

= David Wetherall =

David Wetherall (born 14 March 1971) is an English former footballer who played as a central defender , finishing his playing career with Bradford City at the end of the 2007 ? 08 season . Born in Sheffield , he supported Sheffield Wednesday as a child , and started his playing career there . Before he made a league appearance for Sheffield Wednesday , he transferred to Leeds United and made more than 200 appearances . After this he joined Bradford City for a then club @-@ record fee of £ 1 @.@ 4 million and played every minute of every match in his first season for the club . Relegation from the Premier League soon followed and the club went into administration in 2002 but when Stuart McCall departed for Sheffield United , Wetherall became the team captain . Wetherall missed several games through injury in the seasons that followed and Bradford City were further relegated to League One in 2004 and then to League Two in 2007 . He played his final game in professional football on 3 May 2008 against Wycombe Wanderers .

Wetherall had two spells as caretaker manager of Bradford City , and was an integral part of club 's coaching setup following his retirement as a player . He left Bradford in June 2011 after 12 years with the club to take up a position with the Football League . He was inducted into Show Racism The Red Card 's hall of fame for his involvement in their anti @-@ racism campaign .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Early life and career = = =

Wetherall was born in Sheffield . He was capped by England at schoolboy level , and in 1989 , when he left school , he signed for Sheffield Wednesday under the management of Howard Wilkinson . Wetherall had attended Rotherham sixth form college where he achieved four A @-@ levels at grade A , and chose to study for his BSc in chemistry at the University of Sheffield , so that he could live at home with his parents and combine his education with playing for Sheffield Wednesday 's reserve team . He graduated with a first @-@ class honours degree in 1992 , becoming the first Premier League player to achieve such a qualification . In 1990 he was part of a British squad which travelled to Italy for the world student five @-@ a @-@ side football championship , and represented Great Britain as they won the association football bronze medal at the 1991 World Student Games hosted in Sheffield .

= = = Leeds United = = =

Wilkinson , by then Leeds United manager , returned to his former club in July 1991 to sign two young centre @-@ backs , Jon Newsome first and Wetherall a few days later , for a combined fee of £ 275 @,@ 000 . The 20 @-@ year @-@ old Wetherall 's first season at Leeds was the final year of his degree course , so he played for the reserves while training part @-@ time . He made a brief debut in the First Division , on 3 September 1991 at Elland Road as a late substitute against Arsenal ; Leeds went on to win the 1991 ? 92 league title . He remembers it as " With 20 minutes to go , we were 2 ? 1 down and I was on the touchline ready to go on , then Lee Chapman scored and the gaffer (Howard Wilkinson) told me to sit down again . But he threw me on for the last two minutes . I always tell people that made the difference in winning the title ! " As his team @-@ mates took the league trophy on a celebratory open top bus tour , Wetherall chose to revise for his examinations , a decision he came to regret , because " those experiences don 't come around that often " . Though the revision bore fruit : he graduated with first @-@ class honours .

Wetherall made his first start for Leeds in the newly formed Premier League in September 1992 against Southampton , scored his first goal for the club the following March to secure a draw at home to Chelsea and finished the 1992 ? 93 season with 13 league appearances . He " noticed a massive difference in [his] fitness coming in full @-@ time after just having two blasts a week . " In the 1993 ? 94 season , he established himself as a regular first @-@ team player . The following

season he scored in a 2 ? 1 defeat of defending champions Manchester United , and continued his knack of scoring vital goals with a last @-@ minute equaliser to avoid an embarrassing defeat by Walsall of Division Three in the 1995 FA Cup . In the replay , he scored for both Leeds and Walsall , the own goal taking the match into extra time . Leeds finished in fifth place in the league , and Wetherall was chosen manager Wilkinson 's player of the season . Wilkinson also singled him out for praise for his performance in a 3 ? 0 UEFA Cup first @-@ round win against AS Monaco in Monaco in September 1995 , though they were heavily defeated by PSV Eindhoven in the next round . Wetherall played in the League Cup Final in 1996 , his first major final , but Leeds were outclassed , beaten 3 ? 0 by Aston Villa .

In the 1996 ? 97 season , Wetherall played less regularly as new manager George Graham experimented with defensive combinations , though by the following season he had re @-@ established himself in the starting eleven , sometimes acting as captain , and signed a new five @-@ year contract . On 27 September 1997 , he scored in the 1 ? 0 victory over arch @-@ rivals Manchester United when Roy Keane 's knee was badly injured in the act of fouling Alf @-@ Inge Håland , who then accused Keane of feigning injury . Keane later took revenge on Håland during a Manchester derby and said to Håland as he lay on the ground : " And don 't ever stand over me again sneering about fake injuries , and tell your pal Wetherall there 's some for him as well . " Later that season Wetherall was among the Leeds travelling party who escaped unhurt as their aircraft crash @-@ landed after an engine caught fire on takeoff .

