

= Michael Symes =

Michael Symes (born 31 October 1983) is an English professional footballer who plays as a striker

He started his career as a trainee with Everton , playing in attack with future England international Wayne Rooney . He moved to Bradford City after he failed to break into the Everton side but after two injury @-@ ravaged seasons with Bradford he moved to Shrewsbury Town , following a short loan spell . He spent three seasons with Shrewsbury , then joined Accrington Stanley in July 2009 after a loan period the previous season .

His most successful campaign in terms of goals was with Accrington , which resulted in a summer move to newly promoted Bournemouth in 2010 . After two years there , he moved on to Leyton Orient , then Burton Albion , initially on a temporary deal , before being released in 2014 . He played two matches for Southport in 2015 .

= = Career = =

= = = Everton = = =

Symes was born in Great Yarmouth , in East Anglia , but moved to Liverpool as a young child , he attended St Johns junior school before moving on to Holy rosary / Maricourt High School . Symes started his career as a trainee at his boyhood heroes , Everton , with whom he reached the final of the 2002 FA Youth Cup , playing up @-@ front with Wayne Rooney . Symes scored 31 goals from 51 games at youth level for Everton , including 5 goals in 9 games for the reserves , however injuries over the next season and a half restricted his progress to the Everton first team , In March 2004 , he joined Crewe Alexandra on loan for the rest of the 2003 ? 04 season making his debut as a substitute against Nottingham Forest on 27 March . He played four games during his loan spell , starting once against Coventry City when he scored his first senior goal in a 3 ? 1 win .

= = = Bradford City = = =

Crewe manager Dario Gradi decided not to offer a contract to Symes , who instead spent a period on trial at Bradford City , which included an 8 ? 1 pre @-@ season friendly win over Farsley Celtic . He signed for the League One side in July 2004 with fellow former Everton trainee Steven Schumacher , with whom he lived during his spell at Bradford . Symes made his Bradford debut in a 2 ? 1 defeat at Hartlepool United on the opening day of the 2004 ? 05 season . Three days later he missed a late penalty which would have secured Bradford victory over Peterborough United in a game in which Symes was also booked . Symes was dropped from the first team after Bradford signed Dele Adebola . When Bradford were allowed special dispensation to sign Neil Roberts , Bradford tried to give Symes a loan transfer to Darlington but the deal was blocked by the Football League . The following month , Symes scored his first goals for Bradford when he came off the bench at half @-@ time to score twice in a 3 ? 1 victory over Sheffield Wednesday on 23 October 2004 . They were the only goals he scored that season from just 15 games .

Before the following season started , Symes was loaned out to Macclesfield Town for six months , but in July he suffered an ankle injury keeping him out until September . He never played for Macclesfield meaning his action in 2005 was limited to just 35 minutes on New Year 's Day . Instead he joined Stockport County in another loan deal in January 2006 , where he made his one and only appearance in a 1 ? 1 draw with Torquay United on 31 January 2006 . He returned to Bradford and played another three games , scoring in a 1 ? 1 draw with Brentford on 8 April 2006 . However his season again ended early when he pulled his hamstring during the draw with Brentford . Symes later admitted " it never happened " for him at City and that his confidence was shattered by manager Colin Todd .

== Shrewsbury Town ==

At the start of the 2006 ? 07 season , Symes was kept on at Bradford but started the season on loan at Shrewsbury Town . He made his Town debut as a late substitute in the opening game of the season in a 2 ? 2 draw with Mansfield Town . He scored in his second appearance , when he again came on as substitute , as Shrewsbury defeated Boston United 5 ? 0 . He started his first game in the League Cup against Birmingham City as Shrewsbury lost 1 ? 0 . His move from Bradford was made permanent by the end of the August transfer window . He had started just six games in two seasons with Bradford . He scored the second brace of his career to give Shrewsbury a 2 ? 1 victory over Hereford United in the Football League Trophy first round , a competition in which Shrewsbury eventually reached the southern section semi @-@ final stage . In January 2007 , his contract was extended further , lasting until summer 2009 . He scored 13 goals in his first season at Shrewsbury , but was also given the first red card of his career in a game against Mansfield Town , as they missed out on promotion when they lost 3 ? 1 to Bristol Rovers in the play @-@ off final at Wembley Stadium .

