

= Lee McEvilly =

Lee Richard McEvilly (born 15 April 1982) is a journeyman footballer who currently plays as a striker for Northern Premier League Premier Division side Droylsden . Although born in England , he won one cap for the Northern Ireland national team in 2002 and also played for Northern Ireland at under @-@ 21 and under @-@ 23 levels .

McEvilly started his career with non @-@ League side Burscough , rising through their youth ranks to the senior side , where he made 49 league appearances , scoring 28 goals . In December 2001 , Third Division club Rochdale signed him for £ 20 @,@ 000 . From 2004 to 2009 he had spells in the Conference National and League Two with Accrington Stanley , Cambridge United and Wrexham . Since 2009 , McEvilly has struggled with injuries and has had brief spells at numerous non @-@ league clubs in England and Wales , as well as a brief period at League of Ireland side Sligo Rovers in 2010 , which was also cut short due to injury . He is currently playing with Barrow for the third time , with whom he won the FA Trophy in 2010 .

= = Club career = =

= = = Early career = = =

McEvilly started his career at Burscough rising through the youth ranks , making his senior debut against Southport in the Liverpool Senior Cup final in August 1999 . He went on to play 49 Northern Premier League games for Burscough , scoring 28 goals over two seasons . Rochdale manager John Hollins signed McEvilly in December 2001 , for the Third Division club for a fee believed to be around £ 15 @,@ 000 plus a sell @-@ on clause . He made his debut for Rochdale in the Third Division against Kidderminster Harriers on 26 December in the 4 ? 1 away defeat , replacing Clive Platt as a substitute in the 69th minute . McEvilly scored his first Football League goal , and his first for Rochdale against York City in their 5 ? 4 home win on 5 February 2002 . During McEvilly 's first season with Rochdale , 2001 ? 02 , they reached the playoffs finishing fifth place . Rochdale were defeated by Rushden & Diamonds in the playoff semi @-@ finals 4 ? 3 on aggregate over two legs . During the first leg away at Nene Park , McEvilly scored in the 2 ? 2 draw . He made a total of 18 appearances in the Third Division , scoring four goals . The following season , 2002 ? 03 , McEvilly played 37 games in the Third Division scoring 15 goals .

He started the 2003 ? 04 season at Rochdale , making 16 appearances and scoring five goals in League Two . Rochdale 's new manager Steve Parkin criticised McEvilly 's fitness level to play and had described him as " too heavy " , and that he needed " to get his physique down to an acceptable weight where he can get around the pitch " . Conference National club Accrington Stanley signed McEvilly on a one @-@ month loan in January 2004 , making his debut in their 3 ? 0 home win against Tamworth on 20 January . Despite playing out of position in wide right , McEvilly commented ; " I was playing out of position but it was okay " . He went on to describe the drop in level he said ; " I have never played in the Conference but , from what I have seen , it is no different to Division Three . " After a month at Accrington and making three appearances scoring one goal , his loan was extended in February for a further month , with manager John Coleman praising him as " a great acquisition to the squad " . McEvilly went on to make a further three appearances , scoring once more before returning to Rochdale . On his return to Rochdale , he scored a further one goal in 14 appearances . At the end of the season , McEvilly was released by Rochdale on 10 May , signing a dater for Accrington Stanley on a permanent basis after a previous loan spell . On 13 November 2004 , McEvilly scored a hat @-@ trick in Accrington 's 5 ? 0 home victory over Northwich Victoria . During the 2004 ? 05 season he made 39 appearances in the Conference National , scoring 15 goals .

= = = Wrexham = = =

Accrington Stanley accepted an undisclosed bid from Wrexham in July 2005 , which included a sell on clause and a bonus if he returned to play international football . He scored on his debut in a friendly against UEFA Champions League winners Liverpool in the 4 ? 3 defeat after he came on as a substitute . McEvilly suffered a stress fracture in a metatarsus bone on his right foot in the 1 ? 1 home draw with Notts County on 11 December , although he declared himself fit to play their following game against Carlisle United , he was substituted after 45 minutes after receiving a mouth injury which had required temporary dental surgery the same evening . His foot injury was later operated on and he received further dental treatment . His return to the Wrexham team following his injury was on 9 April 2006 , in their 2 ? 1 home defeat to Shrewsbury Town when he came on as a substitute replacing Matt Crowell in the 45th minute . He made a further three appearances scoring one goal , before breaking the same bone again in mid April sidelining him until the end of the season . During the 2005 ? 06 season , McEvilly made a total of 23 appearances for Wrexham , scoring seven goals in League Two .

