

= Chris Beardsley =

Christopher Kelan " Chris " Beardsley (born 28 February 1984) is an English professional footballer who plays as a striker and is the fitness coach at Championship club Burton Albion .

Beardsley played youth football with Mickleover Sports and Derby County before starting his senior career with Mansfield Town . He broke into the first team in December 2002 , and spent a brief period on loan at Worksop Town in the 2003 ? 04 season . He left Mansfield in June 2004 and joined Doncaster Rovers a month later . He failed to make an impact , and signed for Kidderminster Harriers in December 2004 . He rejoined Mansfield in July 2005 , but did not play regularly in his one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half @-@ year stay , and was loaned out to Conference National side Rushden & Diamonds in January 2007 . He signed for the club permanently later that month , but struggled for appearances after a change in management . Beardsley joined York City in June 2007 , but suffered a broken jaw in a match against Grays Athletic , and failed to establish himself in the team . He joined Kettering Town in December 2007 , initially on loan , and helped the club win promotion into the Conference Premier in 2007 ? 08 .

He rejoined Kidderminster on loan in November 2008 , making a handful of appearances before being released by Kettering in May 2009 . He signed for Stevenage Borough later that month , and helped them earn promotion into League Two in 2009 ? 10 . Beardsley was part of the team that earned promotion into League One after winning the 2010 ? 11 League Two play @-@ offs . He left Stevenage when his contract expired in June 2012 , and signed for Preston North End two months later . He struggled for appearances after a change in management , and spent most of 2013 ? 14 on loan with Bristol Rovers . Beardsley returned to Stevenage in July 2014 , and helped them to the 2014 ? 15 League Two play @-@ offs . After being released in May 2015 , he started a third spell with Mansfield a month later , where he stayed for one season before his release in May 2016 .

= = Career = =

= = = Early career = = =

Beardsley played junior football for Mickleover Sports and aged 11 joined the youth system of hometown club Derby County , where he stayed for five years . He joined Mansfield Town 's youth system on a three @-@ year scholarship in June 2000 after leaving school . He missed the second year of his scholarship from a double stress fracture in his back , but within six months of returning to full training made his first @-@ team debut aged 18 as a 57th @-@ minute substitute in a 1 ? 0 away defeat to Brentford on 28 December 2002 . Beardsley made five appearances in the 2002 ? 03 season , after which Mansfield were relegated into the Third Division with a 23rd @-@ place finish in the Second Division . He signed a one @-@ year professional contract with the club on 4 July 2003 . His first career goal came with a header in Mansfield 's 2 ? 0 away win over York City on 11 October 2003 .

In January 2004 , Beardsley was sent on a one @-@ month loan to Northern Premier League Premier Division side Worksop Town , who had tried to sign him at the start of 2003 ? 04 . He made his debut in Worksop 's 4 ? 1 home win against Radcliffe Borough on 17 January 2004 , in which he was substituted on 80 minutes . In the following match , Beardsley scored the only goal of a 1 ? 0 home win against Blyth Spartans on 7 February 2004 with a volley . His fourth and final appearance for Worksop came in a 1 ? 1 home draw with Whitby Town , playing 76 minutes before being substituted . Beardsley made 17 appearances and scored once for Mansfield in 2003 ? 04 , in which they finished in fifth @-@ place in the Third Division . He was released by the club in June 2004 .

= = = Doncaster Rovers and Kidderminster Harriers = = =

Beardsley joined newly promoted League One club Doncaster Rovers on 19 July 2004 after a successful trial . He debuted in their 4 ? 3 away loss to Brentford on 10 August 2004 , which he

entered as a 79th @-@ minute substitute . His only goal for Doncaster came after being assisted by Ben Jackson in the 77th @-@ minute of a 1 ? 0 away win over Lincoln City in the Football League Trophy on 28 September 2014 . Having struggled to establish himself at Doncaster , Beardsley moved to Kidderminster Harriers of League Two on a contract until the end of 2004 ? 05 on 9 December 2004 . He made his debut two days later as a 78th @-@ minute substitute in a 2 ? 1 home win over Rochdale . Beardsley scored his first goal for Kidderminster with a close @-@ range finish in their 3 ? 1 home defeat to Southend United on 3 January 2005 . He played 25 times for Kidderminster , scoring 5 goals , but they were relegated into the Conference National after ranking in 23rd @-@ place in League Two . He was offered a new one @-@ year contract with the club in May 2005 .

