

= James Meredith (footballer) =

James Gregory Meredith (born 4 April 1988) is an Australian professional footballer who plays as a defender for League One club Bradford City .

Meredith started his career with the Derby County youth system in 2004 , signing a professional contract in 2006 . He was loaned out to Cambridge United and Chesterfield before moving to Ireland with Sligo Rovers . He returned to England with Shrewsbury Town , but after making only three appearances for them , he joined AFC Telford United on loan for most of the 2008 ? 09 season . He played for them in the semi @-@ finals of both the Conference League Cup and the FA Trophy , as well as the 2009 Conference North play @-@ off Final . Meredith joined York City in 2009 and at the end of his first season played for them in the 2010 Conference Premier play @-@ off Final at Wembley Stadium . Two years later he won in the 2012 FA Trophy Final and 2012 Conference Premier play @-@ off Final with York at Wembley , the latter seeing the club promoted to League Two . He signed for Bradford City in 2012 , winning promotion to League One in his first season with victory in the 2013 League Two play @-@ off Final .

= = Club career = =

= = = Early career = = =

Born in Albury , New South Wales , Meredith was spotted playing football in Melbourne at the age of 16 by a Derby County scout . He was offered a trial by the club and he joined their youth system on a two @-@ year contract in 2004 . He progressed through the youth team and he signed a two @-@ year professional contract with Derby on 19 July 2006 . He joined Conference National team Cambridge United on a one @-@ month loan on 19 October 2006 and he made his debut in a 3 ? 0 defeat to Oxford United . He finished the loan with two appearances . He had a trial with Conference National team York City in January 2007 , playing in a reserve team game against Rotherham United . He joined League One team Chesterfield on a one @-@ month loan on 19 February 2007 , making one appearance as a left midfielder in a 2 ? 0 defeat to Tranmere Rovers on 2 March . Following the expiry of the loan , Chesterfield opted against extending it . Meredith joined League of Ireland Premier Division side Sligo Rovers on a contract until the end of the 2007 season on 31 July 2007 . He made his debut in a 2 ? 0 defeat at Galway United on 24 August and he finished his time at the club with four appearances .

= = = Shrewsbury Town = = =

Meredith signed for League Two team Shrewsbury Town on a one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half year contract on 14 January 2008 after training with the club , which included a clause that after making five appearances the contract could be renegotiated . He made his debut on 23 February 2008 in the 2 ? 1 home defeat to Hereford United , finishing the 2007 ? 08 season with three appearances , with his final game coming against Rochdale on the last day of the season . He was told that he did not figure in new manager Paul Simpson 's immediate plans in July 2008 , being left behind as the club travelled to Spain on a pre @-@ season training camp .

Meredith joined Conference North team AFC Telford United on a one @-@ month loan on 16 October 2008 , saying " I don 't see it as a step down but as a step up , because I 've become stagnant at Shrewsbury " . Meredith signed a further one @-@ month extension with Telford in November and he scored the only goal in a 1 ? 0 victory over Gateshead . The loan was again extended for a further month in December , keeping him at the club until early January 2009 . Telford were looking to extend his loan for the remainder of the 2008 ? 09 season , but a contractual hitch held this up . He eventually extended the loan on 8 January . Meredith played for Telford in both legs of the semi @-@ final defeat to York City in the FA Trophy . He was handed a red card against Barrow in the semi @-@ final of the Conference League Cup in March , which meant he

would miss the Final because of a two @-@ match suspension . He was substituted after breaking his nose in a 3 ? 0 victory over Burscough in April . He played for Telford in the 2009 Conference North play @-@ off Final on 8 May , which was lost 1 ? 0 to Gateshead , meaning the team missed out on promotion to the Conference Premier . He finished the season with 46 appearances and one goal for Telford .

= = = York City = = =

He was offered a new contract by Telford after the end of the season , but he opted to join Conference Premier team York City on 22 May 2009 . He made his debut in a 2 ? 1 defeat to Oxford United on 8 August 2009 . Meredith was sent off after receiving two yellow cards in a 1 ? 1 draw against Oxford on 17 October 2009 , which resulted in him being handed a one @-@ match suspension for York 's game against Luton Town . He signed a new contract with York on 29 March 2010 to keep him at the club until the summer of 2011 . He played in both legs of York 's play @-@ off semi @-@ final victory over Luton , which finished 2 ? 0 on aggregate . He started in the 2010 Conference Premier play @-@ off Final at Wembley Stadium on 16 May 2010 , which York lost 3 ? 1 to Oxford . He finished the 2009 ? 10 season with 56 appearances for York .

Meredith had an operation on his knee during the summer of 2010 . He made his first appearance of the 2010 ? 11 season in the opening game , after starting a 2 ? 1 defeat to Kidderminster Harriers on 14 August 2010 . His first goal for York came in a 4 ? 1 victory over league leaders AFC Wimbledon on 1 February 2011 after beating the offside trap to beat goalkeeper Seb Brown . He finished the season with 51 appearances and one goal . After rejecting two new contract offers with York he eventually signed a new one @-@ year contract with the club in May 2011 .

Meredith won the 2012 FA Trophy Final with York at Wembley on 12 May 2012 , in which the side beat Newport County 2 ? 0 . Eight days later he played in the 2 ? 1 victory over Luton in the 2012 Conference Premier play @-@ off Final at Wembley , seeing the club return to the Football League after an eight @-@ year absence with promotion to League Two . His 2011 ? 12 season finished with 55 appearances and two goals for York , and was named in the 2011 ? 12 Conference Premier Team of the Year alongside York teammate Matty Blair .

= = = Bradford City = = =

Meredith signed for League Two Bradford City on a two @-@ year contract on 29 June 2012 . His debut came after starting in Bradford 's opening game of the 2012 ? 13 season , a 1 ? 0 victory away at League One Notts County in the League Cup first round . Meredith scored his first goal for Bradford in a 3 ? 1 home win against Cheltenham Town on 20 October 2012 . He achieved promotion into League One in his first season with Bradford , playing in their 3 ? 0 victory over Northampton Town in the 2013 League Two play @-@ off Final at Wembley on 18 May 2013 . He finished the season with 44 appearances and one goal .

= = International career = =

In March 2015 , Meredith expressed his desire to play for the Australia national team . Australia coach Ange Postecoglou said at the time that he was open to selecting a number of new players to the national side , including Meredith . Meredith was first called up by Australia for a 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier against Jordan on 8 October 2015 , for which he was an unused substitute as Australia lost 2 ? 0 . Meredith debuted for Australia on 12 November 2015 , after being selected in the starting line @-@ up for the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier against Kyrgyzstan , which the team won 3 ? 0 at home . He only learned he would be starting on the morning of the match , and his family flew to Canberra from Melbourne to watch him .

= = Style of play = =

Meredith primarily plays as a left @-@ back , although he has been described as being " versatile " and is able to play at centre @-@ back or in midfield . After signing for York in 2009 , manager Martin Foyle described him as being " a very attack @-@ minded , left @-@ footed full @-@ back with pace who can play the ball out from the back . "

= = Personal life = =

Meredith 's father was a squash player who ranked as highly as third in the world while playing in England . He previously dated glamour model Maria Fowler after meeting her through social networking website Myspace , although the two broke up in 2007 .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Club = = =

As of match played 20 May 2016 .

= = = International = = =

As of match played 17 November 2015 .

= = Honours = =

York City

Conference Premier play @-@ offs : 2011 ? 12

FA Trophy : 2011 ? 12

Bradford City

League Two play @-@ offs : 2012 ? 13

Individual

Conference Premier Team of the Year : 2011 ? 12