In June 2006 , McEvilly was set to join for Bradford City on a free transfer after agreeing a contract with the club . Despite McEvilly passing a medical , the move fell through as he was unwilling to train with Bradford during their pre season without guarantee of a contract . Bradford City manager Colin Todd explained ; " We were concerned about an old injury to his foot which has resulted in it being pinned and we are not prepared to take a risk with him " . McEvilly opted to sign a new two year contract with Wrexham . During pre season with Wrexham , McEvilly broke his other foot , having previously broke the same bone twice in four months during the previous season . His first appearance of the 2006 ? 07 season , was on 25 November at home against Lincoln City in the 2 ? 1 win in League Two , when he came on as a substitute for Kevin Smith in the 80th minute . McEvilly went on to make 28 appearances in League Two , scoring eight goals and a further two appearances in the FA Cup , scoring once against Championship side Derby County in their 3 ? 1 defeat at Pride Park on 6 January . His contract was cancelled by mutual consent at the end of the season . Wrexham manager Brian Carey said that they are " well covered in terms of strikers " and " he is some way down the pecking order " .

= = = Return to Stanley = = =

Accrington Stanley re signed McEvilly on a one year contract following his departure from Wrexham . On his return to Accrington he commented ; " I am back here because I feel I have unfinished business . I played well for a year here and I want to do the same again " . He had played 10 games in League Two and one game in the League Cup failing to score , and picking up a red card for violent conduct after a stamp on Peterborough United winger Jamie Day in their 2 ? 0 home loss on 1 September . However , McEvilly struggled to hold down a regular place in the Accrington side and was loaned out to former club , Rochdale in November 2007 . On his return to Spotland Stadium , he scored the only goal of Rochdale 's 1 ? 0 win over Mansfield Town on 24 November , with a shot from the edge of the penalty area . McEvilly made a total of seven appearances for Rochdale scoring three goals , before returning in January 2008 . He made one more appearance for Accrington , coming on as a substitute in the 73rd minute for Paul Mullin in the 2 ? 0 defeat to Stockport County on 12 January , before joining Cambridge United on loan on 18 January . McEvilly made 14 appearances and scored three goals for Cambridge , helping them finish second place in the 2007 ? 08 Conference National , securing a place in the playoffs . In Cambridge 's playoff semi final first leg , they drew 2 ? 2 with Burton Albion away at the Pirelli Stadium with McEvilly scoring both Cambridge 's goals . Cambridge were 2 ? 0 down and McEvilly came on as a substitute for Mark Beesley in the 74th minute . Paul Hurst was deemed to have handled in the penalty area , and four minutes later McEvilly converted the penalty four minutes after coming off the bench . He scored his second goal from a direct free kick . In the following leg , McEvilly started the game and had a shot within the opening 30 seconds which Rob Wolleaston managed to score from the rebound , before being replaced by Leo Fortune West in the 77th minute . McEvilly played in the final , in which Exeter City defeated Cambridge 1 ? 0 at Wembley Stadium .

== Cambridge United ==

McEvilly signed a permanent two @-@ year deal with Cambridge the following 2008 ? 09 season , after being released on a free transfer from Accrington Stanley . On 10 October , he was sent off in the 87th minute of Cambridge 's 1 ? 0 win over Weymouth , for violent conduct after the referee deemed a tackle to be dangerous . He went on to make 18 appearances for Cambridge scoring eight goals in the Conference National , before returning to the Football League to rejoin Rochdale , initially on loan in November , with the possibility of a permanent transfer in January . McEvilly stated he was glad to be back " home " at Rochdale .