When David O 'Leary replaced Graham as manager it became clear that his centre @-@ back pairing of choice would be Lucas Radebe and the 18 @-@ year @-@ old Jonathan Woodgate , so Wetherall decided to leave Leeds for a club where he could play regular first @-@ team football . A transfer to nearby Huddersfield Town fell through after terms had been agreed , and the player 's reluctance to move house while wife Caroline was heavily pregnant with their second son caused him to reject an offer from Southampton . After eight years with Leeds , having scored 18 goals from 250 games in all competitions , he accepted an offer from fellow West Yorkshire club Bradford City .

= = = Bradford City = = =

Bradford City signed Wetherall for a club record £ 1 @.@ 4 million , to give experience to a side who had just been promoted to the Premier League . Wetherall was aged just 28 , but manager Paul Jewell had made a number of signings aged over 30 , prompting journalists to call his team " Dad 's Army " . Bradford won their first game 1 ? 0 with a last minute goal at Middlesbrough scored by Dean Saunders who started a celebration pouring scorn at the club 's cynics . Wetherall 's first goal for Bradford was in a League Cup game at Reading before he scored again in the following round as Bradford were knocked out by Barnsley . His first league goal came in a 2 ? 0 win against Newcastle United on 18 December . Wetherall missed only two cup game for Bradford City during his first season , and was the only player in the Premier League to have played every minute of the league season . His partnership with the emerging Andy O 'Brien in central defence was the front line in Bradford 's survival attempt . Bradford went into the final game of the season facing possible relegation . After only 12 minutes of their final game with Liverpool , Wetherall headed home a Gunnar Halle free @-@ kick . Bradford held on for a 1 ? 0 win and with Wimbledon 's defeat at Southampton , Bradford stayed up with a then @-@ record low of 36 points . The goal directly resulted in Wetherall 's former club Leeds United qualifying for the next season 's Champions League .

The 2000 ? 01 season started early for Bradford after chairman Geoffrey Richmond decided to enter the Intertoto Cup . Wetherall did not play in the team 's first game away at FK Atlantas , and after playing in the second leg and the two third round games , he missed the semi @-@ final with Zenit St Petersburg because of an ankle injury . Bradford subsequently lost both legs . Wetherall started the league season but after playing all 52 league games since joining Bradford without leaving the field , Wetherall limped off before half @-@ time during a 2 ? 0 defeat to their nearest rivals Derby County in November 2000 . Days after new manager Jim Jefferies took over , Wetherall was ruled out until the following February following a groin operation . His first game back was on 24

February 2001 as Bradford lost 2 ? 1 to West Ham United . His return to league action lasted just four games when , after scoring in a 2 ? 2 draw with Newcastle United , he was ruled out for the rest of the season with a recurrence of the groin injury . Bradford lost their Premier League status a month later after losing 2 ? 1 at Everton .

Wetherall 's start to the 2001 ? 02 season was hampered by a groin injury and his first full game of the campaign came on 14 September 2001 when he scored in a 5 ? 1 Division One victory over Gillingham , which put Bradford second in the table . A groin injury again kept Wetherall out of the side for nearly five months , during which time he was linked with moves back to the Premier League at either Southampton or Manchester City , but he opted to stay at Valley Parade . He returned from injury for a reserve game in March after four months out with just over two months of the season left . He returned to the side against Burnley in a game noted for Paul Gascoigne 's debut for Burnley , and scored in his next game as Bradford eased any relegation worries by defeating Crewe Alexandra 2 ? 0 . He played in the club 's final seven games and was named club captain for the following season after Stuart McCall left the club .

Wetherall was one of 19 senior first @-@ team players to be laid off by chairman Richmond in May 2002 , after the club were put into administration and the players unpaid since April . Those players went as far as taking strike action before a pre @-@ season friendly at Hull City , even though Wetherall , as their Professional Footballers ' Association representative , had initially denied they would do so , before the club was saved and players reinstated . Wetherall played in the club 's opening game of the season as Bradford drew 0 ? 0 with Wolverhampton Wanderers live on television , but was again ruled out through an injury , this time to his hip . A planned comeback was put off five weeks later , before he sought the advice of a specialist in Denmark . After sitting out another three months through injury , Wetherall made his return as a substitute against Gillingham in December 2002 but was again injured in a reserve team comeback three days later . He again returned in February 2003 against Coventry City and played 15 games during the final three months of the season .

