

= Ronnie Wallwork =

Ronald " Ronnie " Wallwork ( born 10 September 1977 ) is an English former footballer who could play as either a defender or a midfielder . An England under @-@ 20 international , he began his career at Manchester United , where he made his professional debut in 1997 . He never fully established himself in the United first @-@ team however , and was loaned out to Carlisle United and Stockport County . During a further loan spell at Royal Antwerp , he was banned from football for life for attacking a Belgian referee , although the ban was later substantially reduced . He returned to football in 2014 signing for Ashton United .

In 2002 , Wallwork moved to West Bromwich Albion , where he was the Player of the Year for 2004 ? 05 . He was not always a regular in the side however , and spent time on loan at Bradford City , Barnsley and Huddersfield Town . His spell at Barnsley was cut short when he was stabbed in a nightclub , causing him to miss more than two months of the 2006 ? 07 season . Wallwork was transferred to Sheffield Wednesday in January 2008 , but was released just four months later and has since been without a club . In December 2011 , he was sentenced to 15 months in prison after he pleaded guilty to three counts of receiving stolen goods .

= = Football career = =

= = = Manchester United = = =

Born in Newton Heath , Manchester , Wallwork attended The Football Association 's School of Excellence at Lillleshall as a teenager . A lifelong Manchester United supporter , he joined the club as an apprentice in April 1993 , following a spell playing Sunday league football . Wallwork signed his first trainee contract in July 1994 , before turning professional in March 1995 . He became a regular in the Manchester United junior sides , making 77 appearances for the club 's various youth teams from 1994 to 1997 . Wallwork helped United to win the FA Youth Cup in 1995 and was named as the club 's Young Player of the Year in 1996 . In the summer of 1997 , he represented the England under @-@ 20 team at the 1997 FIFA World Youth Championship in Malaysia , where he played in all four of his country 's matches . England won all three group games to progress to the knockout stages , but lost to Argentina in the round of 16 .

By the start of the 1997 ? 98 season , he had become a regular in the Manchester United reserve team and made his senior debut on 25 October 1997 , when he came on as a 64th @-@ minute substitute for Gary Pallister in the 7 ? 0 home win against Barnsley . Later that season , Wallwork was loaned out twice : firstly to Carlisle United , where he scored his first goal in professional football , and then to Stockport County . He joined Royal Antwerp on loan during the following season and helped them to reach the play @-@ offs , but their hopes of promotion to the First Division were ended by a defeat to La Louvière . After the match , Wallwork grabbed referee Amand Ancion by the throat , for which he was banned from football for life . Another Manchester United loanee , Danny Higginbotham , was banned for a year for his part in the attack . A Belgian court reduced Wallwork 's sentence to a three @-@ year suspension , of which two years were probational , while Higginbotham 's ban was reduced to four months . The remaining twelve months of Wallwork 's ban applied only in Belgium , rather than the worldwide ban given under the initial ruling .

The 1999 ? 2000 season saw Wallwork make further progress at Manchester United as he made seven appearances for the first @-@ team , mostly as a defensive midfielder . Then , in 2000 ? 01 , he amassed enough league appearances to qualify for a Premier League winner 's medal . However , his spell in the United first @-@ team was short @-@ lived , as the signings of centre @-@ back Laurent Blanc and central midfielder Juan Sebastián Verón made Wallwork surplus to requirements . He made his final appearance for United on 26 January 2002 , playing 61 minutes of the FA Cup Fourth Round match against Middlesbrough before being replaced by Ryan Giggs . In his seven years at United , Wallwork played just 28 times , and in the summer of 2002 his contract was not renewed .

= = = West Bromwich Albion = = =

In July 2002 , Wallwork moved on to West Bromwich Albion on a Bosman free transfer , becoming the first player signed by Albion following their promotion to the Premier League . Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson called him the " best Bosman of the summer " . Before the season started , Wallwork and his Albion team @-@ mates were involved in a dispute over bonuses with the club 's new board of directors . According to his agent , the player was said to be " shocked and disturbed " at the prospect of an 80 % reduction in bonuses compared with that offered by the outgoing board . Wallwork made his Albion debut as a substitute in a 3 ? 1 home defeat to Leeds United on 24 August , and he went on to play in 27 of Albion 's 38 Premier League games in 2002 ? 03 . Following the death of his mother in February 2003 , he and his team mates each wore a black armband for the match against Bolton Wanderers . The club was eventually relegated at the end of the campaign and Wallwork fell out of favour during 2003 ? 04 , taking part in just five league matches during the first half of the season . In January 2004 , he joined Bradford City on an initial month @-@ long loan , during which time he scored in his first and last games . Albion initially refused an extension to the loan , citing concerns over the financial situation at Bradford , who were on the verge of administration . A second loan deal for a further two months at Bradford was agreed shortly afterwards , and Wallwork scored a further two goals , taking his total with Bradford to four in seven games . He attributed his new @-@ found goalscoring form to tactical instructions from manager Bryan Robson , who told him to get forward more often , in contrast to his deeper @-@ lying role at West Bromwich Albion . A broken toe sustained in a match against Rotherham United meant that he returned earlier than scheduled , however . While Wallwork was sidelined for six weeks , his West Bromwich Albion team mates secured promotion back to the Premier League at the first attempt .