= = = Return to Mansfield and Rushden & Diamonds = = =

Beardsley 's former club Mansfield spoke to him about re @-@ signing for them in May 2005 , although Kidderminster demanded a £ 5 @,@ 000 fee for him , half of which would go his former club Doncaster . He eventually joined Mansfield , now playing in League Two , on 5 August 2005 for a nominal fee . He debuted as an 82nd @-@ minute substitute in their 3 ? 0 home win over Torquay United on 13 August 2005 . However , his 2005 ? 06 season came to an end during a 3 ? 2 home defeat to local rivals Notts County on 29 August 2005 , when he collided with goalkeeper Kevin Pilkington and broke his leg . Beardsley had made four appearances that season , which Mansfield finished in 16th @-@ place in League Two . He returned to the team almost a year later , on 12 August 2006 , as an 88th @-@ minute substitute in a 1 ? 1 home draw with Stockport County . His first two goals of 2006 ? 07 came in Mansfield 's 3 ? 0 Football League Trophy home victory against Grimsby Town on 31 October 2006 .

As he was not playing regularly for Mansfield , Beardsley joined Conference National side Rushden & Diamonds on a one @-@ month loan on 19 January 2007 . He made his debut a day later , when starting in Rushden 's 2 ? 1 home victory against Stafford Rangers , and scored his first goal in the following match , with a 75th @-@ minute header in a 3 ? 1 home win over Cambridge United . Having helped Rushden move up the table with two goals from three matches , he signed for the club permanently on 31 January 2007 on a one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half @-@ year contract on a free transfer . He finished 2006 ? 07 with 13 appearances and 2 goals for Rushden , as they finished the season in 12th @-@ place in the Conference National . However , he was released the club in May 2007 following a change in management .

= = = York City and Kettering Town = = =

Beardsley was signed by Conference Premier team York on 19 June 2007 , to provide competition for Richard Brodie , Craig Farrell and Onome Sodje . He made his debut as a starter in their 2 ? 1 home defeat to Cambridge on 11 August 2007 , in which he was substituted on 62 minutes . Despite struggling for a place in the team , Beardsley turned down a loan move to Conference North side Tamworth in September 2007 , in order to prove his worth at York . He suffered a broken jaw in two places during York 's 2 ? 0 away win over Grays Athletic on 22 September 2007 , after being elbowed by Jamie Stuart in an off @-@ the @-@ ball incident , which was likely to rule Beardsley out for at least three months . Essex Police confirmed they were making enquiries following the incident . Beardsley returned to the team as a 73rd @-@ minute substitute in York 's 1 ? 1 home draw with Crawley Town on 1 December 2007 . He finished his York career with nine appearances .

To aid his return from injury , Beardsley joined Conference North club Kettering Town on a one @-@ month loan on 31 December 2007 . He made an immediate impact , scoring two goals in a 6 ? 1 home win over Solihull Moors a day later , after which he was praised in the Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph for a " magnificent debut performance " . Beardsley continued his scoring form , and had scored five goals from five appearances by the time he joined Kettering permanently on a one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half @-@ year contract on a free transfer on 28 January 2008 . He played in all of Kettering 's remaining fixtures in 2007 ? 08 , which he completed with 11 goals from

22 appearances , as the club was promoted into the Conference Premier as Conference North champions .

Beardsley featured regularly for Kettering at the start of 2008 ? 09 , and scored his first goal of the season after turning in Jean @-@ Paul Marna 's cross in the 82nd @-@ minute of a 2 ? 0 away win over Cambridge on 25 August 2008 . Having scored four goals in the first two months of 2008 ? 09 , he rejoined former club Kidderminster on a one @-@ month loan on 27 November 2008 , with a view to a permanent transfer . He debuted as an 80th @-@ minute substitute in a 3 ? 2 home victory against Salisbury City on 6 December 2008 . Beardsley made three appearances while on loan at Kidderminster , and returned to Kettering after being recalled in January 2009 . Only weeks after returning , he entered Kettering 's 4 ? 2 home loss to Premier League team Fulham in the FA Cup on 24 January 2009 as a 73rd @-@ minute substitute . Beardsley featured mostly as a substitute over the remainder of 2008 ? 09 , which he finished with 44 appearances and 5 goals for Kettering . They finished in eighth @-@ place in the Conference Premier , and Beardsley was released by the club in May 2009 .