Wetherall kept off his injury problems and played in the first 15 games of the 2003 ? 04 season , but was ruled out for two months after suffering medial ligament damage , following a knee injury sustained during the club 's 1 ? 0 defeat to Watford . He returned on 28 December 2003 in a 1 ? 0 victory which gave Bradford their first win in six games . His return to the defence added a second successive clean sheet . The revival in form was short @-@ lived and despite Wetherall missing just one more game , when he sustained a calf injury , Bradford were threatened with another relegation . Wetherall scored a header against Reading in a 2 ? 1 win and gave Bradford a " slim chance " of avoiding relegation , only for that to be confirmed two weeks later after a 3 ? 2 defeat to Wimbledon .

Despite the club 's relegation to League One and another spell in administration , Wetherall turned down a move away from Bradford City after snubbing Coventry City during the 2004 summer . In October 2004 , Wetherall and fellow veteran player Dean Windass both signed year 's extensions to their contracts , with Wetherall 's keeping him at Bradford until the end of the 2007 ? 08 season . He also put his injury problems to one side for the 2004 ? 05 season and missed just one league game ? a 1 ? 1 draw with Walsall in February when he was ruled out because of suspension ending his run of 42 consecutive games . Bradford manager Colin Todd had identified Wetherall as a key player for the season , but despite scoring four goals and striker Windass ' 27 goals earning him the league 's top scorer 's crown , Bradford could only finish 11th .

In October 2006 , days after playing his 250th game for Bradford , he signed a new deal keeping him at the club until 2010 with a clause allowing him to move into a coaching role when his playing career ended or continue playing beyond 2010 . He received the first red card of his career in a 2 ? 2 draw with Cheltenham Town on 30 December for two bookable offences .

When he took over as Bradford caretaker manager , Wetherall stepped down as captain and instead handed the armband to centre @-@ back partner Mark Bower . But when McCall was appointed the new manager in June 2007 , Wetherall was reinstated as club captain for the 2007 ? 08 season . On 20 February 2008 he announced the 2007 ? 08 season would be his last as a player , although Bradford City would keep his registration , and instead he would join the club 's coaching

staff . Wetherall said : " I was becoming increasingly frustrated at not being able to do the things that I used to be able to do . Situations I would normally deal with comfortably were suddenly becoming a struggle . " Bradford fans held a special day to celebrate Wetherall 's career , when they took banners and wore fancy dress and laboratory coats during the club 's 1 ? 1 draw with Rotherham United on 22 March 2008 . In his penultimate month as a footballer , Wetherall was also named the League Two fans ' player of the month by the Professional Footballers ' Association . He played his final game for Bradford against Wycombe Wanderers on 3 May 2008 in a 2 ? 1 defeat .

= = Managerial career = =

Wetherall was one of four senior players to act as Bradford City manager for two weeks during November 2003 , following the sacking of Nicky Law . He , as well as Peter Atherton , Wayne Jacobs and Dean Windass oversaw training but just one game when Bradford City lost 1 ? 0 to Stoke City with Jacobs taking charge from the touchline . Wetherall took his first full steps into management on a caretaker basis when he was appointed player @-@ manager at Bradford City following the sacking of Colin Todd on 12 February 2007 . The side were on a poor run of form but Wetherall , whose role was extended in March , could not reverse the fortunes and the side were relegated to League Two . During Wetherall 's short stint in charge the club won just two games and drew another four . During his spell in charge of Bradford , Wetherall appointed his former Leeds teammate Nigel Martyn as goalkeeping coach , a position he kept under McCall . Wetherall returned to concentrate on his playing career after Stuart McCall was named full @-@ time manager during the summer of 2007 .

Wetherall holds the UEFA B coaching licence and returned to the Bradford City coaching set up during the summer of 2008 . He managed the club 's reserves upon his return , and in the summer of 2009 , he combined it with the role of youth side management , after Chris Casper left the club . He added he had been put off by senior management because of the day @-@ to @-@ day pressure of the job : " Football is a results @-@ based business first and foremost and that 's totally and utterly the case at first @-@ team level . " When McCall was sacked as manager , new manager Peter Taylor brought Junior Lewis into the coaching set @-@ up at Bradford , leaving Wetherall to concentrate on his role as youth team manager . After Taylor left the club in February 2011 and Lewis and assistant manager Jacobs were placed on gardening leave , Wetherall acted as assistant to interim manager Peter Jackson . He stayed with Bradford until the end of the season but then left the club to take up a position as head of youth development with the Football League .

= = = Managerial statistics = = =

As of 5 February 2008 .

= = Personal life = =

Wetherall was inducted into Show Racism The Red Card 's hall of fame in December 2007 for his work with their anti @-@ racism campaign . He had become involved with the campaign with former colleague Gunnar Halle while they played at Leeds United . On 30 August 2009 he took part in a charity football match , that included many former Bradford City and Leeds United players , to raise money for Martin House Children 's Hospice .