the current market for body repair, but they are also investing in futureproofing the business into a model which can be transferred to new business opportunities.

Nasar openly admits that the bodyshop is still work in progress and he sets his sights on creating a business model that he can expand to new sites in the future. He's no issues on investing in the right equipment and all the right equipment. The business has modern equipment set for the modern vehicles of today, including ADAS.

Nasar is considering now adding manufacturer approvals to his business, so if there are any manufacturers out there looking for coverage around the Northwest, please reach out to Stanways Autobody Ltd – 01253 735544



Antony Barnes and Nasar Khan after completing the membership application for Stanways Autobody Ltd to NBRA Membership

For membership opportunities, please contact Antony Barnes

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