

= Shaun Whalley =

Shaun James Whalley (born 7 August 1987) is an English footballer who plays as a midfielder for Shrewsbury Town . Born in Prescot , Merseyside , Whalley played for Norwich City and Southport as a youth before making his Football League debut with Chester City in 2004 .

After leaving Chester , he spent time in non @-@ League football with Runcorn F.C. Halton and Witton Albion . While on the books at Witton , he spent five weeks on trial with Football League One side Crewe Alexandra but was not offered a contract , so he signed for League Two side Accrington Stanley in 2006 . Whalley spent almost two years with the Lancashire club , but following his release in the summer of 2008 , he returned to non @-@ League , initially with Wrexham . While at Wrexham , he had a short loan spell with Southport where he helped the team to the Conference North play @-@ offs . He subsequently played at Droylsden , where he was part of the team that won the Manchester Premier Cup in 2010 , and Hyde before joining Southport again on a permanent basis in January 2011 . He was signed by Luton Town in the summer of 2013 for an undisclosed fee , and joined AFC Telford United on loan in 2014 . Both Luton and Telford won their respective leagues during the 2013 ? 14 season , making Whalley a winner of both the Conference Premier and the Conference North in the same season . He left Luton in May 2015 , later joining Shrewsbury .

Described as an " express @-@ train down the wings " by former team @-@ mate Paul Mullin , Whalley was called up to the Football Association XI standby squad for a game against Hallam , the game taking place to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the club . He is the son of the former Preston North End captain Neil Whalley , who was also a midfielder .

= = Early life = =

Whalley was born and raised in Prescot , Merseyside . As a child , he played football for his local teams until 2001 when he was spotted by Norwich City . He went to play for their academy , where he played for three years before leaving in 2004 . He subsequently returned to Merseyside and joined Southport , where he played several reserve @-@ team matches . In the summer of the same year , Whalley turned professional when he signed for Football League side Chester City .

Whalley 's father , Neil Whalley , was also a professional footballer in the early 1990s . He too played in midfield and made more than 50 appearances for Preston North End , where he was also captain for a period of time .

= = Career = =

= = = Early career = = =

With Chester , Whalley played mostly for the youth and reserve teams , but he made his Football League debut for the club in a 0 ? 0 draw with Cambridge United on 18 September 2004 , coming on as a substitute for Darryn Stamp . His debut came just one day after he signed a professional contract with Chester ; manager Ian Rush had only included him on the substitutes ' bench as a result of injuries to Daryl Clare and Michael Branch . The following week , he was part of the side that defeated Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough Stadium in the second round of the Football League Trophy . Whalley made three further senior appearances for Chester , all as a substitute , before leaving the club in the summer of 2005 .

In August of that year , Whalley moved into non @-@ League football with Runcorn as one of several new signings for the Northern Premier League outfit . He made his first appearance for the club in the 1 ? 1 draw with Frickley Athletic and subsequently established himself as a regular first @-@ team player . Whalley scored his first goal for Runcorn in the 5 ? 1 defeat of his hometown club , Prescot Cables and he netted again the following week in the loss to Matlock Town . He went on to play 21 league matches for Runcorn before joining Witton Albion in March 2006 . During his

short spell with the club , he scored 6 goals in 18 league appearances .

== = Accrington Stanley == =

In September 2006 , while at Witton , Whalley spent five weeks on trial at League One club Crewe Alexandra , but he was not offered a permanent contract . He subsequently joined League Two side Accrington Stanley on loan two months later . Whalley made his debut for the club in the 1 ? 2 defeat to Hartlepool United at the Crown Ground . However , two weeks later , he was sent off in the Football League Trophy match against Doncaster Rovers following a high tackle on Theo Streete , although Accrington manager John Coleman felt that the challenge was not deserving of a red card . The subsequent suspension meant that Whalley spent almost a month out of the side before returning in late December in the loss to Bristol Rovers . He made his transfer to Accrington permanent in January 2007 , signing a two @-@ year contract with the club , and the following week he scored a late winner in the 3 ? 2 victory over Mansfield Town , his first goal for the team . Whalley remained a first @-@ team regular for the rest of the 2006 ? 07 season and retained his place in the starting line @-@ up throughout most of the following season , and scored his first Accrington goal away from the Crown Ground in the 8 ? 2 loss at Peterborough United on 15 January 2008 . Whalley made a total of 51 league appearances for Accrington , scoring 5 goals , but in May 2008 , he was one of 10 players released by the club .

== = Return to non @-@ League == =

In June 2008 , he moved down a division to join Conference Premier side Wrexham . He scored his first goal for Wrexham on his debut in a 5 ? 0 win over Stevenage . Whalley followed it up with another goal in a 1 ? 1 draw with Rushden & Diamonds . He scored his third and fourth goals of the month as Wrexham beat Salisbury City 4 ? 1 , which proved to be his last game for that club . He then joined Conference North side Southport on loan in February 2009 for the remainder of the 2008 ? 09 season . Whalley made his Southport debut in the 2 ? 0 win over Hyde United at Haig Avenue . He went on to play 13 league matches for the team as they reached the Conference North play @-@ offs , but they were defeated in the semi @-@ finals by Gateshead . During the loan spell , Whalley played in the quarter @-@ finals of the FA Trophy , but he could not prevent Southport losing 3 ? 2 on aggregate over two legs against AFC Telford United . In the summer of 2009 , he was released by Wrexham along with eight other out @-@ of @-@ contract players .

