

= Darren Bent =

Darren Ashley Bent (born 6 February 1984) is an English professional footballer who plays as a striker for Championship club Derby County .

Bent started his career with Ipswich Town . After progressing through their youth system he made his first team debut in 2001 . He made 122 appearances and scored 48 goals in the league for Ipswich , before joining Charlton Athletic for a fee of £ 2 @. @ 5 million in 2005 . He was Charlton Athletic 's top goalscorer for two consecutive seasons and joined Tottenham Hotspur for a club record fee of £ 16 @. @ 5 million in 2007 . After two seasons at Tottenham he joined Sunderland . After a successful 18 months at Sunderland , he joined Aston Villa in 2011 . Bent had loans with Fulham , Brighton & Hove Albion and Derby County and after being released by Villa in 2015 joined Derby permanently .

He has represented England at under @-@ 15 , under @-@ 16 , under @-@ 17 , under @-@ 19 , under @-@ 21 and senior levels . He made 14 appearances and scored nine goals for the under @-@ 21 side , after making his debut against Italy in 2003 . He made his debut for the senior England side in 2006 against Uruguay , and has since made 13 appearances for England , scoring four goals . He scored his first goal on 7 September 2010 in a 3 ? 1 UEFA Euro 2012 qualifying match victory against Switzerland .

= = Personal life = =

Bent was born in Tooting , London to a family of Jamaican descent . His father , Mervyn Bent , was a player in the youth systems of Wimbledon and Brentford . He moved to Huntingdon , Cambridgeshire at the age of 10 and attended Hinchingsbrooke school and played for the Godmanchester Rovers youth system . As a youngster , Bent was a supporter of Arsenal , and used to have a season ticket at Highbury . He was handed a formal caution by police in June 2004 after he was alleged to have shot a 12 @-@ year @-@ old with a pellet gun . Bent refrains from drinking alcohol . Bent is a Christian .

= = Club career = =

= = = Ipswich Town = = =

Bent progressed through Ipswich Town 's youth system , having joined the club at the age of 14 in 1998 , after considering a possible career in athletics . He signed a professional contract with Ipswich on 2 July 2001 . He made his first team debut on 1 November 2001 in a 3 ? 1 victory against Helsingborgs IF in the UEFA Cup , and scored his first senior goal in a 4 ? 1 League Cup defeat to Newcastle United on 27 November 2001 .

He scored his first FA Premier League goal on 24 April 2002 in a 1 ? 0 win over Middlesbrough . He finished the 2001 ? 02 season with seven appearances and two goals in all competitions , and also saw his team Ipswich face relegation into the First Division . He scored the winning goal against Slovan Liberec in the UEFA Cup on 31 October 2002 and finished the 2002 ? 03 season with 18 goals . The 2003 ? 04 season finished with Bent scoring 16 goals , which was followed by 20 goals in the 2004 ? 05 season , being the team 's joint highest goalscorer with Shefki Kuqi .

= = = Charlton Athletic = = =

He completed a transfer to Charlton Athletic on 1 June 2005 , which was worth an initial fee of £ 2 @. @ 5 million , but would have risen to £ 3 million if he made an agreed number of appearances for Charlton and for England . After the move , he said : " I am confident that Charlton will play an important role to play in the Premiership next season . This is a very strong team and I am glad that I will be a part of it . " On the opening day of the 2005 ? 06 FA Premier League season , Bent scored

two goals on his Charlton debut against Sunderland , and was named the Premier League player of the month for August . He scored in his first four games for the club , one of only six players to perform this feat in the Premier League . Bent was the highest scoring Englishman in the Premier League in the 2005 ? 06 season , with 18 goals (22 overall) , which made him third highest scorer and was given Charlton 's Player of the Year award . He signed an extension to his contract at Charlton in July , which contracted him until June 2010 . Bent finished the 2006 ? 07 season with 13 goals in the Premier League , again finishing as Charlton 's top goalscorer , but was unable to prevent them from being relegated into the Championship after seven successive seasons of Premier League football . Charlton accepted a bid from West Ham United for him in June 2007 , but Bent was not interested in a move to Upton Park .