Symes was not a regular in the Shrewsbury side at the start of the 2007 ? 08 season , making 12 starts and nine substitute appearances as he scored just three goals . In January 2008 , he rejoined Macclesfield Town with defender Neil Ashton on loan until the end of the season . Despite his exit , Shrewsbury manager Gary Peters said the pair could both return to Shrewsbury at the end of the season . He played his first Macclesfield game in a 1 ? 0 defeat to Peterborough on 12 January , and scored his first goal as Macclesfield drew 1 ? 1 with Milton Keynes Dons on 29 January . It was his only goal in his first eight games and he was dropped for Macclesfield 's 3 ? 0 defeat against Peterborough on 23 February when he came on as a substitute in the 44th minute . He returned to the side a week later for new manager Keith Alexander 's first match against Notts County when Macclesfield were denied a victory by a late goal from Richard Butcher . While Symes was on loan at Macclesfield , Shrewsbury manager Peters left the club and was replaced with Paul Simpson , who promised Symes and other players out on loan that he would monitor their progress and build his own opinion of them . Macclesfield were involved in a relegation fight during Symes ' stay and it was not until a 1 ? 0 victory over Chesterfield on the penultimate weekend of the season that Macclesfield ensured they would be in the league the following season . Symes played 14 games , four as substitute , but scored just one goal during his stay with Macclesfield .

Symes returned to Shrewsbury and started pre @-@ season training ahead of the 2008 ? 09 season , having been told by Simpson that he would be given the same chance as any other player at Shrewsbury to impress , and also personally vowing to force his way into the manager 's first @-@ team plans . However , Simpson signed new strikers during the summer including Grant Holt , who cost a club record £ 170 @,@ 000 , and Symes spent the start of the season out of the team . After scoring six goals in two consecutive reserve games , Symes earned his first game for the first team , when he came off the bench to score a late equaliser and earn Shrewsbury a 2 ? 2 draw with Notts County on 30 August . After starting in a 2 ? 1 Football League Trophy victory against Exeter City , he was again sidelined when he picked up a knee injury . He returned to action in mid @-@ October , when he came on as substitute to give Shrewsbury a late equaliser against Port Vale , only for Vale to score another goal to give them victory .

In November 2008 , he was again sent out on loan , this time to Bournemouth , also in League Two , for one month . Simpson said : " We have a big squad and I felt that the opportunity for Michael to go and get a month out on loan at Bournemouth would do him the world of good . " Symes made his debut for Bournemouth on 15 November , as they lost 3 ? 0 to Accrington Stanley . He returned to Shrewsbury at the end of his month loan spell , in which he failed to score from five appearances . He was immediately recalled to the Shrewsbury squad and came on as a second @-@ half substitute in a 1 ? 0 defeat to league leaders Wycombe Wanderers the following weekend . Because of injury problems , Symes played only three more games , before he moved on loan , this time to Accrington Stanley , another League Two side . He made his Accrington debut the day following his transfer , helping them to a 2 ? 1 victory at home to Exeter City . Symes scored with a headed goal to give Accrington a 1 ? 0 victory against Grimsby Town , which proved to be the only

goal he recorded in seven games for Accrington , before he returned to Shrewsbury Town at the end of the season . However he was one of seven players released by Simpson after they lost the play @-@ off final .

== = Accrington Stanley == =

As a result of his loan spell at Accrington , Symes was one of five signings made by their manager John Coleman on the same day at the start of pre @-@ season training in July 2009 . Symes scored his first goal of the new season with a late consolation goal for Accrington in a 2 ? 1 League Cup defeat to Queens Park Rangers , before scoring his first league goal later the same week against former team Shrewsbury Town but in another defeat . After an improved run of form , Symes ' first two @-@ goal haul for Accrington in a 5 ? 3 victory over another of his former teams , Crewe Alexandra , helped his new side into the top @-@ half of the League Two table . Symes also scored goals in the FA Cup and the Football League Trophy , helping Accrington to the third round of the former competition and into the northern zone semi @-@ finals against Leeds United in the latter .

His goals helped Symes land December 's League Two Player of the Month and an offer of a contract extension by Accrington to fend off reported interest from other clubs during the January 2010 transfer window . However , Symes announced he would not sign a new contract during the transfer window increasing the chance he could leave on a free transfer during the summer on a Bosman ruling transfer . Two weeks later , Accrington announced they had rejected two bids from fellow League Two side Grimsby Town for their striker . One bid included striker Barry Conlon moving in the opposite direction . The second bid was reported to be a six @-@ figure sum . Symes continued his rich vein of form as his 14th goal of the season ? making it his most productive season to date ? levelled the scoring against Premier League Fulham in the FA Cup fourth round . A victory would have given Stanley a fifth round place for the first time in their history , but they eventually lost 3 ? 1 . In the crowd at the club 's following game was Preston North End 's new manager Darren Ferguson to become Symes ' latest suitor . Despite the interest in Symes , no further bids were reported by Accrington for him or for midfielder Bobby Grant as the January transfer window closed . Symes finished the season with 19 goals ? his best return of his career to that point ? with 13 of those coming in the league .