Back in the top division , Wallwork was still unable to force his way back into Albion manager Gary Megson 's matchday squad . However , when Bryan Robson ? who had been Wallwork 's manager at Bradford ? replaced Megson in November 2004 , Wallwork became an integral part of the team . Robson referred to Wallwork as " an intelligent footballer " who could " sit , pass the ball and change the direction of a game " from central midfield . Wallwork returned to the team the following month and was ever @-@ present throughout the second half of the season , scoring his first Albion goal in a 2 ? 0 home win over Manchester City on 22 January 2005 . The club successfully avoided relegation , retaining their top @-@ flight status on the final day of the season , when they beat Portsmouth . Albion became the first Premier League club to avoid relegation having been bottom of the table at Christmas . For his efforts , Wallwork was named as Albion 's Player of the Year for 2004 ? 05 . In May 2005 , he signed a new contract , to keep him at Albion until June 2007 .

The following season Wallwork played in 31 out of 38 Premier League games , but was unable to prevent Albion 's relegation to the Championship . He nevertheless signed a new two @-@ year deal with the club in August 2006 . He remained a regular in the side during the early part of the 2006 ? 07 season , but following the appointment of Bryan Robson 's successor Tony Mowbray in October , Wallwork played just once more for the club . Mowbray described Wallwork as " a very good professional " , but preferred a number of other midfielders ahead of him when selecting the team , moving Jonathan Greening from a wide position into the central midfield holding role previously occupied by Wallwork . In order to continue playing first @-@ team football , Wallwork joined Barnsley on loan on 22 November 2006 ; the loan spell was due to last until 1 January 2007 , though West Bromwich Albion had a recall option after 28 days .

On 30 November 2006 , Wallwork was attacked while on a night out with his girlfriend Amy Broadbent at the Sugar Lounge night club in Manchester . He was approached by a former boyfriend of Broadbent , Robert Rimmer , who asked him to leave . When Wallwork refused to do so , Rimmer used a fish knife to stab the footballer seven times in the hand , back and stomach . After being rushed to hospital , Wallwork 's condition was said to be stable and his injuries were not thought to be life @-@ threatening . Police investigating the stabbing described the attack as " not random " . They later named 20 @-@ year @-@ old Rimmer as the suspect and appealed for him

to contact them . Rimmer handed himself into a police station in Manchester and was arrested on 7 December . In December 2007 , Rimmer , from Gorton , Manchester , was jailed for five @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half years for stabbing Wallwork after admitting wounding with intent at Manchester Crown Court . Rimmer 's friend , Charles Ebbrell , a 27 @-@ year @-@ old from Denton , Greater Manchester , was given a suspended jail sentence after he admitted punching Wallwork during the attack . Wallwork was released from hospital on 10 December 2006 , the same day that Barnsley and West Bromwich Albion faced each other in a league game ; Barnsley supporters displayed a " Get well soon Ronnie " banner during the match . After returning to light training in late January , Wallwork made his comeback from the stabbing on 21 February 2007 , playing the full 90 minutes in a West Bromwich Albion reserve team game against Walsall .

= = = Huddersfield Town = = =

Wallwork was loaned out to Huddersfield Town on 27 September 2007 , joining up once more with manager Andy Ritchie , who had brought him to Barnsley the season before . He made his Huddersfield debut in a 2 ? 0 home win over Luton Town on 29 September 2007 . On 20 October , he scored his first goal for Town in a match against Oldham Athletic , which finished 1 ? 1 . His loan was extended by another month on 29 October . He was also given permission by West Bromwich Albion to play in Town 's FA Cup first round tie against Accrington Stanley on 10 November . Wallwork 's loan was extended on 22 November until 29 December , the maximum loan period of 93 days permitted under league rules , when he returned to West Bromwich Albion .

= = = Sheffield Wednesday = = =

On 11 January 2008 , Wallwork signed for Sheffield Wednesday on a free transfer until the end of the season , with a view to an extension afterwards . He made his debut the following day , coming on as a half @-@ time substitute for Steve Watson in a 1 ? 0 defeat away at Cardiff City . He lost his place in the team to new signing Adam Bolder , and although he came on as an early substitute for Graham Kavanagh against Charlton Athletic on 12 February 2008 , he did not play for nearly another month until his appearance in a 2 ? 1 victory against Queens Park Rangers . Wallwork played just seven games for Wednesday , who released him on 14 May 2008 . He trained with former club Carlisle United in August 2008 , but failed to earn a permanent contract . The player " wasn 't strong enough or fit enough for the levels we 're at " , according to Carlisle manager John Ward .

In 2014 he returned to football , signing for Ashton United .

= = International career = =

In the summer of 1997 , he represented the England under @-@ 20 team at the 1997 FIFA World Youth Championship in Malaysia , where he played in all four of his country 's matches . England won all three group games to progress to the knockout stages , but lost to Argentina in the round of 16 .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Club = = =

Last updated 14 May 2008 :

= = Honours = =

== Club ==

Manchester United

Intercontinental Cup ( 1 ) : 1999

Premier League ( 1 ) : 2000 ? 01

== Individual ==

Jimmy Murphy Young Player of the Year ( 1 ) : 1995 ? 96

West Bromwich Albion Player of the Year ( 1 ) : 2004 ? 05

== Personal life ==

Wallwork runs a clothes business , D & R Designers , in Failsworth , Greater Manchester . In 2007 , the business was burgled , with hundreds of pounds worth of goods stolen . On 18 August 2008 , Wallwork was seen to be talking on his mobile phone while driving his BMW 525 , in Failsworth . He pleaded guilty to the offence five months later and was fined £ 35 , ordered to pay £ 35 costs and a £ 15 victim surcharge , and was given three penalty points on his licence . On 18 January 2011 , he was charged with concealing criminal property in connection with offences relating to stolen cars . On 1 July 2011 , he pleaded guilty to three counts of handling stolen cars . Judge Simon Newell denied Wallwork 's defence lawyer 's pleas for his client to be given a suspended sentence and jailed Wallwork for 15 months on 5 December 2011 . He called the set @-@ up " professional and sophisticated " .