

= Jon Challinor =

Jon Challinor (born 2 December 1980) is an English semi @-@ professional footballer who plays as a defender or a midfielder for Northern Premier League Premier Division club Stamford .

Challinor started his career with Rushden & Diamonds , and after being released in 2000 had spells with Stamford , Cambridge City , the Kalamazoo Kingdom and St Albans City . He reached the 2004 Football Conference play @-@ off Final with Aldershot Town , and after another unsuccessful play @-@ off campaign in the 2004 ? 05 season signed for Exeter City in 2005 . He played in the 2007 Conference National play @-@ off Final defeat before returning to Rushden in 2007 . He left for Cambridge United a year later , playing for them in the 2009 Conference Premier play @-@ off Final . After spells with Forest Green Rovers , Mansfield Town , Brackley Town , Newport County and Kettering Town , Challinor signed for York City in 2011 . Here , he won promotion to League Two in his fourth appearance in a Conference play @-@ off final , following victory in the 2012 Final , also winning in the 2012 FA Trophy Final . He was released by the club a year later .

= = Club career = =

= = = Early career = = =

Born in Northampton , Northamptonshire , Challinor began his career in the youth system at Rushden & Diamonds . He made his first team debut for the Football Conference club as an 18 @-@ year @-@ old in a Conference League Cup game against Farnborough Town on 22 December 1998 . He signed a contract at the end of his scholarship , but after failing to break into the first team squad was released in May 2000 . Challinor dropped two divisions to join Southern League Division One East side Stamford in search of first team football . He impressed with Stamford , moving to Southern League Premier Division side Cambridge City in February 2001 , scoring two goals in 11 league appearances before the end of the 2000 ? 01 season . He made 46 appearances , scoring three goals , in the 2001 ? 02 season before spending the close season with the Kalamazoo Kingdom in the American USL Premier Development League .

Challinor returned to England after joining Isthmian League Premier Division side St Albans City on a two @-@ year contract in August 2002 . His debut came in St Albans ' 4 ? 0 victory away at Ware in the Herts Charity Cup first round on 3 August 2002 , before scoring his first goal in a 2 ? 0 home win against Heybridge Swifts on 26 August . Challinor played in St Albans ' 4 ? 1 FA Cup first round defeat to Second Division team Stockport County on 16 November 2002 . He scored six goals in 57 games in the 2002 ? 03 season , before spending a second close season with the Kalamazoo Kingdom , making 17 appearances and scoring two goals in the USL Premier Development League .

= = = Aldershot Town = = =

After being released by St Albans , Challinor signed for Football Conference side Aldershot Town on 8 August 2003 , having appeared for them in pre @-@ season . He made his debut in a 2 ? 1 home win over Accrington Stanley on 10 August 2003 , before scoring his first goal in a 5 ? 2 win away to Telford United on 16 August . Having made an impressive start for Aldershot , scoring five goals in 12 games , Challinor signed a contract lasting until the end of the 2004 ? 05 season on 14 October 2003 . After being sent off in a 2 ? 0 home defeat to Margate on 20 December 2003 he was given a three @-@ match suspension , making his return in a 4 ? 0 defeat away to Farnborough on 24 January 2004 . He played in the 2004 Football Conference play @-@ off Final against Shrewsbury Town at the Britannia Stadium , which Aldershot lost 3 ? 0 in a penalty shoot @-@ out after a 1 ? 1 draw following extra time . His 2003 ? 04 season with Aldershot finished having scored 13 goals in 48 appearances .

Aldershot qualified for the play @-@ offs again in the 2004 ? 05 season , and Challinor played in

both semi @-@ final games against Carlisle United , which ended in a 2 ? 2 draw on aggregate . Challinor missed his penalty kick in the penalty shoot @-@ out , before Danny Livesey scored the penalty that secured Carlisle 's place in the play @-@ off final . Having finished the season with nine goals in 44 appearances , Challinor was released by Aldershot on 18 May 2005 , despite being rated as one of the best attacking midfielders in the Conference National .

= = = Exeter City = = =

On 20 May 2005 , Challinor joined Conference National side Exeter City on a two @-@ year contract . Manager Alex Inglethorpe described him by saying " He 's 24 years of age and he fits the bill of the type of player that will help us next season . I liken him to Tim Cahill of Everton . He likes to get forward and score goals , and has a good grounding in both League and non @-@ League football . " Challinor made his debut in a 2 ? 0 win away at Gravesend & Northfleet on 13 August 2005 , before scoring his first goal on 3 September in a 2 ? 2 away to Dagenham & Redbridge . He scored in a 4 ? 0 win over former club Aldershot on 26 December 2005 , during which he was targeted by opposition fans , after his former manager Terry Brown claimed he left Aldershot for financial reasons . After the match , Challinor said " I got one over on the manager and proved him wrong , he didn 't think I was good enough . Their fans were at me throughout the game but it only made me focus more . " He finished the 2005 ? 06 season with 13 goals in 48 appearances for Exeter .

