

= Chris Holroyd =

Christopher " Chris " Holroyd (born 24 October 1986) is an English professional footballer who plays as a striker for National League club Macclesfield Town . Holroyd started his football career at Crewe Alexandra , progressing through the club 's youth system . He subsequently joined Chester City for the third year of his scholarship , and signed professional terms in 2006 . In July 2008 , Holroyd left Chester by mutual agreement with a year remaining on his contract .

A month later , in August 2008 , Holroyd signed for Conference National side Cambridge United , scoring ten goals in his first season with the club . The following season , Holroyd 's goalscoring form which saw him score 18 goals during the first half of the 2009 ? 10 campaign , culminated into a move to League One side Brighton & Hove Albion for an undisclosed fee in January 2010 . In September 2010 , Holroyd joined Stevenage on a three @-@ month loan deal . He was loaned out again in March 2011 to Bury , playing a handful of games . At the end of the 2010 ? 11 season , Holroyd was released by Brighton , and was subsequently signed by Rotherham United in June 2011 . He joined League One side Preston North End for an undisclosed fee in January 2012 . In September 2012 , Holroyd joined Macclesfield Town on loan until January 2013 . On returning to his parent club , his contract was cancelled by mutual consent . He signed for Morecambe of League Two on a free transfer in January 2013 , and rejoined Macclesfield at the end of the season .

= = Career = =

= = = Early career = = =

Holroyd began his career at Crewe Alexandra , spending five years at the club as a schoolboy , as well as a further two years as a scholar at the club 's " highly rated youth academy " . Holroyd left Crewe after he was not offered a professional contract entering his third year of scholarship and joined Chester City , signing professional terms in 2006 after scoring 21 goals in 28 stats for Chester 's youth team in the Football League Youth Alliance . He made his first @-@ team debut for Chester at the start of the 2006 ? 07 season , coming on as a 75th @-@ minute substitute in Chester 's 2 ? 1 home defeat to Wrexham . The following season , Holroyd scored his first goal for Chester in a competitive match in October 2007 , scoring a consolation goal in a 4 ? 2 Football League Trophy defeat at Carlisle United . His first Football League goal followed later in the month in Chester 's 2 ? 2 draw with Wycombe Wanderers , scoring from eight yards to restore parity in the match . Holroyd scored his second goal of the season in a 5 ? 3 defeat at Morecambe , as well as twice in a 3 ? 3 draw at Accrington Stanley . He also made a further two assists towards the latter stages of the 2007 ? 08 campaign in victories against Mansfield Town and Darlington respectively . Holroyd played 26 games in all competitions for Chester during the season , scoring five times . In July 2008 , he was transfer @-@ listed by the club in an attempt to reduce the size of their squad . A day after being transfer @-@ listed , Holroyd left Chester by mutual agreement with a year remaining on his contract , while being linked with a transfer to other clubs . During his time without a club , Holroyd rejected the option of trialling with A.F.C. Bournemouth .

= = = Cambridge United = = =

A month later , Holroyd signed for Conference National side Cambridge United on a one @-@ year contract , with the option of a further year . Holroyd made his debut for Cambridge in the club 's 3 ? 0 away win at Eastbourne Borough , coming on as a 79th @-@ minute substitute and scoring five minutes later to give Cambridge a three @-@ goal lead . After scoring on his debut , Holroyd went sixteen games without scoring , ending his goal drought in a 4 ? 0 victory over Salisbury City in December 2008 . In February 2009 , Holroyd scored in successive away victories for Cambridge , scoring from the penalty spot against Rushden & Diamonds , before scoring twice away at Kidderminster Harriers . A month later , he scored three goals within the space of three days ,

scoring two second @-@ half goals in Cambridge 's 2 ? 0 win at Barrow , as well as netting against Northwich Victoria . Holroyd scored his ninth goal of the season from the penalty spot as Cambridge came from a goal behind to beat Eastbourne Borough 2 ? 1 . Two days later , he scored once more , again from the penalty spot , this time away at Kettering Town . Holroyd also featured in all three of Cambridge 's play @-@ off games , coming on as an 80th @-@ minute substitute in Cambridge 's 2 ? 0 loss in the final to Torquay United . He played a total of 43 times for Cambridge during the campaign , scoring ten goals . In May 2009 , Cambridge United exercised the option to extend the contract of Holroyd for the following season .

Ahead of the 2009 ? 10 season , Holroyd was assigned the number nine shirt following the departure of fellow striker Scott Rendell . He started the club 's first match of the season , playing the whole game in a 2 ? 0 home defeat to Barrow . Three days later , he scored twice in Cambridge 's 3 ? 1 win against Ebbsfleet United , scoring both goals . Holroyd scored his first professional hat @-@ trick four days later , scoring against his former employers , Chester City , as Cambridge came from two goals down to win the match 4 ? 2 . One of his goals included an audacious over head kick , 15 yards from goal . Holroyd scored four goals in two games shortly after , netting against Gateshead and Forest Green Rovers respectively . He scored a further two goals in Cambridge 's 4 ? 3 home loss to Luton Town in September 2009 , taking his goal tally to eleven for the season . His twelfth goal of the season came against Cambridge 's local rivals , Histon , Holroyd netting with just nine minutes remaining in a 1 ? 1 draw . A week later , he scored from the penalty spot in Cambridge 's 4 ? 0 win against Ebbsfleet United . His fine goalscoring form continued into November 2009 , scoring in victories against Kidderminster Harriers and Ilkeston Town respectively . After his goal against Ilkeston Town , Holroyd did not find the net until the end of December 2009 , scoring just before half @-@ time for Cambridge as they lost 2 ? 1 at Mansfield Town . A week later , Cambridge United assistant manager , Paul Carden , said that he expected Holroyd to leave the club in the January transfer window . He subsequently played his last game for the club in Cambridge 's 1 ? 0 home defeat to Eastbourne Borough . During the first half of the 2009 ? 10 season , Holroyd scored 15 goals in 25 games for Cambridge .