== Return to Rochdale ==

He made five appearances , scoring twice on loan at Rochdale before signing permanently on an 18 @-@ month contract on 1 January 2009 . McEvilly made 10 more appearances , starting just once and scoring three goals , before joining Barrow on loan in March , citing his friendship with joint @-@ manager David Bayliss as a key reason for his move . He scored seven his debut on 21 March at home against Lewes , which finished as a 2 ? 0 victory . In Barrow 's next match on 29 March , he was sent off against Weymouth for the second time that season after he received two yellow cards in the 3 ? 0 away win , picking up the first for kicking the ball away in the first half and then a second in the 69th minute for a foul on Gavin Hoyte , resulting his dismissal . He made six appearances in the Conference National for Barrow , scoring once . On 2 May , McEvilly made one last appearance for Rochdale in their 1 ? 0 home defeat to Gillingham , replacing Adam Rundle as a substitute in the 75th minute . Rochdale terminated his contract by mutual consent at the end of the season .

== Non @-@ league career ==

At the start of the 2009 ? 10 season , McEvilly signed for Grays Athletic along with eight other players , turning down offers from Northern Premier League Premier Division club Marine and Maltese Premier League club Hibernians . McEvilly picked up a long @-@ term shin injury delaying his debut for Grays , and he was eventually released by the club in November without making a single appearance . In January 2010 , Marine announced that McEvilly had signed for the club . Marine chairman Paul Leary described McEvilly as a " massive signing " for the club . He played six matches during his spell in Crosby , scoring twice , before leaving to rejoin Barrow on a short @-@ term contract until the end of the 2009 ? 10 campaign . In the 2010 FA Trophy Final against Stevenage Borough , he replaced Gregg Blundell in the 72nd minute before scoring with his first touch to level the match at 1 ? 1 . Barrow went on to win the game 2 ? 1 after extra time , but it proved to be the end of McEvilly 's spell at Holker Street as he was released at the end of the season .

After leaving Barrow , McEvilly began training with Sligo Rovers of the League of Ireland Premier Division in June 2010 . He made only one league appearance for the side , coming on as a substitute in the 2 ? 1 defeat to Shamrock Rovers on 2 July 2010 . In November 2010 , he returned to his first senior club Burscough , signing a permanent contract with the Northern Premier League outfit . He made his debut on 11 December 2010 as a second @-@ half substitute in the 3 ? 2 loss against Bradford Park Avenue . Three weeks later , he got on the scoresheet for the first time during his second spell at the club , scoring both Burscough goals in the 4 ? 2 defeat to Kendal Town . McEvilly went on to stay at Victoria Park for three months before transferring to Conference North side Droylsden along with goalkeeper Sean Lake in March 2011 .

McEvilly signed for Garry Flitcroft 's Chorley at the start of the 2011 ? 12 season . He scored his first goal in a 6 ? 0 home victory over Frickley Athletic and went on to play 12 league games for the club , scoring four times . However , on 13 October , McEvilly was released after failing to hold down a first team spot . He subsequently joined Colwyn Bay on 27 October 2011 . He signed for AFC Fylde in February 2012 to work with Dave Challinor again , but was released at the end of the

campaign . In August 2012 , McEvilly signed for Warrington Town , the fourteenth different club of his career . After being released by Warrington in December 2012 he spent time training with Barrow and officially joined the club on non @-@ contract terms on 31 January 2013 ? the start of his third spell with the Cumbrian outfit .

= = International career = =

Sammy McIlroy called McEvilly up to the Northern Ireland squad to face Spain in an international friendly on 17 April 2002 at Windsor Park , Belfast . He earned his first cap , replacing Warren Feeney as a substitute in the 63rd minute in the 5 ? 0 defeat to Spain . He went on to play for Northern Ireland under @-@ 21 , gaining nine caps scoring three goals between September 2002 and October 2003 . On 27 April 2004 , McEvilly played for Northern Ireland under @-@ 23 team in the 0 ? 0 home draw against Serbia & Montenegro . McEvilly was called up to the Northern Ireland national squad again in May 2006 , to face United States but he failed to make an appearance .

= = Playing style = =

Rochdale assistant manager David Hamilton described McEvilly saying ; " He 's strong , powerful , can shoot with both feet and can score goals . He has good all @-@ round ability and is tremendously tenacious " . His aggressive and robust playing style earned him the nickname " Evil " .

= = Personal life = =

Prior to playing professional football for Rochdale , McEvilly worked at McDonald 's fast food restaurant . He was born in Liverpool , Merseyside , and is an Everton supporter .