In August 2009 , following his release from Wrexham , Whalley returned to the Conference North to join Droylsden . Whalley scored his first two goals for the club as Droylsden beat Northwich Victoria 5 ? 1 . He added another goal to his tally , scoring in a 2 ? 0 win over league favourites Fleetwood Town , before adding another two goals to his name as Droylsden beat Harrogate Town 5 ? 0 . He scored two goals in a match for the third time in the season as Droylsden recorded a 5 ? 3 win over Solihull Moors at the Butcher 's Arms Ground . He won Manchester Premier Cup winners medal in his one season at Droylsden before he left at the end of the 2009 ? 10 season , having scored a total of 15 goals in 32 league appearances .

== = Hyde == =

Whalley joined Hyde on 21 August 2010 after his release from Droylsden . He made his debut just hours after he signed for the Tigers in a 5 ? 1 home defeat to Alfreton Town . In just his third appearance for Hyde , he was sent off in a 1 ? 0 defeat to Guiseley . Whalley scored his first goal for Hyde in a 2 ? 1 home win over Corby Town .

In early October , while still on the books at Hyde , he was called up to the Football Association XI squad alongside teammate Scott Mooney for a game against Hallam FC to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Sheffield @-@ based club . Whalley scored his first cup goal for the club in a 4 ? 0 win over Oldham Boro in the Manchester Premier Cup , but less than a week later , he scored an own goal as part of a 3 ? 0 away loss to Blyth Spartans , and was then sent off again for two

bookable offences against Vauxhall Motors

Whalley scored his first goal of the new year in a 2 ? 1 victory over local rivals Stalybridge Celtic . He scored again in the quarter final of the Manchester Premier Cup against his old club Droylsden , which proved to be his last for the club .

= = = Southport = = =

Whalley was released by Hyde in order to join Southport for the second time in January 2011 . He made his debut the following Saturday in a 4 ? 0 win over York City , scoring Southport 's second and fourth goals . On 1 February , less than a week later , Whalley scored again in a 2 ? 2 draw with Grimsby Town to take his record to three goals in two games , before being sent off for violent conduct on and later receiving a four match ban . On 26 February after missing the best @-@ part of that month through his suspension , he returned , to start in a 2 ? 1 loss to Bath City , but he was unable to score a goal . He followed this game up by scoring in his next two , netting in the 3 ? 1 win over Histon and then by scoring Southport 's only goal , in a 4 ? 1 defeat to Eastbourne Borough . He finished March having scored four goals that month , after adding another two in the latter part , the first in a 4 ? 2 defeat to the hands of Barrow and the other coming as @-@ part of a 2 ? 2 draw with Rushden & Diamonds .

He opened his goalscoring account for the 2011 ? 12 season on the opening day as part of a 2 ? 2 draw with Lincoln City . He scored his second of the season in a 3 ? 2 win over Telford United . On 15 March 2012 , he signed a new two @-@ year contract with the club . He scored a total of ten goals in all @-@ competitions for Southport in the 2011 ? 12 season , helping them to their highest league finish in ten years ? 7th in the Conference Premier .

Whalley had a good start to the 2012 ? 13 season , scoring two goals in four games , including in a 3 ? 3 draw with Alfreton Town . He went on to play in all but three of Southport 's league games , scoring seven further goals and at the end of the season was named the club 's player of the year .

= = = Luton Town = = =

On 1 May 2013 , Whalley was signed by fellow Conference Premier club Luton Town for an undisclosed fee on a two @-@ year contract . He missed a penalty on his debut in a 1 ? 0 defeat , coincidentally against former club Southport .

After failing to win a regular starting place in the Luton line @-@ up , Whalley moved on loan on 23 January 2014 to Conference North side AFC Telford United , led by his former Southport manager Liam Watson . He scored five goals in 18 games as Telford won the Conference North title , scoring in the crucial final game of the season . With Luton also winning their league , Whalley had the unique distinction of being awarded both Conference Premier and Conference North winners ' medals in the same season .

Whalley played a more active part in Luton 's return to the Football League , playing in 18 league games , often in the starting XI , and scoring three goals .

On 27 April 2015 , Whalley and team @-@ mate Ricky Miller were both arrested by Bedfordshire Police in connection with an alleged assault following Luton Town 's end of season awards night . Both were released on bail , but were suspended by the club pending a police inquiry . Whalley was not charged due to a lack of evidence . On 18 May 2015 , Whalley left Luton by mutual consent two months before the end of his contract .

= = = Shrewsbury Town = = =

Following his departure from Luton , Whalley joined Shrewsbury Town , recently promoted to League One , on 6 June 2015 . Making only sporadic substitute appearances in the early part of the season , Whalley had to wait until 28 December to make his first league start for the club , scoring a late winning goal in a 2 ? 1 away victory over Crewe Alexandra . He scored another late winner away at the then @-@ league @-@ leaders Burton Albion the following month .

= = Style of play = =

Whalley is a winger but can also play as a striker . On his arrival at Southport , manager Liam Watson said " Shaun will fit right into our style of play and with the players we have here " . Whalley 's former team @-@ mate Paul Mullin described him as " an absolute express @-@ train down the wings " , and said that he possessed good ability on the ball .

= = Career statistics = =

As of match played 8 May 2016 .

= = Honours = =

= = = Club = = =

Droylsden

Manchester Premier Cup (1) : 2009 ? 10

Luton Town

Conference Premier : 2013 ? 14

AFC Telford United

Conference North : 2013 ? 14