

= John Johnson ( footballer ) =

John James Johnson ( born 16 September 1988 ) is an English footballer who plays as a defender for Indian club Bengaluru FC . A graduate of the Middlesbrough youth academy , he made his debut for the club against Chelsea . A lack of first team opportunities saw him being loaned to Football League clubs Tranmere Rovers and Northampton Town .

After playing for a season on loan , Northampton signed Johnson on a permanent basis . He was also given club captainship but was replaced in the role after the arrival of Clarke Carlisle . In the 2012 ? 13 season , his appearances for the club were hindered due to a cartilage injury . Johnson then signed for debutant Bengaluru FC in the I @-@ League in India , managed by his former Northampton Town teammate Ashley Westwood . Johnson , along with Kenyan Curtis Osano , became the first foreigners to play for the club .

= = Career = =

= = = Middlesbrough = = =

Born in Middlesbrough , North Yorkshire , Johnson is a product of the Middlesbrough academy which he joined in 2005 . He signed a professional contract with Middlesbrough on 15 May 2008 and made his first team debut ( and only appearance for the club ) on 18 October 2008 in a 5 ? 0 home defeat to Chelsea in the Premier League , coming on as a substitute for Jonathan Grounds in the 54th minute . Later , in an interview in May 2015 , Johnson said that his debut had been the " most inspirational moment " of his life . In November 2008 , he made a loan move to League One side Tranmere Rovers until the end of the year . He made his debut in a 2 ? 1 victory against Leeds United the following week , but scored an own goal in Tranmere 's Football League Trophy northern area semi @-@ final against Scunthorpe United , which gave Scunthorpe a 2 ? 1 victory . He played five games , four in the league , during his loan spell with Tranmere .

= = = Northampton Town = = =

Johnson joined League Two club Northampton Town on a one @-@ month loan in September 2009 . He made his debut for the club in a 3 ? 0 loss against Shrewsbury Town and on 3 October 2009 , scored the first goal of his professional career , in a 2 ? 2 draw against Bradford City . Having played four games , Johnson said he hoped to help the club back to winning ways . On 22 October 2009 , he extended his stay at Northampton until the new year , and scored his first goal on 24 October 2009 in a 4 ? 2 win over Morecambe . The loan was extended until the end of the season in December .

Northampton signed Johnson on a two @-@ year contract in July 2010 following the successful loan spell . After signing for the club on a permanent basis , Johnson 's first match was the opening game of the season , in a 3 ? 0 loss against Torquay United . Two months later , he received a straight red card after fouling Simon Clist and lost his appeal , resulting in a one @-@ match ban , missing a 3 ? 1 loss against Oxford United . A week after his suspension , he scored his first goal as a permanent Northampton player in a 2 ? 0 win over Lincoln City . In his first season at Northampton ( as a permanent player ) , he made 41 appearances and scored seven goals .

Johnson was appointed as captain ahead of the 2011 ? 12 season having previously captained the club in a friendly match against Nottingham Forest , but was stripped of the post following the arrival of Clarke Carlisle . Johnson retained his first team place , making 48 appearances and scoring twice in two consecutive games against Morecambe and Southend . During a 3 ? 2 loss against Burton Albion on 26 December 2011 , Johnson received a straight red card in the 18th minute , for fouling John McGrath . After the match , the club announced it would appeal against his sending @-@ off . The club won the appeal after The Football Association overturned the decision , therefore making him available to play .

As his contract was due to expire in the summer , Johnson signed a one @-@ year extension with Northampton keeping him at the club until 2013 on 16 May 2012 . After signing , manager Aidy Boothroyd said he expected Johnson to realise his full potential in the coming season . However , Johnson suffered a cartilage injury in October 2012 that ruled him out for four to six weeks . He made a return in a 1 ? 1 draw against York City , but his return was short @-@ lived when he came off at half @-@ time and was out until January after undergoing knee surgery . After making his return on 19 January 2013 against AFC Wimbledon in a 1 ? 1 draw , Boothroyd said Johnson made the team tougher and more aggressive . Later in the 2012 ? 13 season , Johnson regained his first team place and the club finished in sixth place , qualifying for the promotion play @-@ offs . Johnson described the team as " the strongest " he had played in . Johnson was an unused substitute in the play @-@ offs as Northampton Town lost 3 ? 0 on aggregate against Bradford City . He was released by Northampton at the end of the season .

== = Bengaluru FC == =

On 16 July 2013 , Johnson signed for Bengaluru FC of the Indian I @-@ League , and with Curtis Osano , became the first foreigners in the team 's history . He made his debut in their first ever I @-@ League match on 22 September against Mohun Bagan , playing the entirety of a 1 ? 1 draw . In their next match against Rangdajied United F.C. , he scored his first goal in India , opening a 3 ? 0 victory . He scored his second goal in as many matches on 6 October against United S.C. , the only goal of the game . Four days later he netted in his third consecutive match , in the 12th minute of a 2 ? 1 victory against Mohammedan S.C .. In the Federation Cup , Johnson played three full matches against Sporting Goa , Rangdajied United and East Bengal . However , Bengaluru could not proceed beyond the group stage . After defeating Dempo on 20 April 2014 , the club won the I @-@ League in its debut season . He was also awarded the Best Defender of 2013 ? 14 I @-@ League award .

Johnson kicked off the 2015 season by winning the Federation Cup , defeating Dempo 2 ? 1 in the final . He played in the club 's 2 ? 1 defeat against Malayasian club Johor Darul Ta 'zim in the preliminary round of 2015 AFC Champions League , receiving a yellow card in the 67th minute .

On 20 June 2016 , after helping Bengaluru FC win their second I @-@ League title , Johnson was rewarded with a new two @-@ year contract , keeping him with the club till the end of the 2017 ? 18 season .

== = Career statistics == =

== = Club == =

As of match played on 6 April 2016

== = Honours == =

== = Club == =

Bengaluru FC

I @-@ League ( 2 ) : 2013 ? 14 , 2015 ? 16

Federation Cup ( 1 ) : 2014 ? 15

== = Individual == =

Best Defender of I @-@ League ( 1 ) : 2013 ? 14

= = Style of play = =

Though Johnson mainly plays as a centre @-@ back or as a right back , but journalist Arunava Chaudhuri said the he is " equally comfortable in defensive midfield . " After playing in India , sports website The Hard Tackle described Johnson as " one of the best footballing imports to the country " . The website also praised his height as it is " influential in defence as it is from both attacking and defensive set @-@ pieces . " He was recognised by BBC as " consistent , a firm fans ' favourite and a brave , no nonsense defender . "