= = = Brighton & Hove Albion = = =

Holroyd joined League One team Brighton & Hove Albion on 29 January 2010 . An undisclosed fee was agreed between Cambridge United and Brighton on 22 January , but the transfer was not finalised until a week later due to negotiations over personal terms between player and club . The intervening period led to much speculation that the deal had collapsed . Holroyd made his Brighton debut just a day after signing , which came as a surprise , coming on as a 64th @-@ minute substitute in a 1 ? 0 defeat to Millwall . Holroyd featured a total of 13 times during the latter stages of the club 's 2009 ? 10 campaign , failing to score . The following season , Holroyd found first @-@ team opportunities hard to come by , featuring just twice in games against Northampton Town and Walsall . He slipped further down the pecking order following Francisco Sandaza 's arrival at the club . Brighton manager Gus Poyet said that Holroyd " needs to play in a different environment to try and re @-@ establish himself " , as well as saying " he needs to play regularly " . In May 2011 the club announced that he would be released at the end of the season following the ending of his current contract , along with five other players .

= = = Stevenage and Bury loans = = =

Holroyd signed for League Two side Stevenage on a three @-@ month loan deal in September 2010 . He made his debut the next day , scoring the only goal of the game in the club 's 1 ? 0 win over Lincoln City at Sincil Bank . Three days later , Holroyd scored a hat @-@ trick in Stevenage 's 4 ? 1 victory against Hereford United , taking his tally up to four goals in two games . Stevenage manager Graham Westley said " He 's lethal , we knew that before he came to the club . He 's been very impressive in his two games so far , his work ethic is excellent and he is a constant menace for opposition defences " . Holroyd scored his fifth goal for Stevenage in the club 's 2 ? 1 home win

against Burton Albion , turning sharply in the box to restore Stevenage 's lead in the second @-@ half . Earlier on in the same game , he missed a penalty after originally being fouled in the area . Holroyd scored his sixth goal for Stevenage in a 1 ? 1 draw against Shrewsbury Town . Due to a host of postponements , Holroyd 's final game for the club was a 1 ? 0 home loss to Northampton Town on 11 December , and he returned to his parent club on Boxing Day . During his three @-@ month loan spell , Holroyd scored six goals in twelve games .

In March 2011 , after making three substitute appearances for Brighton , Holroyd was loaned out to another League Two side in the form of Bury . His loan spell ran until the end of the 2010 ? 11 season . Holroyd made his debut a day after signing for the club , coming on as a 69th @-@ minute substitute in a 0 ? 0 draw at Rotherham United . Three days later , Holroyd scored in a 2 ? 1 home loss to Torquay United . Brighton opted to recall Holroyd on 11 April 2011 . He made four appearances for Bury during his loan spell , scoring one goal .

= = = Rotherham United = = =

After being released by Brighton , Holroyd signed for League Two side Rotherham United on 20 June 2011 . He joined the club on a free transfer , signing a two @-@ year contract . Holroyd made his Rotherham debut in the club 's 1 ? 0 home win against Oxford United on 6 August 2011 , playing 72 minutes of the match . He scored his first goal for Rotherham in a 2 ? 0 home victory against Aldershot Town in November 2011 , scoring a glancing header to double Rotherham 's advantage on their way to recording their first victory in ten games . It was to be Holroyd 's only goal for the club , making a total of 19 appearances in the first half of the 2011 ? 12 campaign , of which only six were starting appearances even though Holroyd was the club 's top scorer in pre @-@ season games .

= = = Preston North End = = =

Holroyd joined League One club Preston North End for an undisclosed fee on 20 January 2012 . The move meant that Holroyd was again playing under the management of Graham Westley , who had signed him on loan during his time at Stevenage . He made his debut a day later playing in a new position on the right wing and winning the man of the match award in a 2 ? 0 home defeat to Leyton Orient . Holroyd scored his first goal for Preston on 21 April 2012 , heading in a Danny Mayor cross at the back post in a 1 ? 1 draw away at Oldham Athletic . In total , Holroyd made 20 appearances for Preston , where he was played mostly as a traditional right winger .

In August 2012 , Holroyd joined his hometown club , Conference National side Macclesfield Town , on loan until January 2013 . He made a scoring debut for the club , coming off the bench to score with his first touch in a 3 ? 2 win against Lincoln City . In the fourth appearance of his loan spell , Holroyd scored a hat @-@ trick as Macclesfield defeated Stockport County 4 ? 3 at Edgeley Park . Holroyd scored his fifth goal for Macclesfield in a 2 ? 2 away draw with Gateshead , coming on as a substitute and equalising late @-@ on . He went on to score nine times in 23 appearances during the five @-@ month loan spell , including two goals in a 4 ? 1 FA Cup victory over Barrow that ensured Macclesfield progressed to the third round of the competition .

Holroyd returned to Preston in January 2013 , and was told he did not feature in the club 's plans . With his contract expiring in June 2013 , Holroyd 's contract was cancelled by mutual consent .

= = = Morecambe = = =

Available on a free transfer , Holroyd attracted the interest of Macclesfield Town , having just spent five months on loan with the club . However , no permanent transfer materialised , and , on 17 January 2013 , he signed for League Two side Morecambe on a contract until the end of the 2012 ? 13 season . Holroyd made his debut a day after signing for the club , coming on as a second @-@ half substitute in a 0 ? 0 home draw against Cheltenham Town .

= = Career statistics = =

As of match played 27 February 2016