= = = Stevenage = = =

He signed for Conference Premier club Stevenage Borough on a one @-@ year contract on 27 May 2009 , reuniting him with manager Graham Westley , who had previously signed Beardsley for Rushden . He made a scoring debut in Stevenage 's 3 ? 0 home victory over Ebbsfleet United on 18 August 2009 , with a shot from 12 yards in the eighth @-@ minute . Beardsley featured regularly in the first half of 2009 ? 10 , but scored only three goals before the Christmas period , in which he scored twice in two games against Cambridge . In the first match on 26 December 2009 , he scored with a shot from Ronnie Henry 's cross in the 85th @-@ minute of a 3 ? 1 away win , and in the second match on 1 January 2010 , his goal was assisted Yemi Odubade , as Stevenage won 4 ? 1 at home . The latter result saw Stevenage move to the top of the Conference Premier table . Beardsley 's goal tally reached double figures when he scored twice in a 5 ? 1 away win over Kidderminster in the FA Trophy semi @-@ final first leg on 13 March 2010 . He started in the final at Wembley Stadium on 8 May 2010 , being substituted on 66 minutes , as Stevenage were beaten 2 ? 1 after extra @-@ time by Barrow . His 2009 ? 10 season was successful , with Beardsley scoring 10 times from 45 appearances as Stevenage won promotion into League Two after winning the Conference Premier championship . This was the first time in the club 's history that Stevenage had been promoted into the Football League .

He made his first appearance of 2010 ? 11 in Stevenage 's first ever Football League fixture , coming on as a 60th @-@ minute substitute in a 2 ? 2 home draw against Macclesfield Town on 7 August 2010 . He scored his first goal of the season in the 50th @-@ minute of a 1 ? 1 draw away to Aldershot Town on 28 August 2010 , after finishing from Odubade 's flick @-@ on . On 31 August 2010 , Beardsley suffered a dislocated shoulder in Stevenage 's 1 ? 0 home loss to Brentford in the Football League Trophy , ruled him out of the team for six weeks . He returned to the team on 16 November 2010 , starting the FA Cup win against Milton Keynes Dons , before being substituted in the 81st @-@ minute . Stevenage qualified for the play @-@ offs with a sixth @-@ place finish in League Two , and Beardsley scored his second goal of 2010 ? 11 in the second leg 1 ? 0 win away to Accrington Stanley on 20 May 2011 . Beardsley 's goal was scored in the 90th @-@ minute with a shot into the bottom left corner , having come on as a 77th @-@ minute substitute , and ensured Stevenage won the tie 3 ? 0 on aggregate . He came on as an 85th @-@ minute substitute in the final on 28 May 2011 , as Stevenage beat Torquay 1 ? 0 at Old Trafford to earn promotion into League One . Beardsley made 32 appearances during the club 's first season in the Football League , scoring 2 goals .

Beardsley made his first appearance of 2011 ? 12 as a 95th @-@ minute substitute in a 4 ? 3 extra @-@ time defeat at home to Peterborough United in the League Cup , scoring Stevenage 's third goal with a header on 117 minutes , although they lost 4 ? 3 . He scored twice in Stevenage 's 3 ? 0 away win over Stourbridge in the FA Cup on 3 December 2011 , scoring the club 's first two goals of the match mid @-@ way through the second half , to ensure Stevenage progressed to the third

round for the second consecutive season . Recurring hamstring injuries meant Beardsley struggled for appearances during the second half of the season , scoring one further goal on the last day of the regular season , with a 20 yard shot in a 3 ? 0 home win over Bury on 5 May 2012 . With a sixth @-@ place finish in League One , Stevenage qualified for the play @-@ offs , and faced Sheffield United in the semi @-@ final . Beardsley featured in the second leg 1 ? 0 away defeat as a 63rd @-@ minute substitute , as Stevenage were eliminated 1 ? 0 on aggregate . He scored 10 times in 40 appearances during 2011 ? 12 , and was Stevenage 's top scorer for the season . In June 2012 , Beardsley left Stevenage after he failed to agree a new contract with the club .

= = = Preston North End = = =

Beardsley signed for League One side Preston North End on a free transfer on 12 August 2012 , linking up again with manager Graham Westley . He had spent the pre @-@ season ahead of 2012 ? 13 training with the club , although the transfer had been held up while the club waited for confirmation from the Football League in accordance with new financial fair play rules . Beardsley made his Preston debut in a 2 ? 0 home win over Huddersfield Town in the League Cup on 14 August 2012 , assisting the club 's second goal of the game , with his low cross being scored by Nicky Wroe . He scored his first goal for Preston on 4 September 2012 after converting David Amoo 's cross in the third @-@ minute of their 1 ? 1 away draw with Carlisle United in the Football League Trophy , a tie that Preston won 3 ? 1 on penalties . Beardsley scored one further goal that month , heading in Jeffrey Monakana 's cross on 64 minutes as Preston came from behind to beat Yeovil Town 3 ? 2 at home . It proved to be Beardsley 's last goal for five months , ending his goal drought in a 3 ? 1 away loss to Yeovil on 12 February 2013 , in what was Westley 's last game in charge of the club . Beardsley made just two appearances under new manager Simon Grayson over the remainder of 2012 ? 13 , both all as a second @-@ half substitute . Shortly after the season ended , he was told he could leave Preston if a suitable offer was received . He made 22 appearances during 2012 ? 13 , scoring 3 times , as Preston ranked in 14th @-@ place in League One .