Challinor was targeted by fellow Conference National side Grays Athletic in December 2006 , but after remaining at Exeter he was offered a new contract at the club in February 2007 , which he did not sign . He played for Exeter in the 2007 Conference National play @-@ off Final on 20 May 2007 , the first Conference play @-@ off final to be played at the new Wembley Stadium . He assisted Lee Phillips ' ninth minute opening goal for Exeter , although the side went on to lose 2 ? 1 to Morecambe . Challinor made 48 appearances and scored 10 goals for Exeter in the 2006 ? 07 season .

= = = Return to Rushden & Diamonds = = =

Challinor returned to Conference Premier club Rushden & Diamonds after signing a two @-@ year contract on 28 May 2007 . He made his debut in a 1 ? 1 draw away at Woking on 11 August 2007 , before scoring his first goal with Rushden 's only strike in a 1 ? 1 draw away at Salisbury City on 8 September . He started the season playing in midfield , but after being played as a striker in late February 2008 he went on a run of scoring six goals in five consecutive games .

He appeared for Rushden in the 2008 Conference League Cup Final against Aldershot at the Recreation Ground on 3 April 2008 . The match finished a 3 ? 3 draw after extra time , but Aldershot won 4 ? 3 in a penalty shoot @-@ out . Challinor made 57 appearances and scored 10 goals for Rushden in the 2007 ? 08 season , only missing out on ever @-@ present status after missing the last game of the season against Grays Athletic through injury .

= = = Cambridge United and Mansfield Town = = =

He joined Conference Premier rivals Cambridge United on a two @-@ year contract for a £ 15 @, @ 000 fee on 6 August 2008 . His debut came in a 1 ? 0 win away to Northwich Victoria on 9 August 2008 , and scored his first goal with a stoppage time winner in a 1 ? 0 home win over Lewes on 7 October 2008 . Soon after he was told by manager Gary Brabin to provide more support for the team 's strikers , with Challinor agreeing , saying " It will put the added responsibility on me to start shooting and take some pressure off the forwards . If the midfield can get some goals as well , then that will help the team " . He immediately followed this up with the winning goal against Weymouth in a 1 ? 0 home win on 11 October 2008 , coming from a low right @-@ footed shot into the corner from 25 yards .

Challinor 's first sending off for Cambridge came after receiving a second yellow card during a 5 ? 0

home defeat to Crawley Town in the FA Trophy second round on 14 January 2009 . He made his return from suspension in a 1 ? 1 home draw with Oxford United on 29 January 2009 . Challinor came on as a 79th minute substitute for Paul Carden in the 2009 Conference Premier play @-@ off Final at Wembley , in which Torquay United won 2 ? 0 . Having struggled to make an impact for Cambridge in the 2008 ? 09 season , which he finished with two goals in 39 games , he was transfer @-@ listed .

He was sent out on loan for the start of the 2009 ? 10 season to divisional rivals Forest Green Rovers for one month on 7 August 2009 . Challinor made his debut the following day in a 2 ? 1 home defeat against Kettering Town , going on to make seven appearances at Forest Green . Forest Green had been interested in taking Challinor on another loan , until appointing a new manager . He left Cambridge on loan again after joining Conference Premier rivals Mansfield Town on a two @-@ month loan on 20 November 2009 . Challinor made a scoring debut for Mansfield with the equalising goal from close range in a 1 ? 1 draw at home to Eastbourne Borough on 21 November 2009 . After making six appearances and scoring one goal in his loan spell , Challinor signed permanently for Mansfield for the rest of the season on 6 January 2010 . He was released by Mansfield at the end of the season , having made 15 appearances and scored two goals after signing permanently .

= = = Brackley Town and Newport County = = =

Challinor signed with Southern League Premier Division side Brackley Town in July 2010 , after he had been set to sign for Corby Town of the Conference North , with whom he had been on trial . He then signed for Conference Premier club Newport County on a short @-@ term contract on 30 October 2010 , making his debut later that day as a 28th @-@ minute substitute for Martin John in a 2 ? 1 home defeat to Kettering Town , but was himself substituted in the 73rd minute for Robbie Matthews . Challinor scored on his next appearance for Newport , with the winning goal after netting Sam Deering 's cross in the 29th minute of extra time in a 1 ? 0 victory away at Wealdstone in an FA Trophy first round replay on 13 December 2010 . He was released by Newport on 30 December 2010 , having made four appearances and scored one goal for the club .