= = = Tottenham Hotspur = = =

He completed a move to Tottenham Hotspur for a club record fee of £ 16 @. @ 5 million on 29 June 2007 , which was to be payable over three years and is inclusive of add @- @ on payments . Ipswich were entitled to 20 % of Charlton 's profit on Bent under a sell @- @ on clause , which gave the club an initial £ 2 @. @ 58 million . He scored his first goal for Tottenham in a friendly match against Stevenage Borough in their first pre @- @ season fixture of the 2007 ? 08 season . Bent scored his first competitive goal for Tottenham in a 4 ? 0 home victory over Derby County in August 2007 . This was followed up by scoring in the 6 ? 1 win over Anorthosis Famagusta in the first round of the UEFA Cup on 20 September 2007 . Bent scored his 100th career goal on 9 March 2008 in the added time of a 4 ? 0 league win over West Ham United . He also scored the 100th goal to be scored at White Hart Lane during the 2007 ? 08 season on 22 March in a 2 ? 0 win over Portsmouth . Bent went on to score one more goal that season , against Newcastle United , which he finished with 36 appearances and 8 goals .

He scored 12 goals for Tottenham during the 2008 ? 09 pre @- @ season . His first league goal of the season came against Chelsea , which gave his side a 1 ? 1 draw . He scored a header in the second half of Tottenham 's UEFA Cup first round game against Wisła Kraków , giving the team a 2 ? 1 victory . On 6 November , in a game against Dinamo Zagreb , Bent scored his first competitive hat @- @ trick for Tottenham . He followed this up with two goals in a 2 ? 1 victory against Manchester City at the City of Manchester Stadium .

A miss in front of an open goal in the final minutes during a home game against Portsmouth in January 2009 , which cost Tottenham two points , prompted manager Harry Redknapp to claim " You will never get a better chance to win a match than that . My missus could have scored that one " . On 31 January he scored two goals in the period of two minutes against Bolton Wanderers at the Reebok Stadium after coming on as a second @- @ half substitute , in a match that eventually finished as a 3 ? 2 defeat . Following the return of Robbie Keane at Tottenham , Redknapp assured Bent of his future at the club . He finished the season as Tottenham 's top goalscorer with 17 goals in 43 games .

= = = Sunderland = = =

Sunderland opened negotiations to sign Bent in July 2009 . The deal seemed delayed and through social networking website Twitter he accused chairman Daniel Levy of disrupting his move to Sunderland , although Bent later apologised , saying he acted out of frustration . He travelled to Sunderland to sign for the club after they agreed a fee with Tottenham , and after passing a medical , Bent signed for Sunderland on 5 August for an initial fee of £ 10 million plus potential additional payments , which later rose to £ 16 @. @ 5 million . He scored on his Sunderland debut , which was the only goal in a 1 ? 0 victory against Bolton , and was followed with Sunderland 's opening goal against Chelsea in a 3 ? 1 defeat . He scored a brace in the 4 ? 1 win over Hull City to give himself his third and fourth goals in five games .

Bent scored Sunderland 's only goal against Burnley at Turf Moor , making the score 1 ? 1 , before losing 3 ? 1 . He scored again in a 5 ? 2 win against Wolverhampton Wanderers , although after the

game Sunderland manager Steve Bruce was left angry at Bent 's decision to give Sunderland 's second penalty kick to teammate Kenwyne Jones , after the latter " pleaded " with Bent to take the penalty so that he could get on the score sheet . Bent then scored the opening goal in a 2 ? 2 draw with Manchester United at Old Trafford . He also scored in a 1 ? 0 victory against Liverpool on 17 October 2009 when his shot hit a beach ball thrown onto the field by a Liverpool fan and past confused goalkeeper Pepe Reina into the net . Bent also scored in Sunderland 's victory 1 ? 0 over Arsenal on 21 November 2009 when his initial header rebounded back to him off Fraizer Campbell . Bent scored his first hat @-@ trick for Sunderland in a 4 ? 0 victory over Bolton on 9 March 2010 . He scored two goals , one a penalty , but missed two other penalties as they were saved by Heurelho Gomes in a 3 ? 1 victory against former club Tottenham on 3 April . He finished the season with 25 goals in 40 appearances in all competitions , 24 of which came in the Premier League , amounting to 50 % of Sunderland 's 48 goals in the league that season .

Bent made his first appearance of the 2010 ? 11 season in the opening game , a 2 ? 2 draw with Birmingham City on 14 August and opened the scoring with a penalty in the 24th minute . He scored the winning goal with stoppage time penalty as Sunderland beat Manchester City 1 ? 0 on 29 August . Bent scored the equaliser during stoppage time to earn Sunderland a 1 ? 1 draw against Arsenal on 18 September . He then scored twice in Sunderland 's 2 ? 2 draw at Liverpool .