Having failed to make an appearance for Preston at the start of 2013 ? 14 , Beardsley joined League Two club Bristol Rovers on a one @-@ month loan on 31 October 2013 . He debuted two days later when starting Rovers ' 1 ? 0 away defeat to Oxford United , in which he was substituted in the 86th @-@ minute . His first goal for the club came in his next appearance , with a header in a 3 ? 3 home draw with York in the FA Cup on 8 November 2015 . On 22 November 2013 , having scored two goals from four appearances , Beardsley 's loan was extended until 5 January 2014 . Just a day later , he was red carded for a late tackle in Rovers ' 1 ? 0 away defeat to Burton Albion , for which he received a one @-@ match suspension . On 6 January 2014 , his loan was extended until the end of 2013 ? 14 , as manager John Ward felt that " Up front Chris gives a little bit more " . Beardsley finished the loan with 28 appearances and 3 goals , while Rovers were relegated into the Conference Premier with a 23rd @-@ place finish in League Two . He was released by Preston in May 2014 .

= = = Return to Stevenage and third spell with Mansfield = = =

Beardsley was reunited with Westley when re @-@ signing for Stevenage , now playing in League Two , on 12 July 2014 . He missed the start of 2014 ? 15 through injury , and only made his debut on 16 September 2014 as a starter in Stevenage 's 2 ? 1 away defeat to Bury , in which he was substituted on 62 minutes . Beardsley 's first goal came in a 3 ? 2 away defeat to Portsmouth on 21 October 2014 , after latching on to a Joe Devera back @-@ header and scoring in the 74th @-@ minute . After scoring twice in Stevenage 's 5 ? 1 home win over Cheltenham Town on 15 November 2014 he endured a five @-@ month goal drought , his next goal coming with a close @-@ range 89th @-@ minute equaliser in a 2 ? 2 draw away to Accrington on 18 April 2015 . Stevenage qualified for the play @-@ offs with a sixth @-@ place finish in League Two , with Southend their opponent in the semi @-@ final . Beardsley started both matches , but Stevenage were eliminated 4 ? 2 on aggregate , ending his season on 32 appearances and 4 goals . He was

released by the club in May 2015 , but was praised by chairman Phil Wallace , who commented that Beardsley had " proved key to Stevenage establishing itself as a Football League club under Graham Westley " .

He re @-@ signed for Mansfield on 5 June 2015 , starting a third spell with the League Two club . His debut came after starting a 4 ? 1 away defeat to Sheffield Wednesday in the League Cup on 11 August 2015 . He played regularly at the start of 2015 ? 16 , but had a spell out of the team with a stress fracture in his shin . He suffered a broken nose on his return as an 89th @-@ minute substitute in a 3 ? 1 away win over Barnet on 28 November 2015 , and continued to struggle with his shin injury . Beardsley 's first Mansfield goal in over nine years came on 30 January 2016 with a header from Malvind Benning 's corner on 60 minutes in a 1 ? 0 away victory over Crawley . He finished 2015 ? 16 with 16 appearances and one goal as Mansfield ranked in 12th @-@ place in League Two . He was released by the club in May 2016 .

= = Style of play = =

Beardsley plays as a striker , and was described by his Stevenage teammate Mark Roberts as the " perfect man to lead the line " , because of his work ethic .

= = Coaching career = =

Beardsley moved into coaching when being appointed the fitness coach at newly promoted Championship club Burton Albion on 7 July 2016 .

= = Personal life = =

He was born in Derby , Derbyshire and attended Allestree Woodlands School from 1995 to 2000 and The Manor Academy from 2000 to 2003 . Beardsley studied sports journalism at Staffordshire University from 2008 to 2010 , graduating with a first @-@ class honours degree . He used his degree to take part in regular podcasts , and he also wrote frequently for a local newspaper in Stevenage . He supports his hometown club , Derby County .

= = Career statistics = =

As of match played 2 April 2016 .

= = Honours = =

Kettering Town

Conference North : 2007 ? 08

Stevenage

Conference Premier : 2009 ? 10

Football League Two play @-@ offs : 2010 ? 11