= = = Kettering Town = = =

He joined Conference Premier side Kettering Town on a contract until the end of the 2010 ? 11 season on 18 January 2011 . Kettering were fighting against relegation , and Challinor was quoted as saying " We have to stay positive . We know it 's a transitional period for the club and there is a lot going on " . He made his debut later that day as a half @-@ time substitute for Callum Wilson in Kettering 's 2 ? 1 loss away to Grimsby Town . His first goal for Kettering came in stoppage time against Southport in a 3 ? 1 home victory on 30 April 2011 , having entered the match in the 89th minute . Challinor finished the season with 14 appearances and one goal for Kettering . He agreed to stay at Kettering ahead of the 2011 ? 12 season on non @-@ contract terms , in the belief that a permanent contract would later be agreed , and started the season playing in defensive midfield .

= = = York City = = =

On 25 August 2011 , Challinor signed for Conference Premier rivals York City on a contract until January 2012 , having impressed manager Gary Mills when playing against York for Kettering two days earlier . He made his debut a day later , coming on as a 56th @-@ minute substitute for Patrick McLaughlin in a 0 ? 0 draw away to Fleetwood Town . Challinor was soon converted into a right @-@ back at York , a position in which he displayed composure and an ability to start attacking moves . His first goal for York came in a 4 ? 2 win away at Hayes & Yeading United on 22 October 2011 with a drilled shot into the bottom right corner of the goal from the edge of the penalty box .

He signed a new contract with York until the end of the season in January 2012 . He featured in the York side that won 2 ? 0 in the 2012 FA Trophy Final at Wembley against his former club Newport

on 12 May 2012 . Eight days later he again played at Wembley to win promotion to League Two through the 2012 Conference Premier play @-@ off Final with a 2 ? 1 victory over Luton Town . Thus , Challinor was successful in achieving promotion to the Football League in his fourth appearance in a Conference play @-@ off final . Having made 51 appearances and scored three goals for York in the 2011 ? 12 season , he signed a new one @-@ year contract with the club in July 2012 .

Ahead of Challinor 's first season as a Football League player he was quoted as saying " It 's been a long time coming so I ? m going to embrace it and enjoy every minute . I think almost every team I have played for has gone on to reach the League so to finally achieve it is a dream come true but it doesn 't end there " . He made his first appearance as a League player in a League Cup first round game away at Doncaster Rovers on 11 August 2012 as an 87th @-@ minute substitute for McLaughlin . York lost 4 ? 2 in a penalty shoot @-@ out after a 1 ? 1 extra time draw , although Challinor was successful in converting his penalty . He finished the 2012 ? 13 season with 22 appearances before being released by York on 30 April 2013 .

= = = Return to Stamford and FC Halifax Town = = =

Challinor re @-@ signed for Stamford in August 2013 , after playing for the Northern Premier League Premier Division club during pre @-@ season . After impressive performances throughout December 2013 , which culminated in him being named Stamford 's player of the month , Challinor signed a dual registration deal with Conference Premier team FC Halifax Town on 7 January 2014 . He made his debut in a 0 ? 0 draw away to Wrexham on 11 January 2014 . Challinor made five appearances for FC Halifax before resuming playing for Stamford in February 2014 . He played in the final of the Lincolnshire Senior Cup as Stamford beat Brigg Town 5 ? 4 in a penalty shoot @-@ out following a 3 ? 3 draw after extra time on 29 April 2014 . Challinor took over as caretaker manager of Stamford on 5 November 2015 , following the sacking of Andrew Wilson . He remained in charge until the appointment of Graham Drury as manager on 12 November 2015 .

= = International career = =

Challinor was capped twice by the England National Game XI , the team that represents England at non @-@ League level , making his debut against Belgium on 4 November 2003 before making his second appearance against Italy on 11 February 2004 .

= = Personal life = =

Challinor married his wife Lara during the summer of 2007 . As he is a fan of the Star Wars films , The Imperial March was played as part of the ceremony .

= = Career statistics = =

As of match played 23 April 2016 .

= = Managerial statistics = =

As of 12 November 2015 .

= = Honours = =

York City
Conference Premier play @-@ offs : 2011 ? 12
FA Trophy : 2011 ? 12
Stamford

Lincolnshire Senior Cup : 2013 ? 14 , 2014 ? 15