= = = Aston Villa = = =

On 17 January 2011 , Bent submitted a transfer request , amid reports that Aston Villa had made a club record £ 18 million bid for him , which was rejected . Villa then submitted an improved offer of £ 18 million , potentially rising to £ 24 million , which was then accepted . The following day , Bent completed his move to Villa and signed a four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half @-@ year deal . He scored the winning goal on his debut against Manchester City in a 1 ? 0 victory at Villa Park . Bent scored his second Villa goal in his third appearance for his side when he completed the full 90 minutes against Manchester United at Old Trafford in a 3 ? 1 away defeat . Bent scored both of Villa 's goals in their 2 ? 1 away victory over Arsenal in the penultimate game of the season on 15 May . The first was a nicely crafted volley after he chested down a Kyle Walker chipped pass , with the second coming a few minutes later after a slip from Arsenal 's Thomas Vermaelen allowed Ashley Young the time to thread a pass through the Gunners ' defence and Bent to sidefoot home for 2 ? 0 . He finished the season with 9 goals in 16 Premier League appearances for Villa , becoming the club 's joint top @-@ scorer with Young , despite only joining in January . He was also the top English goalscorer in the Premier League and the fourth highest scorer overall that season with 17 goals in total , eight of which were scored for Sunderland .

= = = 2011 ? 12 season = = =

In his first full season with Villa , Bent scored his first goal of the season against Blackburn Rovers in a 3 ? 1 victory on 20 August 2011 . In his first match against former club Sunderland , a 2 ? 2 draw at the Stadium of Light on 29 October 2011 , every time he received a touch on the ball he was booed by the home support . Bent then suffered an injury during the match against Bolton Wanderers and was out for the next few matches as a result . Bent caused controversy when a fan posted a picture and claimed the striker was out shopping while his teammates were losing 2 ? 0 to Liverpool . It was later revealed Bent had been sent home to recover from his injury and afterwards he apologised to the Villa fans for his actions . After apologising , manager Alex McLeish reacted angrily to the " conspiracy theory " over Bent 's absence for Villa . This led to Bent having to deny a fall @-@ out with McLeish . Bent made his return as a 78th @-@ minute substitute in the match against Chelsea on 31 December 2011 , scoring the third goal to seal a 3 ? 1 win at Stamford Bridge . After not scoring in the next two matches , Bent went on a run by scoring in the next four matches for Villa , including his first FA Cup goal in a Villa shirt on 29 January 2012 , against Arsenal in an eventual 3 ? 2 defeat . Three days later , Bent scored his 100th Premier League goal as Villa came from behind to earn a 2 ? 2 home draw against Queens Park Rangers . He was the

21st player to reach the milestone .

On 25 February 2012 , in a match against Wigan Athletic , Bent landed awkwardly on his ankle after tangling with Antolín Alcaraz . He was stretchered off the pitch with what was thought to be a serious injury . This was later confirmed two days later , after Bent had a scan on his ankle that revealed he had ruptured ligaments . He was out for three months which effectively ended his season with Villa and most likely his chance to play at UEFA Euro 2012 . Bent had recovered from his injury by mid @-@ May and was in contention for Villa 's final game of the 2011 ? 12 season against Norwich City but was ultimately left out . This also gave him the possibility of making new England manager Roy Hodgson 's Euro 2012 squad . Bent vowed to prove his fitness to Hodgson , in the hope that he would be selected to play in the tournament . Bent once again finished as Villa 's top scorer with 10 goals in 25 appearances and vowed to stay on at the club .

===== 2012 ? 13 season =====

In July 2012 , Bent was named interim captain of Aston Villa while Stiliyan Petrov continued to recover from leukaemia . On 28 August , he scored his first goal of the 2012 ? 13 season in a 3 ? 0 victory over League One Tranmere Rovers in the second round of the League Cup , his first goal for Villa since February 2012 . Bent lost the Villa captaincy to Ron Vlaar , after the Dutchman was appointed captain for the 2 ? 0 victory against Swansea City on 15 September 2012 and thereafter . He scored his first league goal of the season on 22 September , in a 4 ? 1 defeat away to Southampton . Bent then lost his starting place for the next league game against West Bromwich Albion , after the performances of Gabriel Agbonlahor and Christian Benteke during the midweek League Cup victory over Manchester City saw the pair start up front . However , after coming on for Benteke as a 68th @-@ minute substitute , Bent followed up his goal against Southampton by grabbing the equaliser in a 1 ? 1 draw .

===== Season @-@ long loan at Fulham =====

Bent joined Villa 's Premier League rivals Fulham on a season @-@ long loan on 16 August 2013 . Bent scored his first goal for Fulham on 24 August 2013 on his debut , 18 minutes after replacing Damien Duff in a 3 ? 1 defeat at home to London rivals Arsenal . On 24 September , only three minutes after coming on for Adel Taarabt , he scored the winner in a 2 ? 1 home win over Everton in the third round of the League Cup . Again as a late substitute , this time for Dimitar Berbatov , he scored the only goal in Fulham 's home league win over Stoke City on 5 October , taking control of Pajtim Kasami 's shot and cutting past Robert Huth .