== = Bournemouth == =

With his contract at Accrington having expired , Symes turned down Accrington 's contract offer and instead rejoined Bournemouth on 4 June 2010 ahead of their first season back in League One . Symes was one of three players signed on the same day ? they were Bournemouth 's first permanent signings in 17 months after the Football League lifted the club 's transfer embargo .

Symes was injured during pre @-@ season but made his second Bournemouth debut on the opening day of the 2010 ? 11 season against Charlton Athletic as a half @-@ time substitute . Bournemouth lost the game 1 ? 0 but played against ten @-@ men for the last half @-@ hour after defender José Semedo was sent off for a bad tackle on Symes . He was again a substitute for his side 's League Cup match before he made his first start the following weekend as Bournemouth defeated Peterborough United 5 ? 1 and a week later he grabbed his first Bournemouth goal with a penalty in a 3 ? 0 win against Tranmere Rovers . However , Symes soon suffered a shoulder injury , which required specialist treatment and kept him out for nearly a month . With Bournemouth 's form pushing them towards the top of the league , Symes admitted he would have to prove himself again to manager Eddie Howe . Bournemouth , however , suffered a number of injuries to strikers , and they risked bringing Symes back early . He was brought on as a half @-@ time substitute against Carlisle United and helped lead his side to a 2 ? 0 victory by scoring the second goal . He instantly won a place in Bournemouth 's starting team and followed up his goal @-@ scoring performance by netting twice against Exeter City to put Bournemouth second in the table . He soon spent another six weeks on the sidelines because of a shoulder injury before returning in November . His injury problems continued during the winter and he struggled to gain a run of games in the team meaning

he did not score again until February at which point he scored in three successive matches .

On the final day of the January 2012 transfer deadline window , Symes rejoined his former Accrington manager John Coleman by joining Rochdale on loan for the rest of the season . He made his debut on 14 February , replacing Ashley Grimes in the 58th minute of a 1 ? 0 loss to Scunthorpe United at Glanford Park . His first goals for the Dale came on 17 March in a 3 ? 2 win over neighbours Oldham Athletic , a hat @-@ trick concluding with a penalty which he won after being fouled by James Tarkowski . Two weeks later , he scored the only other goal of his 15 @-@ match loan spell , an 82nd @-@ minute penalty in a 3 ? 3 draw with Walsall at Spotland , having earlier missed an open goal when set up by Jean @-@ Louis Akpa Akpro . On 14 May , he was one of four players released by new Bournemouth manager Paul Groves .

= = = Leyton Orient / Burton Albion = = =

On 28 June 2012 , along with Mathieu Baudry , completed a free transfer to fellow League One club Leyton Orient on a two @-@ year deal after being released by Bournemouth . On 14 August , he made his debut in the first round of the League Cup away to Charlton Athletic , replacing David Mooney in the 64th minute of a 1 ? 1 draw at The Valley and converting his attempt in the subsequent penalty shootout which his team won 4 ? 3 . Four days later on his league debut , he replaced Kevin Lisbie with 21 minutes remaining and scored a penalty consolation in a 3 ? 1 loss at Tranmere Rovers . On 5 December , he scored his only other goal for the O 's , another penalty to confirm a 3 ? 0 win at Northampton Town in the second round of the Football League Trophy , seven minutes after replacing Mooney .

Symes was loaned to League Two Burton Albion on 31 January 2013 , until the end of the season . He made his debut two days later , away to bottom @-@ placed AFC Wimbledon , and equalised for a 1 ? 1 draw in the 36th minute . He scored 4 goals in 15 appearances as the team made the play @-@ offs , being eliminated by his former employers Bradford .

On 29 July 2013 , Symes signed a permanent deal for Burton . He came on as a 78th @-@ minute substitute for Rene Howe in a League Cup second round game against Championship team Fulham at the Pirelli Stadium on 27 August , and nearly scored the winning goal , which was disallowed for offside . When the game finished 1 ? 1 after 90 minutes , he headed the Brewers into the lead in the 102nd , and when it finished 2 ? 2 and went to penalties , he scored the first attempt although his team lost 5 ? 4 nonetheless . On 28 May 2014 , he was released by manager Gary Rowett .

Returning to Merseyside , Symes played two matches as late substitute for Southport in the Conference in April 2015 , his debut coming on the 3rd , when he replaced Richard Brodie for the final 13 minutes of a 2 ? 0 loss at Altrincham . Eight days later , he came on at the same point for a loss by the same score at Bristol Rovers .

= = Career statistics = =

Updated to 15 January 2013 .