Despite scoring in the first game and replay against Norwich City in the third round of the FA Cup , Bent went 13 league games without scoring before an added @-@ time equaliser at Old Trafford to gain a 2 ? 2 draw against Manchester United on 9 February after replacing Muamer Tankovi? at half time . He finished his loan with six goals from 30 games , and Fulham were relegated into the Championship .

===== 2014 ? 15 season =====

After returning from Fulham , Bent was reintegrated into the Villa first team for the 2014 ? 15 season . In the first match since his return Bent scored two goals in a 3 ? 1 pre @-@ season victory over Mansfield Town .

On 26 November 2014 , Bent joined Brighton & Hove Albion on a one @-@ month loan . Three days later he scored on his debut for the Championship club , opening a 1 ? 2 defeat to his former employers Fulham at Falmer Stadium .

===== Derby County =====

After two goals in five games for Brighton , Bent was loaned to another Championship side , Derby

County , on 2 January 2015 . He was signed by his former international manager Steve McClaren on a deal lasting until the end of the season . With his fourth goal in five games , he equalised in a 2 ? 2 draw away to then league leaders Bournemouth on 10 February . Bent scored 12 goals from 17 appearances as Derby finished in eighth place in the Championship table , missing out on a play @-@ off place by one point . He was released by Villa on 8 June 2015 , ahead of a permanent transfer to Derby on a two @-@ year contract , with a one @-@ year option .

= = International career = =

Bent has represented England at under @-@ 15 , under @-@ 16 , under @-@ 17 , under @-@ 19 , under @-@ 21 and senior levels . He made his under @-@ 16 debut against Finland on 31 July 2000 , making 10 appearances and scoring three goals for the team , with his last appearance coming against Finland on 27 February 2001 . His debut for the under @-@ 19 team came against Germany on 14 February 2002 , scoring two goals in a 3 ? 1 victory , and his third and final appearance was against Lithuania on 21 April . His first appearance for the under @-@ 21 team came against Italy on 11 February 2003 , which England lost 1 ? 0 . He made 14 appearances and scored nine goals for the under @-@ 21 team , with his final appearance coming against France on 15 November 2005 . He received his first call up to the senior England team for the friendly against Denmark on 17 August , but did not play in the game . His England debut eventually came on 1 March 2006 , when he started against Uruguay at Anfield in a pre @-@ 2006 FIFA World Cup friendly match . He was not included in England 's World Cup squad when it was announced in May 2006 .

Despite having played for the senior side , Bent was recalled to the under @-@ 21 squad for their October 2006 qualification play @-@ offs against Germany . Later that month , he was recalled to the senior squad due to an injury to Andrew Johnson shortly after the squad 's announcement . He was called to the England squad for a UEFA Euro 2008 qualifier against Croatia in November 2007 . He came on as an 80th @-@ minute substitute as England lost 3 ? 2 and failed to qualify for the tournament . He was called up to the team for a 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifier against Ukraine in March 2009 following an injury to striker Carlton Cole . He made his second start for England in a 1 ? 0 friendly defeat to Brazil on 14 November 2009 . Bent was named in England 's preliminary 30 @-@ man squad for the 2010 World Cup on 11 May 2010 , although he was eventually omitted from the final 23 @-@ man squad on 1 June .

Bent scored his first international goal in England 's 3 ? 1 away win over Switzerland after appearing as a substitute for Jermain Defoe in a Euro 2012 qualifier on 7 September 2010 . Capello stated he had been impressed with the improvement in Bent 's all @-@ round game since his World Cup omission and selected him in the starting XI for England 's friendly with Denmark , where he scored a tap @-@ in from a Theo Walcott cross . Bent retained his place for England 's Euro 2012 qualifier with Wales to make his first competitive international start on 26 March 2011 . In scoring England 's second goal he took his tally to three goals in his last three matches . Bent recovered from injury in time but was left out of the final 23 @-@ man squad for Euro 2012 as Hodgson felt Bent would not be fit enough to appear at the tournament .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Club = = =

As of match played 17 May 2016 .

= = = International = = =

As of match played 15 November 2011 .

= = = International goals = = =

As of match played 15 November 2011 . England score listed first , score column indicates score after each Bent goal .

= = Honours = =

Individual

Charlton Athletic Player of the Year : 2005 ? 06

Sunderland Player of the Year : 2009 ? 10